

Proposed Local Development Plan 2 Habitats Regulations Appraisal



September 2020



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East Dunbartonshire Council

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Legislative Background

The EC Habitats Directive 1992 (together with the Birds Directive) forms the foundation of Europe's nature conservation policy. It consists of two main protection strategies: a network of protected sites (Natura 2000 network) and a system of species protection.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that any plan or project, which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura site, but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, whether alone or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the Natura site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

These requirements have been transposed into domestic legislation by *The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994* as amended.

In Scotland, designated sites to be considered in the HRA process are Special Protection Areas (SPA) classified under the Birds Directive, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the Habitats Directive and candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC). These form an EU-wide network of protected areas known as Natura 2000 sites. In addition Scottish Planning Policy states that Ramsar sites (wetlands designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance) are also Natura sites. The UK's departure from the EU means that while we will continue to host sites that form part of a European network of designated sites, they will no longer form part of the Natura 2000 network.

Purpose of this HRA

To comply with the above legislation, this Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) has been undertaken to determine whether the proposed East Dunbartonshire Local Development Plan 2 is likely to have a significant effect on a European site. There are no designated European sites within East Dunbartonshire. This HRA therefore screens the proposed plan and policies, as detailed in Appendix 1, to determine whether it is likely to have a significant effect on a European site in a surrounding authority and establishes whether an appropriate assessment would be required.

HRA process

HRA is a rigorous precautionary process centred on the conservation objectives of a site's qualifying interests. It is intended to ensure that plans or projects will not adversely affect the integrity of European sites, as required by the Birds and Habitats Directives. An HRA must be reasoned and recorded throughout. It also needs to be based on, and be supported by, evidence that is capable of standing up to scientific scrutiny.

The Habitat Regulations set out a step-by-step sequence of statutory procedures to be followed. This has to be followed in the correct and particular order to comply with the requirements of the Directive. In compiling this HRA, the Council has been guided by direct input from SNH and by SNH's *Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans: Guidance for Plan-Making Bodies in Scotland. Version 3.0 (January 2015)*. SNH's guidance sets out a

series of (potentially) thirteen stages of the HRA process for plans. The key stages of the HRA process undertaken to date for the proposed plan are detailed below.

Stage 1 - Decide whether the plan is subject to HRA.

In Scotland, the appraisal of the effect of the land use on European sites is required by part IVA (regulations 85A of the *Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994* as amended). The proposed Local Development Plan 2 is therefore subject to HRA.

Stage 2 - Identify the European sites to be considered in the appraisal in consultation with SNH

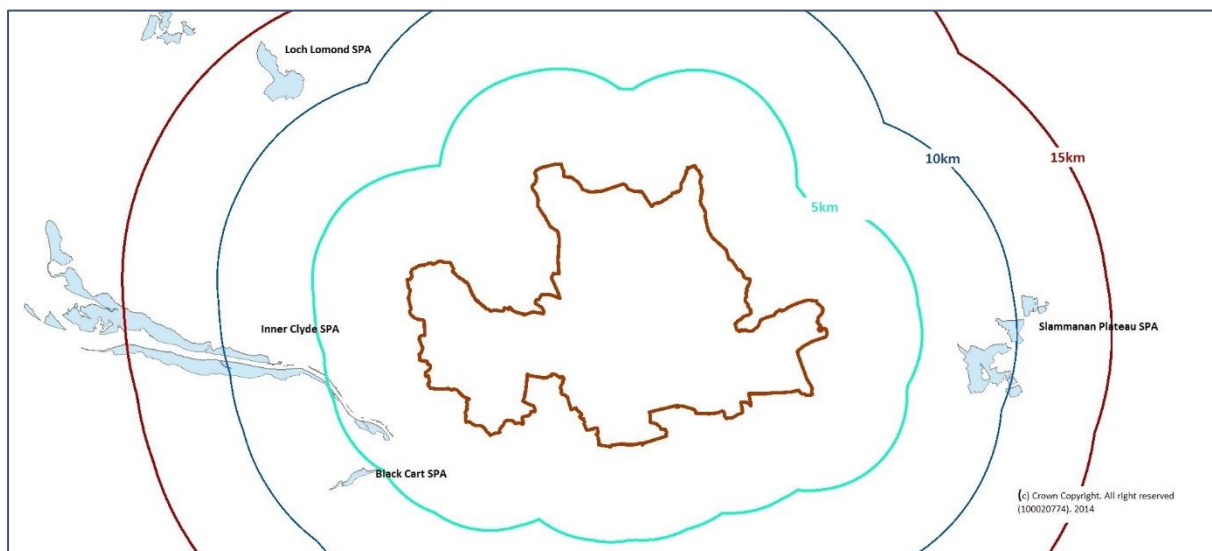
The following sites have been identified in conjunction with SNH and are then taken forward to the next stages in the process. See Appendix 2 for full details of the scoping of European Sites.

