

A96 Dualling Programme
Strategic Environmental Assessment
Tier 2 Environmental Report

Appendix H - Detailed Assessment Constraints
Data Capture and Analysis Matrices
(shortlisted Improvement Strategy Options)

May 2015

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table				
Section 3: Hardmuir Wood to Alves				
Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	Forres Option B North	Forres Option B South	Forres Option N
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 5km long and 940Ha in area. This section of Option B has no direct comparator.	Approximately 13km long and 2550Ha in area. Forres Option B North is a direct comparator for Forres Option B South and Forres Option N.	Approximately 13km long and 2630Ha in area. Forres Option B South is a direct comparator for Forres Option B North and Forres Option N.	Approximately 13km long and 2670Ha in area. Forres Option N is a direct comparator for Forres Option B North and Forres Option B South.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Biodiversity				
Ramsar Sites	None	Moray and Nairn Coast 0.6% (16.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Natura sites may be present/ adjacent but likely to be small or in discrete locations that could be avoided within the option extent	None	None
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	None	Moray and Nairn Coast 0.6% (16.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Natura sites may be present/ adjacent but likely to be small or in discrete locations that could be avoided within the option extent	Darnaway and Lethen Forest 0.1% (2.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Natura sites may be present/ adjacent but likely to be small or in discrete locations that could be avoided within the option extent	Darnaway and Lethen Forest 1.1% (29.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Natura sites may be present/ adjacent but likely to be small or in discrete locations that could be avoided within the option extent
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	None	None	Lower Findhorn Woods <0.1% (0.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Natura sites may be present/ adjacent but likely to be small or in discrete locations that could be avoided within the option extent	Lower Findhorn Woods 0.4% (11.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Natura sites may be present/ adjacent but likely to be small or in discrete locations that could be avoided within the option extent
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Biological & Mixed	None	Culbin Sands, Culbin Forest and Findhorn Bay (Mixed) 0.7% (16.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Lower Findhorn Woods (Bio) <0.1% (0.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Lower Findhorn Woods (Bio) 0.4% (11.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	None	None	None	None
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	None	Findhorn Bay 0.5% (11.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint in the area	None	None
Ancient Woodland Inventory sites	Total cover 25.3% (238.9) semi-natural 25.3% (238.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	Total cover 5.1% (130.5) semi-natural 0.5% (13.4) plantation 4.6% (117.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • National/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint in the area	Total cover 17.4% (456.7) semi-natural 0.1% (1.4) plantation 17.3% (455.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	Total cover 33.1% (881.5) semi-natural 0.4% (11.2) plantation 32.7% (870.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites
Native Woodland Survey of Scotland sites	Total cover 5.7% (54.2) native woodland 4.7% (44.5) open land habitat 1.0% (9.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Total cover 3.0% (75.4) native woodland 2.0% (51.1) nearly-native woodland 0.1% (2.2) open land habitat 0.2% (4.8) PAWS 0.7% (17.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Total cover 4.4% (114.6) native woodland 4.1% (108.4) nearly-native woodland <0.1% (0.9) open land habitat 0.2% (5.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Total cover 9.9% (264.5) native woodland 7.6% (203.7) nearly-native woodland 0.2% (4.2) open land habitat 2.0% (53.6) PAWS 0.1% (3.0) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Locally designated nature conservation sites (e.g. SINS - Sites of Interest to Natural Science)	Moray SINS: Total 12.0% (113.4) Findhorn Valley 12.0% (113.4) Aberdeenshire Lowland Raised Peat Bog: Inshoch Moss Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Moray SINS: Total 9.1% (233.7) Findhorn Valley 1.0% (26.5) Culbin, Findhorn & Burghead Bay 8.1% (207.2) Moray Coastal Protection Zone: 0.4% (11.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Moray SINS: Total 9.5% (249.0) Findhorn Valley 9.5% (249.0) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Moray SINS: Total 25.6% (682.7) Findhorn Valley 25.6% (682.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint Sensitivity Assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent No Natura, SSSI or NNR sites within this segment. The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI, all of which is semi-natural, and which is moderately extensive across the segment area. Other constraints will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on NWSS woodland, SINS and a small peat bog area in the north west corner of the segment.	Constraint Sensitivity Assessment - Medium • Natura sites may be present/ adjacent but likely to be small or in discrete locations that could be avoided within the option extent A key sensitivity in this segment will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on Ramsar, Natura, SSSI and LNR sites. These sites are generally at the edge of the segment and do not represent a significant constraint to dualling. Relatively low AWI/ NWSS woodland cover which does not heavily constrain the segment area. Other constraints include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the Coastal Protection Zone at the northern edge of the segment, as well as SINS.	Constraint Sensitivity Assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites • Natura sites may be present/ adjacent but likely to be small or in discrete locations that could be avoided within the option extent Key issues will include avoidance of Natura and SSSI sites at the outer edge of the 2km study area which are sensitive features but not extensive area constraints in the segment. Substantial areas of AWI (majority LEPO) and SINS to the south of Forres may prove more difficult to avoid, and therefore represent an important constraint and sensitivity to dualling, particularly in the western part of the segment.	Constraint Sensitivity Assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites • Natura sites may be present/ adjacent but likely to be small or in discrete locations that could be avoided within the option extent Key issues will include avoidance of Natura and SSSI sites at the outer edge of the 2km study area which are sensitive features but not extensive area constraints in the segment. Substantial areas of AWI (majority LEPO) and SINS cross the breadth of the segment area to the south of Forres, and are therefore unavoidable representing an important constraint and sensitivity to dualling in this segment.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table				
Section 3: Hardmuir Wood to Alves				
Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	Forres Option B North	Forres Option B South	Forres Option N
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 5km long and 940Ha in area. This section of Option B has no direct comparator.	Approximately 13km long and 2550Ha in area. Forres Option B North is a direct comparator for Forres Option B South and Forres Option N.	Approximately 13km long and 2630Ha in area. Forres Option B South is a direct comparator for Forres Option B North and Forres Option N.	Approximately 13km long and 2670Ha in area. Forres Option N is a direct comparator for Forres Option B North and Forres Option B South.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Soils & Geodiversity				
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Geological & Mixed	None	Culbin Sands, Culbin Forest and Findhorn Bay (Mixed) 0.7% (16.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent	None	None
Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites	None	None	None	None
Agricultural land classes 1 to 3.1 (Prime agricultural land)	Total Cover 47.4% (447.53) Grade 2 Arable Agriculture 34.1% (321.5) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 13.3% (126.0) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites	Total Cover 49.8% (1270.5) Grade 2 Arable Agriculture 32.0% (816.5) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 17.8% (454.0) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites	Total Cover 23.0% (605.7) Grade 2 Arable Agriculture 6.5% (169.8) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 16.6% (435.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total Cover 7.4% (197.3) Grade 2 Arable Agriculture 1.4% (36.4) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 6.0% (160.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Carbon-rich soil classification	Class 0: 0.3% (3.0) Class 1: 98.0% (925.2) Class 6: 1.7% (15.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Class 0: 1.5% (37.5) Class 1: 97.2% (2480.3) Class 6: 1.4% (35.0) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Class 0: 0.2% (5.7) Class 1: 98.7% (2598.0) Class 6: 1.0% (27.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Class 0: 0.4% (10.2) Class 1: 94.5% (2516.4) Class 4: 5.2% (137.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint Sensitivity Assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites The segment is extensively covered by prime agricultural land with associated importance for agriculture. A key constraint will therefore be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on prime agricultural land. There are small areas of carbon-rich soils in the segment however the extent and spatial distribution of these do not present an extensive constraint to dualling.	Constraint Sensitivity Assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites The segment is extensively covered by prime agricultural land with associated importance for agriculture. A key constraint will therefore be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on prime agricultural land. The geological SSSI site is a sensitive location but confined to the extreme northern edge of the segment. There are small areas of carbon-rich soils in the segment however the extent and spatial distribution of these do not present an extensive constraint to dualling.	Constraint Sensitivity Assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent The segment is partly covered by prime agricultural land with associated importance for agriculture. An important constraint will therefore be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on prime agricultural land however it would be possible to develop a route which avoids most of this constraint. There are small areas of carbon-rich soils in the segment however the extent and spatial distribution of these do not present an extensive constraint to dualling.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area The segment is not extensively covered by prime agricultural land although agriculture remains important and a constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the better quality land. Other constraints will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on carbon-rich soils however the extent and distribution of these does not represent a significant constraint to road dualling.
Water & Flooding				
1:200 yr fluvial flood extent (surface area)	Total cover 13.0% (123.0) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 28.6% (730.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 13.1% (345.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 6.7% (178.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
1:200 yr coastal flood extent (surface area)	None	Total cover 1.9% (48.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation	None	None
1:200 yr pluvial flooding (surface area)	Total cover 6.4% (60.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 7.8% (199.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 7.8% (204.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 4.7% (126.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Major watercourse crossings (Watercourses shown on 1:50k OS mapping)	Likely to be constrained by crossing Muckle Burn, a tributary of the River Findhorn Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Very likely to require a new crossing of the River Findhorn with a large hydrological catchment and large river flows. Also likely to be constrained by crossing Muckle Burn, a tributary of the River Findhorn, and Kinloss Burn tributaries Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation	Very likely to cross the River Findhorn and Burn of Mosset (or its tributaries). Also likely to be constrained by crossing Muckle Burn, a tributary of the River Findhorn, and Kinloss Burn tributaries Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation	Likely to be constrained by a number of watercourses including the River Findhorn and Muckle Burn, a tributary of the River Findhorn, as well as Burn of Mosset (or its tributaries). Also likely to be constrained by smaller watercourses as segment traverses the upstream of hydrological catchments. Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Possibility of groundwater contributing to flooding (surface area)	Total cover 0.1% (0.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 31.0% (790.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 38.9% (1022.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 55.4% (1476.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Existing flood defence infrastructure	None	Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme Forres (Burn of Mosset) Flood Alleviation Scheme Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme Forres (Burn of Mosset) Flood Alleviation Scheme Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) Flood Alleviation Scheme Forres (Burn of Mosset) Flood Alleviation Scheme Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
No. of properties within 1:200yr flood extents	Possibly constrained by several properties already within the fluvial floodplain. 13 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Very likely to be constrained by large number of properties in Forres and Kinloss within the fluvial and coastal floodplain. 176 properties in fluvial floodplain 2 properties in coastal floodplain 2 properties in coastal & fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation	Likely to be constrained by properties in Forres within the fluvial floodplain. 29 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Possibly constrained by properties within the River Findhorn fluvial floodplain. 27 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Other water resource issues	None	Benromach Distillery is located within this segment.	Dallas Dhu Distillery is located at the centre of this segment.	Dallas Dhu Distillery is located at the northern edge of this segment.
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation The key constraints in this segment will be risk from fluvial flooding to future dualled A96 route, to the number of properties currently in fluvial flood plain as well as risk of potential changes in the extent of flood plains as a result of dualling. Other constraint includes watercourse crossings which may be unavoidable as the Muckle Burn crosses the segment.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation Almost one third of the segment area is within the 1:200yr fluvial flood zone, with a much lower percentage of the area (~2%) in the coastal flood zone. Large number of properties located within the fluvial floodplain, with some in the coastal floodplain or both indicating high level of sensitivity to flooding and to potential changes in the extent of floodplains as a result of dualling. Flood risk zones are likely to be the key positional constraint to dualling alignment options within the 2km segment area.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation The key constraints in this segment will be risk from fluvial flooding to future dualled A96 route, to the significant number of properties currently in fluvial flood plain as well as risk of potential changes in the extent of flood plains as a result of dualling. Other constraint includes watercourse crossings which may be unavoidable due to the number within the segment area.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation The key constraints in this segment will be risk from fluvial flooding to future dualled A96 route, to the significant number of properties currently in fluvial flood plain as well as risk of potential changes in the extent of flood plains as a result of dualling. Other constraint includes watercourse crossings which may be unavoidable due to the number within the segment area.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table				
Section 3: Hardmuir Wood to Alves				
Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	Forres Option B North	Forres Option B South	Forres Option N
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 5km long and 940Ha in area. This section of Option B has no direct comparator.	Approximately 13km long and 2550Ha in area. Forres Option B North is a direct comparator for Forres Option B South and Forres Option N.	Approximately 13km long and 2630Ha in area. Forres Option B South is a direct comparator for Forres Option B North and Forres Option N.	Approximately 13km long and 2670Ha in area. Forres Option N is a direct comparator for Forres Option B North and Forres Option B South.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Air				
Air Quality Management Areas	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment
Traffic flow/ demand data (as a proxy for local air quality where available)	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows are c9,900. These are forecast to increase to c17,300 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are well within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment -Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows range between c11,100 to c13,000. These are forecast to increase to between c20,800 to c22,100 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are well within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment -Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows range between c11,100 to c13,000. These are forecast to increase to between c20,800 to c22,100 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are well within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment -Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows range between c11,100 to c13,000. These are forecast to increase to between c20,800 to c22,100 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are well within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment -Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment -Low Air quality in the segment area is generally good and typical of rural areas and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96	Constraint sensitivity assessment -Low Air quality in the segment area is generally good and typical of rural areas and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96 and busier roads at the edge of Forres	Constraint sensitivity assessment -Low Air quality in the segment area is generally good and typical of rural areas and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96 and busier roads at the edge of Forres	Constraint sensitivity assessment -Low Air quality in the segment area is generally good and typical of rural areas and will be locally influenced by busier roads at the edge of Forres
Population & Human Health				
Towns and principal centres of population	Blinkbonny adjacent to A96 Dyke –1km N of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment -Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	Forres (part) adjacent to A96 Springfield adjacent to A96 Kinloss (part) –1km N of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment -Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	Forres (part) adjacent to A96 Mains of Burgie Constraint sensitivity assessment -Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	Rafford Tulloch Califer Constraint sensitivity assessment -Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive
'Population' to act as a proxy for receptors subject to potential effects on amenity (number of properties from OS AddressBasePlus dataset)	73 properties Average Moray household size 2012=2.24 people Therefore population density=0.17 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment -Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	896 properties Average Moray household size 2012=2.24 people Therefore population density=0.77 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment -Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	820 properties Average Moray household size 2012=2.24 people Therefore population density=0.71 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment -Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	237 properties Average Moray household size 2012=2.24 people Therefore population density=0.20 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment -Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive
Traffic volume (as a proxy for road traffic noise where available) Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) by section to nearest 100 vehicles	2012 AADT: c9,900 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c17,300	2012 AADT: c11,100 to 13,000 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c20,800 to 22,100	2012 AADT: c11,100 to 13,000 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c20,800 to 22,100	2012 AADT: c11,100 to 13,000 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c20,800 to 22,100
Core paths/ NMUs	Sustrans National Cycle Route 1 2 Aspirational Core paths Constraint sensitivity assessment -Low • Land uses and general character of the area are of limited sensitivity, or high tolerance to change NCN Route 1 runs throughout the segment area but does not cross the whole width of the segment Both aspirational Core Paths are located in the norther part of the segment near Brodie castle	Sustrans National Cycle Route 1 The Moray Coast Trail 20 Core paths 8 Aspirational Core paths Constraint sensitivity assessment -Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation NCN Route 1 runs throughout the segment area. Moray Coast Trail crosses segment to the north east of Forres The 20 Core paths run throughout the segment area. The 8 Aspirational Core paths run along the A96.	Sustrans National Cycle Route 1 The Dava Way 13 Core paths 7 Aspirational Core paths Constraint sensitivity assessment -Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation NCN Route 1 only present in far west of segment. Dava Way crosses segment to the south of Forres. The 13 Core paths and 7 Aspirational Core paths run throughout and across the segment area, south of Forres.	The Dava Way 6 Core paths 1 Aspirational Core path Constraint sensitivity assessment -Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation Dava Way crosses segment to the south of Forres The 6 Core paths run along the A96 and throughout the segment area, east of Rafford. The Aspirational Core path runs along the A96 on a small portion east of Forres.
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment -Low • Land uses and general character of the area are of limited sensitivity, or high tolerance to change Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres and the National Cycle Route. Segment sensitivity reflects the relatively low number of properties and population density.	Constraint sensitivity assessment -Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres and NMUs. Segment sensitivity reflects proximity of option to large settlement of Forres and the constraints from proximity of national and regional trails.	Constraint sensitivity assessment -Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres and NMUs. Segment sensitivity reflects proximity of option to large settlement of Forres and the constraints from proximity of national and regional trails.	Constraint sensitivity assessment -Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres and NMUs. Segment sensitivity reflects proximity of option to large settlement of Forres and the constraints from proximity of national and regional trails.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table				
Section 3: Hardmuir Wood to Alves				
Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	Forres Option B North	Forres Option B South	Forres Option N
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 5km long and 940Ha in area. This section of Option B has no direct comparator.	Approximately 13km long and 2550Ha in area. Forres Option B North is a direct comparator for Forres Option B South and Forres Option N.	Approximately 13km long and 2630Ha in area. Forres Option B South is a direct comparator for Forres Option B North and Forres Option N.	Approximately 13km long and 2670Ha in area. Forres Option N is a direct comparator for Forres Option B North and Forres Option B South.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Historic Environment				
Scheduled Monuments (SM)	1x SM Rodney's Stone (cross slab 450m ESE of Brodie Castle) -450m N of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	3x SM Greshop Farm (enclosures 300-400m SW of) -on A96 Sueno's Stone -30m S of A96 Kinloss Abbey -1,400m N of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	2x SM Dallas Dhu (distillery) -2,100m SE of A96 Greshop Farm (enclosures 300-400m SW of) -on A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	4x SM Alyre (old parish church) -3,500m SE of A96 Alyre House (inscribed stone) -3,600m SE of A96 Dallas Dhu (distillery) -2,100m SE of A96 Templestone (stone circle, Rafford) -3,000m S of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Inventory Battlefields	None	None	None	None
A Listed Buildings	2x A listed Darnaway Castle, East Gate and Lodge -500m S of A96 Brodie Castle -600m N of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	8x A listed Moy House -1,700m NW of A96 Mains of Moy -1,800m NW of A96 Grange Hall -550m N of A96 East Grange -800m N of A96 Kinloss Abbey and Burial Ground, Abbot's Lodging -1,400m N of A96 Forres, River Findhorn, Findhorn Viaduct -200m N of A96 Invererne House -1,300m NW of A96 Forres, Victoria Road, St John's Episcopal Church -300m S of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	8x A listed Dallas Dhu Distillery -2,100m SE of A96 Dallas Dhu Distillery, 1 Dallas Dhu Cottages -2,100m SE of A96 Dallas Dhu Distillery, 2 Dallas Dhu Cottages -2,100m SE of A96 Dallas Dhu Distillery, 3 Dallas Dhu Cottages -2,100m SE of A96 Dallas Dhu Distillery, 4 Dallas Dhu Cottages -2,100m SE of A96 Dallas Dhu Distillery, Bonded Warehouses -2,100m SE of A96 Blervie -2,800m S of A96 East Grange -800m N of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	11x A listed Alyre, Blairs Home Farm, Pond Cottage -3,300m SE of A96 Alyre, Blairs Home Farm, Tower Cottage -3,300m SE of A96 Alyre, Blairs Home Farm, Hall -3,300m SE of A96 Alyre, Blairs Home Farm -3,300m SE of A96 Alyre, Old Parish Church and Burial Ground -3,500m SE of A96 Dallas Dhu Distillery, 1 Dallas Dhu Cottages -2,100m SE of A96 Dallas Dhu Distillery, 2 Dallas Dhu Cottages -2,100m SE of A96 Dallas Dhu Distillery, 3 Dallas Dhu Cottages -2,100m SE of A96 Dallas Dhu Distillery, 4 Dallas Dhu Cottages -2,100m SE of A96 Dallas Dhu Distillery, Bonded Warehouses -2,100m SE of A96 Dallas Dhu Distillery -2,100m SE of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Gardens & Designed Landscapes	Total cover 21.1% (199.6) Darnaway Castle 10.9% (103.2) Brodie Castle 10.2% (96.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • National/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	Total cover 1.3% (33.0) Darnaway Castle 1.0% (25.0) Grant Park and Cluny Hill 0.3% (8.0) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total cover 1.2% (30.7) Darnaway Castle 1.2% (30.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total cover 2.4% (63.3) Darnaway Castle 2.4% (63.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
B & C Listed Buildings	6x B listed 4x C listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • National/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	23x B listed 16x C listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • National/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	18x B listed 2x C listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	16x B listed 9x C listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Conservation Areas (HS and Local Authority data)	None	Forres 0.9% (24.1) -100m south of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	None	None
Local Historic Designated Sites	Moray Archaeological Sites: 2x Regionally Significant 34x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Moray Archaeological Sites: 13x Regionally Significant 174x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Moray Archaeological Sites: 11x Regionally Significant 128x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Moray Archaeological Sites: 14x Regionally Significant 91x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • National/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites A key constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of setting impacts on two GDLs which could prove difficult to avoid given their distribution and proximity the current A96 and to each other. Other constraints will be avoidance and minimisation of setting impacts on Listed Buildings and a Scheduled Monument which have good avoidance potential, as well as non-designated Moray archaeological sites.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • National/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites Key constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of setting impacts on high value scheduled monuments, A listed buildings and GDLs. Option also lies close to the historic core and Conservation Area at Forres which introduces a potential constraint. Other constraints will be avoidance and minimisation of setting impacts on a high number of B and C listed buildings and Moray archaeological sites.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • National/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites Key constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of setting impacts on high value scheduled monuments, A listed buildings and GDL. There is a particular pinch point towards the middle of the segment area between Dallas Dhu distillery and the southern part of Forres, where there would be limited opportunities for avoidance without subsequent impacts on private properties. Other constraints will be avoidance and minimisation of setting impacts on a high number of B and C listed buildings and Moray archaeological sites.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent Key constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of setting impacts on high value scheduled monuments, A listed buildings and GDL. Other constraints will be avoidance and minimisation of setting impacts on a large number of B and C listed buildings and Moray archaeological sites. The distribution of these assets within the segment provides ample opportunities for avoidance, without any of the pinch points identified in the other segments.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table				
Section 3: Hardmuir Wood to Alves				
Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	Forres Option B North	Forres Option B South	Forres Option N
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 5km long and 940Ha in area. This section of Option B has no direct comparator.	Approximately 13km long and 2550Ha in area. Forres Option B North is a direct comparator for Forres Option B South and Forres Option N.	Approximately 13km long and 2630Ha in area. Forres Option B South is a direct comparator for Forres Option B North and Forres Option N.	Approximately 13km long and 2670Ha in area. Forres Option N is a direct comparator for Forres Option B North and Forres Option B South.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Landscape				
Landscape character types (Level 3)	Highland Straths Lowland Coastal Landscapes of the North East	Highland Straths Lowland Coastal Landscapes of the North East	Highland Straths Coastal Lowlands of the North East	Highland Straths Inland Loch Lowland Coastal Landscapes of the North East
Landscape designations	None	None	None	Moray AGLV: Total 1.6% (42.2) River Findhorn 1.0% (27.9) Pluscarden 0.5% (14.3)
Commentary on indicative landscape sensitivity	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - Low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be: not designated and are likely to contain few, if any, features and elements that could not be replaced. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The character of the area is of open fields with some wooded areas.</p> <p>The settlements of Brodie and Blinkbonny are sensitive receptors.</p> <p>The railway line is a major constraint to the north of the existing road.</p> <p>The existing A96 currently runs through this segment and it is an established part of the local landscape which reduces its sensitivity.</p> <p>The character of the landscape can absorb a dualled route without a significant impact to its quality and character.</p>	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - Low/Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to partly accommodate change; comprised of commonplace elements and features creating generally unremarkable character but with some sense of place. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The landscape character consists mainly of flat lowland agricultural land. There are a few small patches of woodland throughout the segment and Alves wood is located in the eastern part of the segment.</p> <p>The northern suburbs of Forres, the Village of Broom of Moy, and the southern part of Kinloss, including Kinloss Abbey, are located within the segment and are sensitive receptors.</p> <p>The landscape in this area is quite flat and it would be sensitive to any new elevated structures required to cross the railway and the River Findhorn.</p> <p>The landscape can absorb the inclusion of a dualled route without significant impact to its quality and character.</p>	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to partly accommodate change; comprised of commonplace elements and features creating generally unremarkable character but with some sense of place. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The character is of open fields with some wooded areas. There are a larger areas of woodland to the south-east of Forres, which could potentially be impacted, however, these wooded areas could also help to conceal a dualled route, thereby potentially reducing the sensitivity of the landscape.</p> <p>The picturesque, historically designated Dallas Dhu Distillery is a key constraint as this is a sensitive feature in the landscape and integral to the character of the area.</p> <p>As the landscape in this area is quite flat it would be sensitive to any new structures required to cross the River Findhorn.</p> <p>Generally the landscape can be maintained, and absorb a dualled route without a significant impact to its quality and character.</p>	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - High/ Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be unable to accommodate change; of high quality with distinctive elements and features making a positive contribution to character and sense of place. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The character is predominately of open fields with pockets of wooded areas. There are large areas of woodland to the south-east of Forres, which could potentially be avoided through route alignment, however further east along the segment the areas of woodland would be more challenging to avoid.</p> <p>The River Findhorn AGLV and the Pluscarden AGLV are located within the segment and are key sensitive constraints. Where the terrain rises, the landscape character would be sensitive to any new infrastructure which would be viewed from the north on the side of the hills.</p> <p>As the landscape in the west of the area is quite flat, it would be sensitive to any new elevated bridge structures required to cross the River Findhorn.</p> <p>To the east of the segment (at Todholes) there is a large area of high wildness value which could be sensitive to a dualled route.</p> <p>Although the landscape character and value can generally be maintained, there would be some moderate impacts on the landscape</p>

