REF.	ACTIONS	PARTNERS (lead partners in bold)
22.1	**Develop sub-catchment scale flood management strategies for the main stem and each major tributary (River Feugh, the Tarland Burn and the Burn of Canny).**	**AC** / **ACC** / SEPA / SNH / DDSFB / SW / FCS / Land Owners / Community Councils / Riparian Owners / Land managers / Local communities / SGRPID
22.1.2	Ensure individual Flood Alleviation Schemes are planned in the context of the sub-catchment flood management strategies, and assessed under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations and WEWS prior to consent.	**AC** / **ACC** / DDSFB / SNH / SEPA / Land managers
22.1.2	As part of the co-ordinated flood management strategy - identify existing flood protection areas of low land management benefit or causing detriment to the river system - promote the removal of artificial and raised banks to reinstate and re-create permanently functional flood plain areas, and associated wetland habitats for the benefit of water management and biodiversity - restore over-deepened to reinstate floodplain connectivity	**AC** / **ACC** / SEPA / SGRPID / SNH / Land owners / Local communities
22.1.3	Identify feasible schemes incorporating adequate incentives and compensation and draw up costed action plans.	AC / ACC / SEPA / SNH / SGRPID
22.1.4	As part of the co-ordinated flood alleviation strategy, identify areas within the functional flood plain which with the agreement of land owners and users could be managed to receive and retain flood water temporarily	**AC** / **ACC** / Land Owners / SNH / FCS
22.2	**Identify sections of river, using the hydro-geomorphological study of the River Dee held by SNH, where it would be feasible to remove existing bank protection without detriment downstream. Carry out assessments of implications and develop an incentives scheme to achieve practical implementation.**	AC / ACC / **SEPA** / SGRPID / **SNH** / Landowners / Local communities
22.3	**Promote recreation of locally native wet and riparian woods in areas receiving flood waters, and protect and promote positive management of existing remnants.**	**FCS** / **SGRPID** / **SNH** / **Landowners** / **FES** / SNW
22.3.1	Identify areas where such planting would have ecological benefits and provide incentives for planting and management.	**FCS** / **SGRPID** / **SNH** / **Landowners**
22.4	**Under CAR, use Planning Policy to avoid works which are likely to have an adverse impact on the river environment.**	**AC** / **ACC** / **CNPA** / **SEPA** / SW / FCS / Landowners / SNH / DDSFB
22.4.1	When considering planning applications for engineering works seek to ensure - best practice as described in SEPA's Habitat Enhancement Initiative - an EcIA (development) - adherence to Code of Good Practice (development & restorative).	SNH / DDSFB / SEPA / SW / FCS / Landowners

Acronyms are listed in the centre of this Action Card



floodplains 22 HABITATS

OBJECTIVE 22. Reinstate the functionality of active flood plains.

BACKGROUND

The flat land adjacent to the River Dee and its tributaries has an important role in the natural behaviour of this dynamic river system. The constant processes of erosion and deposition of sediments making up the river banks is the means of dissipating energy and in many sections has caused the lateral migration of the river channel. The results can be seen in numerous stretches of the Dee where old river courses have been abandoned as the river has formed a new channel. In the few places where river banks are not reinforced, this process continues.

Regular flooding of the flood plains has been prevented by the construction of artificial embankments along much of the length of the River Dee and its larger tributaries. This has caused the loss of temporary or seasonal wetlands of value to birds, amphibians, invertebrates, and various plant communities. Such embankments protect the Deeside towns and smaller settlements from flooding as well as farmland and infrastructure, such as sewage treatment works. The constriction of the water flow to artificially embanked channels can have serious consequences downstream.

The relatively fertile soils of the flood plain mean that they are valued for agriculture. This has led to the almost complete clearance of flood plain woodlands with only small fragments of alder and willow woodland left. It has also resulted in the historical drainage of former wetlands such as the Loch of Auchlossen near Lumphanan.

ISSUES

- Flood plain loss.
- Intrusion onto floodplain.
- Bank engineering works.