- Black Cart SPA
- Inner Clyde SPA
- Loch Lomond SPA
- Slamannan Plateau SPA

Figure 1 below shows these European Sites in relation to the East Dunbartonshire Council area.

Figure 1: Identified European sites and their geographic location in relation to East Dunbartonshire

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Stage 3 - Gather information about the identified sites

Information was gathered on each of the four sites from the SNH website Sitelink, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website (both on 19 March 2020), directly from SNH and from the 2016 SNH guidance '*Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs)*', Version 3. Appendix 3 provides further detail of the information collected.

Stage 4 - Discretionary discussions on the method and scope of the appraisal

The Council engaged with Scottish Natural Heritage in May 2020 as part of the preparation of this appraisal. Comments were received on 28 May 2020, mainly in relation to factual clarifications and observations regarding the legislative context, terminology and protected species.

Stage 5 - Screening the proposed plan for likely significant effect

The proposed plans and policies were screened for likely significant effects on each of the European sites. Screening involves a series of steps to eliminate elements of the plan that would not be likely to have a significant effect on a site. The results of this are detailed below and the step in the screening at which policies and proposals were screened out is detailed in Appendix 1. Where any connectivity exists, further assessment was undertaken.

Black Cart SPA

Analysis of likely effects of the proposed plan and policies: East Dunbartonshire lies approximately 6km north-east from the Black Cart SPA. Research suggests that in Scotland whooper swans have a foraging range of less than 5km during the winter. The whooper swans roosting on the Black Cart also tend to concentrate south and west of the confluence of the Clyde and White Cart. East Dunbartonshire lies north and east of this area of the river. The distances involved means that the proposed plan could not conceivably result in a likely significant effect on this SPA.

It is therefore concluded that the East Dunbartonshire proposed Local Development Plan 2 would not be likely to have a significant effect on the qualifying interests of the Black Cart SPA.

Inner Clyde SPA

Analysis of likely effects of the proposed plan and policies: East Dunbartonshire lies approximately 8km north east from the Inner Clyde SPA, connecting to the site via the River Kelvin. The distance involved would suggest that direct disturbance to the Redshank caused by activities associated with policies and/or proposals within the proposed plan would not be possible. SNH have indicated that the maximum distance at which disturbance has been identified in research is 150m

It is therefore concluded that the East Dunbartonshire proposed Local Development Plan 2 would not be likely to have a significant effect on the qualifying interests of the Inner Clyde SPA.

Loch Lomond SPA

This site has been included for likely significant effects on the Greenland white-fronted geese only. No connection has been established to the breeding capercaillie populations of the Loch Lomond SPA.

Analysis of likely effects of the proposed plan and policies: East Dunbartonshire lies approximately 11km south east from Loch Lomond SPA. Research suggests that in Scotland Greenland White-fronted Geese feed no more than 8km from their roosting sites, with a core range of 5-8km. As East Dunbartonshire lies outside the core wintering foraging range any proposed changes in East Dunbartonshire would not be likely to have any significant effects on the population.

It is therefore concluded that the East Dunbartonshire proposed Local Development Plan 2 would not be likely to have a significant effect on the qualifying interests of the Loch Lomond SPA.

Slamannan Plateau SPA

Analysis of likely effects of the proposed plan and policies: East Dunbartonshire lies approximately 7.5km west from Slamannan Plateau. Migration and feeding studies for the Taiga Bean Goose carried out in 2016 indicate the likely migration routes of this population and fields regularly used by the geese. Given this information and the high site fidelity exhibited by this population, it is unlikely the geese use areas in East Dunbartonshire or regularly fly over the area on migration routes. In addition, the proposed plan will not increase recreational use outside the area covered by the plan therefore discounting increased disturbance to the site.

It is therefore concluded that the East Dunbartonshire proposed Local Development Plan 2 would not be likely to have a significant effect on the qualifying interests of the Slamannan Plateau SPA.