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table			
Section 4: Alves to Lhanbryde			
Strategic Intervention Option	Elgin Option B North	Elgin Option B South	Elgin Option N
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 21km long and 4220Ha in area. Elgin Option B North is a direct comparator for Elgin Option B South and Elgin Option N.	Approximately 19km long and 3790Ha in area. Elgin Option B South is a direct comparator for Elgin Option B North and Elgin Option N.	Approximately 15km long and 2300Ha in area. Elgin Option N is a direct comparator for Elgin Option B North and Elgin Option B South.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Biodiversity			
Ramsar Sites	Loch Spynie 0.2% (7.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Natura sites may be present/ adjacent but likely to be small or in discrete locations that could be avoided within the option extent	None	None
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	Loch Spynie 0.2% (7.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Natura sites may be present/ adjacent but likely to be small or in discrete locations that could be avoided within the option extent	None	None
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	None	None	None
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Biological & Mixed	Total cover 0.4% (16.1) Loch Spynie (Bio) 0.2% (7.5) Loch Oire (Bio) 0.2% (8.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total cover 0.2% (8.6) Loch Oire (Bio) 0.2% (8.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total cover 0.7% (20.5) Buinach and Glenlatterach (Bio) 0.5% (14.4) Coleburn Pasture (Bio) 0.2% (6.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	None	None	None
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	None	None	None
Ancient Woodland Inventory sites	Total cover 12.4% (521.8) plantation 12.4% (521.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	Total cover 12.0% (454.0) plantation 12.0% (454.0) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	Total cover 8.8% (264.1) plantation 8.8% (264.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Native Woodland Survey of Scotland sites	Total cover 3.2% (136.3) native woodland 2.8% (119.0) nearly-native woodland 0.4% (16.5) open land habitat <0.1% (0.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total cover 4.0% (150.8) native woodland 3.8% (143.4) nearly-native woodland 0.2% (7.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	Total cover 4.7% (140.0) native woodland 4.2% (127.0) open land habitat 0.4% (13.0) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites
Locally designated nature conservation sites (e.g. SINS - Sites of Interest to Natural Science)	Moray SINS: Total 10.8% (456.7) Quarrywood <0.1% (1.4) Spynie 8.0% (338.6) Lhanbryde Lochs 2.8% (116.7) Aberdeenshire Lowland Raised Peat Bog: Moss of Meft (x3 sites) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	Moray SINS: Total 4.8% (183.6) Lhanbryde Lochs 4.8% (183.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Moray SINS: Total 4.5% (134.1) Scaat Craig 0.6% (19.2) Brown Muir/ Teindland 3.8% (114.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites • Natura sites may be present/ adjacent but likely to be small or in discrete locations that could be avoided within the option extent Key issues include avoidance of Natura and SSSI sites which are sensitive features but not extensive area constraints in the segment. The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI, all of which is plantation, and although not extensive in cover, crosses the breadth of the segment area at the eastern extent. Other constraints include the avoidance and minimisation of impacts on SINS which, in one area, covers the breadth of the segment.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites No Natura or NNR sites within the segment and although key issues include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the SSSI which is a sensitive feature, it is not an extensive area constraint in the segment. The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI and NWSS woodland which, although not extensive in cover, cross the breadth of the segment area in several locations. Other constraints will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on SINS to the eastern extent of the segment.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites No Natura or NNR sites within the 2km wide boundary in this segment. The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on NWSS native woodland which, although not extensive in cover, cross the breadth of the segment area. Other constraints will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on SSSIs to the south of the segment, SINS to the east and AWI woodland throughout.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table			
Section 4: Alves to Lhanbryde			
Strategic Intervention Option	Elgin Option B North	Elgin Option B South	Elgin Option N
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 21km long and 4220Ha in area. Elgin Option B North is a direct comparator for Elgin Option B South and Elgin Option N.	Approximately 19km long and 3790Ha in area. Elgin Option B South is a direct comparator for Elgin Option B North and Elgin Option N.	Approximately 15km long and 2300Ha in area. Elgin Option N is a direct comparator for Elgin Option B North and Elgin Option B South.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Soils & Geodiversity			
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Geological & Mixed	Spynie Quarry and Findrassie (Geological) 0.2% (8.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent	None	Scaat Craig (Geological) 0.05% (1.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites	Spynie Quarry and Findrassie 0.4% (18.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent	None	Scaat Craig (Geological) 0.06% (1.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Agricultural land classes 1 to 3.1 (Prime agricultural land)	Total Cover 43.6% (1838.6) Grade 2 Arable Agriculture 16.6% (699.4) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 27% (1139.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites	Total Cover 18.3% (694.9) Grade 2 Arable Agriculture 2% (75) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 16.3% (619.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total Cover 0.5% (13.5) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 0.5% (13.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Carbon-rich soil classification	Class 0: 0.2% (8.1) Class 1: 99.8% (4214.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Negligible • Any designations present minimal constraint in the option area	Class 0: 0.8% (31.2) Class 1: 99.1% (3755.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Negligible • Any designations present minimal constraint in the option area	Class 0: 0.2% (7.3) Class 1: 88.5% (2653) Class 3: 1.6% (47) Class 4: 9.7% (289.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint Sensitivity Assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites The segment is extensively covered by prime agricultural land with associated importance for agriculture. A key constraint will therefore be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on prime agricultural land. The segment is partly covered by SSSI and GCR and whilst these are important designations they are not extensive and do not represent a significant constraint to dualling There are small areas of carbon-rich soils in the segment however the extent and distribution of these do not present an extensive constraint to dualling.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation The segment is partly covered by prime agricultural land and a constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the better quality land. There is relatively little constraint from carbon-rich soils and there are no designated geological sites in the segment.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area The segment is not extensively covered by prime agricultural land although agriculture remains important and a constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the better quality land. Other constraints will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on carbon-rich soils (class 3 and 4 especially) which are distributed over small areas of the segment but typically concentrated in the southern and more peripheral area.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table			
Section 4: Alves to Lhanbryde			
Strategic Intervention Option	Elgin Option B North	Elgin Option B South	Elgin Option N
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 21km long and 4220Ha in area. Elgin Option B North is a direct comparator for Elgin Option B South and Elgin Option N.	Approximately 19km long and 3790Ha in area. Elgin Option B South is a direct comparator for Elgin Option B North and Elgin Option N.	Approximately 15km long and 2300Ha in area. Elgin Option N is a direct comparator for Elgin Option B North and Elgin Option B South.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Water & Flooding			
1:200 yr fluvial flood extent (surface area)	Total cover 18.8% (794.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 11.3% (429.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 2.5% (75.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
1:200 yr coastal flood extent (surface area)	Total cover 10.1% (427.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	None	None
1:200 yr pluvial flooding (surface area)	Total cover 7.6% (320.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 7.7% (290.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 3.1% (92.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Major watercourse crossings (Watercourses shown on 1:50k OS mapping)	Very likely requires new crossings of the River Lossie downstream of the existing A96 crossing with larger river flows. Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation	Very likely to be constrained by multiple tributaries of the River Lossie. Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation	Very likely requires new crossings of the River Lossie upstream of the existing A96 crossing with smaller river flows. Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation
Possibility of groundwater contributing to flooding (surface area)	Total cover 54.3% (2291.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 47.8% (1811.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 53.9% (1615.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Existing flood defence infrastructure	Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme Elgin Waterside Street Flood Protection Scheme Tyock Burn Flood Prevention Scheme Lhanbryde Flood Alleviation Scheme Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme Elgin Waterside Street Flood Protection Scheme Tyock Burn Flood Prevention Scheme Lhanbryde Flood Alleviation Scheme Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme Elgin Waterside Street Flood Protection Scheme Tyock Burn Flood Prevention Scheme Lhanbryde Flood Alleviation Scheme Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
No. of properties within 1:200yr flood extents	Likely to be constrained by high number of properties in and around Elgin that are already in the fluvial and coastal floodplains 54 properties in fluvial floodplain 17 properties in coastal floodplain 17 properties in coast and fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Likely to be constrained by properties in and around Elgin that are already in the fluvial floodplain 43 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Likely to be constrained by properties in the fluvial floodplain; however, will be less so as located further away from the urban area 11 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Other water resource issues	There are a number of distilleries within and surrounding Elgin.	Longmorn Distillery, Benraich Distillery, and Mitonduff Distillery are all located within the 2km boundary of this segment. There are a number of distilleries within and surrounding Elgin.	Glen Elgin Distillery, and Glenlossie and Mannochnore Distilleries are located within this segment. There are a number of distilleries within and surrounding Elgin.
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation Flood risk zones are likely to be the key positional constraint to dualling alignment options within the segment. A key constraint will be risk from fluvial flooding both to future dualled A96 route and to properties currently in fluvial flood plain. Other key constraints include crossing the River Lossie, which may unavoidable as it crosses the segment, as well as risks associated with coastal flooding at its northern extent. Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near current floodplains could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation Watercrossings are likely to be the key positional constraint to dualling alignment options within the segment. A key constraint will be crossing the River Lossie and a number of its tributaries, which will be unavoidable as they cross the breadth of the segment at numerous locations. The other key constraint will be risk from fluvial flooding both to future dualled A96 route and to properties currently in fluvial flood plain. Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near current floodplain could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation A key constraint will be crossing the River Lossie which spans the segment and is unavoidable, and some of its tributaries which cross the breadth of the segment. Other constraints will be the risk from fluvial flooding both to the future dualled A96 route and to properties currently in fluvial flood plain. Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near current floodplain could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table			
Section 4: Alves to Lhanbryde			
Strategic Intervention Option	Elgin Option B North	Elgin Option B South	Elgin Option N
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 21km long and 4220Ha in area. Elgin Option B North is a direct comparator for Elgin Option B South and Elgin Option N.	Approximately 19km long and 3790Ha in area. Elgin Option B South is a direct comparator for Elgin Option B North and Elgin Option N.	Approximately 15km long and 2300Ha in area. Elgin Option N is a direct comparator for Elgin Option B North and Elgin Option B South.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Air			
Air Quality Management Areas	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment
Traffic flow/ demand data (as a proxy for local air quality where available)	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows are c13,000 to 15,000. These are forecast to increase to c12,800 to 23,500 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are well within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows range between c13,000 to c15,000. These are forecast to increase to between c22,100 to c23,500 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are well within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are well within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low Air quality in the segment area is generally good and typical of rural areas and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96 and busier roads at the edge of Elgin	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low Air quality in the segment area is generally good and typical of rural areas and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96 and busier roads at the edge of Elgin	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low Air quality in the segment area is generally good and typical of rural areas and will be locally influenced by traffic using busier roads such as the A941
Population & Human Health			
Towns and principal centres of population	Urquhart adjacent to A96 Lhanbryde adjacent to A96 Alves adjacent to A96 Elgin adjacent to A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	Lhanbryde adjacent to A96 Alves adjacent to A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	Pluscarden ~5km S of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive
'Population' to act as a proxy for receptors subject to potential effects on amenity (number of properties from OS AddressBasePlus dataset)	1104 properties Average Moray household size 2012=2.24 people Therefore population density=0.59 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	589 properties Average Moray household size 2012=2.24 people Therefore population density=0.35 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	169 properties Average Moray household size 2012=2.24 people Therefore population density=0.13 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive
Traffic volume (as a proxy for road traffic noise where available) Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) by section to nearest 100 vehicles	2012 AADT: c13,000 to 15,000 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c12,800 to 23,500	2013 AADT: c13,000 to 15,000 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c22,100 to 23,500	N/A
Core paths/ NMUs	Sustrans National Cycle Route 1 Local Cycle Route 13 Core Paths 8 Aspirational Core Paths Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation NCN Route 1 runs through western and eastern areas of the segment but avoids the centre Local cycle route present on the southern side of the centre of the segment 4 Core paths pass through the centre of the segment, north of Elgin and along the A941 9 Core paths present in the east of the segment mainly between Urquhart and Lhanbryde 2 Aspirational Core paths present in the Alves part of the segment. One running along the A96 from Alves to Ardye and one located between Alves and Coltfield 6 Aspirational Core paths present in the east of the segment mainly between Urquhart and Lhanbryde	Local Cycle Route 6 Core Paths 5 Aspirational Core Paths Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Land uses and general character of the area are of limited sensitivity, or high tolerance to change Local cycle route present on the southern side of the centre of the segment One Core path present in the west of the segment area at Miltonduff Two Core paths present in the centre of the segment, south of Elgin Three Core paths in the Lhanbryde area across and near the A96 2 Aspirational Core paths present in the Alves part of the segment. One running along the A96 from Alves to Ardye and one located between Alves and Coltfield 2 Aspirational Core paths located south of Elgin along the A941 1 along the A96, in the Lhanbryde area	One Core Path 2 Aspirational Core Paths Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Land uses and general character of the area are of limited sensitivity, or high tolerance to change The Core path presents in the centre of the segment is running south from Thomshill One aspirational Core path is an extent of the existing Core path The second aspirational Core path runs along the A941 crossing the segment
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres and NMUs. Segment sensitivity reflects proximity of option to large settlement of Elgin and the constraints from proximity of national and regional trails.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Land uses and general character of the area are of limited sensitivity, or high tolerance to change Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres and core paths. Segment sensitivity reflects the low number of properties and population density.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Land uses and general character of the area are of limited sensitivity, or high tolerance to change Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres and core paths. Segment sensitivity reflects the low number of properties and population density.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table			
Section 4: Alves to Lhanbryde			
Strategic Intervention Option	Elgin Option B North	Elgin Option B South	Elgin Option N
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 21km long and 4220Ha in area. Elgin Option B North is a direct comparator for Elgin Option B South and Elgin Option N.	Approximately 19km long and 3790Ha in area. Elgin Option B South is a direct comparator for Elgin Option B North and Elgin Option N.	Approximately 15km long and 2300Ha in area. Elgin Option N is a direct comparator for Elgin Option B North and Elgin Option B South.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Historic Environment			
Scheduled Monuments (SM)	1x SM Spynie Palace - 3,200m N of A96. Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	3x SM Birmie Parish Kirk, (old graveyard and symbol stone) - 3,900m S of A96 Coxtown Tower - 640m S of A96 Bogton (stone circle 250m NW of) - 210m S of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	None
Inventory Battlefields	None	None	None
A Listed Buildings	3x A listed Pittensair - 290m S of A96 Lhanbryde Burial Ground (Innes Enclosure) - 205m N of A96 Longhill Mill - 1,400m N of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	8x A listed Birmie Parish Church (Burial Ground) - 3,900m S of A96 Birmie Parish Church - 3,900m S of A96 Birmie Churchyard (Pictish Symbol Stone) - 3,900m S of A96 Birmie Parish Church (Burial Ground Extension) - 3,900m S of A96 Birmie Parish Church (Gatepiers) - 3,900m S of A96 Pittensair - 290m S of A96 Coxtown Tower - 640m S of A96 Pittendreich Dovecot - 1,600m S of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	None
Gardens & Designed Landscapes	None	None	None
B & C Listed Buildings	26x B listed 6x C listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites	4x B listed 4x C listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	None
Conservation Areas (HS and Local Authority data)	None	None	None
Local Historic Designated Sites	Moray Archaeological Sites: 14x Regionally Significant 193x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Moray Archaeological Sites: 12x Regionally Significant 151x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Moray Archaeological Sites: 1x Regionally Significant 88x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites Key constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on a large number of B Listed Buildings that are evenly dispersed across the segment area, with few options for avoidance. Other constraints will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on a high number of B and C listed buildings, and direct impacts on Moray archaeological sites. Given their relatively dispersed nature, there are ample opportunities for avoidance. Further assessment will need to concentrate on Moray archaeological sites to identify their value, nature and extent.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Nationally/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent Key constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of setting impacts on high value scheduled monuments and A listed buildings. Other constraints will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on Moray archaeological sites. Further assessment will need to concentrate on Moray archaeological sites to identify their value, nature and extent.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area There are no designated assets within the segment area. Key constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on Moray archaeological sites, which will require further assessment to identify their value, nature and extent.
Landscape			
Landscape character types (Level 3)	Inland Loch Lowland Cities, Towns and Settlements Lowland Coastal Landscapes of the North East	Inland Loch Lowland Coastal Landscapes of the North East	High, Massive, Rolling, Rounded Mountains of the Highlands and Islands Inland Loch Lowland Coastal Landscapes of the North East
Landscape designations	None	None	Moray AGLV: Total 32.2% (964.1) Pluscarden 32.2% (964.1) The Pluscarden Area of Special Control 2.1% (61.8)
Commentary on indicative landscape sensitivity	Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - Low/Medium • Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to partly accommodate change; comprised of commonplace elements and features creating generally unremarkable character but with some sense of place. There are no national landscape designations within the segment. The character of the segment is of open fields with some woodland areas and this landscape could generally be maintained and absorb a dualled route without a significant effect on its quality and character. The villages of Alves, Newton, Llanbryde, and the edge of Urquhart are located within the segment, as well as some individual properties scattered throughout. The landscape in this area is quite flat it would be sensitive to any new elevated structures required to cross the River Lossie. Loch Oire is located at the eastern extent of the segment and could be a major constraint to dualling.	Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - Medium • Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to partly accommodate change; comprised of commonplace elements and features creating generally unremarkable character but with some sense of place. There are no national landscape designations within the segment. The character of the area is open fields with some woodland areas, which could generally be maintained. The landscape can absorb the inclusion of a dualled route without having a significant effect on its character and quality. Directly south of Elgin, woodland crosses most of the segment which could be challenging to avoid. Landscape in the segment is generally flat would be sensitive to any new structures required to cross the railway and River Findhorn. The sensitive setting of the distilleries is a key constraint within this segment. Loch Oire and Loch na Bo are identified as constraints within this segment. The railway line at the east and west extents of the segment is a constraint.	Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - High/ Medium • Landscapes which by nature of their character would be unable to accommodate change; likely to be designated, but the aspects which underpin such value may also be present outside designated areas, especially at the local scale; areas of special recognised value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations. There are no national landscape designations within the segment, however Pluscarden AGLV spans the segment to the west and is identified as a key constraint. The character of the area is generally of open fields with some wooded areas, which can absorb the inclusion of a dualled route without a significant effect on its quality and character, however where there is a more undulating landscape, a sensitive design approach will be required. Areas of woodland to the west and within the centre of the segment may be challenging to avoid. Glenlossie distillery and its setting is a key constraint within the segment.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table			
