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Application Document 8

Outline Habitat Management Plan

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AMSC	Approval of Matters Specified by Condition
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
ha	Hectare
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
INNS	Invasive Non-native Species
km	kilometre
m²	Metre squared
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
NETS	National Electricity Transmission System
OHMP	Outline Habitat Management Plan
ONEC	Onshore Export Cable Corridor
OnTI	Onshore Transmission Infrastructure
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
PPP	Planning Permission in Principle
RLB	Red Line Boundary
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage

1 Introduction

- 1.1.1.1 This Outline Habitat Management Plan (OHMP) has been prepared to support the Planning Permission in Principle (PPP) application for the Onshore Transmission Infrastructure (OnTI) for the Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm (OWF), hereafter referred to as the Proposed Development (Onshore).
- 1.1.1.2 This report was produced following consultation with Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) which required the production of a OHMP should peatland habitats occur within the OnTI Red Line Boundary (RLB). As detailed further within Volume 5, Chapter 3: Terrestrial Ecology and Biodiversity and Volume 7E, Appendix 7-2: Peat Survey Reports, whilst peat carbon-rich soils were identified, no peatland habitats have been recorded within the OnTI RLB.
- 1.1.1.3 Information regarding the management of peat soils within the OnTI RLB is covered in Application Document 7: Outline Peat Management Plan.
- 1.1.1.4 This OHMP therefore outlines the requirements for the establishment, management and monitoring of proposed biodiversity elements associated with the Proposed Development (Onshore) that are detailed within Volume 7E, Appendix 3-1: Biodiversity Enhancement Report of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).
- 1.1.1.5 This is an outline plan, which is intended to be a working document. It will be updated as and when new information becomes available during the detailed design stage (e.g. following further site surveys) and finalised post consent into a final, detailed Habitat Management Plan (HMP). As per Aberdeenshire Council's guidance, 'Securing Positive Effects for Biodiversity in New Development (Aberdeenshire Council, 2023¹), the detailed HMP will cover a period of at least 20 years from commencement of habitat management works.

1.2 The Proposed Development (Onshore)

- 1.2.1.1 The Caledonia OWF comprises two OWF (Caledonia North and Caledonia South) which will connect to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) via the OnTI. The EIAR supports a PPP for the OnTI for both Caledonia North and Caledonia South. The OnTI may be phased to align with the delivery of the two OWFs.
- 1.2.1.2 The OnTI covers all intertidal and onshore components of the Proposed Development (Onshore) located landward of Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS).
- 1.2.1.3 The OnTI RLB consists of four main permanent components:
 - **A Landfall Site** comprising Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) activities to connect Offshore Export Cable Circuits to Onshore Export Cable Circuits at buried Transition Joint Bays;

- **An Onshore Export Cable Corridor (ONEC)** of a minimum width of approximately 100m within which the Onshore Export Cable Circuits will be located. At this stage, an ONEC width has been defined to allow for micro siting of the Onshore Export Cable Circuits at the detailed design stage and to allow for differing cable installation activities such as HDD;
- **Two Onshore Substations** which will be co-located within an Onshore Substation Site within the OnTI RLB; and
- **An Onshore Grid Connection Cable Corridor** An Onshore Grid Connection Cable Corridor connecting the Onshore Substation to the Grid Connection Point at the existing New Deer Substation (for Phase 1).

1.3 Consultation

1.3.1.1 Consultation regarding peatland habitats has been carried out as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, and comments relating to the production of an OHMP have been received from Aberdeenshire Council and SEPA. Consultation in relation to biodiversity enhancement is summarised in Volume 7E, Appendix 3-1: Biodiversity Enhancement Report.

1.3.1.2 The consultation responses state that the OHMP should include:

- Proposals for reuse of disturbed peat in habitat restoration, if relevant;
- Details of restoration to compensate for the area of peatland habitat directly and indirectly impacted by the development;
- Outline proposals for peatland enhancement in other areas of the site; and
- Monitoring proposals.

