

ABERDEENSHIRE ²⁰

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Supplementary Guidance

LOCAL NATURE CONSERVATION SITES

5



APRIL 2017

Supplementary Guidance

Local Nature Conservation Sites

Policy E1 of the Aberdeenshire Local Development identifies Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) as part of the family of areas given protection from development except where public benefits clearly outweigh the nature conservation value of the site. The plan notes that the LNCS were developed through consultation with expert stakeholders and they replace the previous “Sites of Interest to Natural Science”

The LNCS sites are shown on the “Natural Heritage and Landscape” proposals map of the Local Development Plan. That map is insufficiently detailed to allow the identification of specific boundaries and the following maps allow the boundaries of these areas to be accurately defined. These boundaries reflect the local application of this policy area and do not impact on either the principle of the policy (which is established by Policy E1, or the spatial strategy of the wider plan area.

A short description of the interest of each site is also provided:

No.	Site Name	Description	Map Number
1	Aberdour Bay to Kinnaird Head	High seacliffs, sandy bays wave cut platforms, rocky shores, intertidal mud and sand flats. Important for overwintering birds. Old Red Sandstone.	8, 9,10, 11
2	Annies Dam	Wet area created by a dam. Birch woodland, wet woodland, rush pasture and acid grassland. Good diversity of plants with locally uncommon sedges	53
3	Arbuthnott	This site lies along the Bervie Water and supports valuable semi-natural woodland and riparian habitats. A good diversity of woodland and wetland plants are present with locally important species such as blue water-speedwell	54
4	Arnhall Moss	A small site within Westhill with birch woodland, scrub and swamp. Good diversity of plants and popular with local residents	55
5	Auchlossan	Former loch, now drained. Patches of swamp and rush pasture with a few fairly permanent ponds. Important in wintering and breeding birds	56
6	Barmekin Wood	Mosaic of habitats including heathland, rush pasture and birch woodland. Good diversity of plants with locally rare species	57

No.	Site Name	Description	Map Number
7	Benholm	Important geological site for establishing the sequence of glacial events, ice movement patterns and environmental changes that occurred in north-east Scotland during the Late Quaternary. Base rich lowland woodland	58
8	Bennachie	Mixture of associated upland and lowland habitats with semi-natural and long established woodland, planted forests, dry heathland, wet heath and mire. Exposed outcrops of granite and deeply weathered granite in a quarry	43A-D
9	Bin Hill	Large area of geological interest for major complex of igneous rocks, together with an area of γ -contaminated rock acting as an independent intrusion. Botanically rich areas at the Burn of Carnie and parts of Bin Forest	38A-B
10	Bisset Moss	A good example of a very wet lowland bog which supports a good diversity of plants	59
11	Blackdog to Bridge of Don	Extensive coastal site with sand dunes, grassland, wet and dry heathland, gorse scrub and small patches of planted woodland. Large numbers of sea ducks offshore in the winter and breeding birds	24
12	Breda Hill	One of few remnants of Caledonian pine forest within Aberdeenshire with dry heathland and upland birchwood	60
13	Burreldale Moss	Variety of wet habitats including fen, bog, lowland raised bog, rush pasture and swamp. Woodland, dry heath and acid grassland around the margins. Some locally rare plants such as rigid hornwort and whorled caraway	61
14	Cairnbulg to St Combs	Important geological site with good examples of rock exposures along the shore and a raised beach/ fossil cliff/sand dune complex. Important for breeding, overwintering and feeding birds	12, 13
15	Cairnhill	Disused quarry is of geological value as it contains a good exposure of metamorphic rock. Mosaic of wet and heathland habitats including fen, rush pasture, wet woodland and acid grassland surrounding quarry	62
16	Candyglirach	Extensive area of lowland raised bog, with f birch, conifer and wet woodland, acid grassland and rush pasture around the	63

