ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL

Environmental Report for the Aberdeen City Council

Nature Conservation Strategy 2010-2015





SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT – COVER NOTE – SECTION 1

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SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT – COVER NOTE – SECTION 2

An environmental report is attached for: -

Nature Conservation Strategy

The Responsible Authority is:

Aberdeen City Council

SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT – COVER NOTE – SECTION 3

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SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT – COVER NOTE – SECTION 4

Signature (Electronic Signature is Acceptable)	Anne-Marie Gauld
Date	04/09/09

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SECTION 1 – ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT: NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

1.1 Introduction

This Environmental Report sets out the anticipated environmental effects from Aberdeen City Council's Nature Conservation Strategy. The report sets out the environmental information, including baseline data, details of other relevant plans and programmes and details of the methods used for assessment. It presents the results of the assessment, including the consideration of alternatives, and any mitigation measures necessary to address identified significant adverse effects to the environment. It also outlines plans for monitoring the environmental effects of the Strategy.

1.2 Summary of Findings

- The Nature Conservation Strategy includes a vision, aim, 4 objectives and 20 associated strategic actions all designed to help protect and conserve our natural environment, and has sustainable development as a cross cutting theme. Although difficult to predict, the potential future impacts of climate change have also been considered.

- The Nature Conservation Strategy has a relationship with 10 international, 24 national, 5 regional and 9 local relevant plans, programmes and environmental objectives. The key points from the analysis of the relevant plans, programmes and environmental objectives are that the Nature Conservation Strategy will have significant positive effects on our environment.

- Without the Nature Conservation Strategy, the current state of the environment will be negatively affected due to impacts from other activities such as new developments and transport. The areas likely to be significantly affected include all of our designated sites which are 4 Local Nature Reserves (LNR), 80 District Wildlife Sites (DWS), 4 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and 1 Special Area of Conservation (SAC) at the River Dee. The environmental characteristics of protected trees; green corridors or networks; green belt; urban green spaces; historical sites and monuments; listed buildings; and conservation areas may also be negatively affected without the Nature Conservation Strategy. However, cultural heritage and material assets such as buildings and bridges may have no effects at all without the Nature Conservation Strategy.

- Three alternatives or options have been considered which include 'Do Nothing'; 'Do Minimum' by continuing to use the existing Aberdeen City Council Nature Conservation Strategy 1994; and 'Do Optimum' by developing a revised Nature Conservation Strategy. Following assessment, the preferred option is 'Do Optimum' which best reflects current needs to protect, conserve and enhance our natural environment in line with current legislation for nature conservation.

- If implemented, the Nature Conservation Strategy will likely have significant positive effects on biodiversity; soil; water; air quality & climatic factors; landscape; and human health and population.

- There is, however, in certain circumstances potential for some significant negative environmental effects on cultural heritage. For example, improving access to nature conservation sites may cause damage or disturbance to historic or archaeological sites which may also be present.

- There is also potential for some negative effects associated with material assets. Development could be delayed on existing buildings and bridges where species use these areas as nesting and roosting sites. Plant species growing from buildings could have a negative impact on the aesthetics and structure of buildings.

- Mitigation and monitoring measures include opportunities to enhance the environment such as biodiversity, soil, water and so on. To avoid risk of negative impacts, measures also include working with the Keepers of Archaeology and identifying and considering cultural heritage sites when planning for action to improve nature. Action will also be taken to protect species which use material assets as habitats but at the same time deal with nuisance species that cause significant negative impacts.

1.3 How to Comment on the Environmental Report

The Environmental Report will be available for public comment for the period of **8 weeks**, ending at **5pm** on **Monday 2nd of November 2009**. All comments should clearly state which part of the Report they refer to. Comments should be submitted within the consultation period to: -

Nature Conservation Strategy Consultation
Economic & Environmental Sustainability
Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure
Aberdeen City Council
4th Floor, Balgownie One, AECC
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen, AB23 8AQ

Or by email to: - **ncsconsultation@aberdeencity.gov.uk**

Comment forms can also be downloaded from the Aberdeen City Council website at **www.aberdeencity.gov.uk**

SECTION 2 – INTRODUCTION

2.1 Purpose of the Environmental Report and Key Facts

As part of the preparation of the Nature Conservation Strategy, Aberdeen City Council is carrying out a strategic environmental assessment of the plan. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a systematic method for considering the likely environmental effects of certain plans and programmes. SEA aims to: -

- Integrate environmental decision making into plan/programme preparation and decision making;
- Improve plans and programmes and enhance environmental protection; and
- Increase public participation in environmental decision making.

SEA is required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The key stages provided for in the Act are indicated in Table 1: -

Table 1: Key Stages of the SEA Process.

STAGES	DESCRIPTION
Screening	Determine whether the plan/programme is likely to have significant environmental effects and whether an SEA is required.
Scoping	Deciding on the scope and level of detail of the environmental report, and the consultation period for the report – this is done in consultation with Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Scotland and Scottish Environment Protection Agency.
Environmental Report	Publishing an environmental report on the plan or programme and its environmental effects, and consulting on that report.
Adoption	Providing information on the adopted plan/programme; how consultation comments have been taken into account; and methods for monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan/programme.
Monitoring	Monitoring significant environmental effects and taking appropriate remedial action for any unforeseen significant environmental effects.

The purpose of this environmental report is to: -

- Provide information on the Nature Conservation Strategy and its SEA process;
- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives; and
- Provide an early and effective opportunity for the Consultation Authorities and the public to offer views on any aspect of the Environmental Report.

The key facts relating to the Nature Conservation Strategy are set out in Table 2 below: -

Table 2: Key Facts Relating to the Nature Conservation Strategy

SUBJECT	DETAILS
Responsible Authority	Aberdeen City Council
Title of Plan or Programme	Nature Conservation Strategy
What Prompted the Plan or Programme	Aberdeen City Council's current Nature Conservation Strategy was developed in 1994 and is now out of date. An up to date Strategy is required to reflect current needs including increased recognition to protect the natural environment, new legislation, new policies and other related strategies, increased land use development within the City, and a change in the character of the natural environment.
Plan or Programme Subject	Nature Conservation
Period Covered by Plan or Programme	5 Years
Frequency of Updates	5 Years
Plan or Programme Area	All Council owned land within Aberdeen City Council's boundary. The Strategy will also look for opportunities to include privately owned land within the boundary.
Plan or Programme Purpose and/or Objectives	The Strategy has been developed to assist Aberdeen City Council meet its legislative requirements including the Convention on Biological Diversity's aim of reducing the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. The main aim of the Strategy is to *'protect, preserve, enhance and promote Aberdeen City's natural heritage for the benefit of our biodiversity, citizens and visitors for current and future generations.'* The Strategy consists of a number of objectives and high level actions to meet the aim of the Strategy.
Contact Point	Anne-Marie Gauld (Environmental Planner) Environmental Sustainability Aberdeen City Council 4th Floor ,Balgownie One, AECC Bridge of Don Aberdeen AB23 8AQ

2.2 SEA Activities to Date

Table 3 summarises the SEA activities to date in relation to the Nature Conservation Strategy: -

Table 3: SEA Activities to Date

SEA ACTION/ACTIVITY	WHEN CARRIED OUT	COMMENTS
Screening Report	Oct 2006	Sent to the three Consultation Authorities, Historic Scotland, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, and Scottish Natural Heritage.
Scoping Report	Feb 2009	Comments from Consultation Authorities have been taken into account. See Appendix A for opinions.
Outline and objectives of the Strategy	Feb 2009	Agreed through consultation with internal and external stakeholders including working group.
Relationship with other plans, programmes and environmental objectives	Feb 2009	Included along with consultation opinion.
Environmental baseline established	Feb 2009	Included along with consultation opinion.
Environmental Problems identified	Jun 2009	Included along with consultation opinion.
Likely future of the area without the plan assessed	Jun 2009	Included along with consultation opinion.
Alternatives considered	Jun 2009	Three alternatives or options considered.
Environmental assessment methods established	Jun 2009	Established in consultation with SEA Officer.
Selection of plan alternatives to be included in the environmental assessment	Jun 2009	Included along with consultation opinion.
Identification of environmental problems that may persist after implementation and mitigation methods	Jun 2009	Included along with consultation opinion.
Monitoring methods proposed	Jun 2009	Included along with consultation opinion.
SEA Completed	Sep 2009	N/A.
Consultation timescales for: - - Consultation Authorities; and - Public.	Sep - Nov 2009	Pending.
Notification/public action	Jan 2010	Pending.

SECTION 3 – NATURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY AND ITS CONTEXT

3.1 Outline and Objectives of the Nature Conservation Strategy

The Nature Conservation Strategy is underpinned by a vision, a high level aim, four associated objectives and a number of associated high level strategic actions. These have all been developed by Aberdeen City Council plus appropriate groups and interests both statutory and voluntary.

Vision

'The City of Aberdeen is recognised for taking a lead in nature conservation.'

Aim

'To protect, preserve, enhance and promote Aberdeen City's natural heritage for the benefit or our biodiversity, citizens and visitors for current and future generations'.

Objectives and Associated Strategic Actions

OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIC ACTIONS
1.Protect, conserve and enhance Aberdeen's natural heritage	1. Maintain data on Aberdeen's natural heritage. 2. Maintain integrity of designated sites including identifying 'at risk' sites and restoring their value. 3. Protect and enhance biodiversity in areas which are not designated. 4. Increase the availability and ecological value of wildlife corridors.
2. Sustainably manage Aberdeen's natural heritage	1. Seek opportunities to maintain, restore or enhance biodiversity associated with physical development. 2. Consider and include nature conservation in all Council projects. 3. Establish ways to make Council operational activities more beneficial to biodiversity. 4. Seek ways of encouraging private land owners and businesses to adopt nature conservation practices. 5. Manage invasive and non-native species which cause negative impacts to biodiversity. 6. Influence site specific management plans fit for purpose.
3.Involve communities in caring for Aberdeen's natural heritage	1. Establish ways of encouraging the public to improve biodiversity in their own gardens. 2. Seeks ways of encouraging nature conservation in community gardens and allotments. 3. Work with health and education facilities to promote wildlife gardens. 4. Encourage communities in partnership working to deliver nature conservation projects.

	5. Encourage citizens and communities to document and share knowledge.
4. Promote a greater understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of Aberdeen's natural heritage.	1. Improve Council staff knowledge and understanding of the importance of nature conservation in delivering their function. 2. Increase public awareness of the benefits of nature conservation. 3. Seek opportunities to improve access to natural heritage sites. 4. Increase tourism through promoting the City's natural heritage. 5. Promote and encourage responsible access to the City's nature heritage.

3.2 Relationship with other Plans, Programmes and Environmental Objectives

Table 4 lists the plans, programmes, and environmental objectives that will be analysed for their relationship with the Nature Conservation Strategy. Appendix A shows a more detailed analysis.

Table 4: Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Objectives, and their Relationship with the Nature Conservation Strategy.

INTERNATIONAL
▪ Bern Convention 1979 ▪ Bonn Convention 1979 ▪ EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) ▪ EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) ▪ Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 ▪ EU Biodiversity Strategy 1998 ▪ EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) 2000 ▪ 'A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development' 2001. ▪ Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2002 ▪ EU Biodiversity Action Plan 2006
NATIONAL
▪ Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 ▪ Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 ▪ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 ▪ Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (c. 51) ▪ UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP)1994 ▪ The Conservation (Natural Habitats & c) Regulations 1994 ▪ UK Sustainable Development Strategy 1999 ▪ The Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2000 ▪ Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 ▪ Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 ▪ Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands, Strategy 2004 ▪ Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 ▪ Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 ▪ Scotland's Climate Change Programme: Changing Our Ways ▪ Scotland's Economic Strategy: Wealthier & Fairer; Smarter; Healthier; Safer & Stronger; Greener ▪ PAN 60: Planning for Natural Heritage ▪ PAN 65: Planning and Open Space ▪ PAN 42: Archaeology ▪ NPPG 1: The Planning System (Revised 2000) ▪ NPPG 11: Sport, Physical Recreation and Open Space ▪ NPPG 14:Natural Heritage

▪ NPPG 15: Planning for Rural Development ▪ SPP 23: Planning and the Historic Environment ▪ SPP 21: Green Belts
REGIONAL
▪ North East Biodiversity Action Plan (NELBAP) ▪ Forest and Woodland Strategy for Aberdeenshire & Aberdeen City ▪ River Dee Catchment Management Plan ▪ North East Scotland Together - Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan 2001-2016 ▪ East Grampian Coastal Partnership's Business Plan 2007-2010
LOCAL
▪ Aberdeen Parks and Greenspace Strategy ▪ Aberdeen City Council Landscape Strategy ▪ Aberdeen's Strategy for Access to the Outdoors ▪ Programme for Aberdeen City Council - Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking ▪ Aberdeen City Council's Community Plan & Single Outcome Agreement 2008-2011 ▪ Local Agenda 21 ▪ Local Transport Strategy ▪ Aberdeen Local Plan – Green Spaces/New Places June 2008 ▪ North East Climate Change Partnership

From the analysis of the relevant PPS and environmental protection objectives, the key points arising from this analysis are that the Nature Conservation Strategy should: -

- ♦ Increase biodiversity;
- ♦ Protect and preserve all fauna and flora including protected and non-protected habitats and species;
- ♦ Protect and preserve all fauna and flora which are important internationally, nationally and locally, both resident and migratory;
- ♦ Maintain, enhance and restore natural habitats and green corridors, including those that are not designated, in a sustainable way.
- ♦ Protect wildlife from disturbance; injury; taking, possession of the wildlife or their eggs or offspring; or intentional and reckless destruction of nesting sites or places of shelter;
- ♦ Help to tackle non-native and invasive species;
- ♦ Protect and preserve soil and all waters, surface and ground waters, promoting the use of SUDS, and assisting in achieving 'good ecological status' for all waters by 2015;

- Promote responsible use of pesticides and reducing the emissions of pollutants;
- Promote sustainable use of and protect coastal and marine resources whilst improve marine nature conservation;
- Support Scotland's Climate Change programme through promoting the importance of biodiversity in providing carbon sinks and flood prevention;
- Maintain and enhance landscape character and promote local distinctiveness;
- Protect, and where there is opportunity, to enhance the built environment, archaeological sites, scheduled monuments and other areas of cultural heritage importance;
- Conserve biodiversity for the health and wellbeing of people and promote the provision of responsible access links to areas of nature conservation interest;
- Promote community engagement in nature conservation;
- Support Development Plan policies linked to the natural environment and open space;
- Promote economic growth, social inclusion and care of the environment in a sustainable way;
- Meet legislative requirements and obligations;
- Aim locally which will have positive effects nationally and internationally; and
- .Enhance the interrelationships between those aspects noted above.

3.3 Environmental Baseline

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Schedule 3 requires that the Environmental Report includes: -

1. a description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment;
2. the likely evolution of the environmental baseline without implementation of the Nature Conservation Strategy; and
3. the environmental characteristics of those areas likely to be significantly affected.

This section aims to describe the environmental context within which the Nature Conservation Strategy operates, and the constraints and targets that this context imposes on the Nature Conservation Strategy.

To deal with point 1 noted above, Appendix C summarises the data collected, provides the source, conducts a trend analysis, and details the issues and constraints. The next sections deal with the remaining points 2 and 3 above in more detail.

3.3.1 Likely Evolution of the Environmental Baseline without the Nature Conservation Strategy

The likely or possible future changes to the environmental baselines without the Nature Conservation Strategy presented in the following Table 5.

Table 5: Possible Future Environmental Changes

SEA Topic	Possible Changes without the Nature Conservation Strategy
Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Numbers of a given species population and/or total number of different species may reduce which would have a negative impact on the viability of individual species and overall biodiversity. Species may be isolated or disappear and their habitats could be lost, damaged or become fragmented. These impacts would be associated with other PPS such as North East Scotland Together - Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan 2001-1016, Aberdeen Local Plan – Green Spaces/New Places June 2008, Core Paths Plan and the Transport Strategy.
Soil	The quality of soils will diminish in the absence of this Strategy through the loss of flora and fauna which maintains the healthy balance of soils.
Water	Adverse effects on water quality would remain and even worsen in the absence of the Strategy. Nature conservation is important for maintaining and improving water quality.
Air Quality & Climatic Factors	Air quality and climatic factors may worsen without the implementation of this Strategy. Nature conservation plays an important part in providing good air quality and controlling the climate.

Landscape	Changes to landscape character may occur, losing a sense of place and loss of biodiversity.
Population & Human Health	Nature conservation is proven to improve human health, therefore, issues with human health and wellbeing will continue if this Strategy is not implemented. This Strategy ties in with the Core Paths Plan, promoting enjoyment of the outdoors and physical activity.
Cultural Heritage	Historical or archaeological sites plus other areas of cultural heritage importance may not experience any change if this Strategy was not implemented. However, with careful consideration, implementation of this Strategy could help to protect and possibly enhance such sites. The effects associated with other plans, programmes and strategies would remain.
Material Assets	Material assets may not be impacted by the absence of this Strategy. However, the potential for green roofs, and nesting or roosting spaces for example, on new developments will have a positive effect on the environment.

Without this Strategy, nature conservation and the protection of our natural heritage would be ignored and negative impacts would occur as a result.

3.3.2 Environmental Characteristics of Areas Likely to be Significantly Affected

In light of the baseline and problems identified for the Nature Conservation Strategy, the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are indicated in Appendix D. Please note that in many cases sites are so small that they do not all appear on the maps available. For example, Appendix D11 Distribution of Sites and Monuments on page 101 provides an indication of where many of the historic sites and monuments are located, however, there are many smaller sites that exist but do not appear on the map.

3.4 Environmental Problems

This Nature Conservation Strategy has been designed to benefit the environment and, therefore, aims to tackle the existing environmental problems. The main issues relevant to the Nature Conservation Strategy are summarised below.

Table 6: Existing Environmental Problems linked to the Nature Conservation Strategy

SEA Topic	Existing Environmental Problem	Implications for the Nature Conservation Strategy (NCS)
1.Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	Decline in biodiversity as a result of human activity including land use and land use development, plus, climate change.	NCS to focus on the reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at a local level to benefit flora and fauna. For example, to protect and manage habitats for flora and fauna.
2.Soil	Decline in biodiversity including bacterial biodiversity is having a negative impact on the quality of our soils. Poor soil quality also due to previous development or land use such as on brownfield sites and contaminated land.	NCS to focus on the reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at a local level to benefit soils by enhancing areas of low ecological value.
3.Water	The water quality in some of the marine and freshwater environments is poor which is having a negative impact on biodiversity and ecosystems. Can also make soils unstable increasing risk of erosion.	NCS to focus on improving water quality so that it meets good ecological status. For example, reducing pesticide use in Council operational practices linked to the management of green spaces.
4.Air & Climatic factors	Air temperatures are rising due to CO_2 production from transport, industrial activity, and through loss of carbon stores. This is contributing to global warming and climate change. This is creating more unpredictable weather events, hotter summers and wetter winters leading to changes in habitats, more runoff and erosion.	NCS to conserve habitats and species so that they help to reduce global warming. To consider current implications of climate change and to assist species to adapt by, for example, improving wildlife corridors.
5.Landscape	Landscapes, which are valued and enjoyed by many people, are being negatively impacted upon due to	NCS to protect and conserve biodiversity for the sake of biodiversity

	increased changes in land uses and through development. Negative impacts to landscapes can in turn have a negative impact to biodiversity and vice versa.	itself and to protect the landscapes to which biodiversity is inextricably linked to.
6.Population and Human Health	There is a lack of awareness of the health benefits and importance of nature conservation to the human population and human health. There are issues of a lack of access to green spaces and natural heritage sites particularly in deprived areas.	NCS to promote enjoyment of and increase awareness of the importance of nature conservation, plus, engage with local communities and encourage community involvement in nature conservation. Opportunities to improve access to green spaces and natural heritage areas will be sought.
7.Cultural Heritage	There are potential indirect negative impacts to archaeological and/or historical sites plus other areas of cultural heritage importance through irresponsible access to areas where these sites are situated. Direct damage could also occur to these sites where action is taken to benefit nature conservation.	NCS to consider potential negative impacts on archaeological and historical sites plus other areas of cultural heritage importance that are present at locations where action is being taken to benefit nature conservation. Cultural heritage should be included in the plans to protect, preserve, enhance and promote nature conservation.
8.Material Assets	Wildlife on buildings could potentially damage the infrastructure of buildings or have a negative effect on the aesthetics of a building. For example, trees growing on roofs. Development on existing material assets such as buildings and bridges could have a negative impact on species which use these areas as nesting and roosting sites. Design of new developments often lack consideration of making spaces for wildlife.	NCS to consider potential negative impacts to material assets when encouraging wildlife on buildings. NCS also to consider impacts to biodiversity as a result of redevelopment of existing material assets. Opportunities through new development will also be included.

SECTION 4 – ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION METHODS

4.1 Alternatives to which SEA was Applied

Alternatives to which SEA was applied include: -

1. ‘Do nothing’;
2. ‘Do minimum’ - continue to use the existing Aberdeen City Council Nature Conservation Strategy 1994; and
3. ‘Do optimum’ - develop a revised Aberdeen City Council Nature Conservation Strategy.

4.2 Assessment Methods

The above noted options have been assessed against some sustainability and implementability criteria including sustainable development (environmental, social and economic); legal and administrative feasibility; and technical and economic feasibility/best value. The advantages and disadvantages identified have also been noted. Appendix E presents the full results of this assessment.

4.3 Assessment of Alternatives – Summary

The alternatives noted in Section 4.1 were assessed using the framework described in Section 4.2. The findings show that Option 3 to ‘Develop New Strategy’ is the preferred option in terms of performance against the various sustainability and implementability criteria (that is; sustainable development – environmental, social and economic; legal and administrative feasibility; technical and economic feasibility/best value).

4.4 Assessment of Alternatives – Objectives and Actions

The alternatives noted in Section 4.1 and the details in Appendix E were brought forward for further assessment against SEA topics. Similarly the objectives and strategic actions were also assessed against SEA topics. Significant environmental effects of the Nature Conservation Strategy have been predicted to determine whether the Strategy has negative, positive, uncertain or neutral effects. The effects have been evaluated further to determine their significance on the receptors in relation reversibility or irreversibility of effects, risks, duration (permanent, temporary, long-term, short-term and medium-term) and cumulative (direct, indirect, secondary and synergistic).

4.5 Assessment of Alternatives – Objectives and Actions - Summary

The following section provides a summary of the assessment of alternatives, objectives and strategic actions of the preferred option against SEA topics. The results of the full assessments are noted in Appendix F.

4.5.1 Assessment of Options

'Do nothing' - will have a mix of short, medium and long term, temporary and permanent significant negative environment effects on most of the criteria through a lack of action to protect the natural environment, provide benefits to communities and to protect material assets where problem species exist such as rooted trees on roofs. except However, for cultural heritage and material assets in certain circumstances, a lack of action is unlikely to have any effects or lead to any significant changes in the historic environment or to roads or buildings for example. The 'Do nothing' option means that Aberdeen City Council will not be able to meet its legislative obligations to further the conservation of biodiversity.

'Do minimum' - will have mainly long term permanent significant negative environmental effects on all criteria through limitations with the existing Strategy to continue to protect the natural environment, provide benefits to communities and to protect cultural heritage and material assets as a result of action taken to conserve nature. However, for cultural heritage and material assets in most circumstances, the limitations on the current Strategy is unlikely to have any effects or lead to significant changes in the historic environment or to roads or buildings for example.

'Do optimum' - will have a mix of medium and long term, permanent and temporary significant positive environmental effects on all criteria. There is, however, potential for direct and indirect long term permanent significant negative environmental effects on cultural heritage such as archaeological and historic sites. Any works to improve nature conservation will have to consider potential negative effects on such sites when implementing any actions to conserve nature. There is also potential for indirect, short term significant environmental effects on material assets. The need to protect some species may delay re-development of buildings which are being used as nesting or roosting sites. Overall, the 'Do Optimum' option will assist Aberdeen City Council meet its legislative obligations to further the conservation of biodiversity.

4.5.2 Assessment of Objectives and Strategic Actions

1. Biodiversity (flora 7 fauna) - The overall effect of all objectives and strategic actions on biodiversity is positive. Depending on the habitats and species concerned, the overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term.

2. Soil - The overall effect of all objectives and strategic actions on soil is positive. The effects will be associated with healthy soils which provide drainage, a food source for species and act as a seed bank. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term.

3. Water - The overall effect of all objectives and strategic actions on water is positive. They support the aim of providing water quality of good status and a healthy habitat for species that depend on the water environment. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term.

4. Air & Climatic Factors - The overall effect of all objectives and strategic actions on air and climatic factors is positive. The positive effect on biodiversity and ecosystems will help to provide clean air and act as carbon stores and regulate climate. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term.

5. Landscape - The overall effect of all objectives and strategic actions on landscape is positive. Biodiversity is linked to landscape. The different ecosystems and associated habitats will help to maintain and create interesting landscapes. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term.

6. Population & Human Health - The overall effect of all objectives and strategic actions on population and human health is positive. Improving biodiversity will make the City a more attractive place to live, work and visit. There is also a link between having access to nature and health benefits. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term.

7. Cultural Heritage - The overall effect of all objectives and strategic actions on cultural heritage is no significant environmental effects. There is however, potential for direct and indirect significant negative environmental effects through improving management and access to natural heritage sites where archaeological and historic sites plus other areas of cultural heritage importance are present. Measures have been included to address this potential significant negative effect. The overall effects are expected to be long, medium and short term.

8. Material Assets - The overall effect of all objectives and strategic actions on material assets is no significant environmental effects. However, there is potential for some short term negative environmental effects on the development of assets where protected species may be found nesting for example. This will temporarily delay any development activity until after breeding seasons. The overall effects are expected to be long, medium and short term.

9. Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects of criteria 1-8 - The overall secondary effect of all objectives on assessment criteria 1-8 is positive, however, there is potential for significant negative environmental effects on cultural heritage. Measures are in place to negate this potential effect. The overall cumulative effect on assessment criteria 1-8 is positive.

10. Effects on existing environmental problems relating to areas of importance - The overall effects on existing environmental problems associated with the River Dee SAC, 4 SSSI's and 80 Local Designated Sites within Aberdeen City will be positive.

The overall effects on SEA criteria will only be temporary given the constant threats to the environment from other SPP's such as the Development Plan, Core Paths Plan and Transport Strategy. To work towards the effects on criteria 1-10 being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly reviewed and updated.

4.6 Proposes Mitigation Measures

Schedule 3 paragraph 7 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires an explanation of "the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme." The following section provides a summary of the proposed mitigation measures for the prevention, reduction and offset of significant adverse effects. The results of the full assessments are noted in Appendix G.

4.7 Proposed Mitigation Measures - Summary

The overall effects of this Strategy on most SEA criteria are positive, however, the impacts of other PPS may be negative, therefore, mitigation measures to address these issues have been considered given the overall aim of the Strategy. Potential significant environmental effects on Cultural Heritage and some Material Assets as a result of implementing this Strategy could occur.

