



**PERTH &
KINROSS
COUNCIL**

Environmental Report **Non-technical Summary**

Prepared by Perth & Kinross Council

TAYplan Main Issues Report



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Consultation and next steps

This non-technical summary sets out the purpose, methods and findings of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which has informed the development of the Main Issues Report and will inform the Strategic Development Plan ("the Plan"). The summary can be read on its own or as part of the full Environmental Report.

The Environmental Report has been prepared by Perth & Kinross Council and was submitted to the Consultation Authorities (SNH, SEPA and Historic Scotland) on 30 March and opened to public consultation, alongside the TAYplan Main Issues Report (MIR), from 30 March to 2 July 2010.

Both documents will be available at: www.tayplan-sdpa.gov.uk and on the Perth & Kinross Council web site at: www.pkc.gov.uk

If you are unable to access documents via the internet, please write to the address below or telephone 01738 475383.

Written comments on either or both documents, and on the contribution of the SEA process to the development of the MIR, are invited by 2 July 2010.

Comments should be submitted by 2 July:

By Internet:	Complete the on-line form by going to	http://www.tayplan-sdpa.gov.uk
By Email to:	SEA@pkc.gov.uk or	contactus@tayplan-sdpa.gov.uk to
By Post to:	Planning The Environment Service Pullar House 35 Kinnoull Street PERTH PH1 5GD	TAYplan Enterprise House 3 Greenmarket DUNDEE DD1 4QB

What are the key dates?

Future key milestones in the development of the Plan and associated SEA are shown below.

Milestone	Anticipated date	Time period
Publication of Environmental Report	30 March 2010	14 Weeks
Launch of the Main Issues Report	12 April 2010	
Consultation period for Main Issues Report	12 April to 2 July 2010	12 weeks
Active consultation (meetings, workshops, displays)	10 May to 2 July 2010	8 weeks
Consideration of comments received	July to September 2010	8 weeks
Publication of Proposed Plan	May 2011	
Approval of the Plan and publication of SEA post-adoption statement	April 2013	

Are there any questions you would like answered in the consultation?

Below are some questions we would like you to answer and to help us assess whether we have got it right.

- 1 Do you agree with our understanding of the baseline environment in the TAYplan Area?

- 2 Do think there are there any other plans, policies (in addition to those listed in the Environmental Report) or wider environmental objectives that should be taken into account?
- 3 In your opinion have we identified the most important or significant environmental problems affecting the TAYplan area?
- 4 Do you disagree with any of the assessment questions? If so please identify which ones and why. (Please back this up with additional baseline data and explain your reasoning)
- 5 Do you have concerns about significant or cumulative environmental effects on particular parts of the TAYplan area or on particular environmental features? (If yes, please give details)
- 6 Do think there are there further, relevant positive aims and aspirations for the environment that the Strategic Development Plan could deliver in the long term? If yes, please give details.

What will happen next?

All comments received on the Environmental Report, during the consultation period, will be reviewed and taken into account during the preparation of the Proposed Plan. An adoption statement which will be published alongside the approved Plan will set out how the assessment findings and the consultation responses have been taken into account in the approved Plan.

Area covered by plan

The map below shows the area covered by the Proposed Plan and includes Angus, Dundee City, Perth & Kinross and North-east Fife but excludes the parts of the National Parks which are within Council areas of Angus and Perth & Kinross.



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Map 1: The TAYplan area in a Scottish context

What is the purpose of strategic environmental assessment (SEA)?

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process (Figure 1) intended to ensure that the possible environmental effects both positive and negative of plans, programmes and strategies are fully considered and taken account of in the course of their development.