1.3.1.3 In addition, the consultation responses stated the following:

- To support the principle of peat reuse in restoration the applicant should demonstrate that they have identified locations where the addition of excavated peat will enhance the wider site into a functional peatland system capable of achieving carbon sequestration. The following information is required:
 - Location plan of the proposed peatland re-use restoration area(s), clearly showing the size of individual areas and the total area to be restored; and
 - Photographs, aerial imagery, or surveys to demonstrate that the area identified is appropriate for peat re-use and can support carbon sequestration. This should include consideration of an appropriate hydrological setting and baseline peatland condition.

1.3.1.4 Finally, if any proposed re-use restoration areas are outwith the ownership of the applicant, information should be provided to demonstrate agreement in principle with the landowner, including agreed timescales for commencement of the works, and proposed management measures to ensure the restored areas can be safeguarded in perpetuity as a peatland.

1.3.1.5 These comments have been considered and inform the drafting of this OHMP. However, as no peatland habitats exist within the OnTI RLB, the purpose of this document has been adjusted to consider habitats that are being created as part of the proposed biodiversity elements that are detailed within Volume 7E, Appendix 3-1: Biodiversity Enhancement Report within the EIAR.

1.3.1.6 Application Document 7: Outline Peat Management Plan has been produced which specifically addresses the potential requirement for excavation of peat and peaty soils during the construction process and outlines basic peat management principles that will be incorporated into later stages of the detailed design.

1.4 Limitations

1.4.1.1 This OHMP is based on desk-based information and ecological field surveys undertaken to inform the EIA. This document will be developed, in consultation with Aberdeenshire Council and SEPA, into a final, detailed HMP at the Approval of Matters Specified by Condition (AMSC) stage once further detailed design information is available and further detailed ecological surveys have been undertaken.

1.5 Document Structure

1.5.1.1 The structure of this OHMP is as follows:

- **Section 1** (this section) sets out the background to this OHMP, providing a description of the Proposed Development (Onshore) and a summary of the consultation undertaken to date;
- **Section 2** provides a summary of the baseline habitats present;
- **Section 3** details the principles of this OHMP, identifies habitats to be created and the broad management and maintenance required for these habitats;
- **Section 4** described additional measures, largely pertaining to the management of invasive non-native species (INNS); and
- **Section 5** outlines how the HMP will be implemented and monitored, including the requirement for an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW).

2 Baseline Habitats

- 2.1.1.1 Extended Phase 1 Habitat surveys of all land within the OnTI RLB, where access allowed, were undertaken between late May and early September 2023 to inform the EIA for the Proposed Development (Onshore).
- 2.1.1.2 A summary of the statutory habitats within the OnTI RLB are provided in this section, however reference should be made to the following reports for further details, to Volume 5, Chapter 3: Terrestrial Ecology and Biodiversity and Volume 7E, Appendix 3-1: Biodiversity Enhancement Report of the EIAR.
- 2.1.1.3 The OnTI RLB is dominated by cereal and non-cereal crops making up approximately 67% of the overall area-based habitats. The remaining 33% consists of grasslands, woodlands, scrub and urban habitats.
- 2.1.1.4 The area-based habitats identified within the OnTI RLB are:
- Cereal crops;
 - Non-cereal crops;
 - Arable field margins tussocky;
 - Modified grassland;
 - Other neutral grassland;
 - Other lowland acid grassland;
 - Gorse scrub;
 - Mixed scrub;
 - Ponds (non-priority habitat);
 - Ruderal/ephemeral;
 - Bare ground;
 - Developed land; sealed surface;
 - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland;
 - Other coniferous woodland;
 - Other Scot's pine woodland;
 - Other woodland; broadleaved;
 - Other woodland; mixed;
 - High energy littoral rock; and
 - Rural tree.

