

SEA SCOPING TEMPLATE – COVER NOTE

PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
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PART 2

An SEA Scoping Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled:

Aberdeenshire Core Paths Plan

The Responsible Authority is:

Aberdeenshire Council

PART 3

Please tick the appropriate box

- The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. **or**
- The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. **or**
- The PPS does not require an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, as this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 5 week timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

SEA SCOPING TEMPLATE – COVER NOTE

PART 4

| | |
|------------------------|---|
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PART 5

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| Date | 3 September 2009 |

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report is to set out sufficient information on the Aberdeenshire Core Paths Plan to enable the Consultation Authorities to form a view on the consultation period and scope/level of detail that will be appropriate for the Environmental Report. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

2. Key Facts

Table 1 – Key Facts

| Responsible Authority | Aberdeenshire Council |
|------------------------------|---|
| Title of Plan | Aberdeenshire Core Paths Plan |
| What prompted the Plan | Section 17 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 |
| Plan Subject | Core Paths |
| Period covered by the Plan | There is no end dates for the use of such a designation |
| Frequency of update | Probably every 5 years following adoption |
| Area covered by the Plan | The Aberdeenshire Council Area excluding the Cairngorms National Park (4680 km ²) |
| Plan purpose | To identify a basic framework of core paths sufficient to provide reasonable non-motorised access throughout the area. This basic framework of paths will be both in and around local communities and will also link into and support wider networks of other paths. Access to inland water will also be included |
| Contact point | Alastair Fullwood Environmental Planner - Projects (Temporary) South Team Planning and Environmental Services Aberdeenshire Council 01569 768288/013398 85731 Alastair.fullwood@aberdeenshire.gov.uk |

3. Description Of Plan Contents

The Aberdeenshire Core Paths Plan will identify a system of core paths sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout the Aberdeenshire area (excluding Aberdeen City and the area covered by the Cairngorms National Park). The network will be based on the results of consultation with local communities, land managers, recreational access organisations and Aberdeenshire Local Outdoor Access Forum. The Aberdeenshire Core Paths Plan will deliver the following objectives:

1. Improve people's health and well being by providing better opportunities for access.
2. Assist in the integration of access with land management and the natural and cultural environment.
3. Have a wider functional benefit than recreation, e.g. provide safer routes to schools and improve community links.
4. Encourage people to consider alternatives to car use.
5. Provide opportunities for multi use by walkers, cyclists, horse riders, water borne users and the less able although not all paths are required to cater for all users.
6. Contribute to encouraging tourism to the area.
7. Provide routes which are welcoming and sign post

4. Plan, Programme Or Strategy Context

4.1 Relationship with other PPS and environmental objectives

The key legislation, plans, programmes, policies and strategies at an international European, national, regional and local level are listed in the table below. Their details and the way they affect or are affected by the PPS are listed in Appendix 2.

Table 2 - Relationship with other Plans and Policies

| | Name of PPS / Environmental protection objective |
|----|--|
| | INTERNATIONAL |
| 1 | EC Birds Directive 79/409/EEC |
| 2 | EC Habitat Directive |
| 3 | European Biodiversity Framework |
| 4 | European Framework on sustainable development 2001 |
| 5 | Kyoto Protocol (1992) |
| 6 | Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC |
| 7 | European Landscape Convention |
| 8 | EU Thematic Strategy on Soil Protection (COM 2006/231) |
| | NATIONAL |
| 9 | Climate Change: The UK programme |
| 14 | Energy White Paper – Our Energy Future – Creating a low carbon economy |
| 15 | The UK's Shared Framework for Sustainable Development (2005) |
| 16 | UK Biodiversity Action Plan |
| 17 | Wildlife and Country Act 1981 |

| | |
|----|---|
| 18 | Historic Scotland's Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas |
| 19 | Meeting the Needs, Priorities, Actions and Targets for Sustainable Development in Scotland (2002) |
| 21 | The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 |
| 22 | The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & C) Amendment (Scotland Regulations 2007 |
| 23 | Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act |
| 25 | Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 & 2005 |
| 26 | Physical Activity Strategy |
| 27 | Scottish Historic Environment Policy 1 |
| 28 | SHEP No 2 <i>Scheduled Ancient Monuments</i> |
| 33 | SPP1 - The Planning System |
| 34 | SPP 11 – Physical Activity and Open Space (draft) |
| 37 | PAN 58: Environmental Impact Assessment |
| 38 | PAN 59: Improving Town Centres |
| 39 | PAN 60: Planning for Natural Heritage |
| 41 | PAN 65: Planning and Open Space |
| 47 | PAN 77 Designing Safer Places |
| 48 | PAN 78 Inclusive Design |
| 49 | Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 |
| 50 | Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy, 2005 |
| 51 | Protection of Badgers Act 1992 |
| 52 | Healthy Eating, Active Living: Action Plan to improve Diet, Increase Physical Activity and Tackling Obesity (June 2008) |
| 53 | Health Impact Assessment of Greenspace – A Guide |
| 55 | Building on Energy |
| | REGIONAL |
| 56 | Joint Health Improvement Plan |
| 57 | North East of Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan |
| 58 | Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan |
| | LOCAL |
| 59 | Aberdeenshire Community Plan |
| 60 | Aberdeenshire Local Plan |
| 61 | Aberdeenshire Parks and Open Space Strategy 2006 |
| 62 | Aberdeenshire Local Transport Strategy |
| 63 | Landscape Character Assessment of Aberdeen. |
| 64 | Aberdeenshire Council Economic Development Priorities |
| 65 | Aberdeenshire Council Sustainability Charter 2004 |
| 66 | Aberdeenshire Council Carbon Management Programme 2007 |
| 68 | Aberdeenshire Council Pitches Strategy Draft 2008 |
| 69 | Aberdeenshire Council Sports and Active Lifestyle Strategy 2005-2008 |
| 70 | Aberdeenshire Countryside Access Strategy (1998) |

From the analysis of the relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives, the key points arising from this analysis are that the core paths plan should:

- avoid adverse impacts on statutory and non-statutory protected sites for natural heritage interests e.g.
 - Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - National Scenic Areas (NSA)
 - Sites of Interest to Natural Science (SINS), Areas of Landscape Value (ALV)
 - Local Nature Reserves (LNR)
- ensure compliance with statutory provisions for statutory protected species and with regional biodiversity plans;
- promote biodiversity and protect of all wild, rare and vulnerable birds, their nests, eggs and habitats;
- maintain and restore natural habitats to ensure biodiversity;
- maintain and support landscape character and local distinctiveness;
- promote the provision of access links to existing footpaths;
- encourage the promotion of sustainable communities that focus on the sustainable use of natural resources;
- support strategies that help to limit or reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases;
- encourage increased use of renewable energy resources and more efficient use energy and water;
- protect wildlife from disturbance, injury intentional destruction;
- promote, safe environment, clean environment and good quality services;
- promote sustainable alternatives to car and reduce congestion traffic pollution through the promotion and provision of well-designed paths;
- promote economic growth, social inclusion, environmental improvement, health and safety;
- promote strategies that do not degrade the coastal environment;
- promote the economy, support the community and the public service;
- set the framework for development consents for major housing developments.
- help to promote protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment;
- seek to promote watercourses as valuable landscape features and wildlife habitats;
- ensure that the water quality and good ecological status objectives of the Water Framework Directive are maintained.

4.2 Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Schedule 3 requires that the Environmental Report includes a description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the CPP, and “the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected”. This section aims to describe the environmental context within which the CPP operates and the constraints and targets that this context imposes on the CPP. Appendix 3 summarises the data collected and the source and constraints. A brief overview of the current state of the environment in Aberdeenshire is given below:

- Aberdeenshire covers an area of 6361 sq. km. including the area of Aberdeenshire that lies within the Cairngorms National Park; the area covered by the Aberdeenshire Core Paths Plan is approximately 4680 sq. km. Aberdeenshire has a population of 239,160 and a population density of 38/sq. km.
- Aberdeenshire is bounded in the west by the Cairngorm Mountains, the north by the Moray Firth, the east by the North Sea and the southern boundary is the River Esk. A

map showing the Core Paths Plan area and the key settlements is contained in Appendix 1.

- A range of sites in Aberdeenshire have been recognised for their wildlife and geological interest. These include:
 - 18 Special Areas of Conservation
 - 10 Special Protection Areas
 - 4 Ramsar Sites
 - 82 Sites of Special Scientific Interest
 - 2 Local Nature Reserves
 - 50 Geological Conservation Review Sites (also includes Aberdeen City and the Cairngorms National Park)
- Sites of Interest to Natural Science (SINS) are currently the subject of a review in Aberdeenshire.
- Aberdeenshire also has a wealthy historic building environment of national regional and local importance Including:
 - 476 Scheduled Ancient Monuments
 - 2,151 Listed Buildings
 - 36 Conservation areas
 - 32 Gardens and Designed Landscapes

Note: A single monument can appear in more than one category and there is an element of double counting.

- Full details of designated sites are contained in Appendix 3.

4.3 Likely evolution of the environment without the CPP

As the development of a Core Paths Plan for Aberdeenshire is a statutory requirement of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 a "do nothing" option does not exist, however if the CPP were not developed, it is considered that the likely future changes to the area will include

- fewer people will be taking healthy recreational activities
- more conflicts between recreational activities and land management
- people will have less awareness of their environmental impacts
- people will have a less responsible use of the natural environment

4.4 Env. Characteristics of Areas Likely to be significantly affected

In the light of the baseline and problems identified for the Core Paths Plan, the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are summarised at Appendix XXX (Figures XXXX and Tables XXX).

Significant issues relating to each SEA topic have been identified in Table XXX: Environmental Problems.

5. Environmental Issues

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental Report should include a description of existing environmental problems, in particular those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance. The purpose of this section is to explain how existing environmental problems will affect or be affected by Aberdeenshire Core Paths Plan and whether the CPP is likely to aggravate, reduce or otherwise affect existing environmental problems. Environmental problems were identified through discussions with Aberdeenshire Council Natural Heritage Team and analysis of the baseline data. Relevant environmental problems are summarised in Table 3 below:

Table 3 Environmental Problems

| SEA Topic | Key Trends/Issues | Relationship to CPP |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing threat to limited number of species but increase in others • Ongoing threat to limited number of habitats but increase in others • Increase of access to designated sites could be damaging to some sites. • Lack of public awareness of biodiversity • Unauthorised/illegal access to vulnerable sensitive sites by motorised forms of transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The designation of a CPP will influence the nature and location of outdoor access activities • Opportunities may exist to prevent degradation of locally important sites through managed access • May be opportunities through Core Path Planning to improve knowledge and understanding of biodiversity • May be opportunities to discourage or prevent unauthorised/illegal access |
| Population and Human Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing population • General reductions in levels of health • Increasing obesity across Scotland • Increase pressure on use of Open Space • Poor access to services in rural areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Paths will increase the opportunities to take part in physical activities and reduce dependence on motorised transport • The promotion of Core Paths will increase the awareness of the opportunities for physical activity • Provision of Core Paths could increase opportunities for functional access and contribute to greater social inclusion |
| Material assets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher levels of managed green space • Increasing provision of signposted and waymarked paths and tracks • Increasing provision of dedicated cycle lanes/routes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The designation of a Core paths Plan will result in an increase in the level of managed outdoor access opportunities |
| Cultural Heritage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing access could impact adversely on the cultural heritage including designated sites and features • Lack of public awareness of cultural heritage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The designation of a Core paths Plan will result in an increase in the level of managed outdoor access opportunities • May be opportunities through Core Path Planning to improve knowledge and understanding of cultural heritage |

6. Scope And Level Of Detail Proposed For Sea

6.1 Alternatives

The production of a Core Paths Plan is a statutory requirement of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and therefore no strategic alternative has been considered. However, alternatives within the Plan have been considered during the assessment process mentioned in the background to the development of the Draft Plan. Other considerations used to select candidate paths apart from environmental impacts include financial considerations, deliverability and landowner/management considerations. The potential also exists to look at alternative path alignments and refinements once a proper understanding of the environmental impacts is gathered through the SEA process.

Comment [J1]: Where is this information?

6.2 Scoping in/out of SEA issues

Due to the nature and subject of the strategy, there are a number of SEA topics that, in the opinion of the Responsible Authority, do not require to be assessed in detail in the SEA. The scope and content of the SEA has been guided by the information requirements in Schedule 2 of the Act as identified in Table 4 below. The table also presents a justification for the view of the Responsible Authority as to which topic areas should be scoped out of this assessment.

