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deecatchment partnership

Dee Catchment Partnership

Business Plan 2013 - 2016



Foreword



OUR VISION FOR THE RIVER DEE CATCHMENT

To restore natural river functions within the River Dee catchment, in order to support sufficient high quality water, habitat and amenity to allow all of its inhabitants, flora and fauna to flourish.

For over 10,000 years the River Dee has flowed 126 km from the heart of the Cairngorms to the North Sea through some of the most naturally rich landscapes in the world. Since the earliest inhabitants gathered in the area this river and its many tributaries have provided an arterial life force, sustaining communities, agriculture and industry. From the sparsely populated upper catchment to the expanding City of Aberdeen, all of Deeside's inhabitants are tied to the river system and the services it provides.

Mankind's reliance on the river does it harm. We must recognise and accept this fact if we are to manage the catchment intelligently and ensure that its resources are nurtured for future generations. Enabling and leading the wise stewardship of the catchment is the fundamental purpose of the Dee Catchment Partnership.

The Dee Catchment Partnership has created a common purpose and far-sighted vision for the area. This vision is not about preservation but about enabling sustainable economic development and growth. The Partnership is unique in the geographic and social range of its interest. From source to sea, a diverse range of issues and interests need to be recognisedand understood, and solutions integrated. The Partnership's role as a cohesive force is the key to that integration.

The Dee Catchment Partnership is a broad, active and engaged organisation with a record of successful delivery. All our partners have signed up to the Dee Catchment Management Plan (CMP) and are working towards its objectives. We are proud that for 10 years this committed partnership has consistently grown from strength to strength and is recognised as one of longest running and most consistent in Scotland.

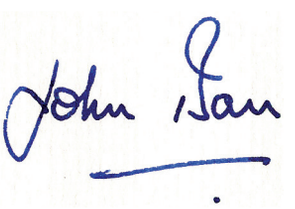
This Business Plan, published in our 10th anniversary year, is our our strongest to date. Management activity in the catchment has never been so vigorous, with the coincidence of significant initiatives such as the Diffuse Pollution Priority Catchment work, the EU LIFE Pearls in Peril project, the Land Use Strategy Pilot and the Pilot Catchments initiative. Our work to date has created this focus on the Dee and we are are delighted to be engaged in the support and delivery of this important work.

We recognise that the Dee is fortunate to have this focus of activity and that other catchments could also benefit from a similar approach. Therefore, we feel it is important to share the lessons we have learned, and learn from others as well. In future we aim to work much more closely with parallel initiatives such as the Spey, Tweed and South Esk CMPs in order to extend our collective knowledge and experience beyond the watershed.

This Business Plan heralds a new era for the Partnership. Hosted by the James Hutton Institute and the River Dee Trust, Dee CMP delivery is now underpinned by both a scientific evidence base and practical experience of delivery throughout the catchment; both are essential.

The Dee Catchment Partnership brings significant benefits to a large part of North East Scotland and with continued support will bring many more. I am sincerely grateful to our funders whose support enables continued stewardship of this important catchment. If you only have time to read the Executive Summary then please do so in full, in conjunction with the Work Programme. I hope that you will agree that this exemplar partnership is very well worthy of your continued attention and strong support.





Major General JAJP Barr CB CBE

Independent Chairman
Dee Catchment Partnership

24 June 2013

Executive Summary

1. Partnership (page 1)

The River Dee catchment: a valued and valuable resource

The qualities of the River Dee catchment's rivers, burns and lochs give them great value. From their source in the Cairngorm mountains to the sea at Aberdeen harbour these waters contribute directly to the character and industry of Aberdeen City and Shire. They supply our industrial and domestic water, are the basis for tourism and salmon rod fishing, provide and sustain habitats for wildlife, and form a challenging environment for outdoor pursuits. They are a central asset underpinning the catchment's rural economy. It is essential, therefore, that we manage them all in a manner that conserves those qualities. We must work together to protect them.

Dee Catchment Partnership

In order to provide a strategic framework for integrated management, a group representing all those involved in the catchment's waters formed in 2003. This robust and vibrant organisation, the Dee Catchment Partnership, has set forward looking agendas to improve the waters of the River Dee catchment. Most significant of these is the development and implementation of the Dee Catchment Management Plan (Dee CMP).

Dee Catchment Management Plan

The Dee CMP (Nov 2007) sets out a long-term vision, a framework for management, and priorities for action. It is intended to serve as a dynamic means of allowing all participants in the future of the catchment - individuals and communities as well as public, private and voluntary sector organisations - to coordinate and develop their activities in order to achieve and maintain the wellbeing of the Dee catchment's waters. The Dee CMP addresses a broad range of issues, including flood management, water pollution, river engineering and the impacts of recreation. The Partnership's members have proposed and signed-up to the Dee CMP's 37 Management Objectives. This formal commitment by our members to delivering the Dee CMP is one of our great strengths.

Policy context

A number of independent catchment bodies are successfully implementing fully integrated catchment management plans in Scotland. However, there is no statutory responsibility to have catchment-level management planning and therefore the implementation of the Dee CMP is not associated with dedicated legislation, inspections or regulation. The Dee CMP contributes directly to, and integrates closely with, the delivery of related national legislation, including the: Water Framework Directive, Habitats Directive, Floods Directive, and National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000. Many of these are being implemented at the catchment-scale, such as the Priority and Pilot Catchments Initiatives.

Delivery of partner objectives

Implementation of the Dee CMP contributes to the delivery of the strategic objectives of our partners. These contributions are detailed in Annex B. In summary, the Dee CMP:

- Contributes to all of the Scottish Government's Strategic Objectives and contributing directly to the delivery of eight National Outcomes.
- Compliments and contributes to the services provided by Scotland's Environment and Rural Services partnership.
- Is a delivery mechanism for key legislation including the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive, as well as for linked processes such as Local Biodiversity Action Plans, the Dee Fishery Management Plan and the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017.
- Delivers sustainable and integrated protection, restoration and management of the catchment's freshwater ecosystems according to the Principles of the Scottish Land Use Strategy.

2. Business Plan (page 5)

This second Business Plan for the Dee Catchment Partnership sets out a framework for our continued delivery of the Dee CMP. The Business Plan's purpose is to inform stakeholders and potential funders about the nature, direction and objectives of the Partnership, to accelerate delivery of agreed priority projects, and to underpin our planning and management activities.

3. Governance (page 7)

A Management Group steers the activities of two staff members. The Partnership Manager coordinates the implementation of the Dee CMP. This independent coordination is critical to the continued delivery and development of the Dee CMP. The Dee Catchment Outreach Officer engages directly with catchment stakeholders to deliver projects and raise awareness of key issues.

We are a large, open and independent partnership, involving a wide range of organisations, agencies

and individuals. Integrated catchment management is our fundamental purpose. We have a key role as a disseminator of information and provision of a network. Our meetings are recognised as open fora for dialogue and our staff are uniquely positioned to facilitate integrated decision making. We aim to achieve meaningful, broad and successful stakeholder involvement and are committed to values of transparency, neutrality and inclusiveness. In everything we do we aim to be: adding value, inclusive, transparent, neutral and apolitical, strategic, and sustainable. Our expertise is recognised locally (our meetings are trusted fora for consensus building and conflict resolution), regionally (by the North East Area Advisory Group and Regional Proposal Assessment Committee), nationally (we have advised the Spey and South Esk Catchment Management Plans), and internationally (DCP is a member of UNESCO's Hydrology for Environment Life and Policy network of river basins).

4. Aims (page 11)

- Promote synergy, consensus building and conflict resolution between catchment stakeholders.
- Deliver projects that drive, support and achieve improvements to the catchment's water environment, with a focus on our Partnership Priorities which are:
  - Protect and restore biodiversity and habitats.
  - Reduce diffuse source pollution.
  - Restore natural morphology.
  - Reduce flood risk.
- Increase stakeholder and community engagement in Dee CMP delivery by raising awareness and understanding of key issues.
- Manage the Partnership to ensure delivery, transparency, efficiency and relevance.

