










## APPENDIX 5.2A – HABITAT TARGET NOTES AND PROTECTED SPECIES RECORDS




This ecology technical appendix contains habitat descriptions and photographs in Table 5.1 of target notes displayed on **Figure 5.2a-c**. Protected species records (non-confidential) area displayed on **Figure 5.3** are detailed in Table 5.2.




**Table 5.1A: Habitat Target Notes**




Target Note	Grid Reference	Description	Photograph
1	NJ 23132 47775	Acid flush habitat along the Burn of Langplough, a tributary of the Burn of Rothes, characteristic of M6 <i>Carex echinata-Sphagnum fallax/denticulatum</i> mire with both M6c <i>Juncus effusus</i> and M6d <i>Juncus acutiflorus</i> sub-community present.	
2	NJ 23318 47121	Looking north from Cairn Cattock over a mosaic of habitats. Dry dwarf shrub heath H12 <i>Calluna vulgaris – Vaccinium myrtillus</i> dry dwarf shrub heath and U4 <i>Festuca ovina – Agrostis capillaris – Galium saxatile</i> acid grassland mosaic in the foreground has been planted with a mix of young conifers. On shallower gradients, a mosaic of M15 <i>Trichophorum germanicum – Erica tetralix</i> wet heath and M19 <i>Calluna vulgaris-Eriophorum vaginatum</i> dry modified bog is found. Felled coniferous woodland can be seen in the background.	




Target Note	Grid Reference	Description	Photograph
3	NJ 23657 47138	Scattered Rhododendron plants are found across open ground between the Rothes III on-site substation location and the Burn of Rothes. Rhododendron are a non-native invasive species and care is required not to increase its spread.	
4	NJ 23868 47375	Felled coniferous woodland north of Hunt Hill where recolonising plant species consist mainly of rushes ( <i>Juncus effusus</i> , <i>J. acutiflorus</i> ) and grass ( <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> ), with scattered heather ( <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> ), cross-leaved heath ( <i>Erica tetralix</i> ) and common cottongrass ( <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> ).	
5	NJ 24584 47337	Looking north-west from the track leading to the mast east of Hunt Hill over a young native woodland planting enclosure.	




Target Note	Grid Reference	Description	Photograph
6	NJ 24922 48264	View along the wooded banks of the Burn of Rothes, which would be crossed by the Proposed Development.	
7	NJ 25384 48351	View across felled conifer woodland showing succession to heathland.	
8	NJ 26239 49706	View along the steep wooded ravine around the Back Burn, which would be crossed by the Proposed Development.	
9	NJ 26355 50174	View over agricultural pasture fields around Drumbain Farm, reseeded with grass, with little in the way of field margins.	

Target Note	Grid Reference	Description	Photograph
10	NJ 28641 50952	Mixed mature coniferous and deciduous woodland within Sourden Woods.	
11	NJ 28887 51166	One area of naturalised coniferous plantation, characteristic of W18 <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> – <i>Hylocomium splendens</i> woodland, where thinning has allowed light penetration to the forest floor and there is a thick canopy of heather ( <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> ), bilberry ( <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> ) and cowberry ( <i>V. vitis-idaea</i> ).	
12	NJ 29429 50726	<i>American skunk-cabbage</i> ( <i>Lysichiton americanus</i> ) a non-native invasive species found scattered along ditch adjacent to the River Spey.	




Target Note	Grid Reference	Description	Photograph
13	NJ 29651 50510	View north across arable fields which comprise 22 % of habitats within the Study Area. Sourden woods visible in the background.	
14	NJ 30610 51401	Small man-made pond on the south side of Collie Brae in Delfur estate.	
15	NJ 30726 51433	Dense area of non-native invasive species Himalayan balsam ( <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> ) within small watercourse adjacent to Collie Brae between NJ 30783 51434 and NJ 30307 51213.	



Target Note	Grid Reference	Description	Photograph
16	NJ 30982 51617	Looking west along Collie Braes with semi-natural mixed woodland.	
17	NJ 31791 51721	Area of dense Japanese knotweed ( <i>Fallopia japonica</i> ), a non-native invasive species, along the west bank of the River Spey at Boat o' Brig, close to the OHL crossing point. Strict care must be taken not to allow the spread of this species.	
18	NJ 31867 51444	View west from the fields around Bridgeton to the River Spey valley floor.	

Target Note	Grid Reference	Description	Photograph
19	NJ 31897 51632	View north-west over the River Spey and broadleaved woodland at the OHL crossing point at Boat o' Brig.	
20	NJ 32183 51190	Another area of Japanese knotweed ( <i>Fallopia japonica</i> ), a non-native invasive species, adjacent to a track near Bridgeton. Strict care must be taken not to allow the spread of this species.	
21	NJ 33347 51060	View east over barley fields around Stoneyton.	


Target Note	Grid Reference	Description	Photograph
22	NJ 34679 51319	Mosaic of semi-improved grassland and scrub west of Mulben, close to the Keith to Dufftown rail line.	
23	NJ 35757 50917	Manmade ponds adjacent to the Burn of Mulben, surrounded by scrub and woodland habitat.	
24	NJ 37118 50063	View west along the rail line as it passes Glentauchers Distillery, with abundant marsh/marshy grassland on the south side of the line.	




Target Note	Grid Reference	Description	Photograph
25	NJ 37465 50097	Marsh/marshy grassland between rail line and Cullieshangan characteristic of a mosaic of M27 <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> – <i>Angelica sylvestris</i> mire and M23 <i>Juncus effusus/acutiflorus</i> – <i>Galium palustre</i> rush-pasture with smaller patches of M25 <i>Molinia caerulea</i> – <i>Potentilla erecta</i> mire and MG9 <i>Holcus lanatus</i> – <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> grassland.	
26	NJ 41421 49327	Further areas of Marsh/marshy grassland along the edge of the rail line east of Douglasbrae.	
27	NJ 41148 49041	The River Isla at Douglasbrae which would be crossed by the Proposed Development.	

Target Note	Grid Reference	Description	Photograph
28	NJ 41969 48813	Scrub habitat along Lowrie Burn south of Coldhome dominated by gorse ( <i>Ulex europaeus</i> ).	
29	NJ 42083 48474	Improved grassland fields between Coldhome and Blackhillock. This is the second most frequently recorded habitat, comprising 16 % of the Study Area.	

**Table 5.2A: Protected Species Records (non-confidential)**

ID	Grid Reference	Description	Photograph
NC1	NJ 24205 47363	Pine marten scat near track north of Hunt Hill	

ID	Grid Reference	Description	Photograph
NC2	NJ 28700 51059	Red squirrel feeding signs in Sourden woods.	
NC3	NJ 28854 50985		
NC4	NJ 28924 51147		
NC5	NJ 29387 50791	Broadleaved tree east of the with main stem split creating a potential roost feature (PRF) for roosting bats.	