1. Biodiversity - Information of the flora and fauna present in Aberdeen including details of all designated sites within the City will need to be updated. Action should be taken once new data gathered has been reviewed with existing data. Evidence should also be sought to establish the causes of any changes such as poor management practices or climate change. Where the ecological value is low in any site or integrity of designated sites is lost, action should be taken to enhance or restore such sites.

2. Soil – Effects from other PPS on biodiversity can have negative effects on soil quality and cause erosion. Action should be taken to enhance or restore sites of low ecological value (including contaminated land and brownfield sites) which will help to stabilise and improve quality of soil.

3. Water - In conjunction with partnerships and other organisations, the Council will meet legislative requirements, support any strategy developed and take action to protect the water environment in delivering its function. Where the ecological value is low in any water habitat, action should be taken to enhance or restore such sites which will help to improve water quality and the environment for those species that depend on it.

4. Air Quality & Climatic Factors - The Council will meet legislative requirements and support any strategy developed to deal with air quality and climatic factors. Where the ecological value is low in any site or integrity of designated sites is lost, action should be taken to enhance or restore such sites which will help biodiversity and ecosystems and in turn help to provide clean air, enable the natural environment to act as carbon stores and regulate climate.

5. Landscape - Where the ecological value is low in any site or integrity of designated sites is lost, action should be taken to enhance or restore such sites which will help to encourage different ecosystems and associated habitats, therefore, help to create interesting landscapes.

6. Population & Human Health - Action should be taken to enhance or restore sites of low ecological value which will help to make the natural environment beneficial to populations and human health. For example, improving biodiversity will make the City a more attractive place to live, work and visit. There is also a link between having access to nature, health benefits and quality of life.

7. Cultural Heritage – Sites of historical importance could be damaged or destroyed as a result of improving management and access to natural heritage sites where archaeological and historic sites plus other areas of cultural heritage importance are present. Details including locations of any historic or archaeological site in the City of Aberdeen will need to be gathered. At the start of any plan to improve biodiversity, action should be taken to identify cultural heritage sites so that significant negative environmental impacts can be avoided on such sites. There will also be a need to liaise with the Council's Keepers of Archaeology.

8. Material Assets - Action should be taken at the beginning of the planning application process to identify species using material assets as habitats so that they are provided with a level of protection. Opportunities should also be sought to include spaces for nature in new building design. The Council will take action to protect species which use material assets as habitats but at the same time deal with nuisance species that cause significant negative environmental effects on material assets, for example, trees growing on roofs and from buildings.

4.8 General Difficulties, Weaknesses and Limitations

The main difficulty of this Environmental Report is that the Nature Conservation Strategy has been designed to be of benefit to the environment, therefore, it may be that all potential significant negative environmental effects have not been identified. In most cases, the focus has been on enhancing the environment as opposed to mitigation measures. The main weaknesses or limitations of the Report is that the focus has been on broad objectives and high level strategic actions and that full impacts will not be fully understood until low level action plans have been developed to implement the Nature Conservation Strategy particularly for Cultural Heritage and Material Assets. However, where potential significant negative environmental effects have been identified, this Report has enabled much consideration of potential negative impacts at the low level planning stage.

SECTION 5 – MONITORING

Section 19 of the environmental assessment (Scotland) Act requires the Responsible Authority to monitor significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Nature Conservation Strategy. This must be done in such a way as to also identify unforeseen adverse effects and to take appropriate remedial action. The following section provides a summary of the proposed monitoring approach for the Nature Conservation Strategy. The proposed SEA activities are set out fully in Appendix H.

5.1 Monitoring - Summary

The effects following the implementation of the Nature Conservation Strategy are expected to be mainly positive, therefore, opportunities have been taken to enhance current environmental characteristics.

Some significant negative environmental effects linked with Cultural Heritage and in some cases Material Assets will need to be monitored.

The Council will take action to avoid significant negative environmental effects on historic or archaeological sites plus other areas of cultural heritage importance as part of any works to improve biodiversity or to improve access to nature conservation sites.

The Council will also take action to protect species which use material assets as habitats but at the same time deal with species that cause significant negative environmental effects on material assets such as invasive plants growing on buildings.

The effects of climate change on biodiversity is not fully known at this time, therefore, monitoring the changes in ecological value of sites could help to establish causes including possible effects of climate change. Implementation of the Nature Conservation Strategy will assist the Council in adapting to the influences of climate change through appropriate guidance.

SECTION 6 – APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

The requirement for appropriate assessment of plans and projects on the potential impact on any Natura 2000 site is detailed in Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive. It requires that *'any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessments of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.'* The directive goes on to say that the plan shall only be agreed if there is no adverse impact on the integrity of sites after mitigation is considered and that the Commission requires informing of such compensatory measures.

During the Scoping stage, a broad-brush approach was adopted to screen the Nature Conservation Strategy objectives against some broad criteria for the protection of Natura 2000 sites. All the objectives have been scoped out, as they do not generate any development, take land, cause pollution, require water abstraction, or cause any disturbance. They protect, preserve, enhance and promote the environment. No additional action has been identified which is likely to have any significant negative environmental effects on the River Dee Special Area of Conservation (SAC). No further Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken in this Environmental Report. However, where any project developed to implement the Nature Conservation Strategy could have an impact on the River Dee SAC, an Appropriate Assessment may be required.

The screening report can be found in Appendix I.

SECTION 7 – NEXT STEPS

Table 14 lists future milestones in the development of the Nature Conservation Strategy and its SEA, and the dates when they are expected to be completed.

Table 14: Anticipated Plan-making and SEA Milestones

Expected Date	Milestone
September to November 2009	Consultation on the Environmental Report and PPS
November & December 2009	Consider views and finalise PPS
January 2010	Go to Committee for approval
January 2010	Finalise the Environmental Report
End January 2010	Take post-adoption measures

Appendix A - Implementation of Consultation Authorities Opinion

Consultation Authority	Comment Subject	Action Required	Responsible Authority Action	Page Reference
Historic Scotland	1.1 Whole Scoping Document	Acknowledges scope and level of detail proposed for SEA. No action required.	Comment noted	N/A
Historic Scotland	1.2 Areas to be assessed	Acknowledged options and alternatives. No action required.	Comment noted	N/A
Historic Scotland	1.3 Likely effects on historic environment	To consider Scottish Historic Environment Policy definition of historic environment in both baseline and likely impacts of the framework.	Addressed	Pages 10, 12, 14 & 17
Historic Scotland	1.4 Impacts on historic environment	To consider both direct and indirect impacts. I.e. loss or damage and effects on setting, changes to surface drainage patterns etc.	Addressed	Pages 14 & 17
Historic Scotland	1.5 Uncertainty of impacts	To identify issues that may be uncertain and to address at project level.	Addressed	Page 21
Historic Scotland	2.1 Consultation period	Acknowledges 6 week consultation period. No action.	Comment noted	N/A
Historic Scotland	2.2 Consultation period	Would prefer to receive paper copies of the report and the draft strategy sent via the Scottish Government Gateway.	Comment noted	N/A
Historic Scotland	1. Introduction and Key Facts	Acknowledges that environmental assessment is part of process for creating new Nature Conservation Strategy. No action.	Comment noted	N/A
Historic Scotland	2. Other PPS	NPPG18 and NPPG5 to be replaced with SPP23: Planning and the Historic Environment.	Addressed	Page 36
Historic Scotland	3. Other PPS	Further useful information provided in the new Technical Guidance Notes.	Comment noted	N/A
Historic Scotland	4. Other PPS	Welcomes strategy aims to protect the built environment and cultural heritage. Highlights objective to also enhance where appropriate.	Addressed	Page 10

Historic Scotland	5. Baseline	Acknowledges baseline information to be gathered including information linked to cultural heritage. No action.	Comment noted	N/A
Historic Scotland	6. Baseline	Provide reason for noting Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL), plus Conservation Areas under more than one SEA Topic.	Addressed	Pages 50, 51 & 74
Historic Scotland	6. Baseline	GDLs important to both cultural heritage and landscape. Clarification required on which SEA Topic used.	Addressed	Page 74 & 83
Historic Scotland	6. Baseline	Correct terminology to be used – Gardens and Designed Landscapes as opposed to Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes.	Addressed	Pages 50, 51, 74 & 83
Historic Scotland	6. Baseline	Data source used under 'Biodiversity' is from SNH. Historic Scotland solely responsible for inventory on GDL's and not SNH.	Addressed	Page 50
Historic Scotland	7. Baseline	Confirms information on designated historic sites in Aberdeen as correct. No Action.	Comment noted	N/A
Historic Scotland	8. Baseline	Links provided to obtain further data.	Comment noted	N/A
Historic Scotland	9. Baseline	Require map showing the baseline data for the historic environment in relation to the Strategy's proposals and actions.	High level map already included in Scoping Report. Will also be included in Environmental Report.	Page 102
Historic Scotland	10. Baseline and evolution without PPS	Content with information provided. No action.	Comment noted	N/A
Historic Scotland	11. Environmental Assessment	Content with assessment of options. No Action.	Comment noted	N/A
Historic Scotland	12. Environmental Assessment	Content with scoping in of historic environment in the assessment.	Comment noted	N/A
Historic Scotland	13. Environmental Assessment	Note that in the Scoping Report there are no SEA objectives to be assessment and would like objectives to be assessed against SEA topics.	SEA objectives were included in page 19 of Scoping Report and are included in Environmental Report.	Page 111

Historic Scotland	14. Mitigation	Welcomes inclusion of mitigation measures and opportunity to record any changes made to strategy as a result of assessment. Would also like same for expectations for lower level plans.	Addressed	Page 151
Historic Scotland	15. Monitoring	Indicators chosen for historic environment should reflect both the actions to be taken within Strategy and potential impacts identified in SEA.	Addressed	Page 156 Page 30 of Strategy
Scottish Natural Heritage	1. Environmental Assessment	Doesn't quite make clear that natural environment is important to economic and social wellbeing as well as good infrastructure and services. Include link in Options Appraisal – Economic.	Addressed	Page 106
Scottish Natural Heritage	2. Baseline	SEA topic Water – suggests that coastal flooding is nature conservation issue. Need to recognise that flooding is natural process and that the effects are to humans.	Addressed (actually under Air Quality & Climatic Factors)	Pages 65 & 66
Scottish Natural Heritage	3. Consultation period	Recommend 8 weeks minimum.	Addressed	Page 2
Scottish Natural Heritage	4. Appropriate Assessment	To note that any individual action or project to deliver Strategy may require an AA.	Addressed	Page 22
Scottish Natural Heritage	5. Other PPS	To include reference to North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership	Addressed	Page 9
Scottish Natural Heritage	6. Baseline	Update Biodiversity SAC information based on information on SNH website.	Addressed	Page 44
Scottish Natural Heritage	7. Baseline	Update Biodiversity information to say that SAC is shared with Aberdeenshire	Addressed	Pages 44 & 45
Scottish Natural Heritage	8. Baseline	Explain why SSSI's and LNR's would be at risk from housing.	Addressed	Pages 45 & 46
Scottish Natural Heritage	9. Baseline	Badger is not an EPS. However, state that they are still subject to similar pressures.	Addressed	Pages 47 & 48

Scottish Natural Heritage	10. Baseline	Add Peregrine falcon to list under Biodiversity.	Addressed	Page 48
Scottish Natural Heritage	11. Baseline	Questions the value of referring to UKBAP at both UK and Scottish level.	There are no data trends available for comparing Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. The provision of data at a Scottish level helps to provide some context at a local level. Work to protect UKBAP species at a local level also assists protection at a Scottish and overall UK level for which there are data.	N/A
Scottish Natural Heritage	12. Baseline	Include reference that soil erosion and deposition on the coast is natural dynamic of coastal habitats and that most species adapt.	Addressed	Page 53 & 54
Scottish Natural Heritage	13. Baseline	Note impact to SAC's qualifying species as a result of water abstraction and the increase in demand for it. In both Ground Water and River Levels, plus, Water Quality.	Addressed	Page 56
Scottish Natural Heritage	14. Baseline	Make clear that measure taken to address flooding often have impacts on natural heritage.	Addressed (actually under Air Quality & Climatic Factors)	Page 66 & 67
Scottish Natural Heritage	15. Baseline	Acknowledges opportunities to improve green spaces and biodiversity in areas of deprivation. No action.	Comment noted	N/A
Scottish Natural Heritage	16. Baseline	Refer to reducing level of maintenance such as grass cutting can be beneficial to nature conservation.	Addressed	Pages 79 & 107
Scottish Natural Heritage	17. Baseline	Refer to opportunities to provide roost spaces for bats in the design of new and old buildings.	Addressed	Pages 44 & 84

Scottish Natural Heritage	18. Baseline and evolution without PPS	Make clear that reduction in numbers of flora and fauna important to both individual species population size and total number species.	Addressed	Page 11
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	1.1 Other PPS	Acknowledged list in Table 4. No action.	Comment noted	N/A
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	2.2.1 Baseline	Some information provided under Water requires updating.	Addressed	Page 56
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	2.2.2 Baseline	Information on Bathing Beaches requires updating.	Addressed	Page 58
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	2.3.2 Baseline	Information on Climate Change requires updating.	Addressed	Page 60
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	3.1 Environmental Assessment	Acknowledges assessment of options. No action.	Comment noted	N/A
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	4.1 Scope	Acknowledges all environmental receptors scoped in for assessment. No action.	Comment noted	N/A
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	5.1 Environmental Assessment	Request that as well as objectives and strategic actions, other aspects of the Strategy that could have significant effects are also assessed.	No other aspects of Strategy are anticipated to cause significant environmental effects.	N/A
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	5.2 Environmental Assessment	To provide enough information to justify reasons in assessment of effects.	Addressed	From page 87
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	5.3 Environmental Assessment	Refer to appropriate sections of SEA Toolkit when conducting assessment.	Addressed	N/A
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	5.4 Environmental Assessment	Proposals for enhancement are also welcome.	Addressed	Pages 151 & 156

Scottish Environment Protection Agency	6. Mitigation	Make clear what changes to draft Strategy have been made as a result of SEA.	Addressed	Page 151
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	6.2 Mitigation	Make it clear how mitigation will be achieved and by whom.	Addressed	Page 151
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	7. Consultation period	Satisfied with consultation period. No action.	Comment noted	N/A

APPENDIX B – Links to Other Plans, Programmes and Environmental Objectives

Name of Environmental Protection Objective	Requirements of the Environmental Protection Objective	Relationship with PPS
INTERNATIONAL		
Bern Convention 1979	A binding international agreement in the field of nature conservation that covers the whole of natural heritage in the European continent and aims to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats. A PAN European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy was developed in 1994 with the main aim of species protection, ecological networks and environmental awareness.	**Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy will be developed to meet the requirements of the Bern Convention by aiming to conserve flora and fauna and their natural habitats within Aberdeen City.
Bonn Convention 1979	To protect migratory species and their habitats by providing strict protection for endangered migratory species, which are listed in Appendix 1 of the Convention. Strict protection is being provided through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.	**Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy will be developed to meet the requirements of the Bonn convention by aiming to protect migratory species and their habitats within Aberdeen City.
EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)	Provides a framework for the conservation and management of, and human interactions with, wild birds in Europe.	**Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy will be developed to meet the requirements of the EU Birds Directive by aiming to conserve wild birds within Aberdeen City.
EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	To take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance.	**Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy will be developed to meet the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive with regards to flora and fauna and their habitats at a local level.

Convention on Biological Diversity 1992	The main objective is the conservation of biological diversity and to create and enforce national strategies and action plans to conserve, protect and enhance biological diversity. There is a commitment to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate in biodiversity loss at the global, regional and local levels.	**Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy will be developed to meet the requirements of the Convention on Biological Diversity by aiming to conserve biodiversity and assisting in meeting the 2010 target at a local level.
EU Biodiversity Strategy 1998	Linked to the Convention on Biological Diversity and aims to anticipate, prevent and attack the causes of significant reduction or loss of biodiversity at the source.	**Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy will be developed to meet the requirements of the EU Biodiversity Strategy by aiming to work proactively and conserve, preserve and enhance the natural heritage in the City of Aberdeen.
EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) 2000	To establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters (rivers and lakes), transitional waters (estuaries), coastal waters and groundwater.	**Water, human health, Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy will be developed to meet the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive by including all waters in terms of nature conservation.
'A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development' 2001.	Aim of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy is to identify and develop actions to enable the EU to achieve a continuous long-term improvement of quality of life through the creation of sustainable communities able to manage and use resources efficiently, able to tap the ecological and social innovation potential of the economy and in the end able to ensure prosperity, environmental protection and social cohesion. One of the key priority challenges is the conservation and management of natural resources.	**All Issues.** The Nature Conservation Strategy will be developed with sustainable development as a cross cutting theme focusing on nature conservation, public health and social inclusion.
Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2002	The ultimate and long-term objective of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation is to halt the current and continuing loss of plant diversity.	**Biodiversity, Flora & soil.** The Nature Conservation Strategy will be developed to meet the needs of plant diversity and show how this will help nature

		conservation.
EU Biodiversity Action Plan 2006	Linked to the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992. Sets out the plan on 'halting biodiversity loss by 2010 – and beyond: Sustaining ecosystem services for human well-being'.	**Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has been developed to meet the needs of the EU Biodiversity Action Plan 2006.
NATIONAL		
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	Consolidates law relating to ancient monuments and provides for the inspection and recording of matters of archaeological interest and to regulate such activities. Provides for nationally important archaeological sites to be statutorily protected as scheduled ancient monuments. Requires authorisation in the form of Scheduled Monument Consent, for the undertaking of certain works.	**Cultural Heritage.** The Nature Conservation Strategy will include the need to respect the importance of ancient monument and archaeological areas when actions are taken in such areas for nature conservation. It will also recognise the importance of such sites, where appropriate, for their role in nature conservation.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997	Involves, amongst others, listing of buildings of special architectural or historic interest; restrictions on work affecting listed buildings; conservation Areas designation; and preservation and enhancement of conservation areas.	**Material Assets & Cultural Heritage.** The Nature Conservation Strategy will include the need to consider the effects of actions to conserve biodiversity on buildings, particularly, listed buildings and those in conservation areas. It will also include considerations on how nature conservation could assist in preserving and enhancing conservation areas.
Wildlife and Countryside Act (WACA) 1981	Covers protection of wildlife (birds, animals and plants), the countryside, national parks, and the designation of protection areas, and public rights of way.	**Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation will meet the requirements of the WACA 1981 through its aim to protect Aberdeen City's flora and fauna and their habitats.
Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (c. 51)	Makes it an offence to take, kill or injure badgers; cruelly treat them, sell them or interfere in any way with a badger's sett.	**Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy aims to protect all flora and fauna which includes badgers. The aim of the Strategy will be to

		conserve all flora and fauna including badgers.
UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP)1994	This is the UK Government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 . It outlines the UK Biodiversity Action Plan for dealing with biodiversity conservation.	**Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has been developed so that it links in with the requirements of the UKBAP. The actions from the Strategy will tie into and help deliver the aims of the UKBAP.
The Conservation (Natural Habitats & c) Regulations 1994	Transposes the EU Habitats Directive into national law. The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites. Public bodies have a duty in exercising their function to have regard to the EU Habitats Directive.	**Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has been developed to benefit European designated sites and protected species.
UK Sustainable Development Strategy 1999	Aims to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations.	**All Issues.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has been developed to consider sustainable development which is a cross cutting theme of the Strategy. The Strategy will focus on preserving the natural heritage for current and future generations. It will communicate the need to ensure actions that have an impact on natural heritage are done in a sustainable way.
The Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2000	Employs an integrated approach to regulating certain industrial activities and installations that may cause pollution or have other environmental effects. These activities include major process industries, activities involving waste management and operations such as the intensive farming of certain livestock.	**Water, human health, Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy will not take any actions that result in activities associated with these regulations. However, the Strategy could help reduce the amount of waste to landfill as a result of promoting nature conservation in gardens and allotments.
Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003	Provides an integrated framework to protect and improve our water environment while supporting the social and economic needs of those who depend on it. Water management	**Water, human health, Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has been developed to link into the requirements of

	will be through the development of River Basin Management Plans and regulatory control under the Water Environment (Control of Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (CAR).	River Basin Management Plans. Nature conservation depends on good water quality. Improving nature conservation can also benefit and help to improve water quality.
Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	Increases the public right of access, within certain controls, to private land. It establishes statutory rights of access to land and inland water for outdoor recreation.	**All Issues.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has been developed to link in with the requirements of the Act. It promotes access to nature conservation sites. It has also considered the access code in particular for caring for the environment when promoting access to nature conservation sites. This includes taking litter home, treating places with care and not to recklessly disturb or intentionally damage wildlife or historic places.
Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands, Strategy 2004	Sets out a framework for conserving biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and wellbeing of the people of Scotland now and in the future. There are 5 objectives: - 1. **Species & Habitats**: To halt the loss of biodiversity and continue to reverse previous losses through targeted action for species and habitats; 2. **People**: To increase awareness, understanding and enjoyment of biodiversity, and engage many more people in conservation and enhancement; 3. **Landscapes & Ecosystems**: To restore and enhance biodiversity in all our urban, rural and marine environments through better planning, design and practice; 4. **Integration & Co-ordination**: To develop an effective management framework that ensures biodiversity is taken into account in all decision making; and 5. **Knowledge**: To ensure that the best new and existing knowledge on biodiversity is	**Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Biodiversity Strategy is central to the Nature Conservation Strategy. The Nature Conservation has been developed to consider all the Biodiversity Strategy objectives in a bid to improve nature conservation in the City of Aberdeen. It also enables the City of Aberdeen to contribute to the international targets for biodiversity and nature conservation.

	available to all policy makers and practitioners.	
Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	Places a duty on public bodies in relation to the conservation of biodiversity, and enhancement of natural features, protection for wildlife, and the preparation of a fossil code.	**Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna, Cultural Heritage.** The Nature Conservation has been developed to meet the requirements of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 including natural sites that are not designated.
Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	Requires local authorities to carry out an environmental assessment during the preparation of a qualifying plan or programme. The assessment includes the preparation of an environmental report, carrying out of consultations and taking into account of the environmental report and the result of the consultations in decision making.	**All Issues.** The Nature Conservation Strategy is being conducted fully in line with the requirements of the environmental assessment required as part of this Act.
Scotland's Climate Change Programme: Changing Our Ways	Sets out the Scottish programme for dealing with climate change including (among others) living within environmental limits and improving quality of life; reducing emissions and improving air quality.	**Climatic Factors, Air.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has been developed to assist in meeting the Climate Change programme. It can help to reduce emissions and improve air quality through protecting natural carbon stores and promoting walking/access to nature conservation sites.
Scotland's Economic Strategy: Wealthier & Fairer; Smarter; Healthier; Safer & Stronger; Greener	Focuses on creating a more successful country through five strategic objectives which includes making Scotland Greener. The strategic priority is equity in particular 'to promote economic growth and environmental quality and responsibility as mutually advancing.	**All Issues.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has been developed to assist in creating economic growth through promoting our natural heritage for local tourism opportunities.
PAN 60: Planning for Natural Heritage	Planning Advice Note on Scotland's natural heritage. It provides advice on how development and the planning system can contribute to the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and understanding of Scotland's natural environment and encourages developers and planning authorities to be positive and creative in addressing natural	**Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has been developed to assist in the delivery of the objectives of PAN 60 at a local level. It links into the planning system and supports the current Development Plan and will be able to inform future Development Plans in a nature conservation context.

	heritage issues.	
PAN 65: Planning and Open Space	Provides advice on the role of the planning system in protecting and enhancing existing open spaces and providing high quality new spaces.	**Landscape, Biodiversity, human health.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has been developed to assist in the delivery of the objectives of PAN 65. It recognises the importance of open space for wildlife. The Strategy links into the planning system and supports the current Development Plan and will inform future Development plans.
PAN 42: Archaeology	Provides advice on the handling of archaeological matters within the planning process.	**Cultural Heritage.** Given the links the Nature Conservation Strategy has with the planning system, the Strategy has been developed to assist meet the objectives of PAN 42. Archaeology will be protected where actions are taken for conserving nature. Archaeology is also recognised in certain situations as important for nature conservation.
NPPG 1: The Planning System (Revised 2000)	National planning policy guidelines which provide an overview of the land use planning system in Scotland. Its primary objectives are: - • to set the land use framework for promoting sustainable economic development; • to encourage and support regeneration; and • to maintain and enhance the quality of the natural heritage and built environment.	**All Issues.** The Nature Conservation Strategy is tied into the planning system. It will link in with the requirements of NPPG1 in particular where the planning system needs to maintain and enhance the quality of the natural heritage. This strategy will assist in meeting NPPG1 objectives.
NPPG 11: Sport, Physical Recreation and Open Space	National planning policy guidance which addresses the land use implications of sports and physical recreation, plus, encompasses aspects of informal physical recreation that take place in urban open spaces, which are significant land uses in our towns and cities, and large areas of the countryside which are shared by those enjoying outdoor pursuits and seeking places for quiet relaxation. Accordingly, it describes the role of the	**Human Health, Biodiversity, Soil, Cultural Heritage.** The Nature Conservation Strategy supports NPPG 11 through its link with the planning system. It also encourages out door access to open space and provides health benefits as a result. It also takes into consideration the need to protect the natural heritage while accessing open space areas of ecological value.

	planning system in making provision for sports and physical recreation and protecting and enhancing open space.	
NPPG 14:Natural Heritage	National planning policy providing guidance on how the Government's policies for the conservation and enhancement of Scotland's natural heritage should be reflected in land use planning. In this context, Scotland's natural heritage includes its plants and animals, its landforms and geology, and its natural beauty and amenity. Natural heritage embraces the combination and interrelationship of landform, habitat, wildlife and landscape and their capacity to provide enjoyment and inspiration.	**Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** This guidance is also central to the Nature Conservation Strategy. This strategy links into the many policies that NPPG14 refers to and mirrors the objectives of protecting species and habitats and for enabling communities to become involved and enjoy the natural heritage. It considers the importance of protecting and conserving both designated and non-designated sites. This strategy will also inform future development plans with respect to natural heritage.
NPPG 15: Planning for Rural Development	National Planning Policy Guidance which sets out the approach, key messages and objectives that should underpin planning policies and decisions affecting rural areas. It also describes the increasingly important links between development planning and community planning. Also considers environmental quality including the protection and enhancement of these assets, including the need to further the interests of biodiversity, are important considerations.	**All Issues.** The Nature Conservation Strategy recognises the links between rural and urban areas. It also takes into consideration the fact that there are no physical boundaries between the City and Shire Council boundaries for nature. The Strategy will help to meet the requirements of NPPG 15.
SPP 23: Planning and Historic Environment	Scottish Planning Policy which sets out the national planning policy for the historic environment with a view to its protection, conservation and enhancement. Includes statutory designations (listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, designated wreck sites) and non designated sites (world heritage sites, garden and designed landscapes).	**Cultural Heritage.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has taken into consideration the importance of the historic environment when planning for the conservation of nature. Any actions from the Strategy will consider all planning and historical issues so that they deal with the positive and negative aspects of the actions. These include ensuring that there are no negative impacts on historical sites as a result from nature conservation actions. There are

		also opportunities to enhance historical sites through appropriate nature conservation actions.
SPP 21: Green Belts	Scottish Planning Policy which focuses on a strong presumption against inappropriate development in green belts. It states that land that is designated as green belt in the development plan, in association with wider networks of green space, can provide a number of benefits, including outdoor recreation opportunities for local people, biodiversity and enhanced quality of life. Opportunities should be taken to protect and enhance these benefits.	**Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna, Human Health, Landscape.** The Nature Conservation Strategy will help to deliver the aims of SPP 21 through actions to help protect and enhance biodiversity plus, providing access to such sites.
Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP)	This policy sets out Scottish Ministers' policies for the historic environment, provides greater policy direction for Historic Scotland and provides a framework that informs the day-to-day work of a range of organisations that have a role and interest in managing the historic environment.	**Cultural Heritage.** The Nature Conservation Strategy will consider all cultural heritage aspects when considering nature conservation. It will include consideration of built heritage features such as ancient monuments, archaeological sites, landscapes, historic buildings, townscapes, parks, gardens, designated landscapes, marine heritage, historical settings, patterns from the past in landscapes, towns, villages and streets. It will also consider the less tangible aspects including historical, artistic, literary, linguistic and scenic association of places and landscapes.
REGIONAL		
North East Biodiversity Action Plan (NELBAP)	A locally driven process developed to meet the requirements of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan 1994 and ultimately the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992.	**Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has been developed so that it links in with the requirements of the NELBAP. The actions from the Strategy will tie into and help deliver

		the aims of the NELBAPs.
Forest and Woodland Strategy for Aberdeenshire & Aberdeen City	To ensure sustainable management of the woodlands and forests of Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City and (amongst others) to protect and enhance biodiversity and the environment.	**Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has been developed to consider all habitats including woodlands and forests and will therefore assist in meeting the aims of the Forest and Woodland Strategy.
River Dee Catchment Management Plan (RDCMP)	Describes the current condition of the Dee Catchment in terms of water quality, the type and extent of habitats and species in the Catchment and important land management activities. It discusses the main impacts on the catchment's water environment. Suggests the measures necessary to protect and improve the quality of the catchment's waters and their associated habitats and species.	**Water, Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna, Human Health.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has been developed to include consideration of the condition of the River Dee Special Area of Conservation and its catchment. The Nature Conservation Strategy will assist the RDCMP meet its objectives.
North East Scotland Together – Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan 2001-2016 (NEST)	Sets out a shared strategic statement about the future use of land in the North East. The Plan focuses on national guidance on the area's land use issues; coordinates activity by partners where it affects the use of land; and sets the scope, limits and objectives for detailed local plans which govern the use of land. Consists of a number of polices including one which deals with wildlife, landscape and land resources.	**All Issues.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has been developed at a local level to meet the requirements of the Structure Plan. In particular, it considers the need to protect designated sites at national, regional and local levels, plus, non designated sites where there could be adverse affects on biodiversity or the ecological quality. The Strategy will also support and guide the relevant NEST policies in terms of nature conservation.
East Grampian Coastal Partnership's Business Plan 2007-2010	The aim is to deliver Integrated Coastal Zone Management at a local level. One of the objectives is to seek to protect, preserve, enhance and promote the natural and cultural heritage of the East Grampian coast.	**Water, Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna, Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Population.** The Nature Conservation Strategy links into the coastal and marine environment and will compliment the EGCP's plan for integrated coastal zone management.