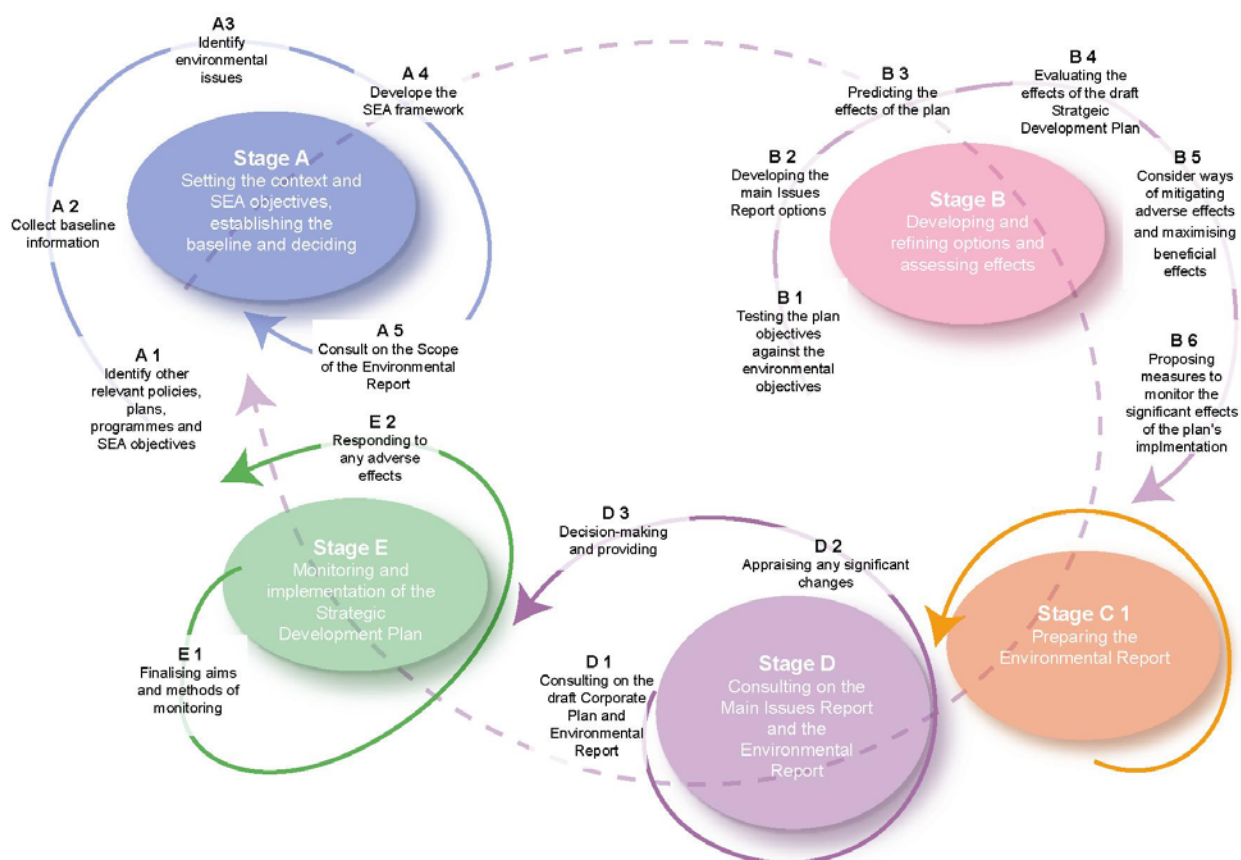


Figure 1: The SEA process showing its iterative nature

The principle of SEA is that if aspects of the environment, such as plants and animals, water quality, historic features, and human health, are considered whilst a plan is being prepared, then it can be modified to avoid or limit harmful effects and to promote or increase positive effects. The Environmental Report records the assessment of the Main Issues Report's vision and spatial strategy as it has been developed.

What is the TAYplan Main Issues Report?

The Main Issues Report as well as identifying the main cross-boundary land use planning issues presents a vision of how the area should develop over the next 20 years. It also indicates generally where development should and should not take place in Angus, Dundee City, Perth & Kinross and North-east Fife. However it is emphasised that the Main Issues Report is not a draft plan. If you want to find out more about the Main Issues Report you can go to the TAYplan website (<http://www.tayplan-sdpa.gov.uk>).

What is the relationship with other plans?

The Plan will not exist in isolation and there are a number of plans, programmes and strategies (PPS) that set the context for the Plan and the area it covers. The purpose of reviewing other plans and programmes as part of the process is to ensure that the relationship with these other

documents is fully explored and to ensure that the relevant environmental protection and sustainability objectives are taken on board through the assessment. Reviewing the plans and programmes also provides information on the current situation in the plan area and helped us identify the key environmental issues.

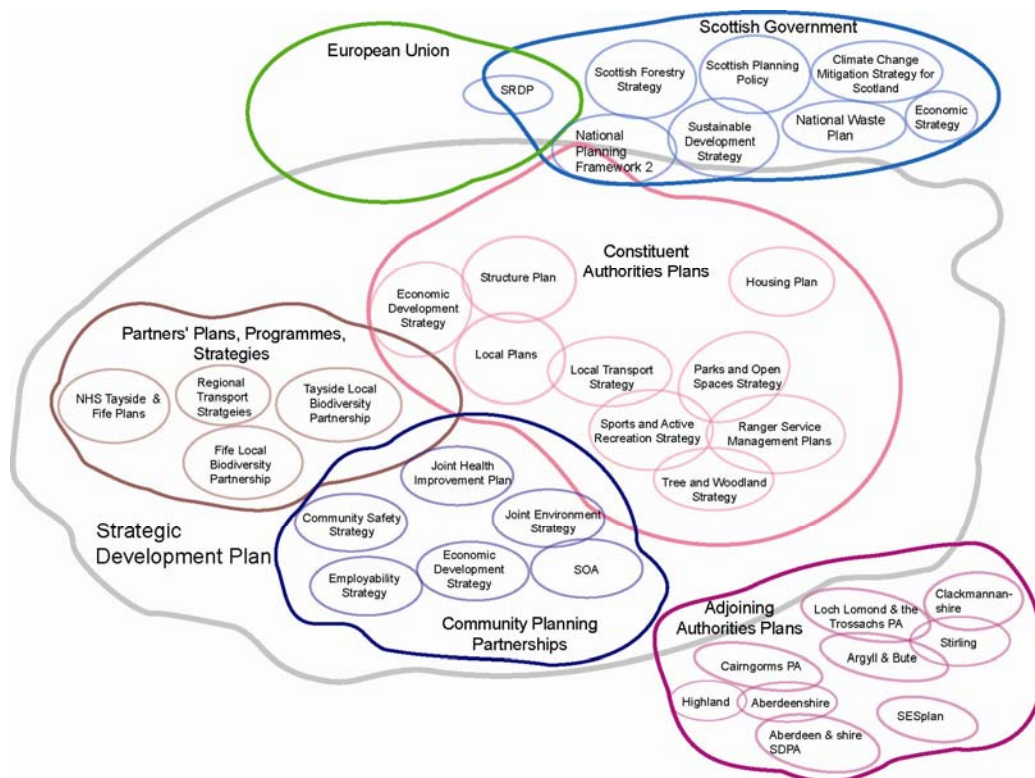


Figure 2: Plans influencing the strategic development plan

The plans and programmes thought to have an influence on or influenced by the Plan are identified in Figure 2, Table 1 and in more detail in the Environmental Report. Only those which are particularly relevant to the Strategic Development Plan have been reviewed as it is not meaningful to identify every possible plan or programme.

Table 1: Main themes from the review of plans, programmes and environmental objectives

Topic	Type of Plans Reviewed	Relevant Environmental Objectives from PPS*
Biodiversity	Tayside and Fife biodiversity action plans, National Park Plans, River Basin Plans, National Forest Strategy, Wild Deer Strategy, Regional Transport Strategy, economic strategies	All seek to protect and enhance biodiversity and sensitive habitats.
Population	National/Regional/Local strategies for sustainable development, regeneration, housing, health, education, recreation	Many recognise the pressures and opportunities from a growing and aging population
Human Health	National/Regional/Local strategies for sustainable development, regeneration, housing, health, education, recreation	Many recognise that there are still major challenges in terms of delivering improvements to the quality of people's lives, their health and well-being.
Soil	National/Regional/Local implementation plans, Rural Development Plan for Scotland, National Forest Strategy, sustainable development strategies	Some recognise the need to protect, enhance and reduce soil damage and erosion