Conclusion

Based on the screening performed at Stage 5, it is concluded that the policies and proposals (as listed in Appendix 1) of the proposed plan would not be likely to have a significant effect, either alone or in combination, on a European site. Therefore, an appropriate assessment has not been necessary.

Appendix 1 – Aspects of the Plan Which Would Not be Likely to Have a Significant Effect on a European Site.

Policy Group	Policy Name or Type of Proposal
<p>Step 1 – General Policy Statements</p>	<p>1. Development Strategy 9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Energy Infrastructure 10. Design and Placemaking</p>
<p>Step 2 - Projects referred to in, but not proposed by, the plan.</p>	<p><u>Bearsden</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allander Leisure Centre and Adult Day Care Centre • Boclair Academy redevelopment • Brookwood Villa redevelopment • Bearsden Early Years Centre • Kessington Hall refurbishment <p><u>Bishopbriggs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodhill and Etive Parks - Climate Ready Park <p><u>Kirkintilloch, Lenzie & Waterside</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement football club pitch and facilities at Donaldson St/ Southbank Rd • Luggie Park Pitch Upgrade • Lenzie Hall Upgrade • Lairdsland Early Years Centre • Waterside Park improvements • Peel Park Restoration <p><u>Lennoxton, Milton of Campsie, Haughhead & Clachan of Campsie</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craigfoot Allotments, Milton of Campsie • The enhancement of High Park including 3G pitch • Campsie Memorial Hall improvement • Glazert Water Restoration • Lennoxton sustainable transport and public space improvements (various locations) • Lennox Park enhancements improvements including habitat creation and access improvements <p><u>Milngavie</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milngavie Community Hub • Allander Leisure Centre and Adult Day Care Centre • West Highland Way enhancements • Oakburn Early Years Centre • Mugdock Park enhanced access

Policy Group	Policy Name or Type of Proposal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bankell Farm waste transfer station • Ashburn Garden Allotments <p><u>Torrance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodmill Neighbourhood Park enhancements <p><u>Twechar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancements to Twechar Public Park and Gartshore Public Park • Continued enhancement of Twechar Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre • Twechar Canalside Recreation and Training Facility • Develop space for community food growing within Twechar
<p>Step 3a - Aspects which Protect the Natural Environment, including Biodiversity, or Conserve or Enhance the natural, Built or Historic Environment</p>	<p>17. Natural Environment 18. Water Environment and Flood Risk 19. Historic Environment</p>
<p>Step 3b - Aspects which will not lead to development or other change</p>	
<p>Step 3c - Aspects which make provision for change but which could have no conceivable effect on a European site, because there is no link or pathway between them and the qualifying interests, or any effect would be a positive effect, or would not otherwise undermine the development strategy</p>	<p>Community policies</p> <p><u>Policy 2. Bearsden</u></p> <p><i>Housing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2H1 Bearsden Golf Course ▪ 2H2. Castlehill Farm ▪ 2H3. Drymen Road (No 172) ▪ 2H4. Former Church, 2B Crarae Avenue ▪ 2H5. Kilmardinny ▪ 2H6. 190-196 Milngavie Road ▪ 2H7. Netherton Farm Lane ▪ 2.H8 Nithsdale Crescent <p><i>Business and Employment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2.BE2 Garscadden Depot ▪ 2.BE3 Garscube Estate <p><i>Community Facilities and Open Space</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Langfaulds Cemetery Extension ▪ Kilmardinny green network enhancements <p><u>Policy 3. Bishopbriggs</u></p> <p><i>Housing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3H1 Auchinairn Primary School ▪ 3H2 Bishopbriggs Town Centre/ Former High School ▪ 3H3 Cadder Sewage Works/ Jellyhill ▪ 3H4 St Mungo Street ▪ 3H5 Westerhill Regeneration Area <p><i>Business and Employment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3BE3 Bishopbriggs Industrial Estate