In order to achieve these aims we have agreed a three year Work Programme (page 13). The activities listed are being taken forward by Project Delivery Groups who are working on a variety of projects in the catchment. Progress against annual delivery targets will be monitored and reported biannually.

Achievements to date include:

- The upper Dee floodplain restoration project which will reconnect an important floodplain area in 2014.
- Development of Supplementary Planning Guidance for watercourse protection during development works.
- The 'Think T.A.N.K!' septic tank awareness campaign, now being distributed as UK guidance.
- The upper Dee riparian woodland restoration project (being delivered by the LIFE Pearls in Peril project).
- The reconnection of historic meanders in the Logie Burn.
- The installation of 100 kms of riparian fencing by the River Dee Trust since 1999.
- The development of the Aberdeen Harbour Environmental Code of Practice.
- The inclusion of Dee CMP Objectives as a Regional Priority under the Scottish Rural Development Programme.
- Recognition as a delivery mechanism for the Scotland RBMP.
- Selection by the Scottish Government as one of the first tranche of Priority Catchments for diffuse pollution work.
- Selection by the Scottish Government as one of four Pilot Catchments eligible for significant funding for morphological restoration.
- EU LIFE funding for the Pearls in Peril project.
- Our inclusion in UNESCO's Hydrology for Environment Life and Policy network of exemplar river basins.

5. Funding (page 15)

To fully deliver our Work Programme we require funding for staff posts (one FTE) to 31 Mar 2016.

Our funders are: Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen Harbour Board, Aberdeenshire Council, Cairngorms National Park Authority, Forestry Commission Scotland, the James Hutton Institute, the River Dee Trust, Scottish Enterprise, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, and Scottish Natural Heritage.

6. Benefits of the Partnership (page 19)

Working in partnership creates efficiency, respect, trust and understanding, and brings the many indirect benefits of an established network. It gets things done. Working with the Dee Catchment Partnership contributes directly to a holistic, comprehensive and visionary plan for the economic, environmental and social benefit of the North East. Many of the actions identified in the Dee CMP will contribute to achieving the Scottish Government's Strategic Objectives and National Outcomes. The Dee Catchment Partnership is bringing significant benefits to a large part of North East Scotland and with continued support will bring many more. It deserves your support.

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1. Managing the Dee catchment



River Dee catchment

The River Dee catchment is the area of land drained by the River Dee and its tributary burns. In this area the water environment includes not only the natural water resources, such as rivers, burns, lochs and groundwaters, but also riverine habitats such as wetlands and riparian areas, as well as the species they support, from the commonplace to the critically endangered. The high quality of this water environment gives it great value to local communities and businesses: as a habitat for wildlife, for domestic water supplies, as a recreational environment, as a basis for tourism and salmon fishing, and as a central asset underpinning much of the rural economy.

We interact directly with the Dee catchment's waters in many ways including domestically, in industrial processes, for recreation, agriculture, fishing and transport. Furthermore, how we use and manage the catchment modifies the relationships between soil, water and vegetation and this greatly affects the quality of surface and groundwaters. Because all of the running waters in the catchment are connected, a poor quality burn in one part of the catchment can reduce the environmental condition of the whole area. These diverse and complex relationships need to be reflected in the way our waters are managed.

Dee Catchment Partnership

In a large catchment like the Dee there are multiple, and potentially conflicting, issues and interests. Therefore, achieving improvements requires input from all the different interested parties, including individual householders, farmers, land managers and owners, as well as from public bodies like the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). In order to integrate these increasing and often competing demands and minimise their impacts on the catchment's waters, there is a need to understand and manage the impacts associated with different uses of the catchment. This is the purpose of the River Dee Catchment Management Plan (CMP). The Dee Catchment Partnership formed in 2003 with the aim of protecting and restoring the catchment's water environment through the implementation of an agreed management plan.

Dee Catchment Management Plan

Purpose of the Dee CMP

The Dee CMP initiative resulted from a locally recognised need to take a proactive approach to water management. The document's purpose is threefold:

- To provide a strategic framework for the sustainable and integrated management of the catchment's natural, economic and recreational water resources.
- To stimulate coordinated catchment-wide input from all of the individuals, organisations and agencies involved with the catchment's waters.
- To inform readers about the functioning, value, pressures and vulnerability of the catchment's waters.

Development of the Dee CMP (1999 - 2007)

- 1999 SEPA collated the key water-related issues in the catchment into an Issues document for public consultation in 1999.
- 2003 Subsequently a Steering Group was formed to develop the Dee CMP in light of the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the designation of the River Dee as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
- 2005-2006 Three Working Groups, on which a wide range of local stakeholders were represented, considered the responses to the 1999 consultation and recommended solutions to the key issues.
- 2006 These recommendations were collated into the draft Dee CMP. This was put out for catchment-wide consultation in autumn 2006. The responses received were an essential element in the final preparation of the plan.
- 2007 The Partnership launched the Dee CMP in November 2007. The Dee CMP has 37 Management Objectives (Annex A). Each of these Management Objectives is represented by a stand-alone Action Card.

Implementation of the Dee CMP (2007 to date)

- Dee CMP Objectives (Annex A) have been incorporated into the work programmes of partner organisations.

- Other stakeholders involved are encouraged to contribute to relevant actions.
- Four implementation groups were established to develop projects against agreed Partnership Priorities.
- These projects are being delivered by dedicated Project Groups.
- A formal review in 2012 assessed progress against our Objectives and enabled partners to redefine their priority work areas.

Policy status of the Dee CMP

The Dee CMP is a voluntary initiative; there is no statutory responsibility to have catchment level management planning in Scotland. Therefore the implementation of the Dee CMP is not associated with new legislation, inspections or regulation.

This is a time of considerable activity in terms of policies that regulate how we use the waters of the Dee catchment. The Dee CMP is a powerful mechanism for implementing and integrating our EU and national targets and objectives that will contribute to these obligations are central to the Dee CMP. These include:

- The **Habitats Directive**. The high quality of the Dee and its tributaries is reflected in important natural heritage designations in the catchment, including its designation as a Special Area of Conservation due to internationally important populations of Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel and European otter. This means that the Dee's water resources must now be managed in order to protect these species and the habitats that support them. The Dee Catchment Management Plan is a key mechanism in the delivery of these responsibilities.
- The **Water Framework Directive**, which is establishing new ways of protecting, managing and using the catchment's rivers, lochs, estuary, coast, wetlands and groundwaters in order that 'good ecological status' is achieved and maintained. The implementation of this catchment level plan contributes to the delivery of Scotland's River Basin Management Plan and relates closely to the NE Area Plan.
- The **Floods Directive**. The Dee CMP delivers sustainable and integrated approaches to managing the causes and consequences of flooding in line with the new Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.
- **National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000.** Half of the Dee catchment is in the Cairngorms National Park. The Dee Catchment Management Plan helps to achieve the delivery of National Park Aims and integrates fully with the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017.

How does the Dee CMP deliver the objectives of partner organisations?

Dee CMP delivery contributes directly to the organisational objectives of our partners (Annex B). Many of these objectives are directed by the Scottish Government's five Strategic Objectives - a Scotland that is Wealthier and Fairer, Smarter, Healthier, Safer and Stronger and Greener. Fifteen National Outcomes describe what the Government wants to achieve over the next ten years. Dee CMP delivery supports all five Strategic Objectives, by contributing directly to eight National Outcomes (page 4). Significant contributions are made to sustainable living, the value and protection of the natural environment and reduced local impacts.

How the Dee CMP contributes to the Scottish Government's Strategic Objectives and National Outcomes.

	SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (numbers in parentheses refer to the National Outcomes that support each Objective)	SUPPORTED BY DEE CMP
1	Wealthier and Fairer – Enable businesses and people to increase their wealth and more people to share in that wealth, and put into effect (1, 2, 13, 15)	Y
2	Healthier - Help people to sustain and improve their health, especially in disadvantaged communities, ensuring better, local and faster access to health care (6, 5, 7, 8, 10, 15)	Y
3	Safer and stronger - Help local communities to flourish, becoming stronger, safer places to live, offering improved opportunities and a better quality of life (9, 10, 11)	Y
4	Smarter - Expand opportunities for Scots to succeed from nurture through to life long learning ensuring higher and more widely shared achievements (3, 4, 5, 8)	Y
5	Greener - Improve Scotland's natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it (10, 12, 14)	Y
	SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL OUTCOMES	**ACHIEVED BY DEE CMP**
1	**We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe**	**Indirectly**
2	We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people	N/A
3	**We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation**	**Indirectly**
4	**Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens**	**Indirectly**
5	Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed	N/A
6	**We live longer, healthier lives**	**Indirectly**
7	We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society	N/A
8	We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk	N/A
9	We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger	N/A
10	**We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need**	**Directly**
11	**We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others**	**Indirectly**
12	**We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations**	**Directly**
13	We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity	N/A
14	**We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production**	**Directly**
15	Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs	N/A

2. Purpose of this Business Plan



To set out a framework for efficient management

This business plan, our second, sets out a Work Programme (Pages 13-14) for the delivery of the Dee CMP during the period March 2013 to March 2016. It is concerned with both our current projects and the new activities we plan to undertake. Its purpose is to set out a framework for the management of the Dee catchment which will direct our operational planning and management during the next three years. It has been designed to be realistic, measurable and complete. It represents a formal statement of intent and direction against which we may measure ourselves and be measured by others.

To get things done

This Business Plan builds on the extensive work undertaken through the creation of the Dee CMP. It makes no changes to the published document but sets Dee CMP Management Objectives in the context of parallel objectives that relate to our broader roles and responsibilities. These are: Partnership Working, Project Delivery, Raising Awareness, and Partnership Management.

To stimulate and support involvement

To ensure continued high levels of commitment we need to fully engage and enthuse key stakeholders and agencies about the work of the Partnership. We intend that this plan will support involvement by:

- Stimulating and informing the involvement of our members in delivering integrated catchment management on the ground.
- Enabling our partners to recognise our core competencies and skills and use them to full effect.
- Raising the local profile of the Partnership, in particular amongst the catchment's land managers.

To enable us to be prepared

We intend that this business plan will enable the Partnership to look ahead, allocate resources, focus on priorities and be ready to act on both problems and opportunities. This will position us to take full advantage of current and upcoming opportunities, such as the ongoing policy drive towards catchment-scale integrated water resource management by the Scottish Government.

To attract and secure funding

Commitment to long-term core funding from our partners demands a well-structured long term plan. This Business Plan is therefore designed to explain the process, structure and long term direction of the Partnership to potential investors, managers and stakeholders. In particular, this plan makes the business case for long term core funding to support our staff.

3. Structure and governance



Dee Catchment Partnership

The Dee Catchment Partnership, which developed out of the former Dee Catchment Management Plan Steering Group (established in 2003), is responsible for:

- Providing a forum within which to develop and maintain a widely agreed, balanced, neutral and informed approach to the management of the Dee catchment.
- Making links to external bodies and initiatives so that the Partnership may react collectively to events that may develop at local or national levels.

Its members have significant responsibilities for water management in the Dee catchment:

- Organisations whose core work relates to water resources, such as the Dee District Salmon Fishery Board, River Dee Trust, SNH, SEPA and CNPA.
- Other organisations whose work has a direct impact on the water environment, such as Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen Harbour Board and Forestry Commission Scotland.
- Organisations whose members have a critical role as water managers, such as the National Farmers' Union Scotland and Scottish Land & Estates.

Everyone helping to deliver the Objectives of the Dee CMP is a member of this Partnership, from the agencies who have signed up to the Dee Catchment Management Plan's Objectives, through the land managers implementing measures to protect water quality, to the individual householders looking after their septic tanks and taking steps to save water. There is no formal membership process.

The Dee Catchment Partnership has an independent chairman, Major General John Barr.

Management Group

The Management Group comprises the funders of the Partnership and is responsible for:

- Managing the month-to-month activities of staff.
- Overseeing the development of existing projects and any technical details that arise during project delivery.
- Ensuring that the Partnership is fully briefed on activities and opportunities, including the need for new initiatives.

The Management Group meets four times a year. It is currently chaired by Linda Mathieson from Aberdeenshire Council.

Project Delivery Groups

The Dee Catchment Partnership is focussing on the implementation of four Partnership Priorities agreed at a review workshop in June 2012. These are:

- Improving Habitat Quality and Biodiversity.
- Improving Morphology.
- Reducing Diffuse Pollution.
- Flood Management.

The specific projects arising from these priorities are delivered by short term Project Delivery Groups.

Staff

The Dee Catchment Partnership Manager (hosted by the James Hutton Institute) is responsible for coordinating Dee CMP delivery, preparing funding proposals for projects, and represents the Partnership as a point of contact and figurehead.

The Dee Catchment Outreach Officer (hosted by the River Dee Trust) is responsible for outreach, communications, project work and administrative support.

There is no organisational objective of growth, however we aim to retain the flexibility to engage project staff to bring in additional skills and time resources as appropriate.

Host organisations

The host organisations are the James Hutton Institute in Aberdeen (Partnership Manager) and the River Dee Trust in Dinnet (Outreach Officer). The Partnership is thus embedded within the river's two most significant independent bodies. This gives the implementation of the Dee CMP a strong support base which integrates evidence-based research with practical understanding and delivery experience and expertise.

Links with other plans and processes

There are several existing or developing plans and delivery mechanisms that are of direct relevance to the catchment's water resources and riverine habitats. These include:

- Scotland's River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan, the North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership, and Cairngorms Nature.
- Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan.
- Dee Fishery Management Plan.
- Local Development Plans (AC, ACC and CNPA).
- Outdoor access strategies.
- Scottish Water's (SW) operational plan (the Quality and Standards programme).
- Scottish Forestry Strategy.

Relevant actions from these plans have been incorporated into the Dee CMP, in particular, objectives that contribute to the obligations of the Water Framework, Habitats and Floods Directives. Preventing deterioration, meeting 'good ecological status', returning populations of SAC qualifying species to 'favourable conservation status' and sustainable flow management are central to the Dee CMP. It is intended that the Objectives of the Dee CMP will be integrated into other plans and policies as they develop. For example, one of the Dee CMP's strengths is its local recognition as Regional Priority under the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP).

Opportunities, skills and achievements

We have been working to deliver integrated catchment management for the Dee since 2003 and have an excellent range of skills, experience and influence. In particular we are proud to highlight:

- The wide range of relevant projects that are being run successfully, confirming the ability of the Partnership to deliver and our ability to bring together all interests in an impartial way.
- The recognition of our meetings as trusted opportunities for consensus building and conflict resolution.
- The expertise of our members.
- Our independence.
- Our continued commitment to information exchange with local stakeholders.
- Our coordination with linked plans and processes such as the LBAPs, EGCP and Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan.
- Our recognition as a delivery mechanism for the Scotland RBMP and the Scottish rural Development Programme.
- The working relationships developed by our members in particular the direct and trusted relationships we have built with land managers.
- The support we have provided to the Spey and South Esk CMPs.
- Our recognition by the UNESCO HELP network as a HELP Basin.
- The overall vibrancy in the Partnership and its work.

Planning, reporting, reviewing - and efficiency

Strategic planning

The Dee CMP Management Objectives provide the strategic framework for all DCP activities, while the Work Programme (pages 13-14) lays out the areas we intend to focus on during the next three years. There will be no focus on further strategic planning in the 2013-2016 Business Plan period.

Dee CMP Objectives

Annual Work Programme

Our activities are guided by an Annual Work Programme, agreed in April each year. Progress against the SMART targets in this programme will be monitored by the Management Group.

Annual Project Delivery plans

Each of the projects listed in the 2013-2016 Work Programme has an associated Project Delivery Plan

setting out activities and responsibilities for the year.

Annual report

We will produce a summary annual report in March each year. This will summarise progress against the aims set out in our annual Work Programme and associated Project Delivery Plans.

Dee CMP review

There will be a thorough review of DCP priorities and achievements in 2015 leading to a subsequent major review of the Dee CMP.