LOCAL		
Aberdeen Parks and Greenspace Strategy	Purpose of strategy is to define, and plan for the realisation of the wide range current and potential benefits which can be derived from Parks and Greenspaces in contributing to and improving the overall quality of life in Aberdeen. It considers, among others, the environment, wildlife and biodiversity. One objective is to prepare and implement biodiversity action plans for individual parks or systems as appropriate in conjunction with partner organisations.	**Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna, Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Population.** The Nature Conservation Strategy will help the Parks and Greenspace Strategy meet it objectives in a parks and greenspace setting. The Nature Conservation Strategy focuses on the requirement to update and create new management plans for such sites.
Aberdeen City Council Landscape Strategy	Concerned with conserving, restoring and enhancing the attractive landscape setting of Aberdeen City.	**Landscape, Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Flora & fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy recognises the links between nature conservation and landscapes. It is an important setting for biodiversity and integral part of our natural heritage. The Strategy has included the need to protect our landscapes for the benefit of nature conservation.
Aberdeen's Strategy for Access to the Outdoors	The vision is to have a well used network of safe, clear and enjoyable routes linking people and places that every person in Aberdeen wants to, and is proud to use to get from one place to another for work or for leisure. It links into, among others, land use and the environment challenges from the Aberdeenfutures Community Plan. It aims to protect our heritage…and maintain and enhance opportunities for access to the countryside for informal recreation.	**Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has recognised the importance of access to our natural heritage so that it can be enjoyed and contribute to good health and well being. The Nature Conservation strategy also recognised the need to encourage responsible access to natural heritage so that there is not damage to our environment including for example degradation of natural heritage sites and displacement of species.
Programme for Aberdeen City Council – Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking (VDFL)	Programme for Aberdeen City Council (2007-2011). Sets outs policies to enable Aberdeen	**All Issues.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has

	to be an even better place to live and work. The programme states that the Council has a duty to and will play its part in protecting the environment. It includes an action to adopt and implement policies which safeguard Aberdeen's green belt and green Wedges.	recognised the aims of the VDFL programme and will help to drive the actions required to protect and even enhance green belt and green wedges.
Aberdeen City Council's Community Plan & Single Outcome Agreement 2008-2011	The main aims are making sure people and communities are genuinely engaged in the decisions made on public services which affect them allied to a commitment from organisations to work together, not apart, in providing better public services. The vision is also to value our City by making Aberdeen an attractive, clean, healthy and safe place to live and work. It focuses on a number of outcomes including 'We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.'	**All Issues.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has been developed with the relevant aims of the Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement in mind. The Nature Conservation Strategy considers involving communities to help improve biodiversity in their areas as well as protecting and enhancing it for the benefit of current and future communities.
Local Agenda 21	Strategy and action programme for implementing sustainable development at a local level.	**All Issues.** Sustainable development at a local level is a cross cutting theme of the Nature Conservation Strategy. It considers environmental, social and economic aspects, and quality of life of the citizens of Aberdeen.
Local Transport Strategy	Developed to set out the policies and interventions adopted by ACC to guide the planning and improvement of the local transport network. Actions include: - ACC is committed to furthering biodiversity through this LTS. Maintenance methods will be managed in order that they do not destroy or disturb habitats. ACC encourages the adoption of measures to manage all adopted road verges in a way that maintains,	**Air, Climatic Factors, Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy will support the aims of the Local Transport Strategy by providing guidance for the benefit of nature conservation. Actions will be developed to assist the Local Transport Strategy meet its aims.

	establish or manages verges for habitat and species enhancement. In taking forward transport infrastructure works as part of this LTS, ACC will ensure that efforts are taken to make sure that existing wildlife linkages / corridors are maintained or new ones created. Mitigation measures will be considered for all transport improvement works undertaken through this LTS that could have an adverse impact on biodiversity. ACC will continue to implement Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SUDS) as part of road design. Where appropriate SUDS will be designed into existing road schemes to mitigate against the contamination or pollution of land, water courses, habitats and species lying adjacent to roads.	
Aberdeen Local Plan – Green Spaces/New Places June 2008	The means by which sustainable new communities will be delivered around Aberdeen over the next 5 years. Consists of a number of policies including: - Policy 16 – Archaeology and Planning; Policy 26 – Coastal Management; Policy 29 – Green Space Network; Policy 31 – Landscape Protection; Policy 32 – Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes; Policy 33 – Protecting Trees and Woodland; Policy 34 – Natural Heritage; Policy 35 – Access and Recreation Areas; Policy 36 – Urban Green Space.	**All Issues.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has been developed to support the Council Local Plan policies and will also help to guide current and future local land use policies so that nature conservation is taken into consideration as part of land use decisions.

North East Climate Change Partnership	Aims to formally advance across the private and public sector the Climate Change challenges and threats along with business and other opportunities across the North East of Scotland.	**Air, Climatic Factors, Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna.** The Nature Conservation Strategy has been developed to support the challenges of the partnership. It can help to reduce emissions and improve air quality through protecting natural carbon stores and promoting walking/access to nature conservation sites.

APPENDIX C - Baseline Data, Targets and Trends Affecting Aberdeen City

APPENDIX C1: SEA Topic - Biodiversity

SEA Indicator	Quantified Information	Comparators and Targets	Trends	Issues/Constraints	Data Source
Designated Areas	Aberdeen City has a number of designated areas including Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Nature Reserve (LNR), District Wildlife Site (DWS), and Sites of Interest to Natural Science (SINS). The River Dee's designation as a Special Area of Conservation will have a knock-on effect on future development within the river's catchment. Scotstown Moor SSSI in Aberdeen is subject to indirect development pressure due to changes in the water table from adjacent development, which is affecting flush and bog habitats. Loirston Loch DWS and SINS are under direct pressure from nearby development	Aberdeenshire Council: - There are 28 Natura 2000 sites (which consist of Special Protected Areas and Special Areas of Conservation such as the River Dee which is shared with Aberdeen City. This has implications for development. The area of Aberdeenshire designated as SACs is 5.55% and 4.72% for SPAs. There are SSSIs, Country Parks (CPs, National Nature Reserves (NNRs), LNRs and Ramsar Sites. As within Aberdeen City, no monitoring of SINS has occurred, however, a review of SINS is currently being carried out.	For both Aberdeen City and Shire Councils, planning policies have generally prohibited developments within international and national designations that may harm these sites, and indirect impacts are affecting some important wetland sites. Aberdeenshire Council has many more designated sites than Aberdeen City but this is due to the differences in geographical areas covered by both local authorities. It is also due to the fact that Aberdeenshire is predominantly rural whereas, Aberdeen City is urban in nature.	Pressure from development will increase particularly in areas of green belt and for designated areas such as the River Dee. Land take as a result of development will reduce habitats for species. New buildings and the re-development of old buildings often do not include opportunities for roosting or nesting sites. Urban surface water run-off can pollute watercourses. Increase of access to designated areas could be damaging to some sites. Climate change – in the next 50 years the average temperature is expected to rise by 0.5-1.5^{o}C with wetter, windier and cloudier weather, while local seasonal variations will occur such as droughts at summer due to evaporation exceeding rainfall. This will have an impact on	Natural Heritage Futures – North East Coastal Plain SNH (2002) http://www.snh.org.uk/futures/Data/pdfdocs/North_East_Coastal.pdf Scottish Natural Heritage – Facts and Figures http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/portal/page?_pageid=93,866334,93_884286&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/discoverer/viewer?cn=cf_a102&nlsl=en-gb&pg=1&qp_As~20at=31-MAY-2009&wbk=PROTECTED_AREAS_AND_SITES_SUMMARY_V3&wsk=212

	and potential future adjacent development. The lack of appropriate management of some designated natural heritage sites is affecting their underlying objective (of that designation) and overall integrity. A review of SINS is currently being carried out and will help establish their current status and help to inform future Development Plans.			species and habitats, and therefore, potentially the integrity of designated areas. Specifically, given that the River Dee is shared between both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils, there are further pressures to this designated site through all forms of development, diffuse pollution and water abstraction.	
Designated Sites – Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	In Aberdeen City there is one SAC which is the River Dee. EU legislation has afforded protection on the River Dee and its catchment, however, some development has occurred near to the River Dee or within the River Dee catchment area.	In Aberdeenshire there are 18 SACs which occupy 5.6% of Aberdeenshire land or 334 hectares of land. Development pressure is also an issue within Aberdeenshire.	Aberdeenshire has much more SACs than Aberdeen City, however, development pressures on SACs are common between both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils.	The requirement for further housing in Aberdeen City will increase the pressure on the River Dee SAC.	The Aberdeen Local Plan Written Statement June 2008. http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Planning/sl_pla/pla_LocalPlan_home.asp Aberdeenshire Local Plan June 2006. http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/localplan/index.asp
Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI)	In Aberdeen City there are 4 SSSis. These are Cove Bay, Nigg Bay, Scotstown Moor and Corby Loch. In total they occupy about 0.2% or 47 hectares of	In Aberdeenshire there are 82 SSSIs occupying 6.3% or 39805 hectares of land.	Aberdeenshire has many more SACs than Aberdeen City, however, development pressures on SSSIs are common between	The requirement for further housing in Aberdeen City will increase the pressure on the SSSIs. Land for development in Aberdeen is limited, therefore, even	The Aberdeen Local Plan Written Statement June 2008. http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Planning/sl_pla/pla_LocalPlan_home.asp

	land.		both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils.	with such a small proportion of land being designated as SSSI's, future development will still put pressure on SSSI's. Designated land may still be targeted for future development as other suitable land runs out.	Aberdeenshire Local Plan June 2006. http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/localplan/index.asp Scottish Natural Heritage Facts and Figures 2003/2004 http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/on-line/corporate/factsandfigures/0304/reportindex.asp
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	There are 4 LNRs in Aberdeen City which represent 0.6% or 126 hectares of land. These are Don Estuary, Kincorth Hill, River Don Valley, Scotstown Moor, and Den of Maidencraig.	In Aberdeenshire there are 2 LNRs which occupies 0.004% or 28 hectares of land.	Aberdeen City has more LNRs than Aberdeenshire, however, development pressures on LNRs are common between both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils.	The requirement for further housing in Aberdeen City will increase the pressure on the LNRs. Land for development in Aberdeen is limited, therefore, even with such a small proportion of land being designated as LNRs, future development will still put pressure on LNR's. Designated land may still be targeted for future development as other suitable land runs out.	The Aberdeen Local Plan Written Statement June 2008. http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Planning/sl_pla/pla_LocalPlan_home.asp Aberdeenshire Local Plan June 2006. http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/localplan/index.asp Scottish Natural Heritage Facts and Figures 2003/2004 http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/on-line/corporate/factsandfigures/0304/reportindex.asp

District Wildlife Sites (DWS)	There are 80 DWSs in Aberdeen City. A list of these sites is presented at the end of this table.	There are no DWSs in Aberdeenshire.	No trend.	The requirement for further housing in Aberdeen City will increase the pressure on the DWSs. Land for development in Aberdeen is limited, therefore, even with such a small proportion of land being designated as DWSs, future development will still put pressure on DWSs. Designated land may still be targeted for future development as other suitable land runs out.	The Aberdeen Local Plan Written Statement June 2008. http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Planning/sl_pla/pla_LocalPlan_home.asp
Sites of Interest to Natural Science (SINS)	There are 18 SINSs within Aberdeen City. A list of these sites is presented at the end of this table.	There are nn132 SINSs within Aberdeenshire.	Aberdeenshire has many more SINSs than Aberdeen City, however, development pressures on SINSs are common between both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils.	The requirement for further housing in Aberdeen City will increase the pressure on the SINSs. . Land for development in Aberdeen is limited, therefore, even with such a small proportion of land being designated as SINSs, future development will still put pressure on SINSs. Designated land may still be targeted for future development as other suitable land runs out.	The Aberdeen Local Plan Written Statement June 2008. http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Planning/sl_pla/pla_LocalPlan_home.asp Aberdeenshire Local Plan June 2006. http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/localplan/index.asp
European Protected Species (EPS)	There are Common otter, Atlantic salmon, and Bats found in		No trend.	The requirement for further housing in Aberdeen City will	The Aberdeen Local Plan Written Statement June 2008.

and Annex II Species	Aberdeen City.			increase the pressure on the EPS and Annex II species which could lead to their decline or isolation and destruction or fragmentation of their habitats. Although not EPS or Annex 11 species, badgers are present in the City and are vulnerable to similar pressures.	http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Planning/sl_pla/pla_LocalPlan_home.asp
Schedule I Species	There is a number of Schedule I species found in Aberdeen City. These include Merlin, Osprey, Red-throated diver, Barn owl, Peregrine falcon etc.		No trend.	The requirement for further housing in Aberdeen City will increase the pressure on the Schedule I species which could lead to their decline or isolation and destruction or fragmentation of their habitats. For example, peregrine falcons are present in the City Centre nesting in buildings such as the triple kirks spire and Marischal College.	The Aberdeen Local Plan Written Statement June 2008. http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Planning/sl_pla/pla_LocalPlan_home.asp
UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP)	There are a number of UK BAP priority habitats and species in Aberdeen City including Red squirrel, European otter, Bottle-nosed dolphin, Pipistrelle bat, cornflower, Wych elm, grey partridge and	The status of UKBAP priority habitats at UK level in 2005 (includes post trend estimates) is: - • Increasing (9) – 20% • Fluctuating (probably increasing) (1) –	There is no data to compare trends between Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. The trends for increasing habitats in Scotland are lower than the figures	The requirement for further housing in Aberdeen City will increase the pressure on the UKBAP priority habitats and species present in the City which could lead to their decline or isolation of species and destruction or	The Aberdeen Local Plan Written Statement June 2008. http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Planning/sl_pla/pla_LocalPlan_home.asp Biodiversity Action Reporting System

	many others. The presence of UKBAP species in Aberdeen have contributed to the trend figures in Scotland. The status of UKBAP priority habitats in Scotland in 2005 (includes post 2005 trend estimates) is: - • Increasing (6) – 15% • Stable (8) – 20% • Declining (slowing) (12) – 29% • Fluctuating (probably declining) (1) – 2% • No clear trend (3) – 7% • Unknown (11) – 27% The status of UKBAP priority species in Scotland in 2005 (includes post 2005 trend estimates) is: - • Increasing (10) – 5% • Fluctuating (probably increasing) (1) – 0%	2% • Stable (6) – 13% • Declining (slowing) (11) – 24% • Fluctuating (probably declining) (3) – 7% • Declining (continuing/accelerating) (3) – 7% • No clear trend (1) – 2% • Unknown (11) – 24% The status of UKBAP priority species at UK level in 2005 (includes post trend estimates) is: - • Increasing (39) – 8% • Fluctuating (probably increasing) (6) - 1% • Stable (115) – 24% • Fluctuating (probably stable) (39) – 8% • Declining (slowing) (42) – 9% • Fluctuating (probably declining) (24) –	recorded for the UK as a whole. This is also true for species.	fragmentation of habitats at a local level. This will have an impact at both Scottish and UK level.	(BARS) http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/status/uk_chart.asp

	• Stable (50) – 24% • Declining (slowing) (18) – 9% • Fluctuating (probably declining) (3) – 1% • No clear trend (18) – 9% • Not a true species (3) – 1% • Unknown (88) – 42%	5% • Declining (continuing/accelerating) (47) – 10% • Lost (since BAP publication) (1) – 0% • Lost (pre BAP publication) (9) – 2% • No clear trend (42) – 9% • Not a true species (8) – 2% • Unknown (100) – 21%			
Gardens and Designated Landscapes (GDL)	There is 1 GDL in Aberdeen City which is Duthie Park.	There are 27 GDLs in Aberdeenshire covering 0.9% or 5, 745 hectares of land.	Aberdeenshire has many more GDLs than Aberdeen City. This means that there is much less opportunities for the public to access GDLs in the City. Pressures from development are common to both local authorities.	The requirements for further housing and/or infrastructure will increase pressure on the GDL in Aberdeen. Both gardens and designated landscapes are linked to biodiversity through providing some habitats for species and creating the character of landscapes. Any issues or constraints in relation to GDL's will also have a negative impact on biodiversity.	Historic Scotland – Gardens and Designated Landscapes – http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/gardens/gardenssearchsummary.htm?s=duthie%20park&r=North%20and%20Grampian&bool=1&PageID=2135 The Aberdeen Local Plan Written Statement June 2008. http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Planning/sl_pla/pla_LocalPlan_home.asp

					Aberdeenshire Local Plan June 2006. http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/localplan/index.asp
Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)	10 0f the designated areas contain TPOs giving legal protection to the trees within these sites.		No trend.	The requirements for further housing and/or infrastructure will increase pressure on the TPOs in Aberdeen.	The Aberdeen Local Plan Written Statement June 2008. http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Planning/sl_pla/pla_LocalPlan_home.asp
Conservation Areas (CA)	9 of the designated areas contain CAs giving protection to the trees within these sites.		No trend.	The requirements for further housing and/or infrastructure will increase pressure on the CAs in Aberdeen. Conservation Areas include open spaces such as parks and gardens which can be important for nature conservation. Issues or constraints affecting Conservation Areas may also have a negative effect on biodiversity.	The Aberdeen Local Plan Written Statement June 2008. http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Planning/sl_pla/pla_LocalPlan_home.asp

Appendix C2: SEA Topic - Soil

SEA Indicator	Quantified Information	Comparators and Targets	Trends	Issues/Constraints	Data Source
Land contamination	There are no statutorily identified contaminated sites in Aberdeen, although there are 900 potentially contaminated sites, which are being considered for investigation. 7 are currently being studied (averaging 3 sites pa).	There are 4 statutorily identified contaminated sites in Aberdeenshire. In the Shire, there are 5000 other potentially contaminated sites, including landfill sites, former gasworks, stations and goods yards, petrol stations and garages, distilleries, smithy's and infilled ground. There are 2 registered contaminated sites in the North East of Scotland.	Aberdeenshire has identified contaminated sites while the City has not. Both sites have potential contaminated sites which will have increase the amount of contaminated land in both areas. In Aberdeen, out of the 7 sites under investigation, 5 include closed landfill sites. Two gas works sites are under further investigation.	Although only 2 contaminated sites are on the public register in the North East, this may increase as many sites are still to be investigated. There are 5,900 potentially contaminated sites recorded in the North East. These include several hundred high-risk sites such as landfill and gasworks. Contaminated land places financial and technological constraints on development. A change of use of Brownfield Sites for housing development will mean that remediation will be required. The need for future development may have land contamination issues and particularly on identified receptors including humans, controlled waters, designated ecosystems and property. However, legal requirements for contaminated land should improve the situation in	Aberdeen City Council Contaminated Land http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Pollution/nc_pol/pol_ContamLand.asp Aberdeen City Council Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy October 2005 http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/web/files/Pollution/ContaminatedLandInspectionStrategy.pdf Aberdeenshire Council Public Register of Contaminated Land October 2006 http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environmental/strategy/PublicRegisterSummary.pdf Scottish Environment Protection Agency(SEPA) – State of the Environment Report 2006 http://www.sepa.org.uk/scotlands_environme

				the future. Contaminated land and brownfield sites can provide opportunities for enhancing nature conservation and become wildlife or recreational areas. The continued use of landfill for waste will also continue to negative effects on biodiversity.	nt/data_and_reports/state_of_the_environment.aspx
Soil Erosion	Aberdeen's coastline is eroding, but is stable where there are rocky coasts or coastal defences and other areas are being replenished with sand and gravel from the Rivers Dee and Don.	The north of Scotland is mostly stable with little erosion, but south of Mallaig, towards Carlisle, the coastline is predominantly eroding but stable where there are rocky coasts or coastal defences. Precipitation will be greater in the west due to the west-east precipitation gradient.	The coastline is predominantly eroding along the east. Autumn/Winter rainfall is predicted to increase, giving rise to winter storms and affecting runoff and (wind and water) erosion. Upland schemes such as wind farm access roads and recreation tracks (e.g. mountain biking) on steep ground can increase surface water runoff and lead to significant soil loss (e.g. gullies).	Coastal erosion will continue mostly where there are no rocks or coastal defences. There will be an increase of silting of rivers from fluvial flooding. An increase in soil erosion will occur from wind and water, which may also be exacerbated by bad land use practices, such as locating tracks/access roads on steep/ upland ground. An increase in the use of motorised vehicles on sand dunes is contributing to coastal erosion. Increased storm events and rising sea levels as a result of climate change will in general increase soil erosion. It should be noted that changes by erosion and	Aberdeen City Council State of the Environment Report 2007 http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?lID=9685&sID=4938 Scottish Natural Heritage, Trends in Soil Erosion 2004 http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/F00AC106.pdf

				deposition on the coast are part of the natural dynamic of coastal habitats and most coastal species are adapted to these changes. While coastal erosion/deposition is often a problem for people, it is a key element of the coastal biodiversity present.	
Waste Disposal in Landfill	Landfilled Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) in the City in 2005 was 70,773 tonnes. Recycled or composted Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) was 16.5% or 22,500 tonnes which has increased to 22% in 2005/2006. The target for Aberdeen City is to aim for a 40% recycling rate by 2011. The current recycling rates are: 2001/01 – 3.6% 2001/02 – 5.8% 2002/03 – 6.3% 2003/04 – 10.6%	Landfilled BMW in Aberdeenshire in 2005 is 83,222 tonnes. Recycled/composted MSW was 15.1% or 23,366 tonnes. BMW allowances for Aberdeenshire are: - 54,917 tonnes in 2009/10; 36,611 tonnes in 2012/13; and 27,340 tonnes in 2019/20. Recycling rates for Aberdeenshire: - 1998/99 – 6.12% 1999/00 – 5.17% Targets for 5-10 years are to reduce waste by 1% per annum. Long term 10 – 15 years is to reduce waste by 2% per	Aberdeenshire has sent more waste to landfill than Aberdeen City, but this will attributed to the larger geographical area and population compared to Aberdeen City.	While there is still a demand for disposal of waste to landfill, land for disposal is becoming less available.	Aberdeen City Council – Waste Reduction in Aberdeen City: - http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/CommunityAdvice/sl_environment/cma_yourenviron_waste.asp Aberdeenshire Council Waste Strategy – 2001-2020 http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/news/ISWMSMASTER.pdf

	2004/05 – 15.5% 2005/06 – 21.8% 2006/07 – 26.8%	annum.			

