# Annex 1: Natura sites for which the ONWP meets the 1st HRA test; i.e. “Is the plan or project directly connected with, or necessary to, site management for nature conservation?”

## Conservation Objectives

The Conservation Objectives are the same for all Scottish SPAs.

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

* Population of the species as a viable component of the site
* Distribution of the species within site
* Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
* Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
* No significant disturbance of the species

*N.B. Orange shading indicates Natura sites on Orkney Mainland, Burray or South Ronaldsay*

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| **Natura site** | **Qualifying Feature** | **Does the ONWP meet the 1st HRA test?** | **Rationale for a 'yes' or ‘no’ decision, and mitigation identified to minimise impacts** | |
| **Auskerry SPA** | Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea), breeding | **YES** | Most of the conservation objectives for this qualifier would be negatively impacted if stoats reached this site, due to predation of chicks and eggs and the lack of any top predators to control their numbers as their population increases. Most clearly, "Population of the species as a viable component of the site", and "Distribution of the species within site".  The most probable negative effect of the project is direct disturbance to ground-nesting and breeding terns from trappers and volunteers. This would mainly occur during the initial setting up of the traps. After the initial  set-up phase trappers will also need to check traps on a regular basis.  These birds can be sensitive to disturbance during the nesting/breeding season, and measures to mitigate this impact are necessary to reduce it as far as possible.  The project must ensure that the operational methodologies minimise disturbance to the qualifying interests, particularly in places and at times when disturbance would have increased impacts. **For Arctic tern the breeding dates to avoid human disturbance through trap-related activities are May 1st to August 31st inclusive. During this period traprelated activities should ideally only occur out with a 200m buffer zone around the known location of nesting birds.**  **Once terns return in subsequent Springs there may be a need to move traps that are within the colony area during breeding season to prevent significant disturbance of the parents, and potential loss of eggs/chicks to predators. This should be done as unobtrusively as possible to minimise disturbance to the terns.**  Despite the levels of minimised disturbance from people checking traps in areas near to the terns, the consequences of this degree of disturbance are not as serious a threat to the qualifying species as stoats are, if they are allowed to remain. | |
| **Auskerry SPA** | Storm petrel (Hydrobates pelagicus),  breeding | **YES** | These are small burrow-nesting birds, and the same rationale applies here as for the site’s Arctic terns. Both adults and chicks will be at risk from stoats. **The petrel breeding dates to avoid trap setting within are: May**  **1st to September 30th inclusive. Further, any trap-related activities within this timeframe and within 200m of known burrows should be avoided during hours of darkness (between sunset and sunrise).**  **Project should try to ensure traps are** **not sited within 200m of known nesting sites. This is because** **traps may prevent access to burrows because both vision and smell are believed to be important to these birds in locating their nest sites, meaning the presence of a new structure and/or of stoat lure could interfere with the ability to find their nest.**  **If considered necessary there should be a site-specific implementation plan produced to reduce the risks to breeding birds from the ONWP before trap setting or trap maintenance is carried out.** | |
| **Calf of Eday SPA** | Seabird assemblage, breeding | **YES** | Most of the conservation objectives for these qualifiers would be negatively impacted if stoats reached this site, due to predation of chicks and eggs and the lack of any top predators to control their numbers as their population increases. Most clearly, "Population of the species as a viable component of the site", "Distribution of the species within site".  The potential negative effect of the project is significant disturbance to birds from contractors and volunteers. This would mainly occur during the initial setting up of the traps. After the initial set-up phase trappers will also need to check, clean, bait etc. traps on a three-weekly basis. However, **traps will not be located on, or at the edge of cliffs so there will be no negative**  **impacts to the cliff-nesting species**. The project will need to **avoid traprelated activities within specific distances of nesting areas for the ground-nesting species during their breeding seasons**, this will minimise disturbance to less-than-significant levels for those species and will depend on the species concerned.  **Relevant dates and buffer distances are set out against the individuals qualifying species that are named in the assemblage for each site. Trap setting and maintenance actions should be taken by ONWP trappers based on the restrictions set out against each ground-nesting bird species (e.g. Arctic skua) that is a part of the assemblage and which are present close to the trap location.**    The ONWP must ensure that the operational methodologies minimise disturbance to the qualifying interests, particularly in places and at times when disturbance would have increased impacts. This will be optimised by ensuring the ONWP keeps up to date on breeding bird and colony locations. **This means a protocol should be established whereby local RSPB staff and volunteers keep the ONWP up to date on colony locations. ONWP should also use sources such as JNCC seabird colony database Particularly important in this regard are the tern species and other ground-nesting smaller gull species. This protocol should be set up with clear responsibilities and mechanisms in place so that ONWP can avoid significantly disturbing the qualifying species in line with the site’s conservation objective.**  Despite the levels of minimised disturbance from people checking traps in areas near to the terns, the consequences of this degree of disturbance are not as serious a threat to the qualifying species as stoats are, if they are allowed to remain. | |
| **Calf of Eday SPA** | Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo), breeding | **YES** | Cormorants are ground nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage. **The breeding dates to avoid trap-related activities are February 15th to September 15th inclusive. No traps are to be checked, maintained, rebaited etc. within 100m of a colony area during the breeding period.** | |
| **Calf of Eday SPA** | Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis), breeding | **YES** | Fulmar are cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage. | |
| **Calf of Eday SPA** | Great blackbacked gull (Larus marinus), breeding | **YES** | GBBGs are ground/cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage. They nest in loose colonies which can be difficult to identify. **The breeding dates to avoid trap-related activities within, and where they are nesting on the ground are, April 1st to August 31st inclusive.** **No traps should be checked, maintained, re-baited etc. within 50m of the outer edge of a colony area during breeding period.** | |
| **Calf of Eday SPA** | Guillemot (Uria aalge), breeding | **YES** | Guillemots are cliff-nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage. | |
| **Calf of Eday SPA** | Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla),  breeding | **YES** | Kittiwakes are cliff-nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage. | |
| **Copinsay SPA** | Seabird assemblage, breeding | **YES** | Most of the conservation objectives for these qualifiers would be negatively impacted if stoats reached this site, due to predation of chicks and eggs and the lack of any top predators to control their numbers as their population increases. Most clearly, "Population of the species as a viable component of the site", "Distribution of the species within site".  The potential negative effect of the project is significant disturbance to birds from volunteers and staff. This would mainly occur during the initial setting up of the traps, possibly including the use of vehicles to access areas near to nest sites to distribute traps. After the initial set-up phase trappers will also need to check, clean, bait etc. traps on a three-weekly basis. However, **traps will not be located on, or at the edge of cliffs so there will be no negative impacts to the cliff-nesting species**. . The project will need to **avoid trap-related activities within specific distances of nesting areas for the ground-nesting species during their breeding seasons. Access routes to other traps will also need to avoid known locations of ground nesting birds during the breeding season**. This will minimise disturbance to less-than-significant levels for those species.  **Relevant dates and buffer distances are set out against the individuals qualifying species that are named in the assemblage for each site. Trap setting and maintenance actions should be taken by ONWP trappers based on the restrictions set out against each ground-nesting bird species (e.g. Arctic skua) that is a part of the assemblage and which are present close to the trap location.**  The ONWP must ensure that the operational methodologies minimise disturbance to the qualifying interests, particularly in places and at times when disturbance would have increased impacts. This will be optimised by ensuring the ONWP keeps up to date on breeding bird and colony locations. **This means a protocol should be established whereby local RSPB staff and volunteers keep the ONWP up to date on colony locations. ONWP should also use sources such as JNCC seabird colony database Particularly important in this regard are the tern species and other ground-nesting smaller gull species. This protocol should be set up with clear responsibilities and mechanisms in place so that ONWP can avoid significantly disturbing the qualifying species in line with the site’s conservation objective.**  Despite the levels of minimised disturbance from people checking traps in areas near to the terns, the consequences of this degree of disturbance are not as serious a threat to the qualifying species as stoats are, if they are allowed to remain. | |