* Plan, Programme and Strategy

Topic	Type of Plans Reviewed	Relevant Environmental Objectives from PPS*
Water	River basin management plans, river catchment management plans, resource and capacity development plans, aquaculture strategies	Generally aim to protect the water environment whilst some aim to improve it. Some plans advocate management of flood risk as part of a holistic approach to water management
Air	National air quality strategy, regional/local air quality action plans	Many seek to reduce energy consumption and the need to travel, as a means of reducing emissions and improving the air quality.
Climatic factors	National climate change strategies and delivery plans, renewables action plan, forestry commissions action plan	All recognise the need to adapt to and reduce the impacts of climate change.
Material Assets	National economic strategies, national tourism strategy, national/regional transport strategies, national/regional waste plans	Many the development of infrastructure to reduce flood risk.
Cultural Heritage	National/regional/local strategies	Many seek to conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage
Landscape	National/regional spatial development and landscape plans	All seek to conserve and enhance landscape character.

What is the TAYplan environment currently like?

An essential part of the SEA process is the identification of the current baseline conditions and their likely evolution. It is only with a knowledge of existing conditions, and a consideration of their significance, that the issues which the plans and programmes should address (in this case the Strategic Development Plan) can be identified and its subsequent success or otherwise be monitored.

The table below provides some baseline facts for TAYplan area and Map 2 at the back of this document shows graphically how the various designations and environmental matters are distributed throughout the TAYplan area.

Table 2: Environmental facts

Resource	Key Facts
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45,983 ha of Ancient and semi-natural woodland 26 SAC sites (44,316 ha), 14 SPA sites (32,705 ha), 183 SSSIs (77,982 ha), 9 Ramsar Sites (4,622 ha), 8 National Nature Reserves (8,281 ha)
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 475,189 people (GROS mid-year estimate 2008) Population density 42.8 people/sq km (Scottish average 68 people /sq km)
Human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18.7 % of population over 65 (higher than Scottish average) Life expectancy is significantly better than Scottish average (except for Dundee where it is lower)
Geology, Soils and Minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High proportion of undisturbed soils (only 22.7% cultivated) 93,872 ha of prime agricultural land 465 ha vacant /derelict land
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 55 % of rivers and streams classified as at risk 120 sq km standing waters 5,933 ha affected by fluvial flooding 2,124 ha affected by coastal flooding
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively low atmospheric pollution 3 air quality management areas due to road traffic (Dundee, Perth and Bonnygate-Cupar)
Climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual precipitation over 1500 mm on summits and under 700 mm along coasts of Angus and Fife Average annual snow cover 100 days on summits and 20 days on low ground

	o Mean July maximum 16 - 19° C
Material assets	o 280,000 tonnes of municipal waste o 33 % recycled
Cultural heritage	o 69 Gardens and Designed Landscapes (13,250 ha), 245 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 45 properties in care, 11,231 listed buildings, 82 Conservation Areas
Landscape	o 6 National Scenic Areas (77,200ha)

Why did you choose to look at these environmental topics?

The choice of environmental topics included in the Environmental Report was based upon those specified in legislation, the issues identified in the earlier Scoping Report and in consultation with Historic Scotland, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage. It is also based on the range of matters that the Plan is likely to deal with.

Table 3: Scope of the Environmental assessment

SEA Topic	Reason
Biodiversity	Has the potential to cause significant environmental effects. Also has potential to enhance positive effects from development
Population	May generate significant positive or negative effects, depending on the needs and development proposals.
Human Health	The area has significant geographical inequalities in health levels.
Soil	Potential for significant cumulative effects, depending on approach to strategic land allocations and overall spatial patterns of growth.
Water	Potential for effects on water quality, water supplies, drainage, flooding and morphology.
Air	Has potential to have negative effect from emissions from road transport.
Climatic factors	The plan can also make a significant contribution to the need for long-term mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
Material assets	Issues around transport infrastructure, derelict and vacant land and sustainable waste management.
Cultural heritage	Depending on the scale and location of development, the plan has the potential to generate significant effects on cultural heritage.
Landscape	Regionally significant landscape change may arise from different elements of the spatial strategy.

Table 4 summarises the environmental issues in the TAYplan area which can be influenced by the Strategic Development Plan and these are also shown in Maps 3 and 4. Consequently, these are the potentially significant issues which have been identified for the Environmental Report to focus on.

Table 4: Main environmental problems and issues of relevance

SEA Topic	Problems, issues and relevance to MIR/ Proposed Plan
Biodiversity	Problem: Pressures from increased development on both designated and non-protected sites. Damage could also result from poorly implemented or inappropriate development. Cumulative development pressure on the TAYplan coastline. Indirect effects such as disturbance, sedimentation and nutrient enrichment in watercourses/waterbodies. Alien species. Implication: The Strategic Development Plan should be implemented under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.
Population & Human Health	Problem: Provision of affordable housing across the area for the projected population increases. Ease of access to employment, education and essential services across the urban and rural communities. Implication: The Strategic Development Plan should address issues relating to changing population and health inequalities through the provision of services.

SEA Topic	Problems, issues and relevance to MIR/ Proposed Plan
Soil	Problem: Irreversible loss of soil through development, contamination or erosion. Implication: The Strategic Development Plan should promote the sustainable use of the soil resource
Water	Problem: The need to achieve and maintain at least 'good' ecological status of the water environment (water quality, quantity, ecology/habitats and physical impacts). Implication: This requires actions to reduce pollution, promote sustainable water use, and contribute to the mitigation of floods and drought.
Air	Problem: High emissions from road traffic and levels of air pollution in hotspot areas such as Dundee, Cupar, and Perth. Implication: The Strategic Development Plan should promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through improved energy efficiency, resource efficiency, green travel and behavioural change.
Climatic factors	Problem: The vulnerability of parts of the area to increased flooding, and sea level rises as a result of climate change. Particularly sensitive areas include flood plains, river corridors and coastal areas. Implication: It should also seek to show leadership to the wider community and direct development away from areas of flood risk
Material Assets	Problem: The proper management of infrastructure and conservation of resources is central to the TAYplan's aim of achieving sustainable development and protecting the environment. Implication: Reducing the consumption of resources through the procurement of goods and services and work towards increasing the recycling of all waste in the area.
Cultural Heritage	Problem: Impact of increased pressure for inappropriate development on sites of historical importance. Promoting rural environments for tourism whilst maintaining their character. Implication: The Strategic Development Plan should support the protection and enhancement of the areas cultural heritage.
Landscape	Problem: Increased pressure from development resulting in an incremental adverse impact on the landscape, both designated sites and the wider landscapes. Implication: The Strategic Development Plan should support the principles of the European Landscape Convention and seek to protect and enhance all landscapes.