Appendix C3: SEA Topic - Water

SEA Indicator	Quantified Information	Comparators and Targets	Trends	Issues/Constraints	Data Source
Ground Water and River Levels	The effects of water runoff are reduced by public water supply abstraction from the river Dee. Runoff is natural to within 10% at the 95 percentile flow. In 2002, Scottish Water utilised 62% of its permitted water abstraction licence from the River Dee of 145 megalitres per day. The average water abstraction from the River Dee is 89.9 megalitres per day. There is no abstraction of water from the River Don. Runoff is also natural to within 10% at the 95 percentile flow.	In Aberdeenshire, the River Ugie is subject to water abstraction. The factors effecting water runoff is reduced by public water abstraction. Runoff is natural to within 10% at the 95 percentile flow for all rivers in the North East. By the 2080s, summer precipitation in the south of Scotland is predicted to decrease by 20-40% under the low emissions (Global Sustainability), and to decrease by more than 40% under the high-emissions World Markets scenario. By the 2080s, summer precipitation in the north of Scotland is predicted to decrease by 10-20% under the low emissions (Global Sustainability), and to	Runoff in both the City and Aberdeenshire areas are consistent which is natural to within 10% at the 95 percentile flow. This is also the same for both rivers Dee and Ugie which are subject to water abstraction. Both the City and Aberdeenshire will be affected by decreased precipitation in summer months and increased rainfall in winter months.	Ground Water and River Levels will be affected by Climate Change, therefore, there will be a need to incorporate water efficient technologies in new developments. If abstraction levels increase this could have a negative impacts on the qualifying species of the River Dee SAC. This is particularly important given that only 62% of the permitted water abstraction is currently being utilised.	Scottish Environment Protection Agency – North - (River Flow – gauging stations) (2004) http://www.nwl.ac.uk/ih/nrfa/station_summaries/op/SEPA-north_map.html Aberdeen City Council State of the Environment Report 2007 http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?lID=9685&sID=4938

		decrease by 20-30% under the high-emissions World Markets. Precipitation in winter months is predicted to increase - the overall quantity of water in Scottish rivers is increasing.			
Water Quality (biology and chemistry)	A groundwater vulnerability map from SEPA website indicates most of Aberdeen as vulnerable from pollutants that are not readily absorbed or transformed. Groundwater quality in Aberdeen is mainly classed as 'Good' condition but with some areas to the North of City being poor due mainly to high rates of nitrates in the ground water. There are 2 watercourses that are classified as seriously polluted (Mains of Dyce Burn (poor biology), & East	There are 10 watercourses within Aberdeenshire with poor water quality. Groundwater quality in Aberdeenshire is mainly classed as 'Poor' due mainly to high rates of nitrates in the ground water. This could be mainly due to intensively farmed areas. Some areas to the South East have 'Good' condition In 2005, 53.1km of water courses in the North East are classified as poor or seriously polluted as a result of poor chemistry and biology quality.	Water quality continues to be an issue for both the City and Aberdeenshire and in Scotland in general.	Water Quality (biology and chemistry) will continue to be an issue as recreational activities increase in the water environment. Impacts from intensive farming and developed areas will continue to be an issue for water quality. New technologies will have to be developed to deal with polluted watercourses – waste and agriculture. The chemistry and biological quality of water will continue to have an affect on nature conservation unless action is taken to mitigate against such	SEPA (River Classification Stretch Data, 2005): http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/classification/river_classification.htm Scottish Biodiversity Forum (2003) *Towards a strategy for Scotland's biodiversity: Scotland's Biodiversity Resource sand Trends* http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/47032/0014776.pdf Scottish Environment Protection Agency – River Basin Planning – North East Scotland Draft Area Management Plan 2009-2015 http://www.sepa.org.u

	Tullos Burn (poor biology and chemistry)) in the City. In previous years Aberdeen beach bathing waters was not meeting the guideline standards, but investigations on river flows and tidal state have resulted in an improvement in bathing water quality.	In Scotland, 717km of rivers are poor and 51km are seriously polluted. .		activities that effect water quality. For example, water quality issues will have a negative impact on the qualifying species of the River Dee SAC.	k/water/river_basin_planning.aspx
Coastal Areas	In Aberdeen, sea borne waste pollution is principally from urban sewage (although this is declining) and chemical waste. Aberdeen City has 1 Seaside Award beach. Aberdeen Ballroom Beach is currently classed as a Resort Beach. All Seaside Award beaches must meet a certain criteria which deal with the way water quality is managed.	In Aberdeenshire, a build-up of nitrates from diffuse pollution within the River Ythan catchment has enriched estuarine mudflats such that dense algal mats now affect invertebrate communities living in the mud. Aberdeenshire has 7 Seaside Award beaches. These include Balmedie Beach, Collieston, Fraserburgh Esplanade,	The recent trend has been one of improving water quality in coastal waters, and severe pollution has, in general, become localised around sea outfalls, inappropriately sited fish farms or sludge and spoil dumping sites. Heavy rain and storm events cause issues in terms of maintaining the water quality at the	Effects from urban sewage will continue to be an issue unless new technologies are implemented to deal with the effects on coastal areas.	Marine Conservation Society http://www.mcsuk.org/mcsaction/pollution/introduction Keep Scotland Beautiful – The Seaside Awards http://www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/index.asp?pg=3 Scottish Environment Protection Agency – Bathing Waters – end of year bathing waters report http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/bathing_wate

	In 2008 Aberdeen Bay Bathing Water failed to achieve good water quality due to mandatory exceedences on two occasions following very heavy rainfall.	Fraserburgh Waters of Philorth, Inverboyndie Beach, Peterhead Lido, and Stonehaven Beach. In 2008 Cruden Bay Bathing Water failed to achieve good water quality on three occasions during the bathing season, each time following periods of wet weather. Rosehearty also failed due to exceeding the mandatory standard for feacal coliforms on two occasions. Fraserburgh Tiger Hill achieved excellent water quality status. Stonehaven, Balmedie, Peterhead Lido, Fraserburgh Philorth and Inverboyndie all achieved good water quality status.	Aberdeen Ballroom Beach. Aberdeenshire, even with the added pressures from agriculture, has a respectable number of Seaside Award beaches.		rs.aspx

Appendix C4: SEA Topic – Air Quality & Climatic Factors

SEA Indicator	Quantified Information	Comparators and Targets	Trends	Issues/Constraints	Data Source
Air Quality	Two air quality objectives have been set for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), an annual mean concentration of 40 ugm-3 and a 1-hour mean concentration of 200ugm-3 not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year. These objectives were to be achieved by the end of 2005. High NO_2 levels (although not quite exceeding the annual mean NO_2 objective for 2005) occur along Victoria Road (Torry), North and South Anderson Drives, Great Northern Road, Auchmill Road, and King Street (north of Roselin Terrace). Aberdeen was designated as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2001	In Aberdeenshire, the average annual mean for NO_2 between 2004 to 2006 is 18.2 ugm-3. The prediction for Aberdeenshire in 2010 is that all sites will show a reduction in NO_2 with an average of 13.3 ugm^{-3}	Air quality in Aberdeen is generally good, however, the areas highlighted that are not meeting the targets are having an impact on the overall air quality in the City. Predictions for Aberdeen City show that while some targets may be met, others will not. Figures for Aberdeen City are higher than Aberdeenshire. This is due to the differences between an urban and rural setting. Predictions for Aberdeenshire show that figures will improve overall.	Traffic growth, which is forecast to grow between 22% to 34% in the period 2002-2011, is an issue for future air quality particularly in Aberdeen City. The more stringent 2010 objectives for PM_{10} are currently exceeded at both Union Street and Market Street sites and Market Street is predicted to continue to do so in 2010. However, The air quality in Aberdeen's City centre and other (city) peripheral roads is expected to improve when the Western Peripheral Route is built, but results will not be known until the road is built (post 2010). It is anticipated that there will be a reduction in emissions through regulated process, however, any reduction in emissions from	Updating and screening assessment of Air Quality in Aberdeen 2006: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/web/files/Air_Quality/AirQual2006.pdf Aberdeenshire Council's Local Air Quality Management Progress Report 2007: http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environmental/ProgressReport2007.pdf Aberdeen City Council Air Quality Action Plan 2006; http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?lID=8663&sID=5002 Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) – State of

	for continuously exceeding the 2005 annual objective level NO_2. The AQMA includes Market Street, Union Street, King Street, Guild St, and Virginia Street. The annual mean standard of NO_2 for Union Street and Market Street between 2000 to 2005 is as follows: - Union Street – 2000 – 51 ugm^{-3} 2001 – 55 ugm^{-3} 2002 – 53 ugm^{-3} 2003 – 50 ugm^{-3} 2004 – 52 ugm^{-3} 2005 - 62 ugm^{-3} Prediction for 2010 is 42 ugm^{-3} Market Street – 2000 – 57 ug/m^{-3} 2001 – 60 ugm^{-3} 2002 – 69 ugm^{-3}			vehicles will be off-set by an increase in vehicle use. The number of AQMA's will, therefore, only decline if air quality improves through the introduction of more sustainable transport and industries.	Scotland's Environment 2006 http://www.sepa.org.uk/scotlands_environment/data_and_reports/state_of_the_environment.aspx

	2003 – 56 ugm^{-3} 2004 – 67 ugm^{-3} 2005 – 55 ugm^{-3} Prediction for 2010 is 46 ugm^{-3} These figures are due principally from HGVs and buses. The various air quality objective set for fine particles (PM_{10}) is as follows. There is an annual mean of 40 ugm-3 and a fixed 24 hour mean of 50 ugm-3 to be exceeded on no more than 35 days per year, both to be achieved by the end of 2004. The Air Quality (Scotland)(Amendment) Regulations also introduced a 24-hour mean objective of 50 ugm-3 not to be exceeded more than 7 times per year, and an annual mean of 18 ugm-3 to be achieved by the end of				

	2010. The annual mean standard of PM_{10} Concentration and exceedances of 24 hour objective at continuous monitoring stations inside AQMA for Union Street and Market Street between 200 to 2005 is as follows: - Union Street – 2000 – 18 ugm^{-3} 2001 – 19 ugm^{-3} 2002 – 19 ugm^{-3} 2003 – 20 ugm^{-3} 2004 – 18 ugm^{-3} 2005 – 19 ugm^{-3} Market Street – 2005 – 40 ugm^{-3} (only commissioned in 2004). Compliance to 2010 PM_{10} Objectives for Union Street may be achieved, however, Market Street is				

	unlikely. Daily mean traffic volumes (2002): Market Street: 31,958 Union Street: 19,293 Annual average daily traffic along North/South/ Anderson Drive is 36,246, and Auchmill Rd, 41,223.				
Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions	In Aberdeen an average dwelling house produces 5,175 kg CO_2.	In Aberdeenshire an average dwelling house produces 6,318 kg CO_2. The average Scottish household produces 5,505 kg CO_2. Scotland contributed 10% to the total UK CO_2 emissions. In 1990, the GHG emissions for Scotland (MtCO2 equivalent) for CO_2 was 50.0. In 2005, the GHG emissions for Scotland (MtCO2 equivalent) for CO_2 was 43.7.	Overall greenhouse gases are decreasing including CO_2, but Aberdeen is producing high amount of carbon dioxide in Scotland. This is most likely due to the areas high dependence fossil fuels to generate power e.g. electricity.	Total road traffic is forecast to grow by between 22%-34% for the period 2002-2011 which will have an impact on the amount of greenshouse gases produced in Aberdeen. The need for more development could also contribute to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. Materials with high CO_2 levels are still being used such concrete and tarmac.	Best Foot Forward (2006) *Domestic Carbon Dioxide Emissions for Selected Cities*, British Gas http://www.britishgasnews.co.uk/managed_content/files/pdf/greenCity.pdf *DEFRA (2005) *Greenhouse Gas Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: 1990 – 2005* *http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/reports/cat07/0709180907_DA_GHGI_report_2005.pdf*

		In 1990, the GHG emissions for Scotland (MtC equivalent) for CO_2 was 13.6. In 2005, the GHG emissions for Scotland (MtC equivalent) for CO_2 was 11.9. Kyoto Protocol (1997) CO_2 targets are 12.5% below 1990 baseline – Scottish emissions in 2002 were 6% lower.			
Areas affected by flooding (sea)	571 properties in Aberdeen are located within the indicative floodplain or coastal area below 5 meters Ordnance Datum (OD). The sea-level along the east coast is predicted to rise 34 to 55 cm by the 2080s. Those settlement affected include Aberdeen harbour and Footdee.	1,743 properties in Aberdeenshire are located within the indicative flood plain. Settlements likely to be affected include the harbours of Peterhead and Fraserburgh and Stonehaven, plus, the centre of Stonehaven, Newburgh, Cowie and the east side of Banff. In Scotland, the number of residential properties in coastal	There are a greater number of areas in Aberdeenshire affected by sea flooding. This is due to the larger geographical (including coastal areas) covered by Aberdeenshire. By the 2080s, any part of a settlement below the 5m Ordnance Datum mark is likely to be affected by rising sea levels, high tides, and	While coastal flooding is a natural process to which nature can adapt to, flooding will continue to be a threat to people in Aberdeen coastal areas and flood risk management plans will be required as per the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Bill which was introduced in September 29 2008. The details of the Bill is still being finalised, but local authorities will need to develop this	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Indicative River and Coastal Flooding Map: http://www.multimap.com/clients/browse.cgi?X=390000.754995845&Y=810000.936534823&width=550&height=450&client=sepa&gride=394308.754995845&gridn=806293.936534823&scale=200000&coordsys=gb&nosnap=true&overlay=layer2&greyscale=true&in.x=11&in.y=1

		areas below 5m OD is 86,793. The number of commercial properties below 5m OD is 7,037. Storm surges are predicted to rise by 5m, although they will be much lower further North.	storm surges. Storm surges do, however, represent a less severe threat in the North East, as there are a high proportion of rocky coasts.	plans to reduce the risk of flooding, through avoiding development in flood risk areas, implementing flood risk measures, or flood prevention schemes, plus, hard and soft engineering including mechanisms such as managed retreat etc. Some of these measures could have a negative impact on natural heritage and biodiversity as a result.	1 Flood Risk Management, Scottish Government: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/Flooding/frmbill
Areas affected by flooding (fluvial)	309 properties in Aberdeen lie within the indicative floodplain. These include properties that lie along the Rivers Dee and Don and associated burns/streams.	2,219 properties in Aberdeenshire lie within the indicative floodplain. Settlements that are likely to be affected by fluvial flooding include Fraserburgh, Turriff, Longside, Huntly, Kintore, Banchory and Newtonhill. In Scotland, the number of residential properties within inland floodplains is 71,402.	There are a greater number of properties within Aberdeenshire that are at risk to fluvial flooding. This is mainly due the larger geographical area covered by Aberdeenshire. There are also more rivers and tributaries found Aberdeenshire. Compared with to Scotland as a whole, fewer properties in Aberdeen are at significant risk from flooding.	While flooding is a natural process to which nature can easily adapt to, flooding will continue to be a threat to people in Aberdeen from the Rivers Dee and Don. Flood risk management plans will be required as per the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Bill which was introduced in September 29 2008. The details of the Bill is still being finalized, but local authorities will need to develop this plans to reduce the risk of flooding, through	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Indicative River and Coastal Flooding Map: http://www.multimap.com/clients/browse.cgi?X=390000.754995845&Y=810000.936534823&width=550&height=450&client=sepa&gride=394308.754995845&gridn=806293.936534823&scale=200000&coordsys=gb&nosnap=true&overlay=layer2&greyscale=true&in.x=11&in.y=11 Flood Risk

				avoiding development in flood risk areas, implementing flood risk measures, or flood prevention schemes, hard and soft engineering etc. The pressure for more housing will increase the need to build on known flood risk areas. Some of these measures will have a negative impact on natural heritage and biodiversity as a result.	Management, Scottish Government: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/Flooding/frmbill Aberdeenshire Council Flooding in Aberdeenshire Fifth Biennial Report, December 2005: http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/flooding/report/5biennial.pdf
Areas affected by flooding (pluvial)	Only a few sites in Aberdeen are affected by pluvial flooding. This is mainly due to culverts being too small for surface water run-off during heavy rain episodes.	72% of flood problems in Aberdeenshire relate to urban drainage problems. The main settlements in Aberdeenshire affected by pluvial flooding include Turriff, Huntly and Westhill.	A larger number of properties in Aberdeenshire are at risk of pluvial flooding compared with Aberdeen City. This is due to the larger geographical area covered by Aberdeenshire.	Sewers are generally designed to a 1:30 year return period and so extreme flood events will affect the sewerage network. As a result, there will be an increased requirement of SuDS in new (and even existing) development schemes. The need for increased development will result in a greater need for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS). SUDS will also be required due to a rise in precipitation during the winter	Aberdeen City Council Local Transport Strategy 2008-2012 : http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/web/files/sl_Planning/local_transport_strategy08.pdf Aberdeenshire Council Flooding in Aberdeenshire Fifth Biennial Report, December 2005: http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/flooding/report/5biennial.pdf

				months and an increase in storm events.	
Climatic Factors	Aberdeen is situation in the East of Scotland. The average annual temperature in the East of Scotland between 1914 and 2004 has risen by: - 0.83°C in spring 0.59°C in summer 0.85°C in autumn 0.45°C in winter Overall in the East of Scotland, there is an annual rise of 0.66°C. From 1961 to 2004, the growing season in the East of Scotland is starting 20.6 days earlier. The growing season is ending in the East of Scotland 12.0 days later. .	The average annual rise of temperature in other areas of Scotland between 1914 and 2004 are: - 0.37°C in North Scotland 0.51°C in West Scotland From 1961 to 2004, the start of the growing season for other areas in Scotland are: - North Scotland -19.6 days West Scotland -22.4 days. The end of the growing season is: North Scotland – 11.5 days West Scotland – 14.4 days	The average annual temperature has been increasing since 1914. It has increased the most in the East of Scotland which covers the Aberdeen area. The growing season is starting almost 3 weeks earlier in the East and North of Scotland and more than 3 weeks earlier in the West of Scotland. The growing season is ending later in all areas of Scotland. It is ending almost two weeks later for East and North of Scotland. If is ending just over two weeks for the West of Scotland. By the 2050's the growing season is expected to start up to three weeks earlier and finish up to three weeks longer.	Temperatures are expected to continue to increase particularly during summer and autumn months. This will have a negative impact on habitats and species in Aberdeen. There may be a shift in species populations and ranges, plus, migration patterns. Reproductive behaviour may also be impacted. For example, breeding sea bird colonies have already been hit due to a lack of their main food source (sand eels). As the sea temperature rises, sand eels have shifted away to more favourable temperatures which means they are out of reach for most sea birds. Longer growing seasons are already having impacts on plant species, for example, by flowering earlier in spring. While this may be beneficial for speeding up both plant growth and insect	Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum For Environmental Research (SNIFFER) - Climate Trends Handbook - http://www.sniffer.org.uk/media/UserMedia/Climate%20Trends%20Handbook%20for%20web.pdf

				lifecycles for example, warm early springs could be following by cold snaps which can have negative effects on animals and insect species which have come out of hibernation.	
Impact on Natural Resources	Aberdeen's annual global footprint (in global hectares per person (gha/p): Total: 5.73gha/p Energy consumption: 1.14gha/p (20%) Food and drink: 1.07gha/p (19%) Land travel: 0.81ha/p (14%) Other (Government, capital investment, holiday activities, consumables services, and housing): 2.35gha/p (47%)	Aberdeenshire's annual global footprint: Total: 5.60gha/p Energy consumption: 1.09ha/person (19%) Food and drink: 1.11ha/person (20%) Land travel: 0.74ha/p (13%) Other: 2.7gha/p (48%)	Aberdeen consumes more resources per person than Aberdeenshire and any other Scottish city. It has the largest footprint in Scotland, which cannot be sustained in the long-term.	The global footprint is increasing and cannot be sustained. This will be due to increases in population, greater demand for housing, transport, infrastructure, food etc.	Scotland's Global Footprint: http://www.scotlandsfootprint.org/ The North East Scotland Global Footprint Reduction Report 2006: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?lID=8931&sID=871
Impacts on Biodiversity	Within Aberdeen, climatic changes will have an effect on both habitats and species found within Aberdeen City. It will also have impact on		Information on how exactly the impact of climate change on habitats and species is still unclear and therefore predictions are hard to	The effects of climate change may include: - Habitats may change which will have an impact on species found; Species moving further	North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan: http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/publications/habactionplan.htm

	the biodiversity linked to habitats found in Urban areas such as parks, amenity grassland, cemeteries etc. There are currently 27 Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) for the North East of Scotland. These the NELBAPs are included under the following habitats: - Coastal & Marine; Farmland & Grassland; Woodland; Montane; Heath & Bog; Wetland & Freshwater; and Urban. Aberdeen City accounts for 40% of the total urban area in the North East of Scotland. The Urban NELBAPs include ones for Kincorth Local Nature Reserve, and Powis/Bedford areas. NELBAP for species include: -		determine.	north e.g. certain butterfly species; Tree species found may change e.g. increase in birch trees may be found in pine forests; Artic species may decline or disappear such as the snow bunting; Invasive or non-native species may increase and could have an impact on native habitats and species.	Scotland's Biodiversity; It's in Your Hands: Strategy Implementation Plans 2005-2007: http://www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk/sbfsip/sbfsip-03.htm

	Aspen Hoverfly; Daubentons Bat; Red Squirrel; Water Vole; and Wych Elm.				

Appendix C5: SEA Topic - Landscape

SEA Indicator	Quantified Information	Comparators and Targets	Trends	Issues/Constraints	Data Source
Landscape Character/Setting	Aberdeen's landscape provides a strategic setting for the City, filling it with a sense of place and character. There are landscape features in and around the City. These include the Beach Links; cliffs at Cove, Brimmond and Elrick Hills. Much of the landscape has also been largely influenced by the Dee and Don Valleys. There are also some woodlands and greenspaces such as parks, amenity grasslands and municipal open spaces. The wildlife that lives within these greenspaces help to shape Aberdeen City's landscape character. The local stone, granite, has also helped to shape the City's character. It is this setting that	Aberdeenshire's landscape characteristics from mountain to sea. It consists of the Cairngorm Mountains and outliers form the rugged and often snow covered core of Aberdeenshire, and extend from the Cairngorm central massif into the main areas of the region. Moorland plateau fringes the mountain areas of Aberdeenshire and is located on fairly high ground, featuring open expanses of smoothly rounded, typically heather clad or wild grassland areas, often punctuated with peat lands. The highland glens are steep sided head of valley features for the wider lower valleys and help to	Aberdeenshire has a wider range of landscape settings which is due to the larger geographical range covered in Aberdeenshire. The landscape in Aberdeen City is, nevertheless, still a valuable asset to the City and the citizens that visit and live in it.	The need for increased development including housing, and infrastructure, could have an impact on the landscape character of the City. The inappropriate siting of new developments including renewables, for example windfarms, could have a negative effect on landscape character. Inappropriate recreational activity could also have an impact on landscape character.	Landscape Character of Aberdeen, 1996: http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/on-line/LCA/aberdeen.pdf A policy statement for Scotland: Designing Places, Scottish Executive, 2001: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/planning/dpps1.pdf South and Central Aberdeenshire: Landscape Character Assessment, 1998: http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/on-line/LCA/Aberdeenshire.pdf

	makes Aberdeen City an attractive place to live, work and visit.	define the boundaries of the upper moorland and mountain areas. The glens provide the beginnings for many of the watercourses in Aberdeenshire. The straths and valleys lead from the glens as they widen out, and provide the setting for the main rivers of the region, the Strath Don and Dee Valley. The argricultural lands lie beyond the straths and valleys and cover the lower lying areas of Aberdeenshire. Coastal cliffs, beaches and links dunelands define Aberdeenshire's coast beyond the farmland. The links and duneland can include relatively stable coastal grasslands as well as more dynamic coastal dune systems featuring rapidly shifting sand systems.			

Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL)	There is 1 GDL within Aberdeen City. This is Duthie Park.	There are 32 GDLs in Aberdeenshire.	Aberdeenshire has more GDLs than Aberdeen City. This is due to larger geographical area covered in Aberdeenshire.	The need for more development and inappropriate development will put pressure on the City's only GDL. Both gardens and designated landscapes are linked to biodiversity through providing some habitats for species and creating the character of landscapes. Any issue or constraint linked to GDL will have a knock of effect on nature conservation. GDL's can also be important for Cultural Heritage.	Historic Scotland, Gardens & designed Landscapes: http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/gardens/gardenssearchsummary.htm?s=&r=North%20and%20Grampian&bool=1&PageID=2135

Appendix C6: SEA Topic – Population & Human Health

SEA Indicator	Quantified Information	Comparators and Targets	Trends	Issues/Constraints	Data Source
Size of Population	In Aberdeen, at the time of the 2001 census, the population was 212,125. In 2003, the population fell to 207,490 (revised figure). The mid-year population estimate in 2007 increased to 209,260. Predictions for 2011 are estimated to be about 210,000. Predictions for 2021 are estimated to be about 214,000. Predictions for 2031 are estimated to be about just below 210,000.	In Aberdeenshire, at the time of the 2001 census, the population was 226,871. In 2003, the population increased to 228,780. The mid-year population estimate in 2007 increased to 239,160. Predictions for 2011 are estimated to be about 245,000. Predictions for 2021 are estimated to be about 250,000. Predictions for 2031 are estimated to be about 247,000.	In Aberdeen City there is an initial drop in the population between 2001 and 2003. Numbers increase by mid 2007 but are still below the figure recorded in 2001. Numbers are expected to continue to increase between 2011 and 2021 to about 214,000. Figures are again expected to drop by 2031 to just below 210,000. This is still below figures recorded in 2001. In Aberdeenshire, the situation is different in that figures rise from 2001 in both 2003 and mid 2007. Numbers in Aberdeenshire are expected to continue to rise in 2011 and 2021, but drop in	The lack of family homes in Aberdeen City could contribute to a reduction in population. Aberdeenshire is in a better position to provide more housing given the larger geographical area it covers. However, the need for more housing in both the City and Aberdeenshire will mean added pressures to the natural environment.	Aberdeen City Council, Census Information: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Statistics/sl_stt/stt_CensusInfo.asp Revised Mid Year Population Estimates 2003-2006: http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/population-estimates/revised-mid-year-population-estimates-2003-2006.html Aberdeen City Council, Stats and Facts: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/statistics/sl_stt/stt_home.asp 2007 Population Estimates for the Scottish Local Authorities: http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files1

			2031 to just above the 2011 prediction. It is suggested that many citizens move out of the City to a more rural setting in Aberdeenshire. This theory could certainly corroborate the figures for both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.		/stats/population-estimates/07mype-cahb-all.xls Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Forecasts 2006-2031: http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/statistics/economic/strategic_forecasts_2007.pdf Aberdeenshire Council, Population: http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/statistics/population/index.asp
Years of Healthy Life Expectancy	The life expectancy at birth in Aberdeen in years is as follows: - MALES 2000/2002 – 73.9 2001/2003 – 74.1 2002/2004 – 74.4 2003/2005 – 75.0 2004/2006 – 74.9 2005/2006 – 75.2 FEMALES 2000/2002 – 79.6 2001/2003 – 80.0 2002/2004 – 79.9 2003/2005 – 79.9 2004/2006 – 80.1 2005/2006 – 80.2	The life expectancy in Aberdeenshire in years is as follows: - MALES 2000/2002 – 76.0 2001/2003 – 76.1 2002/2004 – 76.3 2003/2005 – 76.7 2004/2006 – 77.0 2005/2006 – 77.5 FEMALES 2000/2002 – 80.7 2001/2003 – 80.8 2002/2004 – 80.8 2003/2005 – 81.0 2004/2006 – 81.2 2005/2006 – 81.3	Life expectancy in Aberdeen has gradually increased for both male and females between 2000 to 2006. However, the life expectancy for females in Aberdeen in 2006 is higher than males by 5 years. Life expectancy in Aberdeenshire has also increased slightly for both male and females between 2000 to 2006. Life expectancy for	An aging population will increase the demand for appropriate housing for the elderly which could have an impact on the natural environment and biodiversity.	National Statistics, Life Expectancy at Birth, Scotland, 1991-2006: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/LE_Scotland_2008.xls Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy, Scottish Government, 2006: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/TrendLifeExpectancy

		Life expectancy In Scotland in 2006 is as follows: - Male 75.1 yrs Females 80.0 yrs	females is (like Aberdeen) higher than males by approximately 3 to 4 years. Life expectancy for both male and females is higher in Aberdeenshire than in Aberdeen. Life expectancy in both Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire is slightly higher than for Scotland as a whole.		
Quality of life in currently deprived areas	In Aberdeen 27 of its 267 data zones were among the most deprived in Scotland in 2006. This is an increase from 18 between 2004 to 2006. The most deprived areas are located in the 7 priority neighbourhoods identified in the Community Regeneration Strategy. They are Torry; Tillydrone; Middlefield,	In Aberdeenshire, 6 out of its 301 data zones were among the most deprived in Scotland in 2006. The most deprived areas in Aberdeenshire are Buchan, Banff and Buchan, and Marr. Specifically located in the towns of Fraserburgh, Peterhead and Huntly. Strathbogie, Echt, Upper Ythan, Insch,	Aberdeen has a higher number of data zones than Aberdeenshire which are among the most deprived in Scotland in 2006. The main categories of deprivation tend to be income, employment, health, housing, access to services and crime.	Centralisation of service provision has and will continue to affect marginalised areas. Pockets of deprivation through low job opportunities and income could be adversely affecting people's mental health in Aberdeen. The lack of access to quality green spaces and natural heritage sites in deprived areas contributes to a poor quality of life.	Behind the Granite, Aberdeen Key Facts 2008/09: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?lID=20584&sID=332 Scottish Index of Multiple Depravation 2004: http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/statistics/economic/SIMD%20Abshire%20Key%20Findings%202004.pdf Social Focus on Deprived Areas,

	Woodside; Seaton, Cummings Park, Northfield; Stockethill, George Street, Mastrick, City Centre.	Donside and Cromar, Fyvie-Methlick, Aboyne, Upper Deeside, Tarves and Udny-Slains comprise the worst 5% wards due to poor access to services.			Scottish Executive, 2005: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/69582/0017918.pdf
Health	In Aberdeen, around 1 person in 6 or 17.5% of all people has a limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability that limits the daily activities or work they can do.	In Aberdeenshire 15.3% of all people has a limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability that limits the daily activities or work they can do.	There are a higher percentage of people in Aberdeen City with health problems that in Aberdeenshire.	There will be a greater demand for health care in the future particularly with an aging population.	Behind the Granite, Aberdeen Key Facts 2008/09: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?lID=20584&sID=332
Quality and availability of public open space and in urban/rural areas	In 2007, there was 2,264.75 hectares of open space parks and gardens in Aberdeen. This includes open public and private open land subject to access but does not include Forestry Commission woodland. Woodland covers fewer than 10% of the Aberdeen City area. After Dundee, Aberdeen has the lowest area of woodland cover per 1000 people of al the main cities in Scotland.	Aberdeenshire has a rich diversity of woodlands and forests. There is a need for larger areas of open space including civic or town parks. There is pressure to reduce the size of open spaces in residential developments. Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 11: Open Space and Physical Activity, 2007, require local authorities to	Even though there is a demand for the availability of quality greenspaces, there are development pressures on existing greenspaces for both Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. Some open greenspace areas are low in quality and tend only to be improved through projects with the involvement of a number of partners and local communities. Funding is also an	The link between good health and easy access to quality open spaces is clear. The demand for access to quality open spaces is increasing. However, the demand for more housing will continue to have a negative impact to existing open spaces and there is concern of the lack of open spaces being made available in new developments. The lack of funding will continue to be an issue which is required to help maintain the quality of existing open	State of the Environment Report, Aberdeen City Council, 2007: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?lID=9685&sID=4938 Aberdeen City's Woodlands, Making the Most of the Opportunities, 2006. Final Report to Aberdeen City Council and Forestry Commission Scotland. Aberdeenshire

	There is significant development pressure on open spaces within settlements. Development on open spaces limits the council's ability to establish networks of linked open space areas. There is pressure from private sector developers to limit the extent of open space for new residential developments. There is a lack of government funding to allow local authorities to continuously manage areas of open space. A number of projects have been completed to improve the quality of greenspace areas particularly in deprived areas of the City. This is only possible with the availability of funding and with the involvement of local	undertake an open space audit and prepare an open space strategy for their area.	issue for improving existing greenspaces.	spaces. Even with the requirements of SPP11, there is a lack of government funding to help maintain open green spaces. It is also important to note that some open spaces that are over maintained can have a negative impact on nature conservation. The need for manicured lawns in many greenspaces will continue to reduce ecological value.	Council, Forestry: http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/natural/trees/forestry.asp

	communities and funding partners.				
Sport and recreation facilities in areas of identified need	In Aberdeen, there is still an outstanding need for: - sports facilities in Cove; junior golf course; a new Stadium and Soccer Academy; one water based pitches and 2 sand based pitches; and 50m swimming pool. Significant work has been undertaken in Aberdeen, to identify proposals outlined in the draft Sports Strategy. These include the need to address the decline in sports participation and an aging population. The upgrading of facilities at Rubislaw sports pitches, development of an extreme sports centre; and improved hockey pitches are being addressed.	In Aberdeenshire, there is still an outstanding need for: - 16.66m x 8.5m pool at Mintlaw; 6 Badminton Court Hall at Peterhead and Fraserburgh 56m x 26m ice rink at Peterhead. Aberdeenshire's Sports Development initiative aims to improve the quality of life for everyone in Aberdeenshire by working together with partners for the benefit of the sporting community. Sportscotland Strategy sets out 11 targets to be achieved by 2007, which focus on: - ensuring that most of the population is taking part in sport at least once a week.	Both Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire have a number of identified facilities that are required within their areas. Both areas have developed strategies or initiatives to improve the health and quality of life of citizens through the promotion of physical activity.	The need for sufficient sporting facilities will continue to be an issue as will the reduction in numbers taking up physical activities and an aging population.	Aberdeen City Council, Fit for the Future: A Draft Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Aberdeen City Council, 2008: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?lID=17036&sID=7466

Appendix C7: SEA Topic – Cultural Heritage

SEA Indicator	Quantified Information	Comparators and Targets	Trends	Issues/Constraints	Data Source
Scheduled Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites	Aberdeen City has 44 scheduled ancient monuments. There are around 3500 recorded archaeological sites which are noted on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).	Aberdeenshire has 519 scheduled ancient monuments. They also have 17935 archaeological sites.	Aberdeenshire has many more scheduled ancient monuments and archaeological sites than Aberdeen City. This is due to the larger geographical range covered in Aberdeenshire.	Inappropriate development land use or irresponsible access to such sites for nature conservation purposes could damage or destroy such sites.	Historic Scotland, Looking After Our Heritage: http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/searchmonuments/scheduled-monument-owner-guidance.htm Aberdeen City Council, Archaeology: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/App/SMR/xsm_Introduction.asp Aberdeenshire Council, Archaeology Service: http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/archaeology/index.asp
Townscape Quality	There are 11 Conservation Areas in the City of Aberdeen. 6 Regeneration Masterplans are also being drafted up for the City.	There are 36 Conservation Areas in Aberdeenshire. There are 7 Aberdeenshire Town Partnerships (ATP) in Ellon, Banff and Macduff, Fraserburgh, Huntly, Inverurie, Peterhead	Aberdeenshire has many more Conservation Areas than Aberdeen City. This is due to the larger geographical range covered in Aberdeenshire.	Inappropriate development or demolition will continue to be an issue. Conservation Areas include open spaces such as parks and gardens which can be important for nature	Aberdeen City Council, Conservation Area Guidance and Advice: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Conservation/sl_cns/pla_conservation_areas.asp

		and Stonehaven. Plans have been developed to maintain and enhance the continued social, economic and environmental vitality of these settlements.		conservation. Issues or constraints affecting Conservation Areas may also have a negative effect on biodiversity.	
Listed Buildings	There are 3 categories of listed buildings. Category A includes buildings of national or international importance. Category B includes buildings of regional or more than local importance. Category C includes buildings of local importance. Aberdeen City currently has: - Category A – 69 Category B – 680 Category C – 462 The number of listed buildings at risk are 10 where 1 is under restoration. 0.62% of listed buildings on the Buildings at Risk Register.	Aberdeenshire currently has: - Category A – 198 Category B – 1608 Category C – 1906 The number of listed buildings at risk are 117 with 6 under restoration. 3% of listed buildings are on the Buildings at Risk Register.	Aberdeenshire has more listed buildings than Aberdeen City. This is due to the larger geographical area covered in Aberdeenshire. Both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire have a number of their listed buildings noted as at risk on the Buildings at Risk register.	Inappropriate development could destroy listed buildings status. Abandoned or disused listed buildings will also be detrimental to their status if left to ruin.	Aberdeen City Council, Listed Buildings Guidance and Advice: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Conservation/sl_cns/pla_listed_buildings.asp The Aberdeen Local Plan, Green Spaces/New Places June 2008: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Planning/sl_pla/pla_LocalPlan_home.asp Aberdeenshire Local Plan, 2006 : http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/finalised/final/ch03%20Environment.pdf Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland: http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/BAR/

Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL) **(See Landscape - page 74)**					

Appendix C8: SEA Topic – Material Assets

SEA Indicator	Quantified Information	Comparators and Targets	Trends	Issues/Constraints	Data Source
Listed Buildings – **(see SEA Topic Cultural Heritage)**					
Housing	In Aberdeen, as at 31 March 2007, Aberdeen City Council owns a total of 23,661 dwellings. 5,819 are houses, 3,957 are high rises, and 13,948 are flats or other. In 2005/2006, 63% of the population own their own property, 25% rent -social, 11% rent-private, and 1% other.	In Aberdeenshire as at 31 March 2007, Aberdeenshire Council owns a total of 13,449 dwellings. 9,477 are houses, and 3,997 are flats or other. In 2005/2006, 76% of the population in Aberdeenshire own their own property, 15% rent-social, 6% rent-private, and 2% other.	In Aberdeen, almost half of Council owned property is flats or maisonettes which is higher than the Scottish average. Aberdeen City own more dwellings than Aberdeenshire. There are more privately owned property in Aberdeenshire.	There is a shortage of Council owned family housing in Aberdeen. This adds to the demand for more family housing. This will place a demand on the natural environment. Land take for housing will reduce habitats for species. New builds and re-development of old buildings do not provide sufficient opportunities for roosting or nesting sites for birds and bats for example.	Behind the Granite, Aberdeen Key Facts 2008/09: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?lID=20584&sID=332
New Dwellings	In Aberdeen City, the number of new dwellings between 2002 and 2007 are as follows: - 2002 – 653 2003 – 935 2004 – 795 2005 – 801 2006 – 878 2007 – 739	In Aberdeenshire, the number of new dwellings between 2002 and 2007 are as follows: - 2002 – 1,446 2003 – 1,354 2004 – 1,698 2005 – 1,377 2006 – 1,355 2007 – 1,374	The number of new dwellings in Aberdeen between 2002 and 2007 have averaged at 800 per year. In Aberdeenshire new houses have averaged at 1,434 per year. The higher number in	The continued development of new dwellings places further pressures on the natural environment.	Behind the Granite, Aberdeen Key Facts 2008/09: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?lID=20584&sID=332

			Aberdeenshire is due to the greater population and associated demand, plus, the larger geographical area covered in Aberdeenshire. Aberdeenshire also have much more land available for development than Aberdeen City.		
Number of Vacant Dwellings & Second Homes	The number of vacant dwellings or second homes between 2001 to 2005 are as follows: - 2001 – 5,304 2002 – 5,443 2003 – 5,550 2004 – 5,259 2005 – 5,574	In Aberdeenshire, the number of vacant dwellings or second homes between 2001 to 2005 are as follows: - 2001 – 5,508 2002 – 5,322 2003 – 5,222 2004 – 4,931 2005 – 4,681	The number of vacant dwellings or second homes in Aberdeen City has increased by 5.1% between 2001 and 2005. The number in Aberdeenshire has decreased.	The number of vacant houses is quite high given the lack of housing. Second homes pose a problem for 1st time buyers or those on low income as are often priced out of the market.	General Register for Scotland; Vacant Dwellings and Second Homes, 2001-2005: http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/he-05-table3.pdf
Number of Degraded Buildings	81% of dwellings have been classed as in a state of disrepair. 43% of this figure is classed as urgent state of disrepair.	70% of dwellings in Aberdeenshire have been classed as in a state of disrepair. 28% of this figure is classed as urgent state of disrepair. The Scottish average for a state of disrepair is 80%. 41% in Scotland is classed at urgent	Aberdeen City has a relatively high number of properties that are classed as in state of disrepair. It is just slightly higher than the Scottish average. Aberdeen properties that are in urgent state of disrepair are also higher than the Scottish Average.	To be able to upgrade these properties, funding will continue to be an issue.	Scottish House Condition Survey, Scottish Government, 2002: http://www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk/stellent/groups/public/documents/webpages/otcs_006017.pdf

		state of disrepair.	Aberdeenshire is lower than the Scottish average, but is still relatively high nevertheless.		
Derelict and Vacant Land (and Buildings)	In 2005, 18 sites measuring 72 hectares are derelict. 32 sites measuring 116 hectares are vacant.	In Aberdeenshire in 2005, 21 sites totaling 9 hectares are derelict. 25 sites totaling 27 hectares are vacant.	There is more vacant land than derelict land in both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. Both derelict and vacant land is higher in Aberdeen City than in Aberdeenshire.	The quality of this derelict land making it suitable for future development will be an issue.	Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey 2005, Scottish Executive, 2006: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/91002/0021846.pdf

Appendix D – Environmental Characteristics of Areas Likely to be Significantly Affected

D1 - Designated Sites and Locations

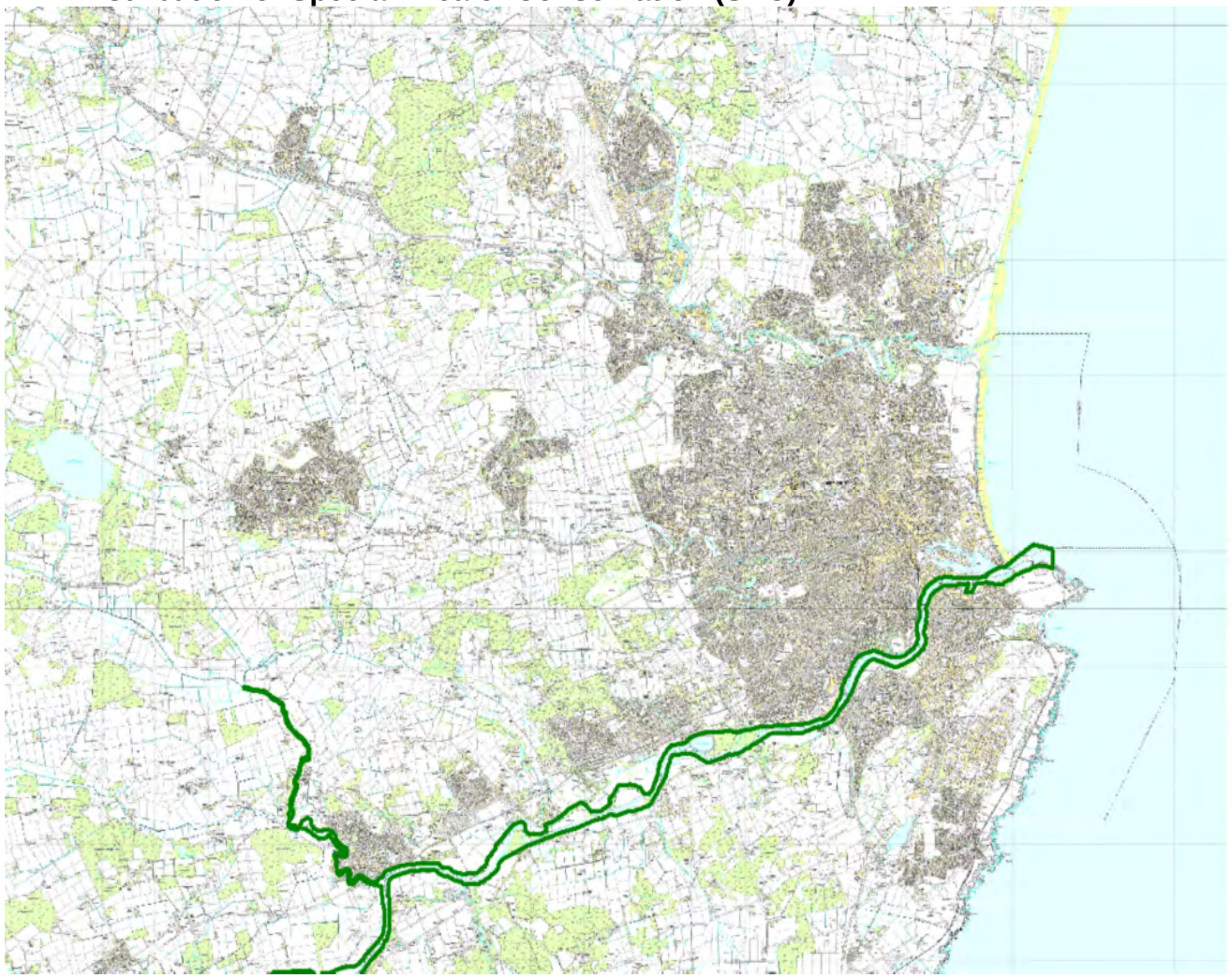
Designated Site Location	District Wildlife Site (DWS)	Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	Site of Interest to Natural Science (SINS)	Tree Preservation Order (TPO)	Conservation Area (CA)
Balnagask to Cove	✓	✓		✓		✓
Tullos Hill	✓					
Don Estuary	✓		✓	✓		✓
Balgownie/Blackdog Links	✓			✓		
Charlestown Wood	✓					
Loirston Loch	✓			✓		
Kincorth Hill	✓		✓			
River Dee Valley	✓			✓		
River Dee/Kincorth	✓					
Bridge of Dee	✓					
Pitfodels Castle	✓					✓
Garthdee	✓				✓	✓
Morrison Island/Shakkin' Briggie	✓					
Lover's Walk to St. Maik's Well	✓					
River Don Valley	✓					
Braes of Don	✓				✓	✓
Crook of Don	✓					
Woodside	✓					

Lower and Upper Persley Woodland	✓					
Kinta Valley	✓					
Lochside/Denmore	✓				✓	✓
Scotstown Moor/Perwinnes Moss	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Newton of Shielhill	✓					
Corby Loch	✓	✓		✓		
Glashie How	✓					
Danestone House	✓				✓	
Cornhill Hospital	✓					
Den of Leggart	✓					
Westburn of Rubislaw	✓					
Rubislaw Den	✓			✓		✓
Hilton Wood	✓					
Clerkhill Wood	✓					
Grandholme Moss	✓			✓		
Stoneyhill Wood	✓				✓	
Monument Wood	✓					
Persley Quarries	✓					
Walker Dam and Rubislaw Link	✓					
Allan Park Pond	✓					
Deeside Old Railway	✓			✓		✓

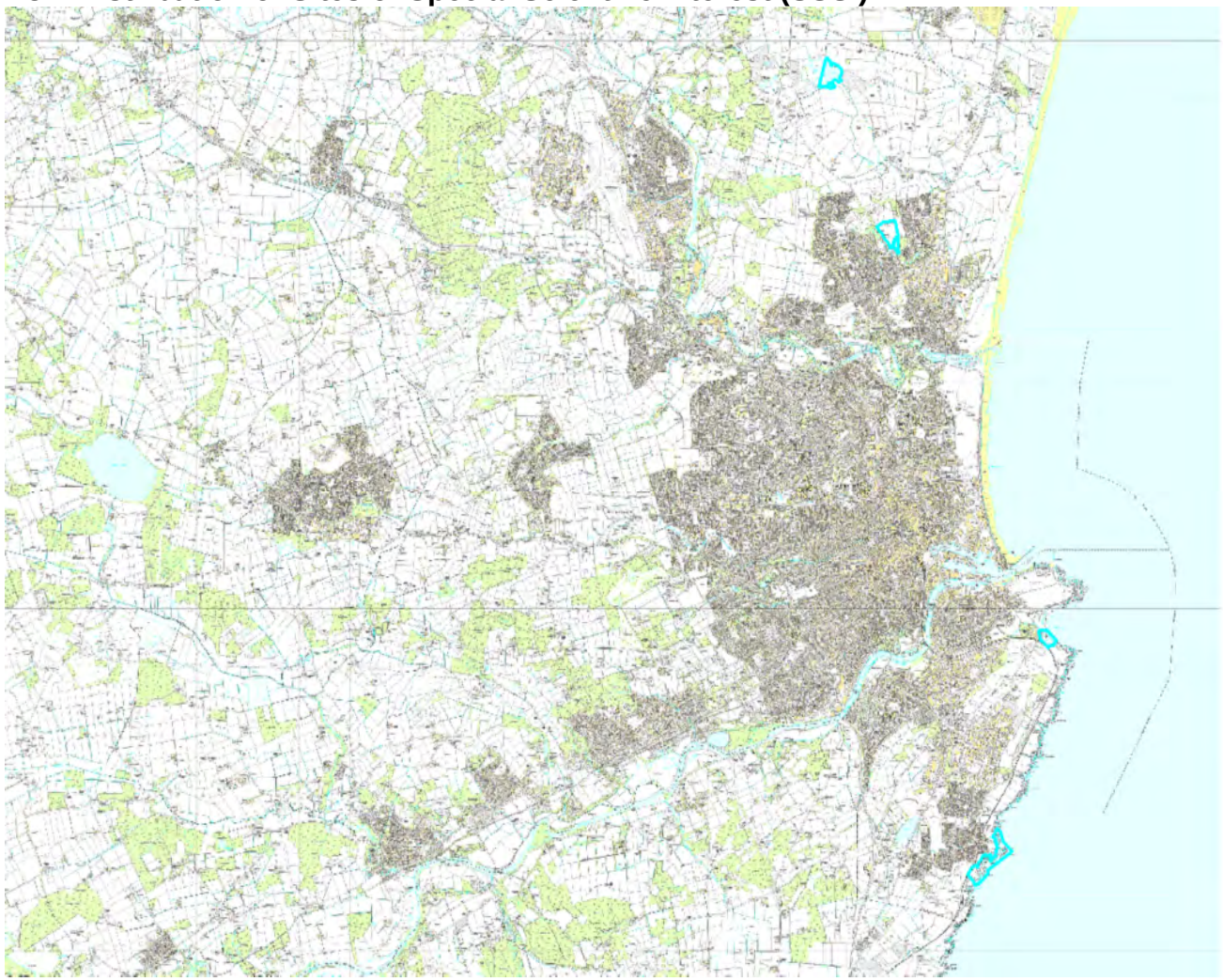
Hazlehead Park	✓					
Den Wood, Hazlehead	✓					
North Burn of Rubislaw	✓					
Bucksburn Gorge	✓					
Den of Maidencraig	✓		✓		✓	
Cults Den	✓				✓	✓
Cults Quarry	✓					
Murtle House/Newton Dee	✓			✓		
Hillhead Road	✓					
Burnbrae Moss	✓					
Farburn Wood	✓					
Gough Burn	✓					
Den of Moss-Side	✓					
Foggieton	✓					
Murtle Den	✓					
Blacktop	✓			✓		
Binghill Wood	✓					
West Hatton	✓					
Brimmond Hill	✓			✓		
Elrick Hill	✓			✓		
Tyrebagger Hill	✓					

Woodlands Wood, Beidleston	✓					
Moss of Auchlea	✓					
Rotten of Gairn	✓					
Guttrie Hill	✓					
Culter House Woods	✓					
Hill of Ardbeck	✓				✓	
Culter Burn	✓				✓	
Woodend Woods, Peterculter	✓					
Little Hill, Caskieben	✓					
Kinaldie Den	✓			✓		
Culter Compensation Dam	✓			✓		
Old Manse Wood	✓					
Baads Moss	✓					
Mid Anguston Quarry	✓					
Leuchar Moss	✓			✓		
Southlasts Mire	✓					
Aberdeen – Inverness – Kittybrewster Railway Line	✓					
Woodland Walks, Foggieton	✓					
Fields at Cairdhillock, Kingswells	✓					
Rubislaw Quarry	✓				✓	

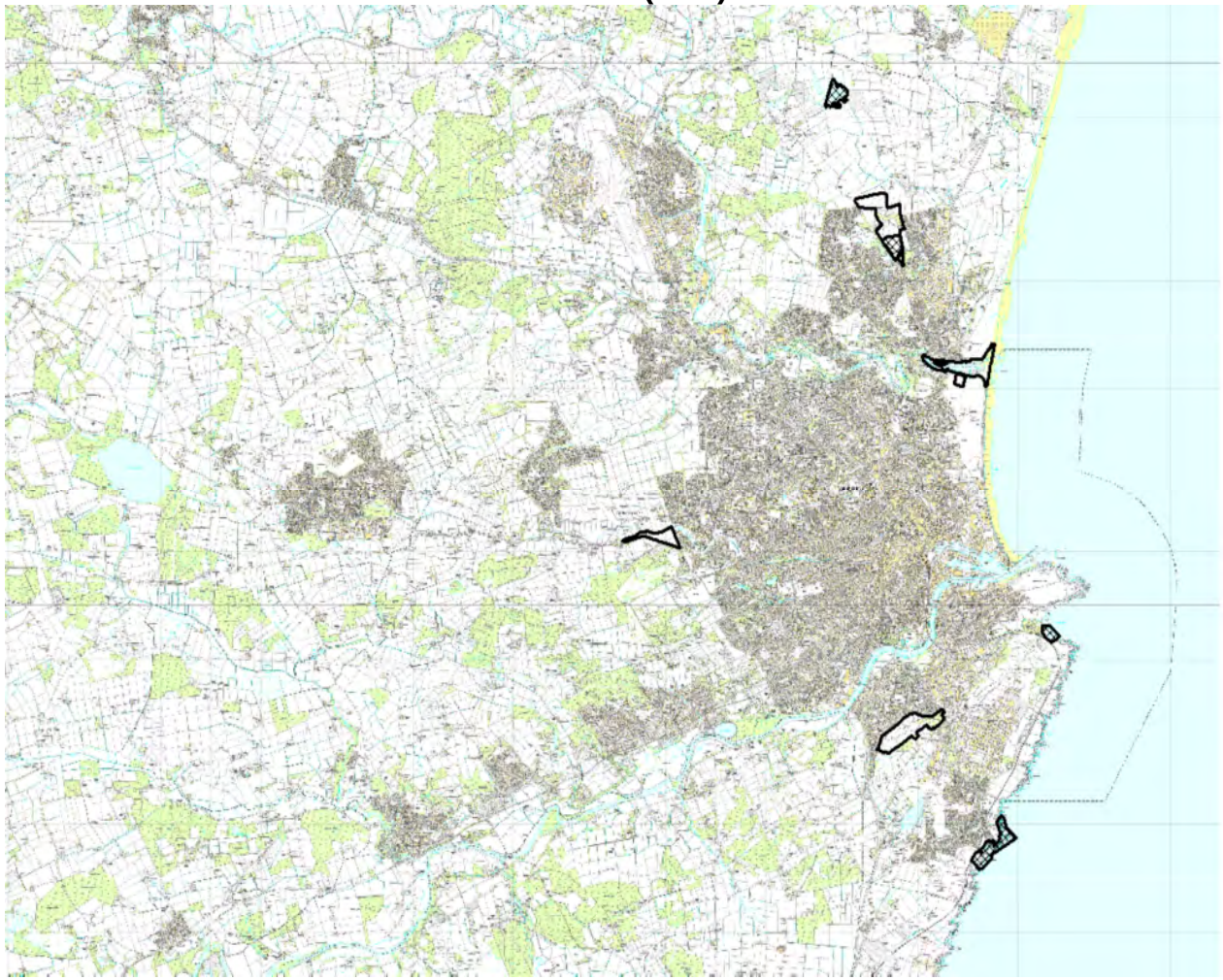
D2 – Distribution of Special Area of Conservation (SAC).



