

Appendix C. European/Ramsar sites included within Stage One (Screening)

1.1 Introduction

Qualifying interests, conservation objectives and identified feature pressures of the European/Ramsar sites included within Stage One (Screening) of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal, as identified by NatureScot's Sitelink tool (NatureScot, 2021a-j), are presented in Table 1 below.

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Table 1: European and Ramsar Sites Included in Stage One (Screening) for the Proposed Works

Qualifying Interests/Criteria	Condition Assessment		Conservation Objectives	Site Description	Identified Pressures
	Condition	Date			
Firth of Forth SPA, 6317.93ha (NatureScot, 2021 b)					
<p>The site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (2009/147/EC) by regularly supporting wintering populations of European importance of the following Annex 1 species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)*, non-breeding • golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)*, non-breeding • Slavonian grebe (<i>Podiceps auritus</i>)*, non-breeding • red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)*, non-breeding • sandwich tern (<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>) (formerly <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>), passage <p>The site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (2009/147/EC) by regularly supporting wintering populations of European importance of the following migratory species (all non-breeding):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)* • pink-footed goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>)* • redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)* • shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)* • turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)* <p>The site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (2009/147/EC) by regularly supporting a wintering waterfowl assemblage of national importance.</p> <p>Assemblage qualifying interests (all non-breeding):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • common scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) • cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) • curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) • dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) • eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>) • goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) • great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) 	<p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Unfavourable (declining)</p> <p>Unfavourable (declining)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Unfavourable (declining)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p>	<p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p> <p>01/03/2015</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying interests or significant disturbance to the qualifying interests, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying interests that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • population of the species as a viable component of the site; • distribution of the species within site; • distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species; • structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species; and • no significant disturbance of the species. 	<p>The Firth of Forth SPA is a mosaic of estuarine and coastal habitats spanning the length of the Forth Estuary. The intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, rocky shores and bays that provide important food sources and shelter for the qualifying, wintering, birds and passage migrants are included within the extensive 6317.93ha designated site boundary.</p> <p>The Firth of Forth SPA is designated for 27 species, comprising five Annex I species, five individually-cited species (due to the presence of internationally important populations) and an assemblage of 17 waterbird species.</p> <p>The FRB passes over the Firth of Forth SPA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • game/fisheries management • recreation/disturbance • water quality • climate change • natural event

Qualifying Interests/Criteria	Condition Assessment		Conservation Objectives	Site Description	Identified Pressures
	Condition	Date			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) long-tailed duck (<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>) mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) velvet scoter (<i>Melanitta fusca</i>) wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) (formerly <i>Anas penelope</i>) 	Favourable (declining) Unfavourable (declining) Favourable (declining) Favourable (maintained) Unfavourable (declining) Favourable (maintained) Unfavourable (declining) Favourable (maintained) Favourable (maintained)	01/03/2015 01/03/2015 01/03/2015 01/03/2015 01/03/2015 01/03/2015 01/03/2015 01/03/2015 01/03/2015			
Firth of Forth Ramsar, 6313.68ha (NatureScot, 2021a; JNCC, 2008)					
<p>The site qualifies under Ramsar criterion 5 - <i>A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds:</i></p> <p>Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 72,281 waterfowl (5-year peak mean 1998/1999-2002/2003) <p>The site qualifies under Ramsar criterion 6 - <i>A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird:</i></p> <p>Qualifying interests/populations with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pink-footed goose shelduck redshank turnstone <p>Qualifying interests/populations with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slavonian grebe 	Favourable (maintained) Favourable (maintained) Favourable (maintained) Favourable (maintained) Favourable (maintained)	01/03/2015 01/03/2015 01/03/2015 01/03/2015 01/03/2015	<p>The Ramsar Convention's mission is "<i>the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world</i>".</p>	<p>The Firth of Forth Ramsar site covers a very similar area to the SPA of the same name, and comprises a complex of estuaries, mudflats, rocky shorelines, beaches and saltmarshes. The site provides habitat for large numbers of wintering waders and wildfowl, many in nationally and internationally important numbers. It is estimated that 90% of the world's population of pink-footed geese spend winter on wetland and farmland habitats in the UK (Scottish Wildlife Trust, 2019). The FRB passes over the Firth of Forth Ramsar.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> game/fisheries management recreation/disturbance climate change water quality