No.	Site Name	Description	Map Number
		margins. Good diversity of plants and invertebrates	
17	Carnie Woods	A relatively small site with pine forest, conifer plantation, semi-natural woodland, scrub, acid grassland, heathland and a small area of valley mire. Important linkage between Westhill and the surrounding countryside	55
18	Castle Fraser Ponds	These ponds and surrounding habitat is very important at a local level for dragonflies and damselflies, supporting 10 species including one nationally rare species	64
19	Catterline Den	Catterline Den is a very narrow, steep-sided, rocky, meltwater gorge with mature beech woodland and gorse scrub in the southern part of the den. This site is important for two locally uncommon plant species.	65
20	Cluny	Small wetland site with wet woodland together with open water, fen and swamp. Good diversity of woodland and wetland plants, including a large population of common skullcap	66
21	Corby, Bishops and Lily Lochs	Open water with associated wetland and woodland habitats. The site has a very rich botanical flora and supports a good variety of invertebrates. The lochs are important for biodiversity	67
22	Correen Hills	Extensive upland site with dry heathland and semi-natural oak and birch woodland. Good assemblage of upland breeding birds. A large breeding colony of Common Gulls has now been mostly abandoned	42A-B
23	Cortes Reedbed	Small site with open water, reedbed and fen habitat	68
24	Cottown Woods	Mosaic of woodland types with small area of fen habitat. Good diversity of plant and invertebrate species. The site forms part of a network of woodlands within the local area.	69
25	Cowbog Raised Bogs	Series of four lowland raised peat bogs at Cowbog, Corthie Moss, Cowieshall and Cairnywhing. All have been cut over in the past but retain some areas of primary peat. Good diversity of peatland and wetland	48

No.	Site Name	Description	Map Number
26	Craig Hall	This site is of geological value due to the presence of a suite of unusual xenoliths (a rock fragment which becomes enveloped in a larger rock) in granitic intrusive rocks.	70
27	Craigmancie	Woodland on steep sided slopes of Deveron valley with ash woodland, rush pasture, lowland fen and acid grassland together with riparian habitats alongside the River Deveron	71
28	Craigs of Succoth	One of few sites locally where serpentine rocks outcrop at the surface and give rise to rare serpentine grassland, flushes and heathland. A number of locally uncommon plant species present such as spring sandwort..	72
29	Crathes	The woodlands forming part of the Crathes estate contain a variety of woodland types including semi-natural broadleaved woodland, semi natural pine woodland and plantation. Locally uncommon species.	73
30	Cruden Bay	Sheltered sandy bay with rocky coastline to the north and south. Golf course covers much of site but patches of base rich dune grassland support a good diversity of plants. White colon moth found here at its northern limit	20
31	Cullen to Whitehills	Coastline with maritime grassland, steep cliffs and rocky intertidal shores. Important for diversity of plants and invertebrates. Old Red Sandstone cliffs. Boyne Quarry has exposures of glacial and interglacial features	1, 2, 3, 4
32	Culter Compensation Dam	One of the few rich lowland ponds in the area which supports a variety of wetland plants and a good diversity of invertebrates including some largely southern species such as water scorpion. Extends to Aberdeen City.	74
33	Daugh of Invermarkie	A fairly extensive area of fen, bog and heathland and planted pinewood habitat supporting a rich diversity of heathland and wetland species. The base rich flushes within the fen contain a number of locally rare plant species.	75
34	Den of Auchmedden	Series of steep sided meltwater channels .The steep slopes are wooded in parts with rocky outcrops, grassland and scrub and small areas of rush pasture and wetland along the valley bottom. Botanically rich	76

No.	Site Name	Description	Map Number
35	Den of Morphie	Woodland along lower reaches of the North Esk. Supports a number of plants at the northern edge of their range. The site is also important for the locally rare butterbur moth	49
36	Den of Pitlurg	Excellent example of a large meltwater channel which contains botanically rich fen and wet woodland vegetation, long-established woodland, bog, herb rich grasslands and rush pasture	77
37	Downie Point to Todhead Coast	Important for breeding seabirds. Good coastal flora with some base rich areas and a good diversity of invertebrates. Blowhole, hanging valley and unusual platform weathering forms present	28, 30, 32
38	Dubbystyle	Mosaic of habitats with rush pasture, fen, bog, scrub woodland and small patches of dry heath and acid grassland. One of a suite of wetland sites in the area	78
39	Elfhill	This small site forms a fairly steep sided river valley, with semi-natural broadleaved woodland, gorse scrub and acid grassland. Good diversity of plant species and particularly important for the native bluebell	79
40	Fetteresso	This site contains broadleaved woodland on the slopes of the railway line, down to the Carron Water. Neutral grassland and gorse scrub are also present. The site has a good woodland flora including the locally uncommon wood stitchwort	80
41	Fetternear	One of a series of woodlands around the Kemnay area, adjacent to River Don, largely dominated by birch with oak, ash and small stands of aspen. Wetter areas within the woodland contain willow scrub and wetland plants	81
42	Feughside	Extensive area of geomorphological interest representing the best part of a more extensive fluvio-glacial complex. Clachnaben is a good example of a granitic tor. Locally rare plants in pine woodland and mire	46A-D
43	Findon	Coastal heathland with adjacent maritime cliff and slope make up this site. Good diversity of plants. The sea cliffs are important for breeding seabirds	25