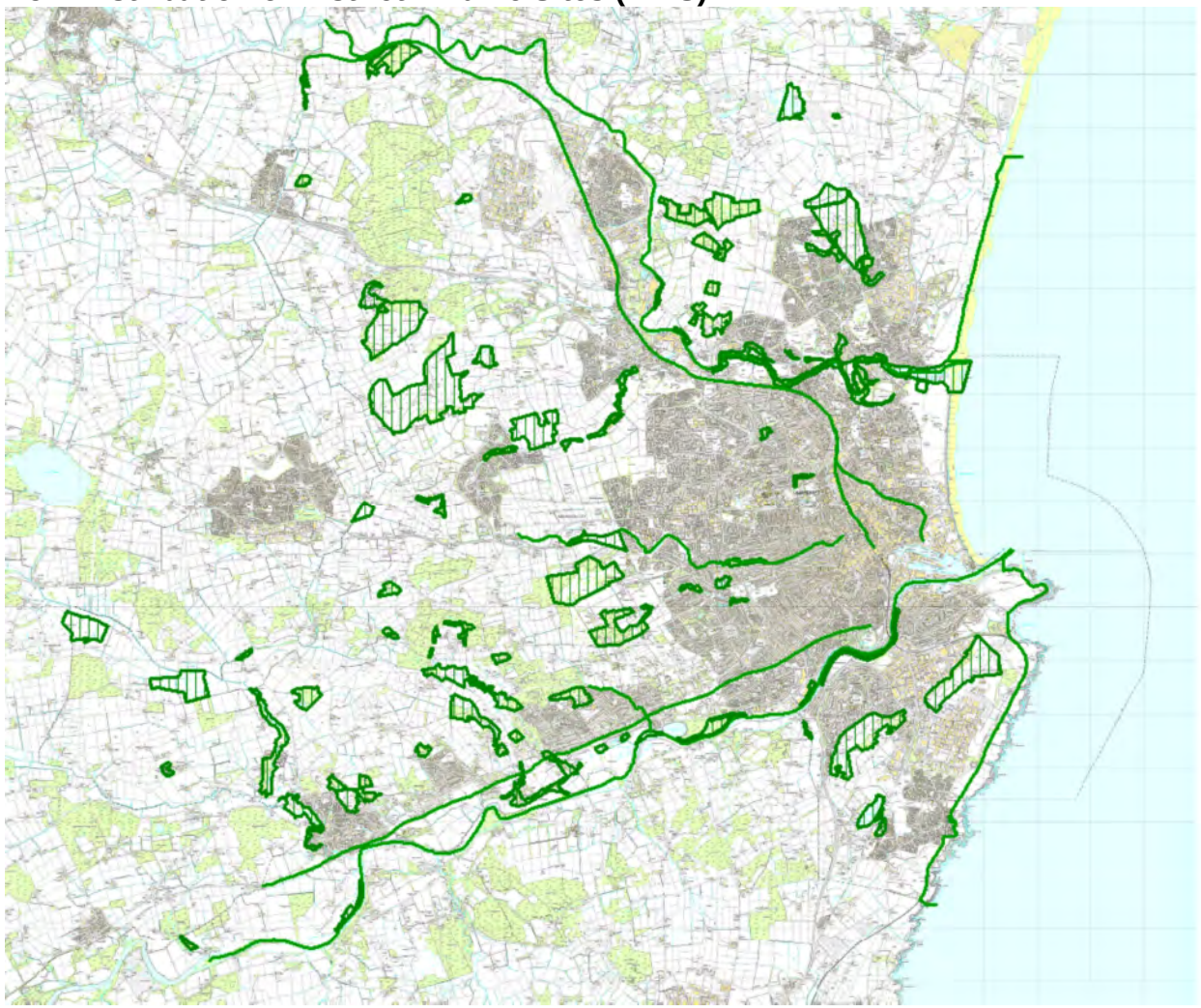
D3 – Distribution of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).



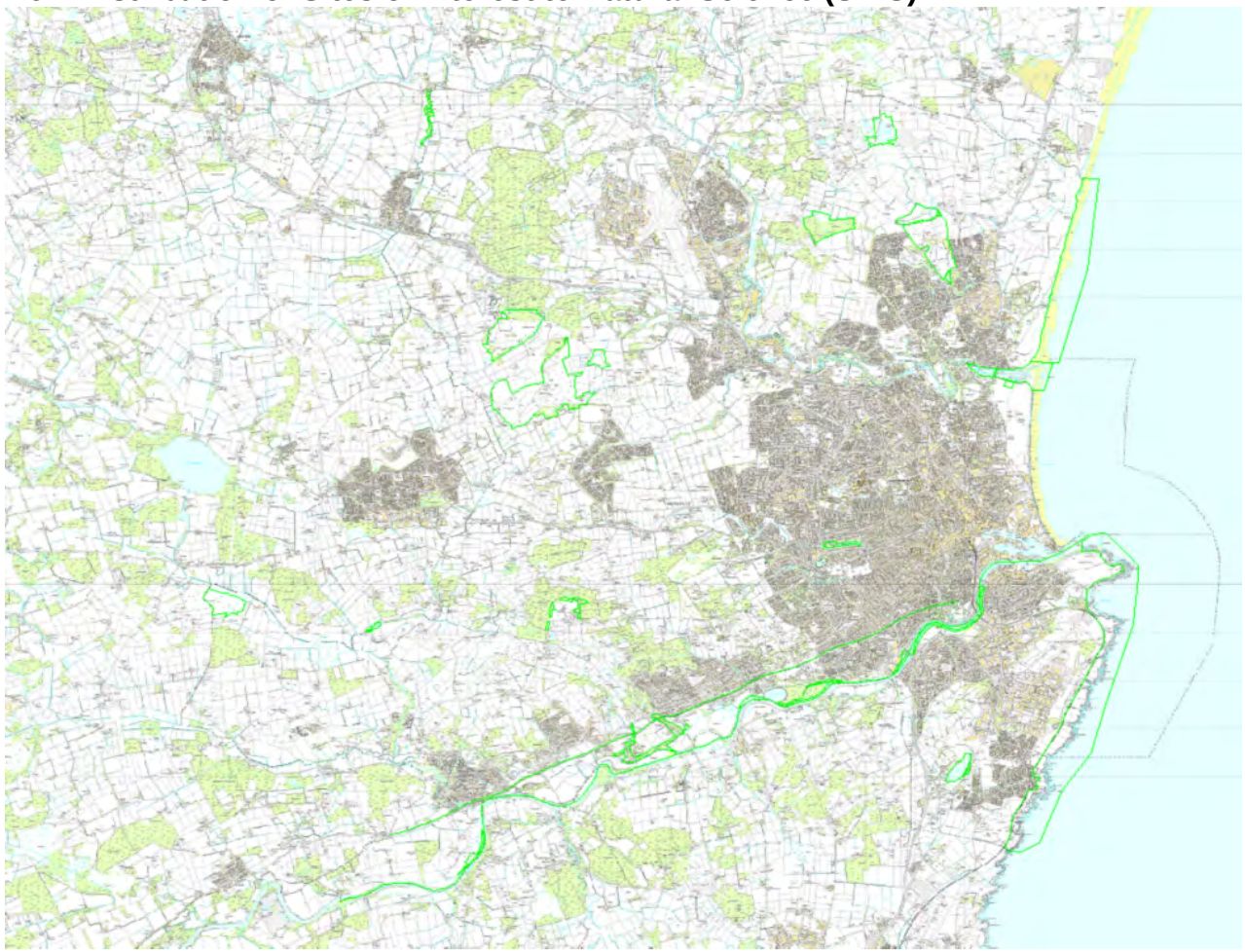
D4 – Distribution of Local Nature Reserves (LNR).



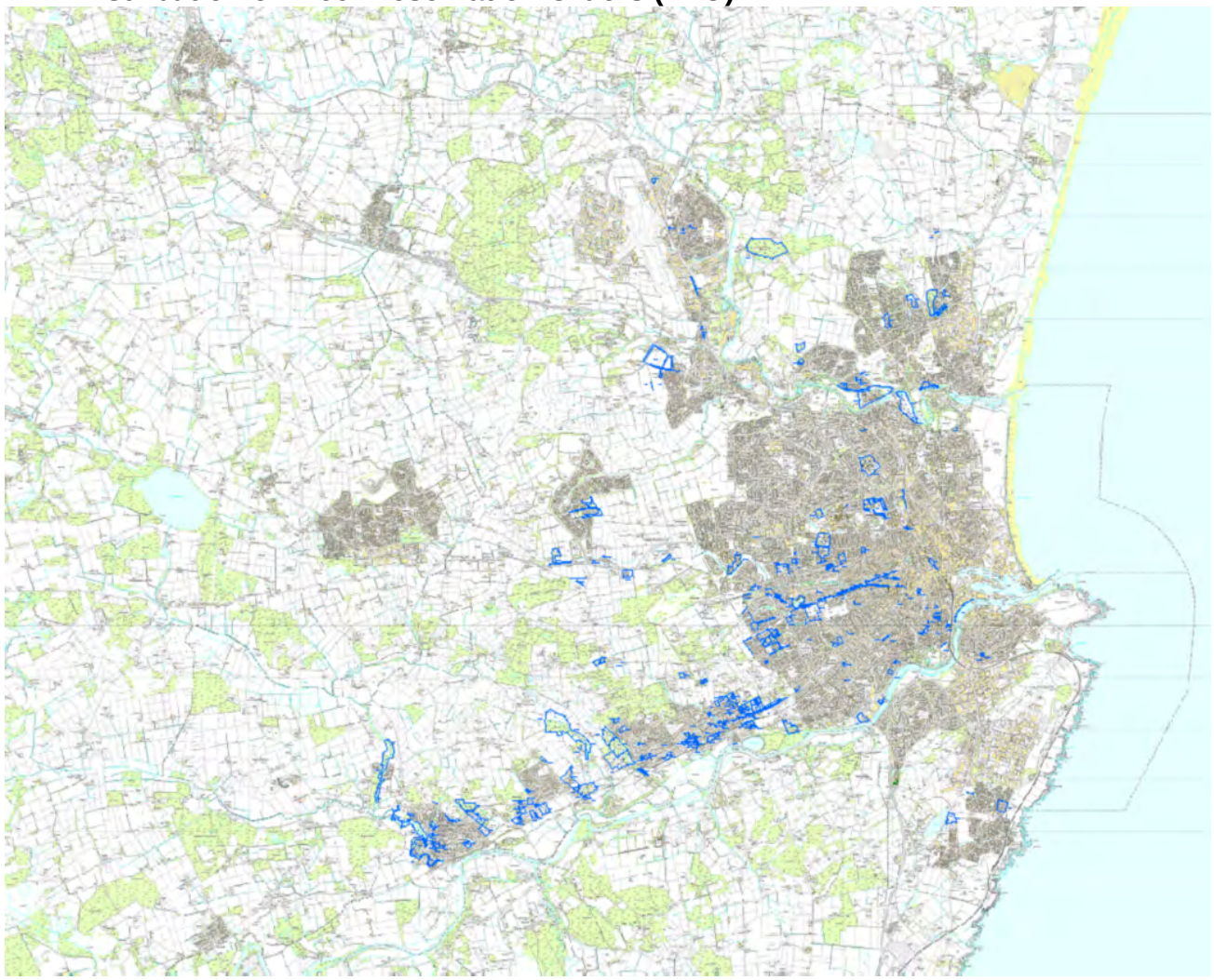
D5 – Distribution of District Wildlife Sites (DWS).



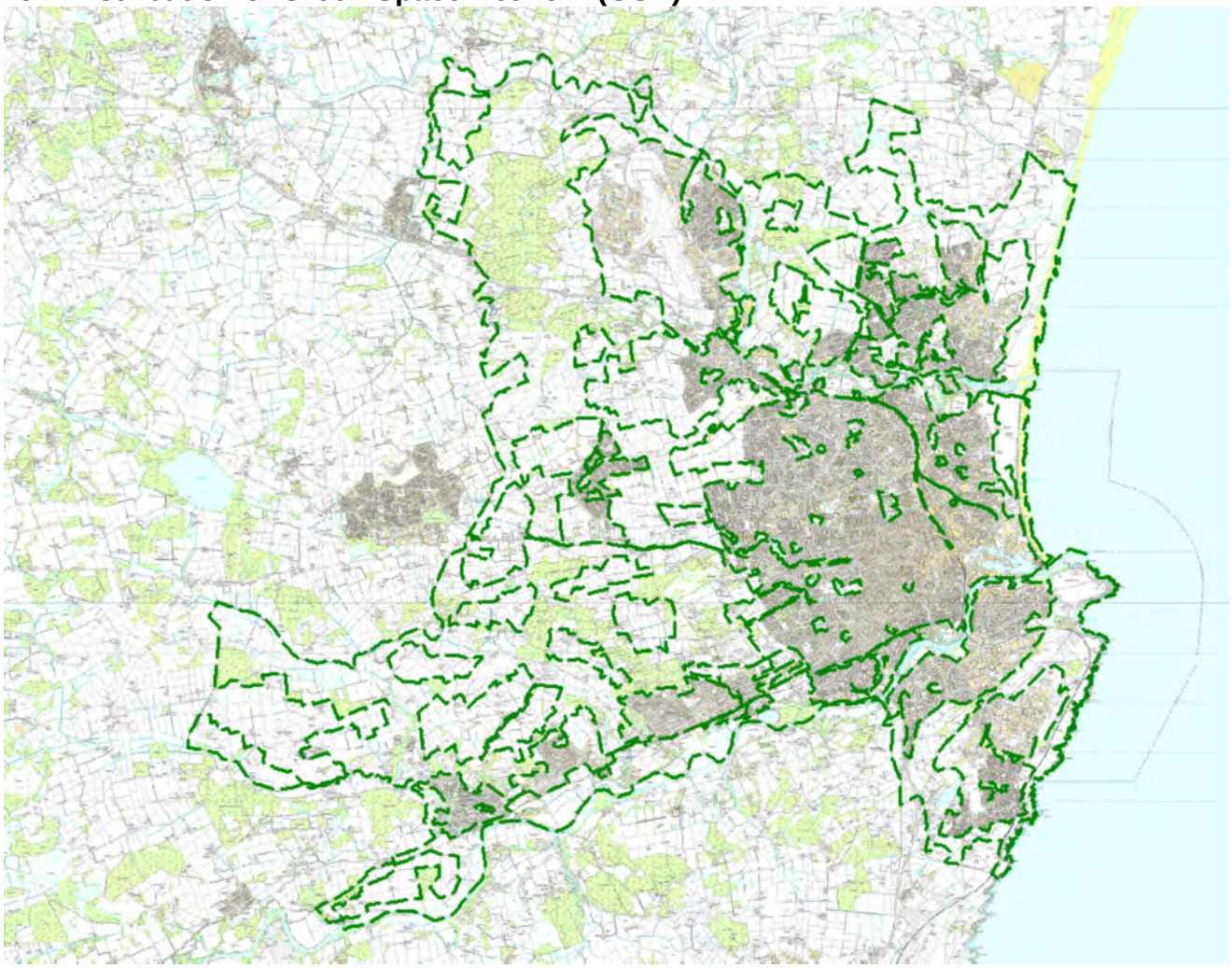
D6 – Distribution of Sites of Interest to Natural Science (SINS).



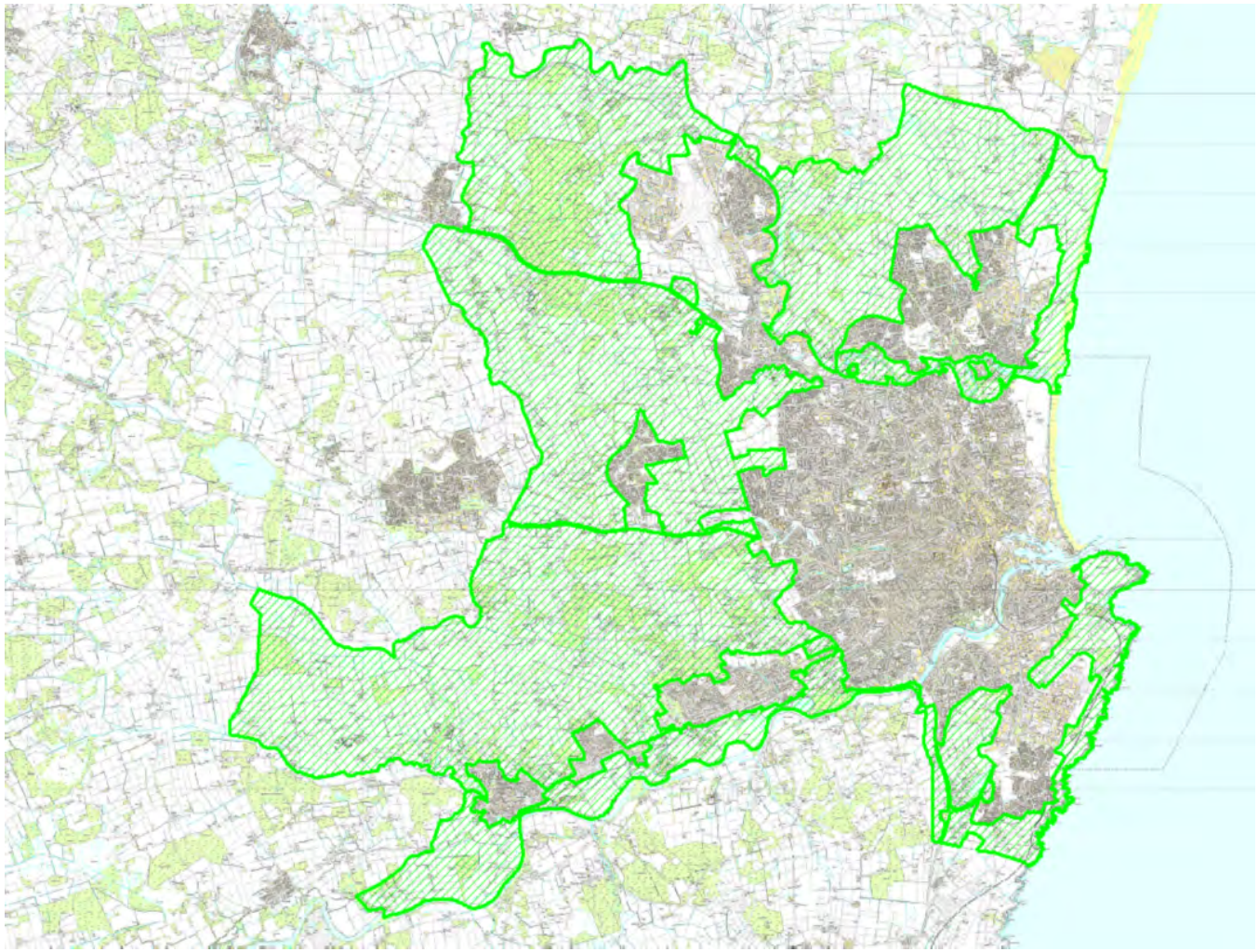
D7 – Distribution of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO).



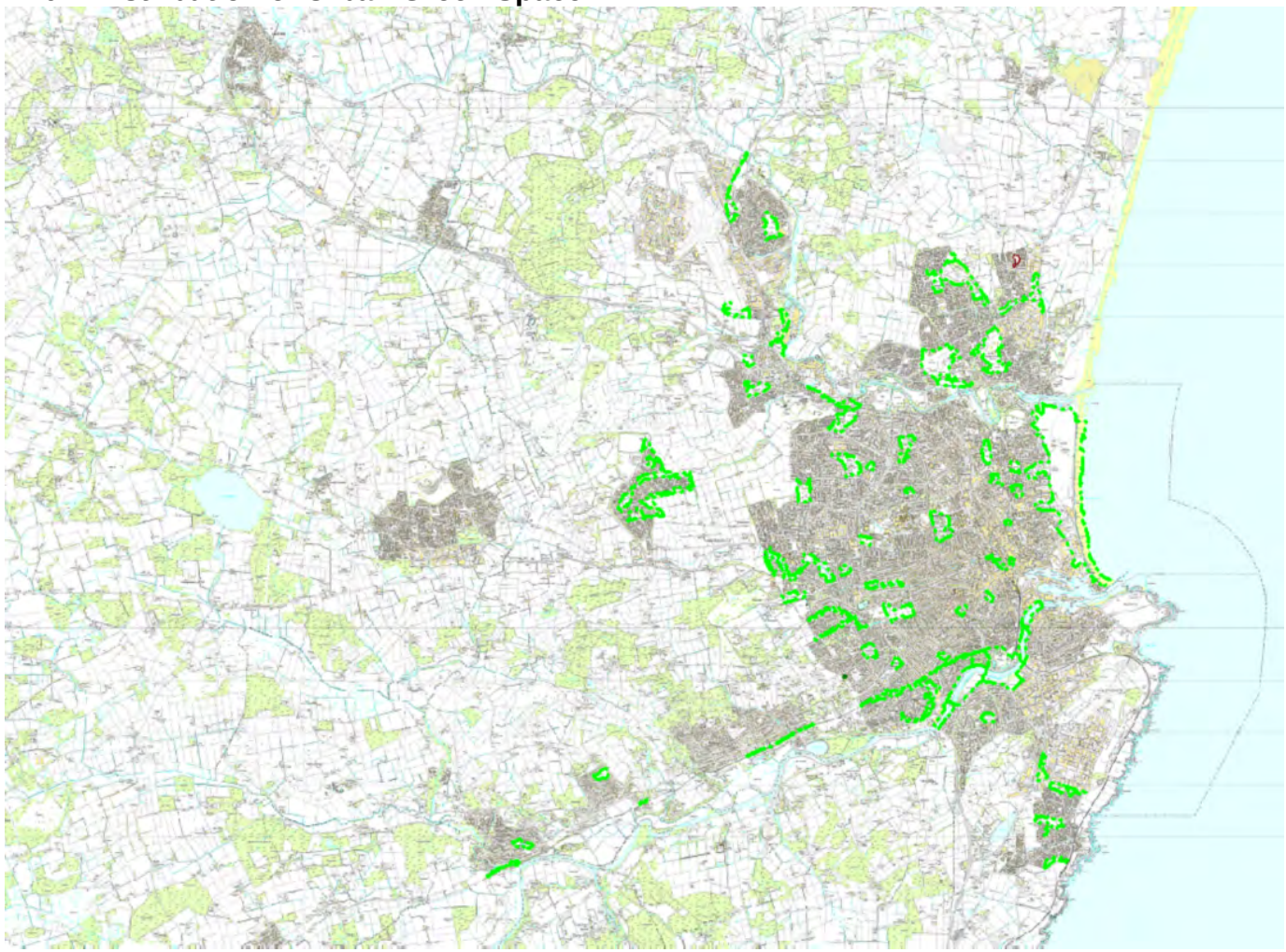
D8 – Distribution of Green Space Network (GSN).



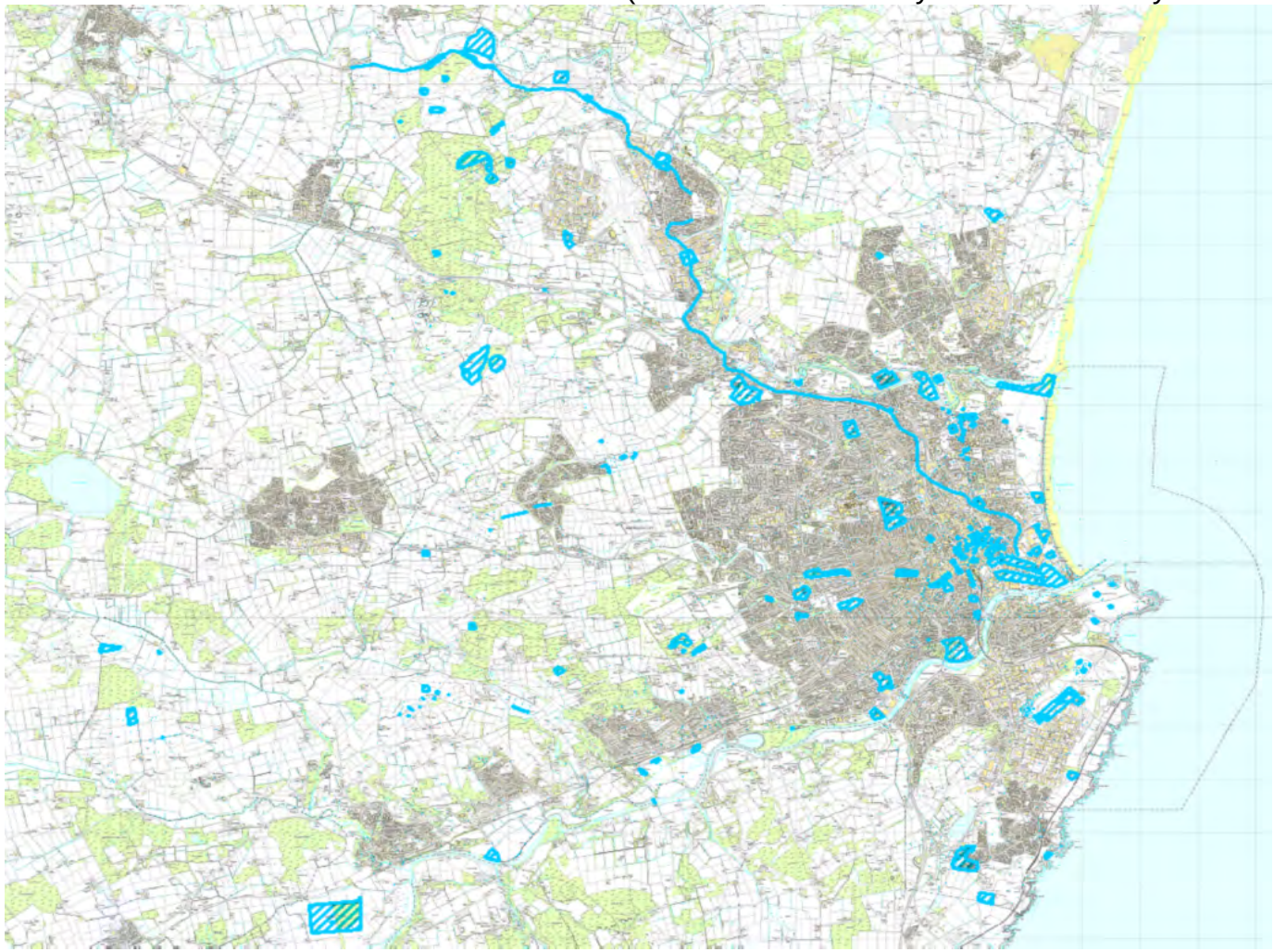
D9 – Distribution of Green Belt.