Policy Group	Policy Name or Type of Proposal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3BE6 Low Moss Industrial Estate ▪ 3BE8 Westerhill Industrial Estate <p><i>Community Facilities and Open Space</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expansion to Cadder Cemetery <p><u>Policy 4. Kirkintilloch, Lenzie & Waterside</u></p> <p><i>Housing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4H1 Armour Drive Lock Ups ▪ 4H2 Blackthorn Grove Lock Ups (Lenzie) ▪ 4H3 Braes O’Yetts ▪ 4H4 Broomhill Hospital ▪ 4H5 Campsie View School ▪ 4H6 Claddens South/ Blackland Place ▪ 4H7 Cleddans Playing Field ▪ 4H8 David Gray Drive/ Fossil Grove ▪ 4H9 Duntiblae ▪ 4H10 Fauldhead/ Chryston Road North ▪ 4H11 Fauldhead/ Chryston Road South ▪ 4H12 Glasgow Rd ▪ 4H13 High Street/ Mitchell Hire ▪ 4H14 38 Kilsyth Road ▪ 4H15 Kirkintilloch Gateway Regeneration Area ▪ 4H16 Lairdsland School ▪ 4H17 Former Lenzie Primary ▪ 4H18 Meadowburn Ave ▪ 4H19 Merkland School ▪ 4H20 Moss Road ▪ 4H21 Redbrae Road/ Oxgang Holdings ▪ 4H22 Rob Roy Football Club Phase 2 ▪ 4H23 St Agatha’s Primary ▪ 4H24 Tom Johnstone House ▪ 4H25 Townhead (85 – 97) ▪ 4H26 Whitegates <p><i>Business and Employment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4BE5 Kirkintilloch Industrial Estate East ▪ 4BE6 Milton Road ▪ 4BE10 Southbank Works ▪ 4BE11 Woodilee Industrial Estate <p><i>Community Facilities and Open Space</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rosebank Allotments <p><u>Policy 5. Lennoxton, Milton of Campsie, Haughhead & Clachan of Campsie</u></p> <p><i>Housing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5H1 Baldoran House ▪ 5H2 Birdston Road ▪ 5H3 Campsie Golf Club, Lennoxton ▪ 5H4 East of Aldessan House

Policy Group	Policy Name or Type of Proposal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5H5 Lennox Castle Hospital ▪ 5H6 Lennoxlea, Lennoxtown ▪ 5H7 Primrose Way ▪ 5H8St Machan’s Way, Lennoxtown ▪ 5H9 Watshod Farm <p><i>Business and Employment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5BE1 Lennoxtown Enterprise Centre <p><u>Policy 6. Milngavie</u></p> <p><i>Housing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 6H1. Bankell Farm ▪ 6H2. Craigton Rd ▪ 6H3. Drumclog Ave ▪ 6H4. Keystone Road ▪ 6H5. Fire Station Field ▪ 6H6. No 18 Strathblane Rd <p><i>Business and Employment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 6BE1 Cloberfield Industrial Estate <p><u>Policy 7. Torrance and Baldernock</u></p> <p><i>Housing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 7H1 Acre Valley Nursery ▪ 7H2 Balmore Garden Nursery ▪ 7H3 East of Ferrymill Motors ▪ 7H4 Kelvindale Nursery ▪ 7H5 Kelvin View ▪ 7H6 Main Street (North) ▪ 7H7 Main Street (South) <p><u>Policy 8. Twechar</u></p> <p><i>Housing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 8H1 Canalside (Barrhill Lodge and 1 Glen Shirva Rd) ▪ 8H2 Glen Shirva Rd Main Site ▪ 8H3 MacDonald Crescent <p><i>Business and Employment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 8BE1 Badenheath <p>Subject Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Housing 12. Community Facilities and Open Space 13. Transport 14. Network of Centres and Retailing 15. Business and Employment 16. Tourism 20. Managing Waste 21. Mineral Resources

Policy Group	Policy Name or Type of Proposal
	22. Digital Communications 23. Airport and Hazardous Installations Safeguarding 24. Developer Contributions
Step 3d - Aspects which make provision for change but which could have no significant effect on a European site (minor residual effects), because any potential effects would be so restricted that they would not undermine the conservation objectives for the site	None
Step 3e - Aspects which are too general so that it is not known where, when or how the aspect of the plan may be implemented, or where any potential effects may occur, or which European sites, if any, may be affected	None

Appendix 2 – Original scoping of European sites

Potential connections considered were hydrological, direct habitat links, mobile species and increased recreational pressures. Those entries in bold were scoped in and taken to the next stage.