Qualifying Interests/Criteria	Condition Assessment		Conservation Objectives	Site Description	Identified Pressures
	Condition	Date			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> goldeneye knot bar-tailed godwit Qualifying passage species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandwich tern 	Unfavourable (declining) Unfavourable (declining) Unfavourable (declining) Favourable (maintained)	01/03/2015 01/03/2015 01/03/2015 01/03/2015			
Forth Islands SPA, 9797.01ha (NatureScot, 2021c)					
<p>This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (2009/147/EC) by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the following Annex 1 species (all breeding):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) Sandwich tern <p>The site further qualifies under Article 4.2 by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the migratory species (all breeding):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) <p>The site also qualifies under Article 4.2 by regularly supporting a breeding seabird assemblage of national importance. Assemblage qualifying interests (all breeding):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) cormorant gannet lesser black-backed gull shag Atlantic puffin Arctic tern 	Favourable (declining) Unfavourable (declining) Unfavourable (declining) Unfavourable (declining) Favourable (maintained) Unfavourable (declining) Favourable (maintained) Favourable (declining) Favourable (maintained) Favourable (maintained) Unfavourable (declining) Favourable (maintained) Unfavourable (declining) Favourable (maintained) Favourable (maintained) Unfavourable (declining) Favourable (declining) Favourable (declining)	30/06/2016 30/06/2016 23/06/2017 30/06/2016 23/06/2014 30/06/2016 30/06/2016 26/05/2017 30/06/2016 30/06/2016 30/06/2016 30/06/2016 23/06/2014 30/06/2016 30/06/2016 26/05/2017 30/06/2016	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> population of the species as a viable component of the site; distribution of the species within site; distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species; structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species; and no significant disturbance of the species. 	<p>The Forth Islands SPA includes a number of islands in the Firth of Forth and is classified on the basis of supporting populations of European importance of eight seabird species as well as an assemblage of over 20,000 seabirds.</p> <p>The FRB passes over Long Craig Island, which is part of the SPA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> inter-specific competition climate change game/fisheries management proactive on-site management invasive species recreation/disturbance

Qualifying Interests/Criteria	Condition Assessment		Conservation Objectives	Site Description	Identified Pressures
	Condition	Date			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • common tern • roseate tern • Sandwich tern 	Unfavourable (declining)	23/06/2017			
	Unfavourable (declining)	30/06/2016			
	Unfavourable (declining)	3/06/2020			
Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex SPA, 272068.10ha (NatureScot 2021g)					
<p>The site meets the qualifying requirements under Article 4.1 of the Directive (2009/147/EC) by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the following Annex I species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arctic tern, breeding • common tern, breeding • little gull (<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>), non-breeding • red-throated diver, non-breeding • Slavonian grebe, non-breeding <p>The site meets the qualifying requirements under Article 4.2 of the Directive (2009/147/EC) by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • black-headed gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>), non-breeding • common gull, non-breeding • common scoter, non-breeding • eider, non-breeding • gannet, breeding • goldeneye, non-breeding • guillemot, breeding • herring gull, breeding • kittiwake, breeding • long-tailed duck, non-breeding • Manx shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>), breeding • puffin, breeding • razorbill, non-breeding 	Currently no species assessed	N/A	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, subject to natural change, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained in the long-term and it continues to make an appropriate contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive for each of the qualifying species.</p> <p>This contribution will be achieved through delivering the following objectives for each of the site's qualifying interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoid significant mortality, injury and disturbance of the qualifying features, so that the distribution of the species and ability to use the site are maintained in the long-term; and • to maintain the habitats and food resources of the qualifying features in favourable condition. 	<p>The Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrew's Bay Complex comprises an area of 272,068.10ha which stretches from Arbroath to St. Abb's Head and comprises the Firth of Forth, the outer Firth of Tay and St Andrew's Bay. The site extends beyond the 12NM (Nautical Mile) boundary of territorial and offshore waters to encompass feeding, moulting and roosting grounds of 21 qualifying species of breeding and/or wintering seabirds and waterfowl.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fishing activities • harvesting • navigational and maintenance dredging • ports and harbours activities • recreational activities • renewables activities