No.	Site Name	Description	Map Number
44	Forest of Birse	Remnants of native Caledonian pinewood with large areas of self-seeded and plantation woodland, moorland and grassland. Riparian woodland along the Feugh. Important for pine woodland birds	45A-B
45	Foudland	Geological interest includes disused quarries with exposures of igneous rocks and fossils. On the slopes to the north a suite of fluvio-glacial features, mainly meltwater channels, is clearly visible and readily accessible from the roadside	40A-B
47	Gannochy	Narrow, wooded, rocky gorge which together with adjacent woodland is important for mosses, liverworts and lichens and insects, with a number of nationally rare species. The gorge is of geological importance	82
48	Gardenstown to Strahangles Point	Rocky coastline with meltwater channels conglomerate cliffs and a cobble beach in Pennan Bay. Coastal grassland and heathland. Rich in plants and invertebrates. Important for nesting seabirds including gannets	6, 7, 8
49	Gight	A section of the valley of the River Ythan with the steep wooded valley sides. Gight Woods one of the largest and least disturbed native oak woodlands in lowland Aberdeenshire	50
50	Govals	Good exposures of igneous rocks are found within this disused quarry. The site can be viewed from nearby footpaths	83
51	Harestone Moss	Extensive area of acid grassland, wet woodland, fen and reedbed. Good diversity of plants and invertebrates	84
52	Harestone Quarry	A disused quarry which illustrates an exposure of metamorphic rocks and traces of surface processes	84
53	Hawkshill	Mosaic of wetland, woodland and heathland with a good diversity of plants and invertebrates including a number of rare moths. Much of the site is currently managed as a golf course	85
54	Hill of Towanreef / The Buck	Extensive area of undulating moorland, low hills and valleys. Blanket bog and upland heathland. Outcrops of serpentine rock around the Hills of Towanreef and Creagdearg support an associated flora. Igneous rocks	41A-B

No.	Site Name	Description	Map Number
55	Howe of Cromar	Area of geomorphological interest which illustrates a range of fluvio-glacial landforms, semi-natural broadleaved woodland, marshy grassland, fen and long-established pine woodland with diversity of plants and invertebrates	44A-C
56	Kennethmont	A small basin fen with wet woodland, lowland fen and rush pasture. Good diversity of fen plant communities including good populations of some locally uncommon species such as lesser butterfly orchid and coralroot orchid.	70
57	Kingcausie	The valley of the Crynoch Burn and associated riparian habitats, together with mixed woodland at Cleanhill Wood and pine woodland of Durris Forest. Locally uncommon species such as herb paris	86
58	Kinkell Belt	This site forms the wooded banks at the confluence of the Rivers Don and Urie. The long-established woodland contains a mixture of tree species with good ground flora of relatively common species	87
59	Knock Hill	This site supports a mosaic of upland wet and dry heath vegetation which is uncommon in the Banff and Buchan area. The site supports a diversity of moorland species including some locally uncommon plants and moths	88
60	Leuchar Moss	A relatively large area of wet and peatland habitats with species rich rush pasture, wet heathland, willow scrub, dry heathland and acid grassland. Good diversity of plants. Extends into Aberdeen City	89
61	Little Wood, Donside	Small area of woodland on the south facing slope of Black Hill on the north bank of the River Don. Oak woodland covers the lower slopes with upland birch woodland on the hillside above and dry heathland on the upper slopes	90
62	Loch of Leys	Large area of fen and reedbed habitat with woodlands and wetlands, which support a very good diversity of wetland and woodland plants and invertebrates together with a number of breeding and roosting birds	91
63	Loch of Park	Fen and wet woodland with acid grassland, heath, rush pasture, bog, swamp, coniferous woodland and reedbed. A high diversity of plants including some locally	92