What was your overall approach to SEA?

Within the topics identified for consideration, a total of 31 questions were devised to allow assessment of the Main Issues Report. Examples of the questions are shown in Table 5 below. The choice of topics and questions was initially proposed in a Scoping Report and accepted by the statutory Consultation Authorities (SNH, SEPA and Historic Scotland).

How have you assessed the possible effects of the Proposed Plan?

Assessment was applied to the development of the Plan at two key stages; the 'vision' and the 'spatial strategy'. The assessments identify a number of suggested mitigation and enhancement measures, some of which were incorporated into the Main Issues Report and others will inform the development of the Proposed Plan.

Table 5 SEA objectives and related assessment questions

Topic	SEA Objective	Assessment questions will it ...
Biodiversity	To conserve and enhance the diversity of species and habitats	...protect and enhance valuable wildlife habitats and species...?
Human Health	To maximise the health and well-being of the population through improved environmental quality	...ensure the accessibility of healthcare services, including access to environments that may be beneficial to health...?

Topic	SEA Objective	Assessment questions will it ...
Soil	To safeguard soil quality and quantity through restoration, and the reduction of soil sealing or contamination	...minimise the amount of prime agricultural land required to implement the strategy...?
Water	To maintain catchment processes and hydrological systems within the TAYplan area	...reduce the number of properties, and infrastructure, at risk from flooding...?
Air	To protect and enhance air quality	...reduce levels of pollution to air in the TAYplan area...?
Climatic Factors	To ensure climate change adaptation	...avoid new development in areas at risk from erosion, including coastal erosion...?
Material Assets	To minimise waste	...encourage the safe treatment and disposal of waste...?
Cultural Heritage	To protect and where appropriate enhance the cultural and built environment	...ensure high design quality and respect for local character...?
Landscape	To protect and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the TAYplan area's landscape	...respect landscape capacity, visual amenity, and the spatial diversity of communities...?

Can you be certain of your predictions?

The prediction of future events and conditions in the environment is a central part of SEA although there are many uncertainties and prediction of the future will always be difficult. Nonetheless, our goal has been to allow the decision-maker to make 'good decisions' based on effective predictions.

Can you tell me what the 'vision' is for the TAYplan area?

The vision for the area is to create a *"... sustainable region which is beautiful, vibrant, clean and green where the regeneration and growth of Dundee and other settlements has made it a great place for people to live, work, invest and visit that does not create an unacceptable burden on the planet."*

Can you tell me more about how the Plan will achieve that?

The TAYplan team has identified two spatial strategy options about where future development could be concentrated which are thought to be 'realistic and reasonable' and these are outlined below.

Strategy A – this option suggests that development is concentrated mostly in and around Dundee and Perth with any additional development accommodated in the other principal settlements of the TAYplan area. If it's not possible to accommodate the scale of development required in these towns there may be a need for settlement extensions or new settlements.

Strategy B – this option also concentrates development around Dundee. However, rather than concentrate development in and around Perth it suggests that development could be dispersed across the Perth Housing Market Area, predominantly eastwards along the Carse of Gowrie.

The Main Issues Report suggests that **Strategy A** is the preferred alternative. If you want more information on the strategies then you will find it in the Main Issues Report.

How much land will be affected by new development?

The following figure puts into context the amount of land required to accommodate the scale of development proposed by TAYplan over the next 20 years or so.

