

**SEA SCOPING
COVER NOTE**

PART 1

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or

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PART 2

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

SPG: Reducing Energy Demand of New Developments and Promoting Renewable Energy

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.

COVER NOTE

PART 4

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PART 5

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(electronic
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is acceptable)

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Date

5 November 2007

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report is to set out sufficient information on the SPG: Reducing Energy Demand of New Developments and Promoting Renewable Energy 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: SPG - Reducing Energy Demand & Promoting Renewable Energy

The key facts relating to this PPS are set out below:

Name of Responsible Authority	Aberdeenshire Council
Title of PPS	SPG: Reducing Energy Demand of New Developments and Promoting Renewable Energy
What prompted the PPS	Scottish Planning Policy 6: Renewable Energy and requests from local Councillors prompted this SPG
Subject	Renewable energy
Period covered by PPS	The time scale of the SPG will be from adoption until the next Development Plan is produced
Frequency of updates	The policy will be updated at production of the next Development Plan
Area covered by PPS	The relevant area is the whole of Aberdeenshire

3. Description of PPS Content

The aim is to produce an SPG that will set the framework for new developments in Aberdeenshire to incorporate more energy efficient design; and to encourage the use of renewable energy technologies as a leading source of energy supply to all new developments. The policy will set out requirements that all new developments must meet. They must achieve a high energy efficiency rating in relation to the 2007 Building Regulations and any new developments will be required to demonstrate that they reduce the carbon dioxide emissions by at least 15% by using zero carbon technologies. The proposal is this SPG will become a material consideration and all planning applications will be tested against this guidance. To implement the policy conditions will be placed on the planning application. There will be a requirement for Building Standards to inform the planning authority if the building meets the rating stated in the planning condition. If this has not been met then enforcement action will be taken. Key objectives and actions to be addressed by the SPG are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Key objectives and actions

Objective	Action
Improve design of new buildings to reduce energy requirement for heating	Achieve improved building insulation for all new developments Reduce heat loss through higher build quality, door

frames and window frames etc
Reduce heat loss through double glazed windows
Increase passive solar gain by having south facing developments

Encourage renewable technologies to reduce carbon emissions from all new developments

Achieve larger scale developments with district heating centres

Where viable have developments that exploit solar power, passive solar systems, photovoltaic cells and solar water heating systems

Where viable have developments that exploit wind power, wind turbines

Use biomass heating on new developments given it a renewable fuel source and can be used to meet the target reduction in carbon emissions

Use heat pumps on new developments to provide heat new developments

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4. Context of SPG: Reducing Energy Demand & Promoting Renewable Energy

The following subsections describe how the context is set for the PPS through the discussion of other plans, programmes, strategies and environmental objectives; baseline data and environmental problems.

4.1 Relationship with other PPS

Table 2 lists the plans, programmes, strategies and environmental objectives that we propose to analyse for their relationship with the SPG.

Table 2: Other PPS and Environmental Objectives

	International Level
1	EU Strategy on Sustainable development (2001)
2	Habitats Directive 1992/43/EEC
3	Wild Birds Directive 1979/409/EEC
4	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
5	Kyoto Protocol (1992)
6	European Sixth Environmental Action Programme (2002)
7	The convention on Wetlands of international Importance 1971 (amended 1982)
8	Convention on Biodiversity (1992)
9	European Biodiversity Strategy (1998)
10	Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)
11	Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development (2002)
12	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1994)
13	European Climate Change Programme
14	Air Quality Framework Directive 1996/62/EC
15	The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (1995)
16	Council Directive 2002/49/EC on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise
	National Level
17	“Securing the Future” – UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)
18	Scottish Executive (2007) Scottish Planning Policy 6 (SPP6): Renewable Energy
19	The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997
20	DTI (2003) Energy White paper: <i>Our energy future – creating a low carbon Economy</i>
21	Meeting the Needs, Priorities Actions and Targets for Sustainable Development in Scotland (2002)
22	Climate Change the UK Programme
23	BREEAM/ EcoHomes
24	UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994)
25	SHEP 1
26	SHEP No 2 <i>Scheduled Ancient Monuments</i> (2006)
27	SPP 1 The Planning System
28	SPP 2 Economic Development
29	SPP 7 Planning and Flooding
30	SPP 15 Planning for Rural development
31	SPP 21 Green Belts: Consultation Draft
32	NPPG 5 Archaeology and Planning

33	NPPG 10 Planning and Waste management
34	NPPG 13 Coastal Planning
35	NPPG 14 Natural Heritage
36	NPPG 18 Planning and the Historic Environment
37	National Waste Plan (Scotland), 2003
38	“Securing the future” – UK sustainable development strategy, 2005
39	Scottish Sustainable Development Strategy (not yet published but useful guidance on contents on website).
40	Securing a Renewable Future: Scotland’s Renewable Energy (2003).
41	The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
42	Framework for Economic Development in Scotland.
43	Modernisation of Planning System
44	PAN 60: Planning for Natural Heritage
45	PAN 42: Archaeology
	PAN 45: Renewable Energy Technologies
	Regional level
46	North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
47	Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2005) Forest and Woodland Strategy for Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen
48	Aberdeenshire Council North East Scotland Together – Structure Plan
	Local level
49	Aberdeenshire Local Plan (ALP)
50	Aberdeenshire Community Plan
51	Sustainability Charter

From the analysis of the relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives at Appendix A, the key points arising from this analysis are that the SPG should

- promote sustainable development.
- protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity
- prevent soil erosion and land contamination
- reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change
- prevent flooding and water pollution
- reduce carbon dioxide emissions through better design
- avoid adverse impacts on designated and non-designated sites
- reduce carbon dioxide emissions through renewable technologies
- protect, maintain and enhance wildlife and natural habitats
- limit air pollution and unacceptable environmental noise
- protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment
- protect, maintain and enhance forests and woodlands

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 PPS, and “the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected”. This section aims to describe the environmental context within which the PPS operates and the constraints and targets that this context imposes on the PPS.

The existing environmental baseline data has been collected from a wide range of sources, including national government/agency websites, the last census and from primary surveys. Environmental issues such as air, water, soil, climatic factors, landscape, cultural heritage, biodiversity and material asset set the context for the collection of the baseline data. Baseline data is formatted into a table covering the latest data for Aberdeenshire Council, comparators against which Aberdeenshire Council's environmental baseline is compared, target and trends where they exist, environmental constraints and the sources of data. Appendix B below summarises the data collected and their source.

4.3 Likely evolution of the environment without implementation of the PPS

From Appendix B below the likely evolution of the baseline without this PPS is measured by trends and constraints. The problems identified in Table 3 below also define the future evolution of the environment without this PPS. Briefly however, without this PPS:

- the energy consumption in new developments will continue to increase by virtue of lower standard of building insulation
- heat losses from buildings will continue to increase
- building orientation would ignore passive solar gain
- larger scale developments will not be serviced by district heating centres
- future developments will not exploit the use of renewables
- development pressure, intensive, extensive and unsustainable resource uses will continue to have an impact on open space/wildlife corridors; habitats, species, designated and non-designated sites as well as on marine and coastal environments

4.4 Environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected

In the light of the baseline and problems identified within the context of the actions proposed by this PPS, the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are partly summarised at Appendix C, (Figures 1-3 and Tables 1-2). Significant issues have been identified under every environmental issue Table 3: Environmental Problems. The areas identified and significant issues identified demands a sensitive development of the PPS.

4.5 Environmental problems

Environmental problems that affect the PPS were identified through discussions with [*name organisations with whom discussions were had*] and an analysis of the baseline data. Relevant environmental problems are summarised at Table 3.

Table 3. Environmental problems relevant to SPG: Reducing Energy Demand of New Developments and Promoting Renewable Energy

Problem	Supporting data (where available at this stage)	Implications for PPS
Climatic Factors & Air		
Poor build quality in new developments	Around 50% of the heat lost in the average home through the walls and loft	Require better designed buildings and increased quality of insulation to cut heat loss through walls and loft
Energy inefficient developments	housing accounted for around 30% of all the UK's carbon dioxide emissions in 2004 (http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200405/cmselect/cmenvaud/135/13507.htm#a23 accessed 21/05/07)	Implement policies that reduce the requirement for energy in all new developments including housing and encourage zero or low carbon technologies
Energy dependence of fossil fuels used to provide heat and electricity in non/domestic properties is contributing to greenhouse gas levels rising	Best Foot Forward (2006) Domestic Carbon Dioxide Emissions for Selected Cities, British Gas	Implement policies that reduce the requirement for energy in all new developments including housing and encourage zero or low carbon technologies
Reduced air quality arising out of the need to burn fossil fuels	Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Local Air Quality Management Progress Report</i>	Promote higher targets to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to increase air quality further
Poor insulation in existing housing stock		Strategies for improving the SAP ratings of existing developments
Currently little use of renewable technologies in existing building stock	Aberdeenshire Council (2006) use of micro-renewable energy in Aberdeenshire	Implement policies that encourage the use of renewable technologies in the existing building stock

Problem	Supporting data (where available at this stage)	Implications for PPS
Currently little use of community heating and combined heat and Power in developments	Aberdeenshire Council (2006) Use of biomass energy in Aberdeenshire	Implement policies that encourage the use of community heating and combined heat and Power technologies in the existing building stock
Although air quality is improving overall in terms of grit/dust, complaints regarding odour/fumes particularly from industrial/commercial premises remain constant	Aberdeenshire Council (2005) Local Air Quality Management Progress Report	Do not promote renewable technologies that increase odour/fumes to an unsuitable level
High energy dependence on fossil fuels for heating, transportation and electricity and a lack appropriate locations for renewable energy technologies	Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) Topic Paper: Energy, Aberdeenshire Council	PPS will help to reduce the energy requirements of new developments and reduce the dependence on fossil fuels
Continuous rise in ecological footprints	North East Global Footprint Project	PPS will help to reduce the energy requirements of new developments and reduce global footprint
Vulnerability of some areas located within indicated floodplains and coastal areas below 5 metres Ordnance Datum from flooding under severe and predicted worst-case climate change scenarios	Office of Science and Technology (2005) Foresight Report: Future Flooding Scotland	Do not promote the development of renewable energy stations on areas at risk from flooding. The Development Plan covers this and there are no implications for this PPS
Vulnerability of some areas to soil erosion from storm events under severe and predicted worst-case climate change scenarios creating need for sustainable urban drainage systems and flood defence walls	Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Strategic Flooding Issues Topic Paper</i>	Renewable technologies should not be located on areas vulnerable to impacts from soil erosion. The Development Plan covers this and there are no implications for this PPS
Biodiversity		

Problem	Supporting data (where available at this stage)	Implications for PPS
Development pressure; intensive and unsustainable resource use; extensive use of land; large-scale schemes around edge of towns; incomplete networks of open space/wildlife corridors; habitat decline within settlements and risk of increasing population near sensitive natural heritage areas are putting pressure on unprotected open spaces, biodiversity, terrestrial, marine and coastal environments	Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>NEST Monitoring Paper: Environment</i>	Ensure the cumulative impact of different or the same types of development do not adversely affect designated natural heritage sites. These issues are addressed through the Development Plan. There is no implication to this PPS
UK priority species and habitats are still declining and require rigorous protection and enhancement	UK BAP targets for Local Biodiversity Action Plans	The Development Plan includes policies on renewable technologies to avoid impact on these sites. There will be no implications for this PPS
Fragmented habitats resulting from development; inability of less mobile species migrating and/or adapting to changes in the environment; possibility of existing lowland and upland habitats and species disappearing; the need to promote appropriate native species in new development schemes to enhance existing biodiversity and preventing the spread of non-native species	Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Natural Heritage Topic Paper</i> North East Biodiversity Action Plan: <i>Action Updates</i>	Promote the creation of new or enhancement of existing habitats through developer contributions (planning gain). These issues are addressed through the Development Plan. There is no implication to this PPS
Inadequacy of current urban drainage systems and small culverts to cope with predicted future climate change impacts	Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues</i> , Aberdeenshire Council	This is covered by the Development Plan, there are no implications for this PPS

Problem	Supporting data (where available at this stage)	Implications for PPS
Pressure of development on designated and non-designated areas	Landscape Character Assessments Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Natural Heritage Topic Paper</i>	Any development will need to comply with the development plan which includes policies to ensure the cumulative impact of different (or the same) types of development do not adversely affect designated landscapes and the principle landscape character/type of the area. There will be no implications for this PPS
Population & Human Health		
Short/medium/ long term affects as a result of new development, or during (e.g. noise, dust and light pollution)	Some renewable technologies can cause noise pollution	Mitigation measures should be carried out by any proposal to minimise any possible noise pollution
Not enough sites for recycling and composting of biodegradable waste		Will reduce the amount of fuel available if biodegradable waste is to be used for heating
Years of healthy life expectancy	Scottish Executive Statistics (2006) <i>Life expectancy</i> http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/TrendLifeExpectancy	Could be increased by reduction of fuel poverty. Implication for PPS is to reduce the energy demand for new developments
The existing size of Aberdeenshire's population and in migration will pressure on land for development and sensitive heritage sites	Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council's (2004) <i>Strategic Forecasts 2003-2021</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	Implication for PPS is to reduce energy requirement for new developments and produce energy renewably
Significant pressure on the availability and size of urban open spaces	Aberdeenshire Council's Information and Research Team	The Development Plan protects these areas of open space; There are no implications for this PPS

Problem	Supporting data (where available at this stage)	Implications for PPS
Ageing population creating demand for certain types of houses such as bungalows and care homes	Scottish Executive Statistics (2006) <i>Life expectancy</i> http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/TrendLifeExpectancy	Types of housing required will change. This will be dealt with by the Development Plan and there are no issues for this PPS
Lack of adequate sporting and recreation facilities	Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Sport and recreation</i>	Do not site renewable energy on sites for sport and recreation. This is covered by the Development Plan, there are no implications for this PPS
Existence of pockets of deprivation in Aberdeenshire in areas such as Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Huntly, Strathbogie, Echt, Upper Ythan, Inch, Donside and Cromar, Fyvie-Methlick, Aboyne, Upper Deeside, Tarves, and Udy-Slains	Aberdeenshire Council (2004) <i>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (Oxford Report) – Aberdeenshire: Key findings</i> http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/statistics/economic/SIMD%20Abshire%20Key%20Findings%202004.pdf	Reducing the energy demand of new housing will reduce impact of fuel poverty. This PPS will promote more energy efficient dwellings
Cultural Heritage		
Inappropriately sited or designed developments adversely affect the setting of built and cultural heritage sites	Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Built Heritage</i>	Any development will need to comply with the development plan which includes policies for the implementation of renewable technologies, therefore there is no implication for the PPS
A few number of listed buildings are at risk	Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland (Scottish Civic Trust) http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/browse.asp	Renewable technology developments should not have a negative impact on listed buildings. This is dealt with by the Development Plan and there is no implication for this PPS
There is an issue of poor design when incorporating modern materials	Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Built Heritage</i>	Any development will need to comply with the development plan which includes policies on design, therefore there is no implication for the PPS