Table 4. Scoping of SEA issues

| SEA issues | Scoped in | Scoped out | Justification |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|---|
| Biodiversity, flora, fauna | √ | | There is the potential for proposed Core Paths to cause damage to habitats and disturbance to protected species. There is however the potential for a positive impact through the management of access and the diversion of paths away from sensitive areas |
| Population and human health | √ | | The potential exists for significant positive impacts related to social inclusion and access to recreational opportunities, and reducing levels of isolation through increased access to Core Paths. The potential exists for significant positive impacts relating to human health through increased opportunity for, and access to, recreation and physical activity. |
| Soil | | √ | Most proposed Core Paths exist already. Any upgrading of existing paths or construction of a small number of new paths will not damage the soil structure unless in exceptional circumstances and then mitigating work would be carried out. This should be monitored. At the screening stage, SEPA was of the view that the CPP is "unlikely to have significant strategic environmental effects" in relation to soils. |
| | | | The Core Paths Plan provides for non |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Water | | √ | motorised access to inland waters. It is unlikely that any potential increase in use of these waters will have an effect on water quality. At the screening stage, SEPA was of the view that the CPP is <i>"unlikely to have significant strategic environmental effects"</i> in relation to water. |
| Air | | √ | The provision of the CPP may result in a small shift from motorised transport to walking and cycling but it is considered that the impact on air quality will be insignificant. The impact of dust, odour or industrial emissions will also be insignificant. At the screening stage, SEPA was of the view that the CPP is <i>"unlikely to have significant strategic environmental effects"</i> in relation to air. |
| Climatic factors | | √ | The provision of a Core Paths network will have no quantifiable effect on climatic factors. At the screening stage, SEPA was of the view that the CPP is <i>"unlikely to have significant strategic environmental effects"</i> in relation to climatic factors. |
| Material assets | √ | | A Core Paths network has the potential to better integrate public access with other land use activities leading to a significant positive impact. |
| Cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage) | √ | | A Core Paths network has the potential for both positive and negative impacts on cultural heritage. Access to and a better understanding of cultural heritage could have a positive impact. Negative impacts could result from increasing numbers resulting in damage to heritage sites and structures. |
| Landscape | | √ | The designation of core paths in Aberdeenshire will not introduce any significant new features into the landscape that do not currently exist. Nor will it impact significantly on important or sensitive landscapes. However, given the potential evolution of the CPP over a number of years, it is acknowledged that visual effects may arise from, for example, the introduction of signage and from path erosion from increased future use. However, this is proposed to be addressed within the mitigation measures presented in the ER. |

Based on the environmental topics defined for this SEA and recognising the level and scope of the Plan and the likelihood of significant environmental effects it is concluded that the SEA should be structured around four key environmental topics:

- Biodiversity, flora and fauna

- Population and human health
- Material assets
- Cultural heritage

6.3 SEA Objectives

Neither the SEA Directive nor the Scottish regulation specifically requires the use of objectives or indicators in the SEA, but they are very useful in describing, analysing and comparing environmental effects. SEA objectives have been drawn up for those SEA issues scoped into the assessment (see above). These objectives take account of the key environmental trends and issues outlined in Section 4 and their relevance to the specific scope and influence of the Plan. The environmental effects of the Plan have been assessed against these objectives. The SEA objectives are separate from the plan or programme objectives although they can influence each other and even overlap. Table 5 below shows the SEA objectives and sample criteria that have been used to assess the impact (both positive and negative) of the Plan on these:

Table 5 - SEA Objectives

| SEA Topic | Objective |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Biodiversity (Flora and fauna) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure the sustainable management of and avoid damage to designated wildlife sites and protected species. 2. Maintain biodiversity avoiding irreversible losses 3. Provide opportunities for people to come into contact with and promote understanding of the natural heritage |
| Population and Human Health | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Promote healthy living 5. Reduce and prevent crime and reduce fear of crime 6. Improve the quality of life for present and future generations |
| Material assets | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Make best use of existing infrastructure 8. Improve opportunities to access path networks and green spaces |
| Cultural Heritage | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. To protect and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage 10. To protect and where appropriate enhance designated sites and buildings. 11. To promote responsible access to and greater understanding of cultural heritage 12. To protect historic gardens and designed landscapes |

6.4 Methodology for assessing environmental effects

The seven (7) objectives listed in section 3 above as well as the core paths (routes) will be assessed against the SEA objectives. In selecting the routes, which are subject to this assessment, some key criteria have been agreed including:

- Paths that enable non-motorised access between communities or to wider path networks, and that are pleasant to use and circular where possible

- Paths/links that improve the potential for integrating access with land management and the natural and cultural environment
- Routes that provide good value for money (easy to develop and/or that support significant levels of use)
- Routes/links that provide greatest opportunity for multi use (by walkers, cyclists, horse riders and other non motorised use)
- Routes that contribute to encouraging tourism to the area

The effects of the objectives and paths will be predicted in terms of negative, positive, uncertain or neutral effects. The effects will further be evaluated to determine their significance in terms of reversibility or irreversibility of effects, risks, duration - permanent, temporary, long-term, short-term and medium-term - and cumulative - direct, indirect, secondary and synergistic. Table XXX and Table XXX show the framework that will be used to assess the environmental effects of the objectives and routes.

Table 6 - Core Paths Plan Objectives Matrix

| SEA Objectives | CPP Objectives | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. Ensure the sustainable management of and avoid damage to designated wildlife site and protected species | | | | | | | |
| 2. Maintain biodiversity avoiding irreversible losses | | | | | | | |
| 3. Provide opportunities for people to come into contact with and promote understanding of the natural heritage | | | | | | | |
| 4. Promote healthy living | | | | | | | |
| 5. Reduce and prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime | | | | | | | |
| 6. Improve the quality of life for present and future generations | | | | | | | |
| 7. Make best use of existing infra structure | | | | | | | |
| 8. Improve opportunities to access path networks and green spaces | | | | | | | |
| 9. To protect and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage | | | | | | | |
| 10. To protect and where appropriate enhance designated sites and buildings | | | | | | | |
| 11. To promote responsible access to and greater understanding of cultural heritage | | | | | | | |
| 12. To protect historic gardens and designed landscapes | | | | | | | |
| Key: ✓ = Compatible x = Not compatible □ = Not linked | | | | | | | |

All candidate Core Paths selected for inclusion in the draft Core Paths Plan will be assessed using professional judgement against the SEA objectives in order to predict the environmental impacts. The assessment will take into account the period over which any

potential impacts might occur, whether they are direct or indirect, permanent or temporary. Where necessary, expert and professional opinions will be sought.

Where significant environmental effect is found the potential for mitigation will be considered and whenever possible implemented. Alternative path alignments and refinements will also be considered and incorporated at this stage where appropriate.

A sample of the matrix to be used for individual path assessment is shown below.

KEY: SCALE OF IMPACT Positive (pos) Negative (neg) Neutral (0) Uncertain (?)

Table 7 Individual Core Paths Assessment Matrix

| SEA Objective | Path Number | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Ensure the sustainable management of and avoid damage to designated wildlife sites and protected species | | | | | | | |
| 2. Maintain biodiversity avoiding irreversible losses | | | | | | | |
| 3. Provide opportunities for people to come into contact with and promote understanding of the natural heritage | | | | | | | |
| 4. Promote healthy living | | | | | | | |
| 5. Reduce and prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime | | | | | | | |
| 6. Improve the quality of life for present and future generations | | | | | | | |
| 7. Make best use of existing resources | | | | | | | |
| 8. Improve opportunities to access path networks and green spaces | | | | | | | |
| 9. To protect and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage | | | | | | | |
| 10. To protect and where necessary enhance designated sites and buildings | | | | | | | |
| 11. To promote responsible access to and greater understanding of cultural heritage | | | | | | | |
| 12. To protect historic gardens and designed landscapes | | | | | | | |

An assessment of the cumulative and synergistic effects of the Plan will take into account the number of paths that are considered to have a negative or uncertain impact. To accurately assess the environmental impact of the Plan, ongoing monitoring will be required and this will be addressed in the Environmental Report.

7. Next Steps

7.1 Consultation Timescale – Aberdeenshire Draft Core Paths Plan

In accordance with the requirements of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, the Aberdeenshire Draft Core Paths Plan is currently available for public consultation. Notices were placed in public places and in a local paper and copies of the Plan are available to view at key Council offices, all Aberdeenshire libraries and on the Councils website. The consultation period is for 12 weeks and ends on 14 September 2009 and provides the opportunity for all interested parties to comment and submit formal objections to the Draft Plan.

Following the formal consultation period, objections received will be collated and resolution undertaken. If all objections are resolved the Plan will be formally adopted, if not a Public Local Inquiry may result.

7.2 Consultation Timescale – SEA

In accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, this SEA Scoping Report will be submitted to statutory consultees via the SEA Gateway. Following responses received from consultees, an environmental assessment of the Aberdeenshire Draft Core Paths Plan will be carried out and Draft Environmental Report will be prepared.

The Draft Environmental Report will be available for consultation for a six week period and will be available for viewing at a key Council office and on the Aberdeenshire Council website in accordance with the consultation procedures set out in the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. During this six-week consultation period the Aberdeenshire Draft Core Paths Plan will also be available at the same locations for comment in relation to the Draft Environmental Report. Comments on both the Draft Environmental Report and the Draft Plan may be submitted in writing or electronically.

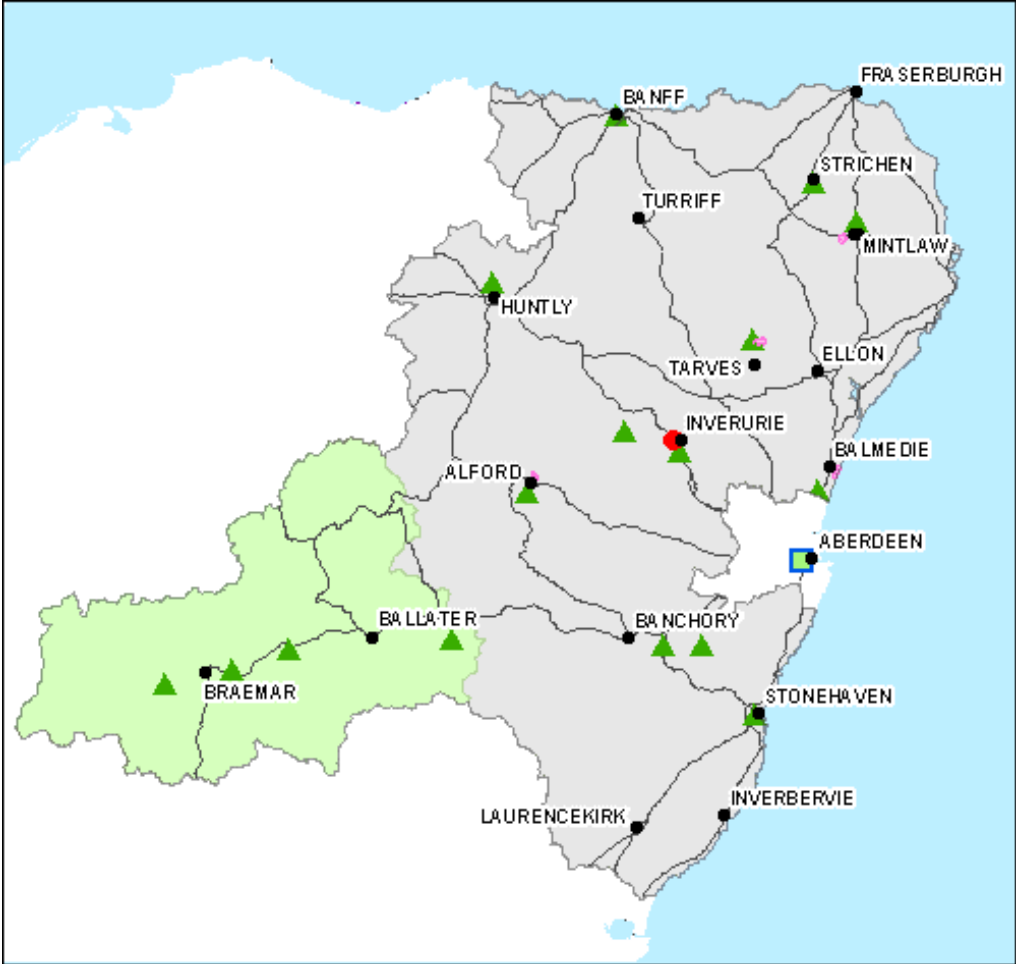
7.3 SEA Activity to date and Anticipated Milestones

| Date | SEA Process | Core Path Plan Process |
|------|--|------------------------|
| | First public engagement – 18 consultation events held across Aberdeenshire to identify where access is taken or would like to be taken | |
| | Preliminary assessment of findings | |
| | Development of key aim - to provide at least one core path for every settlement with a population in excess of 100 inhabitants | |
| | Development of criteria with Aberdeenshire Local Access Forum involvement used to assess paths for possible inclusion | |
| | Initial Draft Core Paths Plan drawn up and put out to First Informal | |

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| | Consultation | |
| | Analysis of comments received and review and modification of Initial Draft Plan | |
| | A formal 12 week public consultation is being undertaken. | |
| 7 September 2009 | Start of 5 week consultation period Scoping Report | |
| 14 September 2009 | | End of formal consultation on Draft Plan |
| 12 October 2009 | End of consultation period on Scoping Report and preparation of Draft Environmental Report | Negotiations on objections to the Draft Plan |
| 19 October 2009 | Start of 6 week consultation period on Draft Environmental Report and Draft Plan | |
| 30 November 2009 | Consultation on Draft Environmental Report and Draft Plan ends | |
| December 2009 | Consider comments and revise Draft Environmental Report as appropriate | Consider comments received from SEA consultation and revise Draft Plan as appropriate |
| TBC | Amend Environmental Report to reflect any revisions to the Draft Plan and publish post adoption SEA statement | If all objections resolved, adopt Core Paths Plan, if not possible Public Inquiry |

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1: Area Covered by the Aberdeenshire Core Paths Plan



Plan Area in grey

Appendix 2 Links to Other PPS and Objectives

| | Name of PPS / Environmental protection objective | Requirements of the PPS | How it affects, or is affected by CPP in terms of SEA issues* at Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 |
|---|--|--|---|
| | INTERNATIONAL | | |
| 1 | EC Birds Directive 79/409/EEC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for the protection, management and control of all species of naturally occurring wild birds; • Seeks to preserve habitats for naturally occurring, rare and migratory species | Biodiversity, Fauna and flora Core Paths Plan should not hinder protection, management and control of species of naturally occurring wild birds |
| 2 | EC Habitat Directive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora • Maintain or restore natural habitats • Take into account economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics | Biodiversity, Fauna and flora Core Paths Plan should maintain and restore natural habitats to ensure biodiversity |
| 3 | European Biodiversity Framework | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity • Emphasises education, training and awareness, research, identification, monitoring and exchange of information | Biodiversity, Fauna and flora Core Paths Plan should support conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity |
| 4 | European Framework on sustainable development 2001 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote quality of life, coherent and cost effective policy-making; technological innovation; stronger involvement of civil society; and business in policy formulation • Strategies for sustainable economic growth should support social progress and respect the local | All Issues Core Paths Plan support social progress and respect local environment - |

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| | | environment | |
| 5 | Kyoto Protocol (1992) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases • UK seeks to reduce emissions of six key greenhouse gases by 12.5% relative 1990 level over the period 2008 to 2012. | <p>Air & Climatic factors Core Paths Plan should limit or reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases Follow interpretations and targets interpreted into national, regional and local guidance</p> |
| 6 | Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguard the sustainable use of surface water; transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater • Supports the status of aquatic ecosystems and environments; • Addresses groundwater pollution; flooding and droughts; river basin management planning; | <p>Water Core Paths Plan should consider sustainable use of water and measures that mitigate the effects of floods and droughts</p> |
| 7 | European Landscape Convention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscapes across Europe. Highlights the need for public involvement, and promotes European cooperation on landscape issues. Sets out a range of different solutions that states can apply. | <p>Landscape Core Paths Plan should look to examples of good practise from other countries, and ensure protection and management of valued landscapes.</p> |