Section 5: Lhanbryde to west of Keith			
Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option N	East Option B
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 9km long and 1800Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option N.	Approximately 9km long and 1790Ha in area. West Option N is a direct comparator for West Option B.	Approximately 5km long and 1090Ha in area. This segment of Option B has no direct comparator.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Biodiversity			
Ramsar Sites	Moray and Nairn Coast 0.4% (6.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Natura sites may be present/ adjacent but likely to be small or in discrete locations that could be avoided within the option extent	None	None
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	Moray and Nairn Coast 0.4% (6.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Natura sites may be present/ adjacent but likely to be small or in discrete locations that could be avoided within the option extent	None	None
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	Total cover 2.8% (49.7) Lower River Spey - Spey Bay 0.4% (6.7) River Spey 2.4% (43.0) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	Total cover 2.8% (50.2) River Spey 2.8% (50.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	None
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Biological & Mixed	Total cover 2.6% (47.7) Lower River Spey (Mixed) 0.3% (6.1) River Spey (Bio) 2.3% (41.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	Total cover 2.8% (50.3) River Spey (Bio) 2.8% (50.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	None
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	None	None	None
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	None	None	None
Ancient Woodland Inventory sites	Total cover 37.6% (676.7) semi-natural 0.8% (14.2) plantation 36.4% (655.6) Roy 0.4% (6.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	Total cover 39.3% (703.2) plantation 39.3% (703.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	Total cover 28.8% (314.3) plantation 28.8% (314.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites
Native Woodland Survey of Scotland sites	Total cover 0.3% (5.8) native woodland 0.2% (3.9) nearly-native woodland 0.1% (1.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Negligible • Any designations present minimal constraint in the option area	Total cover 2.3% (40.3) native woodland 1.2% (21.7) nearly-native woodland 0.2% (3.1) open land habitat 0.9% (15.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Total cover 0.6% (6.6) native woodland 0.6% (6.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Negligible • Any designations present minimal constraint in the option area
Locally designated nature conservation sites (e.g. SINS - Sites of Interest to Natural Science)	Moray SINS: Total 8.5% (152.5) Lhanbryde Lochs 0.3% (6.3) Spey, Garmouh - Boat O' Brig 8.1% (146.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	Moray SINS: Total 21.6% (386.3) Spey, Garmouh - Boat O' Brig 10.8% (192.9) Brown Muir/ Teindland 10.8% (193.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	None
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Natura sites present/ adjacent and form an extensive area of sensitivity or constraint to dualling • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the SACs and SSSIs relating to the River Spey, which cross the breadth of the segment and are therefore unavoidable. Other key issues will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the Ramsar and SPA at the edge of the segment area, which are sensitive features but not extensive area constraints. Another key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI woodland, which is also unavoidable as it crosses the breadth of the segment area in several locations. Other constraints will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on SINS, one of which is associated with the River Spey, and crosses the breadth of the segment.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Natura sites present/ adjacent and form an extensive area of sensitivity or constraint to dualling • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the SAC and SSSI relating to the River Spey, which cross the breadth of the segment and are therefore unavoidable. Another key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI woodland, which is also unavoidable as it crosses the breadth of the segment area in several locations. Other constraints will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on SINS, one of which is associated with the River Spey, and crosses the breadth of the segment.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites No Natura, SSSI or NNR sites within the segment. The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI woodland, which covers over a quarter of the segment and crosses its breadth in several locations.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table			
Section 5: Lhanbryde to west of Keith			
Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option N	East Option B
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 9km long and 1800Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option N.	Approximately 9km long and 1790Ha in area. West Option N is a direct comparator for West Option B.	Approximately 5km long and 1090Ha in area. This segment of Option B has no direct comparator.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Soils & Geodiversity			
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Geological & Mixed	Dipple Brae (Geological) and Lower River Spey (Mixed) 0.4% (8.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent	Teindland Quarry (Geological) 0.1% (2.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	None
Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites	Dipple Brae (Silurian-Devonian Chordata) and Lower River Spey (Fluvial Geomorphology of Scotland) 0.2% (4.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent	Teindland Quarry (Quaternary of Scotland) 0.09% (1.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	None
Agricultural land classes 1 to 3.1 (Prime agricultural land)	Total Cover 7.3% (132) Grade 2 Arable Agriculture 0.7% (12) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 6.6% (120) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Total Cover 5.9% (105.2) Grade 2 Arable Agriculture 5.1% (90.9) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 0.8% (14.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	None
Carbon-rich soil classification	Class 1: 92.7% (1671.1) Class 3: 7.2% (130.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Negligible • Any designations present minimal constraint in the option area	Class 1: 85.9% (1536.6) Class 3: 14.1% (252.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Negligible • Any designations present minimal constraint in the option area	Class 1: 67.6% (738.8) Class 3: 19.4% (211.7) Class 6: 13% (141.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent The segment is not extensively covered by prime agricultural land although agriculture remains important and a constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the better quality land. The segment is partly covered by SSSI and GCR and whilst these are important designations they are not extensive and do not represent a significant constraint to dualling. Other constraints will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on carbon-rich soils although these are very limited in their area and spatial distribution across the segment.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area The segment is not extensively covered by prime agricultural land although agriculture remains important and a constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the better quality land. The segment includes a very small SSSI and GCR and whilst these are important designations they do not represent a significant constraint to dualling. Other constraint will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on carbon-rich soils although these are very limited in their area and spatial distribution across the segment.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation The segment is not extensively covered by prime agricultural land although agriculture remains important and a constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the better quality land. The segment is partly covered by carbon-rich soils and these represent an important constraint to dualling particularly on the southern side of the existing A96 route.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table			
Section 5: Lhanbryde to west of Keith			
Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option N	East Option B
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 9km long and 1800Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option N.	Approximately 9km long and 1790Ha in area. West Option N is a direct comparator for West Option B.	Approximately 5km long and 1090Ha in area. This segment of Option B has no direct comparator.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Water & Flooding			
1:200 yr fluvial flood extent (surface area)	Total cover 10.4% (187.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 12.3% (219.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 1.5% (16.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
1:200 yr coastal flood extent (surface area)	None	None	None
1:200 yr pluvial flooding (surface area)	Total cover 3.9% (70.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 1.8% (31.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 1.4% (14.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation
Major watercourse crossings (Watercourses shown on 1:50k OS mapping)	Segment will be constrained by major bridge crossing requirements over the River Spey that spans a hydrological catchment in excess of 2,800km ² Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation	Segment will be constrained by major bridge crossing requirements over the River Spey that spans a hydrological catchment in excess of 2,800km ² Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation	Likely to be constrained by a number of watercourses including the Burn of Fochabers, the Burn of Forgie, the Burn of Crooksmill and their tributaries. Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Possibility of groundwater contributing to flooding (surface area)	Total cover 39.4% (709.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 5.3% (94.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	None
Existing flood defence infrastructure	None	None	None
No. of properties within 1:200yr flood extents	Very likely to be constrained by several properties already within the fluvial floodplain. 19 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation	Likely to be constrained by several properties already within the fluvial floodplain. 9 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Possibly constrained by properties already within the fluvial floodplain. 1 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Other water resource issues	None	None	There is a distillery at Aultmore, located within this segment.
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation The River Spey crossing and flood risk zones are likely to be the key positional constraints to dualling alignment options within the segment. Risk from fluvial flooding both to the future dualled A96 route and to the properties currently in fluvial flood plain is a key constraint. The other key constraint is the River Spey crossing which will be unavoidable as it spans the breadth of the segment. Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near the current floodplains could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation The River Spey crossing and flood risk zones are likely to be the key positional constraints to dualling alignment options within the segment. Risk from fluvial flooding both to the future dualled A96 route and to the properties currently in fluvial flood plain is a key constraint. The other key constraint is the River Spey crossing which will be unavoidable as it spans the breadth of the segment. Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near the current floodplains could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation The key constraints in this segment will be risk from fluvial flooding to future dualled A96 route, to the property currently in fluvial flood plain as well as risk of potential changes in the extent of flood plains as a result of dualling. Other constraints include watercourse crossings which may be unavoidable due to their number and position within the segment area.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table			
Section 5: Lhanbryde to west of Keith			
Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option N	East Option B
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 9km long and 1800Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option N.	Approximately 9km long and 1790Ha in area. West Option N is a direct comparator for West Option B.	Approximately 5km long and 1090Ha in area. This segment of Option B has no direct comparator.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Air			
Air Quality Management Areas	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment
Traffic flow/ demand data (as a proxy for local air quality where available)	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows vary between c15,000 (west of Fochabers) to c6,400 (east of Fochabers). These are forecast to increase to c23,500 (west of Fochabers) to c14,000 (east of Fochabers) by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are well within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows vary between c15,000 (west of Fochabers) to c6,400 (east of Fochabers). These are forecast to increase to c23,500 (west of Fochabers) to c14,000 (east of Fochabers) by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are well within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows c6,400. These are forecast to increase to c14,000 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are well within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low Air quality in the segment area is generally good and typical of rural areas and will be locally influenced by traffic on the A96 and busier roads at the edge of Fochabers	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low Air quality in the segment area is generally good and typical of rural areas and will be locally influenced by traffic using busier roads at the edge of Fochabers	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low Air quality in the segment area is generally good and typical of rural areas and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96
Population & Human Health			
Towns and principal centres of population	Lhanbryde adjacent to A96 Fochabers adjacent to A96 Mosstodloch adjacent to A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Areas of settlement may be present and extend across parts of the option area	Obliston south of A96 Ordiquish south of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	Forgie adjacent to A96 Aultmore adjacent to A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive
'Population' to act as a proxy for receptors subject to potential effects on amenity (number of properties from OS AddressBasePlus dataset)	899 properties Average Moray household size 2012=2.24 people Therefore population density=1.12 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Areas of settlement may be present and extend across parts of the option area	68 properties Average Moray household size 2012=2.24 people Therefore population density=0.08 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	42 properties Average Moray household size 2012=2.24 people Therefore population density=0.09 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive
Traffic volume (as a proxy for road traffic noise where available) Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) by section to nearest 100 vehicles	2012 AADT: c6,400 to 15,000 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c14,000 to 23,500	2012 AADT: c6,400 to 15,000 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c14,000 to 23,500	2012 AADT:c6,400 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c14,000
Core paths/ NMUs	20 Core Paths crossing the segment mainly near Fochabers One Aspirational Core path along the A96 The Speyside Way long distance route crosses the segment mainly near Fochabers Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	4 Core Paths mainly near Fochabers at the edge of the segment The Speyside Way long distance route crosses the section mainly near Fochabers Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	None
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres and NMUs in a relatively densely populated area (particularly around Fochabers). Segment sensitivity also reflects the proximity and crossing of the segment from national and regional trails.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres and NMUs. Segment sensitivity also reflects the proximity and crossing of the segment from national and regional trails.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Land uses and general character of the area are of limited sensitivity, or high tolerance to change Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres although the number of properties is very low in this segment. Segment sensitivity reflects the low number of properties and population density and absence of NMU routes.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table			
Section 5: Lhanbryde to west of Keith			
Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option N	East Option B
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 9km long and 1800Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option N.	Approximately 9km long and 1790Ha in area. West Option N is a direct comparator for West Option B.	Approximately 5km long and 1090Ha in area. This segment of Option B has no direct comparator.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Historic Environment			
Scheduled Monuments (SM)	None	None	1x SM Meikle Dramlach (bridge) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Inventory Battlefields	None	None	None
A Listed Buildings	10x A listed Fochabers (High Street, Milne's High School) - 95m SW of A96 Fochabers (the Square, Bellie Parish Church) - 20m SW of the A96 Gordon Castle (East Lodge) - 100m NE of the A96 Fochabers (Gordon Episcopal Chapel and Parsonage) - 120m NE of the A96 Gordon Castle (West Lodges) - 110m E of the A96 Gordon Castle (Farmsteading) - 670m N of the A96 Gordon Castle (Lakeside House) - 540m E of the A96 Fochabers Bridge - 30m SW of the A96 Gordon Castle (Tower) - 1,000m N of the A96 Gordon Castle - 1,000m N of the A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites	None	None
Gardens & Designed Landscapes	Total cover 9.4% (169.4) Gordon Castle (Bog of Gight) 9.4% (169.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally important designations and features forming extensive constraints through area covered, with little option to avoid in the eastern section of the option	None	None
B & C Listed Buildings	52x B listed 41x C listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites	1x C listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	1x B listed 1x C listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Conservation Areas (HS and Local Authority data)	Fochabers 0.6% (10.2) -1 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • National/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint in the area	None	None
Local Historic Designated Sites	Moray Archaeological Sites: 7x Regionally Significant 143x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Local designations and features present with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Moray Archaeological Sites: 1x Regionally Significant 45x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Local designations and features present with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Moray Archaeological Sites: 11x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites The segment area has a large concentration of A listed buildings which are concentrated around the Gordon Castle GDL and Fochabers Conservation Area. This creates a particular pinch point in the central area of the segment, with associated potential impacts on the structure and setting of these designated areas and assets. Avoidance opportunities in the environs of the GDL, conservation area and listed buildings would appear to be minimal. Other constraints will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on a high number of B and C listed buildings, and direct impacts on Moray archaeological sites. Further assessment will need to concentrate on Moray archaeological sites to identify their value, nature and extent.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint in the area There is a single C Listed Building within the segment area. There are no other designated assets which makes it an attractive segment from a cultural heritage perspective. There are a number of Moray archaeological sites located across the segment area, however these will require further assessment to identify their value, nature and extent.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint in the area Despite the presence of a scheduled monument and a number of B and C listed buildings within the segment, there are clear opportunities for avoidance given the wide dispersal of the assets. There are a number of Moray archaeological sites located across the segment area, however these will require further assessment to identify their value, nature and extent.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table			
Section 5: Lhanbryde to west of Keith			
Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option N	East Option B
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 9km long and 1800Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option N.	Approximately 9km long and 1790Ha in area. West Option N is a direct comparator for West Option B.	Approximately 5km long and 1090Ha in area. This segment of Option B has no direct comparator.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Landscape			
Landscape character types (Level 3)	High, Massive, Rolling, Rounded Mountains of the Highlands and Islands Highland Straths Lowland Coastal Landscapes of the North East	High, Massive, Rolling, Rounded Mountains of the Highlands and Islands Highland Straths Lowland Coastal Landscapes of the North East	High, Massive, Rolling, Rounded Mountains of the Highlands and Islands
Landscape designations	None	Moray AGLV: Total 7.9% (141.7) Speyside 7.9% (141.7)	None
Commentary on indicative landscape sensitivity	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to partly accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be: comprised of commonplace elements and features creating generally unremarkable character but with some sense of place and locally designated, or their value may be expressed through non-statutory local publications. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The long distance path the Speyside Way runs through the centre of the segment.</p> <p>The settlements of Mosstodloch and Fochabers are potential visual receptors and the River Spey crossing is a constraint.</p> <p>A dualled route would need to cross the River Spey which, although is not an AGLV at this point (it becomes an AGLV 300m to the south), provides a prominent and positive contribution to the area and is a local visual amenity.</p> <p>The steep sides of the hills to the east of the segment are a key constraint.</p> <p>The character of the area is predominately open fields with some wooded areas. There are some large areas of woodland to the east of the segment which may be challenging to avoid.</p> <p>Generally though, the landscape character can be maintained, and absorb the inclusion of a dualled route with a moderate impact to the quality of the landscape.</p>	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be unable to accommodate change of the type proposed; Likely to be designated, but the aspects which underpin such value may also be present outside designated areas, especially at the local scale. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment, however the Speyside AGLV and the long distance path the Speyside Way run through the centre of the segment.</p> <p>A dualled route would need to cross the River Spey which, although is not an AGLV at this point (it becomes an AGLV 300m to the south), provides a prominent and positive contribution to the area and is a local visual amenity.</p> <p>Railway line is a key constraint within the segment.</p> <p>There are areas of woodland which may be difficult to avoid and the steepness of the terrain makes the landscape very sensitive.</p> <p>The landscape character of the areas consists of two different types of landscape; to the west and east of the segment the landscape is hilly and covered in woodland; the centre of the segment is more open with a river valley within and gently undulating landscape. Both landscape characters are very sensitive to dualling.</p>	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - Low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be: likely to contain few, if any, features and elements that could not be replaced. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The character of the area to the west of the segment is hilly and covered in woodland, this becomes more open and undulating to the east.</p> <p>There are large areas of woodland to the east of the segment which may be difficult to avoid.</p> <p>Properties within the segment may be sensitive receptors.</p> <p>The steep sides of the hills to the north of the segment are a key constraint, however the open landscape of the southern extent would allow for a dualled route more easily without affecting the terrain.</p> <p>Generally, the landscape can absorb a dualled route without a significant impact to its quality and character.</p>