Qualifying Interests/Criteria	Condition Assessment		Conservation Objectives	Site Description	Identified Pressures
	Condition	Date			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> red-breasted merganser, non-breeding shag, breeding velvet scoter, non-breeding 					
Imperial Dock Lock, Leith SPA, 0.11 ha (NatureScot, 2021d)					
<p>The site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (2009/147/EC) by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the following Annex 1 species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> common tern, breeding 	Favourable (maintained)	23/06/2017	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> population of the species as a viable component of the site; distribution of the species within site; distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species; structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species; and no significant disturbance of the species. 	<p>The Imperial Dock Lock, Leith SPA is a man-made structure at the mouth of the Imperial Dock in the Port of Leith.</p> <p>The SPA supports the largest colony of common tern in the Forth (an average of 558 pairs, 1997-2001).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> other
Loch Leven SPA, 1,611.29ha (NatureScot, 2021f)					
<p>The site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (2009/147/EC) by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the following Annex 1 species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>), non-breeding <p>The site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (2009/147/EC) by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:</p>	Favourable (maintained)	31/03/2007	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p>	Loch Leven in central Scotland is the largest natural eutrophic lake in Britain. It is a relatively shallow loch, surrounded by farmland, with a diverse aquatic flora and shoreline vegetation.	None listed
	Favourable (maintained)	31/03/2007			

Qualifying Interests/Criteria	Condition Assessment		Conservation Objectives	Site Description	Identified Pressures
	Condition	Date			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pink-footed goose, non-breeding <p>The site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting a waterfowl assemblage of national importance. Assemblage qualifying species (all non-breeding):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cormorant gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) goldeneye pochard (<i>Aythya farina</i>) shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) 	<p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p>	<p>31/03/2007</p> <p>31/03/2007</p> <p>31/03/2007</p> <p>31/03/2007</p> <p>31/03/2007</p> <p>31/03/2007</p> <p>31/03/2007</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> population of the species as a viable component of the site; distribution of the species within site; distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species; structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species; and no significant disturbance of the species. 		
River Teith SAC, 1,289.33ha (NatureScot, 2021h)					
<p>The site is designated for the following qualifying species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) river lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) 	<p>Unfavourable (recovering)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Unfavourable (declining)</p>	<p>19/08/2011</p> <p>09/11/2011</p> <p>09/11/2011</p> <p>09/11/2011</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site; distribution of the species within site; distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species; structure, function and supporting processes of 	<p>The River Teith is the most significant tributary of the River Forth, flowing eastward through Central Scotland and discharging into the Firth of Forth west of Stirling. The conservation importance of the River Teith is increased by the fact that, unlike many British rivers, it supports populations of all three lamprey species. It is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom for each of the lamprey species, and also supports a significant presence of Atlantic salmon.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> forestry operations invasive species water quality water management

Qualifying Interests/Criteria	Condition Assessment		Conservation Objectives	Site Description	Identified Pressures
	Condition	Date			
			<p>habitats supporting the species; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no significant disturbance of the species. 		
Isle of May SAC, 356.64ha (NatureScot, 2021e; JNCC, 2021)					
<p>The site is designated for the following qualifying species/habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reefs grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) 	<p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p>	<p>05/09/2007</p> <p>24/11/2014</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> extent of the habitat on site; distribution of the habitat within site; structure and function of the habitat; processes supporting the habitat; distribution of typical species of the habitat; viability of typical species as components of the habitat; and no significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat. <p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to</p>	<p>The Isle of May is located at the entrance to the Firth of Forth, and supports a breeding colony of grey seals. The site is the largest breeding colony of grey seals on the east coast of Scotland and the fourth-largest breeding colony in the UK, contributing approximately 4.5% of annual UK pup production.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> invasive species water management

Qualifying Interests/Criteria	Condition Assessment		Conservation Objectives	Site Description	Identified Pressures
	Condition	Date			
			<p>achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • population of the species as a viable component of the site; • distribution of the species within site; • distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species; • structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species; and • no significant disturbance of the species. 		

*species also an assemblage qualifier.

2. References

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