- 2.1.1.5 The linear based habitats recorded within the OnTI RLB are:
- Native hedgerow;
 - Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch;
 - Native hedgerow with trees;
 - Species-rich native hedgerow;
 - Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch;
 - Species-rich native hedgerow with trees;
 - Ditches
 - Other rivers and streams; and
 - Priority habitat (watercourses).
- 2.1.1.6 No actively peat forming habitats have been identified within the OnTI RLB. In relation to potential management of peat soils, refer to Application Document 7: Outline Peat Management Plan.
- 2.1.1.7 For further detail on assessment of habitats and the peat probing that was undertaken, refer to Volume 5, Chapter 3: Terrestrial Ecology and Biodiversity Section 'Habitats over Peat Soils' and Volume 7E, Appendix 7-2: Peat Survey Reports within the EIAR.
- 2.1.1.8 The habitat loss as a result of the Proposed Development (Onshore) will be less than what is currently identified within the OnTI RLB and Volume 5 Chapter 3 Terrestrial Ecology and Biodiversity and Volume 7E, Appendix 3-1: Biodiversity Enhancement Report. At detailed design the OnTI RLB will be refined with the identification of the Onshore Export Cable Route and the actual habitat loss will be greatly reduced. As it is unknown where the Onshore Export Cable Route will be located at this time, it has been considered that any of the habitats within the OnTI RLB could be lost

3 Outline Habitat Management Plan

3.1 On-site Habitat Creation

3.1.1.1 Table 3-1 and Table 3-2 outline the types and target condition of area-based habitats and hedgerows respectively that are proposed within the Onshore Substation Site. On-site habitat creation is limited to the Onshore Substation Site as permanent habitat loss will occur only in this area and this area will contain the permanent infrastructure for the Proposed Development (Onshore) that will be managed by the operator.

3.1.1.2 Landscape planting has been identified within the EIAR as proposed mitigation, however the landscaping design will be finalised at the detailed design stage and is therefore subject to change. The landscape planting has been proposed to account for landscape visual impacts however adjustments have been made to ensure the proposed planting maximises outcomes for biodiversity. As this planting is being used to mitigate for visual impacts, the biodiversity unit value has only been accounted for up to a value of no-net loss. Details on biodiversity unit loss (-) or gain (+) can be found in Volume 7E, Appendix 3-1: Biodiversity Enhancement Report of the EIAR.

3.1.1.3 Following detailed design, should habitats created for the purpose of landscaping not be required to address biodiversity loss, these habitats will be subject to separate management and monitoring plans.

3.1.2 Area-based Habitats

Table 3-1: Area-based Habitats Proposed within the Onshore Substation Site

Broad Area-based Habitat Type	Area-based Habitat Type	Target Condition	Total Area (hectare (ha))
Woodland and forest	Other woodland; broadleaved	Moderate	1.21
Woodland and forest	Other woodland; mixed	Moderate	2.52
Heathland and shrub	Mixed scrub	Moderate	1.4
Grassland	Modified grassland	Moderate	9.35
Grassland	Other neutral grassland	Moderate	3.11
Wetland	Reedbeds	Moderate	0.19

Broad Area-based Habitat Type	Area-based Habitat Type	Target Condition	Total Area (hectare (ha))
Sparsely vegetated land	Ruderal/ephemeral	Moderate	2.06
Urban	Sustainable drainage systems	Moderate	0.23

3.1.3 Linear Habitats

Hedgerows

Table 3-2: Hedgerow Planting Proposed within the Onshore Substation Site

Hedgerow Type	Necessary Condition	Total Length (kilometre (km))
Native hedgerow	Moderate	1.44

Watercourses

3.1.3.1 No watercourses are proposed for creation or enhancement within the Onshore Substation Site.

3.2 Off-site Habitat Creation and Enhancement

3.2.1.1 Should off-site habitat creation and/or enhancement be required following detailed design, these areas will be incorporated into the HMP and subject to appropriate management and monitoring measures.

3.3 Establishment and Management of Proposed On-Site Habitats

3.3.1.1 In line with best practice management practices, including those listed in NatureScot’s ‘Developing for Nature’ guidance (NatureScot, 2023²), Table 3-3 proposes management and maintenance protocols that will be considered for the long-term establishment and success of habitats created and enhanced as part of the Proposed Development (Onshore). These are management and maintenance principles relevant to each habitat type that will be considered at detailed design when the final habitats and their intended condition are determined.

3.3.1.2 Following detailed design, habitats created for the purpose of biodiversity will be required to be implemented for a total of 20-years within a detailed HMP, as per the planning guidance provided by Aberdeenshire Council (2023¹).

Table 3-3: Outline management and maintenance measures for habitat mitigation and enhancement

Habitat Type	Management and Maintenance Principles and Measures
Woodland	<p>Woodland creation will require an area sufficient in size to include a mixture of multiple tree species, ideally aiming for the edges to transition to scrub and then into grasslands.</p> <p>Where possible, trees should be planted during the dormant period (November to March) avoiding frosts.</p> <p>Trees need to be planted in such a way that they are spaced out, to allow light to penetrate through to sustain the health and survival of understorey and ground cover grasses and scrub plantings. Seeding and plug planting may be required to establish a healthy understorey. Further, selective cutting may also be necessary. A healthy woodland requires structural diversity.</p> <p>Soil depth and type is necessary to be considered for the type of woodland that is chosen.</p> <p>Native trees will be dominant within the woodland plantings.</p> <p>Woodland plantings will need to be checked to ensure they have successfully established. Any trees which have failed to establish should be replaced the following dormant period or a redesign/re-specification of failed areas should be carried out.</p> <p>Grazing pressure should be alleviated through fencing where necessary, especially when the trees are immature.</p> <p>Formative and seasonal pruning should be undertaken where necessary and wounds should be kept as small as possible and cut clean back to sound wood. Cuttings should be made above and sloping away from an outward facing healthy bud, angled so that water does not collect on the cut area. Only clean sharp secateurs, hand saws or other approved tools should be used. Young plants should not be pruned during the late winter/early spring sap flow period.</p> <p>Woodland edges will not be heavily managed to encourage shrubs that are present to flower and/or fruit without interference.</p> <p>Inspections will be required to ensure any non-native invasive species are removed from the habitat.</p>
Scrub	<p>Mixed scrubland can be managed similarly to that of woodlands.</p> <p>Key practices to ensure establishment of created scrub pertain to removal of competitive shading species, with suitable preparation and protection measures for saplings during the establishment period.</p> <p>Management of this scrub habitat would ensure that:</p>

Habitat Type	Management and Maintenance Principles and Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scrub is structurally diverse, with varying heights within the area; ▪ Scrub edges are gradual and grade into adjacent habitats (woodland, grassland glades); ▪ Glades are maintained through scrub blocks in order to maintain diversity and allow continued access; ▪ Invasive or undesirable species such as conifers, cherry laurel, Himalayan balsam, hybrid bluebell, variegated yellow archangel and rhododendron are appropriately controlled and removed where identified; ▪ Clearing and coppicing work is limited to specific areas on a rotational basis; and ▪ Unacceptable levels of litter, debris or dog fouling are removed, and additional measures put in place to reduce the likelihood of reoccurrence where applicable.
Sustainable drainage (SuDS) and ponds	<p>Ponds in open habitats would be planted with marginal and aquatic macrophyte species of local provenance, ensuring a diverse mix of emergent, submerged and/or floating plants. This includes species such as greater pond sedge (<i>Carex riparia</i>) and greater chickweed (<i>Stellaria neglecta</i>).</p> <p>Ponds require regular monitoring for the effects of pollution and litter, invasive non-native species, reducing the presence of dominant vegetation that take over all open water spaces and decrease oxygen levels (such as reeds).</p> <p>There must be an adequate supply of water that is able to be collected in the pond so that it can replenish it.</p> <p>Detail should be taken to ensure that the surrounding vegetation does not completely shade the pond, and seasonal pruning may need to occur to ensure that such areas aren't overgrown.</p> <p>Where ponds are to be created in more densely shaded habitat, such as woodlands, these would be positioned on the edge of the habitat, to ensure at least part of the pond stays unshaded.</p> <p>Effort must also be taken to also ensure any aquatic plantings do not take over the entire pond surface, reducing oxygen levels and decreasing water quality.</p> <p>Wherever conditions allow, ponds would be unlined, allowing them to make use of natural, clean water sources and fluctuate naturally throughout the year.</p>
Grasslands	<p>Modified grasslands will be sown with standard amenity mixes, comprising primarily of perennial ryegrass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>).</p> <p>Management of such areas will be undertaken as necessary, and may include measures such as mowing or grazing.</p> <p>Other neutral grassland (including wildflower meadows) will require ground preparation to be undertaken for establishment. To prepare the ground for seeding, areas of bare ground must be created. This should be done using a disc or chain harrow to</p>

Habitat Type	Management and Maintenance Principles and Measures
	<p>scarify the ground in the first available suitable seeding period (approximately July to September).</p> <p>A seed rate of approximately 4 grams per metre squared (m²) should be utilised, subject to supplier recommendation, spread either using a modified seed hopper or by hand. Where spread by hand, seed will be mixed with a dry inert agent such as sand to provide bulk and help the seed bed. The inert material will also highlight which areas have been seeded, allowing for a uniform spread. Immediately following the seeding exercise, the area will be rolled to ensure the seed germination.</p> <p>The other neutral grassland will be allowed to settle over the winter, with minimal disturbance. This is likely to involve ensuring members of the public do not access this area over the winter months. For the first year following seeding, the wildflower areas should be maintained at an approximately 100mm height to reduce the dominance of coarse grasses and allow perennial wildflowers to establish.</p> <p>During the earlier years of establishment, significant growth of vigorous or undesirable species may develop early in the season. In this circumstance, it may be beneficial to take a further cut prior to the main flowering season (March), again removing the arisings to prevent nutrient recycling. Undesirable species may also be controlled by hand (pulling, digging or cutting) depending on the species and the level of the problem, requirement to be determined through monitoring. Such species include thistles (<i>Cirsium</i> spp.), creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>), docks (<i>Rumex</i> spp.) and nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>).</p>
Marginal plantings	<p>Marginal vegetation will be planted around the SuDS and ponds and include species such as greater chickweed, greater pond sedge and yellow flag iris (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>).</p> <p>Coir rolls may be utilised to provide bankside stability and a mechanism for planting marginal species alongside realigned sections of watercourse. Rapid establishment of marginal vegetation will help to increase bankside stability, establish lateral connectivity and provide shelter for faunal species.</p> <p>Marginal plantings would need to be monitored to ensure they are establishing successfully, but that they also do not compromise the stability or the quality of the watercourse. This may include cutting back such plantings to ensure that open areas of water remain in the pond, so that oxygen remains within the SuDS and ponds.</p>
Hedgerows	<p>Hedgerows would be planted over the winter months (November to March inclusive) when trees are dormant, and the soil is moist. Planting should avoid adverse weather conditions which may damage rooting whips, as well as periods where soil is frozen or waterlogged.</p> <p>Soil depth and type is necessary to be considered for the type of hedgerow that is chosen.</p>

Habitat Type	Management and Maintenance Principles and Measures
	<p>Following planting a maintenance and monitoring programme will be implemented to ensure that all hedgerows are successfully established. Works may include beat up, selective cutting and pruning. Any cutting of hedgerows required to be undertaken in March to August, will need mitigation and surveys to avoid any impacts to nesting and breeding birds. .</p> <p>Where possible enhancement of pre-existing hedgerows of poor quality will include planting of new hedge plants to fill any gaps. Further enhancements include ensuring a meadow grassland mix is seeded around the hedgerow base to allow for structural diversity.</p>
Watercourses (including ditches)	<p>It is not possible to 'create' watercourses however enhancement could be undertaken to improve the quality of watercourses both on and off-site.</p> <p>Where watercourses are culverted, significant gain in biodiversity could be achieved through 'daylighting.' This is where culverts are removed, and the watercourse is opened. This allows establishment of riparian vegetation and brings the watercourse back to a more natural state. This option would require commitments from existing landowners and may not be possible, but would be explored at detailed design.</p>

4 Additional Measures

- 4.1.1.1 The habitat management, enhancement and creation measures set out within this OHMP aim to provide opportunities for biodiversity.
- 4.1.1.2 Where reasonably practicable, environmental mitigation has been integrated within the design of the Proposed Development (Onshore) and will be implemented by the Contractor. This requires preparatory work to be undertaken ahead of the start of construction to permit timely progress of the programme.
- 4.1.1.3 The Contractor will, where reasonably practicable, reduce any habitat loss within the land provided for the Proposed Development (Onshore) by keeping the working area to the minimum required for safe construction of the scheme.