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table	
Section 6: West of Keith to west of Huntly	
Strategic Intervention Option	Option B
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 14km long and 2750Ha in area. This section of Option B has no direct comparator.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Biodiversity	
Ramsar Sites	None
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	None
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	None
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Biological & Mixed	Total cover 0.7% (19.2) Den of Pitlurg (Bio) 0.7% (19.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • National/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint in the area
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	None
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	None
Ancient Woodland Inventory sites	Total cover 9.7% (265.6) semi-natural 0.8% (21.9) plantation 8.9% (243.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Native Woodland Survey of Scotland sites	Total cover 3.7% (100.3) native woodland 3.6% (99.1) open land habitat <0.1% (1.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Locally designated nature conservation sites (e.g. SINS - Sites of Interest to Natural Science, SESA - Study of Environmentally Sensitive Areas, LNCS - Local Nature Conservation Sites)	Moray SINS: Total 0.4% (9.7) Den of Pitlurg 0.4% (9.7) Aberdeenshire SESA: Total 2.2% (59.6) Road cutting, Cairnie 0.6% (17.2) Den of Pitlurg 1.5% (42.5) Aberdeenshire LNCS: Total 5.3% (145.1) Den of Pitlurg 1.4% (39.6) Bin Hill 3.8% (105.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent No Natura or NNR sites within the segment and although key issues include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the Den of Pitlurg SSSI, which is a sensitive feature, it is not an extensive area constraint in the segment. The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI woodland which, although not extensive in cover, crosses more than half of the breadth of the segment area in several locations. Other constraints will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on locally designated conservations sites in the southern extent of the segment, and NWSS woodland throughout.

