

ANGUS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2016

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005

Supplementary Guidance –

Policy PV9 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
Development

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)

ANGUS COUNCIL

June 2017

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A Finalised SEA is attached for:-

Angus Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

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1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Introduction

The Development Plan for Angus (comprising the TAYplan Strategic Development Plan and the Angus Local Development Plan) is the statutory basis for the determination of planning applications and assessment of development proposals. These documents have been prepared in accordance with legislation, policy and advice in effect at the time of their preparation. This Supplementary Guidance (SG) aims to provide a spatial framework for wind turbines and will set out the detailed policy considerations against which all proposals for wind energy and other forms of renewable energy will be assessed, based on those considerations listed in paragraph 169 of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP).

SEA Methodology

In accordance with Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Council determined the significance of impacts in relation to the SEA issues as set out in Schedule 3 of the act. Following discussion with SEPA it was confirmed that it is the effect of the Draft Supplementary Guidance for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development as additional to the LDP that is being assessed. Consequently the following issues against which the likely significant effects of the PPS should be addressed:-

- Biodiversity, flora and fauna
- Soil
- Water
- Material Assets
- Cultural heritage
- Landscape

SEA objectives were drawn up for these issues and the impacts of the Draft SG have been assessed against these objectives. The assessment takes into account the period over which the impacts may occur (short or long term), scale of impact and potential mitigation.

The Assessment Process

As the SG addresses the same issues as the previous Implementation Guide for Renewable Energy Development (2012), this Environmental Report is updated from that prepared in 2012. The parameters for the Strategic Environmental Assessment were confirmed through a scoping exercise and the ER revised in response to the comments received from the Consulting Authorities (summarised in Appendix 4).

Table 7 Assessment of the SG against SEA Objectives outcomes are summarised below:-

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

The effect of the SG on the criteria developed to assess the impact on the SEA objectives under this heading is broadly similar in each case. The SG is assessed as having a generally positive effect given its role in highlighting and promoting the protection of sites designated for their natural heritage value,

and the integrity of the reasons for their designation. It outlines steps to be taken; sources of information and advice; and promotes mitigation measures where appropriate. The residual impact is assessed as primarily neutral, reflecting the aim of preventing unacceptable adverse impact. There may be instances where biodiversity, flora and fauna are enhanced by actions associated with a development, but these will relate to site specific conditions and opportunities which may follow on from the SG but not directly arising from its implementation.

Soil

The SG is assessed as having a slight positive effect on the criteria developed for objectives relating to soils. It references the specific guidance for soils and their protection; supports protection and enhancement of Carbon Rich Soils, Deep Peat and Priority Peatland Habitats. It requires soils be considered in the planning application, during construction and restoration. It highlights that opportunity exists to enhance and restore soils. The residual impact should therefore be neutral to slightly positive.

Water

In relation to the criterion for the water resource the effect of the SG is positive in that it reflects the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. The SG highlights the need to protect or enhance the current status of the water environment in accordance with this and the Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) which authorise certain activities that affect water bodies including abstraction; discharge of pollutants; and dams and weirs. The effect of the SG is therefore assessed to be positive. Residual impact should be neutral to positive reflecting the need to protect or enhance the quality of the water resource.

The SG is assessed neutral in relation to its effect on the potable water supply in that it reinforces the current position with regard to the need for applicants to consult with SW, SEPA and ECP. The residual impact is assessed as neutral given the requirement to avoid deterioration of the potable water supply.

The effect of the SG in relation to the flood prevention criterion is neutral in that it reinforces the ALDP position with regard to relevant legislation and advice.

Cultural Heritage

The effect of the SG on the criteria developed to assess the impact on the SEA objectives under this heading is broadly similar in each case. The SG is assessed as having a generally positive effect given its role in highlighting and promoting the protection of sites designated for their cultural heritage value, and the integrity of the reasons for their designation. It outlines steps to be taken; sources of information and advice; and promotes mitigation measures where appropriate. The residual impact is assessed as primarily neutral to negative however, reflecting the aim of preventing unacceptable adverse impact but acceptance that development may affect a designated site or feature, but that the impact is deemed to be acceptable.

Material Assets

SR recognised renewable energy as a sustainable resource. It supports protection of other natural resources required and opportunities to better use heat and manage waste through LDP policies. As the SG supports renewable and low carbon energy development it should have a positive residual effect.

Landscape

The SG is assessed as having a positive effect with regard to the relevant criteria as it develops guidance for renewable and low carbon energy development in relation to landscape; advises on parameters for the assessment of cumulative visual impact; and establishes standards for illustrations (maps, photographs and diagrams) to accompany applications. This should result in development which is appropriate in relation to both the landscape and visual context. It refines and develops the Spatial Framework for Wind Turbines and reinforces the Wild Land designation in Angus. The residual impact remains unknown however, because the assessment of impact will depend on the individual proposal and its siting, scale and design.

Mitigation

The impact of the SG on the SEA Objectives is, primarily, positive to neutral given its role as Implementation Guidance for the policies in the Adopted Angus Local Plan Review therefore positive specific mitigation measures are not felt to be necessary. The SG provides guidance, not policy and the application of local, strategic and national policy and legislation primarily enforce mitigation, protection and enhancement.

Difference the Process has made

The SEA process has not identified any significant amendment to the Draft SG. A number of additions/modifications have been incorporate to

- Recognise opportunity for enhancement associated with development proposals;

Consultation and Next Steps

This non-technical summary sets out the purpose, methods and findings of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which has informed the development of the SG.

The Environmental Report has been prepared by Angus Council and was submitted to the Consultation Authorities (SNH, SEPA and Historic Scotland) on 18 November 2016. The formal consultation period for the Draft SG and draft SEA Environmental Report was for seven weeks until 5th January 2017

2 INTRODUCTION

Requirement for SEA

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that development plans prepared by public bodies be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment. The Angus LDP will guide land use and development across Angus over the 2016-2026 period and has been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment as part of the plan preparation process. As part of the ALDP once adopted, this SG may result in both significant positive and negative environmental impacts which require to be subject to SEA to ensure compatibility with the ALDP and Environmental Report.

Purpose of this Environmental Report

As part of the preparation of the SG, Angus Council has carried out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. SEA is a systematic method for considering the likely environmental effects in order to:-

- integrate environmental factors into SG preparation and decision-making;
- improve the SG and enhance environmental protection;
- increase public participation in decision-making; and
- facilitate openness and transparency of decision-making.

The key SEA stages are:

Screening	Determining whether the PPS is likely to have significant environmental effects and whether an SEA is required.
Scoping	Deciding on the scope and level of detail of the Environmental Report, and the consultation period for the report – this is done in consultation with the Consultation Authorities - Historic Environment Scotland (HES); Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).
Environmental Report	Publishing an Environmental Report on the SG and its environmental effects, and consulting on that report.
Post-Adoption	Providing information on – the adopted SG; how consultation comments have been taken into account; and methods for monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the SG.
Monitoring	Monitoring significant environmental effects in such a manner so as to also enable the Responsible Authority to identify any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and undertake appropriate remedial action.

Environmental Assessment of the SG has been undertaken throughout the process and will result in the preparation and publication of an Environmental Report which will set out:-

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the SG preparation process;
- How the Environmental Report has influenced the preparation of the SG;
- How the results of consultation on the Environmental Report have been taken into account;
- The measures that are being taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the SG.

Scope of the Environmental Assessment

The environmental topics that are included in the environmental assessment for the Draft SG and the reasons for their inclusion are set out in Table 1 below. The range of topics detailed below is drawn from those specified in the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and considered against the range of issues that the SD is likely to affect.

Table 1: Scope of the Environmental Assessment

SEA Issues	Reason
Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna	There may be significant effects, individually and cumulatively, on designated sites, vulnerable habitat and/or protected species. The SG aims to highlight and protect the natural environment.
Soil	Renewable energy schemes may impact on soils, including peat and carbon rich soils. The SG aims to highlight and protect soils.
Water	Renewable energy schemes may directly and indirectly impact on the water resource. The SG aims to highlight and protect all water bodies.
Material Assets	There may be significant effects on material assets including soils, minerals, and infrastructure.
Cultural Heritage	Renewable energy schemes may directly impact on archaeology and on the setting of Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas and Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes. The SG aims to highlight and protect the built heritage.

Key Facts

The key facts relating to the SG for Renewable Energy Development are set out below:-

Responsible Authority	Angus Council
Title of Plan, Programme or Strategy (PPS)	Supplementary Guidance for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development
What prompted the PPS	Requirement to prepare a locational framework for wind energy for the Angus Local Development Plan (ALDP) area in accordance with Scottish Planning Policy(SPP); to provide additional guidance on Development Management considerations for energy infrastructure developments and on the application of Policy PV9 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development.
Subject	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development
Period covered by the PPS	2017-2026.
Frequency of Updates	5 years with the review of ALDP.
Area covered by the PPS	Angus Council area excluding that part within the Cairngorms National Park Authority boundary (Map 1)
Purpose of the PPS	Provide a spatial framework for wind energy proposals. Provide guidance on the preparation and assessment of energy development proposals. Expand Policy PV9 and other relevant policies in the adopted ALDP in accordance with current SPP Development Management considerations.
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SEA Activities to Date

The main SEA activities undertaken to date in relation to the preparation of the SG are summarised in Table 2 below:-

Summary of Appraisal Process to date

Date	Stage – SEA process
10/05/2016	Scoping request submitted to SEA Gateway by Angus Council
13/06/2016	Consultation responses received
	Angus Council approved Draft Environmental Report for Consultation purposes. (Report No xxx)
	Draft Environmental Report to SEA Gateway
	Public Consultation
	Consultation responses received from Consultation Authorities
	Stage – SG
01/12/2015	Preparation of draft SG commenced
23/09/2016	Draft SG circulated for internal consultation
	Angus Council approved Draft SG for Consultation purposes. (Report No 374/16)
18/11/16 05/01/17	Public Consultation
29/06/2017	Angus Council will consider Report setting out consultation statement,, proposed modifications and finalised versions of the SG and Environmental Report for submission to the Scottish Ministers.
	Next Stage
	Publication of SG and preparation of the Post Adoption Statement

3 CONTEXT

Outline and Objectives of the SG

On adoption the SG will form part of the Angus Local Development Plan 2016 in support of Policy PV9 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development

This document is part of the SEA process and follows the preparation and publication of the results of screening and scoping the SG in the context of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. It is based on the SEA Guidance set out in the Scottish Executive's SEA Tool Kit (2006). This Environmental Report will be subject to the same consultation process as the SG to which it relates. The two documents should be read together.