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| 8 | EU Thematic Strategy on Soil Protection (COM 2006/231) | <p>The overall objective is protection and sustainable use of soil, based on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing further soil degradation and preserving its functions when soil is used and its functions are exploited, action has to be taken on soil use and management patterns, and when soil acts as a sink/receptor of the effects of human activities or environmental phenomena, action has to be taken at source. • Restoring degraded soils to a level of functionality consistent at least with current and intended use, thus also considering the cost implications of the restoration of soil. | <p>Soil</p> <p>Core Paths Plan should protect soil resource</p> |
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| 9 | Climate Change: The UK programme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes local authorities central to more sustainable development and land use, energy efficiency, in housing provision, transport • Promotes well-being in communities through energy saving measures/low carbon technologies • Best Value Performance Indicator 180 requires local authorities to benchmark energy use in their operational property | <p>All Issues</p> <p>CPP should promote sustainable alternatives to car and reduce congestion traffic pollution</p> |
| 14 | Energy White Paper – Our Energy Future – Creating a low carbon economy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages cuts in UK’s carbon dioxide emissions • Commits to Increase the proportion of electricity provided by renewable sources to 10% by 2010, & double the proportion of electricity supplied by renewable by 2020 subject to consumer acceptance • Ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated | <p>Air & climatic factors</p> <p>CPP should promote sustainable alternatives to car use.</p> |
| 15 | The UK’s Shared Framework for Sustainable Development (2005) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages living within environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; | <p>All Issues</p> <p>CPP should promote healthy society, with</p> |

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| | | <p>achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance and using sound science responsibly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritises sustainable production and consumption; climate change and energy; natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; and sustainable communities. | <p>equal access to open space among different groups.</p> |
| 16 | UK Biodiversity Action Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks to conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK and to contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity through all appropriate mechanisms. | <p>Biodiversity, flora & fauna CPP should promote biodiversity</p> |
| 17 | Wildlife and Country Act 1981 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives protection to listed species from disturbance, injury intentional destruction or sale. | <p>Biodiversity CPP should protect wildlife from disturbance, injury intentional destruction</p> |
| 18 | Historic Scotland's Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the context for listed buildings, conservation areas, as well as Gardens and Designed Landscapes • Clarifies the context for listed building consents and the intervention by planning authorities | <p>Cultural Heritage CPP should be consistent with designations</p> |
| 19 | Meeting the Needs, Priorities, Actions and Targets for Sustainable Development in Scotland (2002) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritises responsible resource use; • Encourages the generation of less energy and use of power from renewable sources; • Encourages better land use planning, alternative service delivery and sustainable transport systems. | <p>All Issues CPP should promote efficient resource use, energy efficiency and layouts which reduce the need to travel</p> |
| 21 | The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for the designation and protection of European sites, of European Protected Species and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European sites. | <p>Biodiversity CPP should ensure the protection of sites and species designated under EU legislation.</p> |
| 22 | The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & C) Amendment (Scotland Regulations 2007 | <p>Expands the scope of the existing regulations to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1 of the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003, the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 and National Park authorities <p>It tightens the regulations regarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveillance of conservation status of habitats and | <p>Biodiversity CPP should tighten the protection of habitats and species</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> species • Protection of certain wild animals • Protection of certain wild plants • Monitoring incidental capture and killing • Offence of breaching licence condition • Abstraction and works authorised under water legislation | |
| 23 | Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out a series of measures, which are designed to conserve biodiversity and to protect and enhance the biological and geological natural heritage of Scotland. • Places a general duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity. | <p>Biodiversity, flora & fauna</p> <p>CPP should promote biodiversity</p> |
| 25 | Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 & 2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures that discrimination law covers all the activities of the public sector; and requires public bodies to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people. • Aims to end the discrimination that many disabled people face and gives disabled people rights in the areas of employment, education, access to goods, facilities and services and buying or renting land or property. | <p>Population and Human health</p> <p>CPP should build the needs of the disabled persons into its strategic actions</p> |
| 26 | Physical Activity Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims to increase and maintain the proportion of physically active people in Scotland. • Sets targets to achieve 50 percent of adults aged over 16 and 80 percent of all children aged 16 and under who meet the minimum recommended levels of physical activity by 2022 through building healthy public policy, creating supportive environments, strengthening community action, developing personal skills and directing health services at the people who need them most. | <p>Population and Human health</p> <p>CPP should promote physical activities</p> |

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| 27 | Scottish Historic Environment Policy 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out the policy for the identification and designation of nationally important ancient monuments • Sets the context to conserve the evidence of Scotland's past based on their cultural significance. | Cultural Heritage CPP should ensure the conservation of historic areas of cultural significance |
| 28 | SHEP No 2 <i>Scheduled Ancient Monuments</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out Scottish Ministers' policy for the identification and designation of nationally important ancient monuments, which range from 4000BC to World War Two defences in the 1940s. | <i>Cultural Heritage</i> Include a SEA objective that protects and enhances archaeological sites and other culturally important features. |
| 33 | SPP1 - The Planning System | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes sustainable economic Development in planning • Encourages and supports regeneration and social justice through the planning system • Maintaining and enhancing the quality of natural heritage and built environment | All Issues CPP should pursue sustainable economic development, regeneration and social justice |
| 34 | SPP 11 – Physical Activity and Open Space (draft) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures local authorities take a strategic approach to sport and open space provision; protects and enhances networks of open space; and supports opportunities for active and passive recreation; • Set standards for the quantity and quality of open space in new developments; provides for its long-term maintenance; and provides guidance on planning for development of new sports and recreation facilities. | Population and Human health CPP should promote physical activities |

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| 37 | PAN 58: Environmental Impact Assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks the provision of information and guidance on the legislative background to EIA, the process of environmental impact assessment, and the evaluation of environmental information by the planning authority and implementation through the planning decision. | <p>All Issues CPP should contribute to environment protection</p> |
| 38 | PAN 59: Improving Town Centres | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes lively, vibrant and viable town centres that provide a quality urban environment where people can live, feel safe, businesses can prosper and opportunities exist for new stimulating activities • Ensure town centres are flexible and adaptable if they are to remain active and attractive; and are accessible by a variety of efficient and effective modes of transport, have an amenity which is attractive, clean and safe, and are planned, managed and promoted in a positive way | <p>All issues CPP should contribute to sustainable economic development</p> |
| 39 | PAN 60: Planning for Natural Heritage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides advice on how development and the planning system can contribute to the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and understanding of Scotland's natural environment. • Encourages developers and planning authorities to be positive and creative in addressing natural heritage issues | <p>Cultural heritage, Landscape CPP should contribute to the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and understanding of the natural environment.</p> |
| 41 | PAN 65: Planning and Open Space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise the profile of open space as a planning issue • Provides advice on the role of the planning system in protecting and enhancing existing open spaces and providing high quality new spaces • Sets out how local authorities can prepare open space strategies and gives examples of good practice in providing, managing and maintaining open spaces | <p>Landscape, human health CPP should promote conservation and environment protection</p> |

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| 47 | PAN 77 Designing Safer Places | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights the positive role that planning can play in helping to create attractive, well-managed environments which help to discourage antisocial and criminal behaviour. • Aims to ensure that new development can be located and designed in a way that deters such behaviour as poorly designed surroundings can create feelings of hostility, anonymity and alienation and can have significant social, economic and environmental costs. | Cultural heritage, Population & human health CPP should safeguard safety |
| 48 | PAN 78 Inclusive Design | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks to deliver high standards of design in development and redevelopment projects; and widens the user group that an environment is designed for. Makes is a legal requirement to consider the needs of disabled people under the terms of Disability Discrimination legislation. | Cultural heritage CPP should promote high standard of design |
| 49 | Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Act provides responsibilities for local authorities to create and maintain core path networks. | Biodiversity, Landscape, Human Health CPP should be consistent with core pOSS plan |
| 50 | Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy, 2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has actions to continue to promote walking and cycling for sustainable transport and health benefits | Human health CPP should promote walking and cycling |

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| 51 | Protection of Badgers Act 1992 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aimed at protection of badgers, and applicable to wide range of land users, and hence uses. Prohibits any damage to setts, and encouraging access to setts by dogs. | <p>Biodiversity CPP should discourage any potential disturbance to badgers</p> |
| 52 | Healthy Eating, Active Living: Action Plan to improve Diet, Increase Physical Activity and Tackling Obesity (June 2008) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines scale and nature of issues in our communities, and recognizes role of physical environment in our physical and mental health. | <p>Population & human health CPP to highlight links between healthy communities and use of open space.</p> |
| 53 | Health Impact Assessment of Greenspace – A Guide | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guide to advise how to assess health and equity impacts of greenspace, and promote greater recognition in role of greenspace in improving health. | <p>Human Health CPP to be assessed through HIA.</p> |
| 55 | Building on Energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out strategic priorities to achieve target growth rate across the NE, whilst acknowledging that quality of life is a key factor both in retaining the population, and attracting more people. Recreation and natural environment are recognized as key components of the quality of life, and the plan aims to improve its overall position as measured against other city regions, over the next 5 years. | <p>Material Asset, Biodiversity, Population & Human Health CPP to set out measures to protect and improve upon recreational and natural environment component of our communities,</p> |
| 56 | Joint Health Improvement Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeks to encourage, support and enable individuals and communities to take shared responsibility for their own health and to work together to bring about improvements by enabling people to become involved in community issues; Supports action to suppress poverty, lack of physical activity and leisure facilities, poor housing and other factors that contribute to physical | <p>Population & human health Develop CPP that support health and well-being</p> |

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| | | inequality; | |
| 57 | North East of Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures the protection and enhancement of the biodiversity in the north east through the development of effective, local, working partnerships; • Ensure that national targets for species and habitats, as specified in the UK Action Plan, are translated into effective local action; • . | Biodiversity, fauna & flora CPP should promote biodiversity |
| 58 | North East Scotland Together Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire Structure Plan 2001-2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates a long-term sustainable framework of settlements in a hierarchy, which focuses major development on the main settlements in the North East, • Sets the strategic context for Aberdeenshire Local Plan which in turn set the framework for land use housing development | All Issues CPP should promote sustainable development |
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| 59 | Aberdeenshire Community Plan | The Community Plan for Aberdeenshire sets out five community planning themes. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Wellbeing: improving health and social care, housing and community safety; • Jobs and Economy: improving the economy of Aberdeenshire and the employment prospects of its people; • Lifelong Learning: developing opportunities and build stronger communities; • Sustainable Environment: reducing resource use, protecting the environment, combating climate change and conserving and enhancing biodiversity; • Developing our Partnership: to be as efficient and effective as possible | The implementation of the CPP will help meet two of the key objectives of the Community Plan |

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| 60 | Aberdeenshire Local Plan | Sets the context and targets for land use, and the direction as well as the capacity of housing development in Aberdeenshire | The CPP will need to accord with the objectives of and policies contained in the Local Plan and will assist in protecting public access from development |
| 61 | Aberdeenshire Parks and Open Space Strategy 2006 | Sets the framework of the audit of open spaces, and proper development, management and improvement parks and open space | The implementation of the CPP will assist in the management and improvement of access to open space |
| 62 | Aberdeenshire Local Transport Strategy | The Strategy draws together relevant policies and initiatives of the Council and identifies key transport objectives covering accessibility, integration, choice, environment and safety issues. The emphasis is on measures to enhance accessibility while also providing alternatives to the further spread of car dependence by encouraging more use of walking, cycling and public transport | The implementation of the CPP will help meet a number of objectives of the Strategy |
| 63 | Landscape character Assessment of Aberdeen, South and Central Aberdeenshire, Banff and Buchan, and Cairngorms | <p>Their purpose is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyze the forces for change that affect the landscape and suggest how different landscape characters types may respond to these changes; • provide guidance on how these forces for change may best be accommodated in the landscape; • identify the distinctive qualities of the landscapes character of that area through detailed assessments; and • draw up guidelines with recommendations for conservation or enhancement of the landscape character that builds on the local distinctiveness of the area. | The information contained in the study helped inform the effects that candidate Core Paths may have on the landscape |
| 64 | Aberdeenshire Council Economic Development Priorities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks to promote economic development in Aberdeenshire area based on renewable energy, integration of agricultural and fisheries sectors as | <p>Material Asset</p> <p>The CPP should be consistent with</p> |

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| | | well as having an input into employment land provisions | economic development priorities |
| 65 | Aberdeenshire Council Sustainability Charter 2004 | The Charter aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce key resource usage (i.e. energy, water, travel, and waste); • raise awareness; • adopt a sustainable purchasing policy; • reduce global footprint and • encourage consultation | The implementation of the CPP will help meet a number of key aims of the Charter |
| 66 | Aberdeenshire Council Carbon Management Programme 2007 | The programme seeks to achieve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall reduction in CO2 emissions of 20% by 2012 • An aspirational target to reduce CO2 emissions by 30% by 2012 | All CPP should promote reduction in CO2 emissions |
| 68 | Aberdeenshire Council Pitches Strategy Draft 2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out the context for effective and efficient development, management and rationalisation of Aberdeenshire pitches | Biodiversity, Population and Human health The CPP should promote efficiency and effectiveness |
| 69 | Aberdeenshire Council Sports and Active Lifestyle Strategy 2005-2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to participate in sport and physical recreation. • Develop the infrastructure, which will allow athletes and participants in sport and active recreation to flourish. • Build the capacity of communities to sustain sporting and recreational activities and new opportunities. • Raise the profile of sport and recreation and promote the contribution it makes to the quality of life in Aberdeenshire. | Human Health and Population The implementation of the CPP should ensure broad participation, flourishing of participants, and sustainability of facilities |
| | Aberdeenshire Countryside Access | The Strategy set out the co-ordination of Aberdeenshire's' plans and policies in relation to access across | The CPP will provide the basis of path delivery policy across Aberdeenshire |

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| | Strategy (1998) | Aberdeenshire. Published in 1998 prior to the LRSA it is due to be reviewed in 2010 | |
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Appendix 3 Environmental Baseline

SEA Topic: Water

| SEA Indicator | Quantified information | Comparators and targets | Trends | Issues/constraints | Data source(s) |
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| Water quantity in Special Areas of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Runoff is natural to within 10% at the 95-percentile flow for all | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The River Naver (1066km) in the | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yield of watercourses in the River Dee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualifying interests in the SACs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate Assessment |

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| <p>Conservation and Special Protection Areas</p> | <p>rivers in the River Dee SAC (2447km).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ythan Estuary has been adversely affected by high nitrate levels from agriculture & from to the riverbank alterations. | <p>Highlands is also a SAC and its runoff is natural to within 10% at the 95 percentile flow.</p> | <p>catchment may decline.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ythan Project has improved the river. Although the Ythan Project showed some improvement, SNH's monitoring is showing patchy breeding success by some of the SPA species and there is also evidence that the algal mats are spreading onto the mussel beds on which some of these species are entirely dependant. | <p>constrain how the SACs should be used and managed.</p> | <p>meeting for Aberdeenshire Local Plan (11th April 2006)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues</i> www.nerc-wallingford.ac.uk http://www.ythan.org |
| <p>Likelihood of flooding from new development</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between 2002 and 2004, apart from 9 applications, no large-scale planning applications have been granted planning consent in a flood plain. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moray Council's Development Plan Review identifies a number of flood alleviation projects currently underway. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because of "SPP7: <i>Planning and Flooding</i>," future approvals affecting floodplains are unlikely. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator shows a positive significant environmental effect. Local governments lack resources to implement necessary mitigation and adaptation measures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan 2001-2016: Environment Monitoring Paper (Aberdeenshire)</i> |