| **Copinsay SPA** | Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis), breeding | **YES** | Fulmar are cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage. | |
| **Copinsay SPA** | Great blackbacked gull (Larus marinus), breeding | **YES** | GBBGs are ground/cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage. They nest in loose colonies which can be difficult to identify. **The breeding dates to avoid trap-related activities** **where they are nesting on the ground are April 1st to August 31st inclusive. No traps are to be operational within 50m of the outer edge of a colony area during breeding period.** | |
| **Copinsay SPA** | Guillemot (Uria aalge), breeding | **YES** | Guillemots are cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage. | |
| **Copinsay SPA** | Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla), breeding | **YES** | Kittiwakes are cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage. | |
| **East Sanday Coast SPA** | Bar-tailed godwit  (Limosa lapponica), nonbreeding | **NO** | The most probable negative effect of the project is direct disturbance to roosting wintering waders from trappers and volunteers. This would mainly occur during the initial setting up of the traps, possibly including the use of vehicles to access areas near to nest sites with traps to distribute. After the initial set-up phase, trappers will also need to check, clean and maintain and re-bait traps on a regular basis.  These waders can be sensitive to disturbance, particularly while roosting when they are concentrated in areas above the high tide line, and less so when feeding. Measures to mitigate this impact are necessary to reduce it as far as possible. The project should ensure that the operational methodologies minimise disturbance to the qualifying interests, particularly in places and at times when disturbance would have increased impacts. **This will be done by not checking or otherwise dealing with traps within 500m of roost sites for:**   1. **one hour either side of high tide, and** 2. **during the hours of darkness, and** 3. **for an hour after sunrise and hour before sunset**.   **These restrictions should be put in a field manual or other operational**  **protocols for staff.**  Despite the levels of minimised disturbance from people checking traps in areas near to the Bar-tailed Godwit, the consequences of this degree of disturbance are not as serious a threat to the qualifying species as stoats are, if they are allowed to remain. | |
| **East Sanday Coast SPA** | Purple sandpiper (Calidris maritima), non-breeding | **NO** | Purple sandpipers roost and feed similarly to bar-tailed godwit, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for bar-tailed godwit. **Disturbance will be minimised by not checking or otherwise dealing with traps within 500m of roost sites for one hour either side of high tide.** | |
| **East Sanday Coast SPA** | Turnstone (Arenaria interpres), nonbreeding | **NO** | Turnstone roost and feed similarly to bar-tailed godwit,, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for bar-tailed godwit. **Disturbance will be minimised by not checking or otherwise dealing with traps within 500m of roost sites for one hour either side of high tide**. | |
| **Hoy SPA** | Seabird assemblage, breeding | **YES** | Most of the conservation objectives for these qualifiers would be negatively impacted if stoats reached this site, due to predation of chicks and eggs and the lack of any top predators to control their numbers as their population increases. Most clearly, "Population of the species as a viable component of the site", "Distribution of the species within site".  The potential negative effect of the project is significant disturbance to birds from volunteers and staff. This would mainly occur during the initial setting up of the traps, possibly including the use of vehicles to access areas near  to nest sites to distribute traps. After the initial set-up phase trappers will also need to check, clean, maintain etc. traps on a regular basis. However, traps will not be located on, or at the edge of cliffs so there will be no negative impacts to the cliff-nesting species. The project will need to **avoid setting traps within specific distance of nesting areas for the groundnesting species during their breeding seasons. Access routes to other traps will also need to avoid known locations of ground nesting birds during the breeding season**. This will minimise disturbance to less-thansignificant levels for those species.  **Relevant dates and buffer distances are set out in the appropriate rows in this table, against the individuals qualifying species that are named in the assemblage for each site.**  The ONWP must ensure that the operational methodologies minimise disturbance to the qualifying interests, particularly in places and at times when disturbance would have increased impacts. This will be optimised by ensuring the ONWP keeps up to date on breeding bird and colony locations. **This means a protocol should be established whereby local RSPB staff and volunteers keep the ONWP up to date on known colony locations. ONWP should also use sources such as JNCC seabird colony database. Particularly important in this regard are the tern species and other ground-nesting smaller gull species. This protocol should be set up with clear responsibilities and mechanisms in place so that ONWP can avoid significantly disturbing the qualifying species in line with the site’s conservation objective.**  Despite the levels of minimised disturbance from people checking traps in  areas near to the terns, the consequences of this degree of disturbance are not as serious a threat to the qualifying species as stoats are, if they are allowed to remain. | |
| **Hoy SPA** | Arctic skua (Stercorarius parasiticus), breeding | **YES** | Arctic skua are ground nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage (of which this is a named qualifier). **The breeding dates to minimise traprelated activities are May 1st to August 31st inclusive. Artic Skua can nest in loose colonies, therefore observing colony boundaries is difficult. SNH or RSPB must undertake/facilitate training of trappers to recognise when they are in active territories and move quickly through these areas to reduce the risk of exposure of eggs/chicks to weather/depredation.** | |
| **Hoy SPA** | Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis), breeding | **YES** | Fulmar are cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage (of which this is a named qualifier). | |
| **Hoy SPA** | Great skua (Stercorarius skua), breeding | **YES** | Great skua are ground nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage. **The breeding dates to minimise trap-related activities are April 15th to August 31st inclusive. Great Skua can nest in loose colonies, therefore observing colony boundaries is difficult. SNH or RSPB must undertake/facilitate training of trappers to recognise when they are in active territories and move quickly through these areas to reduce the risk of exposure of eggs/chicks to weather/depredation.** | |
| **Hoy SPA** | Great blackbacked gull (Larus marinus), breeding | **YES** | GBBGs are ground/cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage. They can nest in loose colonies which can be difficult to identify. **The breeding dates to minimise trap-related activities** **where they are nesting on the ground are April 1st to August 31st inclusive.** Ideallyno traps should be operational within a colony or within 50m of the outer edge of a colony area during the breeding period**.** | |
| **Hoy SPA** | Guillemot (Uria aalge), breeding | **YES** | Guillemot are cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage (of which this is a named qualifier). | |
| **Hoy SPA** | Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla), breeding | **YES** | Kittiwakes are cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage (of which this is a named qualifier). | |
| **Hoy SPA** | Peregrine (Falco peregrinus), breeding | **YES** | Peregrines are cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage. | |
| **Hoy SPA** | Puffin (Fratercula arctica), breeding | **YES** | Puffins are cliff-nesting birds at this site, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage (of which this is a named qualifier). | |
| **Hoy SPA** | Red-throated diver (Gavia stellata), breeding | **YES** | RTDs are ground nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage.  RTDs are highly sensitive species so ONWP staff will need to avoid setting,  checking etc. traps within 750m of these birds’ nests within the breeding season **(April 1st to September 15th inclusive**) in locations where ONWP staff could be seen by RTDs from the body of water including shoreline they use. Where ONWP staff can easily get closer without a direct line of sight to the loch/ lochan the RTDs are based upon for their breeding (e.g. due to topography), they can place traps (and maintain them etc.) closer to the water body, up to an absolute minimum distance of 100m from the shore. However, the actual distance within which it can be ensured that disturbance risk is minimised will be dependent on specific circumstances.  In all instances where traps are operated within 750m of a RTD nest, great care should be taken when moving towards and away from the loch/lochan and when working with traps to move slowly, keep hidden at all times and remain vigilant for evidence of any RTD present having seen the trap setter/operator (this includes behaviour such as alertness and staring in the direction of the worker). In such circumstances ONWP staff should immediately but carefully move away from the loch/lochan until more normal behaviour is seen to be exhibited by the RTDs.  In addition, access routes to other traps will also need to avoid known locations of RTD nests during the breeding season such that the breeding birds are not significantly disturbed. Again any observation of alertness from RTDs should mean that the disturbance creating the behaviour ceases uThis will minimise disturbance to the RTDs  As with other mitigation measures such as outlined for Short eared owls and  Hen harriers, ONWP staff should ensure they have as much prior  information as possible about RTD breeding locations (whole lochans/small lochs or sites around larger lochs) prior to working with traps. Using historical or up to date data from RSPB and SNH staff. This will help focus mitigation in places, both where it is, and is not, needed. | |