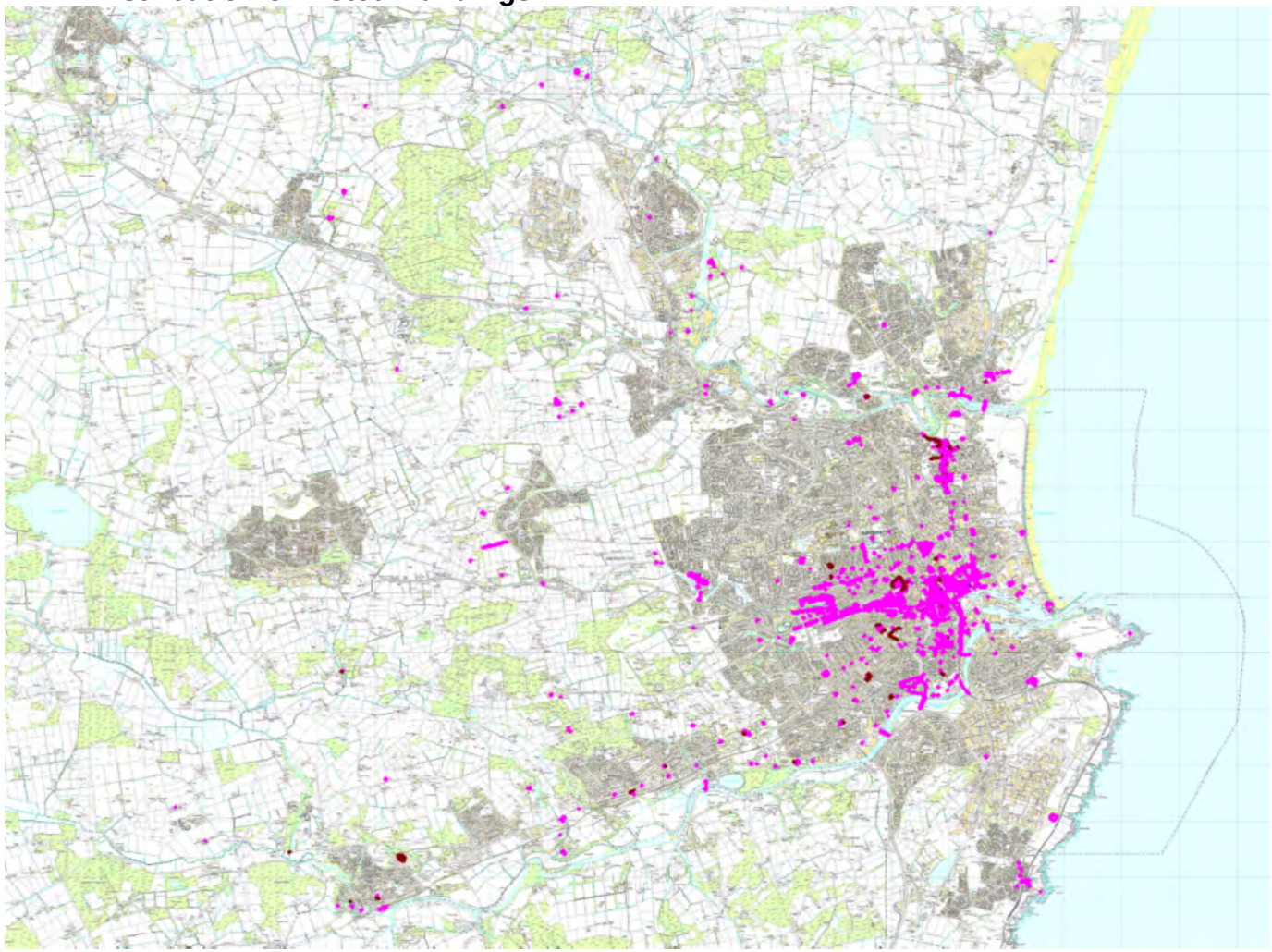
D10 – Distribution of Urban Green Space.



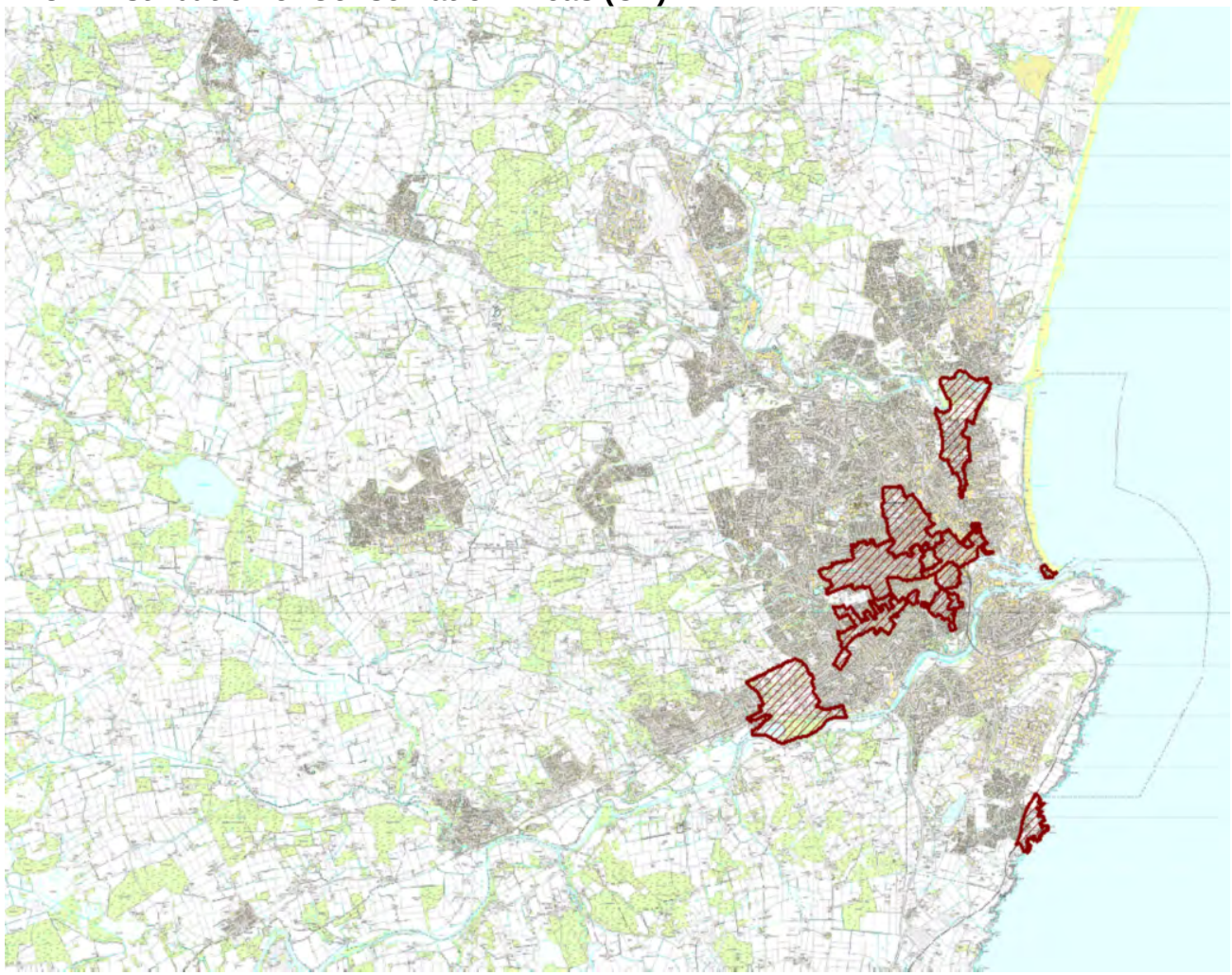
D11 – Distribution of Sites and Monuments. (Please note that many smaller sites may not show up on this map.)



D12 – Distribution of Listed Buildings.



D13 – Distribution of Conservation Areas (CA).



APPENDIX E – Appraisal of Options

	1. Do Nothing	2. Do Minimum	3. Do Optimum	Comments
Sustainable Development - ***Environment***	This option does not address the current issues associated with the environment. Doing nothing will not enable the Council to meet its statutory obligations linked to the environment and nature conservation.	The current Strategy has served its function, however, much has changed including changes in the character of the environment, plus, the legislation that exists to help protect it. While it helps to some extent, overall, the current Strategy does not meet today's requirements and is no longer fit for purpose.	The new Strategy will address the current environmental issues and opportunities including protecting historical and archaeological sites plus other areas of cultural heritage importance. It will also assist the Council in meeting its statutory and legal obligations.	The best option is option 3. 'Develop New Strategy'.
Sustainable Development - ***Social***	This option does not address the social needs such as improving quality of life, improving health benefits through nature conservation, improving access to nature conservation, plus, allowing or encouraging communities to become engaged in nature conservation.	The current Strategy is limited in dealing with the social aspects of sustainable development. Currently it contains an action that states that local people will be consulted during the planning and implementation of projects that are linked to Council owned open space. It also has an action to seek to provide all residents with access to wildlife sites within 0.5 km of their homes. There is, however, a lack of detail and action and does not cover privately owned land. More needs to be done to meet the needs of local communities and to link in with current legislation.	The new Strategy will address current social needs such as improving 'quality of life' through seeking development proposals that include nature conservation objectives, educating the public of the benefits of nature conservation, working with the Core Paths Plan to improve access to nature conservation sites, plus, encouraging communities to get involved with nature conservation through various means.	The best option is option 3. 'Develop New Strategy'.

Sustainable Development - ***Economic***	A 'Do Nothing' option does not address the need to ensure that the economy is considered in a sustainable way. It does not address the opportunities to promote nature conservation for the benefit of the City's economy.	The current Strategy briefly recognises that nature conservation could attract jobs and investment to the City, however, there is a lack of detail and action and needs to be brought up to date to meet the needs of sustainable development.	The new Strategy will consider the economy of the City and cover the need to promote nature conservation in a sustainable way. Action will be taken to promote tourism, for example, while considering the need to protect priority habitats and species, plus, historical, archaeological sites and other areas of cultural heritage importance. Action will also be taken to insure that any development required to grow the local economy will be include nature conservation objectives.	The best option is option 3. Develop New Strategy.
Legal and Administrative Feasibility	This option does not meet the Council's legal obligations including (and amongst many others) the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 which is to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity…, plus, the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 which places a duty on public bodies in relation to the conservation of biodiversity, enhance natural features and protect wildlife.	This option does not meet current legal obligations and is currently associated with the outdated District-Wide Local Plan which was adopted in 1991. It does not meet today's legislative requirements and obligations.	This new Strategy will be developed to meet all relevant statutory legislation and obligations. It will also meet the most up to date local policy.	The best option is option 3. Develop New Strategy.

Technical & Economic Feasibility/Best Value	This option does not present any technical problems since no action will be taken. As stated above, it does not take into consideration the economic needs and opportunities for the City. The definition of best value in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 is not limited to economic consideration alone. It covers issues such as continuous improvement; balance between quality, cost, efficiency, effectiveness, economy, equal opportunity requirements and sustainable development. Doing nothing is not a mark of continuous improvement, equal opportunity and sustainable development.	Given that this Strategy is dated 1994, this option does not cover the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003, which means that it does not cover continuous improvement, equal opportunity and sustainable development.	This option will include economic considerations, plus, all the relevant requirements noted under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 including continuous improvement, equal opportunities, sustainable development and best value. For example, reducing the amount of grass cuts on appropriate open spaces will reduce costs plus improve the environment for nature and biodiversity.	The best option is option 3. Develop New Strategy.
PREFFERED OPTION	From the above analysis, option 3. 'Develop New Strategy' emerges as the preferred option in terms of performance against the various sustainability and implementability criteria (that is; sustainable development – environmental, social and economic; legal and administrative feasibility; technical and economic feasibility/best value).			

APPENDIX F - Assessment of Alternatives – Cumulative and Synergistic Effects

Key to Assessment Criteria

Criteria Number	Criteria Definition
1.	Biodiversity (flora and fauna)
2.	Soil
3.	Water
4.	Air & Climatic factors
5.	Landscape
6.	Population and Human Health
7.	Cultural Heritage
8.	Material Asset
9.	Secondary, cumulative and/or synergistic effects of criteria 1-8
10.	Effect on existing environmental problems relating to any areas of a particular importance such as areas designated to Council Directive 92/43/EEC (habitats) or 79/409/EEC (birds)

Key to Symbols

Symbol	Definition
☺	Significant positive environmental effects
☹	Significant negative environment effects
--	No significant environmental effects
?	Don't know
#	Scoped out
LT	Long term duration of effect
MT	Medium term duration of effect
ST	Short term duration of effect
PERM	Permanent
TEMP	Temporary

F1 - Assessment of Options

Assessment Criteria	Option 1 – 'Do Nothing'	Option 2 – 'Do Minimum'	Option 3 – 'Do Optimum'
1.	☹, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☹, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☺, MT, LT, PERM, TEMP
2.	☹, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☹, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☺, MT, LT, PERM, TEMP
3.	☹, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☹, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☺, MT, LT, PERM, TEMP
4.	☹, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☹, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☺, MT, LT, PERM, TEMP
5.	☹, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☹, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☺, MT, LT, PERM, TEMP
6.	☹, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☹, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☺, MT, LT, PERM, TEMP
7.	--, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☹, --, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☹, ☺, MT, LT, PERM, TEMP
8.	☹, --, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☹, --, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☹, ☺, MT, LT, PERM, TEMP
9.	☹, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☹, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☺, MT, LT, PERM, TEMP
10.	☹, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☹, LT, MT, ST, PERM, TEMP	☺, MT, LT, PERM, TEMP
Comments	'Do nothing' will have a mix of short, medium and long term, temporary and permanent, direct and indirect significant negative environment effects on most of the criteria through a lack of action to protect the natural environment, provide benefits to communities and to protect material	'Do minimum' will have mainly long term permanent, direct and indirect significant negative environmental effects on all criteria through limitations with the existing Strategy to continue to protect the natural environment, provide benefits to communities and to protect cultural heritage and material assets as	'Do optimum' will have a mix of medium and long term, permanent and temporary significant positive environmental effects on all criteria. There is, however, potential for long term, direct and indirect permanent significant negative environmental effects on cultural heritage such as archaeological and historic sites.

	assets where problem species exist such as rooted trees on roofs. except However, for cultural heritage and material assets in certain circumstances, a lack of action is unlikely to have any effects or lead to any significant changes in the historic environment or to roads or buildings for example. The 'Do nothing' option means that Aberdeen City Council will not be able to meet its legislative obligations to further the conservation of biodiversity.	a result of action taken to conserve nature. However, for cultural heritage and material assets in most circumstances, the limitations on the current Strategy is unlikely to have any effects or lead to significant changes in the historic environment or to roads or buildings for example.	Any works to improve nature conservation will have to consider potential negative effects on such sites when implementing any actions to conserve nature. There is also potential for some short term., indirect significant environmental effects on material assets. Delays on re-development of some buildings where species are nesting or roosting may occur. Overall, the 'Do Optimum' option will assist Aberdeen City Council meet its legislative obligations to further the conservation of biodiversity.

F2 - Assessment of Objectives

Assessment Criteria	**Objective 1** Protect, conserve, and enhance Aberdeen's natural heritage.	**Objective 2** Sustainably manage Aberdeen's natural heritage.	**Objective 3** Involve communities in caring for Aberdeen's natural heritage.	**Objective 4** Promote a greater understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of Aberdeen's natural heritage.	**Overall Effect**
1.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on biodiversity is positive. Depending on the habitats and species concerned, the overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
2.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on soil is positive. For example, healthy soils providing drainage, a food source for species and acting as a seed bank. The overall effect is

					expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
3.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on water is positive. The Strategy supports the aim of providing water quality of good status and a healthy habitat for species that depend on the water environment. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and

					implemented.
4.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on air and climatic factors is positive. For example, biodiversity and ecosystems help to provide clean air and act as carbon stores and regulate climate. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan and ACC Transport Strategy. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
5.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on landscape is positive. Biodiversity is linked to landscape. The different ecosystems and associated habitats help to create interesting landscapes. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term.

					The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
6.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on population and human health is positive. For example, improving biodiversity will make the City a more attractive place to live, work and visit. There is also a link between having access to nature and health benefits. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and

					implemented.
7.	-- LT MT ST PERM TEMP	-- ☹ LT MT ST PERM TEMP	-- LT MT ST PERM TEMP	-- ☹ LT MT ST PERM TEMP	The overall effect on cultural heritage is no significant environmental effects. There is however, potential for direct and indirect significant negative environmental effects through improving management and access to natural heritage sites where archaeological and historic sites plus other areas of cultural heritage importance are present. Measures have been included to address this potential significant negative effect. The overall effects are expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.

8.	-- ☹ LT MT ST PERM TEMP	-- ☹ LT MT ST PERM TEMP	-- LT MT ST PERM TEMP	-- LT MT ST PERM TEMP	The overall effect on material assets is no significant environmental effects. However, there is potential for some indirect short term negative environmental effects on the development of assets where protected species may be found nesting for example. This will temporarily delay any development activity until after the breeding season. The overall effects are expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.

9.	-- ☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **PERM** **TEMP**	-- ☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **PERM** **TEMP**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **PERM** **TEMP**	-- ☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **PERM** **TEMP**	The overall secondary effect on assessment criteria 1-8 is positive, however, there is potential for direct and indirect significant negative environmental effects on cultural heritage. Measures are in place to negate this potential effect. There is also potential for indirect short term effects on some material assets where species use sites such as bridges and buildings as nesting and roosting sites. The overall cumulative effect on assessment criteria 1-8 is positive. The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
10.	☺ **LT**	☺ **LT**	☺ **LT**	☺ **LT**	The overall effects on existing environmental

	MT **ST** **PERM** **TEMP**	**MT** **ST** **PERM** **TEMP**	**MT** **ST** **PERM** **TEMP**	**MT** **ST** **PERM** **TEMP**	problems associated with the River Dee SAC, 4 SSSI's and 80 Local Designated Sites within Aberdeen City will be positive. The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
Comments	This objective will have significant positive environmental effects on all assessment criteria. This is through taking action to stop the decline in biodiversity through the protection and restoration of habitats and species important to the City of Aberdeen on Council owned land and through seeking opportunities to work with private land owners.	This objective will have significant positive environmental effects on all assessment criteria. This is through the Council taking action to plan and manage the use of its own land in a way that assists in reversing the decline in biodiversity. The Council will also find ways of encouraging private land owners to do the same.	This objective will have significant positive environmental effects on all assessment criteria. This is through taking action to make people aware of the importance and benefits of nature conservation and the Council engaging with everyone and getting them involved at a local level.	This objective will have significant positive environmental effects on all assessment criteria. This is through taking action to inform everyone of the need to look after and appreciate natural heritage so that it will enhance the experience of nature while respecting it at the same time.	

F3 - Assessment of Strategic Actions 1

Assessment Criteria	Objective 1: Protect, conserve, and enhance Aberdeen's natural heritage.				Overall Effect
	Action 1 Maintain data on Aberdeen's natural heritage	**Action 2** Maintain integrity of designated sites including identifying 'at risk' sites and restoring their value	**Action 3** Protect and enhance biodiversity in areas which are not designated	**Action 4** Increase the availability and ecological value of wildlife corridors	
1.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on biodiversity is positive. Depending on the habitats and species concerned, the overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
2.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on soil is positive. For example, healthy soils providing drainage, a food source for species and acting as a seed bank. The overall effect is expected to be long,

					medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
3.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on water is positive. The Strategy supports the aim of providing water quality of good status and a healthy habitat for species that depend on the water environment. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.

4.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on air and climatic factors is positive. For example, biodiversity and ecosystems provide clean air and act as carbon stores and regulate climate. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan and ACC Transport Strategy. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
5.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on landscape is positive. Biodiversity is linked to landscape. The different ecosystems and associated habitats help to create interesting landscapes. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term.

					The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
6.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on population and human health is positive. For example, improving biodiversity will make the City a more attractive place to live, work and visit. There is also a link between having access to nature and health benefits. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly

					updated and implemented.
7.	**--** **LT** **MT** **ST TEMP** **PERM**	**--** ☹ **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** ☹ **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on cultural heritage is no significant environmental effects. There is however, potential for direct and indirect significant negative environmental effects through taking action to restore or enhance biodiversity to natural heritage sites where archaeological and historic sites plus other areas of cultural heritage importance are present. Measures have been included to address this potential significant negative effect. The overall effects are expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and

					implemented.
8.	-- ☺ LT MT ST TEMP PERM	-- LT MT ST TEMP PERM	-- ☹ LT MT ST TEMP PERM	-- LT MT ST TEMP PERM	The overall effect on material assets is no significant environmental effects. However, there is potential for some short term significant negative environmental effects on the development of assets where protected species may be found nesting for example. This will temporarily delay any development activity until after the breeding season. There is also potential for significant positive environmental effects through the identification of important species located in manmade habitats such as in buildings, bridges etc which will help to further protect them. The overall effects are expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant

					threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
9.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall secondary effects on assessment criteria 1-8 are positive, however, there is potential for significant negative environmental effects on cultural heritage. Measures are in place to negate this potential effect. There is also potential for indirect short term effects on some material assets where species use sites such as bridges and buildings as nesting and roosting sites. The overall cumulative effect on assessment criteria 1-8 is positive. The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan.

					To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
10.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effects on existing environmental problems associated with the River Dee SAC, 4 SSSI's and 80 Local Designated Sites within Aberdeen City will be positive. The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
Comments	These actions will have significant positive environmental effects on most assessment criteria except on cultural heritage and material assets where there is assumed to be no significant environmental effects. There is, however, a small risk of significant negative environmental effects to cultural heritage if steps are taken which may damage historical or archaeological sites. Measures have been taken within the Strategy to ensure that no damage will occur to such sites. These actions will be taken to stop the decline in biodiversity through the protection and restoration of habitats and species important to the City of Aberdeen on Council owned land and through seeking opportunities to work with private land owners.				

F3 - Assessment of Strategic Actions 2

Assessment Criteria	Objective 2: Sustainably manage Aberdeen's natural heritage.						Overall Effect
	Action 1 Seek opportunities to maintain, restore or enhance biodiversity associated with physical development	**Action 2** Consider and include nature conservation in all Council projects	**Action 3** Establish ways to make Council operational activities more beneficial to biodiversity	**Action 4** Seek ways of encouraging private land owners and businesses to adopt nature conservation practices	**Action 5** Manage invasive and non-native species which cause negative impacts to biodiversity	**Action 6** Influence site specific management plans fit for purpose	
1.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on biodiversity is positive. Depending on the habitats and species concerned, the overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan and Transport Strategy. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.

2.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on soil is positive. For example, action will be taken to preserve, enhance, restore and manage biodiversity in a way which can have a positive effect on soil quality. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
3.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on water is positive. The Strategy supports the aim of providing water quality of good status and a healthy habitat for species that depend on the water environment. Action will be taken to support this aim. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will

							only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
4.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on air and climatic factors is positive. For example, biodiversity and ecosystems provide clean air and act as carbon stores and regulate climate. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan and ACC Transport Strategy. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.

5.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on landscape is positive. Biodiversity is linked to landscape. The different ecosystems and associated habitats help to create interesting landscapes. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
6.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on population and human health is positive. For example, improving biodiversity will make the City a more attractive place to live, work and visit. There is also a link between having access to nature and health benefits. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will

							only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
7.	**--** **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on cultural heritage is no significant environmental effects. There is however, potential for direct and indirect significant negative environmental effects through taking actions for improving the management of natural heritage sites where archaeological and historic sites plus other areas of cultural heritage importance are present. Measures have been included to address this potential significant negative effect. The overall effects are expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other

							SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
8.	-- ☺ ☹ LT MT ST TEMP PERM	-- ☺ LT MT ST TEMP PERM	-- ☺ LT MT ST TEMP PERM	-- ☺ LT MT ST TEMP PERM	-- ☺ LT MT ST TEMP PERM	-- ☺ LT MT ST TEMP PERM	The overall effect on material assets is both significant positive environmental effects and no significant environmental effects. Positive effects can be brought about through, for example, implementing measures which benefit biodiversity as part of new developments and re-development of old buildings. Invasive species can also be removed from Council assets. However, there is potential for some short term significant negative environmental effects on the development of assets where protected species may be found nesting for example. This will temporarily delay any development activity until after the breeding season.

							The overall effects are expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
9.	☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall secondary effects on assessment criteria 1-8 are positive, however, there is potential for direct and indirect significant negative environmental effects on cultural heritage. Measures are in place to negate this potential effect. There is also the potential for secondary significant negative environmental effects on the development of buildings which have nesting species. The delay on development will only be short term. The overall cumulative effect on assessment criteria 1-8 is positive.

							The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
10.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effects on existing environmental problems associated with the River Dee SAC, 4 SSSI's and 80 Local Designated Sites within Aberdeen City will be positive. The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
Comments	These actions will have significant positive environmental effects on most assessment criteria except on cultural heritage and material assets where there assumed to be no significant environmental effects. There is, however, a small risk of significant negative environmental effects to cultural heritage if steps are taken which may damage historical or archaeological sites. Measures have been taken within the Strategy to ensure that no damage will occur to such sites. These actions will be taken to assist the Council to plan and manage the use of its own land in a way that assists in reversing the decline in biodiversity. The Council will also find ways of encouraging private land owners to do the same.						