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| Ground water and river levels | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water runoff is reduced by public water supply • Runoff is natural to within 10% at the 95 percentile flow for all rivers in the North East. • 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 decrease by 20-30% under the high-emissions World Markets. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in water consumption from industrial consumers and from increased residential development. • Increase in leakages from pipe infrastructure as it 'ages'. | <p>Effects of climate change (such as predicted decrease in summer rainfall) means that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water efficient technologies should now be incorporated into new development (industrial and domestic) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre for Hydrology and Ecology (River Flow – gauging stations) (2004): http://www.nwl.ac.uk/ih/nrfa/station_summaries/op/SEPA-north_map.html • SEPA: http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/river_levels/data.htm • |
| Water quality (biology and chemistry) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2005 there was 1 failure. • In 2006 all bathing water passed the European tests. • Bathing water quality not consistently meeting EC Guideline Standards in Stonehaven, Cruden Bay. • The Ythan estuary is an SPA, so the sensitivity of the area is greater and therefore the overall effect is likely to be more significant than this implies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South West Scotland has the poorest bathing water quality principally due to leaching and runoff from agricultural practices (dairy). • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire is vulnerable from not-readily absorbed or transformed pollutants (class 4), except the south Highland Boundary Fault (near Stonehaven) & along the Formartine/Buchan coast. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on bathing water from future uses, such as the rise in water sports, which could have an adverse impact on water quality. • The Ythan estuary is an SPA, so the sensitivity of the area is greater and therefore the overall effect is likely to be more significant than this implies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPA: http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/bathingwaters/bw2006/north.asp • http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/bathingwaters/bw2006/north.asp • http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/groundwater/tools/vulnerability.pdf • |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length of poor rivers: 51km. • Length of seriously polluted rivers: 2.1km. • No of poor quality watercourse - 10 • No of seriously polluted watercourse - 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length of poor rivers in Scotland: 717 km. • Length of seriously polluted rivers in Scotland : 51 km. • No of poor quality watercourse in Aberdeen City-2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land based pollution is under stricter control, which has resulted in river quality throughout the North East slowly improving. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPA (River Classification Stretch Data, 2005): http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/classification/river_classification.htm • Scottish Biodiversity Forum (2003) <i>Towards a strategy for Scotland's biodiversity: Scotland's Biodiversity Resource and Trends</i> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shoreline along Sandford Bay & Boddam (Peterhead Power Station) (4km) is classified as poor. • Peterhead Power Station is likely to be contributing to the poor water quality. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other small sections along the coast (Gardenstown, River Don and Stonehaven) also have sections of coastline classified as poor. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2000, industrial effluent pollutes a total length of 58km of coastline in Scotland, representing 22%. • Sewage effluent is the main cause of polluted coastlines (87%). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the North East, the release of untreated sewage effluent. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPA (Coastal Classification Stretch Data, 2005): http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/classification/river_classification.htm and http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/data/classification/coastal_waters_classification.pdf • Scottish Executive Environment Statistics: |

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| Coastal Impacts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of motorised vehicles on sand dunes. • Balloon releases, and marine litter are damaging the marine environment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the North East, sea borne waste pollution is principally from urban sewage (although this is declining), chemical waste, and agricultural fertilisers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The situation is improving because there are only a few places that allow quad-biking legally. • Bathing water quality along the North East coast is improving. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major impact both on the sand dune erosion, wildlife and the enjoyment of other beach users. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Grampian Coastal Partnership (Annual Report 2005-06): http://www.egcp.org.uk/documents/Toc138674449 • Marine Conservation Society http://www.mcsuk.org/mcsaction/pollution/introduction |
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SEA Topic: Soil

| SEA Indicator | Quantified information | Comparators and targets | Trends | Issues/constraints | Data source(s) |
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| Contaminated land | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of statutory identified contaminated – 4. No of potential contaminated sites – 5000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of statutory identified contaminated in Aberdeen City – 0 No of potential contaminated sites – 900 <p>No of registered contaminated in the Northeast – 2.</p> | Legal regime for dealing with contaminated sites means the situation will improve in the future. | Contaminated land places financial and technological constraints on development. These constraints may dictate the type of development: the feasibility of remedial works may determine that a site is only suitable for industrial use; the cost of remedial works may determine that high-density housing is the only viable economic option. | <p>Aberdeen City Council (2001) <i>Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy</i> http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/acci/web/files/Pollution/ContaminatedLandInspectionStrategy.pdf</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council <i>Public Register of Contaminated Land</i></p> |
| Prime agricultural land (Grades 1 to 3.1) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime agricultural land is located in the central area (excluding Marr), near Stonehaven. Most Grade 2 prime agricultural land is near Laurencekirk (approx 950ha). | Aberdeen contains very little prime agricultural land (300ha). | Net loss of Scottish agriculture land from roads, housing and industry has doubled from 588ha in 1989 to 1,402ha in 2003. | Potential impacts of climate will constrain prime agricultural land available in the future. | <p>Scottish Executive Statistics (2005): Economic Report on Scottish Agriculture http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/2290402/05121</p> |
| Waste disposal in landfill | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2005 -landfilled BMW: 83,222 tonnes; Recycled/ composted MSW: 15.1% (23,366). BMW landfill allowances for Aberdeenshire are: 54,917 tonnes in 2009/10; 36,611 tonnes in 2012/13; and 27,340 tonnes in 2019/20. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2005 - landfilled (City) BMW: 70,773 tonnes; Recycled/ composted MSW: 16.5% (22,500 tonnes) (this has increased to 22% in 2005/06 Aberdeenshire's | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The trend is improving because Aberdeenshire Council is focussing on waste minimisation, and recycling second, hence the lower %. It is expected that the level of recycling will continue to rise. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited sites for recycling or composting biodegradable municipal waste (large, medium or small scale) to help the local authorities achieve their recycling and landfill targets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North East Scotland Area Waste Plan (2003) http://www.sepa.org.uk/nws/areas/northeast/awp/2.4.html Aberdeen City Council http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/acci/we |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | recycling targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005/06 – 17% • 2006/07 – 22% | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • b/site/Rubbish/rub_WasteStrategy.asp http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/113890/0027685.pdf |
| Soil erosion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coastline is largely eroding, but parts are being replenished with sand and gravel from larger rivers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Berwick to Aberdeen, the coastline is eroding, but is stable where there are rocky coasts or coastal defences. • . | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predicted climate change, bad land use practices, such as locating tracks/access roads on steep/ upland ground as well as increasing use of motorised vehicles on sand dunes is contributing to coastal erosion. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Strategic Flooding Issues Topic Paper</i> • Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> • http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/F00AC106.pdf |
| Waste tonnage | Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 - 75,842 • Mar 07 - 69,313 • Sept 07 - 81,527 | No Comparators | Increasing | | Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
| | Tonnage of waste to landfill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 – 62,209 • Mar 07 - 52,195 • Sept 07 - 58,347 | No Comparators | Increasing | | Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
| | Tonnage of waste recycled <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 –13,633 • Mar 07 - 17,118 • Sept 07 - 23,180 | No Comparators | Improving | | Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |

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| | Percentage of waste recycled <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sept 06 – 18%• Mar 07 - 24.7%• Sept 07 - 28.4% | No Comparators | Improving | | Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
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SEA Topic: Biodiversity

| SEA Indicator | Quantified information | Comparators and targets | Trends | Issues/constraints | Data source(s) |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| North East Biodiversity Action Plan (NE BAP) targets | <p>Transformed habitats resulting from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • farm intensification & inappropriate habitat “creation” • No of action plans for habitats identified in the NE BAP - 20 out of 26. • Action plans being developed – for upland species-rich grassland, coastal cliffs and heOSS, marine habitats, broadleaf woodland, heathland, lochs and ponds, and wetlands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of UK BAP priority species in Scotland in 2005: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable: 56 (27%) • Increase: 11 (5%) • Extinct: 5 (3%) • Declining (accelerating): 11 (5%) • Declining (slowing): 18 (9%) • Fluctuating: 3 (1%) • Unknown: 90 (44%) • Status of UK BAP priority habitats in Scotland in 2005: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable: 8 (27%) • Increase: 5 (13%) • Declining (accelerating): 0 • Declining (slowing): 12 (30%) • Fluctuating: 0 • Unknown: 11 (28%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NE BAP is meeting the targets for preparing action plans, as set out in the UK BAP. • UK BAP 2005 trends show that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 habitats (22%) and 42 species (11%) are increasing. • 17 habitats (39%) are thought to be declining, although this decline is slowing for 11 (25%) habitats. • 102 species (27%) are thought to be declining, but the decline is slowing for 36 (10%) species. • UK trend was unknown for 11 habitats (24%) and 47 species (13%). • Changes in farm practices have increased habitat and species numbers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat of Alien Species effecting water quality and ecological status of the rivers. • Native species and habitats are increasing, and the NE BAP is meeting the UK BAP targets, but UK priority species and habitats are still declining and require rigorous protection and enhancement. • Implementation of the NE BAPs is the key issue to enhancing biodiversity. • Equally, a constraint would be the loss of funding/support to complete that work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Executive (2006) <i>Key Scottish Environment Statistics</i>: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/921/0036584.pdf • UK BAP targets for Local Biodiversity Action Plans http://www.ukbap.org.uk/library/brig/trgtargets/ScotlandLBAPTTargets.xls • NE Biodiversity Action Plan: <i>Action Plans</i>: www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/habactionplan.htm • See survey work being done by the Council, using the Integrated Habitat Survey (IHS). |
| Designated areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 28 Natura sites in Aberdeenshire, which have implications for development. • SINS are currently under review but have been considered as a precautionary approach where other designated | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotstown Moor SSSI in Aberdeen is subject to indirect development pressure due to changes in the water table adjacent development, which is affecting flush and bog habitats. • Dee SAC is the only in | Housing pressure on designations are increasing | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Natural Heritage Topic Paper</i> • http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/on-line/corporate/factsandfigures/0405/index.htm |

| | may be impacted | affecting the City | | | |
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| Sites of Special Scientific Interests (SSSIs) | In Aberdeenshire there are 82 SSSIs occupying 39805 hectares and taking about 6.3% land. | There are 3 SSSIs in Aberdeen City occupying 47 hectares and taking about 0.2% of the City's land area. 12.92% of Scotland's land areas accommodate 1,455 SSSIs occupying about 1,036, 553 hectares of land | No trend | Development will put pressure on the resource | SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004.</i> <i>Battleby: SNH</i> |
| Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) | 5.6% of Aberdeenshire land area accommodates 18 SACs which occupy 35, 334 hectares of land | There is only 1 SAC (Dee SAC) in Aberdeen City it also affects Aberdeenshire There are 238 SACs in Scotland occupying 962, 667 hectares representing 9.9% Scotland's land take. | No trend | Development will put pressure on the resource | SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004.</i> <i>Battleby: SNH</i> |
| Special Protection Areas (SPA) | There are 10 SPAs in Aberdeenshire occupying 29,926 hectares representing 4.7% Aberdeenshire's land take. | There are 142 SPAs in Scotland occupying 630305 hectares representing 8% Scotland's land take. | No trend | Development will put pressure on the resource | SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004.</i> <i>Battleby: SNH</i> |
| Country Parks (CP) | Aberdeenshire has 4 CPs on 276 hectares of land and this represents 0.04% of the total land area. | 0.08 % of Scotland's land area accommodates 36 CPs which occupy 6, 481 hectares of land | No trend | Development will put pressure on the resource | SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004.</i> <i>Battleby: SNH</i> |
| Local Nature Reserves (LNR) | 0.004 % of Aberdeenshire land area accommodates 2 LNRs which occupy 28 hectares of land | Aberdeen City has 4 LNRs on 126 hectares of land and this represents 0.6% of the total land area. Scotland has 36 LNRs on 9410 hectares of land and | No trend | Development will put pressure on the resource | SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004.</i> <i>Battleby: SNH</i> |

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| | | this represents 0.12% of the total land area. | | | |
| National Nature Reserves (NNR) | 2.2% of Aberdeenshire land area accommodates 6 NNRs which occupy 14225 hectares of land | 1.5 % of Scotland's land area accommodates 63 NNRs which occupy 111913 hectares of land | No trend | Development will put pressure on the resource | SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004</i> . <i>Battleby</i> : SNH |
| Ramsar sites | There are 4 Ramsar sites in Aberdeenshire occupying 1239 hectares representing 0.2% Aberdeenshire's land take. | There are 51 Ramsar sites in Scotland occupying 313181 hectares representing 4.2% Scotland's land take. | No trend | Development will put pressure on the resource | SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004</i> . <i>Battleby</i> : SNH |
| Number of access issues logged | <p>Banff & Buchan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 - 0 • Mar 07 - 0 • Sept 07 - 1 <p>Buchan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 - 2 • Mar 07 - 1 • Sept 07 - 5 <p>Kincardine & Mearns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 - 14 • Mar 07 - 2 • Sept 07 - 12 <p>Marr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 - 5 • Mar 07 - 7 • Sept 07 - 5 <p>Garioch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 - 2 • Mar 07 - 2 • Sept 07 - 9 | No comparators | Improving | | To be dealt with under the Land Reform or Countryside (Scotland) Act |