Focussing on delivery

Planning, reviewing, and reporting on our work are important and necessary activities, in keeping with our commitment to transparency, and recognising the need for accountability to our members and funders. However, our commitment is to focus DCP resources on delivery. Therefore, we will minimise demands on partners to take part in planning and reporting processes and aim to keep these processes as simple and efficient as possible.

Values

In everything we do we aim to be: adding value, inclusive, transparent, neutral and apolitical, strategic, and sustainable.

This wetland, installed by the EU NOLIMP 3 Dee Vision Project, provides secondary treatment for the effluent discharged by the Tarland waste water treatment plant and provides new habitat for breeding wader birds.



4. What are our aims?



Promote synergy, consensus building and conflict resolution between catchment stakeholders by supporting partnership working.

- Maintain, promote and support a broad, active and engaged partnership.
- Work towards agreed Dee CMP Objectives.
- Ensure DCP contributes to and complements work of related plans, processes and partnerships.

Deliver projects that drive, support and deliver improvements to the catchment's water environment, with a focus on our Partnership Priorities.

- Protect and restore biodiversity and associated habitats.
- Reduce diffuse source pollution.
- Restore natural morphology where possible and appropriate.
- Reduce flood risks.
- Contribute to the delivery of wider Dee CMP Objectives.

Increase stakeholder and community engagement in Dee CMP delivery by raising awareness and understanding of key issues.

- Promote DCP messages and achievements land managers, the general public, and within partner organisations
- Improve the availability of information on the water environment to land owners and managers.
- Run campaigns to highlight and explain specific issues.
- Enable greater sharing of information and the exchange of good practice both within the catchment, regionally and nationally.

Manage the Partnership to ensure delivery, transparency, efficiency and relevance.

- Agree and maintain the relevance of our strategic priorities.
- Organise and contribute to DCP meetings and events.
- Secure funding to enable current objectives to be met.
- Drive Dee CMP delivery.
- Monitor progress against targets annually and undertake full review/ assessment of achievements in year 3 with view to future work.
- Ensure transparency in communications on all DCP matters.
- Manage, support and develop our staff.

These aims will be achieved as a result of the activities listed in our 2013 - 2016 Work Programme (pages 13-14).

DCP Work Programme 2013-2016

not in order of priority

Working in partnership: Promote synergy, consensus building and conflict resolution between catchment stakeholders.

1. Organise and participate in events that promote awareness, discussion and debate of catchment-related issues.
2. Ensure that Partners' activities continue to align with the agreed Dee CMP Objectives.
3. Seek opportunities for DCP to engage and align with other partnership groups e.g. NEAAG, LBPs, Flood Groups.

Delivering projects: Deliver projects that drive, support and deliver improvements to the catchment's water environment, with a focus on our Partnership Priorities.

4. Determine the extent and condition of the catchment's peatlands and initiate restoration pilot.
5. Restore connectivity of floodplain and wetland areas.
6. Promote better management of riparian woodlands and increase their coverage in the upper catchment.
7. Increase the coverage of riparian buffer strips, targeted to areas where sedimentation and runoff issues have been identified.
8. Determine the impacts of instream waterings on water quality and investigate offstream alternatives.
9. Complete the third stage (farm visits) of the Priority Catchments initiative to reduce diffuse agricultural pollution.
10. Address and raise awareness of water-related issues in forest management.
11. Make catchment-scale improvements to morphology which deliver multiple benefits including natural flood management.
12. Determine and remediate impacts on freshwater pearl mussels and their habitat.
13. Reduce the spread of non-native invasive plant species.
14. Support the continued control of American mink from source to mouth.
15. Remove or ease man-made obstructions to migratory fish.
16. Monitor and promote the outcomes of completed restoration projects.
17. Review and improve opportunities for responsible recreational access to water in the catchment.
18. Investigate the consequences of land use decisions and implementation of measures for Ecosystem Service delivery.

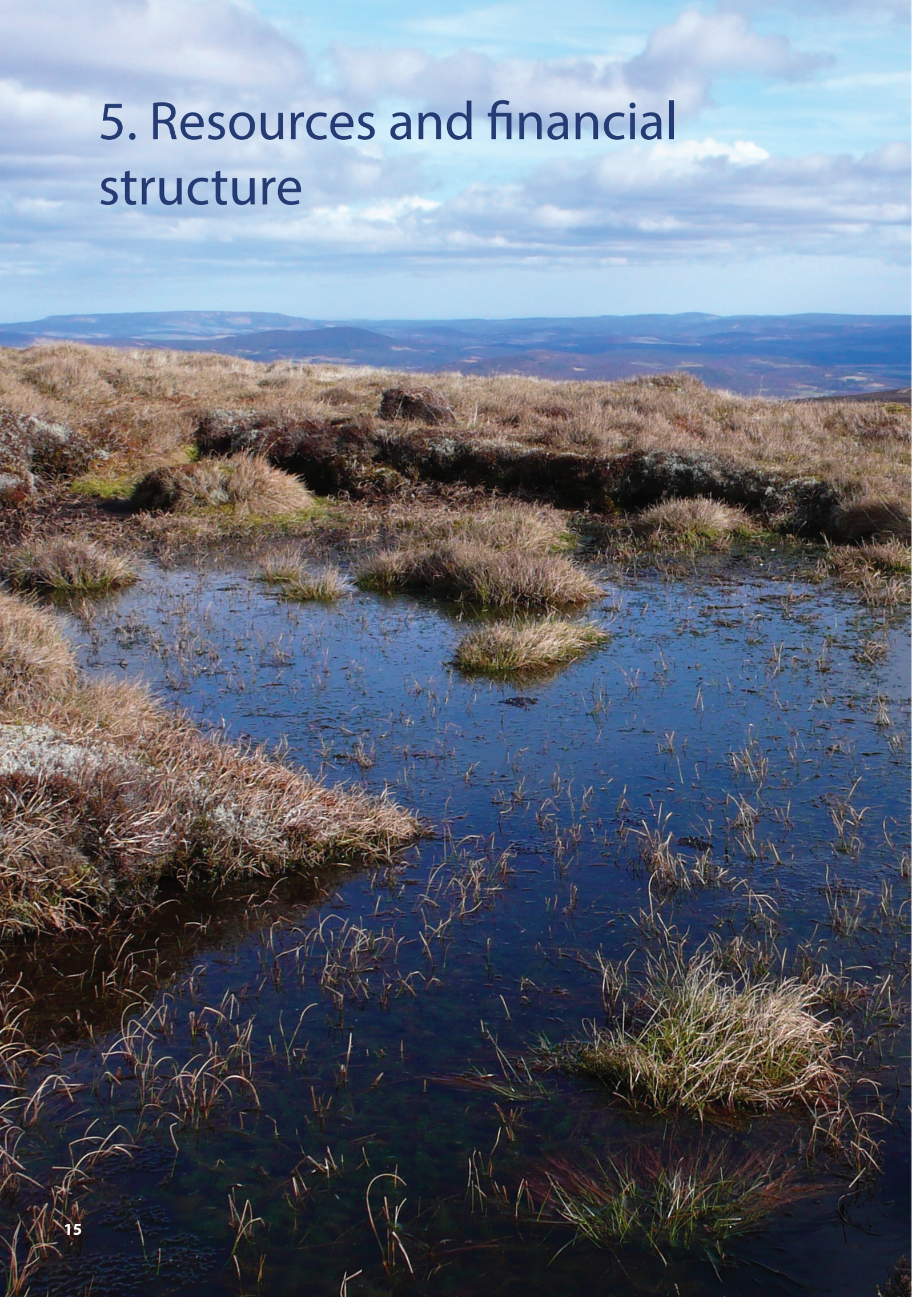
Raising awareness: Increase stakeholder engagement in Dee CMP delivery by raising awareness and understanding of key issues.

19. Disseminate information on DCP purpose, activities and achievements to partners and the wider catchment community.
20. Continue the septic tank awareness project and update and promote the DCP leaflet for use throughout the UK.
21. Gather citizen-sourced data on river conditions to contribute to monitoring and as an awareness and engagement tool.
22. Raise awareness amongst local developers of the requirement to protect watercourses from the impacts of works.
23. Prepare information for public consultation on Flood Risk Management planning.
24. Raise awareness of issues relating to freshwater pearl mussels throughout catchment.
25. Raise awareness of best practice in installing and managing effective agricultural buffer strips.
26. Promote Forest Industry Best Practice and support increased awareness of the UKFS: Forest and Water Guidelines.
27. Reduce human impacts on urban water quality in Aberdeen harbour and settlements outside Aberdeen.
28. Provide education to the public through liaison and signage to explain river/riparian management, conservation and access.
29. Raise awareness of the effects of recreation on the water environment, in order to minimise impacts.
30. Provide education to land/fishery managers on management for aquatic/riparian flora and fauna, recreation and access.
31. Create volunteering opportunities to manage recreation and riparian interest.
32. Raise awareness and understanding of river and catchment-related issues amongst young people.
33. Deliver projects to raise awareness of the concepts and purposes of ecosystems approaches to natural resource management .
34. Promote DCP lessons throughout Scotland and beyond.

Partnership management: Manage the Partnership to ensure delivery, transparency, efficiency and relevance.

35. Secure hosting and funding agreements to enable full delivery of the DCP Business Plan 2013-2016.
36. Produce an annual Work Programme, review progress against it and report on this annually.
37. Set, support and monitor quarterly workplans for staff, including training and development needs.
38. Participate in, support and promote DCP events and activities.
39. Consult on the options for reviewing the Dee CMP and entering a third DCP business plan period from March 2016.

5. Resources and financial structure



Funding history

There have been three funding phases:

- Phase 1 (2005 - 2007; £93,500). A new DCP Project Officer was employed to draft the Dee CMP, deliver the public consultation and publish the final plan.
- Phase 2 (2007 - 2010; £89,415). The employment of the Project Officer was continued (part time) as well as an occasional part time Project Assistant. These staff coordinated the initiation of Dee CMP delivery and undertook a range of awareness-raising activities.
- Phase 3 (2010 - 2013; £135,054). The above arrangement were extended, with a greater focus on project coordination and delivery.

Funding to date has been provided by the following organisations:

- Aberdeen City Council.
- Aberdeen Harbour Board.
- Aberdeenshire Council.
- Cairngorms National Park Authority.
- Forestry Commission Scotland.
- James Hutton Institute (formerly the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute), which has hosted DCP staff since the start of the project and will continue to host the Partnership Manager.
- MacRobert Trust.
- River Dee Trust, which will host the Dee Catchment Outreach Officer from August 2013.
- Scottish Enterprise.
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency.
- Scottish Natural Heritage.

The time provided by members of the Management Group and the various Project Delivery Groups is provided free of charge as a contribution in-kind. Other in-kind support has included the services of the River Restoration Centre (enabled by SNH and SEPA).

Funding requirements

The Dee CMP cannot be delivered without the independent coordination of dedicated staff. Costs associated with this core activity are primarily staff time, associated administrative support and communications activities.

Dedicated funding is sought for our projects. The main funding sources available to us are described in the table on page 18.

Working with our funders

The support of our funders and supporters, both financial and practical, is essential to the strength and continuing development of the Partnership. We take all opportunities to help funders deliver shared aims and objectives and recognise their support in all our communication materials.

Financial control systems

The James Hutton Institute is responsible for the security of the Partnership's assets and the proper administration of the Partnership's financial affairs. This includes the statutory requirement of ensuring that proper accounting records are kept which are able to disclose with reasonable accuracy the Partnership's financial position.

Budgets 2013 to 2016

EXPENDITURE	2013-14 BUDGET (£)	2014-15 FORECAST (£)	2015-16 FORECAST (£)
JHI-based staff (Partnership Manager 2 days a week)	£35,354.69	£36,385.87	£37,445.04
JHI-based staff (temporary Project Assistant to 30 Jun 2013)	£16,084.00	£0.00	£0.00
Communications activities costs (JHI-based staff)	£3,300.00	£3,300.00	£3,300.00
RDT-based staff (DCP Outreach Officer 3 days a week)	£25,180.00	£24,180.00	£20,385.00
RDT-based staff (RDT Outreach Officer 2 days a week)	£21,174.00	£20,174.00	£15,133.00
Partnership Priority Projects support costs	£18,600.00	£7,000.00	£15,800.00
Project reserve funds	£90,389.94	£48,050.20	£27,236.66
Total forecast income	£77,352.94	£70,226.34	£65,539.84
Total forecast expenditure	£119,692.69	£91,039.87	£92,063.04
FORECAST CLOSING BALANCE	**£48,050.20**	**£27,236.66**	**£713.46**

We aim to generate a small reserve (equivalent to 6 months salary) to enable either continuation into a further phase of delivery from 2016 with secured funding, or to close down the project in a controlled manner.

Funding sources for DCP project work

SOURCE	WORK SUPPORTED
SRDP - LMOs	Land managers can apply for funding for a range of options under LMO up to a maximum allowance for the business. Some options require a five year commitment and compliance with Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions and Statutory Management Requirements. Others are for one year. LMOs are non competitive and open to all land managers with land in Scotland.
SRDP - LEADER	Support for small-scale, community driven projects that are pilot and innovative in nature. The aim of LEADER is to increase the capacity of local rural community and business networks to build knowledge and skills, and encourage innovation and co-operation in order to tackle local development objectives. Funding is awarded by Local Action Groups who take decisions on projects which are community driven and have a wide community benefit.
SRDP - Rural Priorities	An integrated funding mechanism which will deliver targeted environmental, social and economic benefits. It will contribute to the delivery of the Scottish Government's strategic objectives through regional priorities. Rural Priorities is a competitive mechanism to ensure that contracts are awarded for the proposals which are best able to deliver the agreed regional priorities.
SEPA - Water Environment Fund	SEPA uses funding received from Scottish Government to restore the condition of Scotland's water environment and to support partnership projects with third parties. SEPA's role in the fund is to direct improvements in the water environment. For the present, SEPA has decided that the most cost-effective way to deliver improvements is to work with others. It is important that every project must aim to deliver improvements to wetlands, rivers, lochs/ponds, estuaries or coasts; contribute towards achieving Water Framework Directive (WFD) objectives; and where possible, deliver a wider range of environmental, social and economic benefits. Examples of partnership projects that could be considered for funding are: ▪ restoring natural processes in rivers or lochs; ▪ engineering degraded rivers to restore natural profiles by recreating meanders; ▪ removal or modification of man-made barriers to improve fish passage and sediment transport; ▪ restoration of flood plains, coastal intertidal zones and wetlands; ▪ scoping studies to assess costed options for restoration works.
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage continues to be able to offer grant support for projects not covered by SRDP. Grants are provided to a wide range of urban and rural projects that deliver outcomes linked to the SNH Corporate Strategy.
Private trusts/ charities	The MacRobert Trust: the major categories under which the Trustees consider support include Science and Technology, and Education. Esmée Fairbairn Foundation: primary interests are in the UK's cultural life, education and learning, the natural environment and enabling disadvantaged people to participate more fully in society.
EU	LIFE is the European Union's financial instrument supporting large-scale environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the Union and in some candidate and neighbouring countries.

6. What are the benefits of this Partnership?



Efficient and effective working

Working in partnership creates operational and financial efficiency. The agreement Dee CMP means that over 15 organisations in the area are working to an agreed holistic plan, which minimises both duplication of effort and the potential for conflicting activities. The Partnership brings the wider benefits of an established network, building respect, trust and understanding.

Meeting and adding value to organisational objectives

Dee CMP Objectives are strategically and actively aligned to the individual objectives of our partners. Working together adds significant value to these activities.

Demonstration of best practice for the wider area

The Dee Catchment Partnership contributes directly to a holistic, comprehensive and visionary plan for the economic, environmental and social benefit of the North East. Our projects provide demonstrations of best practice applicable throughout Scotland and beyond. We aim to share knowledge and experience with Scotland's other catchment planning initiatives and to find ways to work with them on shared projects in future.

Delivering national targets

Our Objectives contribute to achieving the Scottish Government's Strategic Objectives and National Outcomes. They support the delivery of the Water Framework, Floods and Habitats Directive, and the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017. Dee CMP delivery is aligned to the principles of the Scottish Land Use Strategy.

Getting things done

Our achievements to date include:

- The upper Dee floodplain restoration project which will reconnect an important floodplain area in 2014.
- Development of Supplementary Planning Guidance for watercourse protection during development works.
- The 'Think T.A.N.K!' septic tank awareness campaign. Our leaflet has been well-received throughout the catchment and beyond. It is now being distributed as UK national guidance.
- The development of the upper Dee riparian woodland restoration project, which will be delivered by the LIFE Pearls in Peril project by 2016.
- The reconnection of historic meanders in the Logie Burn.
- The installation of 100 kms of riparian fencing by the River Dee Trust since 1999.
- The development of the Aberdeen Harbour Environmental Code of Practice that is built in to construction and demolition contracts, allowing high standards of environmental conduct to be audited and enforced.
- Ongoing delivery of guidance, workshops and seminars to land managers on a wide range of agricultural and forestry related issues.
- The provision of a recognised and trusted forum for information exchange, consensus building and conflict resolution.
- The inclusion of Dee Catchment Management Plan Objectives as a Regional Priority under the Scottish Rural Development Programme.
- Recognition as a delivery mechanism for the Scotland RBMP.
- Selection by the Scottish Government to the first tranche of Priority Catchments for diffuse pollution work.
- Selection by the Scottish Government as one of four Pilot Catchments eligible for significant funding for catchment scale approaches to morphological restoration and natural flood management.
- Securing EU LIFE funding for the Pearls in Peril project.
- Our acceptance as a member of UNESCO's Hydrology for Environment Life and Policy international network of exemplar river basins.

Annexes



A. Dee Catchment Management Plan Objectives
B. Delivery of our partners' objectives
C. Members of the Dee Catchment Partnership
D. Acronyms and abbreviations
E. Dee Catchment facts and figures

WATER QUALITY	
1.	Improve water quality in rural areas by making planned reductions in **diffuse agricultural pollution**.
2.	Ensure **agricultural pesticides and sheep dip** are stored, used and disposed of in accordance with regulations.
3.	Encourage and promote good environmental practice for **woodland expansion and management** in order to protect and enhance water quality and biodiversity.
4.	Promote best management practice for dealing with **road and access track drainage**.
5.	Manage **surface water drainage** sustainably, taking account of water quality, habitat and flood risk.
6.	Ensure existing **foul and surface water drainage infrastructures** are satisfactory and those serving new developments are planned sustainably.
7.	Improve effluent quality from **private sewage treatment systems** to ensure compliance with the requirements of the SAC interests.
8.	Control the **storage and application of organic fertilisers** to avoid direct and indirect water pollution.
9.	Control operational **agricultural waste landfill sites** to avoid pollution of watercourses.
10.	Limit the environmental impact of **existing and closed landfill sites**. Identify and remediate **Contaminated Land**.
11.	Improve water quality in **Aberdeen's heavily modified urban watercourses**.
12.	Ensure good bathing water quality at **Aberdeen beach**.
13.	Reduce the impact of activities linked to **Aberdeen harbour** on water quality.
WATER RESOURCES	
14.	Regulate **abstraction** to prevent harm to SAC interests and ecological status, especially during low flow periods.
15.	Manage the land so as to **attenuate rates of runoff** (thereby reducing the severity of floods and droughts).
16.	Coordinate management of **flood alleviation schemes** across the catchment. Seek to prevent new flooding problems.
DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING WORKS	
17.	Promote environmentally sustainable **engineering works to the river channel and banks** in order to maintain SAC interests and the biodiversity of the river.
18.	Remove or redesign **man-made obstacles** in order to facilitate **fish passage**.
19.	Ensure that **changes of land use** do not impact adversely on riverine habitats and species.

HABITATS	
20.	Encourage re-creation of lost **lowland wetland habitats.**
21.	Encourage re-creation of lost **upland wetland habitats**.
22.	Reinstate the functionality of active **floodplains**.
23.	Support the restoration of degraded areas of **wet and riparian woodland** and encourage their expansion through planting or regeneration on appropriate sites.
24.	Identify **species-rich bankside grasslands** and promote positive management to maintain their diversity.
25.	Manage the habitat of **urban watercourses** sustainably.
SPECIES	
26.	Conserve and enhance the population, distribution and range of genetic sub-populations of **Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*** across the naturally accessible parts of the catchment.
27.	Implement measures to achieve agreed targets for the Dee **freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*** population.
28.	Maintain the population and current distribution of **otter *Lutra lutra*** throughout the river catchment.
29.	Control **invasive non native plant species** such as giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and water crowfoot.
30.	Control **American mink** in the Dee catchment.
31.	Manage **fishing ponds** sustainably.
32.	Establish and implement a **programme for monitoring and reporting the status of all fish species** in the Dee.
ACCESS AND RECREATION	
33.	Ensure the catchment's water environment is protected from the **impacts of recreational activity**.
SUB CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT	
34.	Improve water and habitat quality in the **Tarland burn**.
35.	Improve water and habitat quality in **Loch Davan**.
36.	Improve the water quality of the **Loch of Skene**.
37.	Improve the water and habitat quality of the **Elrick burn**.

AC	Delivery of the Dee CMP makes a direct contribution to a number of Aberdeenshire Council's Strategic Priorities ▪ Helping to deliver the Council's aim to maintain our special environment, thereby being the best area in Scotland. ▪ Exemplifying the way in which the Council works with its partners in the North East and beyond by being involved, responding and enabling. Partnership Working fosters efficiency, respect, trust and understanding. ▪ Facilitating actions which enhance the quality of rural life in Aberdeenshire, promote good land management that protects and enhances the natural environment, encourage better management of public access to our natural environment , thereby helping to deliver two of the Councils' Single Outcome Agreements (Outcomes 1 and 12) and Strategic Priorities ("providing good quality public spaces" and "protect and promote the natural environment") ▪ Setting out actions for the responsible management of our natural resources in the interests of current and future generations , thereby supporting the delivery of the Councils Sustainability Charter ▪ Setting out actions which will contribute to the reduction of flood risk, thereby supporting the Council in meeting its obligations under flood risk management ▪ Setting out actions to enhance and protect a number of important species and habitats thereby supporting the Council in meeting its obligations under the Nature Conservation Act and assisting the delivery of the Local Biodiversity Actions Plans of the Cairngorms and North East Scotland. ▪ Helping to deliver one of the long term priorities of the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership's Single Outcome Agreement - Supporting communities and volunteering.
ACC	Themes and Strategic Priorities achieved by Dee CMP: The vision for 'Aberdeen – the Smarter City' was approved by Aberdeen City Council on 14 February 2013 as part of the 5 year business plan. Within this vision the environment plays a central role and high level priorities are: ▪ We will provide a clean, safe and attractive streetscape and promote biodiversity and nature conservation. ▪ We will encourage wider access to green space in our streets, parks and countryside. Community Plan Update – 2008 and Single Outcome Agreement 2008 – 2011: 01 - Aberdeen is an even more attractive place in which to do business (Indirectly). 03 - Encourage and support people of all ages to take an active part in their own learning (Indirectly). 06 - Sustain long-term change by focusing on the prevention of, or reduction in, health inequalities (Indirectly). 10 - Neighbourhood Planning delivers quality of life improvements at a local level. (Directly). 10 - Enhance the total environment in social housing areas (Directly). 11 - Every citizen is enabled to be more active in his or her community regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, where they live or disability to ensure everyone can contribute to 'active citizenship' (Indirectly). 12 - Aberdeen's natural and built environment is protected and the City plays its part in protecting our planet (Directly). 14 - The impact of Council activities on the environment is minimised, including a target of being carbon neutral overall by 2020 and a commitment that all new Council developments will be carbon neutral (Directly).
AHB	Aberdeen Harbour Board operates a major port at the mouth of the River Dee, partially within the Special Area of Conservation. As a Trust Port it must balance its obligation to maintain and improve the port with its duty to have regard for nature conservation. The Board finds membership of the Dee CMP a useful way to interact with other stakeholders on the river and helps towards its objective of responsible environmental stewardship.
CNPA	' Catchment Management Planning is an important mechanism for partnership working at a landscape scale to deliver the priorities in the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17, in particular those relating to diffuse pollution, river and flood plain restoration and natural flood management. The Dee CMP contributes directly to many of the Plan's objectives, in particular the following Long Term Outcomes: ▪ The quality and connectivity of habitats in enhanced (e.g. increased area of woodland, improved water quality) ▪ The species for which the Park is most important are in better conservation status (e.g. Fresh Water Pearl Mussel) ▪ The special landscape qualities are conserved and enhanced The DCP will also play an important role to facilitate working relationships with delivery partners for the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan 2013-18, which incorporates actions for riparian woodland expansion, aspen conservation in riparian areas, improving the biodiversity value of wet grasslands, restoring and creating new wetlands, renaturalisation of modified watercourses, Sustainable Flood Management demonstration projects, control of INNS, and management of specific habitats for priority species.'
DDSFB	The DCP is an important delivery mechanism for Dee Fisheries Management Plan objectives and helps DDSFB to develop and strengthen working relationships with stakeholders and regulators.
FCS	Membership of the DCP helps FCS engage with a wide range of partners to deliver shared objectives, providing valuable opportunities to work together to improve the Forest and Water environments in Aberdeen City and Shire.