| **Marwick Head SPA**  *indicates Natura sites on Orkney Mainland, Burray or South Ronaldsay* | Seabird assemblage, breeding | **YES** | Most of the conservation objectives for these qualifiers would be negatively impacted if stoats reached this site, due to predation of chicks and eggs and the lack of any top predators to control their numbers as their population increases. Most clearly, "Population of the species as a viable component of the site", and "Distribution of the species within site".  The potential negative effect of the project is significant disturbance to birds from trappers and volunteer. This would mainly occur during the initial setting up of the traps, possibly including the use of vehicles to access areas near to nest sites to distribute traps. After the initial set-up phase trappers will also need to check traps on a regular though infrequent basis for the lifetime of the project. However,traps will not be located on, or at the edge of cliffs so there will be no negative impacts to the cliff-nesting species.The project will need to **avoid setting traps within specific distance of nesting areas for the ground-nesting species during their breeding seasons. Access routes to other traps will also actively avoid known locations of ground nesting birds during the breeding season**. This will minimise disturbance to less-than-significant levels for those species.  **Relevant dates and buffer distances are set out in this table against the individuals qualifying species that are named in the assemblage for each site.**  The ONWP must ensure that the operational methodologies minimise disturbance to the qualifying interests, particularly in places and at times when disturbance would have increased impacts. This will be optimised by ensuring the ONWP keeps up to date on breeding bird and colony locations. **This means a protocol should be established whereby local RSPB staff and volunteers keep the ONWP up to date on colony locations. ONWP should also use sources such as the JNCC seabird colony database. Particularly important in this regard are the tern species and other ground-nesting smaller gull species. This protocol should be set up with clear responsibilities and mechanisms in place so that ONWP can avoid significantly disturbing the qualifying species in line with the site’s conservation objective.**  Despite the levels of minimised disturbance from people checking traps in areas near to the terns, the consequences of this degree of disturbance are not as serious a threat to the qualifying species as stoats are, if they are allowed to remain. |
| **Marwick Head SPA**  *indicates Natura sites on Orkney Mainland, Burray or South Ronaldsay* | Guillemot (Uria aalge), breeding | **YES** | Guillemot are cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage (of which this is a named qualifier). |
| **Marwick Head SPA**  *indicates Natura sites on Orkney Mainland, Burray or South Ronaldsay* | Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla), breeding | **YES** | Kittiwakes are cliff-nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage (of which this is a named qualifier). |
| **North Orkney**  **pSPA** | Red-throated diver (Gavia stellata),  breeding | **YES** | RTDs are ground nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the  1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage.  RTDs are highly sensitive species so ONWP staff will need to avoid setting, checking etc. traps within 750m of these birds’ nests within the breeding season **(April 1st to September 15th inclusive**) in locations where ONWP staff could be seen by RTDs from the body of water including shoreline they use. Where ONWP staff can easily get closer without a direct line of sight to the loch/ lochan the RTDs are based upon for their breeding (e.g. due to topography), they can place traps (and maintain them etc.) closer to the water body, up to an absolute minimum distance of 100m from the shore. However, the actual distance within which it can be ensured that disturbance risk is minimised will be dependent on specific circumstances.  In all instances where traps are operated within 750m of a RTD nest, great care should be taken when moving towards and away from the loch/lochan and when working with traps to move slowly, keep hidden at all times and remain vigilant for evidence of any RTD present having seen the trap setter/operator (this includes behaviour such as alertness and staring in the direction of the worker). In such circumstances ONWP staff should immediately but carefully move away from the loch/lochan until more normal behaviour is seen to be exhibited by the RTDs.  In addition, access routes to other traps will also need to avoid known locations of RTD nests during the breeding season such that the breeding birds are not significantly disturbed. Again any observation of alertness from RTDs should mean that the disturbance creating the behaviour ceases This will minimise disturbance to the RTDs  As with other mitigation measures such as outlined for Short eared owls and Hen harriers, ONWP staff should ensure they have as much prior information as possible about RTD breeding locations (whole lochans/small lochs or sites around larger lochs) prior to working with traps. Using historical or up to date data from RSPB and SNH staff. This will help focus mitigation in places, both where it is, and is not, needed. |
| **North Orkney**  **pSPA** | Eider (Somateria mollissima), nonbreeding | **NO** | Eider use this pSPA outside of the breeding season and spend the vast majority of their time on the water. They are therefore not at significant risk from stoats, which mean the project is not aimed at their conservation |
| **North Orkney**  **pSPA** | Great northern diver (Gavia immer), nonbreeding | **NO** | GNDs use this pSPA outside of the breeding season and spend the vast majority of their time on the water. They are therefore not at significant risk from stoats, which mean the project is not aimed at their conservation |
| **North Orkney**  **pSPA** | Long-tailed duck (Clangula hyemalis) nonbreeding | **NO** | LTD use this pSPA outside of the breeding season and spend the vast majority of their time on the water. They are therefore not at significant risk from stoats, which mean the project is not aimed at their conservation |
| **North Orkney**  **pSPA** | Red-breasted merganser  (Mergus serrator), non-breeding | **NO** | RBM use this pSPA outside of the breeding season and spend the vast majority of their time on the water. They are therefore not at significant risk from stoats, which mean the project is not aimed at their conservation |
| **North Orkney**  **pSPA** | Shag  (Phalacrocorax  aristotelis), nonbreeding | **NO** | Shag use this pSPA outside of the breeding season and spend the vast majority of their time on the water. They are therefore not at significant risk  from stoats, which mean the project is not aimed at their conservation |
| **North Orkney**  **pSPA** | Slavonian grebe (Podiceps auritus), non-breeding | **NO** | Slavonian Grebe use this pSPA outside of the breeding season and spend the vast majority of their time on the water. They are therefore not at significant risk from stoats, which mean the project is not aimed at their conservation |
| **North Orkney**  **pSPA** | Velvet scoter (Melanitta fusca), non-breeding | **NO** | Velvet scoters use this pSPA outside of the breeding season and spend the vast majority of their time on the water. They are therefore not at significant risk from stoats, which mean the project is not aimed at their conservation |
| **Orkney**  **Mainland**  **Moors SPA** *indicates Natura sites on Orkney Mainland, Burray or South Ronaldsay* | Hen harrier (Circus cyaneus), breeding | **YES** | These birds can be sensitive to disturbance during the nesting/breeding season, and measures to mitigate this impact are necessary to reduce it as far as possible.  Most of the conservation objectives for this qualifier would be negatively impacted if stoats remain on Orkney. Most clearly, "Population of the species as a viable component of the site", "Distribution of the species within site" and "Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species". Stoats would seriously reduce indigenous vole populations upon which the hen harrier and short-eared owl heavily depend as a food source. This loss of prey would have a very serious direct effect on the populations of these two bird species in Orkney. They are likely to also predate on the chicks and eggs of Hen harriers.  The most probable negative effect of the ONWP is significant disturbance to nesting and breeding harriers and owls from trappers and volunteers. This  would mainly occur during the initial setting up of the traps, which will happen across all of Mainland, Burray and South Ronaldsay over a period of time, probably including the use of vehicles to access areas with a cargo of traps to distribute. After the initial set-up phase trappers will also need to check traps on a regular basis. .  **Regarding Hen harrier, the breeding season dates are March 15th to August 15th inclusive. Therefore, trap set-up must take place outside of these dates to avoid significant disturbance. However, if traps are found to be within 500m of nests once the birds begin to breed they should be removed and re-sited by trappers or volunteers as unobtrusively as possible, outwith 500m of any HH or SEO nest in order to avoid significant disturbance to the birds.**  The project must ensure that the operational methodologies/ protocols minimise disturbance to the qualifying interests, particularly in places and at times when disturbance would have increased impacts.  The ONWP must ensure that the operational methodologies minimise disturbance to these qualifying interests, particularly in places and at times when disturbance would have increased impacts. This will be optimised by ensuring the ONWP keeps up to date on breeding bird locations. **This means a protocol should be established whereby local RSPB staff and volunteers keep the ONWP up to date on any known HH nest locations including if possible where they are viable or if they have been abandoned. This protocol should be set up with clear responsibilities and mechanisms in place so that ONWP can keep up to date with**  **active nests in order to avoid significantly disturbing the qualifying species in line with the site’s conservation objective.**  Despite the levels of minimised disturbance from people checking/maintaining etc. traps in areas (both within and outside the SPAs which the qualifiers use for hunting) the consequences of this minimised degree of disturbance are not as serious a threat to the qualifying species as the loss of the Orkney vole could be, if stoats are allowed to remain. |