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| | Formartine <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sept 06 - 1• Mar 07 - 1• Sept 07 - 1 Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sept 06 - 24• Mar 07 - 13• Sept 07 - 33 | | | | |
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SEA Topic: Climatic Factors

| SEA Indicator | Quantified information | Comparators and targets | Trends | Issues/constraints | Data source(s) |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| Proportion of heat and electricity generated from renewable energy sources and Combined Heat and Power (CHP) schemes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little uptake in renewable energy developments. • Only a handful of planning applications have been received for CHP and biomass heating systems. • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SE targets: 40% (6GW) of Scotland's electricity generated to be generated from renewable sources by 2020. • UK targets: 10% of the UK's electricity generated to be generated from renewable sources by 2010. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Things are likely to improve in the future through Aberdeenshire Council's SPG on Renewables | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient grid connections and constraints with certain types of renewable energy technologies. • Lack of appropriate locations identified for renewable energy technologies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish Wind Assessment Project (2005) <i>Gazetteer of wind power in Scotland</i> • <i>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 6: Renewable Energy</i> • Aberdeenshire Council (2004) <i>The Renewable Energy Strategy</i>: • Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Use of micro-renewable energy in Aberdeenshire</i> |
| Carbon dioxide (CO ₂) emissions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aberdeenshire an average dwelling house produces 6,318 kg CO₂, • Total road traffic is forecast to grow by between 22%-34% for the period 2002-2011. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aberdeen an average dwelling house produces 5,175 kg CO₂. • Kyoto Protocol (1997) CO₂ targets are 12.5% below 1990 baseline – Scottish emissions in 2002 were 6% lower. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall greenhouse gases are decreasing, but Aberdeenshire produces the highest amount of carbon dioxide in Scotland. • The majority of CO₂ emissions are from the burning of fossil fuels to generate power (principally electricity). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current layout of low-density housing does not reduce energy use (e.g. reducing wind chill, maximising solar gain). • Materials with high CO₂ levels are still increasingly popular (e.g. concrete and tarmac). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Foot Forward (2006) <i>Domestic Carbon Dioxide Emissions for Selected Cities</i>, British Gas http://www.britishgasnews.co.uk/managed_content/files/pdf/greenCity.pdf • http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/reports/cat07/0509211321_Reghq_report_2003_Main_Text_Issue_1.doc. • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Energy</i>, Aberdeenshire Council |

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| Areas affected by flooding (sea) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,743 properties in Aberdeenshire are located within the indicative floodplain or coastal area below 5 meters Ordnance Datum (OD). Settlements likely to be affected by rising sea levels are Harbours of Haserburgh, Peterhead, Stonehaven & the town centre of Stonehaven, Cowie; & Banff (east side) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 571 properties in Aberdeen are located within the indicative floodplain In Scotland, the number of residential properties in coastal areas below 5m OD is 86,793 The number of commercial properties in coastal areas below 5m OD is 7,037. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storm surges represent a less severe threat in the North East, as there are a high proportion of rocky coasts. Storm surges are predicted to rise by 5m, although they will be much lower further north. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible need for a management retreat of those settlements below the 5m Ordnance Datum mark. Sea defensive walls may be inadequate as sea levels rise because of climate change. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous_Projects/Flood_and_Coastal_Defence/Reports_and_Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues</i>, Aberdeenshire Council SEPA's second generation Indicative Floodplain Maps (1 in 200 year flood event) |
| Areas affected by flooding (fluvial) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,219 properties in Aberdeenshire (out of 95,174) are located within the indicative floodplain. Those settlements that are most likely to be affected by fluvial flooding (1 in 200yr) are: Fraserburgh, Turriff, Longside, Huntly, Kintore, Banchory, Newtonhill | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 309 properties in Aberdeen (out of 104,543) are located within the indicative floodplain. In Scotland, the number of residential properties within inland floodplains is 71,402. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compared with the rest of Scotland, far fewer properties in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire are at significant risk from flooding. The implementation of National guidance (SPP7: <i>Planning and Flooding</i>) will improve the situation | <p>Effects of climate change will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> create greater need for SuDS and local flood defensive schemes restrict location of new developments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous_Projects/Flood_and_Coastal_Defence/Reports_and_Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues</i>, Aberdeenshire Council |
| Areas affected by flooding (pluvial) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 72% of flood problems reported relate to urban drainage problems. Settlements in | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only a handful of sites in Aberdeen are affected by pluvial flooding, due to | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sewers designed to a 1:30 year return period will be over stretched resulting in an | <p>Effects of climate change will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> create greater need | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Flooding in Aberdeenshire: Fifth Biennial Report</i> Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire |

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| | Aberdeenshire that are affected by pluvial flooding include Huntly, Turriff and Westhill. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> culverts being too small for surface water run-off during heavy rain. | increased requirement of SuDS in all development schemes. | for SuDS in urban areas. | Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues</i> , Aberdeenshire Council |
| Priority Species | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 North East Local Biodiversity Action Plans are required to safeguard priority habitats and priority species | | <p>Effects of climate change is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is pushing some bird and fish species further north. Birch species may increase in pinewoods, and the tree line may shift from its current line (650m). Arctic-alpine habitats and arctic species, such as the snow bunting may disappear | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to promote appropriate native species in new development schemes to enhance existing biodiversity and preventing the spread of non-native species. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Executive (2004) <i>Scotland's Biodiversity: It's In Your Hands – A strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland</i> http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/25954/0014583.pdf NE Biodiversity Action Plan: <i>Action Plans:</i> www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/habactionplan.htm |
| Impact on natural resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen's annual global footprint (in global hectares per person (gha/p): Total: 5.80gha/p Energy consumption: 1.14gha/p (20%) Food and drink: 1.07gha/p (19%) Land travel: 0.81ha/p (14%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main contributors to the NE's global footprint are energy consumption, food and drink, and land travel. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire footprint is increasing and this cannot be sustained in the long-term. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North East Global Footprint Project http://www.scotlandfootprint.org/the_project/north_east.php Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Scotland's Global Footprint Project - Reduction Report for North East Scotland Global Footprint Project</i>, |
| Impact on year-round services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rise in sea level will affect services and maintenance works, and costs the Council height | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in winter precipitation, including snow melts and storms will affect drainage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing need for service provision throughout the year | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> |

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| | to 4.7m (a spring tide is 4.5m) | | pipe, road and rail infrastructure. | | |
| Perception that Aberdeenshire Council is environmentally friendly | <p>2004 – 51%*</p> <p>2006 – 51%</p> <p>Council's help to others to behave in an environmentally friendly-</p> <p>2004 – 33%</p> <p>2006 – 37%</p> | | | | The Residents' Survey published in October 2006 |

SEA Topic: Human Health

| SEA Indicator | Quantified information | Comparators and targets | Trends | Issues/ constraints | Data source(s) |
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| Quality and availability of public open space in urban and rural areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for larger areas of open spaces, including civic or town parks. • There is pressure to reduce the size of open spaces in residential developments. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City has development pressure as well | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pressure from private developers to develop on open space will continue. • There is growing demand for safer and more accessible areas of open space, which has promoted the creation of PAN65. | There is a lack of government funding to allow local authorities to continuously manage areas of open space. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City Council (2002) <i>State of the Environment Report</i> http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2424&SID=883 • Scottish Executive (2003) <i>Planning Advice Note 65: Planning and Open Space</i> • Scottish Executive (2006) Consultative draft <i>Scottish Planning Policy 11: Physical Activity and Open Space</i> |

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| <p>Improvements to quality of life in currently deprived areas</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire ranks high 31st out of 32 councils in terms of multiple deprivation*. • The most deprived areas are Banff and Buchan and Buchan, aserburgh Peterhead and Huntly • Strathbogie, Echt, Upper Ythan, Inch, Donside and Cromar, Fyvie-Methlick, Aboyne, Upper Deeside, Tarves, and Udy-Slains comprise the worst 5% wards due to poor access to services. • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen ranked 23rd* in terms of multiple deprivation. • In Aberdeen City, the highest levels of deprivation are located in Woodside, Tillydrone, Middlefield, Northfield, Cummings Park, Torry and Seaton neighbourhoods. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trend is improving | <p>Poor access to services in rural areas; centralisation of service provision, & low job opportunities and income could be</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council (2004) <i>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (Oxford Report) – Aberdeenshire: Key findings</i> http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/statistics/economic/SIMD%20Abs hire%20Key%20Findings%202004.pdf • Aberdeen City: Community Planning Regeneration Masterplans (2006/7) http://www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/Web/Site/Internet/RegenerationMasterplans.asp |
| <p>Sport and recreation facilities in areas of identified need</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive steps have been made to ensure everyone has access to sport, leisure and recreation facilities, however limited progress has been made to provide • : • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City Council (2002) <i>Active Aberdeen 2002-2007: A sport, recreation and physical activity strategy for Aberdeen City</i> • Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Sports Facility Study Updated Report</i> • sportscotland (2003) <i>Sport 21: 2003 – 2007:</i> |

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| | | | | • | <i>The National Strategy for Sport – Shaping Scotland's Future</i> |
| Cause of mental health (especially of poorer communities) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overcrowding: • Aberdeenshire – 12,536 (6%) • Private rented sector and Council stock are higher than in RSL stock or owner-occupied housing • Quality of life/health: • Aberdeenshire – Good: 73% • Fairly good: 20% • Not good: 7% • *Most common house type: Aberdeenshire - semi-detached (30%); • *Most common house type granted planning consent (units over 20): • Aberdeenshire - detached (74%); | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overcrowding: • Aberdeen – 5,054 (13%) • Private rented sector and Council stock are higher than in RSL stock or owner-occupied housing • Quality of life/health: • Aberdeen – Good: 70% • Fairly good: 21% • Not good: 9% • *Most common house type: Aberdeen – flats (49%) • *Most common house type granted planning consent (units over 20): • Aberdeen – flats (76%) • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences in housing stock between the City and Shire will become more extreme. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is envisaged that future structure plan will make more provision for housing | <p>NHS Grampian (2004) <i>Mental Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment</i>, Public Health Unit</p> <p>Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Characteristics of the Housing Stock</i></p> <p>Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council <i>Housing Needs Assessment 2004: Housing Market Area Report</i></p> <p>Shelter: http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/advice/advice-4035.cfm Register for General Scotland (2006) <i>Mid-2005 Population Estimates</i></p> |

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| <p>% of residents feeling safe after dark</p> | <p>October 2006 - 62% January 2008 - 87%</p> | <p>No Comparators</p> | <p>Improving</p> | <p>In the Citizens Panel consultation results published in January 2008 the top 3 issues for agencies to tackle were: Antisocial driving; Teenagers/ children causing a nuisance; Graffiti/vandalism.</p> | <p>(based on Residents Survey)</p> |
| <p>Number of casualties on the road</p> | <p>% change in killed and seriously injured based on 1994-1998 average 219</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 - 22.4% • March 06 – 24.2% • Sept 07 – 37.4% <p>% change in all child casualties based on 1994-1998 average 115</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 – 50.4% • March 06 – 44.3% • Sept 07 – 58.3% | <p>National Target 40% by 2010</p> | <p>Worsening</p> | <p>National Targets relate to 1994-1998 averages. Figures shown based on accidents in previous 12 mths.</p> | <p>In the Citizens Panel consultation results published in January 2008, 79% of those consulted saw Road Safety as a priority for the Community Safety Partnership.</p> |

SEA Topic: Population

| SEA Indicator | Quantified information | Comparators and targets | Trends | Issues/constraints | Data source(s) |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| Changing trends in household size | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire household figures: • 2003 – 93,800 • 2021 – 104,300 • Aberdeenshire household size figures: • 2003 – 2.41 • 2021 – 2.24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen household figures: • 2003 – 98,380 • 2021 – 107,610 • Aberdeen household size figures: • 2003 – 2.04 • 2021 – 1.83 • Average household size in Scotland is 2.27. • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household numbers predicted to increase. • 16,040 more houses are required in the Aberdeen Housing Market Area • 6,880 more houses are required in the Rural Housing Market Area • Household size predicted to decrease. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing number of households is creating more demand for housing (and land). • Possibility that the need for more development land could put pressure on or near sensitive natural heritage areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council's (2004) <i>Strategic Forecasts 2003-2021</i>: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=1720&SID=332 • General Register Office for Scotland: News Release – Household estimates for 2005 http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/press/news2005/drop-in-number-of-vacant-dwellings-and-second-homes-in-scotland.html |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in Aberdeenshire age structure of head of household between 2003 and 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30-44yrs: -6,660 60+: 16,700 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in Aberdeen age structure of head of household between 2003 and 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30-44yrs: -2,870 60+: +5,730 Average age in 2005 in Scotland is 38 (m) and 41 (f). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the North East, the number of households headed by people aged 60+ is predicted to increase by 50%. The number of households headed by people aged 30-44 is predicted to fall by 6,660, a decrease of 25% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The growing age of the head of the household may result in more homes needed for their needs (e.g. bungalows or special needs dwellings). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council's (2004) <i>Strategic Forecasts 2003-2021</i>: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=1720&sID=332 |
| Years of healthy life expectancy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life expectancy in Aberdeenshire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male 75.5 years Females 80.2 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life expectancy in Aberdeen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male 73.6 years Females 78.9 years Life expectancy in Scotland: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male 73.8 years Females 79.1 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life expectancy at birth for Scots continues to improve, and recent trends show a slight narrowing of the gap between males and females to around 5.3 years in 2002-2004. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aging population will create demand for certain types of houses (e.g. bungalows and services (increasing the need for more land) and care homes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Executive Statistics (2006) <i>Life expectancy</i> http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/TrendLifeExpectancy |
| Size of population | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire population figures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2003 - 229,330 2021 - 229,353 Average age in 2005: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire – 39 (m), 41 (f) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen population figures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2003 - 206,600 2021 - 202,636 Average age in 2005: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen – 38 (m), 41 (f). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 2% decrease within the City, and 0.01% decrease within Aberdeenshire. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council's (2004) <i>Strategic Forecasts 2003-2021</i>: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=1720&sID=332 |

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| Migration change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration loss 2002-05: Aberdeenshire is losing its population to Scotland. • Migration gain 2002-05: Aberdeenshire is gaining its population from Aberdeen and outside Scotland. • The relative age of those migrating to Aberdeen is 15-19 yrs; and Aberdeenshire are 0-14yrs and 30yrs plus. • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration loss 2002-05: Aberdeen is losing its population to Aberdeenshire and outside Scotland. • Migration gain 2002-05: Aberdeen is gaining its population from Scotland. • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The migration trend in the Aberdeenshire is slow growth to 2016 and then a slow decline thereafter. • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-migration will create greater demand for houses and services in Aberdeenshire . • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Population and household change</i> • Register for General Scotland (2006) <i>Mid-2005 Population Estimates Scotland Population estimates by sex, age and administrative area</i>, A National Statistics publication http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/05mype-cahb-booklet.pdf |
| Listening and Involvement | <p>Level of perception that the Council listens genuinely to local communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree (2004) – 25% • Agree (2006) – 18% <p>Level of is involvement in the communities it serves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree (2006) – 28% • Don't know (2006) – 25% • Neither/Nor (2006) – 27% • Could do more – 70% | No Comparators | Perception is worsening | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Residents' Survey published in October 2006 |