Problem	Supporting data (where available at this stage)	Implications for PPS
There are poorly designed buildings, especially for the disabled, elderly and children	Scottish Executive (2006) <i>Planning and Building Standards Advice Note 75: Inclusive Design</i>	New developments should include these features. The Development Plan and Building Standards address this issue
Loss of unknown and locally known architectural remains from new development, vandalism and coastal erosion	Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) Topic Paper: Built Heritage	Renewable technologies should not have an adverse impact on these sites. This is dealt with through the Development Plan, there are no implications for this PPS
Landscape		
Impacts on National Scenic Areas and Areas of Landscape Significance	Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>NEST Monitoring – Environment Monitoring Paper</i>	The siting of renewables will be important. The Development Plan protects these areas. There are no implications for this PPS
Water		
Pressure on the Dee River and its tributary (Dye) from water abstraction. Pollution of Ythan Estuary from nitrate used in agriculture and from river bank alteration; these actions could adversely affect the qualifying	Centre for Hydrology and Ecology (River Flow – gauging stations) (2004)	Development of renewable technologies should not increase the pressure on the Dee. The Development Plan deals with this issue. There are no implications for this PPS
Predicted decline in rainfall levels in summer, which may affect a river's yield rate	Centre for Hydrology and Ecology (River Flow – gauging stations) (2004): http://www.nwl.ac.uk/ih/nrfa/station_summaries/op/SEPA-north_map.html	This could impact on the availability for use of Hydro technologies. There are no implications for the PPS
Increase water consumption from industrial, commercial and residential as well as increased leakages from pipe infrastructure as it 'ages' is putting pressure on water supply		This could impact on the availability for use of micro Hydro technologies. There are no implications for the PPS

Problem	Supporting data (where available at this stage)	Implications for PPS
<p>Bathing water quality not consistently meeting EC Guideline Standards in Stonehaven and Cruden Bay and this situation could be worsened by from water sports in the future. Aberdeenshire is vulnerable from pollutants that are not readily absorbed or transformed (class 4)</p>	<p>European Directive 76/160/EEC, which sets mandatory bacteriological and other health-related standards for bathing waters in Europe</p>	<p>Developments should not have an impact on the bathing water quality. The Development Plan deals with this issue and there are no implications for this PPS</p>
<p>There are 10 watercourses within Aberdeenshire with poor water quality (i.e. Scattery burn, Sandend (biology); Cowie Burn (Distillery) (toxins); Blackwater (nr Gas Terminal) (biology and chemistry); Quomery Burn (Inverquormery) (biology); Ides Burn (Daviot WWTP) (biology); Brodiach Burn (Backhill Tip Kingswells) (chemistry); Elrick Burn (biology and chemistry); Diney Burn (Marywell); Some polluted shorelines. The shoreline along Sandford Bay & Boddam (Peterhead Power Station) (4km) is classified as poor. Other small sections along the coast (Gardenstown, River Don and Stonehaven)</p>	<p>SEPA: http://www.sepa.org.uk/data/bathingwaters/bw2006/north.asp</p>	<p>Developments should not have an impact on these watercourses The Development Plan deals with this issue and there are no implications for this PPS</p>
<p>Adverse impact of motorised vehicles on sand dunes, wildlife and enjoyment of the beach. Marine litter and balloons damaging the marine environment</p>	<p>East Grampian Coastal Partnership (Annual Report 2005-06)</p>	<p>Siting of renewable technologies should not allow adverse impact of motorised vehicles on sand dunes, wildlife and enjoyment of the beach. The Development Plan deals with this issue and there are no implications for this PPS</p>

Problem	Supporting data (where available at this stage)	Implications for PPS
Soil		
Construction may cause contamination of soil at site for renewable technology	Aberdeen City Council (2001) <i>Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy</i> http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/acci/web/files/Pollution/ContaminatedLandInspectionStrategy.pdf	Any contamination should be minimised and contained to the specific site
Displacement of natural drainage from development	Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan 2001-2016: Environment Monitoring Paper (Aberdeenshire)</i>	Scottish water should be consulted to confirm that there is drainage capacity to allow specific development
Actual and potential land contamination from contaminated sites, including landfill sites, former gas works, stations and goods yards, petrol stations and garages, distilleries, smithy's and in-filled ground	Aberdeenshire Council Contaminated Land Strategy (under review December 2006)	Developments should avoid contamination of sites. There are no implications for this PPS
Coastal erosion where there are no rocks or coastal defences and increasing silting of rivers from fluvial flooding	East Grampian Coastal Partnership (Annual Report 2005-06): http://www.egcp.org.uk/documents/Toc138674449	Renewable technologies should not be implemented in these locations. The development of these must meet the requirements of the development plan there are no implications for this PPS
Pressure on prime agricultural land from development and future climate change impacts constrains availability of land near flood plains, along the coast, and on land of the highest quality	Scottish Executive Statistics (2005): Economic Report on Scottish Agriculture.	Renewable technologies should not be developed on areas of prime agricultural land. The Development Plan deals with this issue. There are no implications for this PPS

Problem	Supporting data (where available at this stage)	Implications for PPS
Disposal of waste in landfill site increases the likelihood of soil contamination and release of greenhouse gases such as methane	Aberdeen City Council (2001) <i>Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy</i> http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/acci/web/files/Pollution/ContaminatedLandInspectionStrategy.pdf	Developments should avoid disposal of waste in landfill sites. There are no implications for this PPS
Bad land use practices, such as locating tracks/access roads on steep/ upland ground and increasing use of motorised vehicles on sand dunes are contributing to coastal erosion	Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Strategic Flooding Issues Topic Paper</i> Davidson, D.A. and Grieve, I.C. (2004) <i>Trends in soil erosion</i> , Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 054 (ROAME No. F00AC106) http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/F00AC106.pdf	Development of renewable technologies should avoid bad land use practices. This issue is dealt with in the Development Plan and there are no implications for this PPS
Material Assets		
The need for significant water treatment works upgrades		Water treatment plants will require energy, increasing carbon dioxide emissions. Energy for this should be produced renewably.
Limited use of building materials from sustainable sources	Aberdeen Sustainability Research Trust: <i>Index 21</i> (www.index21.org.uk)	Reducing the carbon dioxide emissions in construction will also help to reduce the effect of climate change

5. Scope and Level of Detail Proposed for the Environmental Assessment

5.1 Alternatives

Alternatives to this PPS have been considered. Alternatives are outlined here in order to set the context for the following two sections of this report, i.e. scoping of SEA issues and consideration of a framework for the assessment of environmental effects of the alternatives. There are only two alternatives to this PPS and they are defined by current guidance and legal requirements. The first is the Do Nothing Option. This option is the same as the Building Standard driven Option. Even if this SPG is not developed, new development will have to conform to the provisions of the building standard. The second option is the Scottish Planning Policy 6 (SPP6) driven option.

Option 1: Do Nothing/Building Standards Driven Option: New Building Standards have been implemented in Scotland to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions of new developments. The current requirement of new developments is that they calculate the predicted carbon dioxide emissions for the notional dwelling, the same size as the proposal, Target Emissions Rate (TER). The developer must then calculate the predicted carbon dioxide emissions of the proposed development, Building Emissions Rate (BER). To meet the Building Standards the calculated BER must be less than the TER.

Option 2: SPP6 driven option: SPP6 requires local authorities to include policies in their development plan to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions of all new developments greater than or equal to 500 sq meters by 15% beyond the current Building Standards. Option 2 will employ this target as a policy.

5.2 Scoping in/out of SEA issues

In accordance with Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Aberdeenshire Council has considered whether the environmental effects (positive and negative) of SPG: Reducing Energy Demand of New Developments and Promoting Renewable Energy are likely to be significant. From the discussion of the baseline data, and the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected and environmental problems at Appendices B and C, all environmental issues have been scoped in. A summary of our conclusions is given in Table 4.

Table 4. Scoping of SEA issues

SEA issues	Scoped in	Scoped out	If scoped out, why
Biodiversity, flora, fauna	YES		The development of renewable technologies are likely to have negative significant effects on this issue
Population	YES		The development of renewable technologies are likely to have positive significant effects on this issue
Human health	YES		The development of renewable technologies are likely to have positive significant effects on this

			issue
Soil	YES		The development of renewable technologies are likely to have negative significant effects on this issue
Water	YES		The development of renewable technologies are likely to have negative significant effects on this issue
Air	YES		The development of renewable technologies are likely to have positive significant effects on this issue
Climatic factors	YES		The development of renewable technologies are likely to have positive significant effects on this issue
Material assets	YES		The development of renewable technologies are likely to have positive significant effects on this issue
Cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)	YES		The development of renewable technologies are likely to have negative significant effects on this issue
Landscape	YES		The development of renewable technologies are likely to have negative significant effects on this issue

5.3 Assessment Framework – SEA Objectives & Indicators

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 state the broad intention while the indicators become a benchmark against which the SPG: Reducing Energy Demand of New Developments and Promoting Renewable Energy performance is measured.

The SEA objectives are separate from the plan or programme objectives although they can influence each other and even overlap. To fulfil the requirements of the SEA Directive, they must cover environmental issues including biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between them.

Table 5 lists the SEA objectives against which the Aberdeenshire Council's SPG: Reducing Energy Demand of New Developments and Promoting Renewable Energy will be assessed. In order to finalise the objectives and indicators, environmental problems, baseline data as well as other relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives inform the final choice of SEA Objectives. They are not conclusive but subject to

consultation outcomes. The following table of objectives and indicators are for illustration purposes only. The objectives will change depending on the type of plan being drawn up.

Table 5: SEA objectives & indicators

Possible Objectives	Possible SEA Indicators
Biodiversity, fauna and flora	
To conserve and enhance the integrity of ecosystems	Reported levels of damage to designated sites/species Achievement of Biodiversity Action Plan targets
Prevent damage to designated wildlife sites and protected species	Achievement of Biodiversity Action Plan targets
Maintain biodiversity, avoiding irreversible losses	
Population and human health	
Protect and improve health	General resident perception surveys Quality of employment and residential buildings
Maintain and improve opportunities to access public open space	Proportion of population within 200m of parks and open spaces
Improve and promote appropriate access to the natural and historic environment.	Proportion of population within 200m of parks and open spaces
Water	
Limit water pollution to levels that do not damage natural systems.	Quality (biology and chemistry) of rivers, canals and fresh water bodies.
Maintain water abstraction, run-off and recharge within carrying capacity (including future capacity).	
Reduce manage flood risk	Extent of use of Sustainable Urban Drainage solutions in new development
Soil	
Safeguard soil quality, quantity and function	hectares of contaminated land in plan area
Climatic factors	
To reduce the cause and effects of climate change	Energy consumption per building and per occupant (proxy indicator)
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Carbon dioxide emissions by sector/per capita
Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change e.g. flooding, disruption to travel by extreme weather, etc.	Amount of development in the floodplain flood risk
Cultural heritage	
Protect and, where appropriate, enhance or restore the historic	Number and outcome of Listed Building Consent applications recieved
Preserve historic buildings, archaeological sites and other culturally important features	Number and outcome of applications received for Listed Building demolition

Promote access to the historic environment	Number and outcomes of planning applications that affect gardens and designed landscapes
Landscape	
To conserve and enhance landscape character and scenic value of the area	Number and area of designated landscapes
Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	Percentage of land designated for particular quality or amenity value, including publicly accessible land and greenways
Material assets	
To promote effective use of existing infrastructure	Percent of waste recycled or reused

The PPS's options, objectives, policies and strategies will be assessed against SEA objectives to be agreed through this scoping process. Significant environmental effects of the plan will be predicted to determine whether the plan has negative, positive, uncertain or neutral effects. In addition, the effects will further be evaluated to determine damage or otherwise to the receptors in relation reversibility or irreversibility of effects, risks, duration (permanent, temporary, long-term, short-term and medium-term) and cumulative (direct, indirect, secondary and synergistic). Tables 6 and 7 show the framework that will be used to assess effects of the PPS

Table 6: Assessment of the Options of the SPG

SEA Objectives	SEA Objective 1	SEA Objective 2	SEA Objective 3	...	Nth SEA Objective	Overall effect	Comments
The PPS							
Option 1							
Option 2							
Key	++=very positive += positive +/- = mixed ? = uncertain -- = very negative - = negative 0 = neutral						

Table 7: Assessment of Objectives and Actions of the SPG

SEA Objectives	SEA Objective 1	SEA Objective 2	SEA Objective 3	...	Nth SEA Objective	Overall effect	Comments
The PPS							
Objective 1							
Objective 2							
Objective 1: Action 1							
Objective 1: Action 2							
Objective 1: Action 3							
Objective 1: Action 4							

Objective 2:Action 1							
Objective 2:Action 2							
Objective 2:Action 3							
Objective 2:Action 4							
Objective 2:Action 5							
Overall Effects							
Key	++=very positive	+= positive		+/- = mixed		? = uncertain	
	-- = very negative	- = negative		0 = neutral			

5.4 Cumulative Effect Assessment

A further framework for assessing cumulative and synergistic effects of the plan/programme/strategy is shown in Table 8 below

Table 8: Cumulative & Synergistic Effects of Plan and Options

Option, Objectives & Actions SEA Issues	Preferred Option	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 1 – Action 1	Objective 1 – Action 2	Objective 1 – Action 3	Objective 1 – Action 4	Objective 2 – Action 1	Objective 2 – Action 2	Objective 2 – Action 3	Objective 2 – Action 4	Objective 2 – Action 5	Cumulative Effects	Comments
	Biodiversity													
Air														
Climatic factors														
Water														
Soil														
Landscape														
Cultural Heritage														
Material Assets														
Population														
Human Health														
Cumulative Effects														
Key: + positive, - negative, 0 = neutral =? = uncertain														

5.5 Appropriate Assessment

In the light of the problems identified as well as the characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected, we intend to undertake an appropriate assessment. The methodology will be discussed with SNH at the appropriate time.