| **Orkney**  **Mainland**  **Moors SPA** *indicates Natura sites on Orkney Mainland, Burray or South Ronaldsay* | Red-throated diver (Gavia stellata), breeding | **YES** | RTDs are ground nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage.  RTDs are highly sensitive species so ONWP staff will need to avoid setting, checking etc. traps within 750m of these birds’ nests within the breeding season **(April 1st to September 15th inclusive**) in locations where ONWP staff could be seen by RTDs from the body of water including shoreline they use. Where ONWP staff can easily get closer without a direct line of sight to the loch/ lochan the RTDs are based upon for their breeding (e.g. due to topography), they can place traps (and maintain them etc.) closer to the water body, up to an absolute minimum distance of 100m from the shore. However, the actual distance within which it can be ensured that disturbance risk is minimised will be dependent on specific circumstances.  In all instances where traps are operated within 750m of a RTD nest, great care should be taken when moving towards and away from the loch/lochan and when working with traps to move slowly, keep hidden at all times and remain vigilant for evidence of any RTD present having seen the trap setter/operator (this includes behaviour such as alertness and staring in the  direction of the worker). In such circumstances ONWP staff should immediately but carefully move away from the loch/lochan until more normal behaviour is seen to be exhibited by the RTDs.    These birds are very likely the same ones that use North Orkney pSPA for feeding. |
| **Orkney**  **Mainland**  **Moors SPA** *indicates Natura sites on Orkney Mainland, Burray or South Ronaldsay* | Short-eared owl (Asio flammeus), breeding | **YES** | Short-eared owl, like the Hen harrier use the Orkney vole as primary food source and the same rationale applies for this qualifier as for the Hen harrier qualifier. The owls also undergo additional stress during winter months due to the calorific demands of colder weather, reduced hours to hunt, and increasing scarcity of prey which continues into the early Spring.  **The breeding dates to avoid trap-setting within 500m of nests are March 1st to August 15th inclusive. Therefore trap set-up must take place outside of these dates to avoid significant disturbance. In addition, during the lifetime of the project, traps should be removed and re-sited by trappers or volunteers if they are located within 500m of nests: as unobtrusively as possible and outwith 500m of any SEO or HH nest, to ensure they avoid significant disturbance.**  The ONWP must ensure that the operational methodologies minimise disturbance to these qualifying interests, particularly in places and at times when disturbance would have increased impacts. This will be optimised by ensuring the ONWP keeps up to date on breeding bird locations. **This means a protocol should be established whereby local RSPB staff and**  **volunteers keep the ONWP up to date on any known SEO nest locations including if possible where they are viable or if they have been abandoned. This protocol should be set up with clear responsibilities and mechanisms in place so that ONWP can keep up to date with active nests in order to avoid significantly disturbing the qualifying species in line with the site’s conservation objective.** |
| **Orkney**  **Mainland**  **Moors SPA** *indicates Natura sites on Orkney Mainland, Burray or South Ronaldsay* | Hen harrier (Circus cyaneus), nonbreeding | **YES** | Non-breeding Hen harrier are also at risk due to stoats, and are sensitive to significant disturbance. However, outside the breeding season the locations they are most sensitive is at their roosting sites**.** The harriers also undergo additional stress during winter months due to the calorific demands of colder weather, reduced hours to hunt, and increasing scarcity of prey which continues into the early Spring.  **These roost sites are largely in deep heather in Orkney which means that traps will generally not be located there. However, if traps are to be set near known roost sites this must take place outside the dates these roost sites are used; or, if carried out during the dates of usage by the harriers, trap activities should occur during daylight hours (avoiding an hour after sunrise and an hour before sunset) to avoid significant disturbance to the birds. During the lifetime of the ONWP physical checking, cleaning re-baiting etc. of these traps, should be done under the same constraints as for trap-setting.**  **The other potential issue is the accessing of traps elsewhere on the**  **Moors disturbing Hen harrier roosts as peoples/vehicles pass to and**  **from the traps. To avoid this disturbance the ONWP will need to ensure routes are located and used in such a way to avoid disturbance to known Hen harrier roost sites. This will minimise disturbance to less-than-significant levels for the species. To do this a protocol should be established by ONWP whereby local RSPB staff and volunteers keep the ONWP up to date on known HH roost locations. This protocol should be set up with clear responsibilities and mechanisms in place so that ONWP can keep up to date with roosts in order to avoid significantly disturbing the qualifying species in line with the site’s conservation objective.** |
| **Papa Westray**  **(North Hill and Holm) SPA** | Arctic skua (Stercorarius parasiticus), breeding | **YES** | Despite harassing intruders around their nest sites these birds can be sensitive to disturbance during the nesting/breeding season, and measures to mitigate this impact are necessary to reduce it as far as possible. The most probable negative effect of the project is direct disturbance to groundnesting and breeding skua from volunteers and staff. This would mainly occur during the initial setting up of the traps, possibly including the use of vehicles to access areas with traps to distribute. After the initial set-up phase trappers will also need to check traps on a regular basis.  Most of the conservation objectives for this qualifier would be negatively impacted if stoats reached this site, due to predation of chicks and eggs and the lack of any top predators to control their numbers as their population increases. Most clearly, "Population of the species as a viable component of the site", and "Distribution of the species within site".  **The breeding dates to minimise trap-related activities are May 1st to**  **August 31st inclusive. Artic Skua can nest in loose colonies, therefore observing colony boundaries is difficult. SNH or RSPB must undertake/facilitate training of trappers to recognise when they are in active territories and move quickly through these areas to reduce the risk of exposure of eggs/chicks to weather/depredation.** |
| **Papa Westray**  **(North Hill and Holm) SPA** | Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea), breeding | **YES** | These birds can be sensitive to disturbance during the nesting/breeding season, and measures to mitigate this impact are necessary to reduce it as far as possible. The project must ensure that the operational methodologies minimise disturbance to the qualifying interests, particularly in places and at times when disturbance would have increased impacts.  Most of the conservation objectives for this qualifier would be negatively impacted if stoats reached this site, due to predation of chicks and eggs; most clearly, "Population of the species as a viable component of the site", "Distribution of the species within site".  The most probable negative effect of the project is direct disturbance to ground-nesting and breeding terns from trappers and volunteers. This would mainly occur during the initial setting-up of the traps, possibly including the use of vehicles to access areas with traps to distribute. After the initial set-up phase staff will also need to check traps on a regular basis. **For Arctic tern the breeding dates to avoid trap-related activities are May 1st to August 31st inclusive. During this period traps must only be located out with a 200m buffer zone around the known location of nesting birds.**  **Once terns return in the Spring there may be a need to move and re-**  **site traps that are within colony areas to prevent disturbance and potential loss of eggs/chicks to predators during the breeding season. This should be done as unobtrusively as possible to minimise disturbance to the terns.**  Despite the levels of minimised disturbance from people checking traps in areas near to the terns, the consequences of this degree of disturbance are not as serious a threat to the qualifying species as stoats are, if they are allowed to remain. |
| **Pentland Firth pSPA[[1]](#footnote-1)** | Arctic skua (Stercorarius parasiticus), breeding | **YES** | Despite harassing intruders around their nest sites these birds can be sensitive to disturbance during the nesting/breeding season, and measures to mitigate this impact are necessary to reduce it as far as possible. The project must ensure that the operational methodologies minimise disturbance to the qualifying interests, particularly in places and at times when disturbance would have increased impacts.  The most probable negative effect of the project is disturbance to groundnesting and breeding skua at their terrestrial breeding areas from trappers and volunteers. This would mainly occur during the initial setting up of the traps, possibly including the use of vehicles to access areas with traps to distribute. After the initial set-up phase trappers will also need to check traps on a regular basis.  **The breeding dates to minimise trap-related activities are May 1st to**  **August 31st inclusive. Artic Skua can nest in loose colonies, therefore observing colony boundaries is difficult. SNH or RSPB must undertake/facilitate training of trappers to recognise when they are in active territories and move quickly through these areas to reduce the risk of exposure of eggs/chicks to weather/depredation.**  Despite the levels of minimised disturbance from people checking traps in areas near to the skua, the consequences of this degree of disturbance are not as serious a threat to the qualifying species as stoats are, if they are allowed to remain. |