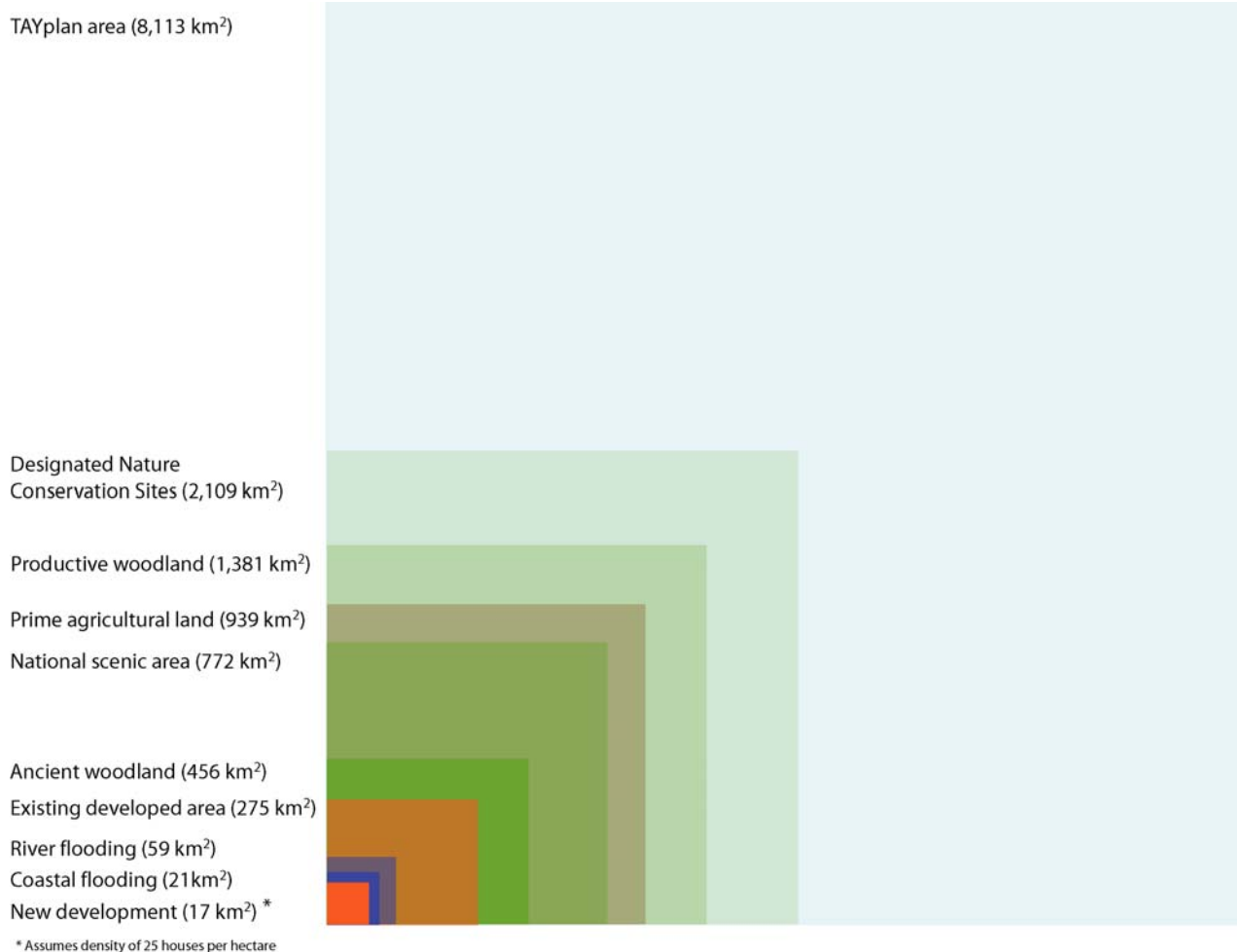


Figure 3: TAYplan area and 'new' development land in context

Have you considered alternatives?

Alternatives to the spatial strategy have been considered and these can be found in the Main Issues Report and its associated documents.

What effect will the Strategic Development Plan have on the environment?

Clearly the Strategic Development Plan will affect, in both a positive and negative way, the environment both within and outside the TAYplan area. Table 6 summarises the possible effects of the alternative strategies considered for the area. In identifying impacts, the following key is used throughout this section:

Key:

- Significant positive impact
- Positive impact
- Neutral impact, or rough balance between positive and negative impacts
- Unclear impact, or no data available
- Impact could be positive or negative depending on implementation
- Negative impact
- Significant negative impact

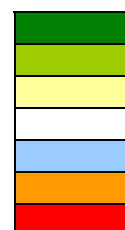


Table 6: Summary of assessment of alternative strategies

Topic	Likely situation with TAYplan Strategy A	Likely situation with TAYplan Strategy B
Biodiversity	Overall, the spatial strategy proposes development that could have potentially significant adverse effects on biodiversity, both protected and non-protected, within the TAYplan area.	Overall, the spatial strategy proposes development that could have potentially significant adverse effects on biodiversity, both protected and non-protected, within the TAYplan area. There are potentially significant negative impacts in relation to the Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPAs.
Population & Health	Overall, the spatial strategy has a framework that would guide development in a positive manner that would improve the quality of life for the TAYplan population.	Overall, the spatial strategy has a framework that would guide development in a positive manner that would improve the quality of life for the TAYplan population. However, the option of developing in the greater Perth Housing Market Area would be a negative aspect of the strategy.
Soil	With the exception of Dundee, development will largely have a negative impact on soil and land.	With the exception of Dundee, development will largely have a significant negative impact on soil and land.
Water	The increased pressure from development could impact on the quality and quantity.	The increased pressure from development could impact on the quality and quantity.
Air	The SDP will have limited direct influence on reducing the level of air pollutants however it can set the agenda for the issue through such indirect measures as stated above.	The SDP will have limited direct influence on reducing the level of air pollutants however it can set the agenda for the issue through such indirect measures as stated above.
Climatic factors	The spatial strategy will promote a large amount of development in coastal areas and areas at risk from flooding. The majority of these areas are low-medium risk.	The spatial strategy will promote a larger amount of development in coastal areas and areas at risk from flooding. However proposals development in the Firth Lowlands, an area of significantly high flood risk, increases this exposure to risk
Material assets	There is the potential to have cumulative negative impacts associated with rising sea-levels and infrastructure security, in the Perth Core Area.	Proposals to develop along the Firth Lowlands would need to be accompanied by appropriate infrastructure. There is the potential to have cumulative negative impacts associated with rising sea-levels and infrastructure security, in both the Perth Core Area, and the Firth Lowlands.
Cultural Heritage	Overall, the spatial strategy proposes development that could have negative impacts on the historic environment within the TAYplan area.	Overall, the spatial strategy proposes development that could have negative impacts on the historic environment within the TAYplan area.
Landscape	The proposals under the spatial strategy are likely to have negative impacts on landscape, with the exception of Dundee.	The proposals under the spatial strategy are likely to have negative impacts on landscape, with the exception of Dundee.

Have you considered the cumulative effects of the actions in the Strategic Development Plan and other plans?

In order to assess the cumulative effects of the Plan on the environment we have looked at other plans and policies that may have an effect on the TAYplan area's environment. This has allowed us to assess whether any negative environmental impacts of the Plan will be counterbalanced by improvements in other areas or whether positive environmental effects can be enhanced by similar actions in other areas. A summary of the outcome of the assessment is shown in Table 7 below.