The Scoping Report (May 2016) established, via the Scottish Government's SEA Gateway and in agreement with the statutory consultees, the issues arising from the SG and the procedures to be used to address these in the subsequent Environmental Report.

The SG is the final tier of guidance to developers of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development in the ALDP area and is prepared within the context of national, strategic and local planning policy. It defines the spatial framework for wind turbines over in accordance with the principles laid down in SPP 2014 and addresses the main factors to be taken into account when assessing proposals for renewable energy projects –

- location;
- access and traffic;
- transmission and energy use;
- aviation, defence, seismological or telecommunications facilities;
- impact (including cumulative) on landscape; sites designated for natural heritage (including birds), scientific, historic, cultural or archaeological reasons; protected species and amenity
- water environment;
- carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat or geodiversity
- mitigation and site restoration; and
- other factors.

The SG aims also to direct developers and other interested parties to relevant documents, policies and regulations and identifies information required in support of application

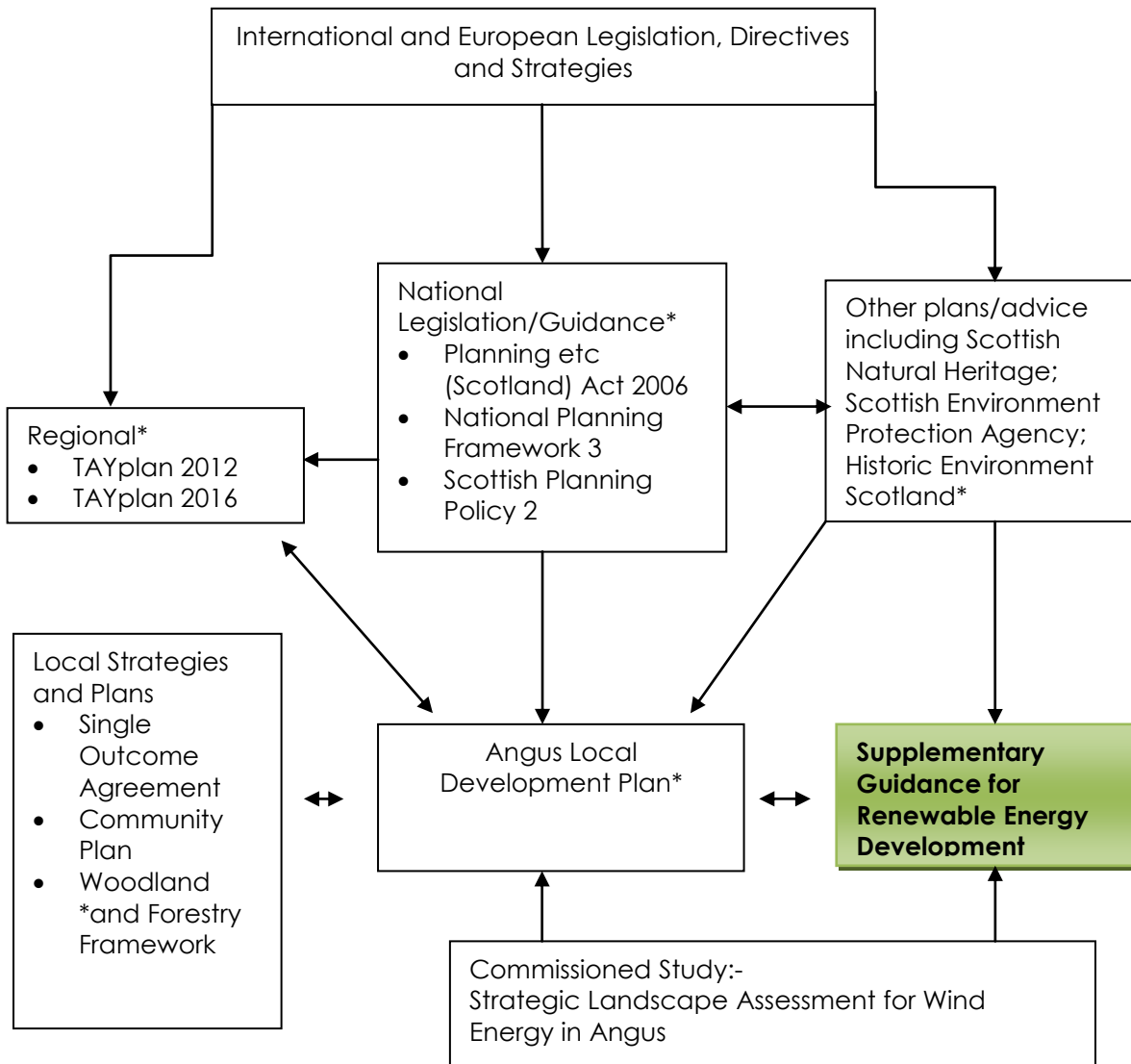
Within Angus, Supplementary Guidance for Renewable Energy Proposals will aim to deliver the following outcomes:-

- A spatial framework identifying areas of constraint and potential for wind energy development ;
- provide advice on policy implementation and locational guidance principles for renewable energy development;
- outline supplementary information to accompany a planning application; and
- establish the relationship with other relevant guidance and policy.

Relationship with other Plans and Strategies

The purpose and scope of this SG is defined by Policy PV9 of the Angus Local Development Plan, which in turn is informed by a wider hierarchy of plans, programmes and strategies as illustrated below.

Figure 1: SG links with other Plans, Programmes and Strategies (PPS)



The SG is prepared within the context of the environmental policies of the Approved Development as show in Table 3 below.

*These PPS have a spatial element requiring SEA and in some cases HRA which set the context for parts of this SG. This is particularly the case with the SEA and HRA for the ALDP, which set the context for and should be read in conjunction with this SG and can be found at http://www.angus.gov.uk/downloads/20307/environment_and_development_planning

Table 2 : Development Plan Environmental Protection/Enhancement Policies

	TAYplan Strategic Development Plan (2016)	Angus Local Development Plan (2016)
Protection of designated and non-designated sites	Policy 8: Green networks	Policies PV1-8
Resources (Soils, geodiversity, minerals)	Policy 9: Managing TAYplan's Assets	Policies PV17-21
Water Environment		Policies PV12-16
Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development	Policy 7 Energy, Waste and Resources	Policies PV9-11
Flood Risk	Policy 2; Shaping better Quality Places	PV12 and 13
Principles of development	Policy 1: Location Priorities	Policies DS1-5

A full list of relevant strategies, plans and programmes or legislation and how these interact with the SG is set out in Appendix 2 and all the Development Plan Policies to which the SG refers to are listed in Appendix 3. It should also be noted that throughout the SG, reference is made to relevant PPS and other advice from a range of sources. Wherever possible, links to the Development Plan, other PPS and Geographic Information System (GIS) layers are contained within the SG itself to assist users' access these resources. Regular updating of these links should ensure the SG remains current. The relationship between the SG and other policy and advice is a key theme.

The Angus Environment

Current State of the Environment

It is a requirement of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that sufficient information on the current state of the environment in Angus, an Environmental Baseline, is gathered for the purposes of the Environmental Report. This section provides a summary overview of the current state of the Angus environment and identifies existing environmental issues affecting the area covered by the Angus LDP

Angus lies midway along the eastern coastline of Scotland and covers an area of 220,415 ha. A map showing the geographic area covered by the SG and the key settlements is set out in Appendix 1. Table 2 below identifies relevant aspects of the Angus environment under each of the core SEA themes of biodiversity, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape.

Table 3: SEA Topic and Key Baseline Information

SEA Topic	Type of Information	Information Source
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Designated sites	<p>A range of sites in Angus have been recognised for their wildlife and geological interest. These include:-</p> <p>International Natural Heritage Designations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC): Barry Links; Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary (part); River South Esk; River Tay. • 5 Special Protection Areas (SPA): Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary; Loch of Kinnordy; Loch of Lintrathen; Montrose Basin, & Cairngorms Massif (part). • 4 Ramsar Sites: Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary; Loch of Kinnordy; Loch of Lintrathen; Montrose Basin. • 3 MPAs: Outer Firth of Forth & Tay Bank Complex Marine dSPA; Outer Firth of Forth & St Andrews Bay Complex pSPA; Firth of Forth Banks Complex NC MPA <p>National and Local Natural Heritage Designations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) • 1 Local Nature Reserve • 16 Geological Review Sites (designated as SSSIs).
	Woodland /semi-natural woodland	<p>In 2010/11 75.3% of natural features on designated sites were classified as in favourable condition</p> <p>12,200ha of Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland across Angus (2009)</p> <p>62,000ha of productive woodland in Angus. This equates to 70% of total woodland cover in Angus.</p>
	Non-statutory sites	<p>Various Sites - SWT, RSPB, SNH, JNCC, TBAP</p> <p>Wild Cat Priority Action Areas: SNH</p>
Population and Human Health	Settlement Pattern	<p>Map of settlement boundaries and 2km buffers: AC</p> <p>Demographic Data: GRoS</p>
	Public Health	<p>Public and private water supply: ECP/SEPA/SW</p> <p>Pipeline corridors: HSE/SW</p>
	Wellbeing	<p>Core Paths, Cycle routes: AC</p>
Water	Quality of all surface and ground waters.	<p>River Basin Management Plan: SEPA /AC</p> <p>Tay and Esk SAC - Catchment Development Guidance: SNH, SEPA, AC</p>
	Areas at Risk of Flooding	<p>Maps and reports: SEPA</p> <p>PVAs: SEPA</p> <p>Flood Risk Management Strategies 2016: SEPA</p>

		and LAs
Soil	Soil type and quality	Vacant, derelict and contaminated land: AC Land Capability for Agriculture: James Hutton Institute.
	Carbon Rich	Carbon Rich Soils, Deep Peat and Priority Peatland Habitats, SNH
Air	Local and international air quality	Significant strategic environmental effect unlikely.
Climatic Factors	Local and international climate change	Significant strategic environmental effect unlikely.
Material Assets	Natural (eg minerals, renewable energy and prime agricultural land) and built (eg transport links and infrastructure) resource	Land Capability for Agriculture: James Hutton Institute Core Paths, Cycle routes: AC Minerals Audit: AC
Cultural Heritage	Archaeological sites	Sites and Monuments Record: Areas of Archaeological Interest: Aberdeenshire Council Archaeological Service
	Listed Buildings	Category 'A', 'B' and 'C' Listed Buildings: HES Buildings at Risk register: HES
		Conservation Areas: AC
		Country Parks: AC
Landscape		Tayside Landscape Character Assessment: for SNH/TRC Strategic Assessment for Wind Energy Development in Angus: Ironside Farrar for SNH and AC Angus Settlements Landscape Capacity Study: AC 2015 Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscape: HES Wild Land: SNH 2014

Summary Environmental Issues

Schedule 3 paragraph 4 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental Report includes a description of existing environmental issues, in particular those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance. The purpose of this section is to explain how

existing environmental issues will affect or be affected by the SG and whether it is likely to aggravate, reduce or otherwise affect existing environmental issues.