Section 6: West of Keith to west of Huntly	
Strategic Intervention Option	Option B
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 14km long and 2750Ha in area. This section of Option B has no direct comparator.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Soils & Geodiversity	
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Geological & Mixed	None
Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites	None
Agricultural land classes 1 to 3.1 (Prime agricultural land)	Total Cover 1.6% (42.7) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 1.6% (42.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Carbon-rich soil classification	Class 1: 78.3% (2149.2) Class 2: 8.7% (240.2) Class 3: 11% (301) Class 4: 2% (56.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area The segment is not extensively covered by prime agricultural land although agriculture remains important and a constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the better quality land. Other constraint will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on carbon-rich soils although these are relatively limited in their area and spatial distribution across the segment.
Water & Flooding	
1:200 yr fluvial flood extent (surface area)	Total cover 3.3% (90.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
1:200 yr coastal flood extent (surface area)	None
1:200 yr pluvial flooding (surface area)	Total cover 0.8% (21.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation
Major watercourse crossings (Watercourses shown on 1:50k OS mapping)	Likely to be constrained by crossing the Loan Burn, River Isla and the Burn of Cairnie, and possibly constrained by crossing other smaller watercourses. Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Possibility of groundwater contributing to flooding (surface area)	None
Existing flood defence infrastructure	None
No. of properties within 1:200yr flood extents	Likely to be constrained by several properties already within the fluvial floodplain. 11 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Other water resource issues	There are two distilleries within Keith (Strathisla, and Strathmill), one of which (Strathmill Distillery) is located on the edge of this segment.
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation Key constraints will be crossing the Loan Burn, River Isla and the Burn of Cairnie which all span the segment and are unavoidable. Other constraints will be risk from fluvial flooding both to the future dualled A96 route and to properties currently in the fluvial flood plain. Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near the current floodplain could become a constraint if they are at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling.