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| **Pentland Firth pSPA[[2]](#footnote-2)** | Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea), breeding | **YES** | These birds can be sensitive to disturbance during the nesting/breeding season, and measures to mitigate this impact are necessary to reduce it as far as possible. The project must ensure that the operational methodologies minimise disturbance to the qualifying interests, particularly in places and at times when disturbance would have increased impacts.  The Arctic terns that use this marine pSPA are also very likely to be qualifiers of other SPAs in Orkney. Therefore impacts to the qualifiers of this pSPA from the ONWP will only occur outside its boundaries, at the terrestrial SPAs where the birds breed.  The most probable negative effect of the project is disturbance to groundnesting and breeding terns from trappers and volunteers at their terrestrial breeding areas. This would mainly occur during the initial setting up of the traps, possibly including the use of vehicles to access areas with traps to distribute. After the initial set-up phase trappers will also need to check traps on a regular basis for the lifetime of the project. **For Arctic tern the breeding dates to avoid trap-setting are May 1st to August 31st inclusive. During this period traps must be located out with a 200m buffer zone around the known location of nesting birds.**  **Once terns return in Spring there may be a need to move traps that are within colony area during breeding season to prevent disturbance and potential loss of eggs/chicks to predators. This should be done as unobtrusively as possible to minimise disturbance to the terns.**  Despite the levels of minimised disturbance from people checking traps in areas near to the terns, the consequences of this degree of disturbance are not as serious a threat to the qualifying species as stoats are, if they are allowed to remain. |
| **Pentland Firth pSPA[[3]](#footnote-3)** | Guillemot (Uria aalge), breeding | **YES** | Guillemot are cliff-nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the skua and tern qualifiers |
| **Pentland Firth pSPA[[4]](#footnote-4)** | Seabird assemblage, breeding | **YES** | The birds of the breeding seabird assemblage that use this marine pSPA are also very likely to be qualifiers of other SPAs in Orkney and use these waters to feed in. Therefore impacts to the qualifiers of this pSPA from the ONWP will only occur outside its boundaries, i.e. at the terrestrial SPAs where the birds nest and breed.  The potential negative effect of the project is significant disturbance to birds from trappers and volunteers at the terrestrial SPAs where they breed. This would mainly occur during the initial setting up of the traps, possibly including the use of vehicles to access areas near to nest sites to distribute traps. After the initial set-up phase staff will also need to check traps on a regular basis .  Traps will not be located on, or at the edge of cliffs so there will be no negative impacts of the ONWP to the cliff-nesting species at this site. **However, the project will need to** **avoid setting traps in the vicinity of nesting areas for the ground-nesting species during their breeding seasons**. This will minimise disturbance to less-than-significant levels for those species.  **Relevant dates and buffer distances are set out against the individuals qualifying species that are named in the assemblage for each site. Trap setting and maintenance actions should be taken by ONWP trappers based on the restrictions set out against each ground-nesting bird species that is a part of the assemblage and which are present close to the trap location.**  **T**he ONWP must ensure that the operational methodologies minimise disturbance to the qualifying interests, particularly in places and at times when disturbance would have increased impacts. This will be optimised by ensuring the ONWP keeps up to date on breeding bird and colony locations. **This means a protocol should be established whereby local RSPB staff and volunteers keep the ONWP up to date on known colony locations. ONWP should also use sources such as JNCC seabird colony database Particularly important in this regard are the tern species and other ground-nesting smaller gull species. This protocol should be set up with clear responsibilities and mechanisms in place so that ONWP can avoid significantly disturbing the qualifying species in line with the site’s conservation objective.**  Despite the levels of minimised disturbance from people checking traps in areas near to the ground-nesting species, the consequences of this degree of disturbance are not as serious a threat to the qualifying species as stoats are, if they are allowed to remain. |
| **Pentland Firth Islands SPA** | Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea), breeding | **YES** | These birds can be sensitive to disturbance during the nesting/breeding season, and measures to mitigate this impact are necessary to reduce it as far as possible. The project must ensure that the operational methodologies minimise disturbance to the qualifying interests, particularly in places and at times when disturbance would have increased impacts.  Most of the conservation objectives for this qualifier would be negatively impacted if stoats reached this site, due to predation of chicks and eggs and the lack of any top predators to control their numbers as their population increases. Most clearly, "Population of the species as a viable component of the site", and "Distribution of the species within site".  The most probable negative effect of the project is direct disturbance to ground-nesting and breeding terns from volunteers and staff. This would mainly occur during the initial setting up of the traps. After the initial set-up phase trappers will also need to check traps on a regular basis for the lifetime of the project. **For Arctic tern the breeding dates to avoid traprelated activities are May 1st to August 31st inclusive. During this period traps must only be located out with a 200m buffer zone around the known location of nesting birds. Once terns return in the Spring there may be a need to move and resite traps that are within colony area during breeding season to prevent disturbance and potential loss of eggs/chicks to predators. This should be done as unobtrusively as possible to minimise disturbance to the terns.** |
| **Rousay SPA** | Seabird assemblage, breeding | **YES** | The birds of the breeding seabird assemblage that use this marine pSPA are also very likely to be qualifiers of other SPAs in Orkney and use these waters to feed in. Therefore impacts to the qualifiers of this pSPA from the ONWP will only occur outside its boundaries, i.e. at the terrestrial SPAs where the birds nest and breed.  The potential negative effect of the project is significant disturbance to birds from trappers and volunteers at the terrestrial SPAs where they breed. This would mainly occur during the initial setting up of the traps, possibly including the use of vehicles to access areas near to nest sites to distribute traps. After the initial set-up phase staff will also need to check traps on a regular basis.  Traps will not be located on, or at the edge of cliffs so there will be no negative impacts of the ONWP to the cliff-nesting species at this site. **However, the project will need to** **avoid setting traps in the vicinity of nesting areas for the ground-nesting species during their breeding seasons**. This will minimise disturbance to less-than-significant levels for those species.  **Relevant dates and buffer distances are set out against the individuals qualifying species that are named in the assemblage for each site. Trap setting and maintenance actions should be taken by ONWP trappers based on the restrictions set out against each ground-nesting bird species that is a part of the assemblage and which are present close to the trap location.**  **T**he ONWP must ensure that the operational methodologies minimise disturbance to the qualifying interests, particularly in places and at times when disturbance would have increased impacts. This will be optimised by ensuring the ONWP keeps up to date on breeding bird and colony locations. **This means a protocol should be established whereby local RSPB staff and volunteers keep the ONWP up to date on known colony locations. ONWP should also use sources such as JNCC seabird colony database Particularly important in this regard are the tern species and other ground-nesting smaller gull species. This protocol should be set up with clear responsibilities and mechanisms in place so that ONWP can avoid significantly disturbing the qualifying species in line with the site’s conservation objective.** |
| **Rousay SPA** | Arctic skua (Stercorarius parasiticus), breeding | **YES** | Arctic skua are ground nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage (of which this is a named qualifier). **The breeding dates to avoid trap-related activities are May 1st to August 31st inclusive. Artic Skua can nest in loose colonies, therefore trappers must be trained to recognise when they are in active territories and move quickly through these areas to reduce risk of exposure of eggs/chicks to weather/depredation.** |
| **Rousay SPA** | Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea), breeding | **YES** | These birds can be sensitive to disturbance during the nesting/breeding season, and measures to mitigate this impact are necessary to reduce it as far as possible. The project must ensure that the operational methodologies minimise disturbance to the qualifying interests, particularly in places and at times when disturbance would have increased impacts.  Most of the conservation objectives for this qualifier would be negatively impacted if stoats reached this site, due to predation of chicks and eggs and the lack of any top predators to control their numbers as their population increases. Most clearly, "Population of the species as a viable component of the site", and "Distribution of the species within site".  The most probable negative effect of the project is direct disturbance to ground-nesting and breeding terns from volunteers and staff. This would mainly occur during the initial setting up of the traps. After the initial set-up phase trappers will also need to check traps on a regular basis for the lifetime of the project. **For Arctic tern the breeding dates to avoid traprelated activities are May 1st to August 31st inclusive. During this period traps must only be located out with a 200m buffer zone around the known location of nesting birds.**  **Once terns return in the Spring there may be a need to move and remove traps that are within colony area during breeding season to prevent disturbance and potential loss of eggs/chicks to predators. This should be done as unobtrusively as possible in order to minimise disturbance to the terns** |
| **Rousay SPA** | Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis), breeding | **YES** | Fulmar are cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage, (of which this is a named qualifier). |
| **Rousay SPA** | Guillemot (Uria aalge), breeding | **YES** | Guillemot are cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage, (of which this is a named qualifier). |
| **Rousay SPA** | Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla), breeding | **YES** | Kittiwake are cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage, (of which this is a named qualifier). |
| **Scapa Flow pSPA** | Red-throated diver (Gavia stellata), breeding | **YES** | These birds can be sensitive to disturbance during the nesting/breeding season, and measures to mitigate this impact are necessary to reduce it as far as possible. The project must ensure that the operational methodologies minimise disturbance to the qualifying interests, particularly in places and at times when disturbance would have increased impacts.  The Red-throated divers that use this marine pSPA are also very likely to be qualifiers of Hoy SPA, or less-likely Orkney Mainland Moors SPA, and use these pSPA waters to feed in. Therefore impacts to the qualifiers of this pSPA from the ONWP will only occur outside its boundaries, i.e. at the terrestrial SPAs where the birds nest and breed.  **See RTD entries under Hoy SPA and Orkney Mainland Moors SPA to see mitigation for these birds when at their breeding sites.** |
| **Scapa Flow pSPA** | Black-throated diver (Gavia arctica), non- breeding | **NO** | BTD use this pSPA outside of the breeding season and spend the vast majority of their time on the water. They are therefore not at significant risk from stoats, which mean the project is not aimed at their conservation. |