Table 4 below summarises potentially significant environmental issues raised by renewable low carbon energy development in Angus under each of the relevant SEA topic headings.

Table 4 : Environmental Issues Relevant to the SG

SEA Topic	Environmental Issues and Relationship to SG
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Threat to species/habitats and their connectivity. SG seeks to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide guidance on location of protected species and sites; • promote assessment of impact and mitigation measures where appropriate and effective, including Environmental Assessment.
Population and Human Health	Potential noise and flicker. SG seeks to prevent unacceptable impacts on residential amenity and therefore health. Drinking water. SG seeks to protect public and private water supplies from contamination. Pipeline corridors. SG will highlight role of and links to HSE.
Soil	Loss of Prime Quality agricultural land; loss of/damage to carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitats; impact of works – compaction, soils storage, reinstatement SG seeks to provide guidance on assessment of impact and mitigation measures where appropriate and effective.
Water	River and ground water quality is mostly rated excellent/good and coastal water quality is mostly rated excellent. Possible impact on water quality for the River Tay and River South Esk SACs. The SG will highlight potential for impacts on the water resource and require mitigation measures where appropriate to maintain or enhance water quality.
Air	Temporary dust and particles disturbed during construction and decommissioning. SG seeks to provide guidance on assessment of short term impact and mitigation measures through management plans as appropriate.
Climatic Factors	Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, climate change and global warming and potential effect from transport of biomass fuels. SG seeks to contribute to targets for reductions to greenhouse gas emissions.
Material Assets	Renewable or natural resource. SG seeks to encourage the sustainable use of Angus energy renewable resource and minimise negative impact on built and natural assets.
Cultural Heritage	Wide range of created and managed landscapes; Unidentified evidence of human habitation; built heritage under threat

	SG seeks to provide guidance on assessment of impact and mitigation measures where appropriate and effective.
Landscape	<p>Affect on landscape (including Cumulative). SG seeks to provide guidance on assessment of impact and mitigation measures where appropriate and effective.</p> <p>Effect on visual amenity (including Cumulative). SG seeks to provide guidance on assessment of impact and mitigation measures where appropriate and effective.</p>

Evolution of the Environment without the SG

Without the Draft SG for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development renewable and low carbon energy developments will continue to come forward and be assessed under the terms of the Development Plan. The SG should result in the submission of better planning applications and supporting information, and more consistent assessment of pre-application inquiries and of planning applications.

4 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Sea Objectives

SEA objectives have been drawn up for those SEA issues scoped in to the assessment (see above). These objectives take account of the key environmental trends and issues outlined under Environmental Issues, and their relevance to the specific scope and influence of the SG. The environmental effects of the SG will be assessed against these objectives.

Table 6 below shows the SEA objectives and sample criteria that will be used to assess the impact (both positive and negative) of the SG on these.

Table 5 : SEA Objectives

SEA Issues	SEA Objectives	Assessment Criteria
		Does this SG help:-
Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna	<p>Conserve, protect and enhance the diversity of species, habitats and the natural heritage of Angus.</p> <p>Protect and enhance of important habitats and connectivity.</p> <p>Maintain and protect populations of European Protected Species, including their functioning habitat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect or enhance diversity of species and habitats and their connectivity? • Protect or enhance the integrity of Natura sites? • Protect or enhance Designated Sites? • Protect or enhance natural woodland? • Avoid adverse effects on or enhance Carbon Rich Soils, Deep Peat and Priority Peatland Habitats? • Protect or enhance green networks?
Soil	Maintain, protect and where possible enhance soil quality, geodiversity and carbon rich soils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent the loss of prime agricultural areas (Class 1; 2 and 3.1)? • Reduce the potential impact on geologically designated features? • Protect or enhance the carbon function of soils?
Water	To protect maintain and where possible and enhance the ecological status of the water environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect or enhance the water environment? • Prevent contamination of the potable water supply? • Mitigate potential flood impact?
Cultural Heritage	To protect and where appropriate enhance the historic, built and cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent permanent loss of/ adverse impact on Scheduled Monuments and

	heritage.	<p>their setting?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect or enhance Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes? • Prevent loss of/adverse impact on archaeological sites? • Protect setting of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas?
Material Assets	Promote the sustainable use/reuse of the area's natural resources and material assets and minimise waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect natural resources and material assets? • Minimise waste? • Mitigate impact on material assets?
Landscape	<p>To protect and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the Angus landscape and townscape character and setting.</p> <p>Ensure new development does not exceed the landscape capacity to accommodate it.</p> <p>Protect, maintain or enhance existing green networks, improve connectivity/function and create new links where needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect or enhance key landscape features? • Protect or enhance townscape features/setting. • Respect landscape capacity? • Avoid unacceptable visual and cumulative visual impacts? • Maintain or enhance ALDP area's important landscapes, special qualities and character? • Protect or enhance areas of wild land?

Assessment of Alternatives

The SEA Directive and the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act require the Environmental Report to consider the impacts of alternatives to the proposed plan.

The parameters of the SG are set by Policy PV9 of the Angus Local Development Plan 2016. The selection and development of individual projects and sites will be subject to appropriate levels of assessment depending on scale, location and method of generation. The SG aims to guide the consideration of development impacts and potential mitigation – starting with the reasons for site selection. The developer should consider alternative site options at this stage i.e. before the planning application is submitted to the local planning authority.

The draft SG is the final tier of the policy hierarchy and as such it accords with a number of higher order plans and the range of alternatives is therefore limited. It encourages renewable and low carbon energy developments to seek appropriate locations, and to minimise potential adverse environmental effects. The alternative of not seeking to support renewable energy

development and trying to reduce and minimise the adverse effects of such development is not considered to be a realistic policy option, The aims of the land use planning system (sustainable development and environmental protection), a range of government policy, and International commitments to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases all support the development of renewable energy sources.

The SG also aims to assist applicants and developers in the preparation of applications for a range of renewable energy developments, and to help members of the public understand the requirements of the planning process in relation to development proposals that are sometimes a matter of great public interest. To this end the SG provides links to other sources of information and advice that are considered relevant for proposed renewable energy development and an interactive mapping tool.

The main alternatives that could reasonably be considered therefore were:

- not preparing the SG;
- restricting the document to statutory planning matters;
- Limiting application the development proposals over a certain size – capacity, footprint, or height for example.

These alternatives are deemed to be less environmentally acceptable than the production of the SG in its current format.

Assessment of the SG

The SG defines a spatial framework for wind turbines of 50m to wind tip and above; provides additional guidance on the implementation of ALDP policy and how this relates to other legislation, policy documents and guidance. Implicit within this are the incremental environmental benefits of moving away from conventional energy generation to renewable and low carbon sources. Actual environmental costs and benefits are not within the remit of the SG but are set elsewhere.

Whilst any development has environmental effects related to its scale, location and type, the SG aims to highlight known constraints and opportunities which may mean areas are more or less environmentally sensitive to renewable and low carbon energy development. These constraints are defined within existing policy and legislation, primarily SPP and the ALDP.

The decisions on scale, location and type of development are the responsibility of the applicant. The environmental effect of each development will require to be assessed individually, and where appropriate within the context of relevant Environmental Assessment legislation and regulation.

This SG prepared in support of Policy PV9 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development can therefore have limited impact as the criteria, constraints and policy base are defined by higher order Plans, Policies and Strategies.

The potential impacts examined are ordered, as required by the Act, under a number of Topics. For the purposes of assessment of implementing the SG on the environment, a series of SEA Objectives and related criteria were defined during the scoping process and are used as the basis for Table 7 : Assessment of the SG Against SEA Objectives, which is shown below. The effect of the SG on each of the criteria set under each SEA Objective is indicated according to a simple scoring system as outlined in the Scoping Report. The outcomes are summarised in Section 1 above.

Problems of Assessment

The main issue is determining the actual environmental impact which results from the application of the SG. The policy basis is established by a number of higher tier plans and legislation: the sites designated as of strategic environmental significance are defined, designated and protected by statute: and there are legislative requirements for subsequent environmental assessment through other statutory processes. These include the development management process, Environmental Impact Assessment and the regulatory framework of other agencies such as Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Environment Scotland and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. The subject of the SG - renewable and low carbon energy development – rather than the SG has the potential to affect the built and natural environment, have widespread landscape and visual impacts and development can result in individual and cumulative impact across large areas and administrative boundaries.

Furthermore, the SG does not relate to specific areas or sites and development proposals can be modified to take account of factors identified through the application of the SG.

Cumulative Impacts

The nature of the development to which the SG relates, rather than the SG itself, may have significant cumulative effects. The potential for cumulative landscape and visual effect of wind farms are obvious, but there are other potential cumulative effects - on natural and cultural heritage features such as habitats, species and sites; on a variety of water bodies; and in conjunction with other forms of development. The SG may not have a cumulative effect per se, but it aims to ensure proposals for renewable and low carbon energy developments address such impacts, and provides a framework for an evolutionary approach to assessing development proposals over time. The format of SG is such that the assessment process is cumulative in relation to the interaction of the SG criteria but the direct effect is largely limited to development management process.

Timescale

The impact of the SG is potentially both short and long term in that it will influence the submission and assessment of development proposals in the short term, but the outcomes will be built into the planning decision and hence the term of the proposed development. In some instances the SG may influence a planning decision with very long term effect, such as the decision not to progress or to amend a proposal in a way that avoids or mitigates a long term consequence of the development.

Mitigation Measures

The impact of the SG on the SEA Objectives is, primarily, positive to neutral given its role as additional guidance to the policies in the ALDP. Accordingly the intention is to ensure appropriate mitigation measures are developed primarily through the development management process, including application of wider ALDP policies and consultation with relevant agencies. This should ensure a neutral impact of development, The SG promotes mitigation of potential adverse effects in practice and fosters enhancement of environmental assets where possible. The application of this SG and PV9 is supported by integrated policies within the ALDP which are designed to ensure the built and natural heritage, residential amenity, recreation and access are protected and where possible enhanced for all development.

Table 6 – Assessment of the SG against SEA Objectives

Key

(More than one factor may apply to any criterion)								
Strongly positive	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Strongly negative	Unknown	Mitigation	Cumulative	Not applicable
++	+	=	-	--	u/k	Y (yes) N (no)	C	n/a

6a – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

SEA Objective	Criteria Does this SG...	Timescale		Impact	Scale		Mitigation Possible	Residual Impact	Commentary
		Short term	Long term		Local	Ex-Angus			
Conserve, protect and enhance the diversity of species, habitats and the natural heritage of Angus.	Protect or enhance the integrity of Natura sites	Y	Y	+	++	+	Y	=	Natura 2000 sites identified and their protection required. HRA undertaken as Annex to that for the ALDP which concludes that with mitigation incorporated throughout both the SG and ALDP there will be no adverse effect on Natura sites

									either individually or in combination with other plans and projects resulting from implementation of this SG. Efficacy of mitigation measures to be demonstrated. Assessment of cumulative impact if appropriate. Could include sites outwith Angus Council and therefore may extend beyond the Council's administrative area
	Protect or enhance Designated Sites	Y	Y	+ c	++	+	Y	=	Sites designated for their natural heritage value are identified and their protection or enhancement required. Efficacy of mitigation measures to be demonstrated. Assessment of cumulative impact if appropriate. Could include sites outwith Angus Council and therefore may extend beyond the Council's administrative area.
Protect and enhance of important habitats and connectivity.	Protect or enhance natural woodland	Y	Y	+ c	+	=	Y	=	The protection of natural woodland is encompassed within the ALDP policies, as referred to in the SG. Natural woodlands could also be considered as locally important habitat or beauty spots to be considered as part of any renewable energy proposal.

	Avoid adverse effects on or enhance peatland habitats?	Y	Y	+ c	+	=	Y	=	The SG requires that carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitats be identified and potential impact minimised. This includes ancillary development and tracks. Identify where opportunity to enhance/reinstate peatland exists.
	Protect or enhance green network								
Maintain and protect populations of European Protected Species, including their functioning habitat	Protect or enhance diversity of species and habitats and their connectivity?	Y	Y	+ c	++	+	Y	=	The SG requires development proposals to demonstrate there will be no adverse impacts on protected species and habitats. It requires that SNH be consulted where appropriate and indicates that these matters will be taken into account in the determination of a planning application. Efficacy of mitigation measures to be demonstrated. Assessment of cumulative impact if appropriate. Cross references to wider Angus Council policies requiring consideration of local sites, habitats and species including green/blue network, LBAP TLCA and woodlands and hedgerows Includes sites outwith Angus Council and therefore may extend beyond the Council's administrative area

6b – Soil

SEA Objective	Criteria	Timescale		Impact	Scale		Mitigation Possible	Residual Impact	Commentary
		Short term	Long term		Local	Ex-Angus			
Maintain, protect and where possible enhance soil quality, geodiversity and carbon rich soils	Prevent the loss of prime agricultural areas (Class 1; 2 and 3.1)?	Y	Y	- c	-	n/a	Y	=/+	Land take can be significantly greater than development footprint. Agricultural activity can continue in proximity to turbines. Mitigation could require the relocation onto lower grade land and reducing residual impact and management plans can benefit habitat creation and enhance biodiversity. Restoration plans/bonds are required and should include soil storage and reinstatement.
	Reduce the potential impact on geologically designated features	Y	Y	+ c	+	n/a	Y	=/+	SSSIs designated for their geological value are identified for protection. Efficacy of mitigation measures to be demonstrated. Assessment of cumulative impact if appropriate.
	Reduce the loss in the carbon function of soils	Y	Y	+ c	+	=	Y	=	Renewable energy development in areas of carbon rich soils are likely to have a limited footprint such as turbine base rather than extensive land take such as extraction. Carbon savings should counter balance that lost as demonstrated by application of the carbon calculator and use of site and peat management plans to

									identify soil protection measures.
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6c – Water

SEA Objective	Criteria	Timescale		Impact	Scale		Mitigation Possible	Residual Impact	Commentary
		Short term	Long term		Local	Ex-Angus			
To protect maintain and where possible and enhance the ecological status of the water environment.	Protect or enhance the water environment?	Y	Y	++ C	++	+	Y	+/=	The SG promotes the protection or enhancement of all water bodies in accordance with the RBMP. Any necessary mitigation measures to be agreed prior to approval of a planning application. 'Highlights relevant advice and guidance.'
	Prevent contamination of potable water supply	Y	Y	=	++	+	Y	=	The SG requires the protection of potable water supplies. Any necessary mitigation measures to be agreed prior to approval of a planning application. Failure to do so may result in refusal.
	Mitigate potential flood impact	Y	Y	= C	++	+	Y	=	All development proposals assessed in the context of flood management plans for both on and offsite flood implications. Flood risk assessment and mitigation as appropriate in accordance with policy

6d - Cultural Heritage

SEA Objective	Criteria	Timescale		Impact	Scale		Mitigation Possible	Residual Impact	Commentary
		Short term	Long term		Local	Ex-Angus			
To protect and where appropriate enhance the built and cultural heritage.	Prevent permanent loss of/ adverse impact on Scheduled Monuments and their setting	Y	Y	+ c	+	+	Y	=/-	Sites designated for their cultural heritage value are identified and their protection required. The Spatial Framework for Wind Energy incorporates these sites within Areas of Significant Protection. The SG supports the Spatial Framework with development management guidance for both Areas with Significant Protection and areas with Potential for Wind Farm Development. Efficacy of mitigation measures to be demonstrated. Assessment of cumulative impact if appropriate. Could include sites outwith Angus Council and therefore may extend beyond the Council's administrative area. Sites should be protected as far as possible in its current state and opportunity for enhancement will be limited but may arise for example access and/or interpretation.
	Protect or enhance Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes	Y	Y	+ c	+	+	Y	=/-	Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes are identified for protection/enhancement. Efficacy of mitigation measures to be

									demonstrated. Assessment of cumulative impact if appropriate. Could include sites outwith Angus Council and therefore may extend beyond the Council's administrative area.
	Prevent loss of/adverse impact on archaeological sites	Y	Y	+ c	+	+	Y	u/k	Archaeological sites and areas are identified and their protection required. Development proposals may provide opportunity to excavate and record some sites or may result loss of unrecorded sites or artefacts.
	Protect setting of listed buildings and Conservation Areas	Y	Y	+ c	+	+	Y	u/k	Listed buildings and Conservation Areas are identified for protection/enhancement. Efficacy of mitigation measures to be demonstrated. Assessment of cumulative impact if appropriate. Could include sites outwith Angus Council and therefore may extend beyond the Council's administrative area.

6e – Material Assets

SEA Objective	Criteria	Timescale		Impact	Scale		Mitigation Possible	Residual Impact	Commentary
		Short term	Long term		Local	Ex-Angus			

Promote the sustainable use/reuse of the area's natural resources and material assets and minimise waste	Protect natural resources and material assets	Y	Y	++	++	+	Y	+	SR recognised renewable energy as a sustainable resource. Promotes appropriate development to access this resource and its contribution to future energy needs. Protection of other natural resources required through the SG and other LDP policies.
	Minimise waste	Y	Y	=	+	=	u/k	+	SG supports ALDP policies for promotion of energy from waste and heat networks and dealing with waste generated such as from felling and peat removal.
	Mitigate impact on material assets	Y	Y	=	+	=	Y	+	SG requires protection or enhancement of material assets and supports LDP policy in this regard.

6f - Landscape

SEA Objective	Criteria	Timescale		Impact	Scale		Mitigation Possible	Residual Impact	Commentary
		Short term	Long term		Local	Ex-Angus			
To protect and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the Angus	Protect or enhance key landscape features	Y	Y	++ c	++	+	Y	u/k	The SG establishes a spatial framework for onshore wind turbines. Landscape capacity for wind and solar development is addressed in supporting documentation and need

landscape and townscape character and setting.	Protect or enhance townscape features/setting									for assessment and presentation of information on landscape and visual impact defined. Cumulative impact to be addressed, including beyond the Council's administrative area.
Ensure new development does not exceed the landscape capacity to accommodate it.	Respect landscape capacity	Y	Y	++ c	++	+	Y	u/k		The requirements for cumulative assessment and supporting information are established in the SG. This extends the advice within the ALDP and the SG therefore has direct impact on the SEA objectives in this instance. SG requires landscape capacity be considered with particular reference to wind and solar energy development.
	Avoid unacceptable visual and cumulative visual impacts									
	Maintain or enhance ALDP area's important landscapes, special qualities and character									
Protect, maintain or enhance existing green networks, improve connectivity/function and create new links where needed.	Protect or enhance areas of wild land									The SG is supported by other ALDP policies. The SG requires Wild Land be recognised in the Spatial Framework for Wind Turbines and in all renewable and low carbon development. Impact on Wild Land may extend beyond the Council's administrative area.

5 NEXT STEPS

Proposed Timescale

The proposed timescale for publishing and consulting on the SG and the SEA are shown below.

SG	SEA	TIMESCALE
Council Approval of finalised SG	Council Approval of finalised Environmental Report	June 2017
Submit SG and Consultation Statement to Scottish Ministers	Submit ER to Scottish Ministers	July 2017 - 28 days for comment
Adoption of SG		If no comment from Scottish Ministers or legal challenge - August 2017
	Preparation of Post Adoption Statement	
Monitoring	Monitoring	Ongoing

HRA agreed with Scottish Natural Heritage.

6 MONITORING

The Council already monitors proposals for renewable energy development, including, scale, location and status allowing recording of:-

- proposals in accordance with the Spatial Framework for Onshore Wind Energy;
- loss of or damage to sites designated for their natural and cultural heritage value;
- proximity to sites designated for their natural and cultural heritage value;
- enhancement proposals for sites designated for their natural and cultural heritage value;
- development compatibility with Landscape Capacity Studies;
- emerging cumulative impact;
- loss or enhancement of identified green network;
- loss of and proximity to water bodies in accordance with SEPA's monitoring and classification system as appropriate;
- development within identified flood risk areas; and
- development on carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat and high grade agricultural land.

The Council also monitors planning decisions which will indicate development which is approved:-

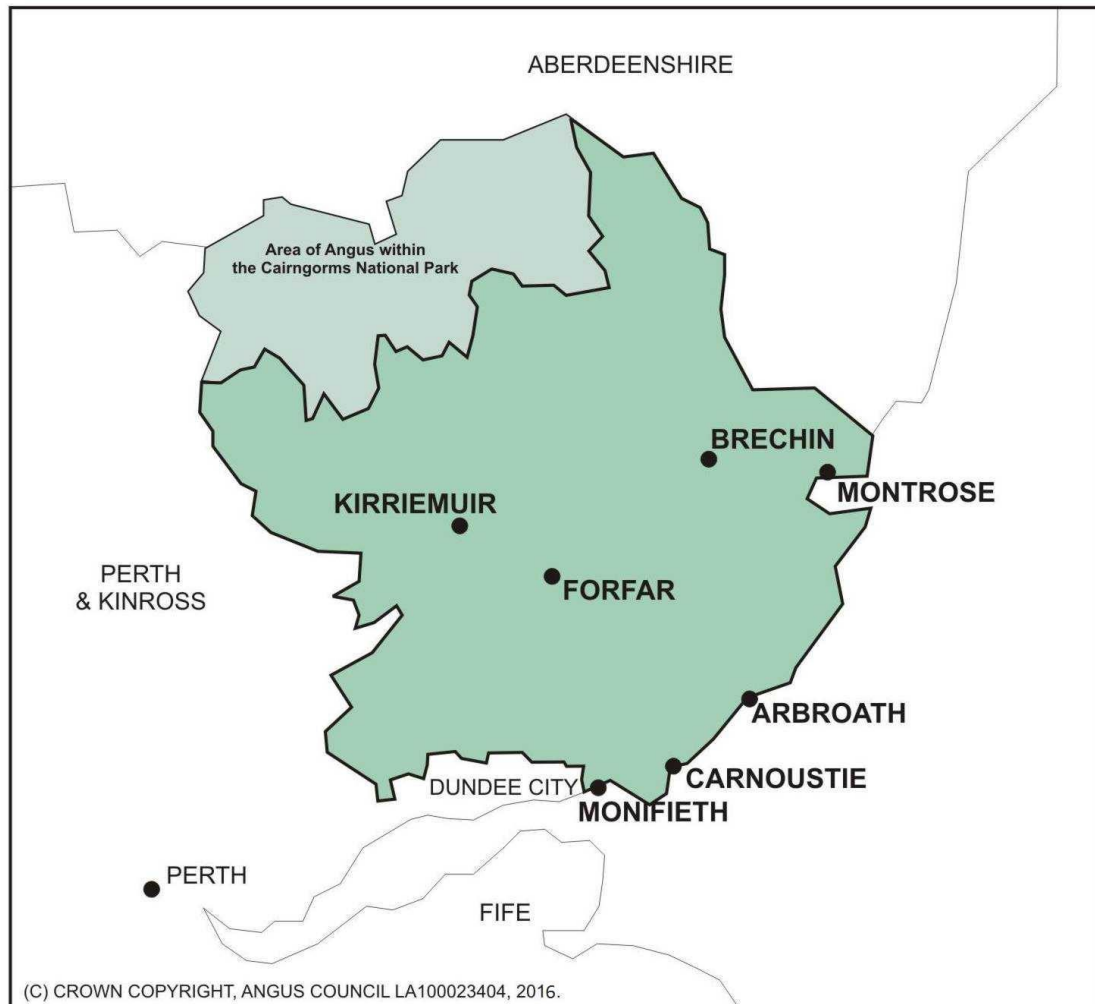
- in accordance with the development plan and the SG; or
- contrary to the development plan and the SG.

Monitoring of planning conditions will allow application and implementation of mitigation measures and site specific indicators.

An annual report will be prepared summarising this information, reflecting the significance of impact in relation to the scale and location of development.

APPENDIX 1

Area Covered by the Angus Local Development Plan



APPENDIX 2

Relationship with other relevant strategies, plans and programmes or legislation

This appendix lists key legislation, plans, programmes, policies and strategies that influence the SPP.

Name of PPS	Main Requirements of PPS	Implications for Angus LDP
European		
EU Wild Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	Framework for the conservation and management of, and human interactions with, wild birds in Europe Provides for maintenance of the populations of all wild bird species, their nests, eggs and habitats Basis for designation of Special Protection Areas (SPA).	The SG will encourage compliance with this Directive by promoting relevant ALDP policies to protect resident and migratory birds and their habitats.
EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	Promote the maintenance of biodiversity through measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species. Basis for the designation of Special Protection Areas (SPA).	The SG will encourage compliance with this Directive by promoting relevant ALDP policies for protected species and their habitats.
Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	To prevent or reduce exposure to environmental noise.	The SG will encourage compliance with this Directive by promoting relevant ALDP amenity policies.
Article 7; EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Safeguard the sustainable use of surface water, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater; Supports the status of aquatic ecosystems and environments; Establishes River Basin Management Planning to assess, monitor and enhance water quality.	The SG will encourage compliance with this Directive by promoting ALDP policies protection and enhancement of water bodies; flooding and droughts and river basin management planning.
EU Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC)	Establishes air quality objectives and standards.	The SG will encourage compliance with this Directive by promoting relevant ALDP amenity policies.

Renewed Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)	EU	A single, coherent strategy on how the EU will more effectively live up to its long-standing commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development.	The SG will encourage compliance with this Directive by promoting relevant ALDP policies.
European Climate Change Programme (2000)		Aims to combat climate change through various cross-cutting strategies, including energy, industry and transport.	The SG will encourage compliance with this Directive by promoting relevant ALDP policies.
European Landscape Convention (UK 2006)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages sustainable management, protection, and enhancement of all landscapes and promotes the cultural significance and social value of all • Highlights the need to integrate landscape into regional and town planning policy • Illustrates good practice such as Pan- European Ecological Network (PEEN), which aims to secure the links between the flora and fauna habitats of Europe, thereby compensating for the fragmentation of landscapes. 	The SG will encourage compliance with this Directive by promoting relevant ALDP policies.
EU Biodiversity Strategy (2020)		Aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU , setting out 6 targets and 20 actions to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020	The SG will encourage compliance with this Directive by promoting relevant ALDP policies.
National			
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)		Gives protection to listed species from disturbance, injury, intentional destruction or sale.	The SG will encourage protection of resident and migratory birds and their habitats.
Scottish Forestry Strategy (2006)		Framework for delivering benefits from Scotland's trees woods and forests in the second half of the 21 st century. Aims to improve health and well-being of people and communities and ensuring a high quality, robust environment.	The SG will recognise the importance of trees, woods and forests.

Planning (Scotland) (2006) etc Act	Current legislative context for the Preparation of Development Plans and Supplementary Guidance,	The SG will accord with and promote the requirements of this Act.
National Planning Framework for Scotland 3 (2014)	Promotes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustainable economic growth, • climate change targets • improved competitiveness and connectivity • protecting and enhancing the quality of natural and built environment • the knowledge economy • safer, stronger and healthier communities. 	The SG will take account of the spatial and environmental issues set out in the NPF and contribute to meeting targets for renewable energy, emission reductions and protection of natural and cultural assets.
Scottish Planning Policy (2014)	Sets out national planning policies which reflect Scottish Ministers' priorities for operation of the planning system and for the development and use of land. Promotes consistency in the application of policy across Scotland whilst allowing sufficient flexibility to reflect local circumstances.	The SG will comply with the SPP in respect of renewable energy requirements.
National Marine Plan (2015)	Plan covers the management of both Scottish inshore waters (out to 12 nautical miles) and offshore waters (12 to 200 nautical miles). It also applies to the exercise of both reserved and devolved functions.	The SG will comply with the requirements of the Act in respect of renewable energy requirements and promote protection of the marine and coastal environment.
Scottish Land Use Strategy 2016	Establishes a strategic framework for land use policy with three objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land based businesses working with nature to contribute more to Scotland's prosperity • Responsible stewardship of Scotland's natural resources delivering more benefits to Scotland's people • Urban and rural communities better connected to the land, with more people enjoying the land and positively influencing land use 	This SG will support these objectives by helping to develop a diverse and sustainable energy sector which provides clean energy and opportunity for economic opportunity.

<p>DTI (2007) White Meeting the Challenge</p>	<p>Energy Paper: Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the UK's carbon dioxide emissions – the main contributor to global warming – by some 60% by 2050, with real progress by 2020. • Maintain the reliability of energy supplies. • Promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond. • Ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated. 	<p>The SG will contribute to meeting targets set in the White Paper.</p>
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Scottish Government Electricity Generation Policy Statement (2013)	Examines the way in which Scotland generates electricity, and considers the changes which will be necessary to meet the targets which the Scottish Government has established.	The SG will contribute to meeting targets set in the Policy Statement.
PAN 60: Planning for Natural Heritage	Provides advice on how development and the planning system can contribute to the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and understanding of Scotland's natural environment. Encourages developers and planning authorities to be positive and creative in addressing natural heritage issues	The SG will encourage protection and enhancement of the natural heritage through promoting relevant ALDP policies
Choosing Our Future – Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	Strategy for tackling issues such as climate change, biodiversity, resource use and pollution It highlights the need to build a sustainable future taking account of public well-being (e.g. quality of life, food, and economic opportunities), travel, natural resources and waste.	The SG will encourage compliance with this through promoting relevant ALDP policies.
Changing Our Ways: Scottish Climate Change Programme (2006)	Programme setting out the steps being taken in Scotland now and in the near future to tackle climate change.	The SG will support this through promoting relevant ADLP policies to encourage appropriate renewable energy developments in appropriate locations.
Creating Places : A Policy Statement on Architecture and Place for Scotland (2013)	Ensure sensitive siting and design of all development making the most of its setting in the landscape	The SG will encourage compliance with this through promoting relevant ALDP policies.
Climate Change Act (Scotland) 2009	The legislation sets targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; makes provision for advice, climate change mitigation; energy efficiency; and reduction and recycling of waste.	The SG will contribute to the development of renewable energy projects and hence reduction of emissions.

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as Amended by Historic Environment (Scotland) Act 2014	Prescribes the approach to be taken in planning for scheduled ancient monuments and archaeological areas.	The SG will encourage compliance this Act and protection of the built heritage through promoting relevant ALDP policies
The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997	Prescribes the approach to be taken in planning for listed buildings, conservation areas and designed landscapes and gardens.	The SG will encourage compliance this Act and protection of the built heritage through promoting relevant ALDP policies.
Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland - Our Place in time (2014)	Sets out 10 year vision and desired outcomes for the historic environment and sets out overarching principles and strategic objectives.	The SG will encourage compliance this Strategy and protection of the built heritage through promoting relevant ALDP policies.
Scotland's Biodiversity, It's in Your Hands (2004) 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity (2013)	These documents together comprise Scottish Biodiversity Strategy – set targets for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland	The SG will encourage compliance with this legislation by promoting the ALDP policies that safeguard sites designated for their natural heritage value.
Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act (2003)	Ensures that all human activity that can have a harmful impact on water is controlled	The SG will encourage compliance with this through promoting relevant ALDP policies.
Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2013	Requires authorisation over point source discharges, abstractions, impoundments and engineering activities	The SG will encourage compliance with this through promoting relevant ALDP policies.
River Basin Management Plan for the Scotland River Basin District (2015-2027)	Protecting and improving Scotland's water environment in a way that balances costs and benefits to the environment, society and economy	The SG will comply with the RBMP through encouraging the protection and enhancement of the water environment.
The Scottish Soil Framework (2009)	The main aim of the Framework is to promote the sustainable management and protection of soils consistent with the economic, social and environmental needs of Scotland.	The SG will encourage the protection and enhancement of soils in the assessment and implementation of development proposals.

Environment Protection Act 1990	This Act relates to the control of pollution and protection of the natural environment	The SG will encourage compliance with this through promoting relevant ALDP policies.
Scottish Government Zero Waste Plan 2010	Sets out the Scottish Government's vision for "a zero waste Scotland, where we make the most efficient use of resources by minimising Scotland's demand on primary resources, and maximising the reuse, recycling and recovery of resources instead of treating them as waste".	SG will support the reduction of waste generation and its use in energy provision.
Cleaner Air for Scotland 2016	National cross government strategy that sets out how the Scottish Government and its partner organisations propose to reduce air pollution further to protect human health and fulfil Scotland's legal responsibilities	SG will help support renewable and low carbon energy emissions in appropriate locations. It will guide development to locations which minimise impact on emissions.
Spatial Planning for Onshore Wind Turbines - Natural Heritage Considerations - SNH (2015)	Set out the main natural heritage considerations that should be taken into account when planning for onshore wind turbines in line with (SPP 2014) and data that should underpin both spatial frameworks and planning for wind turbines in Development Plans.	This guidance is integral to the preparation of the SG.
Siting and designing wind farms in the landscape- SNH (2014)	Provides more detailed advice on planning for multiple wind farms and managing cumulative impacts	This guidance is integral to the preparation of the SG.
Natural Heritage Assessment of Small Scale Wind Energy Projects – SNH(2008)	Provides guidance on assessing the natural heritage effects of small wind energy projects which do not require EIA.	This guidance will be supported by the SG.
Local and Regional		
Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan (Revised 2016)	Has two principal aims – to co-ordinate existing actions, initiate and coordinate new actions; and to conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity, taking into account both local and national priorities.	The SG will highlight the need to assess development in the context of the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan and drawn attention to the database it provides for assessment of development proposals.

TAYplan Strategic Development Plan 2012	Sets out land use planning policies to guide where development over the next 20 year or so. It considers the big, long term issues which affect the TAYplan area; including climate change, infrastructure planning and sustainable economic growth.	The SG will comply with TAYplan.
Local Risk Management Plans	Provide more detail on how and when the actions from the higher level Flood Risk Management Strategies will be delivered locally, providing additional details on the costs, benefits and delivery timetable for actions.	SG will comply with and promote flood risk management advice and policy at all levels.

Tayside Landscape Character Assessment (1999) (Under Review)	Detailed assessment of the landscape character of Tayside. Establishes landscape character zones and key character features.	The SG will highlight the need to assess development in the context of the Tayside Landscape Character Assessment and draw attention to the landscape classification it provides for assessment of development proposals in conformity with the ALDP.
Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Angus (2014)	Considered the capacity of the Angus landscape to accommodate onshore wind energy development based on an assessment of landscape sensitivity and value of the different landscape character types.	The SG will highlight the need to assess development proposals in the context of the Angus landscape.
Angus Economic Development Strategy 2014-2020	The LDS will focus on four strategic objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build community capacity • improve connectivity and transport • develop community assets; and • strengthen local economies 	The SG will highlight the need to assess development in the context of the Economic Development Strategy as appropriate.
Coastline Management Plan (under review)	Detailed strategic assessment of the coastline of Angus and provides the basis for coastal defence policies and their future implementation.	The SG will highlight the need to assess development in the context of the Shoreline Management Plan as appropriate.

Angus Countryside Access Strategy 2007	Aims to co-ordinate Angus Council's plans and policies in relation to provision of access to the countryside.	The SG will highlight the need to assess development implications for countryside access.
Angus Core Paths Plan (2010)	Identifies a core paths network to provide access opportunities for various users and abilities.	The SG will highlight the need to assess development implications for the Core Paths network.
Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016	The Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) is our collective plan for place Brings together a range of public sector agencies to improve public services in Angus.	The SG will contribute to the environmental protection, sustainability and climate change aims of the Council and its partners.
State of the Environment Report for Angus (2011)	The aim of the report is to collect together information to illustrate our impact on the. The data gathered will assist in the preparation of the Environmental Baseline.	The SG will highlight the need to assess development in the context of the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan and draw attention to the database it provides for the assessment of development proposals.
South Esk and Tay Catchment Management Plans (2009)	Provide a framework for the long term management of the South Esk and Tay catchments through shared and co-ordinated action.	The SG will highlight the need to assess development implications for the South Esk and Tay catchments to potential developers.
Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework (2011)	Sets a Framework for the next 5 – 10 years and puts forestry into a wider context of rural Angus and aims to enhance the opportunities that woodland and forests can bring.	The SG will highlight the need for development to be compatible with the aims of Woodland and Forest strategies.

APPENDIX 3

Related Development Plan Policies

TAYplan Strategic Development Plan (2012)

The main policies relevant to energy proposals are listed below:

Policy 3: Managing TAYplan's Assets

Policy 6: Energy and Waste/Resource Management Infrastructure

Angus Local Development Plan

The main policies that may be relevant to energy proposals are listed below:

General Policies

DS1: Development Boundaries and Priorities

DS2: Accessible Development

DS4: Amenity

DS5 Developer Contributions

Thriving and Connected

TC15 Employment Development

Protected and Valued

Natural Environment

PV1 Green Networks and Green Infrastructure

PV3 Access and Informal Recreation

PV4 Sites Designated For Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Value

PV5 Protected Species

PV6 Development in the Landscape

PV7 Woodland Trees and Hedges

Built Environment

PV8 Built and Cultural Heritage

Heat and Energy Networks

PV9 Renewable and low Carbon Energy Development

PV10 Heat Mapping and Decarbonised Heat

PV11 Energy Efficiency - Low and Zero Carbon Buildings

Water Environment

PV12 Managing Flood Risk

PV13 Resilience and Adaptation

PV14 Water Quality

PV16 Coastal Planning

Resources

PV19 Waste Management Facilities

PV20 Solis and Biodiversity

PV21 Pipeline Consultation Zones

APPENDIX 4

Scoping Report Outcomes and Comments

The three consultation authorities generally approved the scoping report and proposals therein. A summary of detailed comments and how they have been addressed is contained in the following table. The full responses can be viewed on the SEA Gateway site - <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Environment/environmental-assessment/sea/SEAG>

CA	Comment	AC Response
HES	'...broadly content with the approach outlined in the scoping report and satisfied with the scope and level of detail proposed for the assessment...'	Comment noted
SEPA	Generally satisfied that the scoping report provides sufficient information on the proposed scope and level of detail for the assessment	Comment noted
SNH	'...overall we are content with the approach proposed and the scope, level and method of assessment of environmental effects.'	Comment noted
SEPA	...where the PPS included have themselves been subject to SEA it may be useful to prepare a summary of the key SEA findings relevant to the SG. This may assist with data sources and environmental baseline information and ensure this SEA picks up environmental issues or mitigation actions which may have been identified elsewhere.	Agreed
HES	... environment spatial downloads are available from Historic Environment Scotland for the relevant historic environment designations, including scheduled monuments at http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/spatialdownloads	Comment noted – spatial information will be available through the interactive map. Confirm with GIS team that spatial representation of historic environment designations accord with portal.
SEPA	SEPA holds significant amounts of environmental data on SEPA's website and Access to Information unit (local information).	Information sources noted – some may also be usefully included in the SG.
SEPA	Scotland's Environment Web Waste Discover Data tools present waste data interactively as a series of tables and charts which can be filtered as required.	Information sources noted
SNH	Biodiversity, flora and fauna: not clear what 'FCS woodland survey' refers to – recommend this is FCS's Native Woodland Survey of Scotland (NWSS): http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/supporting/strategy-policy-guidance/native-woodland-survey-of-scotland-nwss	Agreed. Amend text and include elink in SG.
SNH	Green networks: would welcome the inclusion of a baseline on green networks. Support the commitment in the Proposed Angus LDP for the location and function of green networks to be mapped in a Planning Advice Note (Policy PV1).	Not included in SEA baseline as currently not defined. Reference to emerging PAN and SLA classification are contained within SG but

	Add the intent to identify Special (local) Landscape Areas in Angus as this will be particularly relevant to this SEA.	impact of renewable/low carbon energy development cannot be identified, assessed or mitigated until they are identified.
SEPA	Might consider different spatial options or other alternatives may be identified during the preparation of the SG. Any reasonable alternatives identified should be assessed as part of the SEA process and the findings of the assessment should inform the choice of the preferred option and documented in the Environmental Report.	Amend – clarify that turbine scale parameters were considered and single over 50m used as base. Refer back to SPP.
SEPA	Air, Population + Human Health: scoped out on the grounds that these issues can be addressed at individual project level. Content with this approach provided that the SG explains in more detail how this is going to be delivered and ensure that the effects outlined in our draft response are taken into account in the SG preparation.	Agreed
SEPA	If SG also deals with Energy from Waste, Anaerobic Digestion, landfill gas, biomass etc., there could be detrimental effects on air quality and human health (particular matter and other pollutants). In addition, there could be effects on Air if wind farms are close to a regulated site (in relation to the potential dispersion of plumes from stacks serving these sites).	Comment noted. As with climatic factors, the SG does not introduce or create policy and the additionality of the SG will not be significant. Development proposals will be assessed in accordance with existing or future regulation and policy, the relevance of which will be determined on the basis of a specific proposal for example where a stack exists, development management process will identify and refer to relevant body e.g. ECP or HSE. The SG will not influence the siting of assessment of a proposal.
SEPA	Climatic Factors: scoped out on the grounds that there will be no significant measureable effect on international or regional climate from renewable development proposals in Angus. While we understand the reasons for this, we would prefer for the SEA Topic of climatic factors to be scoped in as renewable energy is going to deliver positive effects. While the contribution to national targets may not be significant, the contribution in terms of climate change mitigation for the Council own targets and for meeting the objective of the Climate Change Act may be considerable and therefore significant. This would not be different than the approach taken for other SEA Topics, where the significance does not necessarily relate to the contribution to the national targets, because in this respect most of the impacts of LDP and SG for other SEA topics are unlikely to make a significant contribution.	Officers from SEPA and Angus Council have discussed this issue and concluded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climatic factors are one of the underlying drivers for renewable generation • Renewable and low carbon generation will contribute to meeting national and international emissions targets • Angus Council has a climate change duty • The impact of the SG on the level of development of the renewable energy resource will be marginal not strategic. Measuring the