No.	Site Name	Description	Map Number
		important species such as coralroot orchid and lesser butterfly orchid	
64	Loch of Skene	Large body of open water surrounded by wet woodland, pine woodland, reedbed and heathland, with smaller patches of fen and bog. Important for breeding and wintering birds	93
65	Lochlundie Moss	One of the largest remaining lowland raised peat bogs in north east Scotland. which supports a typical array of peatland species. Locally important species including lesser twayblade	94
66	Lumsden Moss	Lowland raised bog which has been colonised by pine and birch woodland in part and planted in others. The central part of the site remains as bog habitat which supports a good variety of heathland and wetland plant species	95
67	Macterry Moss	Fen and wet woodland habitat with small areas of acid grassland and birch woodland, dry heath and gorse scrub. Supports a good variety of plant and invertebrate species	96
68	Meikle Loch	Two lochs with wetland, swamp and species rich grassland. The site is of European importance for pink-footed geese. Fluvio-glacial land forms surround the loch	51
69	Mergie	Neutral and acid grassland, broadleaved and coniferous woodland, wet heath, scrub, bracken, bog, pond, rivers and rush pasture alongside the Cowie Water. Locally important species such as lesser twayblade and bog myrtle.	97
70	Moss Maud	Mosaic of heathland and woodland habitats with lowland raised bog, pine and birch woodland and acid grassland. Supports a number of locally important species. Craighash Quarry illustrates a fine example of solifluction movement	98
71	Muchalls to Stonehaven Bay	Rocky cliffs and shore with a rich coastal flora. Species associated with base-rich soils are present. Key site for invertebrates of base rich habitats. Rare whorl snail at Garron Point. Outcrop of the Highland Boundary Fault	26, 28, 29

No.	Site Name	Description	Map Number
72	Newburgh to Balmedie	Sandy coastline with extensive fixed and fore dunes, dune pasture, marsh and heath. Diverse flora and rich in invertebrates. Migrant birds on links and sea duck in inshore waters. Environmental processes	21, 72, 23, 24
73	Pitfour Lake	Pitfour Lake forms a fairly large area of standing open water which supports a good variety of plants and in particular, a number of pondweeds. The loch is surrounded by a mix of woodland types and scrub	99
74	Pitscurry Moss	A fairly small area of wet meadow, wet woodland and birch woodland which supports a good diversity of plant species including some locally uncommon species such as creeping lady's tresses	100
75	Portlethen Moss	Lowland raised bog which is remnant of much larger area with rush pasture, gorse scrub and planted woodland. Good diversity of heathland and wetland species	101
76	Portlethen to Muchalls Coast	This coastal site is made up of cliffs, coastal grassland, heathland and gorse scrub. These habitats support a good diversity of coastal and heathland plant species and the cliffs are important for nesting birds	26, 27,
77	Pronie Lochs	Two lochs, the larger Pronie Loch and the smaller Wichlock Loch with fen and marsh containing a good diversity of wetland and heathland plant and invertebrates. The lochs support a number of breeding and roosting birds	102
78	Ratray Head to Peterhead	Variety of coastal habitats including sand dunes. Good diversity of plant species including several species that are rare in NE Scotland. Adjacent fields important for roosting and feeding geese, waders and wildfowl	15, 16, 17, 18, 19
79	Red Moss Kemnay	Former raised bog in north now largely covered with Scots pine woodland, with some wet woodland, rush pasture and fen. Southern part predominantly birch woodland, one of several around the Kemnay area	103
80	Red Moss Netherley	A relatively large area of lowland raised bog with associated habitats of fen, rush pasture, wet woodland and birch woodland. The site supports a rich diversity of plant species including coralroot orchid lesser twayblade	104