In identifying impacts, the following key is used throughout this section:

Key:

- Significant positive impact
- Positive impact
- Neutral impact, or rough balance between positive and negative impacts
- Unclear impact, or no data available
- Impact could be positive or negative depending on implementation
- Negative impact
- Significant negative impact



Table 7: Summary of cumulative effects

	TAYplan preferred Strategy A	Tay Area draft Management Plan 2009-15	Tay Forest District Strategic Plan 2009-13	National Planning Framework 2	Overall effecting TAYplan area
Biodiversity	Significant negative impact	Significant positive impact	Significant positive impact	Impact could be positive or negative depending on implementation	Overall, the Plan has potentially significant cumulative adverse effects that would not be mitigated by other plans.
Population & Health	Significant positive impact	Positive impact	Positive impact	Positive impact	Overall the Plan would have significant positive cumulative effects when acting with other plans.
Water & Soil	Significant negative impact	Significant positive impact	Positive impact	Impact could be positive or negative depending on implementation	The potential significant adverse effects could be mitigated to some extent by other plans.
Air	Negative impact	Unclear impact, or no data available	Neutral impact, or rough balance between positive and negative impacts	Negative impact	Overall the Plan has potentially significant adverse effects.
Climatic factors	Negative impact	Positive impact	Significant positive impact	Unclear impact, or no data available	Other plans would mitigate the negative impacts of the Plan.
Material Assets	Impact could be positive or negative depending on implementation	Unclear impact, or no data available	Positive impact	Impact could be positive or negative depending on implementation	The impact of the Plan is uncertain as it depends on how they are implemented.
Cultural Heritage	Negative impact	Neutral impact, or rough balance between positive and negative impacts	Impact could be positive or negative depending on implementation	Impact could be positive or negative depending on implementation	The impact of the Plan is uncertain as it depends on how all plans are implemented.
Landscape	Impact could be positive or negative depending on implementation	Neutral impact, or rough balance between positive and negative impacts	Impact could be positive or negative depending on implementation	Impact could be positive or negative depending on implementation	The impact of the Plan is uncertain as it depends on how all plans are implemented.

What are your overall conclusions?

Our overall conclusions are that the effects are largely uncertain as they will depend on how the Plan is taken forward and implemented by lower level plans and policies.

What changes have you recommended to ensure negative environmental effects are avoided, mitigated or positive effects enhanced?

We think that much could be done to improve the environment if the Proposed Plan identified environmental matters that would strengthen its contribution to enhancing and managing biodiversity, addressing climate change through adaptation, air quality, greenspace, and soils. Consequently, we recommend that:

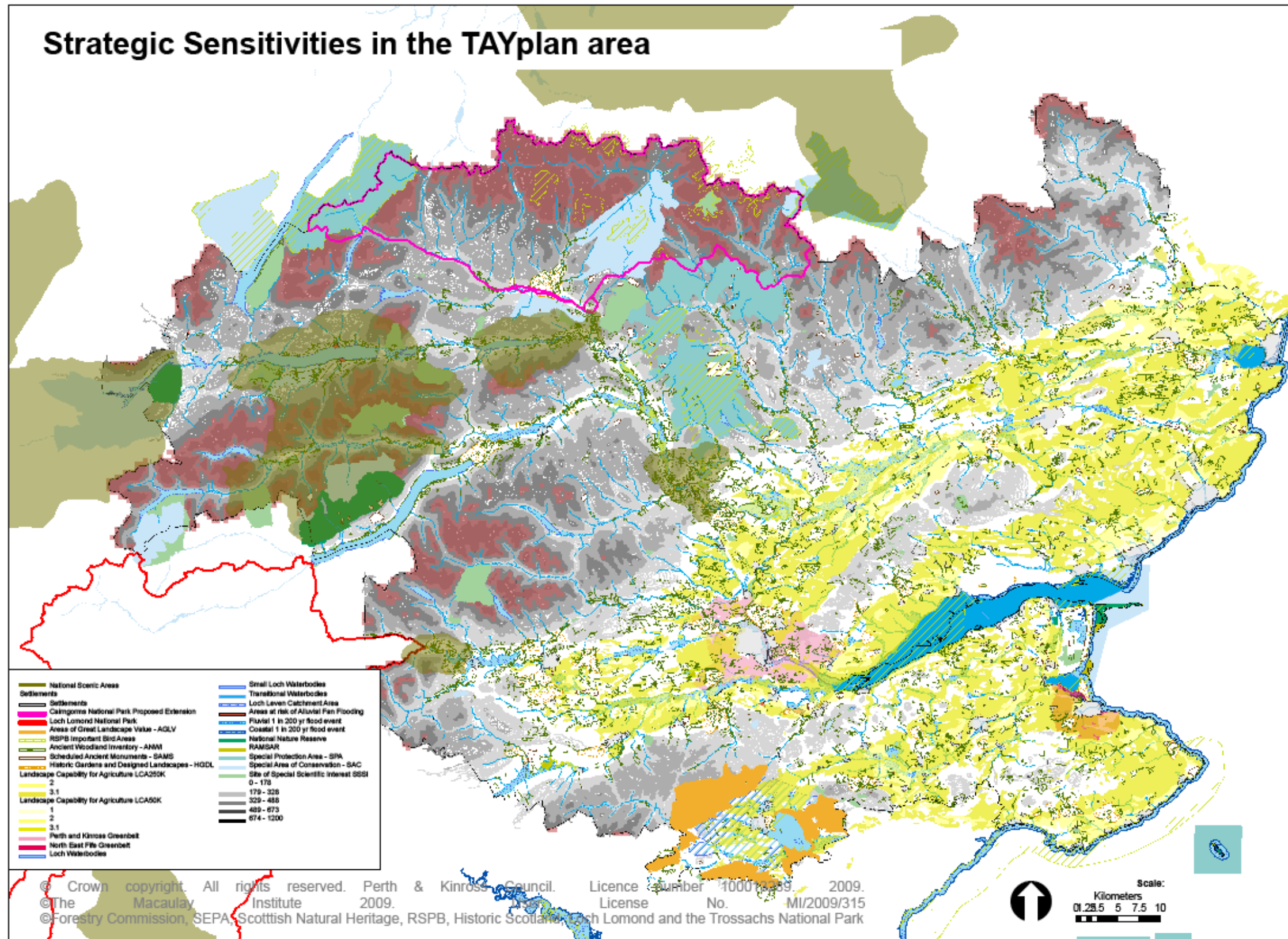
- * Compliance with statutory duties in terms of biodiversity should be made explicit
- * Ensure green field development is used as an opportunity to enhance ecological networks through wildlife corridors and the provision of green infrastructure, and;
- * Ensure that compliance with statutory duties in terms of the ecological status of water is made explicit
- * Ensure new development does not affect local landscape character particularly around settlements
- * Ensure that compliance with statutory duties in terms of the historic environment is made explicit
- * Ensure that measures are in place to make sure that any release of land for development is safeguarding the most valuable and vulnerable soils
- * Promote sustainable waste management and constrain landfill by limiting access to landfill sites and by providing alternative processing and waste treatment option

In summary the plan should provide leadership to ensure that the planned economic, social, and environmental activity achieves a net gain for the environment which will ultimately enhance well-being for local communities

How will you ensure that there are no adverse environmental effects from implementing the Plan?