5.6 Proposed Mitigation Measures

The SEA Directive requires that through mitigation measures, recommendations will be made to prevent, reduce or compensate for the negative effects of implementing the plan/programme/strategy. It also seeks to ensure that positive effects identified are enhanced. The proposed framework for mitigating significant environmental effects is shown in Table 9

Table 9: Mitigation Framework

SEA Issue	Existing problem	Plan Impact	Mitigation Measures
Air			
Water			
Soil			
Climatic factors			
Biodiversity (flora and fauna)			
Population and Health			
Cultural Heritage			
Landscape			
Material Assets			

5.7 Monitoring Framework

Aberdeenshire Council is required to monitor the significant environmental effects arising from the plan implementation. A monitoring report will therefore be integrated into the adopted plan to constantly monitor the significant environmental effects and the proposed framework for monitoring significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan is shown in Table 10 below.

Table 10: Monitoring Plan

What needs to be monitored? (effects)	What sort of information is required? (Indicators)	Where can the information be obtained?	Are there gaps in the existing information and how can it be resolved?	When should the remedial action be considered?	Who is responsible for undertaking the monitoring?	How should the results be presented?	What remedial actions could be taken?

6. Next Steps

6.1 Proposed Consultation Timescale

Aberdeenshire Council will ensure an early and effective consultation on the strategic plan and the accompanying environmental report. In this connection, the minimum consultation period Aberdeenshire Council intends to specify under Section 16(1)(b) and notify under Section 16(2)(a)(iv) is six (6) weeks.

6.2 Anticipated Milestone

Table 11 shows the remaining steps needed for the SEA of Aberdeenshire Strategic Plan and how these steps would be carried out and described in the final environmental report.

Table 11: Proposed Consultation Timescale and Methods

Expected date	Milestone	Comments
5 weeks	Consulting on the Scoping Report	
4 weeks	Collating views on the Consultation	
4 weeks	Take the appropriate action on the Scoping report and the plan as the result of the consultations	
4 weeks	Finalise the environmental report	
8 weeks	Consulting on the Environmental Report and the Plan	
2 weeks	Collating views on the Consultation	
5-8 weeks	Take the appropriate action on the environmental report and the plan as the result of the consultations	
2 weeks	Finalise the environmental report	
4 weeks	Take post-adoption measures	

6.3 Framework for Analysing Consultees & their Comments

In order to track and analyse comments and suggestions from the consultation process, a framework for analysis is provided in Tables 12 and 13 below.

Table 12: People Consulted on the initial draft of the report

Table 13: Analysis of Comments

Organisation	Issue	Concern/ Comments	How addressed in SEA Process	SEA Report page [specify number]

7. Appendices.

Below are the appendices, which have been referred to throughout this scoping report.

Appendix A: Analysis of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Objectives

	Document	Requirements of the SPG	Implication for SEA	Relationship to SPG
International				
1	European Strategy on sustainable development 2001	Secure a better quality of life for present and future generations Ensure future policy making is more coherent and costs effective, as well as promote technological innovation and stronger involvement of civil society and business in policy formulation Strategies for sustainable economic growth should support social progress and respect the local environment Contains target that the deterioration of EU's biodiversity should be stopped by 2010	Applies to all SEA objectives	The SPG should promote objectives that achieve sustainable development.
2	EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC	Gives powers to protect biodiversity through the maintenance or restoration of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora at a favourable conservation status with robust protection of habitats (designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)) and Species of European Importance list.	Include a SEA objective that protects, maintains and enhances biodiversity.	The SPG should protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity
3	Birds Directive 79/409/EEC	Gives powers and responsibility to protect wild birds and to conserve the habitats of rare and migratory species designated as Special Protection Area (SPAs).	Include a SEA objective that protects, maintains and enhances biodiversity.	The SPG should protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity.

4	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	Establishes a framework for the protection, improvement and sustainable use of surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater.	Include SEA objectives that; reduce water pollution and reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change e.g. flooding, disruption to travel by extreme weather, etc	The SPG should prevent water pollution. The SPG should promote objectives that reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change through reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from new developments.
5	Kyoto Protocol	reduces the emissions of carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases	Include SEA objectives that reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from new developments	The SPG should promote the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.
6	European Sixth Environmental Action Programme (2002)	4 priority areas; climate change, nature and biodiversity, environmental health, natural resources and waste. The programme promotes full integration of environmental protection requirements into all community policies and actions and provides the environmental component of the communities strategy for sustainable development.	Include SEA objectives that reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from new developments	The SPG should promote the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions.
7	The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance 1971 (amended 1982)	Designation of wetlands of of international importance, the promotion of the wise use of all wetlands in the territory of each country and international co-operation with other countries to further the use of wetlands and their resources	Include SEA objective that does not create impact on Ramsar sites and SSSI's.	The implementation of the SPG should avoid impacts on Ramsar sites and SSSI's
8	Convention on Biodiversity (1992)	Sustainable use of biological diversity thereby meeting the needs and aspirations of present and future generations	Include SEA objective that promotes the sustainable use of biological diversity	SPG objectives should ensure the sustainable use of biodiversity
9	European Biodiversity Strategy	This strategy aims to anticipate, prevent and attack the causes of significant reduction or loss of biodiversity at the source.	Include SEA objective that protects, maintains and enhances biodiversity.	The SPG should protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity.
10	Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)	The convention sets out to: conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats; promote co-operation between states; monitor and control endangered and vulnerable species and assist with the provision of assistance concerning legal and scientific issues.	New developments should not impact upon Wildlife and Natural Habitats	The SPG should protect and maintain Wildlife and Natural Habitats
11	Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development (2002)	Promotion of sustainable development	Promotion of sustainable development	The SPG should promote a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.

12	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1994)	Cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change	New developments should have minimal impact on climate change	The SPG should promote a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.
13	European Climate Change Programme	Reducing greenhouse gas emissions has been initiated through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP). Each of the 25 EU Member States has also put in place its own domestic actions that build on the ECCP measures or complement them.	New developments should have minimal impact on climate change	The SPG should promote a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.
14	Air Quality Framework Directive 1996/62/EC	Maintain or improve ambient air quality.	New developments should not have a negative impact on air quality	The implementation of the SPG should worsen the air quality
15	The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (1995)	To provide an innovative and proactive approach to stop and reverse the degradation of biological and landscape diversity values in Europe.	Measures to ensure conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity	The SPG should promote biological and landscape diversity
16	Council Directive 2002/49/EC on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise	Intention of avoiding, preventing or reducing on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise.	New developments should not be in locations where exposure to environmental noise is at an unacceptable level.	The implementation of the SPG should avoid the harmful effects of environmental noise
National				
17	Securing the Future UK Government Sustainability	Is implemented in Scotland through the <i>Choosing Our Future: Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy</i> , and highlights the need to build a sustainable future taking account of public well-being (e.g. quality of life, food, economic opportunities), travel, natural resources and waste.	Consider policies that will lead to sustainable communities.	The SPG should protect natural resources and the environment and promote their sustainable use
18	Scottish Planning Policy 6: Renewable Energy	To reduce the carbon emissions of new developments. Requires policies to be made to supply 15% of energy requirements through renewable sources in addition to current Building Regulations.	Include SEA objectives that will achieve the goals of this Policy and surpass the set target if possible.	The SPG should promote use of renewable energy technologies; protect, maintain and enhance amenity, biodiversity, landscape, the historic environment
19	Planning Listed Buildings 1997	Prescribes the approach to be taken in planning for listed buildings, conservation areas and designed landscapes and	Include a SEA objective that preserves historic buildings and other culturally important features.	The SPG should protect and where appropriate enhance the historic environment.

		gardens.		
20	DTI: Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future – Creating a low carbon economy	To reduce the UK's carbon dioxide emissions – the main contributor to global warming – by some 60% by 2050, with real progress by 2020. • Increase the proportion of electricity provided by renewable sources to 10% by 2010, subject to the cost being acceptable to the consumer. Double the proportion of electricity supplied by renewable sources by 2020. Ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated.	Include SEA objective to reduce the causes of adverse climate change.	The SPG should promote a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.
21	Meeting the Needs, Priorities, Actions and Targets for Sustainable Development in Scotland (2002)	Requires all new developments to be sustainable, and it sets out the priorities for Scotland, which focus on resource use, energy use (e.g. fossil fuels, energy efficiency and renewable energy), and transportation (e.g. encouraging better land use planning, alternative service delivery and sustainable transport systems).	SEA objectives need to ensure the sustainable use of resources and energy, and the protection of natural resources and the environment.	The SPG should promote sustainable use of resources and energy, and the protection of natural resources and the environment.
22	Climate Change: The UK programme	Implemented in Scotland through the Scottish Climate Change Programme, which is under review. It reaffirms local government responsibilities set out in Energy White Paper and implements the Koyoto Protocol, which seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Include sustainability objectives to: improve air quality; reduce the causes of adverse climate change; increase the use of renewable energy technologies.	The SPG should promote a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.

23	BREEAM/ EcoHomes	This programme sets the standards for development schemes to attain, so minimising their environmental impact, in particular through the implementation of energy and water efficiency techniques.	Ensure there are SEA objectives to minimise the environmental impact, especially energy.	The SPG should promote a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.
24	UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994)	Encourages planning authorities to adopt a strategic approach to natural heritage planning by augmenting habitats, and to make an important contribution to the achievement of biodiversity targets by adopting policies, which promote and afford protection to species and habitats identified as priorities in Local Biodiversity Action Plans.	Include policies that promote biodiversity through protecting habitats and species and by linking habitats together.	The SPG should ensure the protection, maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity
25	Scottish Historic Environment Policies (SHEP) No 1 <i>The Historic Environment</i> [CON 728]	Sets a strategic policy framework through key outcomes that will ensure that: the historic environment is cared for, protected and enhanced for the benefit of our own and future generations; there is increased public appreciation and enjoyment of the historic environment amongst all the people of Scotland and visitors to our country; the historic environment's importance as a key asset in Scotland's economic, social and cultural success is recognised and skilfully harnessed.	SEA	The SPG should protect the historic environment

26	SHEP No 2 <i>Scheduled Ancient Monuments</i>	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.	Include a SEA objective that protects and enhances archaeological sites and other culturally important features.	The SPG should protect the historic environment
27	SPP1 The Planning System	The purpose of the planning system and the wider objectives of the Scottish Executive	Should meet requirements of SPP1	The SPG objectives should promote sustainable development
28	SPP2 Economic Development	Provide a range of development opportunities and encouraging development in sustainable locations	Should meet requirements of SPP2	The SPG objectives promote economic development within the context of sustainable development
29	SPP7 Planning and Flooding	New development should not take place if it would be at significant risk of flooding from any source or would materially increase the probability of flooding elsewhere.	Should meet requirements of SPP7	The implementation of the SPG should not increase flood risks
30	SPP15 Planning for Rural Development	Promotes development in the countryside if it is a sustainable location or allows for single developments if sustainable.	Should meet requirements of SPP15	The SPG should promote sustainable countryside development
31	SPP21 Green Belts	There should continue to be a strong presumption against inappropriate development in green belts. Land that is designated as green belt in the development plan, in association with wider networks of green space, can provide a number of benefits, including outdoor recreation opportunities for local people, biodiversity and enhanced quality of life. Opportunities should be taken to protect and enhance these benefits.	Should meet requirements of SPP21	The SPG should avoid inappropriate development of the greenbelt
32	NPPG5 Archaeology and planning	How archaeological remains and discoveries should be handled under the development plan and development control systems, including the weight to be given to them in planning decisions and the use of planning conditions.	Should meet requirements of NPPG5	The implementation of the SPG should protect archaeological remains
33	NPPG10 Planning and Waste management	Priority is now being given to the reduction of waste at source, its re-use, its recovery by recycling and to the use of waste as a source of energy	Should meet requirements of NPPG10	The implementation of the SPG should promote waste minimisation

34	NPPG13 Coastal Planning	sets out how planning can contribute to achieving sustainable development and also maintaining and enhancing biodiversity on the coast highlights the need to distinguish between policies for the developed, undeveloped and isolated coast indicates how planning authorities should respond to the risk of erosion and flooding in the coastal zone outlines policy guidance for developments which may require a coastal location identifies the action to be taken by planning authorities in their development plans and in development control decisions.	Should meet requirements of NPPG13	The implementation of the SPG should promote sustainable development and protect the marine environment
35	NPPG14 Natural Heritage	Gives guidance on how the Government's policies for the conservation and enhancement of Scotland's natural heritage should be reflected in land use planning.	Should meet requirements of NPPG14	The SPG should conserve and enhance natural heritage
36	NPPG18 Planning and the Historic Environment	Deals primarily with listed buildings, conservation areas, world heritage sites, historic gardens, designed landscapes and their settings. It complements NPPG5 <i>Archaeology and Planning</i> , which sets out the role of the planning system in protecting ancient monuments and archaeological sites and landscapes.	Should meet requirements of NPPG18	The SPG should protect and enhance the historic environment
37	National Waste plan (Scotland), 2003	This National Waste Plan establishes the direction of the Scottish Executive's policies for sustainable waste management to 2020. It is built around a major commitment of funding by the Executive to transform Scotland's record on waste reduction, recycling, composting and recovery.	Promote recycling, and use of waste for energy	The implementation of the SPG promote recycling, and use of waste for energy
38	"Securing the Future" – UK Sustainable Development Strategy, 2005	Promotion of sustainable development	Promotion of sustainable development	The SPG should promote sustainable development
39	Scottish Sustainable Development Strategy	Promotion of sustainable development	Promotion of sustainable development	SPG objectives should promote sustainable development

40	Securing a Renewable Future: Scotland's Renewable Energy (2003)	The Executive's commitment to renewable energy	Promotion of renewable energy sources	The SPG should promote the use of renewable sources for energy generation
41	The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.	Maintain or improve ambient air quality.	New developments should not have a negative impact on air quality	The SPG should promote a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.
42	A framework for Economic Development in Scotland	To raise the quality of life of the Scottish people through increasing the economic opportunities for all on a socially and environmentally sustainable basis	New developments should raise the quality of life through increasing the economic opportunities for all on a socially and environmentally sustainable basis	The SPG should improve quality of life and reduce fuel poverty.
43	Modernisation of the Planning System	Place development plans firmly at the heart of the system, to ensure that development takes place in the context of a long-term and inclusive vision for the future; Ensure that the planning system is fit for purpose, and able to respond to different types of development proposals in the most appropriate way; Encourage greater efficiency in development plan preparation and the determination of planning applications; Make it easier for people to get involved in planning, and help to shape the future of their communities; and Recognise planning's role in delivering sustainable development.	Deliver sustainable development	The SPG should promote sustainable development
44	PAN 60: Planning For Natural Heritage	Builds on the requirements of NPPG 14	Should meet requirements of PAN 60 and NPPG14	The implementation of the SPG should protect natural heritage

45	PAN 42: Archaeology	Advice on the handling of archaeological matters within the planning process and on the separate controls over scheduled monuments under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The PAN supports an associated National Planning Policy Guideline -Archaeology and Planning - which sets out the Governments planning policy on how archaeological remains and discoveries should be handled within the development plan and development control systems.	Should meet requirements of PAN 42	The implementation of the SPG should protect the historic environment
46	PAN 45: Renewable Energy Technologies	Scottish Executive is committed to increasing the amount of renewable energy generated and used in Scotland. The mechanism for promoting renewable energy generation is provided through 'renewables obligations'. The purpose of this Planning Advice Note (PAN) is to support the policies in NPPG 6 by providing information and advice on the technologies for harnessing renewable energy for electricity generation.	Should meet requirements of PAN 45	The SPG should protect renewable energy
Regional				
47	North East of Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Provides a long-term plan that aims to protect and enhance the biodiversity in the North East, and ensure that national targets for species and habitats, as specified in the UK Action Plan, are translated into effective local action.	Include a SEA objective that protects, maintains and enhances biodiversity.	The SPG should protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity.
48	Forest and Woodland Strategy for Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen Implements the Forests for Scotland – The Scottish Forestry Strategy, (Scottish Executive, 2000).	The Strategy provides a framework for woodland development and management, and aims to:ensure the sustainable management of the woodlands and forests; contribute to the local economy; provide opportunities for recreation and tourism; and protect and enhance biodiversity and the environment. This means encouraging multi-benefit forestry in new planting and through re-structuring, balancing forestry against other	Include SEA objectives that: protects, maintains and enhances biodiversity; reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change e.g. augmenting habitats.	The SPG should avoid conflict with forest and woodland priorities.

		land uses, protecting sensitive areas and identifying priority areas for expansion of a variety of forest and woodland types.		
49	North East Scotland Together (NEST) – Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan	Sets out shared strategic statement about future use of land in the north east. Proposals for renewable energy facilities shall be favourably considered subject to ecological, transportation, landscape and amenity considerations. Wind farm proposals shall be based on a sequential exploration of tiered planning designations	Include SEA objectives that promote the use of renewable energy facilities	The SPG should be consistent with NEST
Local				
50	Aberdeenshire Local Plan (ALP)	Set Policies out to; Protect listed buildings against any works, which would have a detrimental effect on their character, integrity or setting. Promote the use of wind energy Include sustainable principles in new developments that relate to the local environment, community and economy Make use of design technology in new developments to maximise the efficient use of energy and resources and minimise light pollution.	Include SEA objectives that protect listed buildings, promote wind energy and achieve better designed buildings that maximise the efficient use of energy and resources	The SPG should be consistent with ALP
51	Aberdeenshire Community Plan	Sustainable Environment: reducing resource use, protecting the environment, combating climate change and conserving and enhancing biodiversity.	Will apply to all SEA topics (e.g. air, water, soil, biodiversity, human health and population needs, climatic factors, landscape, built and cultural heritage, and material assets).	The SPG should promote sustainability, economic development and environmental protection.

52	Sustainability Charter	The strategy and action programme for implementing sustainable development at a local level.	SEA objectives need to ensure the sustainable use of resources and energy, and the protection of natural resources and the environment.	The SPG should ensure the sustainable use of resources
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Appendix B: Baseline data, targets and trends affecting Aberdeenshire Council

Table B1: SEA Topic: Air

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Air quality (odour and dust)	<p>In Aberdeenshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 letters of complaint on grit/dust in 2004 and, 12 letters in 2005 were received. • 181 letters of complaint on odour/ fumes in 2004 and 186 in 2005, the majority from industrial/commercial premises. 	<p>2004 and 2005 survey deemed these effects as having “no overall effect on air quality”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only a handful of letters have been received, but show no adverse or significant impact to local air quality of residents. • Between 2004 and 2005, there has been a 44% drop in letters of complaint for grit and dust in Aberdeenshire. • Letters of complaint relating to odour and fumes remain constant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant effects near waste management facilities or quarries, although there is an issue of development near sewage works in Inverurie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council (2004) <i>Local Air Quality Management Progress Report</i> http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environmental/airquality2004.pdf • Aberdeenshire Council (2005) <i>Local Air Quality Management Progress Report</i> http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environmental/air_report_2005.pdf

<p>Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)</p>	<p>There is no air quality management area in Aberdeenshire</p>	<p>Aberdeen was designated as an AQMA in 2001 for continuously exceeding the 2005 annual objective level for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). The annual mean standard of NO₂ in Union St was 53 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m⁻³) and in Market St 71 µg/m⁻³, principally from HGVs and buses. The AQMA includes Market St, Union St, King St, Guild St, and Virginia St. In 2003, monitoring of particulate matter (PM₁₀), showed an exceedence of the 2010 annual mean PM₁₀ objective of 18µg/m⁻³ on Market Street. Daily mean traffic volumes (2002): Market Street: 31,958 Union Street: 19,293 Annual average daily traffic along North/South/ Anderson Drive is 36,246, and Auchmill Rd, 41,223. An AQMA can be designated where an area exceeds the annual mean NO₂ objective level of 40µ g/m⁻³ to be achieved by councils by 2005 under the Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000 and for exceeding the 2010 annual mean PM₁₀ level.</p>	<p>.</p>		<p>Aberdeen City Council: <u><i>Air Quality Report - 4th Stage Air Quality Review and Assessment</i></u> (2003); <u><i>Updating & Screening Assessment of Air Quality in Aberdeen</i></u> (2003); and <u><i>Aberdeen City Council Air Quality Action Plan</i></u> (2006) BMT Cordah Ltd (2004) <u><i>Local Air Quality Management - Detailed Assessment</i></u>, Aberdeen City Council National Air Quality Objectives: http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/laqm/information.php?info=objectives Scottish Executive (2006) <i>National Transport Strategy Consultation – SEA Environmental Report</i> Scottish Executive (2005) <i>Indicators of Sustainable Development for Scotland: Progress Report 2005</i> Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000 Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2002</p>
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Table B2: SEA Topic: Water

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Water quality in Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Runoff is natural to within 10% at the 95-percentile flow for all rivers in the River Dee SAC (2447km). Scottish Water is considering closing the abstraction unit on the Water of Dye. If it is not closed, the level of abstraction will be reduced by 50% to meet Water Framework Directive requirements. The Ythan Estuary has been adversely affected by high nitrate levels from agriculture and from alterations to the river bank reducing wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The River Naver (1066km) in the Highlands is also a SAC and its runoff is natural to within 10% at the 95 percentile flow. The runoff of the River Tweed (3795km, also a SAC) is affected by reservoir(s) in its catchment, and is reduced by public water supply abstraction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Water is complying with the water orders for the River Dee catchment. As rainfall levels are predicted to decline in the future, the yield of watercourses in the River Dee catchment may decline. The Ythan Project, which ran from 2001-05 has improved the river. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A decline and mortalities in the number of species of international importance if water levels fall. (e.g. Salmon deaths in the river Dee during low flows in 2004). High nitrate levels adversely affecting water quality of internationally important rivers (e.g. Ythan Estuary). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate Assessment meeting for Aberdeenshire Local Plan (11th April 2006): <i>Minutes of meeting to discuss research into the impact of water abstraction on the qualifying interests of the River Dee Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</i> Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Strategic Flooding Issues</i> www.nerc-wallingford.ac.uk http://www.ythan.org
Likelihood of flooding from new development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between 2002 and 2004, no large-scale planning applications have been granted planning consent in a flood plain. In Aberdeenshire, 9 planning applications for new build were granted consent between 2002 and 2004 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, to reduce the likelihood of flooding in Elgin, Forres and Rothes and Lhanbryde. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New developments in the flood plain are now unlikely due to the publication of SPP7: <i>Planning and Flooding</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicator shows a positive significant environmental effect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan 2001-2016: Environment Monitoring Paper (Aberdeenshire)</i> Moray Council (2003) Monitoring report www.moray.gov.uk/download/file43359.pdf

<p>Ground water and river levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water runoff is reduced by public water supply abstraction for rivers Dee and Dye (a tributary of the River Dee near Banchory). • 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. • Data on ground water in Scotland was not available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the 2080s, summer precipitation in the south of Scotland is predicted to decrease by 20-40% under the low emissions (Global Sustainability), and to decrease by more than 40% under the high-emissions World Markets scenario. • By the 2080s, summer precipitation in the north of Scotland is predicted to decrease by 10-20% under the low emissions (Global Sustainability), and to decrease by 20-30% under the high-emissions World Markets. • In the Highlands, river runoff can be affected by hydro- power stations. • Data on ground water in Scotland was not available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainfall levels are predicted to decline during the summer months, which may affect a rivers yield rate, but this will be less severe further north. • Rainfall in winter months is predicted to increase. • Increase in water consumption from industrial consumers and from increased residential development. • Increase in leakages from pipe infrastructure as it 'ages'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to start reducing water abstraction by incorporating water efficient technologies into new development (industrial and domestic) in light of the predicted decrease in summer rainfall. • A decrease in summer precipitation may lead to a decline in ground water levels in upland areas (resulting in private supplies running out), and reduce the likelihood of new development proposals in these areas. • Future development may put a constraint on this indicator. 	<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 • Aberdeen City (2002) State of the Environment Report, <i>aberdeenfutures</i> http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2424&SID=883
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<p>Water quality (biology and chemistry)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2006 all bathing water passed the European tests. • In 2005 there was 1 failure. • Overall, two areas (Stonehaven and Cruden Bay) have the poorest bathing water quality, last failing in 2005 (Stonehaven) and 2002 (Cruden Bay). • Groundwater vulnerability map from SEPA website indicates most of Aberdeenshire as vulnerable from pollutants that are not readily absorbed or transformed (class 4), except to the south of the Highland Boundary Fault (near Stonehaven) and along the Formartine/Buchan coast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2006, all 63 sites in Scotland have satisfied European bathing water standards for the first time since monitoring began. • South West Scotland has the poorest bathing water quality principally due to leaching and runoff from agricultural practices (dairy). • Groundwater vulnerability map from SEPA website shows that the least vulnerable areas susceptible to pollutants is in the Central Belt and north of Scotland (John O' Groats). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Scottish Water's sewage treatment works have greatly improved bathing water quality. • Water quality overall is good in Scotland. • Improved agricultural practices (e.g. runoff) have reduced water pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathing water quality not consistently meeting EC Guideline Standards in Stonehaven, Cruden Bay. • Impacts on bathing water from future uses, such as the rise in water sports, which could have an adverse impact on water quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Scottish Executive Statistics Environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/15637/sesoSubSearch/Q/SID/82 • 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"> • http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/47032/0014776.pdf • European Directive 76/160/EEC, which sets mandatory bacteriological and other health-related standards for bathing waters in Europe.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total length of poor rivers: 51km. Appendix 4, Table 1 provides a full list of those watercourses. • Total length of seriously polluted rivers: 2.1km. • There are 10 watercourses within Aberdeenshire with poor water quality. • There are 2 watercourses that are classified as seriously polluted (Mains of Dyce Burn (poor biology), & East Tollos Burn (poor biology and chemistry)), both in the City. • A build-up of nitrates from diffuse pollution within the River Ythan catchment has enriched estuarine mudflats such that dense algal mats now affect invertebrate communities living in the mud. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 2 watercourses within the Aberdeen City with poor water quality. • In Scotland, 717km of rivers are poor and 51km are seriously polluted. • The majority of the poor quality rivers are located in the Central Belt and Fife. • Watercourses that are seriously polluted are mostly located in Glasgow City. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land based pollution from wastewater and sewage has being brought under stricter control, which has resulted in river quality throughout the North East slowly improving. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2005, 53.1km of water courses in the North East are classified as poor or seriously polluted as a result of poor chemistry and biology quality. • A build-up of nitrates from diffuse pollution within the River Ythan catchment is adversely affecting species that live in the mud flats of the river mouth, which is an internationally designated natural heritage site. 	<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 sand Trends</i> http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resources/Doc/47032/0014776.pdf
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shoreline along Sandford Bay & Boddam (Peterhead Power Station) (4km) is classified as poor. 	<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"> • Peterhead Power Station is likely to be contributing to the poor water quality. • In the North East, the main cause of poor quality coastline is the result of sewage effluent being released untreated. 	<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_water_classification.pdf • Scottish Executive Environment Statistics: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/15637/sesoSubSearch/Q/SID/103

<p>Coastal Impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of motorised vehicles on sand dunes. • Balloon releases, and marine litter are damaging the marine environment. • 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 North Sea was once considered to be the most contaminated sea in Europe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are only a few places that allow quad-biking legally. • Sea-borne waste is a common problem throughout Scotland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major impact both on the sand dune erosion, wildlife and the enjoyment of other beach users. • Bathing water quality along the North East coast is improving. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Grampian Coastal Partnership (Annual Report 2005-06): http://www.egcp.org.uk/documents/Toc138674449 • Forth Estuary Forum: http://www.forthestuaryforum.co.uk/downloads/strategy.pdf • Marine Conservation Society http://www.mcsuk.org/mcsaction/pollution/introduction
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Table B3: SEA Topic: Soil

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Contaminated land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 4 statutorily identified contaminated sites in Aberdeenshire. In the Shire, there are 5000 other potentially contaminated sites, including landfill sites, former gasworks, stations and goods yards, petrol stations and garages, distilleries, smithy's and infilled ground. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no statutorily identified contaminated sites in Aberdeen, although there are 900 potentially contaminated sites, which are being considered for investigation. 7 are currently being studied (averaging 3 sites pa). In Aberdeen, out of the 7 sites under investigation, which include 5 closed landfill sites. Two gas works sites are under further investigation. Dundee City Council does not contain any contaminated sites on its Public register. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although only 2 contaminated sites are on the public register in the North East, this may increase as many sites are still to be investigated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 5,900 potentially contaminated sites recorded in the North East. These include several hundred high-risk sites such as landfill and gasworks. Contaminated land places financial and technological constraints on development. 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. Contaminated land impacts on the water environment, i.e. ground surface and coastal waters, and the wider environment including for instance local ecology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen City Council (2001) <i>Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy</i> http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/acci/web/files/Pollution/ContaminatedLandInspectionStrategy.pdf Aberdeenshire Council Contaminated Land Strategy (under review December 2006) Aberdeenshire Council <i>Public Register of Contaminated Land</i> Aberdeenshire Council GGP overlay: <i>Potentially contaminated sites</i> Dundee City Council http://www.dundee.gov.uk/ehts/contam.htm

<p>Prime agricultural land (Grades 1 to 3.1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aberdeenshire, prime agricultural land is located principally in the central area (excluding Marr), and south of the Highland Boundary Fault (near Stonehaven). • Most Grade 2 prime agricultural land is found south of the Highland Boundary Fault, near Laurencekirk (approx 950ha). • Climate change is predicted to have an affect on precipitation (to increase in winter months and decrease during the summer), storm events, and sea level, which will affect prime quality agricultural land in the North East. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen contains very little prime agricultural land (300ha). • Prime agricultural land comprises around 5.8 % of Scotland's land surface, and is principally located in the eastern central belt and lowlands. • 6.7% of Scotland 's prime agricultural land is within flood risk areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net loss of Scottish agriculture land from roads, housing and industry has doubled from 588ha in 1989 to 1,402ha in 2003. • As a result of predicted increases in winter rainfall, all the major rivers in the North East are prone to meandering where flood defences have not been built. • Increase in storm events may increase the threat of soil erosion from the wind on low-lying areas, reducing the nutrient value of fields. • Sea level on the east coast is predicted to rise 34 to 55cm by the 2080s (rising 1.0mm per year). • Air temperatures are also predicted to rise by a few degrees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential loss of prime agricultural land from climate change – precautionary approach may need to be applied in certain areas (e.g. on prime agricultural land near flood plains, along the coast, and on land of the highest quality). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Executive Statistics (2005): Economic Report on Scottish Agriculture http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/2290402/05121 • Scottish Executive (2002) Climate Change: Flooding Occurrences Review: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/cru/kd01/lightgreen/ccfo.pdf • Davidson, D.A. and Grieve, I.C. (2004) <i>Trends in soil erosion</i>, SNH Commissioned Report No. 054 (ROAME No. F00AC106) http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/F00AC106.pdf • 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
<p>Waste disposal in landfill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005 figures for landfill and recycling in Aberdeenshire stands at: • landfilled BMW: 83,222 tonnes; and • recycled/ composted MSW: 15.1% (23,366). • BMW landfill allowances for Aberdeenshire are: • 54,917 tonnes in 2009/10; • 36,611 tonnes in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005 figures for landfill and recycling in Aberdeen stands at: • landfilled biodegradable municipal waste (BMW): 70,773; and recycled/ composted municipal solid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish recycling/composting rate in 2005 is 22.8% (778,809 tonnes). • 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"> • Not enough sites for recycling or composting biodegradable municipal waste (large, medium or small scale) to help the local authorities achieve their recycling and landfill targets, although funding is being sought from the Scottish Executive's Strategic Waste Fund to build the necessary infrastructure. • Housing, schools, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North East Scotland Area Waste Plan (2003) http://www.sepa.org.uk/nws/areas/north_east/awp/2.4.html • Aberdeen City Council http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/acci/web/site/Rubbish/rub_WasteStrategy.asp • Aberdeenshire Council Waste Team • RPS (2006) <i>North of</i>

	<p>2012/13; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27,340 tonnes in 2019/20. • National recycling targets are: • 2006 – 25% • 2008 – 30% • 2020 – 55% • Aberdeenshire’s recycling targets: • 2005/06 – 17% • 2006/07 – 22% 	<p>waste (MSW): 16.5% (22,500 tonnes) (this has increased to 22% in 2005/06).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMW landfill allowances for Aberdeen are: • 53,004 tonnes in 2009/10; • 35,336 tonnes in 2012/13; and • 26,387 tonnes in 2019/20. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet the Waste Landfill Direct, the North of Scotland Strategic Options Review (includes Highland, Moray, Angus and City and Shire councils) is looking at several different methods to dispose of municipal waste, including incineration (energy from waste plant). 	<p>employment uses (e.g. retail and offices) are of inadequate design to maximise the storing and collection of waste to be recycled.</p>	<p><i>Scotland Strategic Option Review Group: Strategic Outline Case</i></p> <p>http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/113890/0027685.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfill Allowance Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2005 – Interim Guidance, Scottish Executive <p>http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/54357/0012514.pdf</p>
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Soil erosion	<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. • From Aberdeen to Inverness the coastline is largely eroding, but parts are being replenished with sand and gravel from larger rivers. • Greater rainfall is predicted in the winter months, and rivers will be more prone to meandering, increasing the level of silt in watercourses (including Inverurie, Kintore, Kemnay). • Predicted increase in winter precipitation and storms will increase soil erosion from the wind and surface water runoff. • Use of motorised vehicles on sand dunes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The north of Scotland is mostly stable with little erosion, but south of Mallaig, towards Carlisle, the coastline is predominantly eroding but stable where there are rocky coasts or coastal defences. • Precipitation will be greater in the west due to the west-east precipitation gradient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coastline is predominantly eroding along the east. • Autumn/Winter rainfall is predicted to increase, giving rise to winter storms and affecting runoff and (wind and water) erosion. • Upland schemes such as wind farm access roads and recreation tracks (e.g. mountain biking) on steep ground can increase surface water runoff and lead to significant soil loss (e.g. gullies). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal erosion mostly where there are no rocks or coastal defences • Increase silting of rivers from fluvial flooding • Increase in soil erosion from wind and water, which may also be exacerbated by bad land use practices, such as locating tracks/access roads on steep/upland ground. • 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> • Aberdeen Council Natural Heritage Team • Davidson, D.A. and Grieve, I.C. (2004) <i>Trends in soil erosion</i>, Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 054 (ROAME No. F00AC106) http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/F00AC106.pdf
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Table B4: SEA Topic: Biodiversity

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
North East Biodiversity Action Plan (NE BAP) targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm intensification and specialisation practices have transformed habitats (e.g. removal of meadows and hedgerows) and reduced species numbers (e.g. barn owls). Loss still continues to result from inappropriate habitat "creation" i.e. the creation of a relatively large pond in an area of wet grassland/marsh which will already be very biodiverse. Action plans have been prepared for 20 out of the 26 habitats identified in the NE BAP. Action plans on upland species-rich grassland, coastal cliffs and heaths, marine habitats, broadleaf woodland, heathland, lochs and ponds, and wetlands are in development. 	<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 DEFRA (2005) <i>The UK Biodiversity Action Plan – Highlights from the 2005 reporting round</i> UK BAP targets for Local Biodiversity Action Plans http://www.ukbap.org.uk/library/brig/trgtargets/ScotlandLBAPTargets.xls Scottish Biodiversity Forum (2003) <i>Towards a strategy for Scotland's biodiversity: Scotland's Biodiversity Resource and Trends</i> 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).

<p>Designated areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The River Dee's designation as a Special Area of Conservation will have a knock-on effect on future development within the river's catchment. • There are 28 Natura sites in Aberdeenshire, such as the Dee SAC, which have implications for development. • Again, the Area of Aberdeenshire designated as Natura sites is roughly half the total Scottish figure. • The lack of appropriate management of some designated natural heritage sites is affecting their underlying objective (of that designation) and overall integrity. • No monitoring of SINS has been undertaken, but they are under review. 	<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. • Moray Council's Monitoring report did not identify any adverse impacts on designated sites as a result of new development that would result in the need to amend it's environment policies on natural heritage designations. • The main targets to be achieved are the conservation and enhancement of designated sites, and permitting only those developments that will not adversely affect these designations directly and indirectly, unless the proposal will be of national benefit to the population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning policies have generally prohibited developments within International and national designations that may harm these sites, and indirect impacts are affecting some important wetland sites. • The River Dee's designation as a Special Area of Conservation will affect future development within the river's catchment, which includes, Peterculter, Banchory Aboyne, and Tarland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International designations: the significance and purpose of SACs is that development in or adjacent to them, such as the River Dee catchment may cumulatively prevent the objectives of these designations being met, and prevent new development being developed. • Indirect impact of development on designated sites that are affecting their water table, and therefore the quality of wetland habitats. • Impact from large-scale leisure and recreation uses. • Increase of access to designated sites could be damaging to some sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure Plan (NEST) (2006) <i>Monitoring Environment Monitoring Paper</i>, Aberdeenshire Council • Aberdeenshire Council, Natural Heritage team • Moray Council (2003) <i>Development Plan Monitoring Paper</i> http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_42476.html • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Natural Heritage Topic Paper</i> • Aberdeen City (2002) <i>State of the Environment Report</i>, aberdeenfutures http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2424&slD=883 • http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/on-line/corporate/factsandfigures/0405/index.htm
<p>Non-designated areas and enhancing biodiversity (reducing loss of habitat and species)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of monitoring of non-designated sites. • Land allocations for residential developments have been proposed in wooded areas in the Aberdeenshire Local Plan (e.g. Banchory). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of the NE BAP will assist in safeguarding the North East biodiversity in non-designated sites through several habitat and species Action Plans. • About 10 per cent of the Scottish coastline has 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development pressure remains constant around the edge of settlements. The Action Plans for the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species shows how much still needs to be done to ensure they are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indirect impacts of development on non-designated sites. • Intensive and unsustainable resource use has resulted in much of the biodiversity lost in both terrestrial and marine environments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure Plan (NEST) (2005) <i>Monitoring Environment Monitoring Paper</i>, Aberdeenshire Council • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Natural Heritage Topic Paper</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals for new dwellings have been granted consent on coastal sites and in urban green spaces. Numerous planning applications have been received in the last 5 years for edge of town large-scale retail developments, but these have mostly been on farm or brownfield land. 	<p>been affected by intensive urban or industrial use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the upper Forth estuary, it has been estimated that various forms of land uses and development have claimed 50% of the intertidal mudflats. *Research by the UK Biodiversity Partnership has shown that infrastructure development, coastal developments, housing, and more recently global warming are the main threats to biodiversity. 	<p>not lost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fragmented and/or incomplete networks of open space/wildlife corridors The loss/fragmentation of sites or open space by new development on or within hospital (or other grounds), as these areas are often viewed as brownfield sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large-scale schemes around edge of towns are placing significant pressure on unprotected open spaces. There is significant development pressure for new dwelling houses along the coast. Incomplete networks of open space/wildlife corridors. Need to enhance and augment habitats to avoid their decline within settlements. Risk of increasing population near sensitive natural heritage areas. Extensive use of land, and cumulative impact is resulting in the loss of biodiversity. There are positive opportunities to enhance forestry and SuDS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North East Biodiversity Action Plan: <i>Action Updates</i> http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/updates.htm North East Biodiversity Action Plan: <i>Action Plans</i> http://www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/habactionplan.htm *Planning Resource article <i>Study detects key threats to wildlife</i>, 23/06/2006 Scottish Biodiversity Forum (2003) <i>Towards a strategy for Scotland's biodiversity: Scotland's Biodiversity Resource and Trends</i> See survey work being done by the Council, using the Integrated Habitat Survey (IHS).
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. 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. 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. 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. 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 this represents 0.12% of the total land area.	No trend	Development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004. Battleby: SNH</i>
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. Battleby: SNH</i>
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. Battleby: SNH</i>
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	Housing development will put pressure on the resource	SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004. Battleby: SNH</i>

Table B5: 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. • Aberdeenshire is promoting the use of biofuels and other renewable energy technologies through its Renewable Energy Strategy, and has published supplementary planning guidance on wind and biomass and micro-renewable energy schemes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity Consumption: 35TeraWatt hours. • Gas consumption (domestic): 34.2TeraWatt hours. • Most wind farm proposals are concentrated in the Highlands and southern Scotland. • 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"> • Aberdeenshire is promoting the use of biofuels and other renewable energy technologies through its Renewable Energy Strategy. • Increasingly small scale wind farm projects are being proposed by farmers in the North East. • Most large-scale proposals are concentrated in the Highlands and southern Scotland (most likely due to adequate grid connections). • Micro-renewables are likely to become more common due to the need for on-site renewables as proposed in SPP6. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High energy dependence on fossil fuels to provide heat and electricity. • Insufficient grid connections and constraints with certain types of renewable energy technologies, such as wind and marine 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> http://www.viewsofscotland.org/library/docs/SWAP_Wind_Gazetteer_v1.pdf • Aberdeenshire Council weekly planning lists. • Scottish Executive (2006) <i>Draft Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 6: Renewable Energy</i> • Aberdeenshire Council (2004) <i>The Renewable Energy Strategy</i>: http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/green/renewable_energy2.pdf • Aberdeenshire Council (2005) Use of wind energy in Aberdeenshire (Parts 1 & 2) • Aberdeenshire Council (2006) Use of biomass energy in Aberdeenshire • Aberdeenshire Council (2006) Use of micro-renewable energy in Aberdeenshire

<p>Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions</p>	<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. • The average Scottish household produces 5,505 kg CO₂. • Scotland contributed 10% to the total UK CO₂ emissions. • In 2003, Scotland's main contributors to CO₂ emissions were: • 33.2% from power generation (30.5% is the UK average), an increase of 23.6%; • 18% from road transport; and • 13% from domestic households. • 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. This is most likely due to the areas high dependence on oil, as very little renewable energy electricity is generated in Aberdeenshire, and the gas pipeline runs only along the eastern side of the area. • 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). • Few properties incorporate in their design resilience to extreme climate and weather conditions. • Materials with high CO₂ levels are still increasingly popular (e.g. concrete and tarmac). • Energy dependence on fossil fuels for: • heat and electricity; and • transportation. 	<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 • *DEFRA (2005) <i>Greenhouse Gas Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: 1990 – 2003</i> http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/reports/cat07/0509211321_Reghg_report_2003_Main_Text_Issue_1.doc, National Environmental Technology Centre • UK Greenhouse gas inventory, 1990-2004 http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/reports/cat07/0605231047_ukghgi_90-04_v1.1.pdf • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Energy</i>, Aberdeenshire Council
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<p>Areas affected by flooding (sea)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,743 in Aberdeenshire are located within the indicative floodplain or coastal area below 5 meters Ordnance Datum (OD). • The sea-level along the east coast is predicted to rise 34 to 55 cm by the 2080s. • Those settlements that are likely to be affected by rising sea levels are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fraserburgh harbour; • Peterhead harbour; • Stonehaven's harbour and the town centre; • Cowie; • Banff (east side); and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 571 properties in Aberdeen • By the 2080s, the sea-level along the south-west of Scotland is predicted to rise by 31 to 52cm and 36 to 57cm for north-west Scotland. • 3,780 properties in Moray and 6,639 in Angus are located within the coastal area below 5 meters OD. In Glasgow City 14,904 properties will be affected. • 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"> • By the 2080s, any part of a settlement below the 5m Ordnance Datum mark is likely to be affected by rising sea levels, high tides, and storm surges. • Rising sea levels will affect the whole of Scotland, especially low-lying areas. • 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 as a result 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 200year flood event) • New Zealand Climate Change Office (2004) <i>Local Communities: Planning for Climate Change</i> http://www.climatechange.govt.nz/resources/local-govt/local-communities-planning-may04/local-communities-planning-change-may04.pdf
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<p>Areas affected by flooding (fluvial)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the 2080s, summer precipitation decreases between 10-30% are predicted in the north of Scotland. • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fraserburgh • Turriff • Longside • Huntly • Kintore • Banchory • Newtonhill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the 2080s summer precipitation decreases of 20-40% under the low emissions (Global Sustainability), and more than 40% under the high-emissions World Markets scenario are predicted in the south of Scotland. • 309 properties in Aberdeen (out of 104,543) are located within the indicative floodplain. • The frequency of extreme 48-hour rainfalls is likely to increase by the 2080s, especially in the west during the winter months when a stronger westerly airflow over Scotland is anticipated • In Scotland, the number of residential properties within inland floodplains is 71,402. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The decrease in summer precipitation will be less farther north compared with southern Scotland. • Compared with the rest of Scotland, far fewer properties in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire are at significant risk from flooding. • Frequency of storm events will increase, although it will be less significant along the east of Scotland. • National guidance (SPP7: <i>Planning and Flooding</i>) requires no properties (e.g. dwellings) to be affected by flooding either by being developed in a flood-affected area, or from development upstream. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise in soil erosion from storm events, which will create a greater need for SuDS, and an increase their water holding capacity. • Rising precipitation and storms will increase fluvial flooding (e.g. 1 in 200 year flood event), which will restrict where new development can be located for some settlements (see Appendix 4, Table 3). • The number of properties at risk from inland fluvial flooding is low, but local flood defensive schemes will still be required, as a result 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 • Scottish Executive (2004) <i>Scottish Planning Policy 7: Planning and Flooding</i>
<p>Areas affected by flooding (pluvial)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72% of flood problems reported relate to urban drainage problems. • Settlements in Aberdeenshire that are affected by pluvial flooding include Huntly, Turriff and Westhill. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only a handful of sites in Aberdeen are affecting by pluvial flooding, due to culverts being too small for surface water run-off during heavy rain. • Pluvial flooding away 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewers are generally designed to a 1:30 year return period and so extreme flood events will affect the sewerage network. As a result, there will be an increased requirement of SuDS in new (and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise in precipitation during the winter months and increase in storms will result in the need for SuDS to prevent pluvial flooding in urban areas. 	<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 • Aberdeenshire Council Flood Prevention Team • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper:</i>

		from the floodplain is difficult to characterise in terms of flood risk. It typically occurs in built-up areas where the urban drainage system is poorly maintained or unable to cope.	even existing) development schemes.		<i>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 (protecting priority species are included in these plans). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rise in air and sea temperatures is pushing some bird (e.g. kingfisher) and fish species (e.g. cod) 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"> The following changes are predicted to affect biodiversity: Air and sea temperatures are predicted to rise by as much as 2 to 3°C in the next 80 years. East coast waters are predicted to warm at a greater rate than those in the west. Wetter autumns and winters, drier, hotter summers and more unpredictable weather events. Changes in precipitation will affect run-off and erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fragmented habitats resulting from development and changes in the climate may affect less mobile species from migrating and/or adapting to changes in the environment. Climate change may result in existing lowland and upland habitats from disappearing, which will have an adverse affect on the species who live in these habitats. 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: www.nesbiodiversity.org.uk/habactionplan.htm
Impact on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire's annual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen's annual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main contributors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North East Global Footprint

<p>natural resources</p>	<p>global footprint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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%) 	<p>global footprint (in global hectares per person (gha/p):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total: 5.80gha/p • Energy consumption: 1.14gha/p (20%) • Food and drink: 1.07gha/p (19%) • Land travel: 0.81ha/p (14%) • Other (Government, capital investment, holiday activities, consumables services, and housing): 2.35gha/p (47%) • The Scottish average global footprint is 5.37gha/p, which is lower compared to the NE's average. 	<p>to the NE's global footprint are energy consumption, food and drink, and land travel.</p>	<p>footprint is increasing and this cannot be sustained in the long-term.</p>	<p>Project http://www.scotlandsfootprint.org/the_project/north_east.php</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>Scotland's Global Footprint Project - Reduction Report for North East Scotland Global Footprint Project</i>, Joint Global Footprint Co-ordinator, Aberdeen City Council
<p>Impact on year-round services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flash floods will affect services by: • increasing the maintenance and unblocking of gullies, including slow moving gullies, hecks (grills at the end of a burn), and ditches; • increase in outlet blockages; and • overflow of combined water and sewage pipes. • Sudden/heavy snow fall will affect services by: • melt water affecting drainage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in winter precipitation, including snow melts and storms will affect drainage pipe, road and rail infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing need for service provision throughout the year (e.g. as flood events are predicted to increase during winter seasons). 	<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 City council

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• gritting capability (only able to grit priority routes)• Rise in sea level will affect services by:• high tides exacerbating tidal rivers and gullies;• 1 in 19 years cycle of the moon which increases the tides height to 4.7m (a spring tide is 4.5m) | | | | |
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Table B6: SEA Topic: Human Health

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/ constraints	Data source(s)
Quality and availability of public open space in urban and rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant development pressure on open spaces within settlements. • Development on open spaces limits the council's ability to establish networks of linked open space areas. • There is pressure from private sector developers to limit the extent of open space for new residential developments. • There is a lack of government funding to allow local authorities to continuously manage areas of open space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other urban areas like Dundee are under substantial development pressure. • Councils are required to take a long term and spatially strategic perspective on open space provision (NPPG 11), and under the draft SPP11 undertake an open space audit and prepare an open space strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pressure from private developers to develop on open space will continue. • The demand for public open space will continue to grow, and this must be reflected, and over the long term. • There is growing demand for safer and more accessible areas of open space, which has promoted the creation of PAN65. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant development pressure for urban open spaces. • There is pressure to reduce the size of open spaces in residential developments. • Need for larger areas of open spaces, including civic or town parks. • 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/ACCl/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2424&slD=883 • SNH <i>Scottish Natural Heritage in Dundee</i> http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/scottishparliamentleaflets/dundee.pdf • Scottish Executive (1996) <i>NPPG 11: Sport, physical recreation and open space</i> • Scottish Executive (2003) <i>Planning Advice Note 65: Planning and Open Space</i> • Aberdeenshire Council's Information and Research team. • Scottish Executive (2006) Consultative draft <i>Scottish Planning Policy 11: Physical Activity and Open Space</i>

<p>Improvements to quality of life in currently deprived areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire is one of the least deprived areas in Scotland and is ranked 31st out of 32 councils in terms of multiple deprivation*. • The most deprived areas are Fraserburgh (education, income and health); Peterhead (income, jobs, and health); and Huntly (education, income, jobs, and housing). • 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. Glasgow City and West Dunbarton are the most deprived. • 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"> • Aberdeenshire is one of the least deprived area in Scotland. • Banff and Buchan and Buchan have the most deprived areas (known as datazones in the report*) in Aberdeenshire, with Garioch being the least deprived. • Datazones and wards in more urban areas tend to score higher under 'geographical access to services'. • One of the main outcomes of Aberdeen's Community Regeneration Strategy is six regeneration masterplans for Cummings Park, Middlefield, Tillydrone, Torry, Woodside and Seaton. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor access to services in rural areas. • Centralisation of service provision has and will continue to affect marginalised areas. • Pockets of deprivation through low job opportunities and income could be adversely affecting people's mental health in Aberdeen and in northern Aberdeenshire. 	<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%20Abshire%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. In Aberdeenshire, from the 14 sports facilities suggested in the 1990 Rural Sports Study 	<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. • (See Appendix 4, Table 4 	<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: • sports facilities at Cove; • a swimming pool in 	<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; • 70% of the Scottish population 	<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> • Aberdeenshire Council (2002) <i>Sports and Active Lifestyles Strategy</i> (for the period 2002 to 2005).

	<p>to meet demand for swimming, halls sports, ice skating/ curling, hockey and athletics, only 3 remain to be built.</p>	<p>for further information on Aberdeen City Council's sports strategy) Significant work has been undertaken in Aberdeen, to implement proposals outlined in their sports strategy, including the upgrading of facilities at Rubislaw sports pitches, development of an extreme sports centre; and improved hockey pitches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Mintlaw; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a 6 Badminton Court Hall in Peterhead and Fraserburgh, • all of which were identified in the City's and Shire's sports studies. 	<p>has access to a (sports) hall within a 20 minutes walk; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that every local authority's community planning process contributes to the targets of Sport 21: 2003-2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sportscotland (2003) <i>Sport 21: 2003 – 2007: The National Strategy for Sport – Shaping Scotland's Future</i> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Sport and recreation</i>
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<p>Cause of mental health (especially of poorer communities)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overcrowding: Aberdeen – 12,536 (6%) • Private rented sector and Council stock are higher than in RSL stock or owner-occupied housing • Quality of life/health: Aberdeen – Good: 73% • Fairly good: 20% • Not good: 7% • *Most common house type: Aberdeen - semi-detached (30%); • *Most common house type granted planning consent (units over 20): • Aberdeen - 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%) • Overcrowding in Scotland: 12%. • Population density in 2005: Scotland: 65 persons per km² • Aberdeenshire: 37 persons per km² • In Scotland there is a relatively equal spread (20%) of new house types built, although the majority (36%) are built as flats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of household type, lone parents and families with two or more children experience the highest levels of overcrowding. • Banff Buchan have the highest % of people who say their health is not good, and adults who are unable to work due to disability. • Relatively small % of new homes were semi-detached and none were terraced. • Differences in housing stock between the City and Shire will become more extreme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overcrowding in Aberdeen is higher than the Scottish average and it could be affecting people’s mental health. • Lack of variety in new house types granted consent. • There will still be a need for a significant proportion of new housing to be larger properties. • When considered in the context of the existing stock, planning permissions are being given which, over time, will lead to the differences between the housing stock in the City and Shire being more extreme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2001 Census (www.scot.gov.uk) • NHS Grampian (2004) <i>Mental Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment</i>, Public Health Unit • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Characteristics of the Housing Stock</i> • Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council (2002) <i>House buyers survey</i> • *Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council <i>Housing Needs Assessment 2004: Housing Market Area Report</i> • Shelter: http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/advice/advice-4035.cfm • Register for General Scotland (2006) <i>Mid-2005 Population Estimates</i>
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Table B7: 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
	<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: Male 75.5 years Females 80.2 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life expectancy in Aberdeen: Male 73.6 years Females 78.9 years Life expectancy in Scotland: 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: 2003 - 229,330 2021 - 229,353 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen population figures: 2003 - 206,600 2021 - 202,636 Average age in 2005: Aberdeen – 38 (m), 41 (f). Estimated population in Scotland in 2005 is 5,094,800. Scottish average age in 2005 is 38 (m) and 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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North East population figures aged between 0 – 44 years: 2003 – 257,570 2021 – 216,333 North East population figures aged 45+ years: 2003 – 178,360 2021 – 215,656 Average age in 2005: Aberdeenshire – 39 (m), 41 (f) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the North East, the population aged 0 - 44 are predicted to decline by an average of 14% between 2003 and 2021. The population aged 45 onwards is predicted to increase by 31%, with those aged 75+ increasing the most (49.7%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

<p>Migration change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration loss 2002-05: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen is losing its population to Aberdeenshire and outside Scotland. • Aberdeenshire is losing its population to Scotland. • Migration gain 2002-05: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen is gaining its population from Scotland. • 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. • Only a slight net migration gain is predicted to 2016, with a decline post 2016. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total net migration gain in Scotland during 2005 was 12,500 people from the rest of the UK, a net gain of around 7,300 from overseas (including asylum seekers). • Aberdeenshire, Highland and Falkirk had the largest percentage increases over the year at 1.1% • Midlothian and Aberdeen City had the second largest decrease at 0.5%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The migration trend in the North East is slow growth to 2016 and then a slow decline thereafter. • However, migration is a significant and difficult to forecast element of demographic change which occurs in response to international and national as well as local factors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-migration will create greater demand for houses and services in Aberdeenshire. • Possible need for services catering for 'non-Scotland' migrants, especially if from overseas (e.g. language and cultural issues/differences). • Retiral 'stealth' in-migration may affect housing and service provision in Aberdeenshire (i.e. an increase need for). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Characteristics of the housing stock</i> • 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
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Table B8: SEA Topic: Cultural Heritage

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
<p>Reducing numbers of listed buildings sites at risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of buildings at risk (excludes those that have been demolished): • Aberdeenshire: 117 (6 under restoration) • % of listed buildings on the Buildings at Risk register*: • Aberdeenshire: 3% • [*NB, the Buildings At Risk register includes not only listed buildings, but unlisted buildings in conservation areas, but as most of the buildings on the register are listed, the percentages represent an almost accurate picture.] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of buildings at risk (excludes those that have been demolished): • Aberdeen: 10 (1 under restoration) • % of listed buildings on the Buildings at Risk register*: • Aberdeen: 0.62% • Numbers and % of listed buildings at risk*: • Angus: 42 (1.9%) • Moray: 30 (5.5%) • Dundee: 38 (4.2%) • Perth & Kinross: 51 (1.6%) • Highland: 168 (5.6%) • In 2003 1322 buildings were on the buildings at risk register. However, little work has been carried out to investigate possible new candidates for the Register. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although Aberdeenshire has one of the highest numbers of buildings at risk, the % of listed buildings at risk is lower than it's neighbouring authorities. • From the sample of comparators taken, Aberdeen has one of the lowest numbers of listed buildings on the Buildings At Risk register. • NPPG 18 states that the best viable use may not necessarily be the most profitable use. The aim should be to find a new economic use that is viable over the long term with minimum impact upon the special architectural and historic interest of the building or area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although only a small percentage of the listed buildings in the North East are on the Buildings at Risk Register, the area has one of the highest numbers of properties at risk. • Only a small number of buildings at risk are undergoing restoration in the North East. • The majority of the buildings at risk are in rural areas, with few undergoing restoration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>

<p>Building functionality (e.g. use, access and space)</p>	<p>Index 21 project in association with Aberdeenshire Council and Robert Gordon University encourages the use and re-use of existing buildings, which so far has mostly been ignored in new developments.</p>	<p>PAN 75 promotes the importance of inclusive design for all types of buildings and spaces.</p>	<p>With the development of SPP20 and PANs on design issues, future developments (and development plans) will have to consider these issues in greater detail.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poorly designed buildings, especially for the disabled, elderly and children. • Lack of an existing policy on inclusive design in the Structure Plan. • Issue of conflicting requirements when ensuring the accessibility of existing buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen Sustainability Research Trust: <i>Index 21</i> (www.index21.org.uk) • Scottish Executive (2006) <i>Planning and Building Standards Advice Note 75: Inclusive Design</i> • Scottish Executive (2001) <i>A Policy Statement for Scotland - Designing Places</i> • Scottish Executive (2005) <i>SPP 20: Role of Architecture and Design Scotland</i>
<p>Impact from new build reflecting form and materials, internal environment, urban and social integration, character and innovation of existing historic buildings</p>	<p>Index 21 project encourages the integration of old and new building styles, which has been given little consideration in new developments.</p>	<p>NPPG 18 requires structure plans to identify priority locations where an integrated approach to the protection, conservation and positive management of the historic environment should be pursued.</p>	<p>PAN 75 promotes the importance of inclusive design for all types of buildings and spaces, and with the development of SPP20 and PANs on design issues, future developments (and development plans) will have to consider these issues in greater detail.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development adversely impacting on a community's or settlement's 'sense of place' (e.g. historical perspective). • Safeguarding building functionality (e.g. use, access and space), which is not always considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen Sustainability Research Trust: <i>Index 21</i> (www.index21.org.uk) • Scottish Executive (2006) <i>PAN 75: Inclusive Design</i> • Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG18: Planning and the Historic Environment</i>
<p>Listed buildings, designed landscape etc, and conservation areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aberdeenshire, 17 proposals departed from the Structure Plan (14 planning applications were recommended for refusal by planning officers), principally for new windows. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPPG 18: Conservation policies should give a high priority to maintaining and enhancing the prosperity and vitality of historic areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of conservation areas designations is to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of such areas and the spaces between them, and care also needs to be taken regarding changes to the streetscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor design when incorporating modern materials. • Cumulative impact of proposals, which alone may not affect the conservation designation, but cumulatively affect it's overall objective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG18: Planning and the Historic Environment</i> • Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>NEST Monitoring – environment Monitoring Paper</i>
<p>Safeguarding archaeological sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In recent times no schedules ancient monuments have been lost or significantly destroyed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the past, Aberdeenshire Council's Archaeology Service records show that 3670 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strong presumption in NPPG5 on the preservation or recording (if preservation is not possible) of archaeological sites has, and will continue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of unknown and locally known architectural remains from new development and other practices, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Built Heritage</i> • Scottish Executive (1998) <i>NPPG5: Archaeology and Planning</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, damage to remains of local importance, which are listed in the Sites & Monuments Record (SMR) is mostly caused by vandalism, new developments, ploughing, forestry, activities of utility companies, rabbits, & costal erosion. 	<p>sites have been lost or partially destroyed, with a further 2301 as documentary records only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route could adversely affect up to 10% of SMR sites. 	<p>to encourage the safeguarding of sites throughout Scotland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to remains of local importance will continue unless solutions are found, e.g. funding agri-environment schemes. 	<p>vandalism and coastal erosion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse impacts on the setting of archaeological remains from new developments. 	
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Table B9: SEA Topic: Landscape

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Designated areas – National Scenic Areas (NSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of the planning applications in Aberdeenshire were in the Deeside and Lochnagar National Scenic Area in Marr, although most were change of use applications, primarily for dwelling houses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2003, Moray Council received only one planning application within the Cairngorms National Scenic Area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPPG14 places strong emphasis on conserving important landscapes, and development within NSAs is unlikely unless it conforms to this national policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 the North East. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>NEST Monitoring – Environment Monitoring Paper</i> Moray council (2003) Development Plan Monitoring Report: http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file43359.pdf Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG14: Natural Heritage</i>
Designated areas – Areas of Landscape Significance (ALS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2005, 167 planning applications in Aberdeenshire were approved within local heritage sites, the majority within Areas of Landscape Significance (ALS). The application were mostly for dwelling houses, although more than half was for change of use, amendments or reserved matter applications. The number of inappropriate developments granted consent is unknown as several ALS designations include a number of major settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2003, Moray Council received 60 planning applications affecting Areas of Great Landscape Value. As a result, these designations are to be reviewed. ALS play an important role in protecting local natural heritage interests and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan recognises the part played by non-statutory nature conservation designations in safeguarding biodiversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning applications within local heritage designations will continue to receive the majority of the planning applications, but this may be reduced if ALS are reviewed to exclude the major settlements in Aberdeenshire. NPPG14 confirms the continuing relevance of local designations alongside new 'wider natural heritage' approaches to landscape included in landscape character assessment methodologies. Guidance has been developed by SNH to help local authorities refresh their approach to local landscape designations when reviewing them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The siting and design of new developments may individually or cumulatively adversely affect locally designated landscapes (e.g. the impact of individual dwelling houses may affect the coastal and landscape characteristics of ALS). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>NEST Monitoring – Environment Monitoring Paper</i> Moray council (2003) Development Plan Monitoring Report: http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file43359.pdf Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland (2005) <i>Guidance on Local Landscape Designations</i>, Natural Heritage Series Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG14: Natural Heritage</i>

<p>Townscape quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the North East, there are 47 conservation areas, 20 of which are outstanding. • 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. • Seven Aberdeenshire Towns Partnerships (ATP) in Ellon, Banff and Macduff, Fraserburgh, Huntly, Inverurie, Peterhead and Stonehaven have been prepared, which aim to maintain and enhance the continued social, economic and environmental vitality of these settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 regeneration masterplans are being drafted in the City (to be finalised in 2006/7) • There are 17 conservation areas in Moray. • Replacement of traditional windows and doors on non-listed buildings within conservation areas is a continuing case of concern for Moray. • The Moray Development Plan has identified 40 urban renewal projects, most of which are now completed, and European funding was secured to upgrade several harbours and foreshores along the Coast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost 2 in 5 of the population live in towns with a population of between 1,000 and 20,000. • Most small towns are under pressure from: • population change; • economic restructuring; • concentration of employment and services; • traffic growth; and • insensitive development. • 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"> • The insensitive siting and design of new developments may individually or cumulatively adversely affect: • the setting of settlements; and • townscapes (e.g. conservation areas). • The increased need to: • assess a settlement's key features(s); • reinforcing a sense of place; and • involving local communities • (which has started to happen in 7 towns under Aberdeenshire Council's ATP projects). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils (2006) <i>Topic Paper: Built Heritage</i> • Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership http://www.atap.org.uk/home.htm • Moray council (2003) Development Plan Monitoring Report: http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file43359.pdf • 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>
<p>Landscape character</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five applications have been received in Aberdeenshire for the erection of houses (totalling 191 dwellings) as enabling development, and concern has been raised that in some cases the level of enabling development has had an 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen City's finalised local plan includes a new designation – Green Space Network, which aims to improve access to the countryside, enhance valued landscapes, and improve wildlife habitats, and has been 	<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. • PAN44: <i>Capacity for housing in the landscape</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). • New development not fitting in with the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire Council (2006) <i>NEST Monitoring – environment Monitoring Paper</i> • Scottish Executive (1999) <i>NPPG14: Natural Heritage</i> • Scottish Executive (2001) <i>Designing Places: A Policy Statement for Scotland</i> • http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/planning/dpps-00.asp • Scottish Executive (1994)

	<p>impact on the setting of the buildings which development is intended to preserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 Settlement Capacity studies are being prepared by Aberdeenshire Council, which uses Index 21 methodology to identify where new development should be sited (e.g. taking full account of the characteristics of the local landscape and townscape characteristics). . 	<p>developed in the form of ‘green fingers or wedges’ along side the redrawn Green Belt.</p> <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. Dundee City Council’s development plan aims to protect the landscape character along the prominent western side of the city by ensuring any new development is set within a “strong landscape framework”, which includes the planting of trees to allow new development to integrate with the surrounding landscape. 	<p>demonstrates an understanding of traditional growth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scottish Executive’s design statement states that sensitive location and design is needed to avoid: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> urban sprawl; ribbon development; new buildings on obtrusive sites; incongruous materials; and house styles more characteristic of suburban than rural areas. 	<p>landscape’s capacity to absorb new development (e.g. design, layout and sense of place) – need to promote suitable development capacity.</p>	<p>PAN44: <i>Capacity for housing in the landscape.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Natural Heritage (1997) <i>National programme of landscape character assessment: Banff and Buchan</i>, Review No 37. Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <i>South and Central Aberdeenshire: landscape character assessment</i>, Review No 102. Scottish Natural Heritage (1996) <i>Cairngorms landscape assessment</i>, Review No 75. Scottish Natural Heritage (1996) <i>Landscape character assessment of Aberdeen</i>, Review No 80 Aberdeen City Council (2004) finalised Local Plan: Green Spaces, New Places
<p>Historic Gardens and Designated Landscapes (HGDL)</p>	<p>0.9 % of Aberdeenshire land area accommodates 27 HGDLs which occupy 5745 hectares of land</p>	<p>0.83% of Scotland’s area accommodates 328 HGDLs which occupy 66765 hectares of land</p>	<p>No trend</p>	<p>Housing development will put pressure on the resource</p>	<p>SNH (2004) <i>SNH Facts & Figures 2003/2004. Battleby</i>. SNH</p>

Table B10: 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. In Aberdeenshire there are 749 (5%) vacant commercial properties. Between 2004 and 2005 the number of vacant (and second homes) in Aberdeen increase by 315 (6%). Number of vacant dwellings and second homes in 2005 (based on local authorities with a similar number of dwellings): Highland: 9,444 (0.3% increase since 2001) and 8.9% of the total housing stock. Scotland: 107,250 (increase of 1.1% since 2001) and 4.5% of the total housing stock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of vacant (and second homes) in Aberdeenshire has declined sharply by 827. PAN 52 states that planning authorities should consider the potential contribution which vacant, derelict land, and obsolete or redundant buildings can make towards meeting development requirements. 	<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"> 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 	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Aberdeenshire, the number of properties in disrepair is better than the Scottish average, with far fewer dwellings in a state of "urgent" disrepair. Both Aberdeen city and Aberdeenshire have lower rates of stock failure than the Scottish average, although 	<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/SHQsreport.pdf#search=%22Scottish%20House%20condition%20survey

	<p>tenure) failing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard in 2002 in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeenshire: • rented (LA/HA) - 50% • owner-occupied/ • private rented – 55% • (HA=Housing Association) 	<p>Scottish Housing Quality Standard in 2002 in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen: • rented (LA/HA) - 60% • owner-occupied/ • private rented – 64% • (HA=Housing Association) • • The number of dwellings in a state of disrepair in Scotland during 2002 stood at 1,761,000 (80%), of which 41% of the housing stock is classified as “urgent”. • “Disrepair” is where parts of a building central to its weather proofing, and/or its structural integrity requires attention. • “Urgent” disrepair is defined as disrepair that, if not addressed, would cause the fabric of the building to deteriorate further and/or place the health and safety of residents at risk. • In Scotland, the number of dwellings (by tenure) failing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard in 2002: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ rented (LA/HA) - 70% ○ owner-occupied/ • private rented – 70% • (LA=Local authority) 	<p>levels are still quite high.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure rates are slightly higher in the private sector than in the social rented sector. 		<p>ey%20SHQS%22</p>
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<p>Derelict and vacant land (and buildings)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Aberdeenshire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). • Total derelict and (urban) vacant land in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moray: 44 sites totalling 37ha; • Angus: 51 sites totalling 172ha (2% of total vacant and derelict land recorded in Scotland); • Dundee: 213 sites totalling 216ha (3% of total land area) • Edinburgh: 64 sites totalling 179ha (2% of total land area) • Glasgow: 853 sites totalling 1,313 ha (12% of total land area) • The top 5 former uses of derelict and vacant land in Scotland are quarries, defence, manufacturing, agriculture, and community and health. • The top 5 preferred re-use of derelict and vacant land identified in the Bulletin are residential, industrial, manufacturing, recreation, and defence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area of derelict and urban vacant land in Aberdeenshire has decreased significantly (especially since 2004). • In Aberdeenshire, all sites are less than 5ha (52% of sites are less than 0.5ha). 	<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"> Although the impact of climate change is predicted to be less significant along the east coast, the frequency of storm events and the level of winter precipitation are forecast to increase, which will give rise to increasing 1 in 200 year flood events and soil/sand erosion. As highlighted in the SEA indicator on climatic factors, the sea-level along the east coast is predicted to rise 34 to 55 cm by the 2080s. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood studies will continue to be commissioned whenever necessary to better understand and resolve flood-affected areas. 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"> Predicted rise in sea level may result in existing flood defences being inadequate. 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/5_biennial.pdf Halcrow (2006) <i>Aberdeen Bay Coastal Defence Scheme, Aberdeen City Council Project Appraisal Report</i>, Aberdeen City Council 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
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 Insch 	<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, as Aberdeen City was identified in the study as having no water or waste water constraints. 	<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, especially on watercourses with a natural heritage designation, such as the River Dee, which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation. 	<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

Enhancing 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. 	
Ensuring sufficient supply of affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *The demand for affordable housing per annum is: • in Aberdeenshire there is a net requirement of 915 affordable housing units (this represents two-thirds of the estimated new build in the area). • £150 million investment from Scottish Executive-funded Communities Homes (via the Devanha Group), which will result in 650 dwellings in both Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire over the next 4 years. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The demand for affordable housing per annum in Aberdeen is a net requirement of 897 affordable housing units; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The supply affordable homes in the North East are not meeting the demand, even with additional Scottish Executive grants. • The main shortfall is for one bedroom and larger (4 plus) bedroom dwellings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a significant shortfall of affordable housing in both Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, especially in one bedroom and 4 plus bedroom dwellings. • There is a need to review the proportion of affordable housing in new build in both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Aberdeen Council and Communities Scotland (2005) <i>2004 Housing Needs Assessment, Executive Summary</i>, Fordham Research http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=2264&sID=970 • *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