Annex B. Delivery of our partners' objectives

JHI	The DCP supports the James Hutton Institute in a number of ways. First, part of our mission is to provide evidence to support policy and its development, and the DCP provides us with an important example of how the information and knowledge we generate can be relayed to land managers. Second, the Dee CMP process provides an opportunity to learn what issues are priorities for natural resource use and management. Finally, the process provides us with an opportunity to assess the benefits and challenges of using a partnership approach to tackle land-use and environmental issues.
NFUS	The DCP provides a platform for frank exchange of opinions and ideas between stakeholders and NFUS farmer members. Mutual respect, awareness and understanding are creating better working relationships between these partners.
SRUC	As a provider of services to a largely rural client basis, Scotland's Rural College is committed to participation in the Dee CMP. It provides the opportunity not only to contribute in our areas of expertise but to actively engage more widely in partnership with a large number of stakeholders positively focussed at the catchment level, covering a number of areas such as legislation and regulation, water and land management, biodiversity and sustainability. It is our view that strengthening these partnerships will be the key to success. The work facilitated by the Dee CMP compliments our mission to enhance the rural economy and environment and we look forward to continuing our contribution.
SE	Scottish Enterprise helps ambitious businesses in Scotland to grow and become more successful, supporting key industry sectors and develop the business environment to enhance Scotland's economy. the Dee CMP supports the sustainable development of these sectors.
SEPA	Implementation of the Dee CMP is: ▪ Helping to ensure compliance with the main objectives of the Water Framework Directive, including bringing all water bodies in the Dee catchment up to at least Good ecological status, and ensuring no deterioration from current status. This includes helping to tackle diffuse pollution issues in the Dee as one of the fourteen national Priority Catchments, and working to restore beds and banks. ▪ Improving awareness of relevant good practice and the legislation in place to protect the environment of the catchment; helping businesses to realise the economic benefits of good environmental practice. ▪ Engaging with stakeholders in the water environment for improved ownership of environmental issues. ▪ Encouraging uptake of targeted funding opportunities to deliver the specific measures required to deliver improvements to ecological status. ▪ contributing to Flood Risk Management.
SG	The Purpose of the Scottish Government is underpinned by five Strategic Objectives - a Scotland that is Wealthier and Fairer, Smarter, Healthier, Safer and Stronger and Greener. Fifteen National Outcomes describe what the Government wants to achieve over the next ten years. Dee CMP delivery supports all five Strategic Objectives, by contributing directly to three National Outcomes and indirectly to a further five. Significant contribution is made to sustainability living, the value and protection of the natural environment and reduced local impacts.
SNH	SNH's priorities are aligned with and driven by the Scottish Government's five strategic objectives. Well managed natural assets are critical to several of the outcomes set out in the National Performance Framework. Our ambition is that natural assets are sustainably managed so that they generate wealth for all and they sustain and improve our health, wealth, lifestyles and culture. The DCP contributes to these goals in many ways such as: ▪ Biodiversity - helping to meet national and international obligations by tackling invasive species amongst other things ▪ Climate change – shading provided by new riparian woodland in the upper Dee catchment can help mitigate the effects of rising water temperatures. ▪ Protected places – the protected features of the River Dee SAC are integral to the health of the river and in turn the wider benefits which stem from it in terms of tourism, jobs and benefit to the local economy. ▪ Land use – in line with the Scottish Government's ambition for a more coordinated land use approach, DCP provides an excellent example of collaborative and partnership working.
SLE	The DCP provides a trusted forum for information exchange between stakeholders involved with rural property and businesses connected with the land.
SW	Scottish Water's purpose is to provide high quality affordable water while protecting and enhancing our environment and supporting Scotland's communities and economy. The Dee CMP can contribute towards this in the Dee catchment area and will assist in the following areas in which SW has a particular interest or role to play: ▪ Identification of potential issues and mitigation measures to ensure the necessary protection of Drinking Water Protected Areas with the aim of avoiding deterioration in their quality and also aiming to reduce the level of purification treatment required in the production of drinking water. ▪ Promoting responsible access to land and water which will aid the protection of SW sources and assets. ▪ Developing working relationships with stakeholders and regulators to understand the condition of the environment and work to continue to meet regulatory requirements and provide environmental protection in relation to the SW activities in the catchment (such as impoundments, abstractions and discharges). ▪ Providing input to future SW investment plans to address improvements that may be required.

Dee Catchment Partnership

Aberdeen City Council
Aberdeen Harbour Board
Aberdeenshire Council
Cairngorms National Park Authority
Cairngorms Nature
Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust
Dee District Salmon Fishery Board
Dee Salmon Fishery Improvement Association
Forestry Commission Scotland
James Hutton Institute
Marine Scotland Science
National Farmers Union Scotland
National Trust for Scotland
North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership
River Dee Trust
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Scotland's Rural College
Scottish Enterprise
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Division
Scottish Land & Estates
Scottish Natural Heritage
Scottish Water
Scottish Wildlife Trust

Dee Catchment Partnership Management Group

Independent Chairman
Major General John Barr CB CBE

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Annex D. Acronyms and abbreviations