	<p>In addition there could be negative effects in relation to carbon disturbance in peat. Although we note that this issue has been considered under the SEA Topic of Soil, there are consequences for Climatic Factors as well. Please note the guidance Consideration of Climatic Factors within Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</p> <p>Consider that the contribution of renewable energy and low carbon in terms of contribution to climate change mitigation for the Angus Council is significant. Happy to meet to discuss this issue in more detail in advance of the finalisation of the Environmental Report.</p>	<p>impact of the SG on climate, as opposed to total generation in Angus is not a viable option.</p> <p>Therefore, whilst climatic factors are strategically significant, the proportional impact of this SG will be negligible. Other regulatory regimes and policy will be used to protect from or enhance climatic factors.</p> <p>On site factors affecting carbon sinks will be assessed on an individual basis through the development management process using existing policy, guidance and legislative requirements.</p>
SNH	<p>Biodiversity, flora and fauna: add after 'threat to species/habitats and their connectivity'</p>	<p>Accept amendment of first sentence – 'Threat to species/habitats <u>and their connectivity.</u>'</p>
SNH	<p>Climatic factors: add potential transportation effects from biomass to the processing plant.</p>	<p>Accept amendment of first sentence – 'Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, climate change and global warming <u>and potential effect from transport of biomass fuels.</u>'</p>
SEPA	<p>We would recommend adding a sub-objective related to the avoidance of negative impacts to the Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTEs).</p> <p>Some form of renewable energy (e.g. windfarms and hydroschemes) can lead to potential impacts on GWDTEs. These habitats are protected under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and may be impacted upon by renewable energy development through the excavation of soil and bedrock during construction of roads, access tracks, foundations, trenches and borrow pits. Indeed dewatering of below ground activities may cause localised disruption to groundwater flow. This can impact on GWDTEs and nearby abstractions. GWDTEs are mentioned in Appendix A as part of the Land Use Planning System SEPA Guidance Note 4 Planning guidance on onshore windfarm developments (May 2014) (page 69). We therefore recommend that GWDTEs are considered as part of the assessment if and where applicable.</p> <p>In addition we recommend changing the sub-objective related to flood as follows: 'avoid, reduce, mitigate flood risk'.</p>	<p>Accept need to protect water. Subsequent SG and SEA amendments are acceptable to SEPA. See update.</p>

	Update: satisfied that these issues have been covered by the SG and therefore in our response to the SG we have welcomed the recognition of wetlands as an important environmental and commercial asset within Angus and that groundwater wetlands require to be protected.	
SNH	Water: add reference to the issue of water quality for the water-dependent SACs (e.g. South Esk)	Accept amendment add new second sentence – <u>'Possible impact on water quality for the River Tay and River South Esk SACs.'</u>
SNH	...agree with the scope of the assessment in relation to our relevant SEA interests.	Comment noted
SNH	Recommend replace assessment criteria terms 'reduce loss/impact' or 'avoid damage' with 'protect and enhance' as appropriate.	Accept amendment - amended throughout table as appropriate.
SNH	Biodiversity, flora and fauna: Add protection and enhancement of important habitats and connectivity.	Accept amendment - add new objective in column two ('Protect and enhance of important habitats and connectivity.') and amend first bullet point in column three (Protect or enhance diversity of species and habitats and their connectivity?)
SEPA	Soil: add to the wording of the soil sub-objective related to peat to consider avoidance as well as reducing the loss of the carbon function of soil.	Amended in response to SNH -
SNH	Soil: Recommend specify what 'high grade agricultural areas' are.	Do not accept – Retain wording to indicate quality is relative. Whilst prime land (Class1-3.1) is the best quality arable land, other lower grades may be high quality within a farm context and their loss would be significant to viability. Prime agricultural land already has protection specifically in Policy PV20 Soils and Geodiversity.
SEPA	Material Assets; recommend that the Angus Council considers aligning the sub-objectives with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote sustainable use and management of existing infrastructure e.g. water, heat, energy and flood protection infrastructure. • To promote the alignment of future infrastructure / resource provision (e.g. water and waste water management) with planning activities (e.g. land allocations for development). • To promote sustainable use and management of finite natural resources e.g. minerals 	Comment noted. Material Assets are aligned to the adopted ALDP which encompasses these principles.

	<p>and to promote the use of secondary / recycled aggregates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To minimise waste generation and apply the waste management hierarchy. • To meet heat demand through maximising the efficiency of heat networks. • To bring previously used land back into use 									
SNH	<p>Landscape: Suggest add 'maintain and enhance the area's important landscapes, special qualities and character.' We recommend mention of wild land.</p>	<p>Accept amendment – add new bullet points: Maintain or enhance ALDP area's important landscapes, special qualities and character?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain or enhance ALDP area's important landscapes, special qualities and character? • Protect or enhance areas of wild land? 								
SNH	<p>The criterion on green networks seems to fit better under 'biodiversity, flora and fauna.'</p>	<p>Accept amendment – move bullet point.</p>								
SNH	<p>'...example SEA assessment matrix is welcomed..'</p>									
SNH	<p>Clarify how the spatial framework for wind energy and interactive map for renewable energy will be assessed</p>	<p>Interactive map is a visual aid for developers, public and officers.</p>								
SNH	<p>Welcome assessment of cumulative effects (p16) given the possibility of a combination of different types of renewable technology. A commentary to explain the rationale would be useful.</p>									
SEPA	<p>Use the assessment as a way to improve the environmental performance of individual aspects of the final option - enhancement of positive effects as well as mitigation of negative effects. Useful to show the link between potential effects and proposed mitigation / enhancement measures in the assessment framework. Be clear in the Environmental Report about mitigation measures which are proposed as a result of the assessment. These should follow the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate). The Environmental Report should identify any changes made to the plan as a result of the SEA as these can be an important mitigation measure. Where the mitigation proposed does not relate to modification to the plan itself it would be helpful to set out the proposed mitigation measures in a way that clearly identifies: (1) the measures required, (2) when they would be required and (3) who will be required to implement them as in the table below to help to track progress on mitigation through the monitoring process.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="331 1944 1023 2009"> <thead> <tr> <th>Issue / Impact</th> <th>Mitigation Measure</th> <th>Lead Authority</th> <th>Proposed Timescale</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Issue / Impact	Mitigation Measure	Lead Authority	Proposed Timescale					<p>Comment notes. Role of and opportunity for enhancement incorporated. Direct changes noted but early consultation and discussion with CAs has resulted in the SG being written with this input integrated into SG preparation rather than retrospectively.</p>
Issue / Impact	Mitigation Measure	Lead Authority	Proposed Timescale							

	Identified in ER				
	Insert effect recorded in ER	Insert mitigation measure to address effect	Insert as appropriate	Insert as appropriate	
	etc	etc	etc	etc	
SNH	PAN 1/2010 (para 5.22) - "it is useful to define each action, explain the reasons for them and identify responsible partners." Identifies need for timescales for mitigation and linking measures with monitoring				Comment noted
SNH	If significant environmental effects are predicted, mitigation measures could include a modification to the SG to help avoid significant adverse effects				Comment noted – modification of the SG is a mitigation option.
SNH	Support recording of residual effects post mitigation and enhancement.				Comment noted
HES	content with the 6 week consultation period proposed				Comment noted
SEPA					
SEPA	Although not specifically required at this stage, monitoring is a requirement of the Act and early consideration should be given to a monitoring approach and appropriate indicators. ER could include a description of the measures envisaged to monitor the significant environmental effects of the plan.				Comment noted – ER will address approach to monitoring.
SNH	Monitoring is a requirement of the Act - clarify proposed approach.				
SEPA	' recommend adding the following PPS to Appendix 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotland's Land Use Strategy 2016 • Zero Waste Plan 2010 • Clean Air for Scotland 2015 • Local Flood Risk Management plan 				Agreed
SNH	'...support the focussing on PPS which are relevant to renewables and low carbon, and the comprehensive list of PPS.'				Comment noted
HES	'... note that it is intended to prepare a HRA for this SG and that this will be an Annex to the Angus LDP HRA.'				Comment noted
SEPA	ER could include summary of scoping outcomes and how CA comments taken into account.				Agreed
SEPA	Welcome summary of CA scoping comments and how these have been taken into account in preparing the ER.				Agreed

APPENDIX 5

The Angus Environment

Can be accessed via the Interactive Map at [online interactive mapping facility](#)

5a - Environmental Baseline Information

SEA Topic	Type of Information	Information Source
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Designated sites	Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar Sites, SSSI's: Geological Review Sites and Local Nature Reserve (LNR): SNH/AC
	Woodland /semi-natural woodland	Scottish Semi-Natural Woodland: SNH Inventory, Ancient Woodland Inventory: SNH Native Woodland Survey of Scotland (NWSS): FCS Tree Preservation Orders: AC The Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework 2011: AC
	Non-statutory sites	Various Sites - SWT, RSPB, SNH, JNCC, TBAP Wild Cat Priority Action Areas: SNH
Population and Human Health	Settlement Pattern	Map of settlement boundaries and 2km buffers: AC Demographic Data: GRoS
	Public Health	Public and private water supply: ECP/SEPA/SW Pipeline corridors: HSE
	Wellbeing	Core Paths, Cycle routes: AC
Water	Quality of all surface and ground waters.	River Basin Management Plan: SEPA /AC Tay and Esk SAC - Catchment Development Guidance: SNH, SEPA, AC
	Areas at Risk of Flooding	Maps and reports: SEPA PVAs: SEPA Flood Risk Management Strategies 2016: SEPA and LAs
Soil	Soil type and quality	Vacant, derelict and contaminated land: AC Land Capability for Agriculture: James Hutton Institute.
	Carbon Rich	Carbon Rich Soils, Deep Peat and

		Priority Peatland Habitats, SNH
Air	Local and international air quality	Significant strategic environmental effect unlikely.
Climatic Factors	Local and international climate change	Significant strategic environmental effect unlikely.
Material Assets	Natural (eg minerals, renewable energy and prime agricultural land) and built (eg transport links and infrastructure)resource	Land Capability for Agriculture: James Hutton Institute Core Paths, Cycle routes: AC Minerals Audit: AC
Cultural Heritage	Archaeological sites	Sites and Monuments Record: Areas of Archaeological Interest: Aberdeenshire Council Archaeological Service
	Listed Buildings	Category 'A', 'B' and 'C' Listed Buildings: HES Buildings at Risk register: HES
		Conservation Areas: AC
		Country Parks: AC
Landscape		Tayside Landscape Character Assessment: for SNH/TRC Strategic Assessment for Wind Energy Development in Angus: Ironside Farrar for SNH and AC Angus Settlements Landscape Capacity Study: AC 2015 Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscape: HES Wild Land: SNH 2014
	Coastal Management	Angus Local Development Plan: AC Angus Shoreline Management Plan: AC

5b - Designated Natural Heritage Sites

SITE	DESIGNATION	AREA (Ha)	INTEREST
Auchterhouse Hill	SSSI	251.3	Sub-alpine wet heath and upland dwarf shrub heath.
Balloch Moss	SSSI	16	Raised mire which demonstrates an unusual hummock and hollow structure on the peat dome surface.

Balshando Bog	SSSI	3.8	A kettle hole mire with rich fen vegetation encroaching on a small area of open water and associated meadow.
Barry Links	SAC/ SSSI	1041.1	The dune system and associated habitats support breeding little terns, spiders and an assemblage of bryophytes.
Blacklaw Hill Mire	SSSI	27.1	A saddle mire surrounded by acidic dwarf shrub heath.
Cairngorms Massif (Central and Tayside)	SPA	187504.06	A large upland site encompassing a diverse range of habitats, which supports 5.8% of the UK population of golden eagles.
Carrot Hill Meadow	SSSI	8.6	The site supports species rich mire plant communities characteristic of ground flushed by spring water.
Craigs of Lundie and Ardgarth Loch	SSSI	30.03	The site comprises of dry grassland, heath and valley fen at the foot of south facing base-rich cliffs, and two areas of basin fen.
Crombie?			
Crossbog Pinewood	SSSI	62.4	Native pinewood which is the only one of its kind in Angus. Some typical pinewood fauna such as red squirrel, crossbill and capercaillie occur on site.
Den of Airlie	SSSI	88.4	A mixed deciduous gorge woodland which supports an exceptionally high numbers of woodland vascular plants, mosses and liverworts, many of which are rare.
Den of Fowlis	SSSI	8.27	Mixed deciduous valley woodland of ash, wych elm and oak with characteristic herb-rich ground flora.
Den of Ogil	SSSI	5.5	Species rich plant communities particularly associated with upwelling springs which flush into Burn of Ogil.
Dilty Moss	SSSI	36.52	Raised bog which has been cut-over and disturbed in the past

			resulting in the development of a wide range of wetland plant communities which are scarce in Angus.
Dryley's Brickpit	SSSI	1.27	Important site for studies of relative sea-level change in Eastern Scotland during the Devensian Lateglacial (about 13,000 – 10,000 years ago). The sediments are fossil-bearing and in the past yielded a range of animal remains, including shells, seal and duck bones.
Dun's Dish	SPA/SSSI/ Ramsar	31.5	A eutrophic lowland loch with extensive open water transition mires. Site supports a high number of breeding birds, particularly wildfowl.
East Haven	SSSI	1.14	Dune grassland with 85 species of native vascular plants, including greater yellow rattle, pyramid orchid, hard rush and frog orchid.
Elliot Links	SSSI	28.7	Sand dune, transition sand dune and invertebrate assemblage.
Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary (part)	Ramsar/SAC/SPA	6918.42	Complex of estuarine and coastal habitats regularly supporting in winter over 20,000 waterfowl, including internationally important wintering populations of pink-footed goose
Forestmuir	SSSI	68.2	One of the few intact areas of unimproved lowland grassland, heath and mire left in Angus which supports a rich flora, including several uncommon plants such as coral-root orchid.
Forfar Loch			
Gagie Marsh	SSSI	6.1	Wetland plant community with a rich flora of over 100 vascular plants.
Gannochy Gorge	SSSI	44.6	Biological 0 Important bryophyte and lichen assemblage and beetles species. Geological – Stratigraphy; Non-marine Devonian geology.
Kinnaber Links	SSSI	311.8	The varied site consists of sand

(part of St.Cyrus SSSI)			dunes, lichen rich dune heathland, foreshore, river estuary and saltmarsh. The site is also important for grasshoppers and crickets.
Little Ballo	SSSI	11.5	Wet meadow areas containing alder and mineral enriched grassland.
Lochindores	SSSI	16.6	Basin and valley mire (peatland) system. Several locally rare plants occur including nodding bur marigold, hoary willowherb and blue water speedwell.
Loch of Kinnordy	SPA/SSSI/ Ramsar Site/RSPB Reserve	86	Eutrophic loch with open water and transition fen. Important for breeding birds and wintering pink-foot and graylag goose.
Loch of Lintrathen	SPA/SSSI Ramsar Site SWT Reserve	189.1	Eutrophic loch important for greylag goose and mallard.
Long Loch of Lundie	SSSI	34.2	Mesotrophic loch with fen vegetation and a variety of water plants such as lesser tussock sedge and a rare water starwort,
Monifeith Bay	SAC/SSSI/ Ramsar	212.7	Wintering eider duck and sanderling.
Monikie			
Montrose Basin	SPA/SSSI/ LNR/Ramsar Site SWT Reserve	1024	Enclosed estuarine basin of the River South Esk. Habitats include saltmarsh, extensive mud flats at low tide, brackish and freshwater habitats. Excellent for wintering wildfowl and waders such as pink-foot and greylag goose, wigeon, knot, dunlin, redshank and eider.
North Esk and West Water Palaeochannel	SSSI	284	Assemblage of Quaternary (Ice Age) and fluvial (river) landforms formed at the end of the last glaciation.
Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex	SPA		Consultation
Rescobie and Balgavies Lochs	SSSI SWT Reserve	178.83	Eutrophic loch with basin fen. The basin fen supports nationally scarce plant species such as cowbane, tufted loosestrife and

			coral root orchid.
Restenneth Moss	SSSI	35.4	Moderately nutrient-rich wetland plant communities which is almost unique in Angus. Notified for its peatland and swamp communities with tussock sedge and common reed.
Rickle Craig - Scurdie Ness	SSSI	73.1	Rocky stretch of coastline of Old Red Sandstone (igneous) which contains the best exposures of the Ferryden Lavas. There is also a range of saltmarsh communities present and unimproved species-rich grassland which supports a wide range of uncommon plants and a diverse mollusc fauna.
River South Esk (linear)	SAC	478.62	Atlantic salmon and freshwater pearl mussel.
River Tay	SAC	9461.6	Brook, river and sea lamprey, Atlantic salmon, otter. Clear water lochs with aquatic vegetation.
Rossie Moor	SSSI	132.34	Series of lowland oligotrophic and mesotrophic mire communities surrounded by lowland dwarf shrub heath. An exceptionally large number of species of water beetle and several flies which are nationally rare are found here.
Round Loch of Lundie	SSSI	8.1	A nutrient-rich loch with characteristic rich fen and alder communities.
Turin Hill (composite site)	SSSI	19.7	Quarries have inland exposures of sedimentary rock layers containing rare fossils. These fossils are of animals related to spiders and scorpions called eurypterids and plant fossils.
Whitehouse Den	SSSI	0.2	Fossil-containing sedimentary rocks laid down around 390 million years ago.
Whiting Ness to Ethie Haven	SSSI	136.17	Geologically important for its exposures of Upper Old Red Sandstone and Ethie Lavas. Longest continuous stretch of sea cliffs and rocky shore in Angus

			and supports nationally important numbers of nesting seabirds and over-wintering waders, a wide range of coastal grassland and coastal cliff communities and the small blue butterfly <i>Cupido minimus</i> , a Scottish rarity.
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5c Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Angus

SITE	AREA (Ha)	REASON FOR INCLUSION
Airlie Castle	94	An outstanding 19th century landscape on several counts: historically, architecturally and for nature conservation. The formal gardens are beautifully laid out and the whole composition of natural gorge and designed features is highly significant in the surrounding scenery.
Ascreavie	20	A mid-19th century designed landscape most notable for its 20th century garden additions by the famous plant hunter George Sheriff.
Brechin Castle	191	First laid out between 1701-1708, the parkland, woodland, formal and informal gardens represent a very fine work of art and a designed landscape of great historical, horticultural and architectural value.
Cortachy Castle	207	Mainly laid out in the 19th century, the gardens and arboretum are of notable value and the whole composition of the designed landscape makes an important contribution to the wider scenery of the area.
Craig House	5.61	The three linked walled gardens, probably of 17th century origin, surrounding Craig House, comprise a rare example of a complete 17th-century layout of tower and walled enclosures. With additional 18th and 19th century overlays, the gardens are a fascinating and attractive record of early Scottish design.
Duninnald	6.57	A well preserved, intact and compact layered landscape from the 17th to the 20th centuries. The small 18th-century park and informal 20th-century garden are set within an earlier structure, together with a traditional walled flower and vegetable garden.
Edzell Castle	3	The late 16th century pleasure garden at Edzell Castle is one of the most historically valuable gardens

		in the country. It was created by David Lindsay, a templar knight and scholar, and includes some notable sculpture in the walls of the garden.
Glamis Castle	437	Glamis Castle designed landscape dates from the late 17th century and is outstanding in almost every value category. It has rich historical associations with the late Queen Mother's family and Shakespeare's Macbeth.
Guthrie Castle	48	The walled garden at Guthrie Castle dates from 1614 and the extended designed landscape from the 18th and 19th centuries. Together with the castle, they form a very artistic composition.
House of Dun	40	A mid-18th century designed landscape comprising several category A listed buildings, fine gardens, parkland, woodland and a Wellingtonia avenue grown from the original seeds first introduced into the UK.
House of Pitmuies	16	A very attractive small landscape boasting beautiful gardens and an interesting group of listed buildings.
Kinnaird Castle	530	A very attractive designed landscape on a grand scale, the layout seen today dates back to a late 18th century re-design by Thomas White and James Playfair, with formal gardens designed by Bryce in the mid 19th century.
The Burn (Part)	77	A late 18th century designed landscape most notable for its semi-ancient woodlands and the Site of Special Scientific Interest at Gannochy Gorge.
The Guynd	153	An attractive 19th century parkland and woodland landscape providing the setting for a classical mansion house and other interesting architectural features. Earlier estate plans by James Abercrombie (1775) and Thomas White (1799) exist but were not implemented for more than 100 years.

5d Local Wildlife Sites in Angus

Various sources are available – in particular the 2016 Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan and impact of development on habitats and species identified should be considered where there is no formal protection. Other local sites which do not have statutory protection are incorporated into the interactive map. Local landscape and conservation designations will be developed in accordance with SPP over the lifetime of the plan. Sites of local value may emerge as proposals are developed and appropriate measures can be developed through the development management process.