Section 6: West of Keith to west of Huntly	
Strategic Intervention Option	Option B
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 14km long and 2750Ha in area. This section of Option B has no direct comparator.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Air	
Air Quality Management Areas	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment
Traffic flow/ demand data (as a proxy for local air quality where available)	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows are c6,600 to 6,800 . These are forecast to increase to c10,900 to 12,900 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are well within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low Air quality in the segment area is generally good and typical of rural areas and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96 and busier roads at the edge of Keith
Population & Human Health	
Towns and principal centres of population	Keith adjacent to A96 Coachford adjacent to A96 Newton adjacent to A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive
'Population' to act as a proxy for receptors subject to potential effects on amenity (number of properties from OS AddressBasePlus dataset)	203 properties Average Moray household size 2012=2.24 people Therefore population density=0.17 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive
Traffic volume (as a proxy for road traffic noise where available) Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) by section to nearest 100 vehicles	2010 AADT: c6,600 to 6,800 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c10,900 to 12,900
Core paths/ NMUs	9 Core Paths mainly near Keith at the edge of the segment 5 Aspirational Core Paths crossing this segment of the option The Isla Way long distance path crosses the segment near Keith Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation Core paths CP-KT12,13,16,17,19,20,21,22 present on the edge of the urban area of Keith
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres and NMUs. Segment sensitivity also reflects the proximity and crossing of the segment from a local trail.