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| <p>Care assessment and provision</p> | <p>% Home care clients aged 65yrs receiving personal care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005/2006 - 91.1% • 2006/2007 – 93.8% <p>% Home care clients aged 65yrs receiving personal care as % of clients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06-73.7% • Mar 07-97.8% • Sept 07-75% <p>Number of home care clients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06-38 • Mar 07-46 • Sept 07-44 <p>% of over 65 yr olds receiving care in the evenings/overnight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005/2006 – 29.5% • 2006/2007 –32.2% <p>% of over 65 yr olds receiving care at weekends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005/2006 – 56.0% • 2006/2007 –58.2% | <p>No comparators</p> | <p>Improving</p> | <p>The agreed timescale from initial contact is 14 days. The Social Work service is developing a performance management framework in which all indicators will be reviewed. Targets and tolerances will also be considered as part of this review.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
| <p>Support for young and vulnerable</p> | <p>The percentage of children/families offered/provided with a service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06-93.2% • Mar 07-93.8% • Sept 07-98.4% <p>No of Children/Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06-44 • Mar 07-48 • Sept 07-61 | <p>No comparators</p> | <p>Improving</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This can include assessment within 28 days of referral | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |

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| <p>School placements</p> | <p>% of children with fewer than 3 placements during the current period looked after</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06-76.5% • Mar 07-72.5% • Sept 07-75.4% <p>Number of children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06-200 • Mar 07-193 • Sept 07-191 | <p>No comparators</p> | <p>Improving Over the past 18 months, the Council has consistently maintained 75% of all children/young people accommodated away from home in stable placements with only a quarter of children experiencing more than 3 changes in placement during the period of care.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
| <p>Fuel Poverty Assistance</p> | <p>In 2006/7 Aberdeenshire Council Energy Efficiency Advice Project had 305 new cases and dealt with 8,164 enquiries of which a high proportion was fuel poor households. SCARF Cosy Homes project targeting fuel poor had 51% of its referrals from Aberdeenshire and installed 121 energy efficiency measures. SCARF Fuel Cost Campaign for winter 2006/7 across 6 Local Authority areas including Aberdeenshire, resulted in a 49% increase in enquiries on the cost of fuel and other campaign issues.</p> | <p>The information on Scottish fuel poverty statistics is from a survey of 2004/5, which shows that between 2002 and 2004/5 the number of Scottish households in fuel poverty had increased 293,000 (13% of households) to 419,000 (18.2% of households).</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |

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| <p>Care and support for homeless</p> | <p>Time taken between presentation and completion of duty by the Council for those cases assessed as homeless or potentially homeless 2005/2006 -15.3 weeks 2007/2008 - 17.6 weeks The percentage of households in temporary accommodation in temporary bed & breakfast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06-38.9% • Mar 07-35.4% • Sept 07-36.7% <p>Number of households</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06-226 • Mar 07-246 • Sept 07-248 | <p>Scottish average of 21 weeks.</p> | <p>No significant improvement</p> | <p>Housing availability</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
| <p>Recreational and leisure facilities</p> | <p>2005/06 percentage in use (number of berths/number in use)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer - 103% (228/234) • Winter - 60% (187/112) <p>2006/07 percentage in use (number of berths/number in use)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer -90% (326/293) • Winter – No data | <p>No comparators</p> | <p>The percentage of berths in use was lower in 2006/07 than in the previous summer season although the actual number of berths in use is up from 234 to 293. There were fewer berths available in summer 2006 with Banff Marina closed for improvements. In summer 2007 silt movement reduced the available berths in Johnshaven harbour and the repositioning or mooring chains reduced the number of berths at Rosehearty.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |

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| Number of visitors to country parks | 2006/07 March - 56000 September – 71000 2007/08 March – No data September - 70,000 | The target for visitors to country parks in 2007/08 is to achieve a 1% increase on the previous year, the monthly average for 2006/07 was 66,000. | No trend | • | Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
| Secondary School - role and capacity | Aberdeenshire Total Role • 2006 –15,948 • 2007 –15,848 • 2008 –15,635 Total Capacity • 2006 – 16,210 • 2007 – 16,210 • 2008 – 16,210 | To comparators | No significant trend | • | Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
| Primary School - role and capacity | Aberdeenshire Total Role • 2006 –19573 • 2007 –19267 • 2008 –19045 Total Capacity • 2006 – 24965 • 2007 – 24943 • 2008 – 24943 | To comparators | No significant trend | • | Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |

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| Achievement and attainment | <p>Aberdeenshire 2006 –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • top 3 local authorities in Scotland • 5 out of the 21 recognised measures of attainment for S4, S5 and S6; • top 6 in 19 of the 21 measures; and, • top 10 in all 21 of the measures. • one of the top 6 local authorities in all but one of these measures. | When benchmarked against the family of comparator authorities, Aberdeenshire was first on ten of the measures, and second on the other six. | No trend | • | Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
| | <p>Aberdeenshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96% of adult participants thought they had gained a new skill; • 73% of adult participants were likely to continue learning; • 57% of young participants felt they were more confident as a result of having joined a group; • 81% of adult participants said that their learning had helped them to be more active in their community. | No comparators | No trend | • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report by the Scrutiny & Audit Committee on Community Learning and Development in Aberdeenshire (SAC Report No. 12 |
| The number of media issues to the public (new indicator introduced April 2007) | <p>Aberdeenshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 07 -104,877 (Monthly average over six months = 104,211) | No Comparators | No trend | • | Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |

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| The number of hits on the online reference database (new indicator introduced April 2007) | Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 07 - 1,547 (Monthly average over six months = 1,423) | No Comparators | No trend | • | Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
| The number of hits on the ALIS online catalogue (new indicator introduced April 2007) | Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 07 - 112,272 (Monthly average over six months = 100, 810) | No Comparators | No trend | • | Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
| Number of visits to Aberdeenshire Arts website | Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 07 - 11,200 (Monthly average over six months = 10,566) | No Comparators | No trend | • | Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
| The number of attendances at council swimming pools | Aberdeenshire Mar 07 - 384,951 Sept 07 - 376,608 | No Comparators | No trend | • | Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
| The number of attendances at council indoor sport and recreation facilities | Aberdeenshire Mar 07 - 104,869 Sept 07 - 115,963 | No Comparators | No trend | • | Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |

: SEA Topic: Cultural Heritage

| SEA Indicator | Quantified information | Comparators and targets | Trends | Issues/constraints | Data source(s) |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|
| Scheduled Ancient Monuments | Aberdeenshire • 476 | Aberdeen City- • 37 | Development is putting pressure on this feature | The location of new developments will be constrained by this factor | http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/scheduled-monuments.pdf |
| Listed Buildings | Aberdeenshire • Category A - 198 • Category B - 1608 • Category C(s) - 1906 | Aberdeen City • Category A - 69 • Category B - 680 • Category C(s) - 462 | No trend | New housing should take this into account | Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Built Heritage</i> Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland (Scottish Civic Trust) http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/browsea.asp Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG18: Planning and the Historic Environment</i> |
| Conservation Areas | Aberdeenshire • 36 | Aberdeen City • 11 | No trend | The location and design of developments will be constrained by this factor | http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/acc/web/site/Planning/SL/pla_ConservArea.asp http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/devservices/index.asp |
| Archaeological sites | Aberdeenshire • 17935 | Aberdeen City • 699 | Development is putting pressure on this feature | The location of new developments will be constrained by this factor | Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Built Heritage</i> Scottish Executive (1998) <i>NPPG5: Archaeology and Planning</i> |

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| <p>Numbers of listed buildings sites at risk</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbers of buildings at risk Aberdeenshire: 117 (6 under restoration) 3% of listed buildings on the Buildings at Risk register for Aberdeenshire: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbers of buildings at risk Aberdeen: 10 (1 under restoration) 0.62% of listed buildings on the Buildings at Risk register Aberdeen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No trend | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only a small number of buildings at risk are undergoing restoration. The majority of the buildings at risk are in rural areas, with few undergoing restoration. | <p>Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Built Heritage</i></p> <p>Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland (Scottish Civic Trust) http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/browse.asp Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG18: Planning and the Historic Environment</i></p> |
| <p>Number of attendances at North East Arts Touring</p> | <p>Aberdeenshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 2007 - 11,900 <p>Aberdeenshire Council's museums were</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2007 - 1,106, and September 2007 - 7,200 Directly managed Council museums achieving registration/accreditation - (11) Indirectly managed Council museums achieving registration/accreditation Two-thirds (6) | <p>No Comparators</p> | <p>No trend</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | <p>Accreditation and Registration by 'Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.</p> <p>panel members were very positive about cultural events in Aberdeenshire, with comments such as "it is easy for me to travel to and from events", "it is easy to find out about activities/events", "the range of activities/events is as good as elsewhere in Scotland", and "the quality of venues is as good as elsewhere in Scotland". The top three potential venues were village halls (80%), community centres (74%) and local schools or colleges (73%).</p> <p>The cultural and historical environment is protected: The Council runs 11 museums and 3 heritage centres, in addition there are 3,718 listed buildings</p> |

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| | • | | | | in Aberdeenshire. |
| No. of sites in Aberdeenshire | Aberdeenshire • Sept 06 -17,313 • Mar 07 - 17,511 • Sept 07 - 17,737 | No Comparators | Improving | • | |
| No. of planning applications, etc., the Archaeology Service commented on | Aberdeenshire • Sept 06 -41 • Mar 07 - 49 • Sept 07 - 55 | No Comparators | Improving | • | Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
| No. of excavations, evaluations, etc., the Archaeology Service instigated to mitigate against the loss of sites | Aberdeenshire • Sept 06 - 27 • Mar 07 – 24 • Sept 07 - 31 | No Comparators | Improving | • | Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |

SEA Topic: Landscape

| SEA Indicator | Quantified information | Comparators and targets | Trends | Issues/constraints | Data source(s) |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| National Scenic Areas (NSA) | There is 1 NSA in Aberdeenshire occupying 43300 hectares of land and representing 6.8% of land take | There are 40 NSAs in Scotland occupying 1, 001, 800 hectares of land. This represents 12.5% of Scotland's land area. | No trend NPPG14 places strong emphasis on conserving important landscapes, and development within NSAs is unlikely unless it conforms to this national policy. | The insensitive siting and design, as well as type (e.g. dwelling(s), wind farm or quarry) of any new development may adversely affect nationally designated landscapes in some areas of Aberdeenshire. Housing development will put pressure on the resource | SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004</i> . <i>Battleby</i> : SNH |
| Townscape quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 conservation areas in Aberdeenshire. • 7 Aberdeenshire Towns Partnerships (ATP) in Ellon, Banff and Macduff, Fraserburgh, Huntly, Inverurie, Peterhead and Stonehaven have develop plans to maintain and enhance the continued social, economic and environmental vitality of these settlements. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 conservation areas in Aberdeen City • 6 regeneration masterplans are being drafted in the City | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of the departures in Aberdeenshire have been approved against structure plan Policy 20 (Built and cultural environment), mostly for replacing old-fashioned windows and doors with the modern equivalent replacement. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAN52 aims to encourage local councils and other public/private bodies to help reinforce the character and identity of small towns by restoring, enhancing, improving and rehabilitating the best and worst areas of these settlements. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership http://www.atap.org.uk/home.htm • Aberdeen City: Community Planning Regeneration Masterplans (2006/7) http://www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/Web/Site/Internet/RegenerationMasterplans.asp • Scottish Executive (1997) <i>PAN 52: Planning in small Towns</i> |
| Landscape setting | Aberdeenshire landscape characteristics from mountain to sea- comprising Cairngorm mountains and outliers form the rugged and often snow covered core of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen's landscape provides a strategic setting for the City, imbuing it with a particular sense of place and character. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historically featuring some native woodlands, these areas of indigenous trees have all but gone now leaving a | Strategic planning objectives for Aberdeenshire will constrain how land is development. They seek: To further integrate landscape | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Environmental Services, Aberdeenshire Council |

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| | <p>Aberdeenshire, and extend from the Cairngorm central massif into the main areas of the region.</p> <p>Moorland plateaux fringes the mountain areas of Aberdeenshire and is located on relatively high ground, featuring open expanses of smoothly rounded, typically heather clad or wild grassland areas, often punctuated by peat lands.</p> <p>The highland glens are typically steep sided head of valley features for the wider lower valleys and to a degree define the boundaries of the upper moorland and mountain areas. The glens provide the beginnings for many of the watercourses of Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>The strOSS and valleys lead from the glens as they widen out, and provide the setting for the main rivers of the region, typified by Strath Don and the Dee Valley.</p> | <p>There are landscapes and features around and within the City – the beach links and promenade, the cliffs at Cove, Brimmond and Elrick Hills, and the Dee and Don Valleys, to name just a few – which are prime examples of the local environments which together create a landscape setting for the City that anyone can readily recognise. In effect, it is this landscape setting which helps to make Aberdeen an attractive place to live, work and play.</p> | <p>relatively desolate landscape. In more recent times some commercial forests have been planted in parts of these areas introducing blocks of spruce plantation to the moors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These remote often small-scale landscape features define the slopes and shape of the surrounding higher ground, providing the physical link to the lower strOSS and valleys of Aberdeenshire. The glens are typically predominately heather or rough grassland landscapes often featuring some native woodlands as well as commercial forestry plantations towards their valley floor. Small scale agricultural fields and farm steadings also start to feature in the lower areas of some of the glens . • The landscape of | <p>into regional planning policies, including environmental, cultural, agricultural and economic policies, as well as any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on the landscape.</p> <p>To accommodate future development without adversely altering the basic valued landscape character of the areas concerned.</p> <p>To recognise landscape as an essential component of people's surroundings that contributes directly to their quality of life and identity at an individual and community level. The landscape is a fundamental component of cultural and natural heritage and needs to be appropriately conserved to form the basis of a quality environment.</p> <p>To develop and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape planning and protection management through the adoption of specific measures.</p> <p>To establish procedures for the participation of all parties with</p> | |
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| | <p>The agricultural heartlands lie beyond the strOSS and valleys and cover the lower lying areas of Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>Coastal cliffs, beaches and links duneland define Aberdeenshire's coast beyond the farmland.</p> <p>Often associated with these beaches is the links dune land forming a transition between the coastal area and inland agricultural land. The links and duneland can include relatively stable coastal grasslands as well as more dynamic coastal dune systems often featuring rapidly shifting sand systems.</p> | | <p>these areas features pastoral and arable farming often set in a framework of commercial forest plantation and broadleaf woodland. The strOSS and valleys are relatively well populated usually featuring farmsteads and rural private properties, and are often the location for the main road corridors of the area as well as a string of hamlets and villages. Many of the settlements have been consciously developed and designed by local estates in or around the 19th century, featuring architecture typical of the period.</p> | <p>an interest in landscape issues with an interest in the development and implementation of strategic landscape policies.</p> | |
| Landscape character | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen City has Open Farmland (52 km²); Wooded Farmland (26 km²); Valley (20 km²); Hill (20 km²); Coast (7 km²); and Urban area (60 km²). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPPG 14 states that particular care is needed when considering proposals for new development at the edge of settlements or in open countryside. | <p>The inappropriate scale and insensitive siting of enabling development may adversely affect landscape characteristics (e.g. changing it's landscape character type, not respecting local topography/contours).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG14: Natural Heritage</i> Scottish Executive (1994) PAN44: <i>Capacity for housing in the landscape.</i> Scottish Natural |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The four Landscape Character Assessments that cover the North East provides a brief overview of past land use practices and discusses potential land uses for existing landscapes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PAN44: <i>Capacity for housing in the landscape</i> | | <p>Heritage (1997) <i>National programme of landscape character assessment: Banff and Buchan</i>, Review No 37.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <i>South and Central Aberdeenshire: landscape character assessment</i>, Review No 102. Scottish Natural Heritage (1996) <i>Landscape character assessment of Aberdeen</i>, Review No 80 |
| Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL) | 0.9 % of Aberdeenshire land area accommodates 32 GDLs which occupy 5745 hectares of land | Aberdeen City – 1 GDL 0.83% of Scotland’s area accommodates 386 HGDLs which occupy 66765 hectares of land | No trend | Housing development will put pressure on the resource | SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004</i> . Battleby. SNH |