European Site Name	Local Authority	Qualifying Feature	Scoped Out/In
River Tay SAC	Angus; Argyll and Bute; Perth and Kinross; Stirling	Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels Brook lamprey, Sea lamprey, River lamprey, Atlantic salmon, Otter	Out – no hydrological connection
Inner Clyde SPA	Argyll and Bute, Inverclyde, Renfrewshire, West Dunbartonshire	Redshank, non-breeding	In – potential connection with qualifying species
Loch Lomond SPA	Argyll and Bute, Stirling, West Dunbartonshire	Greenland white-fronted goose, non-breeding Capercaillie, breeding	In – for Greenland White Fronted Geese only (mobile species)
Ben Lui SAC	Argyll and Bute, Stirling	Calcareous grassland (Upland), Dwarf shrub heath (upland), Fen, marsh and swamp (Upland), Inland rock, Montane habitats,	Out – no connection
Loch Lomond Woods SAC	Argyll and Bute, Stirling, West Dunbartonshire	Western acidic oak woodland, Otter	Out – no connection
Firth of Forth SPA	City of Edinburgh, Clackmannanshire, East Lothian, Falkirk, Fife, Stirling, West Lothian	26 species non-breeding bird species 1 species passage bird	Out – no connection
Slamannan Plateau SPA	Falkirk, North Lanarkshire	Taiga bean goose, non-breeding	In – potential connection

European Site Name	Local Authority	Qualifying Feature	Scoped Out/In
			with qualifying species
Black Loch Moss SAC	Falkirk, North Lanarkshire	Raised bog	Out – no connection
North Shotts Moss SAC	North Lanarkshire	Raised bog	Out – no connection
West Fannyside Moss SAC	North Lanarkshire	Blanket bog	Out – no connection
Clyde Valley Woods SAC	North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire	Mixed woodland on base rich soils associated with rocky slopes	Out – no connection
Ben Heasgarnich SAC	Perth and Kinross, Stirling	Calcareous grassland (Upland), Fen, marsh and swamp (Upland), Inland rock, Montane habitats	Out - no connection
Ben Lawers SAC	Perth and Kinross, Stirling	Bogs (upland), Calcareous grassland (Upland), Dwarf shrub heath (upland), Fen, marsh and swamp (Upland), Inland rock, Montane habitats	Out - no connection
Black Cart SPA	Renfrewshire	Whooper Swan, non-breeding	In – Potential connection with qualifying species
Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA	Stirling	Golden eagle, breeding	Out – no connection with qualifying species
Flanders Moss SAC	Stirling	Raised bog	Out – no connection
Kippenrait Glen SAC	Stirling	Mixed woodland on base rich soils associated with	Out – no connection

European Site Name	Local Authority	Qualifying Feature	Scoped Out/In
		rocky slopes	
Meall na Samhna SAC	Stirling	Calcareous grassland (Upland), Inland rock, Montane habitats	Out – no connection
River Teith SAC	Stirling	River lamprey, Sea lamprey, Brook lamprey, Atlantic salmon	Out – no hydrological connection
Trossachs Woods	Stirling	Western acidic oak woodland	Out – no connection
Endrick Water SAC	Stirling, West Dunbartonshire	River lamprey, Atlantic salmon, Brook lamprey	Out – no hydrological connection

Appendix 3 – European site information gathered for Stage 3

Black Cart SPA

Site Description: The Black Cart SPA comprises a 3 km tidal stretch of the Black Cart Water, and its associated floodplain, directly north of Glasgow Airport in Renfrewshire. This stretch of the Black Cart Water supports abundant submerged aquatic vegetation typical of brackish conditions including fennel pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus*, floating sweetgrass *Glyceria fluitans* and beaked tasselweed *Ruppia maritima*. The floodplain is mostly semi-improved pasture but includes small creeks, small stands of common reed *Phragmites australis* and areas of rush *Juncus* spp. dominated grassland. The boundary of the Black Cart SPA is coincident with that of the Black Cart SSSI.

Qualifying Interest: Black Cart SPA qualifies under Article 4.1 by regularly supporting a wintering (non-breeding) population of European importance of the Annex 1 species whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus* (average winter peak mean of 207 individuals between 1993 and 1997, 4% of GB and 1% of total Icelandic population).

Conservation Objectives: 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 To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- 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
- No significant disturbance of the species

Site condition: The condition of the Black Cart's whooper swan population is described as "favourable declining". last monitored 14 April 2009.

Threats: The SNH Commissioned Report 369: Whooper Swan Distribution and Habitat Use in the Black Cart Flood Plain indicates that in terms of roosting and feeding (and associated flight) whooper swan activity tends to focus on areas south and west of the confluence of the White Cart and Clyde. The Report indicates that ensuring a healthy population will involve responding effectively to the development pressures and agricultural changes which could potentially threaten the favourable conservation status of this population, whilst ensuring air safety is not compromised.

Inner Clyde SPA

Site Description: The Inner Clyde is a long, narrow, heavily industrialised estuary on the west coast of Scotland. The Inner Clyde SPA extends 20km westward from Newshot Island to Craigendoran Pier on the north shore and to Newark Castle on the south shore. It contains extensive intertidal flats which support large numbers of wintering waterfowl. The boundary of the Inner Clyde SPA is coincident with that of the Inner Clyde SSSI. The RAMSAR boundary is also coincident with the SPA.

Qualifying Interest: The Inner Clyde SPA qualifies under Article 4.2 by regularly supporting an internationally important wintering population of redshank (*Tringa tetanus*) (non-breeding)(1992/93-96/97 winter peak mean of 2,107, 1% of Eastern Atlantic Flyway, 2% of British). This is one of the highest density wintering populations of redshank in Britain. The RAMSAR qualifying interest is also redshank.

Conservation Objectives: To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- 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
- No significant disturbance of the species

Site condition: The condition of the Inner Clyde's redshank populations is described as "favourable maintained". last monitored 14 February 2007.

Threats: The EU Management Plan indicates that studies of wintering Redshank in the UK have shown that the species is site-faithful both within and between winters, making the species particularly vulnerable to habitat loss and modification and disturbance. Human disturbance was also considered to be a threat, though the Management Plan suggested that the flight distance, when disturbed by humans, may be lower than for some other wader species, especially if birds are habituated to activities that might cause disturbance.

Loch Lomond SPA

Site Description: The Loch Lomond Special Protection Area (SPA) covers an area of woodland, mire and open water at the south-eastern corner of the loch and a cluster of four wooded islands in the southern half of the loch. A range of mire communities occur including inundated mineral marshes and eutrophic-mesotrophic swamp. The islands support mainly deciduous woodlands dominated by birches *Betula* spp. and oaks *Quercus* spp. with some conifers and an understorey with luxuriant areas of blueberry, *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

Qualifying Interest: Loch Lomond SPA qualifies under Article 4.1 by regularly supporting a wintering population of European importance of the Annex 1 species Greenland White Fronted goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* (a winter peak mean of 221 individuals between 1993/94 and 1997/98 representing 2% of the British population). This is an unusual inland wintering population of this species which is mainly found on the north and west coast of Scotland. Loch Lomond SPA also qualifies under Article 4.1 by regularly supporting a population of European importance of the Annex 1 species capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* (a mean March count of 32 individuals between 1995 and 1999, 1% of GB). The wooded islands within the SPA support the highest density population in Britain and lie at the southern limit of capercaillie distribution in Britain.

Conservation objectives: To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- 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
- No significant disturbance of the species

Site condition: The condition of the Loch Lomond SPA's population of wintering Greenland white-fronted geese is described as 'favourable maintained', last monitored 11 January 2017. The condition of the Loch Lomond SPA's population of capercaillie is described as 'unfavourable declining' last monitored 26 March 2013

Threats: The Natura 2000 Standard Data Form indicates that in the Loch Lomond SPA there are no significant threats to the interest at present.

Slamannan Plateau SPA

Site Description: Slamannan Plateau lies just east of Cumbernauld, in the headwaters of the River Avon. It consists of two small lochs and their surrounding peatlands and associated areas of rough and improved grassland. These habitats support roosting and feeding Taiga bean geese during periods in winter.

Qualifying Interest: Slamannan Plateau qualifies under Article 4.2 by regularly supporting nationally important numbers of migratory Taiga bean geese (*Anser fabalis fabalis*). Between winters 2000/2001 and 2004/05 the average peak number of geese at the site was 221, representing over 53% of the total number present in Great Britain.

Conservation Objectives: To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- 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
- No significant disturbance of the species

Site condition: The condition of the Slamannan Plateau's Taiga bean geese population is described as "favourable maintained" last monitored 21 October 2016.

Threats: The Natura 2000 Standard Data Form indicates that the SPA is subject to steady development pressure, including from housing, wind turbines and forestry as well as pressure for peat extraction. It also indicates that the level of recreational use is not high, but if activities such as walking, cycling, horse riding and bird watching take place were to increase, then this may result in disturbance to the geese