4.2 Invasive Non-native Species

- 4.2.1.1 INNS identified within the OnTI RLB will be appropriately removed. A preconstruction check for INNS listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Scottish Parliament, 1981³) and NatureScot's Invasive Species List (NatureScot, 2023⁴) will be undertaken at the appropriate time of year to inform any requirement to avoid or remove invasive species.
- 4.2.1.2 During construction, the implementation of best practice biosecurity measures, known as 'check, clean, dry', will mitigate the potential mobilisation and spread of INNS, including invasive aquatic plants and macroinvertebrate species and chytrid fungus which affects amphibians.
- 4.2.1.3 The Contractor will seek to prevent the introduction or spread of diseases and INNS with measures including, but not limited to:
- Carrying out an assessment of INNS risk of each construction site, including the identification of any prevailing diseases such as avian flu to ensure suitable and proportionate measures can be put in place;
 - Informing all construction personnel of relevant INNS risks and the biosecurity procedures in place to manage and mitigate those risks, including the identification of relevant INNS on site and raising awareness of any prevailing diseases;
 - Establishing rigorous disinfection procedures for vehicles and machinery coming onto site (including procedures such as wheel washing);
 - Use of NatureScot approved disinfectant appropriate to the potential INNS and/or diseases present;
 - Record and report any disease incidents or identification of INNS; and
 - Monitor the effectiveness of the procedures in place to reduce the introduction and/or spread of diseases, pests and INNS, ensuring remedial action is taken should measures be unsuccessful.

5 Implementation and Monitoring of the OHMP

5.1 Roles and Responsibilities

- 5.1.1.1 Due to the outline nature of this document and PPP stage of the Proposed Development (Onshore), dedicated roles and responsibilities cannot yet be assigned for all aspects of this plan. However, upon the completion of detailed design and development of the HMP, the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders will be established. These will be named people and/or organisations who will be committed to ensure the aims and objectives of this plan are successful.
- 5.1.1.2 It will be the responsibility of the owner and operator of the Onshore Substation Site to ensure that the HMP is implemented in accordance with the specifications. Should ownership of the land change during the lifespan of the required management period (20 years), the responsibility to manage and maintain these habitats will move to the new owner.

5.1.2 Ecological Clerk of Works

- 5.1.2.1 The role of the Project Ecologist/ ECoW will be to measure the success of the HMP in line with objectives specified within in, manage adherence to the frequency of monitoring, and assess the requirement for any remedial measures or changes to the existing prescriptions in light of monitoring results and new emerging guidance and best practice.
- 5.1.2.2 Should any peatland habitat be subsequently identified, it will be the ECoW's responsibility to update the HMP and ensure appropriate habitat management and monitoring is put in place.
- 5.1.2.3 As noted in Application Document 7: Outline Peat Management Plan, it will also be the ECoW's responsibility to monitor and ensure compliance with the Final Peat Management Plan.
- 5.1.2.4 The ECoW will consult with and take advice (as appropriate) from key stakeholders such as (but not limited too) Aberdeenshire Council, NatureScot and SEPA.

5.2 Monitoring and Reporting

- 5.2.1.1 Monitoring activities and any required remedial measures would be undertaken for a period of 20 years following the commencement of habitat enhancement and creation measures.
- 5.2.1.2 A post-construction monitoring plan, including methodologies and the identification of those responsible for carrying out monitoring, will be included within the final, detailed HMP. The detailed HMP will also identify what will happen in the event any habitats fail to establish successfully and therefore do not meet their condition target.
- 5.2.1.3 The reporting of post-construction monitoring will be provided to Aberdeenshire Council at agreed intervals which will be outlined in the HMP.

6 References

- ¹ Aberdeenshire Council (2023) 'Securing positive effects for biodiversity in new development: Planning Advice PA2023-10'. Available at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/natural-heritage/biodiversity/> (Accessed 20/02/2024).
- ² NatureScot (2023) 'Developing for Nature Guidance'. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/developing-nature-guidance> (Accessed 12/08/2024).
- ³ Scottish Parliament (1981) 'Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended in Scotland) (1981)'. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/section/9> (Accessed 22/05/2024).
- ⁴ NatureScot (2023) 'Invasive Non-native species'. Available online at: <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/protected-species/invasive-non-native-species> (Accessed 12/08/2024).

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