SEA Topic: Material Assets

| SEA Indicator | Quantified information | Comparators and targets | Trends | Issues/constraints | Data source(s) |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| Number of vacant dwellings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of vacant dwellings and second homes in 2005: Aberdeenshire: 4,8681 (decrease of 15% since 2001) and 4.6% of the total housing stock. In Aberdeenshire there are 749 (5%) vacant commercial properties. Between 2004 and 2005 the number of vacant (and second homes) in Aberdeenshire fell by 250 (-5.1%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of vacant dwellings and second homes in 2005: Aberdeen: 5,574 (5.1% increase since 2001) and 5.2% of the total housing stock. Between 2004 and 2005 the number of vacant (and second homes) in Aberdeen increase by 315 (6%). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of vacant dwellings in Aberdeen is increasing, while in Aberdeenshire the figure is falling. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population increases into Aberdeenshire is causing the difference between the City and the shire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of dwellings in disrepair in 2002: Aberdeenshire: 63,000 (70%) against 27,000 that are not in disrepair. Number of dwellings where their disrepair is classified as "urgent" in 2002: Aberdeenshire: 28% Number of dwellings (by tenure) failing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard in 2002 in: Aberdeenshire: rented (LA/HA) - 50% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of dwellings in disrepair in 2002: Aberdeen: 76,000 (81%) against 18,000 (19%) that are not in disrepair. Number of dwellings where their disrepair is classified as "urgent" in 2002: Aberdeen: 43% Number of dwellings (by tenure) failing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard in 2002 in: Aberdeen: rented (LA/HA) - 60% owner-occupied/ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both Aberdeen city and Aberdeenshire have lower rates of stock failure than the Scottish average, although levels are still quite high. Failure rates are slightly higher in the private sector than in the social rented sector. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Characteristics of the Housing Stock</i> Communities Scotland (2004) <i>Scottish House Condition Survey 2002</i>, http://www.shcs.gov.uk/pdfs/SHQ_Sreport.pdf#sear |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> owner-occupied/ private rented – 55% (HA=Housing Association) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> private rented – 64% (HA=Housing Association) | | | ch=%22Scottish%20House%20condition%20survey%20SHQS%22 |
| Derelict and vacant land (and buildings) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Aberdeenshire: 21 sites totalling 9ha is derelict; and 25 sites totalling 27ha is vacant. In Aberdeenshire the total area of derelict and urban vacant land has declined significantly from 190ha in 1996 to 36ha in 2005. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Aberdeen: 18 sites measuring 72ha is derelict; 32 sites measuring 116ha is vacant; & combined represents 2% of the total vacant and derelict land recorded in Scotland. Since 1996, the total area of derelict and urban vacant land in Aberdeen has remained steady (2005 figures stand at 180ha). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area of derelict and urban vacant land in Aberdeenshire has decreased significantly | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Executive (2006) <i>Statistical Bulletin: Scottish Vacant Derelict and Derelict Land Survey 2005</i> http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/91002/0021846.pdf |

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|-------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| Existing flood defences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Aberdeenshire, flood studies have been carried out in Huntly, Inverurie, Rosehearty, Auchnagatt, Fyvie, Maryculter (Mill Inn), Alford and Aboyne. Emergency works had to be carried out on Stonehaven's seawall foundations as coastal erosion caused part of it to collapse. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood defence schemes will progressively be affected by soil/sand erosion from increasing rainfall and storm events, which will affect their stability and effectiveness. As a result, there will be a need to increase the maintenance these defences, and possibly relocate them. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The predicted rise in storm events and winter precipitation is likely to increase soil/sand erosion from the wind and rain/water, which may prevent flood defence schemes functioning properly and result in their failure (e.g. collapse). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Flooding in Aberdeenshire: Fifth Biennial Report</i> http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/flooding/report/5biennial.pdf Halcrow (2006) <i>Aberdeen Bay Coastal Defence Scheme, Aberdeen city Council Project Appraisal Report</i>, Aberdeen City Council |
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| Existing pumping stations and sewage works | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire has significant constraints throughout most of the area, with the exception of a handful of settlements, including Westhill and Inshch | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2003, it was identified that the cost of overcoming development constraints in Scotland is £435.1m, of which 89% was identified for the removal of waste water constraints, and 11% for water supply constraints. The North East accounts for 5% of the Scottish total (£18.1m), which is mostly required in Aberdeenshire. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data used for this assessment can only be considered as a draft, and will be subject to change in relation to Scottish Water's and SEPA's understanding of asset performance and development potential identified by planning authorities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a significant wastewater constraint issue in most of Aberdeenshire, which may have adverse effects on water quality. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Development Constraints (Water and Waste)</i> Scottish Water (2006) <i>Strategic Asset Capacity and Development Plan</i> http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/portal/page?_pageid=627,4099564&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL |
| Water treatment works | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the exception of areas in and around Peterhead, Banchory, Ellon, and Torphins, Aberdeenshire require significant works upgrades. Turriff and Banff and Macduff have been identified with severe water supply constraints. | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a significant water supply constraint throughout most of the North East, with the exception of a handful of settlements. | |
| Supply of affordable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire: Net requirement of 915 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The demand for affordable housing per annum in | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The supply affordable homes in the North | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need to review the proportion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Aberdeen Council and |

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| housing | <p>affordable housing units (this represents two-thirds of the estimated new build in the area).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | <p>Aberdeen is a net requirement of 897 affordable housing units;</p> | <p>East are not meeting the demand, even with additional Scottish Executive grants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main shortfall is for one bedroom and larger (4 plus) bedroom dwellings. | <p>of affordable housing in new build in both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.</p> | <p>Communities Scotland (2005) <i>2004 Housing Needs Assessment</i>,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council and Communities Scotland (2005) <i>2004 Housing Needs Assessment, Executive Summary</i>, Fordham Research http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/councilhousing/reports/aberdeenshire_hna_final_summary.pdf |
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| Supply of holiday homes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of second/holiday homes: • Aberdeenshire (excluding the coast) • 1 to 5%: southern Aberdeenshire (e.g. Mid Deeside and the Mearns area), and coastal areas excluding Peterhead • 10%: Donside Valley • 10-20%: Portsoy coast (Banff) and Aberdeen • 20%+: Upper Deeside (Cairngorms) • In Aberdeenshire second/holiday homes account for 2% of the housing stock. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of second/holiday homes: • 0 to 1%: Aberdeen, central and northern • In Scottish rural areas, the proportion of housing stock accounted for by second/holiday homes is over seven times greater than in urban areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aberdeenshire, only a small fraction of the total housing stock accounted by second/holiday homes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of second homes rented out by oil companies could be sold off as the oil sector declines. • A shortage of holiday homes will adversely affect the tourist trade in Aberdeenshire's most popular areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank of Scotland House Price Database; ONS http://www.hbosplc.com/economy/includes/30-07-05FTBsPricedOutofScottishCountryside.doc • PRECIS (2005) <i>No.70 The impact of second and holiday homes on rural communities in Scotland,</i> |
| Access to good quality affordable housing | <p>Percentage of vacant housing properties offered to new tenants within less than 10 working days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 -87.9 % • Mar 07 -97.7 % • Sept 07 -93 % | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Comparators | Improving | Funding | <p>The Residents' Survey published in October 2006 reported that 54% of those responding were satisfied with Housing services, this compares with 47% in 2004.</p> |
| Proportion of building materials from sustainable sources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aberdeenshire, work on increasing the energy efficiency and use of materials from sustainable sources in new dwellings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of • SPP1 - sustainable development; PAN 67 - layout, design and materials to be used, | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Executive (2003) <i>SPP1: The Planning System</i> • Scottish |

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| | <p>are being researched in a project entitled Index 21. The outcome of this work will be incorporated into the next local development plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although Aberdeenshire councils encourage and support the use of buildings constructed of sustainable materials, there are only a few examples of this actually happening. | | and to a lesser extent in SPP2 and SPP3 will improve the situation. | | <p>Executive (2003) <i>PAN 67: Housing Quality</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Executive (2003) <i>SPP2: Economic Development</i> Scottish Executive (2003) <i>SPP3: Planning for housing</i> Aberdeen Sustainability Research Trust: <i>Index 21</i> (www.index21.org.uk) |
| Number of new businesses | <p>VAT registered businesses 2005 - 9,980 2008 - 10,110. Rate of businesses formation- 48 VAT registrations per 10,000 working age people in Aberdeenshire</p> | Rate of businesses formation in Scotland- 36 VAT registrations per 10,000 working age people | There were increases in the manufacturing, construction, hotels/restaurants, transport/ communications, finance, real estate/renting/ business activities, and education/ health sectors | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
| Business survival rate | <p>% of business formed in 2001 still trading 3 years later</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire –75% | <p>% of business formed in 2001 still trading 3 years later</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen City – 75% Scotland – 71% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
| Supporting facilities for enterprises | <p>Fully occupied council-owned serviced industrial sites - 41 Fully occupied council-owned business centres – 12</p> | No comparators | Improving | The Council work with Rural Partnerships to help them win contracts to | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |

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| | <p>No. of contracts being won by rural partnerships, for the delivery of local services, from Aberdeenshire Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 -8 • Mar 07-11 • Sept 07-14 | | | <p>carry out work for different services of the Council to support the development of viable and sustainable local rural partnerships.</p> | |
| Employment land supply | <p>The level of Established Employment Land Supply 2006 - 395 hectares 2007 - 393 hectares Potential industrial land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 ha land at Portlethen added to the Moss-side Audit. There is additional land at Formartine added in line with the Aberdeenshire Local Plan at Balmedie (Eigie Farm South); • 2 further 150 ha sites pending production of development briefs to be used at the former RAF base at Edzell Woods • 5.1 ha land at Rosehall in Formartine | No Comparators | <p>The future trend will see improvements</p> <p>The Council actively provides further industrial land at MacDuff, Fraserburgh, Ellon and Balmedie.</p> | <p>A reduction of 2 hectares (-0.5%). This is predominantly because of land being developed across Aberdeenshire but in particular at Inverurie and Kintore.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
| Perception of Council contribution to the economy | <p>Proportion of people believing that the Council has a positive impact on the economy of the area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2004-35% • 2006 - 44% | No comparators | Improving | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Residents' Survey published in October 2006 |

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| <p>Perception of transport service and road</p> | <p>Frequency of public transport (2006)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor / Very Poor - 23% • Good /Very Good –77% <p>Cost and convenience of public transport (2006)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor / Very Poor -24% • Good /Very Good – 76% <p>Dissatisfaction with winter gritting/snow clearing and road maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer residents <p>Fundamental road surfaces in good condition' (2007)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good/Very Good – 62% <p>Top three aspects of road maintenance -</p> <p>Repair undertaken in good time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very Good/Good – 67% • Very Poor /Poor - 27% <p>Winter maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very Good/Good – 63% • Very Poor /Poor - 34% <p>Repairs of good quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very Good/Good – 67% • Very Poor /Poor - 28% | <p>The percentage of roads identified by national condition survey, which should be considered for maintenance treatment, is an annual figure. The current percentage stand at 39%, which is slightly higher than the previous year's figure of 33.2%. In 2006/07, the Council completed 6% more road resurfacing and surface dressing than planned. The roads in Aberdeenshire are currently rated as 3rd best in Scotland.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents' Survey published in October 2006 • • • Residents' Research published in November 2007 |
| <p>Quality of life</p> | <p>In 2006 Aberdeenshire – 3rd best quality of life in Scotland's</p> | <p>No comparators</p> | <p>No trend</p> | <p>The factors taken into account included</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2007 Quality of Life |

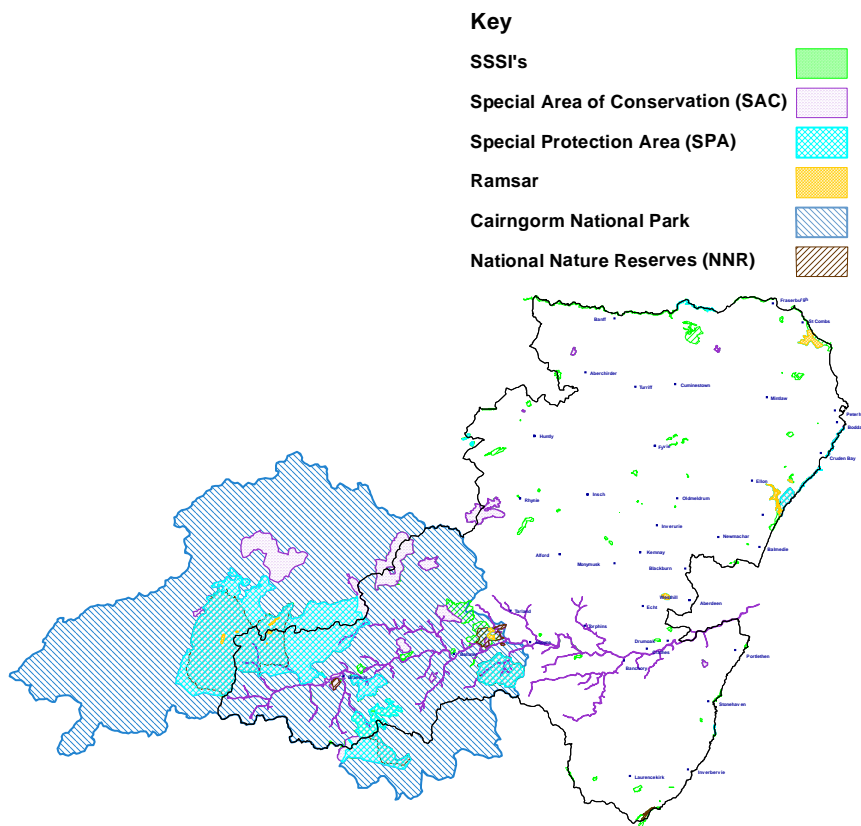
| | | | | | |
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| | 32 local authorities. In 2007 Aberdeenshire - best quality of life in Scotland's 32 local authorities. | | | employment, the housing market, environment, education, and health. Aberdeenshire was found to have 81% employment, one of the highest life expectancies and low crime rates. A Bank of Scotland spokesperson noted "A strong economy, along with good schools and a low crime rate have helped Aberdeenshire to become the area with the best quality of life in Scotland in 2007". | Study commissioned by the Bank of Scotland. |
| Efficient provision of Council services | Administration of housing and council tax benefits Processing time (days) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 – 31 • Mar 07- 34 • Sept 07 – 36 Percent accurate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06 – 97.6% • Mar 07- 96.8% • Sept 07 – 98.4% Percentage of consumer complaints dealt with within 14 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005/06- 60.8% • 2006/07 - 75.3% | No comparators | No trend | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
| | Gross Internal Floor Area (GIA) of Operational Buildings in satisfactory condition | No comparators | No trend | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan |

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|---|---|----------------|----------|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006/07-34% Percentage of operational buildings suitable for their current use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006/07. 40.3% | | | | 2008 |
| High standard of financial management | Cost of Council Tax collection (per household) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006/07-£11.68 2005/06-£11.24 Percentage of Council Tax collected in year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006/07-95.9% 2005/06-95.8% Cost of business rates collection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006/07-£32 2005/06-£30.89 Percentage of business rates collected <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006/07-97.5% 2005/06-96.9% Percentage of invoices paid within 30 days of receipt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006/07-88.3% 2005/06-87% | No comparators | No trend | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |
| Planning permission determined in accordance with agreed standards. | % of householder applications determined within 2 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 06 - 73% (139) Mar 07 - 70% (176) Sept 07- 46% (193) % of non-householder applications determined within 2 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept 06 - 34% (222) | No comparators | No trend | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire Council Monitoring Plan 2008 |

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|----------------|--|----------------|----------|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mar 07 - 32% (229) • Sept 07-46%193 | | | | |
| Planning Gains | <p>Incoming funds (Planning Gains)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 06- £1,479,620 • Mar 07 -£972,281 • Sept 07-£1,294,485 | No comparators | No trend | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data from the Planning Gain Service shows a total of incoming funds of £3.7m for the 18 month period covered by the baseline report |





| Issues/Areas | SEA Issues |
|--|--------------|
| Buchan Ness to Collieston (SAC & SPA) – Peterhead & Ellon | Biodiversity |
| River Dee (SAC) – Water Abstraction for all areas | Biodiversity |
| Garron Point (cSAC) - Stonehaven | Biodiversity |
| Muir of Dinnet (SAC & Ramsar) - Aboyne | Biodiversity |
| Dinnet of Oakwood (SAC & SPA - Aboyne | Biodiversity |
| Mortlach Moss (SAC)– Huntly | Biodiversity |
| Red Moss of Netherley (SAC) – Portlethen & Newtonhill | Biodiversity |
| Glen Tanar (SPA) Aboyne & Banchory | Biodiversity |
| Loch of Skene (SPA & Ramsar) - Close to the City/Recreational Impact | Biodiversity |
| Loch of Strathbeg (SPA & Ramsar) – Fraserburgh, Mintlaw & Peterhead | Biodiversity |
| Troup, Pennan and Lion's Head (SPA) Banff, Macduff, Fraserburgh | Biodiversity |
| Ythan Estuary (SPA & Ramsar) - Ellon | Biodiversity |
| Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch (SPA & Ramsar) - Ellon | Biodiversity |

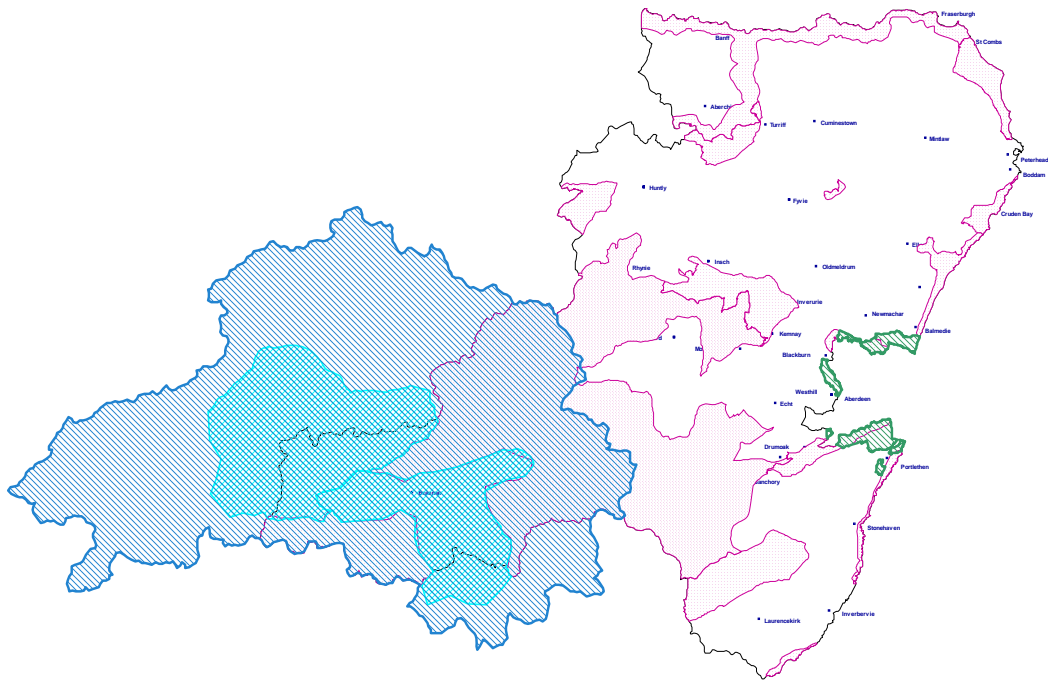
International and national natural heritage designations



Landscape designations: Areas of Landscape Significance, Cairngorms National Park, and National Scenic Areas

Key

| | |
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| Areas of Landscape Significance |  |
| Green Belt |  |
| National Scenic Areas (NSA) |  |
| Cairngorms National Park |  |



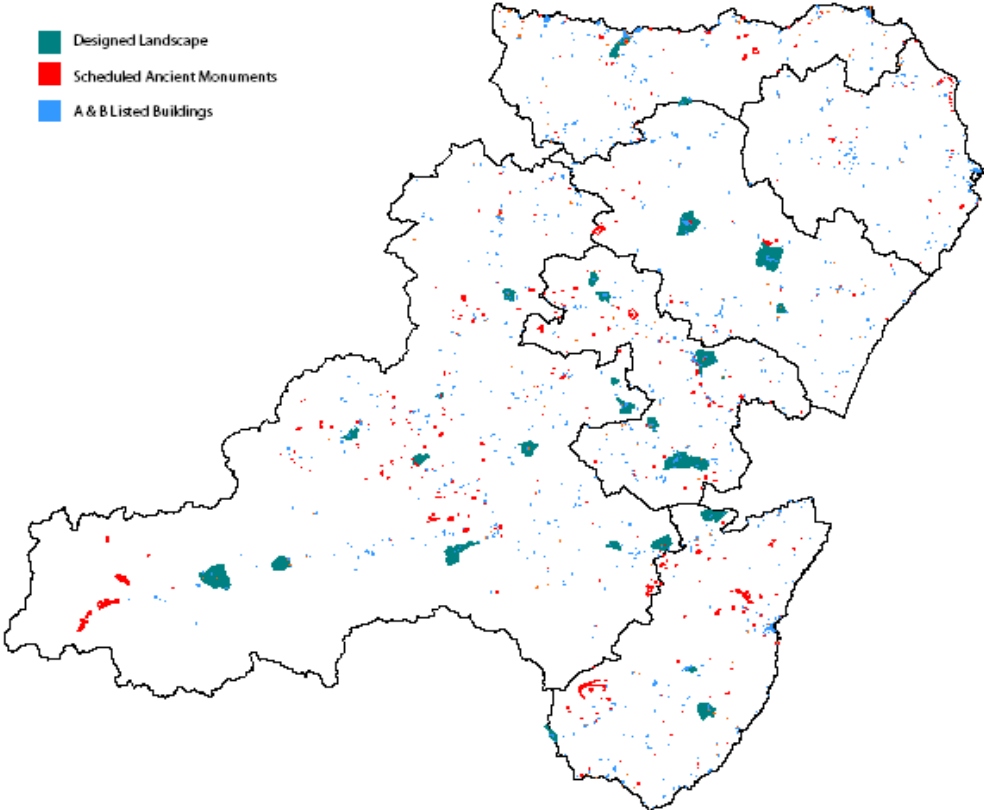
The main settlements likely to be affected by fluvial and coastal flooding (up to the 2080s)

| SEA Topic | Quantified information | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| Climatic Factors | Settlement | Flood risk | |
| | | Fluvial flooding constraints (1 in 200 year flood event) | Tidal/coastal flooding constraints |
| | Significantly constrained | | |
| | Fraserburgh | To the west and southeast , including part of the settlement and Fraserburgh Golf Course. | Harbour area (jetties only, not the buildings). |
| | Turriff | To the south , southwest and northwest from the river Deveron, Burn of Knockiemill, Burn of Dulerstone, and Burn of turriff. | N/A |
| | Longside | To the north , east , and southeast from the South Ugie Water and Burn of Cairngall. | N/A |
| | Huntly | To the north , from the River Deveron, which already affects part of the settlement, and to the east and southeast from the river Bogie and Thains Burn. | N/A |
| | Kintore | To the north , northeast and southeast from the Loch Burn, Bridgealehouse Burn, River Don, and Tuach Burn | N/A |
| | Banchory | To the south from the River Dee affecting part of the settlement immediately adjacent to the river, to the northeast and east from Burn of Bennie. | N/A |
| | Newtonhill | To the north and northwest from the Burn of Elrick and to the south from Pheppie Burn. | None. |
| | Moderately constrained | | |
| | Peterhead | To the north and northwest from the River Ugie and Collie Burn, and to the south from a drainage ditch, which affects the Dales Industrial Estate and a works factory on South Road. | Harbour area, affecting buildings in South Bay Harbour, Bridge street, and the main piers. |
| | Inverurie | To the north and west from the River Urie, which includes part of the Inverurie Paper Mill, and to the south , from the river Don, which affects part of Port Elphinstone. | N/A |
| | Stonehaven | To the north and northeast from the Cowie Water (including Mineralwell Park) and to the south from Carron Water. | To the northeast encompassing all of Cowie, the caravan park, and the leisure area along Beach Road, and to the southeast including part of the harbour and the settlement (e.g. High Street) |

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| | Bielside | To the south from the River Dee. | N/A |
| | Milltimber | To the south from the River Dee. | N/A |
| | Peterculter | To the south from the River Dee. | N/A |
| | Slightly constrained | | |
| | Banff | To the south from the River Deveron, affecting Collenard Park and Dew Haugh. | To the southeast , affecting Duff Royal Golf Course, and part of the settlement to the east (including part of Bridge Street, Maple View, the football grounds and Princes Royal Park). |
| | Macduff | To the south , from Gelly Burn. | None. |
| | Mintlaw | To the west and south from South Ugie Water and the northwest (Pitfour Lake). | N/A |
| | Ellon | To the south from the River Ythan, and to the east , from a drainage ditch. | N/A |
| | Alford | To the north from the River Don and a drainage ditch in Baldyvin Wood. | N/A |
| | Laurencekirk | To the west and northwest from Luther Water and Ducat Water. | N/A |
| | Balmedie | To the northeast from Eigie Burn. | None. |
| | Potterton | To the south from Blackdog Burn. | N/A |
| | | | |

Source: SEPA Draft Second generation Indicative flood risk maps (January 2006)

Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Scheduled Ancient Monuments & Listed Buildings



Designated Landscapes, Archaeological & Listed Buildings

Aberdeenshire
Key

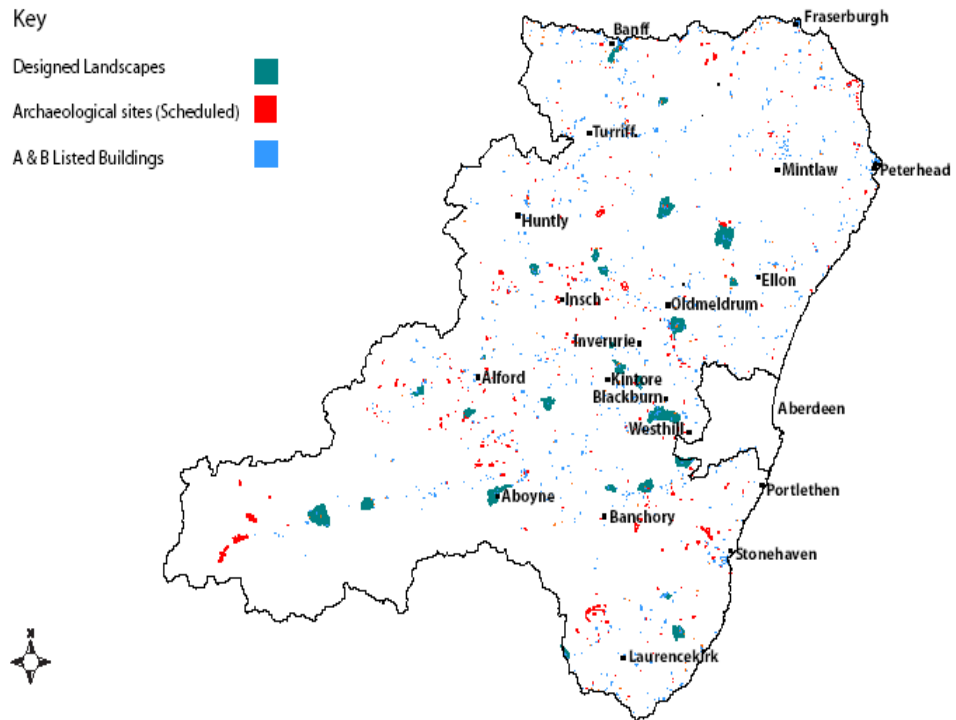
Designed Landscapes



Archaeological sites (Scheduled)



A & B Listed Buildings



Archaeological Sites (unscheduled), Category C (S) Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas