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| **Scapa Flow pSPA** | Eider (Somateria mollissima), nonbreeding | **NO** | Eider use this pSPA outside of the breeding season and spend the vast majority of their time on the water. They are therefore not at significant risk from stoats, which mean the project is not aimed at their conservation. |
| **Scapa Flow pSPA** | Great northern diver (Gavia immer), nonbreeding | **NO** | GNDs use this pSPA outside of the breeding season and spend the vast majority of their time on the water. They are therefore not at significant risk from stoats, which mean the project is not aimed at their conservation. |
| **Scapa Flow pSPA** | Long-tailed duck (Clangula hyemalis), nonbreeding | **NO** | LTDs use this pSPA outside of the breeding season and spend the vast majority of their time on the water. They are therefore not at significant risk from stoats, which mean the project is not aimed at their conservation. |
| **Scapa Flow pSPA** | Red-breasted merganser  (Mergus serrator), non-breeding | **NO** | RBMs use this pSPA outside of the breeding season and spend the vast majority of their time on the water. They are therefore not at significant risk from stoats, which mean the project is not aimed at their conservation. |
| **Scapa Flow pSPA** | Shag  (Phalacrocorax aristotelis), nonbreeding | **NO** | Shag use this pSPA outside of the breeding season and spend the vast majority of their time on the water. They are therefore not at significant risk from stoats, which mean the project is not aimed at their conservation. |
| **Scapa Flow pSPA** | Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula), nonbreeding | **NO** | Goldeneye use this pSPA outside of the breeding season and spend the vast majority of their time on the water. They are therefore not at significant risk from stoats, which mean the project is not aimed at their conservation. |
| **Scapa Flow pSPA** | Slavonian grebe (Podiceps auritus), non-breeding | **NO** | Slavonian grebe use this pSPA outside of the breeding season and spend the vast majority of their time on the water. They are therefore not at significant risk from stoats, which mean the project is not aimed at their conservation. |
| **Switha SPA** | Greenland  Barnacle goose (Branta leucopsis), non-breeding | **NO** | GBGs use this pSPA outside of the breeding season and due to this, as well as their size and habitats means they are not at any significant risk from stoats. This means the project is not aimed at their conservation. |
| **West Westray SPA** | Seabird assemblage, breeding | **YES** | The potential negative effect of the project is significant disturbance to birds from trappers and volunteers at the terrestrial SPAs where they breed. This would mainly occur during the initial setting up of the traps, possibly including the use of vehicles to access areas near to nest sites to distribute traps. After the initial set-up phase staff will also need to check traps on a regular basis.  Traps will not be located on, or at the edge of cliffs so there will be no negative impacts of the ONWP to the cliff-nesting species at this site. **However, the project will need to** **avoid setting traps in the vicinity of nesting areas for the ground-nesting species during their breeding seasons**. This will minimise disturbance to less-than-significant levels for those species.  **Relevant dates and buffer distances are set out against the individuals qualifying species that are named in the assemblage for each site. Trap setting and maintenance actions should be taken by ONWP trappers based on the restrictions set out against each ground-nesting bird species (e.g. Arctic skua) that is a part of the assemblage and which are present close to the trap location.**  The ONWP must ensure that the operational methodologies minimise disturbance to the qualifying interests, particularly in places and at times when disturbance would have increased impacts. This will be optimised by ensuring the ONWP keeps up to date on breeding bird and colony locations. **This means a protocol should be established whereby local RSPB staff and volunteers keep the ONWP up to date on known colony locations. ONWP should also use sources such as JNCC seabird colony database Particularly important in this regard are the tern species and other ground-nesting smaller gull species. This protocol should be set up with clear responsibilities and mechanisms in place so that ONWP can avoid significantly disturbing the qualifying species in line with the site’s conservation objective.** |
| **West Westray SPA** | Arctic skua (Stercorarius parasiticus), breeding | **YES** | Arctic skua are ground nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage (of which this is a named qualifier) **The breeding dates to avoid trap-related activities are May 1st to August 31st inclusive. Artic Skua can nest in loose colonies, therefore trappers must be trained by RSPB or SNH to recognise when they are in active territories and move quickly through these areas to reduce risk of exposure of eggs/chicks to**  **weather/depredation.** |
| **West Westray SPA** | Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea), breeding | **YES** | Arctic tern are ground-nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage. **For Arctic tern the breeding dates to avoid trap-related activities are May 1st to August 31st inclusive. During this period traps must only be located out with a 200m buffer zone around the known location of the nesting colony.**  **Once terns return in the Spring there may be a need to move and resite traps that are within colony area during breeding season to prevent disturbance and potential loss of eggs/chicks to predators. This must be done as unobtrusively as possible to minimise disturbance to the terns.** |
| **West Westray SPA** | Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis), breeding | **YES** | Fulmar are cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage (of which this is a named qualifier). |
| **West Westray SPA** | Guillemot (Uria aalge), breeding | **YES** | Guillemot are cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage . |
| **West Westray SPA** | Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla), breeding | **YES** | Kittiwake are cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage (of which this is a named qualifier). |
| **West Westray SPA** | Razorbill (Alca  torda), breeding | **YES** | Razorbill are cliff nesting birds, and the rationale is the same for why the 1st test is met for this qualifier as it is for the seabird assemblage (of which this  is a named qualifier). |

**Annex 2: The check for likely significant effects by the ONWP on Orkney Natura sites.**

***This has been carried out for all the qualifiers of Natura sites where the requirements of the 1st HRA test were not met.*** *N.B. Blue shading indicates where there is a LSE.*

*Orange shading indicates a Natura site on Orkney Mainland, Burray or South Ronaldsay.*

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| **Natura site** | **Qualifying Feature** | **Is there likely to be**  **a significant effect (LSE)?** | **Rationale for LSE decision** |
| **Faray and Holm of Faray SAC** | Grey seal (Halichoerus grypus) | **Y** | The seals can be sensitive to disturbance; particularly during the breeding season where many, especially calves and their mothers, spend a significant amount of their time on haul-out beaches as well as further inland both inside and outside the SAC. If the project expands its work this qualifier could be affected by the trap-laying and checking activities of people involved in the project. *indicates where there is a LSE.* |
| **Hoy SAC** | Dry heaths | **Y** | Possible deterioration to the habitat from the scale, nature and location of the project; initially from the setting up of traps, and later on from moving them and the checking of them, over the lifetime of the project *indicates where there is a LSE.* |
| Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath | **Y** | Possible deterioration to the habitat from the scale, nature and location of the project; initially from the setting up of traps, and later on from moving them and the checking of them, over the lifetime of the project *indicates where there is a LSE.* |
| Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks | **Y** | Possible deterioration to the habitat from the scale, nature and location of the project; initially from the setting up of traps, and later on from moving them and the checking of them, over the lifetime of the project *indicates where there is a LSE.* |
| Alpine and subalpine heaths | **Y** | Possible deterioration to the habitat from the scale, nature and location of the project; initially from the setting up of traps, and later on from moving them and the checking of them, over the lifetime of the project *indicates where there is a LSE.* |
| Base-rich fens | **Y** | Possible deterioration to the habitat from the scale, nature and location of the project; initially from the setting up of traps, and later on from moving them and the checking of them, over the lifetime of the project *indicates where there is a LSE.* |
| Hard-water springs depositing lime | **Y** | Possible deterioration to the habitat from the scale, nature and location of the project; initially from the setting up of traps, and later on from moving them and |