AC Aberdeenshire Council

ACC Aberdeen City Council

AHB Aberdeen Harbour Board

AWPR Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route

CMP Catchment Management Plan

CNPA Cairngorms National Park Authority

DCP Dee Catchment Partnership

Dee CMP Dee Catchment Management Plan

DDSFB Dee District Salmon Fishery Board

EC European Commission

EGCP East Grampian Coastal Partnership

EU European Union

FCS Forestry Commission Scotland

FPM Freshwater pearl mussel

FTE Full Time Equivalent

HELP Hydrology for Environment Life and Policy

ICM Integrated Catchment Management

LAG Local Action Group

LBP Local Biodiversity Partnership

LMO Land Managers Options

MG Management Group

JHI James Hutton Institute

NEAAG North East Area Advisory Group

NE North East

NESBReC North East Scotland Biological Records Centre

NFUS National Farmers' Union Scotland

RBMP River Basin Management Plan

RPAC Regional Proposal Assessment Committee

SAC Special Area of Conservation

SEARS Scotland's Environmental and Rural Services

SEPA Scottish Environment Protection Agency

SGRPID Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Division

SG Steering Group

SLE Scottish Land and Estates

SMART Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time-based

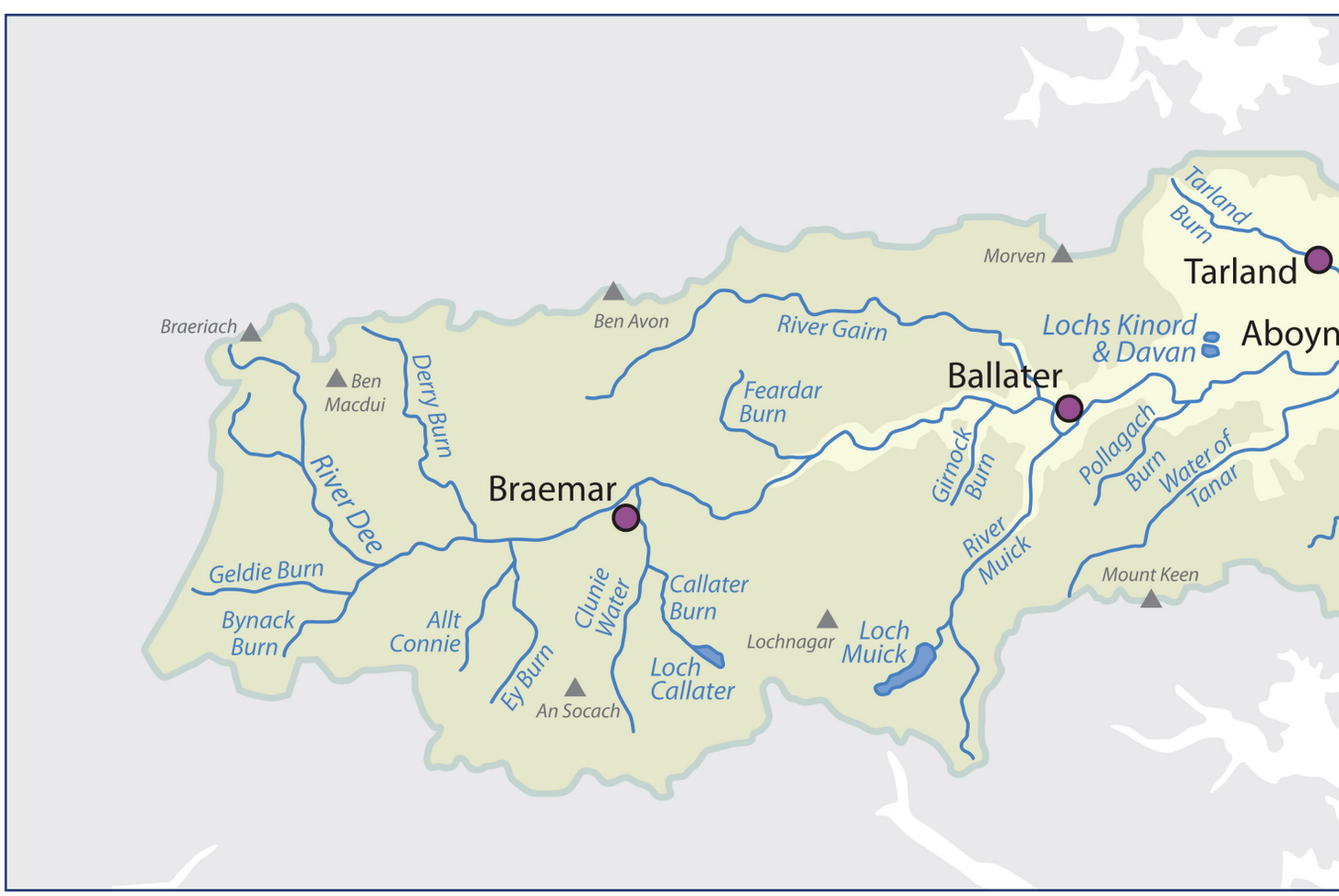
SNH Scottish Natural Heritage

SRDP Scottish Rural Development Programme

SW Scottish Water

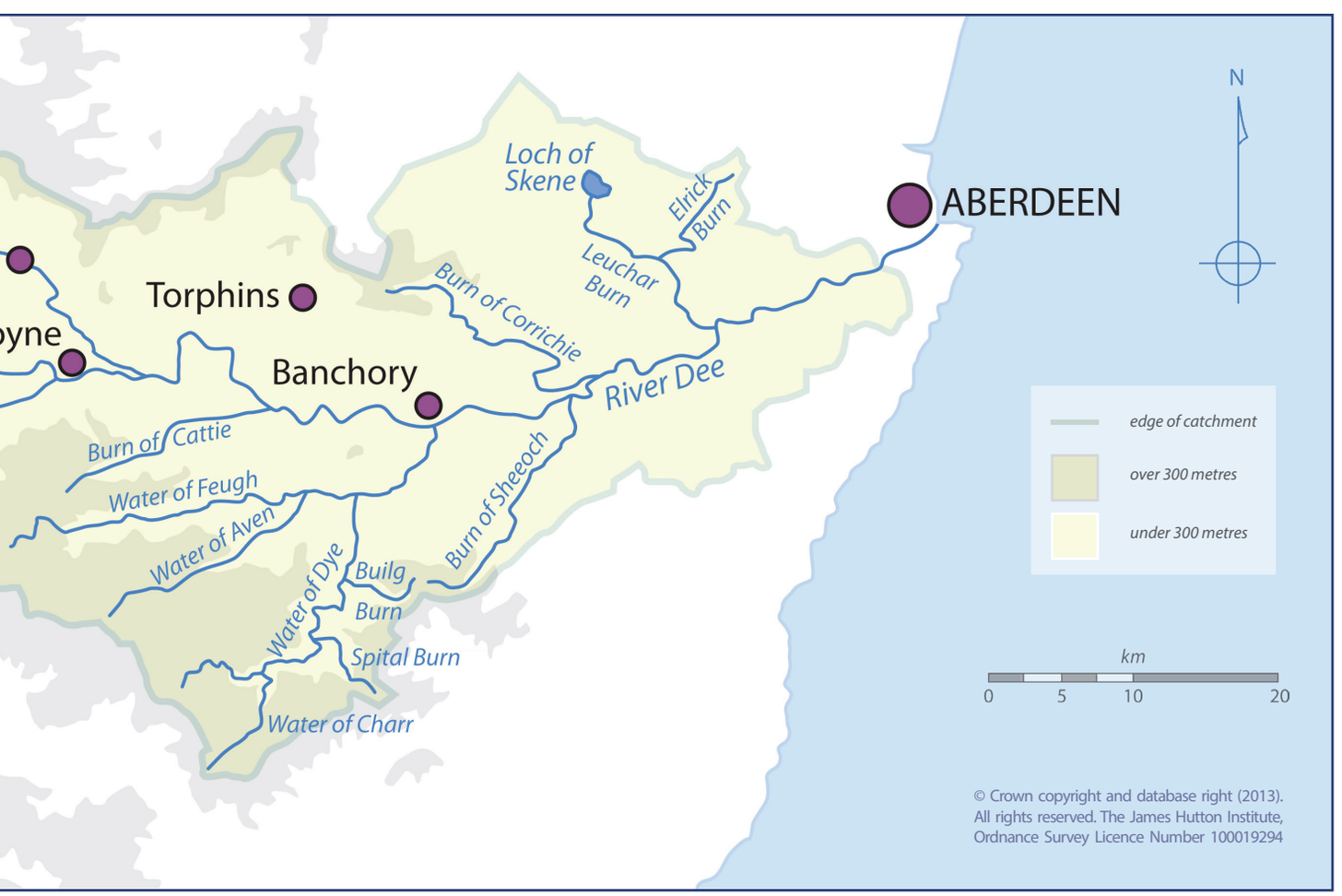
WFD Water Framework Directive

126 km
1220 m
2100 km²
300 km
60 %
5
17
1645 km
24
135,000
1.3 million
56
5
11
7
3
28



Annex E. River Dee Catchment facts and figures

main stem of the Dee
source of the Dee (Wells of Dee, Braeriach)
catchment area
catchment perimeter
of the land is over 300m
lochs
major tributaries
of river network
bridges
people
freshwater pearl mussels
WFD Waterbodies
National Nature Reserves
Special Areas of Conservation
Special Protection Areas
RAMSAR Sites
Sites of Special Scientific Interest



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