Section 6: West of Keith to west of Huntly	
Strategic Intervention Option	Option B
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 14km long and 2750Ha in area. This section of Option B has no direct comparator.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Historic Environment	
Scheduled Monuments (SM)	None
Inventory Battlefields	None
A Listed Buildings	None
Gardens & Designed Landscapes	None
B & C Listed Buildings	2x B listed 3x C listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Conservation Areas (HS and Local Authority data)	None
Local Historic Designated Sites	Moray Archaeological Sites: 2x Regionally Significant 60x Standard Aberdeenshire Archaeological Sites: 1x Regionally Significant 38x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area Despite the large area covered by the segment there are only a small number of B and C Listed Buildings and some Moray archaeological sites which could be considered to be constraints. The dispersal of these assets across the segment provides excellent opportunities for avoidance. Moray and Aberdeenshire archaeological sites located across the segment area, however these will require further assessment to identify their value, nature and extent.

Section 6: West of Keith to west of Huntly	
Strategic Intervention Option	Option B
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 14km long and 2750Ha in area. This section of Option B has no direct comparator.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Landscape	
Landscape character types (Level 3)	High, Massive, Rolling, Rounded Mountains of the Highlands and Islands Moorland Transitional Landscapes of the Highlands and Islands
Landscape designations	None
Commentary on indicative landscape sensitivity	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - Low/Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to partly accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be: comprised of commonplace elements and features creating generally unremarkable character but with some sense of place. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The character is predominately a hilly, open landscape with pockets of woodland and a patchwork of individual dwellings/ farms. The existing A96 is an established part of the local landscape, reducing the sensitivity of the landscape.</p> <p>The western edge of Keith and the village of Cairnie are located within the north and south extents of the segment respectively, and a number of individual properties are scattered throughout, all contributing positively to the character of the area.</p> <p>There are areas of woodland to the west of the segment which may be difficult to avoid and to the south end of the segment, the Bin Forest is a sensitive part of the landscape.</p> <p>The railway line crossings the north of the segment, and hilly terrain throughout, are considered key constraint Landscape character can generally be maintained, and absorb the inclusion of a dualled route without significant impact on the quality of the landscape.</p>

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table

Section 7: West of Huntly to east of Huntly

Strategic Intervention Option	Option B	Option C
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 10km long and 2090Ha in area. Option B is a direct comparator for Option C	Approximately 10km long and 1940Ha in area. Option C is a direct comparator for Option B
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Biodiversity		
Ramsar Sites	None	None
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	None	None
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	None	None
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Biological & Mixed	None	None
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	None	None
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	None	None
Ancient Woodland Inventory sites	<p>Total cover 14.8% (310.3) semi-natural 0.4% (8.8) plantation 13.0% (272.9) Roy 1.4% (28.6)</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites</p>	<p>Total cover 15.2% (294.9) semi-natural 0.2% (3.3) plantation 13.5% (262.2) Roy 1.5% (29.4)</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites</p>
Native Woodland Survey of Scotland sites	<p>Total cover 2.8% (57.8) native woodland 2.0% (42.8) nearly-native woodland 0.1% (1.9) open land habitat 0.2% (4.3) PAWS 0.4% (8.8)</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent</p>	<p>Total cover 4.0% (76.6) native woodland 3.7% (71.9) nearly-native woodland 0.1% (1.9) open land habitat 0.1% (2.9)</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent</p>
Locally designated nature conservation sites (e.g. SINS - Sites of Interest to Natural Science)	<p>Aberdeenshire SESA: Total 1.0% (20.7) Bin Quarry, Huntly 1.0% (20.7)</p> <p>Aberdeenshire LNCS: Total 16.6% (346.7) Bin Hill 16.6% (346.7)</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire SESA: Total 1.1% (20.7) Bin Quarry, Huntly 1.1% (20.7)</p> <p>Aberdeenshire LNCS: Total 12.9% (249.3) Bin Hill 12.9% (249.3)</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent</p>
Commentary on key constraints	<p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - High</p> <p>• Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites</p> <p>No Natura, SSSI or NNR sites within this segment.</p> <p>The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI, the majority of which is plantation, and although not extensive in cover, crosses the breadth of the segment area in the north.</p> <p>Other constraints include the avoidance and minimisation of impacts on NWSS woodland which is not extensive in cover but is scattered primarily in the north of the segment.</p> <p>The locally designated conservation sites are also a constraint in the north of the segment, the LNCS covering half of the breadth of the segment in that area.</p>	<p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - High</p> <p>• Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites</p> <p>No Natura, SSSI or NNR sites within this segment.</p> <p>The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI, the majority of which is plantation, and although not extensive in cover, crosses the breadth of the segment area in the north.</p> <p>Other constraints include the avoidance and minimisation of impacts on NWSS woodland which is scattered throughout the segment.</p> <p>The locally designated conservation sites are also a constraint in the north of the segment, the LNCS covering half of the breadth of the segment in that area.</p>

Section 7: West of Huntly to east of Huntly		
Strategic Intervention Option	Option B	Option C
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 10km long and 2090Ha in area. Option B is a direct comparator for Option C	Approximately 10km long and 1940Ha in area. Option C is a direct comparator for Option B
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Soils & Geodiversity		
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Geological & Mixed	Bin Quarry (Geological) 0.1% (2.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Bin Quarry (Geological) 0.1% (2.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites	Bin Quarry (Caledonian Igneous) and Binhill Quarry (Mineralogy of Scotland) 0.6% (11.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent	Bin Quarry (Caledonian Igneous) and Binhill Quarry (Mineralogy of Scotland) 0.6% (11.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent
Agricultural land classes 1 to 3.1 (Prime agricultural land)	Total Cover 8.9% (185.9) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 8.9% (185.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total Cover 7.9% (153.6) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 8.9% (153.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent
Carbon-rich soil classification	Class 0: 4.1% (86.7) Class 1: 82.4% (1723) Class 2: 4.8% (100.3) Class 3: 8.7% (181.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Class 1: 89.4% (1731.3) Class 2: 4.4% (85.9) Class 3: 6.2% (120.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent The segment is not extensively covered by prime agricultural land although agriculture remains important and a constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the better quality land. The segment is partly covered by SSSI and GCR and whilst these are important designations they are not extensive and do not represent a significant constraint to dualling. Other constraints will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on carbon-rich soils although these are limited in their area and spatial distribution across the segment.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent The segment is not extensively covered by prime agricultural land although agriculture remains important and a constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the better quality land. The segment is partly covered by SSSI and GCR and whilst these are important designations they are not extensive and do not represent a significant constraint to dualling. Other constraints will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on carbon-rich soils although these are limited in their area and spatial distribution across the segment.
Water & Flooding		
1:200 yr fluvial flood extent (surface area)	Total cover 5.5% (115.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 5.1% (98.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
1:200 yr coastal flood extent (surface area)	None	None
1:200 yr pluvial flooding (surface area)	Total cover 4.8% (100.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 4.3% (82.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation
Major watercourse crossings (Watercourses shown on 1:50k OS mapping)	Likely to be constrained by crossings of the River Deveron and River Bogie. Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Likely to be constrained by crossings of the River Deveron and River Bogie. Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Possibility of groundwater contributing to flooding (surface area)	None	None
Existing flood defence infrastructure	None existing Proposed Huntly Flood Protection Scheme	None existing Proposed Huntly Flood Protection Scheme
No. of properties within 1:200yr flood extents	Likely to be constrained by the properties already at risk of flooding in Huntly. 44 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Possibly constrained by the limited numbers of properties in the floodplain 2 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Other water resource issues	None	None
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation The River Deveron and River Bogie crossings and flood risk zones are likely to be the key positional constraints to dualling alignment options within the segment. Both are unavoidable as they span the breadth of the segment. Risk from fluvial flooding both to the future dualled A96 route and to the properties around Huntly which are currently in fluvial flood plain, are a key constraint. Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near the current floodplains could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation The River Deveron and River Bogie crossings and flood risk zones are likely to be the key positional constraints to dualling alignment options within the segment. Both are unavoidable as they span the breadth of the segment. Risk from fluvial flooding both to the future dualled A96 route and to the properties which are currently in fluvial flood plain are a key constraint. Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near the current floodplains could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.