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| **Natura site** | **Qualifying Feature** | **Is there likely to be**  **a significant effect (LSE)?** | **Rationale for LSE decision** |
|  |  |  | the checking of them, over the lifetime of the project *indicates where there is a LSE.* |
| Blanket bog | **Y** | Possible deterioration to the habitat from the scale, nature and location of the project; initially from the setting up of traps, and later on from moving them and the checking of them, over the lifetime of the project *indicates where there is a LSE.* |
| Acid peat-stained lakes and ponds | **N** | Trapping and other activities will not take place in lochs, although it will occur around them. Any activities from the project will not impact upon this qualifier. |
| Vegetated sea cliffs | **Y** | Potential for trampling and subsequent deterioration of the habitat from the scale, nature and location of activities during the instigation of the project and later activities related to traps, over the lifetime of the project *indicates where there is a LSE.* |
| **Loch of Isbister**  **SAC** *indicates Natura sites on Orkney Mainland, Burray or South Ronaldsay* | Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface | **Y** | Sensitive qualifier which could be impacted by the scale, nature and location of activities of people involved in the project through trampling etc. deteriorating the habitat in places of usage. *indicates where there is a LSE.* |
| Naturally nutrient-rich lakes or lochs which  are often dominated by pondweed | **N** | Trapping and other activities will not take place in lochs, although it will occur around them. Any activities from the project will not impact upon this qualifier. |
| Otter (Lutra lutra) | **Y** | Potential for significant disturbance to otter on site from the scale, nature and location of the activities of the project team, volunteers and trappers over the lifetime of the project if traps are placed close to sensitive locations such as maternity holts. *indicates where there is a LSE.* |
| **Loch of Stenness SAC** *indicates Natura sites on Orkney Mainland, Burray or South Ronaldsay* | Lagoons | **N** | Trapping and other activities will not take place in the lagoon, although it will occur around it. Any activities from the project will not impact upon this qualifier. |
| **Sanday SAC** | Intertidal mudflats and sandflats | **Y** | Possible deterioration to the habitat from the scale, nature and location of the project if it expands its operations; initially from the setting up of traps, and later on from moving them and the checking of them, over the lifetime of the project |
| Reefs | **N** | No ecological connectivity between the qualifiers of this site and the project. The actions of the project are confined to terrestrial areas. |
| Subtidal sandbanks | **N** | No ecological connectivity between the qualifiers of this site and the project. The actions of the project are confined to terrestrial areas. |
| Harbour seal (Phoca  vitulina) | **Y** | The seals can be sensitive to disturbance at all times of year, but particularly during the breeding season where many, especially calves and their mothers, |

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| **Natura site** | **Qualifying Feature** | **Is there likely to be**  **a significant effect (LSE)?** | **Rationale for LSE decision** |
|  |  |  | spend a significant amount of their time on haul-out beaches. If the project expands its work this qualifier could be affected by from the scale, nature and location of human activities disturbing the seals. *indicates where there is a LSE.* |
| **Stromness Heaths SAC** *indicates Natura sites on Orkney Mainland, Burray or South Ronaldsay* | Dry heaths | **Y** | Potential for trampling and subsequent deterioration of the habitat from excessive activities during the instigation of the project and later activities related to traps, over the lifetime of the project *indicates where there is a LSE.* |
| Base-rich fens | **Y** | Potential for trampling and subsequent deterioration of the habitat from the scale, nature and location of activities during the instigation of the project and later activities related to traps, over the lifetime of the project *indicates where there is a LSE.* |
| Vegetated sea cliffs | **Y** | Potential for trampling and subsequent deterioration of the habitat from the scale, nature and location of activities during the instigation of the project and later activities related to traps, over the lifetime of the project *indicates where there is a LSE.* |
| **North Orkney pSPA[[5]](#footnote-5)** | Eider (Somateria mollissima), nonbreeding | **N** | This is a marine pSPA. The activities of the project will be on land, and the impacts will not extend to the marine environment where the qualifier spends their time. |
| Great northern diver (Gavia immer), nonbreeding | **N** | This is a marine pSPA. The activities of the project will be on land, and the impacts will not extend to the marine environment where the qualifier spends their time. |
| Long-tailed duck (Clangula hyemalis) non-breeding | **N** | This is a marine pSPA. The activities of the project will be on land, and the impacts will not extend to the marine environment where the qualifier spends their time. |
| Red-breasted merganser (Mergus serrator), non-breeding | **N** | This is a marine pSPA. The activities of the project will be on land, and the impacts will not extend to the marine environment where the qualifier spends their time. |
| Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis), nonbreeding | **N** | This is a marine pSPA. The activities of the project will be on land, and the impacts will not extend to the marine environment where the qualifier spends their time. |
| Slavonian grebe (Podiceps auritus), non-breeding | **N** | This is a marine pSPA. The activities of the project will be on land, and the impacts will not extend to the marine environment where the qualifier spends their time. |
| Velvet scoter | **N** | This is a marine pSPA. The activities of the project will be on land, and the |

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| **Natura site** | **Qualifying Feature** | **Is there likely to be**  **a significant effect (LSE)?** | **Rationale for LSE decision** |
|  | (Melanitta fusca), nonbreeding |  | impacts will not extend to the marine environment where the qualifier spends their time. |
| **Scapa Flow pSPA[[6]](#footnote-6)** | Black-throated diver (Gavia arctica), nonbreeding | **N** | This is a marine pSPA. The activities of the project will be on land, and the impacts will not extend to the marine environment where the qualifier spends their time. |
| Eider (Somateria mollissima), nonbreeding | **N** | This is a marine pSPA. The activities of the project will be on land, and the impacts will not extend to the marine environment where the qualifier spends their time. |
| Great northern diver (Gavia immer), nonbreeding | **N** | This is a marine pSPA. The activities of the project will be on land, and the impacts will not extend to the marine environment where the qualifier spends their time. |
| Long-tailed duck (Clangula hyemalis), non-breeding | **N** | This is a marine pSPA. The activities of the project will be on land, and the impacts will not extend to the marine environment where the qualifier spends their time. |
| Red-breasted merganser (Mergus serrator), non-breeding | **N** | This is a marine pSPA. The activities of the project will be on land, and the impacts will not extend to the marine environment where the qualifier spends their time. |
| Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis), nonbreeding | **N** | This is a marine pSPA. The activities of the project will be on land, and the impacts will not extend to the marine environment where the qualifier spends their time. |
| Goldeneye (Bucephala  clangula), nonbreeding | **N** | This is a marine pSPA. The activities of the project will be on land, and the impacts will not extend to the marine environment where the qualifier spends their time. |
| Slavonian grebe (Podiceps auritus), non-breeding | **N** | This is a marine pSPA. The activities of the project will be on land, and the impacts will not extend to the marine environment where the qualifier spends their time. |
| **Switha SPA** | Greenland Barnacle goose (Branta leucopsis), nonbreeding | **Y** | Qualifier is present during non-breeding times. Geese could be disturbed by the scale, nature and location of activities of project staff on foot or using vehicles as the project evolves. This could occur both within the SPA, and in areas out-with the SPA where the geese feed (primarily agricultural land at South Walls). The geese can be sensitive to disturbance (especially unpredictable / irregular disturbance) which can stress them and negatively |
| **Natura site** | **Qualifying Feature** | **Is there likely to be**  **a significant effect (LSE)?** | **Rationale for LSE decision** |
|  |  |  | impact on their energetics, especially if they fly away from the disturbance. *indicates where there is a LSE.* |

**Annex 3: The Conservation Objectives for the SACs and SPA qualifiers that have required an AA:**

**Non-bird species qualifiers:**

## Grey seal (Halichoerus grypus) and Otter (lutra lutra);

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

* Population of the species as a viable component of the site
* Distribution of the species within site
* Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
* Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the
* species
* No significant disturbance of the species

## Habitat qualifiers;

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

* Extent of the habitat on site
* Distribution of the habitat within site
* Structure and function of the habitat
* Processes supporting the habitat
* Distribution of typical species of the habitat
* Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
* No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

## Bird species qualifers;

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

* Population of the species as a viable component of the site
* Distribution of the species within site
* Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
* Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
* No significant disturbance of the species

1. This site is selected as it is an important feeding area for the qualifying species of other SPAs in Orkney. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This site is selected as it is an important feeding area for the qualifying species of other SPAs in Orkney. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This site is selected as it is an important feeding area for the qualifying species of other SPAs in Orkney. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. This site is selected as it is an important feeding area for the qualifying species of other SPAs in Orkney. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Red-throated diver at this site pass the requirements of the 1st test. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Red-throated divers at this site pass the requirements of the 1st HRA test. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)