We will monitor the significant effects of the Plan on the environment identified during the course of the assessment. It will focus on the effects of the Plan on existing environmental problems as a way of prioritising future monitoring activities. Many of the issues will be reviewed as an integral part of the monitoring of the Plan itself. If future monitoring shows adverse impacts arising from the implementation of the Plan, consideration will need to be given to review it.

Map 2 – Heritage and environmental features



Current position

Presently 57% of the land mass in the TAYplan region is characterised as sensitive in terms of its natural and/or cultural heritage assets. There is a considerable spatial variation in the extent of landscape sensitivity where significant areas in the northern and central areas are considered largely sensitive to further development.

Relevance of this indicator

Landscape incorporates the environmental and cultural features present in an area. Preservation and enhancement of the distinctive landscape of the Strategic Development Plan Area is important in maintaining community well being, biodiversity and supporting the local economy (tourism in particular). This indicator collates numerous cultural and natural heritage features to provide a comprehensive picture of landscape sensitivity across the region.

Data source: PKC, Fife, Angus, Dundee, SEPA, Historic Scotland, SNH, Forestry Commission, Macaulay Land Research Institute

Data availability: Various

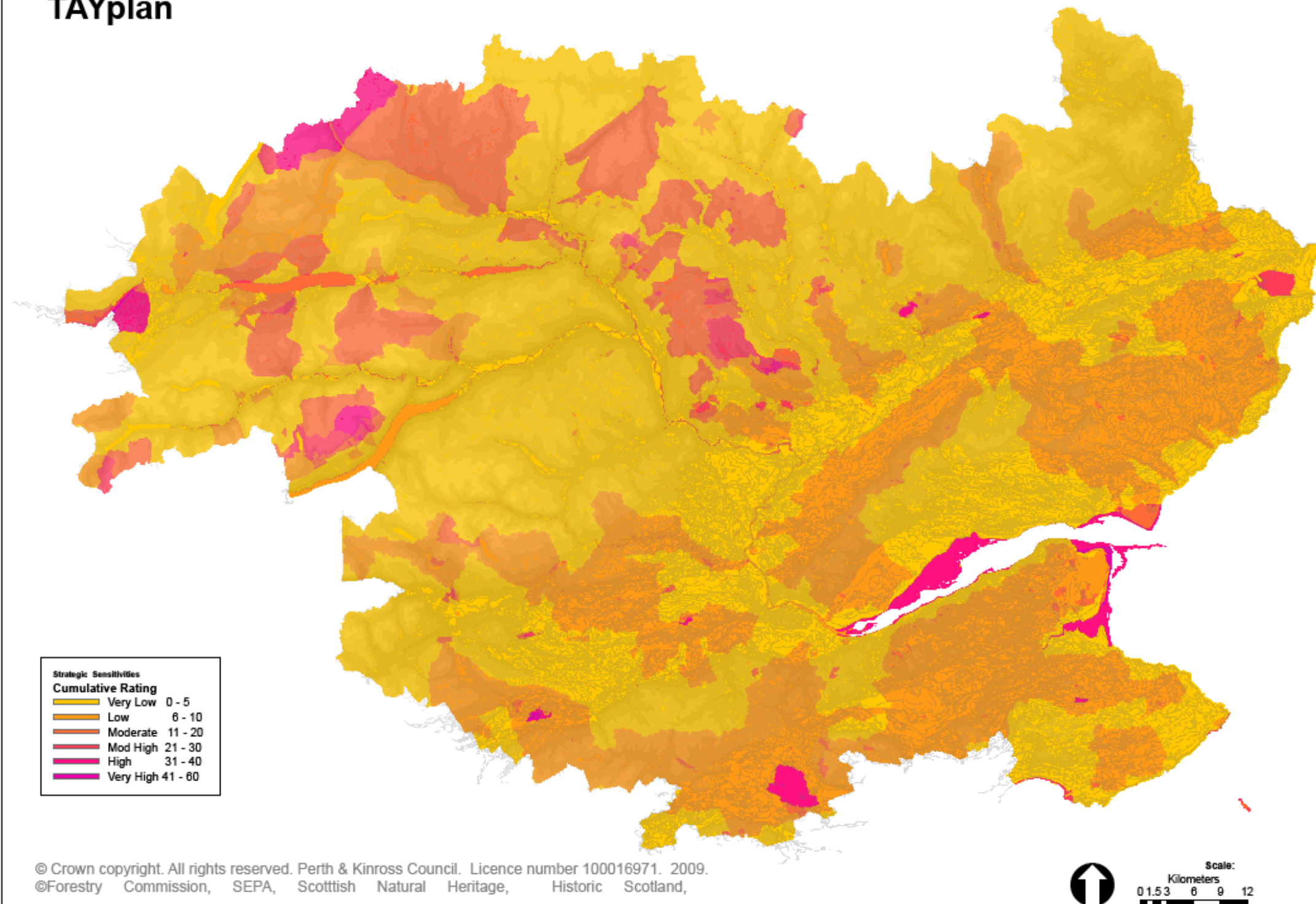
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Map 3 – Cumulative environmental sensitivities

Cumulative Strategic Sensitivities TAYplan



Current position

Assessment of sensitivities was undertaken by ranking and overlaying strategic sensitivities in a GIS to produce a *cumulative sensitivities map*. The map delineates the range of combined sensitivities in the TAYplan area from very low to very high ratings. Strategic indicators addressing water, landscape, historic and conservation issues were classified into two groups, with 10 and 5 points attributed to each category, depending on strategic importance.