Sufficient 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 5 to 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 Argyll and Bute second/holiday homes account for 11% of the housing stock (the highest of all rural authorities). • In Moray second/holiday homes account for 2% of the housing stock. • In the Highlands, second/holiday homes account for 6% of the housing stock. • On average, second/holiday homes account for 3.6% of rural housing stock, while second homes account for 0.5% of urban properties. • 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, although the figure is the same for Moray • The majority of second/holiday homes are located along the coast or in upland areas (which follows a similar pattern across the whole of Scotland) • The number of second homes rented out by oil companies could be sold off as the oil sector declines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lack of holiday homes will increase house prices as dwellings that would normally have been bought to live in are bought for the purpose of being a used as a second/ holiday home, resulting in locals or those on low incomes being unable to purchase their own home. • 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>, Communities Scotland http://www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk/stellent/groups/public/documents/webpapes/pubcs_011272.pdf#search=%22number%20of%20second%20homes%20in%20aberdeen%22
Proportion of building materials from sustainable sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current structure plan and City and Shire local plans encourage and supports the use of sustainable materials and the adoption of Lifetime standards. • Improvement of design is also supported in general design guidelines and design briefs in the existing development plans. • In Aberdeenshire, work on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPP1 promotes the use of sustainable development mechanisms in all new build, and is supported in PAN 67, which provides advice on good practice on the layout, design and materials to be used, and to a lesser extent in SPP2 and SPP3. 	<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. • Work is underway in Aberdeenshire to increase the sustainability of dwellings (although this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very few commercial developments are using sustainable materials in the North East. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Executive (2003) <i>SPP1: The Planning System</i> • Scottish Executive (2003) <i>PAN 67: Housing Quality</i> • Scottish Executive (2003) <i>SPP2: Economic Development</i> • Scottish Executive (2003) <i>SPP3: Planning for housing</i> • Aberdeen Sustainability

	increasing the energy efficiency and use of materials from sustainable sources in new dwellings are being researched in a project entitled Index 21. The outcome of this work will be incorporated into the next local development plan.		approach can be applied to other uses).		Research Trust: <i>Index 21</i> (www.index21.org.uk)
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Appendix C: Characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected

Table C1: International and national natural heritage designations

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 - Huntly	Biodiversity
Red Moss of Netherley – 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

Figure C1: International and national natural heritage designations

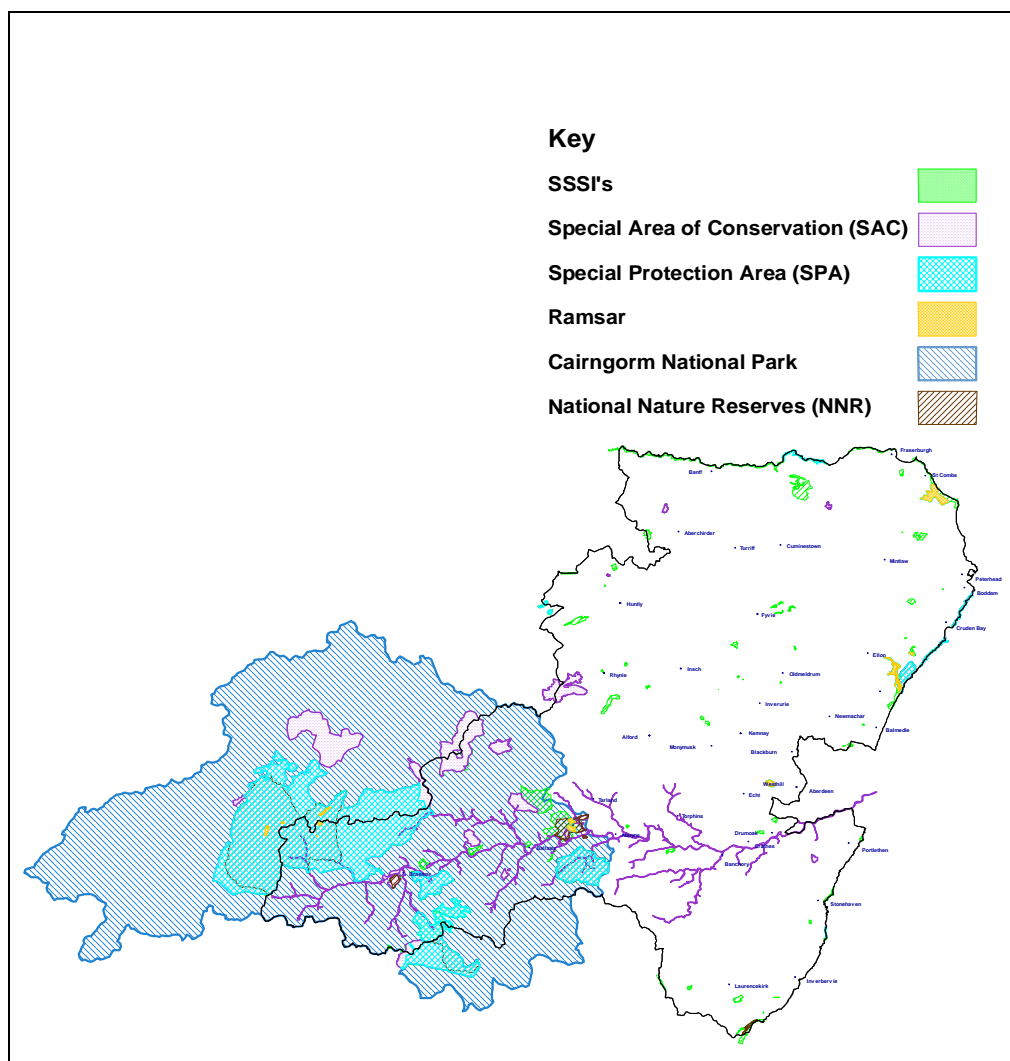


Figure C2: Landscape designations: Areas of Landscape Significance, Cairngorms National Park, and National Scenic Areas

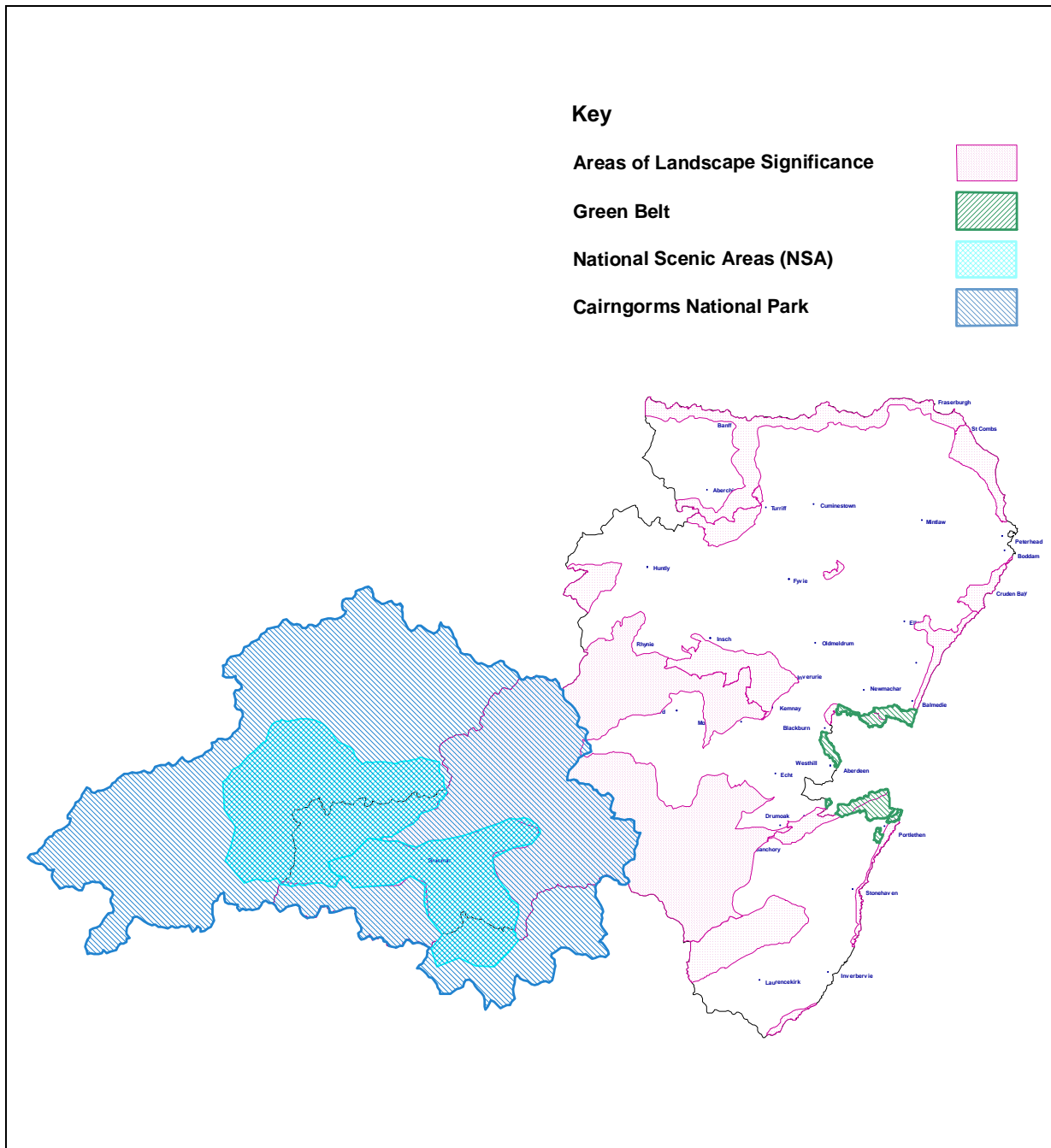


Figure C3: Local natural heritage designations: Sites of Environmentally Sensitive Areas / Sites of Interest to Natural Science

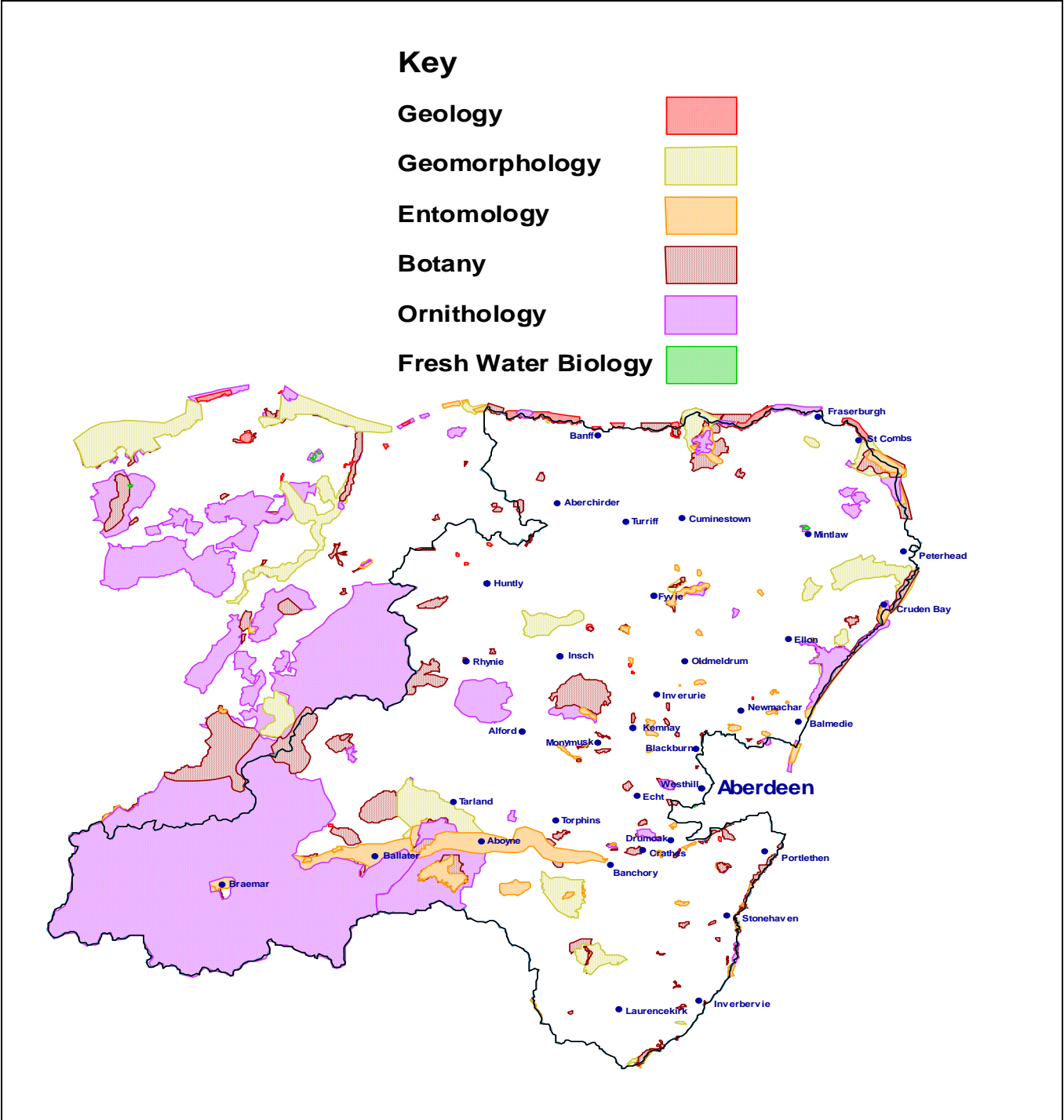


Table C2: The main settlements likely to be affected by fluvial and coastal flooding (up to the 2080s)

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)
Dyce	To the east from the River Don.	N/A
Cults	To the south from the River Dee.	N/A
Bieldside	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
Portlethen	To the north and northeast including part of the settlement from the Burn of Findon and a drainage ditch, which lies to the north of Moss-side.	None.
Balmedie	To the northeast from Egie Burn.	None.
Potterton	To the south from Blackdog Burn.	N/A
Aberdeen	To the south from the River Dee. and the north from the River Don, including the Railway station.	Part of the harbour (north) along Waterloo Quay and Regen Quay up to Virginia Street.
Bridge of Don	To the south from the River Don.	None.
Not constrained		
Westhill	None.	N/A
Kingswells	None.	N/A
Cove	None.	None.

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