EXISTING / RECENT INITIATIVES

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 7. Planning and Flooding, aims to prevent further development which would have a significant probability of being affected by flooding or which would increase the probability of flooding elsewhere. An appropriate policy has been incorporated into the Aberdeenshire Local Plan and Cairngorms Local Plan.
- The Special Area of Conservation designation requires all proposals for new flood defences or river engineering works that are likely to have a significant effect on the qualifying interests, to be subject to an appropriate assessment. Permission will only be granted if no adverse impact on the integrity of the interests is demonstrated.
- New measures under the Water Environment and Water Services Act will require all proposed works to be consented by the Scottish environment Protection Agency (SEPA) after an assessment of a broad range of impacts on the ecological health of the river system.
- A project has been undertaken on the Dee Flood Plain at Mar Lodge/Invercauld, designed/monitored by the royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and funded by ScottishNatural Heritage (SNH). This has blocked ditches affecting 210ha, and removed inappropriate conifer shelterbelts. Numbers of wading birds on the site have increased since the work was done in 1996.
- Similar action has also been proposed for sections of the Tarland Burn.
- 3-Dee Vision project and demonstration wetland at Muir of Gellan.
- Rural Development Contracts under the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP)
- North East Scotland Flood Liasin and Advice Group (NESFLAG)
- North East and Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plans both address similar issues.
- Local Structure Plans – SSUPP guidance
- Formation of Flooding Issues Advisory Committee (Scottish Government) and subgroups.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

Aberdeenshire Council

Aberdeen City Council

Cairngorms National Park Authority

Community Councils

Dee District Salmon Fishery Board

Forestry Commission Scotland

Forest Enterprise Scotland

Landowners

Land managers

Local community

Riparian Owners

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Scottish Government Rural Payments & Inspections Directorate

Scottish Natural Heritage

Scottish Native Woodlands

Scottish Water

Further copies can be downloaded at www.theriverdee.org. For further information contact the Dee Catchment Officer c/o The Macaulay Institute, Craigiebuckler, Aberdeen AB15 8QH Telephone: 01224 498200 email: info@theriverdee.org

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- SEPA Indicitive River and Coastal Flood Map (Scotland) www.sepa.org.uk/flooding/mapping/index.htm

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- Ensure an integrated approach to all flood management strategies which are properly informed by hydrological and flow characteristics of each sub-catchment, and which will protect existing built properties, reduce risk of catastrophic flooding, enhance the naturalness of the river system and increase biodiversity.
- Any proposed new flood embankments or river engineering works must be considered in the context of the sub-catchment flood management strategy, and properly assessed for impacts before consent.
- In collaboration with relevant partners, identify areas of land use of lower sensitivity where existing embankments could be removed to re-create more effective connections between flood plain and river channels.
- Use hydro-geomorphological study of the River Dee to identify opportunities to remove existing bank protection works to reinstate more natural river channel dynamics.
- Identify areas for re-creation of flood plain woodlands and provide incentives to implement appropriate schemes.
- Promote practical demonstrations where drainage of bogs has been reversed e.g. well walked approaches to Morven and slopes in Glen Muick.
- Ensure presumption against new development in areas likely to flood.
- Piecemeal reduction of the flood plain must be avoided because of the cumulative effects on storage capacity.
- Ensure that Development Plans appraise site locations for flood risk prior to adoption.
- Ensure that RPACs recognise this priority.

LEGISLATION

See Action Pack Annex for information sources

- Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
- Habitats Regulations
- Water Environment and Water Services Act.
- Flood Prevention and Land Drainage (Scotland) Act 1997
- Flood Prevention Act 1961
- SPP7 Planning and Flooding

GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION

See Action Pack Annex for information sources

- Works to watercourses and flooding
- Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) guidance (Scottish Environment Protection Agency)
- Forests and Water Guidelines IV (Forestry Commission)
- Planning Advice Note 69: Planning and Building Standards Advice on Flooding.
- SEPA Policy 41: Development at risk of flooding – advice and consultation.

BENEFITS TO PROTECTED SPECIES

The following specially protected species will benefit from the Actions:

- Northern blue damselfly *Coenagrion hastulatum*
- Pipistrelle bat *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*
- Water shrew *Sorex palustris*
- Water vole *Arvicola terrestris*
- Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
- Common frog,*Rana temporaria*

22 HABITATS

RELATED ACTION CARDS

15. Rates of run-off
16. Flood alleviation
23. Wet and riparian woodland



Floodplain at Craggan Pool (DDSFB)

AC Aberdeenshire Council **ACC** Aberdeen City Council **CNPA** Cairngorms National Parl Authority **DDSFB** Dee District Salmon Fishery Board **FCS** Forestry Commission Scotland **FES** Forest Enterprise Scotland **SEPA** Scottish Environment Protection Agency **SGRPID** Scottish Government Rural Payments & Inspections Directorate **SNH** Scottish Natural Heritage **SNW** Scottish Native Woodlands **SRPBA** Scottish Rural Property & Business Association **SW** Scottish Water

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