There is a considerable spatial variation in the extent of landscape sensitivity where significant areas in the northern and coastal areas are considered largely sensitive to further development. Presently 3% of the land mass in the TAYplan region is characterised as highly sensitive (moderate high to very high rating). These are areas that are most sensitive in terms of development and are generally covered by numerous overlapping designations. The majority, 88%, of the land mass is considered to be of a low sensitivity level.

Relevance of this indicator

Landscape incorporates the environmental and cultural features present in an area. Preservation and enhancement of the distinctive landscape of the Strategic Development Plan Area is important in maintaining community well being, biodiversity and supporting the local economy (tourism in particular). This indicator collates numerous cultural and natural heritage features to provide a comprehensive picture of landscape sensitivity across the region.

Links to National Outcome:

We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations

Data source: PKC, Fife, Angus, Dundee, SEPA, Historic Scotland, SNH, Forestry Commission, Macaulay Land Research Institute

Data availability: Various

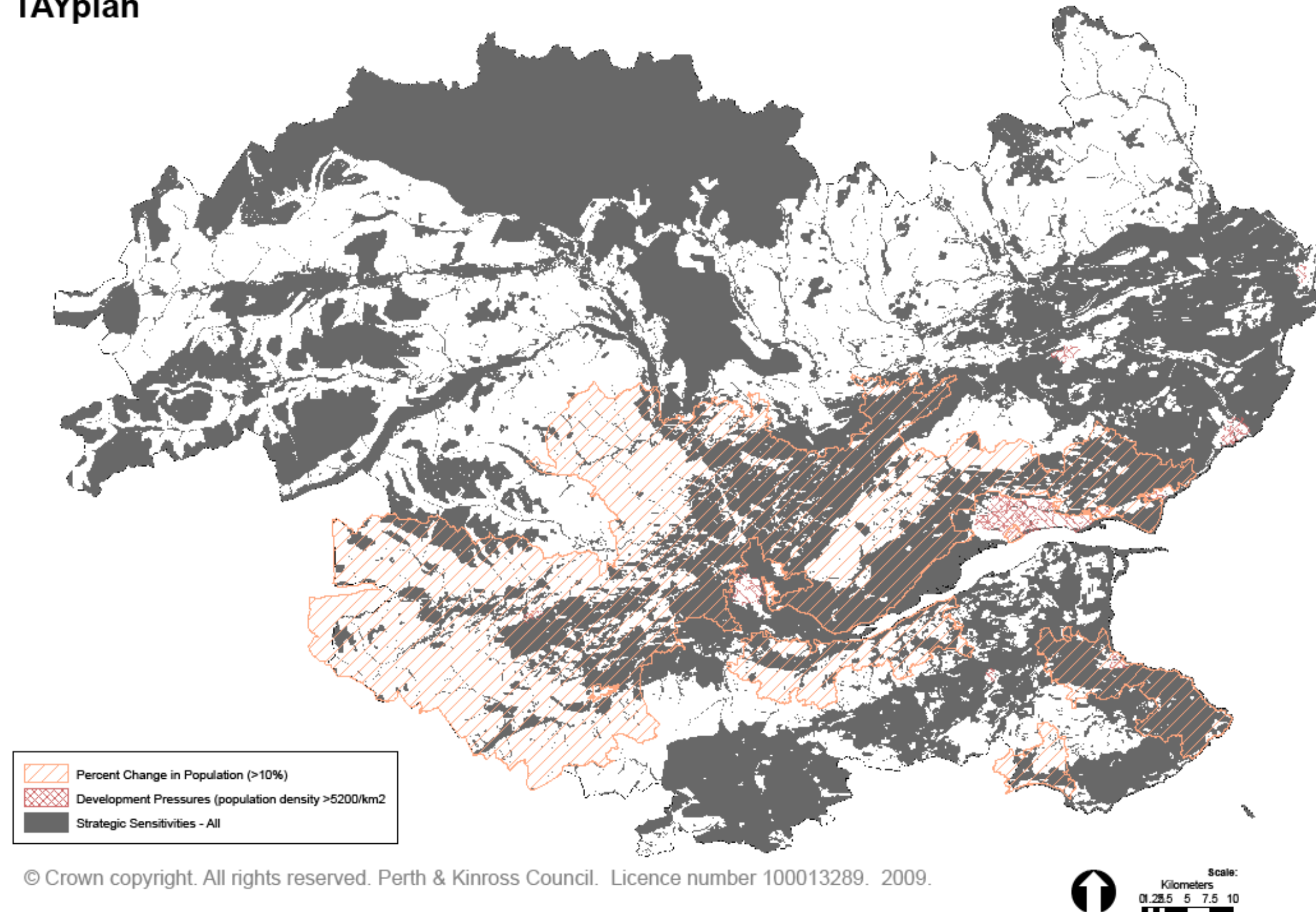
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Map 4 - Environmental sensitivities and potential areas of conflict

Strategic Sensitivities and Potential Areas of Conflict Pressures TAYplan



Current position

Presently 57% of the land mass in the TAYplan region is characterised as sensitive in terms of its natural and/or cultural heritage assets. There is a considerable spatial variation in the extent of landscape sensitivity where significant areas in the northern and central areas are considered largely sensitive to further development. Further work is currently underway to specify the cumulative sensitivities of these areas and provide a regional map of low to high sensitivity.

Development pressures may place additional pressure on strategically sensitive areas surrounding Dundee City and Perth City and within the Tay Estuary. Further work is currently underway to refine the nature of these sensitivities in order to progress sustainable land use plans for the region.

Relevance of this indicator

Landscape incorporates the environmental and cultural features present in an area. Preservation and enhancement of the distinctive landscape of the Strategic Development Plan Area is important in maintaining community well being, biodiversity and supporting the local economy (tourism in particular). This indicator collates numerous cultural and natural heritage features to provide a comprehensive picture of landscape sensitivity across the region.

Links to National Outcome:

We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations

Data source: PKC, Fife, Angus, Dundee, SEPA, Historic Scotland, SNH, Forestry Commission, Macaulay Land Research Institute

Data availability: Various

Acknowledgements: Some features of this map are based on digital spatial data licensed from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, NERC

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The Macaulay Land Research Institute
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