F3 - Assessment of Strategic Actions 3

Assessment Criteria	Objective 3: Involve communities in caring for Aberdeen's natural heritage.					Overall Effect
	Action 1 Establish ways of encouraging the public to improve biodiversity in their own gardens	**Action 2** Seek ways of encouraging nature conservation in community gardens and allotments	**Action 3** Work with health and education facilities to promote wildlife gardens	**Action 4** Encourage communities in partnership working to deliver nature conservation projects	**Action 5** Encourage citizens and communities to document and share knowledge	
1.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on biodiversity is positive. Depending on the habitats and species concerned, the overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
2.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on soil is positive. For example, action will be taken to improve biodiversity in specific areas which can also have positive benefits for soil quality.

						The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
3.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on water is positive. The Strategy supports the aim of providing water quality of good status and a healthy habitat for species that depend on the water environment. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.

4.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on air and climatic factors is positive. For example, biodiversity and ecosystems provide clean air and act as carbon stores and regulate climate. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan and ACC Transport Strategy. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
5.	**--** ☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** ☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** ☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** ☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** ☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on landscape is both positive and no significant environmental effects. Biodiversity is linked to landscape. The different ecosystems and associated habitats help

						to create interesting landscapes. While should be no direct significant environmental effects on the wider landscape, enhancing gardens, community gardens, schools etc, will help lead the eye to the wider landscape bringing an appreciation for landscape in general. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
6.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on population and human health is positive. For example, improving biodiversity will make the City a more attractive place to live, work and visit. There is also a link between having access to nature and health benefits. Being involved

						will create even more health benefits both physically and mentally through exercise and a sense of achievement. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
7.	**--** **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on cultural heritage is no significant environmental effects. There is however, potential for direct and indirect significant negative environmental effects through action taken as part of community projects in areas that have archaeological or historical sites plus other areas of cultural heritage importance present. Measures have been included to address this potential significant

						negative effect. The overall effects are expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
8.	**--** **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** ☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on material assets is no significant environmental effects. There is, however, potential for some significant positive environmental effects on material assets in community led projects, where such material assets can be enhanced as part of the project to improve nature conservation. The overall effects are expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant threats to

						biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
9.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall secondary effects on assessment criteria 1-8 are positive, however, there is potential for significant negative environmental effects on cultural heritage. Measures are in place to negate this potential effect. There is also potential for indirect short term effects on some material assets where species use sites such as bridges and buildings as nesting and roosting sites. The overall cumulative effect on assessment criteria 1-8 is positive. The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy

						will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
10.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effects on existing environmental problems associated with the River Dee SAC, 4 SSSI's and 80 Local Designated Sites within Aberdeen City will be positive. The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
Comments	These actions will have significant positive environmental effects on most assessment criteria except on cultural heritage and material assets where there assumed to be no significant environmental effects. There is, however, a small risk of significant negative environmental effects to cultural heritage if steps are taken which may damage historical or archaeological sites. Measures have been taken within the Strategy to ensure that no damage will occur to such sites. These actions will help to make people aware of the importance and benefits of nature conservation and the Council engaging with everyone and getting them involved at a local level.					

F3 - Assessment of Strategic Actions 4

Assessment Criteria	Objective 4: Promote a greater understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of Aberdeen's natural heritage.					Overall Effect
	Action 1 Improve Council knowledge and understanding of the importance of nature conservation in delivering their function	**Action 2** Increase public awareness of the benefits of nature conservation	**Action 3** Seek opportunities to improve access to natural heritage sites	**Action 4** Increase tourism through promoting the City's natural heritage	**Action 5** Promote and encourage responsible access to the City's natural heritage	
1.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on biodiversity is positive. However, there is potential for significant negative environmental effects as a result of irresponsible access to nature conservation sites. Depending on the habitats and species concerned, the overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan and Core Paths Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy

						will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
2.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on soil is mainly positive. However, there is a risk of significant negative environmental impacts through degradation of soils due to irresponsible access to nature conservation sites. Action 4 has been designed to ensure that this risk is minimised or removed. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan and Core Paths Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
3.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST**	☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on water is positive. The Strategy supports the aim of providing water quality of good status and a healthy habitat for

			TEMP **PERM**	**TEMP** **PERM**		species that depend on the water environment. However, there is a risk of significant negative environmental impacts through reduction in water quality due to irresponsible access to nature conservation sites. Action 4 has been designed to ensure that this risk is minimised or removed. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
4.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on air and climatic factors is positive. However, there is a risk of significant negative environmental effects on climatic factors. For example, biodiversity and ecosystems provide clean air and act as

						carbon stores and regulate climate. If biodiversity is reduced as a result of irresponsible access, this will have a negative effect on climatic factors. Action 4 has been designed to ensure that this risk is minimised or removed. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan, Transport Strategy and Core Paths Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
5.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on landscape is positive. Biodiversity is linked to landscape. The different ecosystems and associated habitats help to create interesting landscapes. There is, however, risk of significant negative

						environmental effects through irresponsible access to nature conservation sites. If biodiversity is degraded or damaged, this may have a negative effect on the overall landscape. Action 4 has been designed to ensure that this risk is minimised or removed. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
6.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on population and human health is positive. For example, improving biodiversity will make the City a more attractive place to live, work and visit. There is also a link between having access to nature and health

						benefits. The overall effect is expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effect will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
7.	**--** **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** ☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on cultural heritage is no significant environmental effects. There is however, potential for some direct and indirect significant positive environmental effects through raising awareness of the potential presence of cultural heritage in nature conservation sites. There is also potential for significant negative environmental effects through taking action to improve access to natural heritage sites where archaeological and historic sites plus other areas of cultural

						heritage importance are present. Action 4 has been designed to ensure that this risk removed. The overall effects are expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
8.	**--** ☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** ☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	**--** **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effect on material assets is no significant environmental effects. There is, however, potential for significant positive environmental effects through raising awareness of the importance of material assets as manmade habitats for some species. The overall effects are expected to be long, medium and short term. The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant threats to

						biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
9.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ ☹ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall secondary effects on assessment criteria 1-8 are mainly positive, however, there is potential for significant negative environmental effects on cultural heritage and biodiversity through irresponsible access to nature conservation sites. Measures are in place to negate this potential effect. Action 4 has been designed to ensure that this risk is minimised or removed. There is also potential for indirect short term effects on some material assets where species use sites such as bridges and buildings as nesting and roosting sites. The overall cumulative effect on assessment criteria 1-8 is positive. The overall effects will only be temporary given the

						constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
10.	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	☺ **LT** **MT** **ST** **TEMP** **PERM**	The overall effects on existing environmental problems associated with the River Dee SAC, 4 SSSI's and 80 Local Designated Sites within Aberdeen City will be positive. The overall effects will only be temporary given the constant threats to biodiversity from other SPP's such as the Development Plan. To work towards the effects being more permanent, the strategy will need to be regularly updated and implemented.
Comments	These actions will mostly have significant positive environmental effects on the assessment criteria. However, without appropriate measures there is a risk of significant negative environmental effects as a result of most of these actions. Particularly degradation or damage to important habitats and cultural heritage. Action 4 has been introduced so that measures can be taken to ensure that the risks of significant negative environmental effects are reduced or removed. These actions will help to inform everyone of the need to look after and appreciate natural heritage so that it will enhance the experience of nature while respecting it at the same time.					

APPENDIX G - Proposed Mitigation/Enhancement Measures

SEA Topic	Existing problem	PPS Impact	Mitigation Measures	Responsible Officer
1.	Decline in biodiversity as a result of human activity including land use and land use development, plus, climate change.	Effects of this Strategy are positive on biodiversity. However, the full impact of climate change is unknown. Although there is evidence of shifts in species populations, ranges, migration patterns etc, there is no clear guidance for this Strategy to follow at this time in terms of climate change.	In order for biodiversity to be enhanced, information of the flora and fauna present in Aberdeen including details of all designated sites within the City will need to be updated. Action should be taken once new data gathered has been reviewed with existing data. Where the ecological value is low in any site or integrity of designated sites is lost, action should be taken to enhance or restore such sites.	Environmental Planners. With assistance from: - Local Plan officers. Development Management officers. Countryside Rangers.
2.	Decline in biodiversity including bacterial biodiversity is having a negative impact on the quality of our soils. Can also make soils unstable increasing risk of erosion. Poor soil quality also due to previous development or land use such as on brownfield sites and contaminated land.	The effects from this Strategy on Soil are positive.	To help enhance soil quality, information of the flora and fauna present in Aberdeen including details of all designated sites within the City will need to be updated. Action should be taken once new data gathered has been reviewed with existing data. Where the ecological value is low in any site or integrity of designated sites is lost, action should be taken to enhance or restore such sites (including contaminated land and brownfield sites) which will help to stabilise and improve quality of soil.	Environmental Planners. With assistance from: - Local Plan officers. Development Management officers. Countryside Rangers.
3.	The water quality in some of the marine and freshwater environments is poor which is	Effects of this Strategy on Water are positive.	To help improve water quality, information on flora and fauna that depend on the water environment	Environmental Planners. With assistance from: -

	having a negative impact on biodiversity and ecosystems.		and the quality of the water habitat that they depend on for survival will need to be updated. Detail of important water bodies such as the River Dee which is Special Area of Conservation (SAC) will be required. In conjunction with partnerships and other organisations that are concerned with the water environment, action should be taken once new data gathered has been reviewed with existing data environment. The Council will meet legislative requirements, support any strategy developed, and take action to protect the water environment in delivering its function. Where the ecological value is low in any water habitat, action should be taken to enhance or restore such sites which will help to improve water quality and the environment for those species that depend on it.	Local Plan officers. Development Management officers. Countryside Rangers.
4.	Air temperatures are rising due to CO_2 production from transport, industrial activity, and through loss of carbon stores. This is contributing to global warming and climate change. This is creating more unpredictable weather events, hotter summers and wetter winters leading to changes in habitats, more runoff and erosion.	Effects of this Strategy on air quality and climatic factors are positive.	To help enhance air quality and climatic factors, information of the flora and fauna present in Aberdeen and ecological value of sites including all designated sites within the City will be required. Action should be taken once new data gathered has been reviewed with existing data. The Council will meet legislative requirements and support any strategy developed to deal with air	Environmental Planners. With assistance from: - Local Plan officers. Development Management officers. Countryside Rangers.

			quality and climatic factors. Where the ecological value is low in any site or integrity of designated sites is lost, action should be taken to enhance or restore such sites which will help to improve air quality and climatic factors.	
5.	Landscapes, which are valued and enjoyed by many people, are being negatively impacted upon due to increased changes in land uses and through development. Negative impacts to landscapes can in turn have a negative impact to biodiversity and vice versa.	Effects of this Strategy on landscape are positive.	To help enhance landscape, information of the flora and fauna present in Aberdeen including all designated sites within the City will be required. Action should be taken once new data gathered has been reviewed with existing data. The Council will meet legislative requirements and support any strategy developed to deal with landscapes. Where the ecological value is low in any site or integrity of designated sites is lost, action should be taken to enhance or restore such sites which will help to enhance landscape features.	Environmental Planners. With assistance from: - Local Plan officers. Development Management officers. Countryside Rangers.
6.	There is a lack of awareness of the health benefits and importance of nature conservation to the human population and human health. There are issues of a lack of access to green spaces and natural heritage sites particularly in deprived areas.	Effects of this Strategy on Population and human health are positive.	To help enhance the environment for the benefit of population and human health, information of the flora and fauna present in Aberdeen including all designated sites within the City will be required. Action should be taken once new data gathered has been reviewed with existing data. The Council will meet legislative requirements and support any strategy developed to for the population and human health. Where the ecological value is low in any site or integrity of	Environmental Planners. With assistance from: - Local Plan officers. Development Management officers. Countryside Rangers.

			designated sites is lost, action should be taken to enhance or restore such sites which will help to make the natural environment beneficial to populations and human health. The Council will also take action to inform the public of the importance of nature conservation to health.	
7.	There are potential negative impacts to archaeological and/or historical sites plus other areas of cultural heritage importance through irresponsible access to areas where these sites are situated. Damage could also occur to these sites where action is taken to benefit nature conservation.	There may be significant negative environmental effects as a result of this Strategy on cultural heritage. This may occur through improving management and access to natural heritage sites where archaeological and historic sites plus other areas of cultural heritage importance are present. Such sites could be damaged or destroyed as a result.	Information of the flora and fauna present in Aberdeen including all designated sites within the City will be required. Details including locations of any historic or archaeological site in City of Aberdeen will need to be gathered. Action should be taken at the start of any plan or project to improve biodiversity to identify cultural heritage sites so that significant negative environmental impacts can be avoided on such sites. There will also be a need to work with Council's Keepers of Archaeology.	Environmental Planners. With assistance from: - Local Plan officers. Development Management officers. Archaeology officers. Countryside Rangers.
8.	Wildlife on buildings could potentially damage the infrastructure of buildings or have a negative effect on the aesthetics of a building. For example, trees growing on roofs. Development on existing material assets such as buildings and bridges could have a negative effect on species which use them as nesting and roosting sites.	The effects of this Strategy on Materials Assets could be negative. The protection of species using material assets as breeding or roosting habitats could delay re-development opportunities. There are also opportunities to enhance biodiversity through encouraging habitats such as green roofs.	Information of the flora and fauna present in Aberdeen including on manmade habitats will be required. Action should be taken once new data gathered has been reviewed with existing data. Action should also be taken at the beginning of the planning application process to identify species using material assets as habitats so that they are provided with a level of protection.	Environmental Planners. With assistance from: - Local Plan officers. Development Management officers. Countryside Rangers.

	Development could also be delayed as a result of species using material assets as roosting or breeding sites. Design of new developments often lack consideration of making spaces for wildlife.		Opportunities should also be sought to include spaces for nature in new building design. The Council will meet legislative requirements and support any strategy developed to deal with material assets. The Council will take action to protect species which use material assets as habitats but at the same time deal with nuisance species that cause significant negative environmental effects on material assets, for example, invasive species.	

APPENDIX H - Proposed SEA Monitoring Programme

What needs to be monitored? (effects)	What sort of information is required?	Where can the information be obtained from?	Are there gaps in the existing information and how can it be resolved?	When should the remedial /enhancement action be considered?	Who is responsible for undertaking the monitoring?	How should the results be presented?	What remedial/enhancement actions could be taken?
1. Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	Effects of the Nature Conservation Strategy are positive on biodiversity. However, information will be required on existing habitats and species within the City including on designated sites. Presence of invasive or non-native species.	North East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC). Scottish Natural Heritage statistics. North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership. Scottish Biodiversity Forum. North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Partnership. UKBAP targets for LBAPs. Aberdeen City Council's 'State of the	Information on habitats and species may be insufficient and/or out of date. Surveys will be required to gather updated information. The full impact of climate change is unknown. Although there is evidence of shifts in species populations, ranges, migration patterns, invasive species etc, there is no clear guidance for this Strategy to follow at this time in terms of climate change. Up to date guidance should also be provided to	When there is evidence to show that ecological value of sites have declined. When there is evidence of invasive species and appropriate measures are in place to deal with them. When up to date guidance is provided to address nature conservation issues as a result of climate change. Plans for taking action should occur once Strategy is adopted.	Environmental Planners with assistance from: - Local Plan officers. Development Management officers. Countryside Rangers. Grounds Maintenance. External organisations.	Information will be presented yearly in Aberdeen City Council's 'State of the Environment' Report. ACC's Geographical Information System. Update NESBReC as and when necessary.	There should be opportunities to help stop the decline in biodiversity and influence development that will improve or enhance biodiversity as a result of land take and the redevelopment of existing buildings. Measures to be taken to eradicate or reduce invasive or non-native species which cause harm to native species.

		Environment' Report. Aberdeen City Council Local Plan. ACC's Geographical Information System.	advise on measure required to deal with climate change.				
2. Soil	Effects of this Strategy on Soil will be positive. Require data on soil quality in Aberdeen. Areas of poor ecological value. Areas of contaminated land and brownfield sites.	Environmental Protection Service – Aberdeen City Council. Planning and Infrastructure – Aberdeen City Council. Economic & Environmental Sustainability – Aberdeen City Council. Aberdeen City Council's 'State of the Environment' Report. The Macaulay Land Use Research	Information on habitats and species may be insufficient and/or out of date. Surveys will be required to gather updated information. Data on use of land may be out of date. Could be dealt with through greenspace audit.	As soon as information and resources become available. Where there are opportunities to enhance areas of poor soil quality such as areas or poor ecological value, brownfield sites and contaminated land. Plans for taking action should occur once Strategy is adopted.	Environmental Planners with assistance from: - Local Plan officers. Development Management officers. Countryside Rangers. Grounds Maintenance. External organisations.	Information will be presented yearly in Aberdeen City Council's 'State of the Environment' Report. ACC's Geographical Information System. Update NESBReC as and when necessary.	Opportunities to enhance biodiversity will have a knock on effect on the quality of soils. Brownfield and contaminated sites can be improved to benefit biodiversity and improve soil quality.

		Institute. Scottish Environment Protection Agency. North East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC). North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Partnership. UKBAP targets for LBAPs.					
3. Water	Effects of the Nature Conservation Strategy on water will be positive. Require data on areas of water environment that are or are at risk or poor quality. Details of planning applications	Aberdeen City Council's 'State of the Environment' Report. Planning and Infrastructure – Aberdeen City Council. Scottish Environment Protection Agency – including River Basin Management, Bathing	All problem areas with regards to the water environment are not identified. A monitoring system adopted by SEPA will help to identify gaps in knowledge. Not all Council officers are aware of the importance to consider and protect the water environment including the	As soon as information and resources become available. Plans for taking action should occur once Strategy is adopted.	Scottish Environment Protection Agency. Environmental Planner will the first to obtain new knowledge and will monitor on behalf of Aberdeen City Council. Environmental Planners are responsible for arranging	Information will be presented yearly in Aberdeen City Council's 'State of the Environment' Report. ACC's Geographical Information System. Update NESBReC as and when necessary.	In conjunction with partnerships and other organisations that are concerned with the water environment, action should be taken, such as through project work, to enhance areas of the water environment that has or is at risk of poor quality. E.g. improve riparian

	or projects which may have an impact on the water environment.	Beaches, flooding etc. River Dee Catchment Management Planning. River Basin Management Planning. North East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC). Scottish Natural Heritage. North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Partnership. UKBAP targets for LBAPs.	designated Special Area of Conservation – River Dee - when involved with planning applications or projects. Up to date guidance and training is required.		guidance and training within Aberdeen City Council.	On Aberdeen City Council Website.	woodlands, reduce runoff. Action to consider the impacts to the water environment should be taken at the start of any plan or project instigated by Aberdeen City Council. To implement procedure for development management planners to involve environmental planners for advice on potential impacts.
4. Air and Climatic Factors	Effects of the Nature Conservation Strategy on air and climatic factors will be positive. Require data on areas of poor ecological	Aberdeen City Council's 'State of the Environment' Report. Aberdeen City Council – Roads. Environmental Protection Services –	There may be gaps in the species and habitats that are affected by air quality in the City. The full impact of climate change is unknown. Although there is evidence of shifts in species	As soon as information and resources become available. Plans for taking action should occur once Strategy is adopted.	Environmental Planners with assistance from: - Local Plan officers. Development Management officers. Transport Planners. Countryside Rangers.	Information will be presented yearly in Aberdeen City Council's 'State of the Environment' Report. Update NESBReC as and when necessary.	Where the ecological value is low in any site or integrity of designated sites is lost, action should be taken to enhance or restore such sites which will help to improve air quality and climatic factors.

	value. Habitats and species present in areas with air quality issues such as AQMAs. Presence of invasive or non-native species as a result of change in climate. Areas where measures are planned to mitigate against flooding.	Aberdeen City Council. Aberdeen City Council – Air Quality Monitoring. Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum For Environmental Research (SNIFFER). North East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC). Scottish Natural Heritage. North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Partnership. UKBAP targets for LBAPs. Scottish Environment Protection Agency.	populations, ranges, migration patterns, invasive species etc, there is no clear guidance for this Strategy to follow at this time in terms of climate change. Up to date guidance should also be provided to advise on measure required to deal with climate change. Flood Risk Management Plans are planned for the near future as a result of the new Flooding Bill. It is unknown at this stage how the natural environment will be considered.		Grounds Maintenance. Roads engineers. External organisations.		Opportunities should also be sought to contribute to future Transport Strategies so that biodiversity projects can be included to help reduce emissions associated with AGMAs and as a result of transport in general. Influence the development of future Flood Risk Management Plans to ensure minimal negative effects on natural heritage.

5. Landscape	Effects of the Nature Conservation Strategy on landscape will be positive. Require information on development that may have impacts on landscape and subsequently natural heritage. Gardens and greenspace present in the City.	Aberdeen City Council's 'State of the Environment' Report. Planning and Infrastructure. North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Partnership. UKBAP targets for LBAPs. Historic Scotland.	Unknown effects on landscape as a result of development and land take. There is also a lack of data on impacts on landscapes as a result of increased access and recreation. Could also have negative impacts on biodiversity. Data on use of land may be out of date including types of greenspace such as gardens which contribute to landscape character. Surveys will be required to gather updated information on natural heritage (habitats and species) and greenspaces. Could be dealt with through	As soon as information and resources become available. Plans for taking action should occur once Strategy is adopted.	Environmental Planners with assistance from: - Local Plan officers. Development Management officers. Countryside Rangers. Grounds Maintenance. Keepers of Archaeology. External organisations e.g. Historic Scotland.	Information will be presented yearly in Aberdeen City Council's 'State of the Environment' Report. Update Keepers of Archaeology. Update NESBReC as and when necessary.	Where the ecological value is low in any site or integrity of designated sites is lost, action should be taken to enhance or restore such sites which will help to enhance landscape features. Influence development plans and projects to help prevent potential negative effects on greenspaces that are important for landscape character.

			greenspace audit.				
6. Population and Health	Effects of the Nature Conservation Strategy on population and health will be positive. Core Paths in the City. Areas of depravation in the City. Masterplans for regeneration areas in the City. Allotments in the City.	Aberdeen City Council's 'State of the Environment' Report. North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Partnership. UKBAP targets for LBAPs. Community Planning in Aberdeen. Planning & Infrastructure. Aberdeen Greenspace.	Limited data available for the consideration of the benefits of biodiversity for attracting people to the City and quality of life in major projects and development projects. Up to date guidance should be provided to advise on measure required to deal population and human health requirements.	As soon as information and resources become available. Plans for taking action should occur once Strategy is adopted.	Environmental Planners with assistance from: - Local Plan officers. Development Management officers. Access officers. Countryside Rangers. Grounds Maintenance. Community Planning. External organisations.	Information will be presented yearly in Aberdeen City Council's 'State of the Environment' Report. Update NESBReC as and when necessary. ACC's Geographical Information System.	Where the ecological value is low in any site or integrity of designated sites is lost, action should be taken to enhance or restore such sites which will help to make the natural environment beneficial to populations and human health. The Council will also take action to inform the public of the importance of nature conservation to health. Work with partnerships to encourage community gardens and allotments that encourage nature conservation. Encourage

							access to nature conservation sites to benefit health. Encourage public to work in their own gardens to benefit biodiversity and quality of life.
7. Cultural Heritage	There may be significant negative environmental effects as a result of this Strategy on cultural heritage. Require data on historic and archaeological sites and any designated Gardens and Designed Landscapes present in the City. Such sites could be damaged or destroyed as a result	North East Scotland Biological Records Centre - NESBReC. North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan (NELBAP). Aberdeen City and Shire Development Plan. Aberdeen City Council Local Plan. Planning and Infrastructure. Aberdeen City Council Site	Limited data available for the consideration of cultural heritage when dealing with major projects and development projects. There are also gaps in information provided to public in terms of responsible access to nature conservation sites where cultural heritage importance also exists. Up to date guidance should be provided to advise on	As soon as information and resources become available. Plans for taking action should occur once Strategy is adopted. Action should be taken at the start of any plan to improve biodiversity in areas where cultural heritage sites exist.	Environmental Planners with assistance from: - Local Plan officers. Development Management officers. Access officers. Countryside Rangers. Grounds Maintenance. Keeper of Archaeology. External organisations such as Historic Scotland and Aberdeen Greenspace.	Information will be presented yearly in the 'State of the Environment' Report. Update NESBReC as and when necessary. ACC's Geographical Information System.	Action through guidance for the consideration of the impacts cultural heritage should be taken at the start of any plan or project instigated by Aberdeen City Council. To plan for the provision of information to the public on responsible access to benefit biodiversity and cultural heritage.

	therefore, on the ground action taken to implement this Strategy will need to be monitored. Information of the flora and fauna present in Aberdeen including all designated sites. Details including locations of any historic or archaeological site in City of Aberdeen.	and Monuments Record. ACC's Geographical Information System. Historic Scotland.	measure required to consider cultural heritage.				
8. Material Assets	There should be mainly no effects to material assets as a result of this Strategy. Details of planning applications or projects which may involve re-development	North East Scotland Biological Records Centre - NESBReC. North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan (NELBAP). Aberdeen City and Shire Development	There is a gap in knowledge of material assets used as habitats for certain species.	As soon as information and resources become available. Plans for taking action should occur once Strategy is adopted. Action should also be taken at the beginning of the planning	Environmental Planners with assistance from: - Local Plan officers. Development Management officers. Access officers. Countryside Rangers. External organisations such as NELBAP	Information will be presented yearly in the 'State of the Environment' Report. Should also be updated on ACC Geographical Information System as and when necessary. NESBReC to be updated as and when necessary.	Action will taken to protect species which use material assets as habitats but at the same time deal with invasive species that cause significant negative environmental effects on material.

	of old buildings, bridges etc. Details of construction of new infrastructure such as new roads. For example, the development of assets where protected species may be found nesting will need to be temporarily delayed until after the breeding season. Plant and animal species using	Plan. Aberdeen City Council Local Plan. Aberdeen City Council – Roads. Aberdeen City Council – Environmental Protection. ACC's Geographical Information System. Planning and Infrastructure.		application process.	and SNH.		

	buildings as habitats will also need to be monitored. For example, birds dropping can have a negative impact on the aesthetics of buildings or trees growing on roofs could potentially damage the infrastructure. Information required will be the flora and fauna present in Aberdeen including on manmade habitats.						

APPENDIX I: Appropriate Assessment - Natura 2000 Screening

	Objective 1.				Objective 2.				Objective 3.			Objective 4.		
	Action 1	Action 2	Action 3	Action 4	Action 1	Action 2	Action 3	Action 4	Action 1	Action 2	Action 3	Action 1	Action 2	Action 3
Generate Development	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Water Abstraction	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Habitat Loss/ Land Take	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Generate Pollution	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Generate Soil Erosion	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Cause Disturbance	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Protect the Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Passive	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Screen Out/In	OUT	OUT	OUT	OUT	OUT	OUT	OUT	OUT	OUT	OUT	OUT	OUT	OUT	OUT

Details of each objective and associated action are noted in Section 3.1 page 6 of the report.