

Appendix C. Sites included within Stage One: Screening

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, 2025a-i), are presented in Table 1 below.

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, 6318ha (NatureScot, 2025a)					
<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. 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>) grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</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>Unfavourable (declining)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Favourable (declining)</p> <p>Favourable (maintained)</p> <p>Favourable (declining)</p> <p>Unfavourable (declining)</p> <p>Unfavourable (declining)</p> <p>Favourable (declining)</p> <p>Favourable (declining)</p>	<p>25/06/2018</p> <p>24/09/2018</p> <p>24/09/2018</p> <p>25/06/2018</p> <p>25/06/2018</p> <p>19/03/2018</p> <p>25/06/2018</p> <p>25/06/2018</p> <p>25/06/2018</p> <p>25/06/2018</p> <p>25/06/2018</p> <p>25/06/2018</p> <p>25/06/2018</p> <p>25/06/2018</p> <p>25/06/2018</p> <p>25/06/2018</p> <p>25/06/2018</p> <p>25/06/2018</p> <p>25/06/2018</p> <p>25/06/2018</p> <p>25/06/2018</p> <p>25/06/2018</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 6318ha designated site boundary. 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. 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

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<p>In the five year winter period 1991/92 to 1995/96 the assemblage additionally included nationally important populations greater than 2,000 individuals of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) • lapwing (<i>Vanellus Vanellus</i>) • wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>) <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>This includes the following species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slavonian grebe (<i>Podiceps auritus</i>) • pink-footed goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>) • shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) • knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) • redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) • turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) • goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) • bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) • Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) 	Favourable (declining)	29/03/2023			
	Favourable (declining)	29/03/2023			
	Favourable (maintained)	29/03/2023			
	Favourable (maintained)	22/03/2019			
	Unfavourable (declining)	22/03/2019			
	Favourable (maintained)	22/03/2019			
	Favourable (maintained)	22/03/2019			
	Unfavourable (declining)	22/03/2019			
	Favourable (maintained)	22/03/2019			
	Favourable (maintained)	22/03/2019			
Unfavourable (declining)	17/03/2019				
Favourable (maintained)	20/03/2019				
Favourable (maintained)	22/03/2019				
Forth Islands SPA, 9797ha (NatureScot, 2025c, NatureScot 2024)					
This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (2009/147/EC) by regularly supporting			1. To ensure that the qualifying features of the Forth Islands SPA are in favourable condition and make an	The Forth Islands SPA is a collection of seven islands in the Firth of Forth and is classified on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inter-specific competition • climate change

Qualifying Interests/Criteria	Condition Assessment		Conservation Objectives	Site Description	Identified Pressures
	Condition	Date			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slavonian grebe, non-breeding <p>The Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex Special Protection Area (SPA) further qualifies under Article 4.2 by regularly supporting in excess of 20,000 individual seabirds during the non-breeding season including nationally important populations of the following 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 razorbill, non-breeding <p>The Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex Special Protection Area (SPA) further qualifies under Article 4.2 by regularly supporting in excess of 20,000 individual seabirds during the breeding season including nationally important populations of the following species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> gannet, breeding guillemot, breeding herring gull, breeding kittiwake, breeding Manx shearwater puffin, (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>), breeding shag, 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"> eider, non-breeding goldeneye, non-breeding long-tailed duck, non-breeding red-breasted merganser, non-breeding velvet scoter, non-breeding 	Favourable (maintained)	29/03/2023	<p>the following objectives for each qualifying feature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the populations of the qualifying features are viable components of the site the distribution of the qualifying features is maintained throughout the site by avoiding significant disturbance of the species. the supporting habitats and processes relevant to qualifying features and their prey resources are maintained, or where appropriate restored, at the site. 	<p>(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"> recreational activities renewables activities
	Favourable (maintained)	29/03/2023			
	Favourable (maintained)	29/03/2023			
	Favourable (maintained)	29/03/2023			
	Favourable (maintained)	29/03/2023			
	Favourable (maintained)	29/03/2023			
	Favourable (maintained)	29/03/2023			
	Favourable (maintained)	29/03/2023			
	Favourable (maintained)	29/03/2023			
	Favourable (maintained)	29/03/2023			

Qualifying Interests/Criteria	Condition Assessment		Conservation Objectives	Site Description	Identified Pressures
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Imperial Dock Lock, Leith SPA, 0.11ha (NatureScot, 2025e)					
<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)	24/09/2018	<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, 1,611ha (NatureScot, 2025f)					
<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> <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>) 	Favourable (maintained)	11/09/2009	<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>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.</p>	None listed
	Favourable (maintained)	03/08/2009			
	Favourable (maintained)	03/08/2009			
	Favourable (maintained)	03/08/2009			

Qualifying Interests/Criteria	Condition Assessment		Conservation Objectives	Site Description	Identified Pressures
	Condition	Date			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) 	Favourable (maintained)	26/10/2009			
	Favourable (maintained)	03/08/2009			
	Favourable (maintained)	03/08/2009			
River Teith SAC, 1,289ha (NatureScot, 2025g)					
<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>) 	Unfavourable (recovering) Favourable (maintained) Favourable (maintained) Unfavourable (declining)	10/02/2015 10/02/2015 10/02/2015 10/02/2015	<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 habitats supporting the species; and no significant disturbance of the species. 	<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
Isle of May SAC, 357ha (NatureScot, 2025h; JNCC, 2025)					
<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>) 	Favourable (maintained) Favourable (maintained)	30/03/2009 13/08/2024	<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; 	<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			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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.

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