No.	Site Name	Description	Map Number
81	Red Moss Parkhill	Two adjacent areas of bog and wet woodland. Good diversity of plants and invertebrates in the local context including cranberry and variegated horsetail which are locally uncommon. Good example of its habitat type	105
82	Reidside Moss	Extensive area of open bog habitat with wet woodland, birch woodland and rush pasture. Good diversity of plants. Close to similar habitat at Moss of Crombie. The locally rare large heath butterfly is found on this site	106
83	River Dee	One of more natural river system. Series of glacial and fluvio-glacial landforms and sediments. Oak, birch and wet woodland, shingle banks and species rich grasslands. Rich in invertebrates. Good assemblage of birds	36A-H
84	Rora Moss	Lowland raised bog with acid grassland, ponds and rush pasture. Good variety of peatland species. The southern part of the site is commercial forestry with bog habitat in the unplanted areas	107
85	St Cyrus	Extensive coastal site with geological and geomorphological features. Dune, coastal grassland, saltmarsh, maritime grassland and rocky shore. Woodland within the steep dens. Botanically rich.	34, 35
86	Saltire Wood	Upland birch woodland and wet woodland, with open wetland habitats. The site forms one of a network of woodlands within the locality which support red squirrel populations	82
87	Sinclair Hills	Extensive fluvio-glacial deposits which form a good suite of landforms which are of Scottish significance, and form part of a set of features within the surrounding area. Small areas of botanical interest.	108
88	Skelmanae Raised Bogs	A series of three lowland raised bogs at Red Moss of Blackrigg, Auchmacleddie and Prattshaugh. Much of the peat has been cut over but some patches of primary bog remain and the sites remain quite wet	52
89	Skelmuir Hill, Stirling Hill and Dudwick	Preglacial Buchan Gravels Formation, which is rich in flints, blankets the ridge of Stirling Hill, Hill of Dudwick and Skelmiur Hill. Den of Boddam glacial meltwater channel	39A-D

No.	Site Name	Description	Map Number
90	Strathbeg to Rattray	Loch of Strathbeg is one of the largest coastal freshwater lochs in the UK. Swamp, reedbed, fen, marsh and wet woodland surrounds with coastal sand dune on seaward side. Fields important for resident and migrant birds	12, 13, 14, 15, 16
91	Strathifinella	Deeply weathered granite and an extensive network of fluvio-glacial meltwater channels. Highland Boundary Fault Complex. Slack of Birnie of botanical interest. The loch at Glensaugh supports good aquatic vegetation	47A-B
92	Sunnybrae Moss	This is a small area of fen and grassland. Although small in size this site contributes to a network of wetland and fen habitats within the local area which are important for the small pearl bordered fritillary butterfly	109
93	Tarlair to Gardenstown	Rocky coastline with steep coastal cliffs and a shingle/rocky shoreline. Includes the Den of Findon. Important for Gamrie Fish Bed and glacial processes. Diversity of plants and invertebrates. Breeding seabirds	5, 6
94	Todhead Point to Johnshaven Coast	Old Red Sandstone has weathered to give a broad wave cut platform with a large intertidal zone which is important for wading birds dependent on the rock shore, and for sea ducks offshore. Locally interesting plants	30, 31, 32, 33, 34
95	Tom's Forest	One of a suite of woodland sites around the Kemnay area, this mainly birch woodland with areas of open grassland is rich in invertebrates.	110
96	Tore of Troup	Series of steep sided wooded valleys with surrounding moorland. Good examples of lowland woodland with locally uncommon plants and diversity of invertebrates. Glacial features	37A-C
97	Towie Wood	Towie Wood represents one of the most compact and well-exposed localities to feature the characteristics of Ordovician-age 'Younger Basic' intrusions that are prevalent in the north-eastern Grampian area of Scotland.	111
98	Wartle Moss	Very wet lowland fen with willow and birch carr woodland. The basin mire is one of the largest and least disturbed in north east Scotland and is slightly unusual in having base rich underlying rocks	112

No.	Site Name	Description	Map Number
99	Whitewells Moss	Heathland on high ground with fen and willow scrub in the wetter areas at the base of the hill. These habitats support a good diversity of plants and invertebrates	113
100	Windyhills	Buchan Gravels with quartzite, considered to mark the former course of a pre-glacial river. Broadleaved and pine woodland, grassland, heathland, fen and rush pasture. These support a good diversity of plants and invertebrates	114