Section 7: West of Huntly to east of Huntly

Strategic Intervention Option	Option B	Option C
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 10km long and 2090Ha in area. Option B is a direct comparator for Option C	Approximately 10km long and 1940Ha in area. Option C is a direct comparator for Option B
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Air		
Air Quality Management Areas	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment
Traffic flow/ demand data (as a proxy for local air quality where available)	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows are c6,800 to 8,400 . These are forecast to increase to c12,900 to 16,900 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are well within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows are c6,800 to 8,100 . These are forecast to increase to c12,900 to 16,900 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are well within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low Air quality in the segment area is generally good and typical of rural areas and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96 and busier roads at the edge of Huntly	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low Air quality in the segment area is generally good and typical of rural areas and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96 and busier roads at the edge of Huntly
Population & Human Health		
Towns and principal centres of population	Huntly adjacent to A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	Huntly adjacent to A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive
'Population' to act as a proxy for receptors subject to potential effects on amenity (number of properties from OS AddressBasePlus dataset)	1514 properties Average Moray household size 2012=2.24 people Therefore population density=1.62 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present and extend across parts of the option area	91 properties Average Moray household size 2012=2.24 people Therefore population density=0.1 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive
Traffic volume (as a proxy for road traffic noise where available) Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) by section to nearest 100 vehicles	2012 AADT: c6,800 to 8,400 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c12,900 to 16,900	2012 AADT: c6,800 to 8,400 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c12,900 to 16,900
Core paths/ NMUs	20 Core Paths mainly near Huntly and at western end of the segment north of the line of the existing A96 road Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	7 Core Paths mainly near Huntly and at western end of the segment north of the line of the existing A96 road Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Land uses and general character of the area are of limited sensitivity, or high tolerance to change
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres and NMU routes in a relatively densely populated area (particularly around Huntly).	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Land uses and general character of the area are of limited sensitivity, or high tolerance to change Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres although the number of properties is very low in this segment. Segment sensitivity reflects the low number of properties and population density and relatively limited constraints from NMU routes.

Section 7: West of Huntly to east of Huntly

Strategic Intervention Option	Option B	Option C
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 10km long and 2090Ha in area. Option B is a direct comparator for Option C	Approximately 10km long and 1940Ha in area. Option C is a direct comparator for Option B
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Historic Environment		
Scheduled Monuments (SM)	2 x SM Dunbennan Old Church - 540m SW of A96 Symbol stone & standing stone, Huntly Market Square - 710m N of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	1xSM Dunbennan Old Church - 540m SW of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Inventory Battlefields	None	None
A Listed Buildings	3 x A Listed St Margaret's RC Church, Chapel St - 895m N of A96 St Margaret's RC Church, Presbytery - 895m N of A96 Scott's Hospital, Gladstone Rd - 410m N of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	None
Gardens & Designed Landscapes	None	None
B & C Listed Buildings	35x B listed 48x C listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	2xB Listed 2xC Listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Conservation Areas (HS and Local Authority data)	Huntly 1.4% (28.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	None
Local Historic Designated Sites	Aberdeenshire Archaeological Sites: 1x Regionally Significant 96x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Aberdeenshire Archaeological Sites: 2x Regionally Significant 59x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent Key constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on 2 scheduled monuments, 3 A listed buildings, a conservation area and a large number of B and C listed buildings (concentrated within Huntly). The scheduled monument of Dunbennan Old Church is located away from the core of Huntly and could present a constraint, however there are opportunities to avoid this. Potential impacts on its setting will need to be carefully considered however. The Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record shows 97 recorded sites within the segment. These are spread out throughout the segment area and will require further assessment at later stages.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area Listed Buildings are concentrated in the historic core of Huntly, and it is therefore expected that these would not be affected. Dunbennan Old Church scheduled monument, and the B listed buildings Greenhaugh Farmhouse and Cocklarachy Farm lie within the option area but there are good opportunities to avoid these. Potential impacts on their setting will need to be carefully considered however. The Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record shows 61 recorded sites within the segment. These are spread out throughout the segment area and will require further assessment at later stages.

Section 7: West of Huntly to east of Huntly

Strategic Intervention Option	Option B	Option C
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 10km long and 2090Ha in area. Option B is a direct comparator for Option C	Approximately 10km long and 1940Ha in area. Option C is a direct comparator for Option B
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Landscape		
Landscape character types (Level 3)	Agricultural Lowlands of the North East Flat or Rolling, Smooth or Sweeping, Extensive, High Moorlands of the Highlands and Islands Highland Straths Moorland Transitional Landscapes of the Highlands and Islands	Agricultural Lowlands of the North East Flat or Rolling, Smooth or Sweeping, Extensive, High Moorlands of the Highlands and Islands Highland Straths Moorland Transitional Landscapes of the Highlands and Islands
Landscape designations	None	None
Commentary on indicative landscape sensitivity	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - Low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be: likely to contain few, if any, features and elements that could not be replaced. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The character to the north of the segment is hilly and covered in woodland, which then becomes more open and undulating to the south and east of the segment. There are large areas of woodland to the north of the segment which may be challenging to avoid. The A96 is an established part of the local landscape, and therefore is an existing precedent, which reduces its sensitivity.</p> <p>Part of the town of Huntly is located in the centre of the segment and a number of individual properties scattered throughout.</p> <p>To the north and south of the segment the steep slopes are key constraints to dualling, however the open landscape of the central part would accommodate a dualled route more easily.</p> <p>It is considered that the landscape character can be maintained, and absorb a dualled route without significant impact on the quality of the landscape</p>	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be: likely to contain few, if any, features and elements that could not be replaced. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The landscape character within the segment consists of four character types; hilly with some dense woodland to the north, becoming more open to the south at the river valley, through the hills adjacent to Huntly where the sensitivity of the landscape increases to the open, agricultural areas in the south where a dualled route be highly visible in the landscape.</p> <p>The large areas of woodland to the north of the segment may be difficult to avoid The edge of Huntly is located to the eastern extent of the segment, and there are also individual properties scattered throughout.</p> <p>It is considered that the landscape character can be maintained, and absorb a dualled route without significant impact on the quality of the landscape.</p>

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table

Section 8: East of Huntly to Old Rayne

Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option C	East Option B	East Option C	East Option D
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 8km long and 1710Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option C	Approximately 8km long and 1570Ha in area. West Option C is a direct comparator for West Option B	Approximately 7km long and 1400Ha in area. East Option B is a direct comparator for East Option C and East Option D	Approximately 6km long and 1120Ha in area. East Option C is a direct comparator for East Option B and East Option D	Approximately 7km long and 1340Ha in area. East Option D is a direct comparator for East Option B and East Option C
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Biodiversity					
Ramsar Sites	None	None	None	None	None
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	None	None	None	None	None
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	None	None	None	None	None
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Biological & Mixed	None	None	None	None	None
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	None	None	None	None	None
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	None	None	None	None	None
Ancient Woodland Inventory sites	Total cover 0.6% (10.2) plantation 0.6% (10.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	None	Total cover 6.0% (83.2) plantation 6.0% (83.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total cover 0.7% (8.4) plantation 0.7% (8.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Total cover 7.7% (103.3) plantation 7.7% (103.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Native Woodland Survey of Scotland sites	Total cover 1.9% (33.2) native woodland 1.8% (30.8) nearly-native woodland <0.1% (0.7) open land habitat 0.1% (1.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Total cover 8.4% (131.9) native woodland 7.7% (121.1) nearly-native woodland 0.7% (10.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total cover 2.1% (29.4) native woodland 2.1% (29.3) open land habitat <0.1% (<0.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total cover 1.9% (21.4) native woodland 1.9% (21.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Total cover 3.1% (41.5) native woodland 2.9% (39.1) nearly-native woodland 0.2% (2.3) open land habitat <0.1% (<0.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Locally designated nature conservation sites (e.g. SINS - Sites of Interest to Natural Science)	Aberdeenshire SESA: Total 42.8% (731.7) Hill of Foudland 42.8% (731.7) Aberdeenshire LNCS: Total 57.3% (979.2) Foudland 57.3% (979.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	Aberdeenshire SESA: Total 34.9% (547.4) Hill of Foudland 34.9% (547.4) Aberdeenshire LNCS: Total 8.4% (131.4) Foudland 8.4% (131.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	Aberdeenshire SESA: Total 17.0% (237.0) Hill of Foudland 16.0% (223.7) Slate Quarries, Hill of Tillymorgan 1.0% (13.3) Aberdeenshire LNCS: Total 12.0% (166.9) Foudland 12.0% (166.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	None	Aberdeenshire SESA: Total 25.3% (339.3) Cairnhill Quarry 3.1% (41.7) Hill of Foudland 18.6% (250.0) Moss of Cairnhill 2.2% (29.5) Slate Quarries, Hill of Tillymorgan 1.3% (18.1) Aberdeenshire LNCS: Total 18.2% (244.4) Cairnhill 2.3% (31.2) Foudland 15.9% (213.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites No Natura, SSSI or NNR sites within this segment. The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the locally designated conservation sites around the Hill of Foudland. Both the SESA and LNCS are extensive area constraints which cannot be avoided as they cover the breadth of the segment in some areas. Other constraints include the avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI and NWSS woodland. Neither are extensive area constraints however, as AWI woodland is generally at the edges of the segment and NWSS woodland is sparsely dispersed throughout.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites No Natura, SSSI or NNR sites within this segment. A key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on NWSS woodland which includes native and nearly-native cover. Although not extensive in area, it does cross the breadth of the segment area to the south and is therefore unavoidable. The other key constraint in the segment is the avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the locally designated conservation sites around the Hill of Foudland. The SESA is an extensive area constraint which cannot be avoided as it crosses the breadth of the segment in the south, and the LNCS covers almost half of the breadth of the segment area.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites No Natura, SSSI or NNR sites within this segment. The key constraint in the segment is the avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the locally designated conservation sites around the Hill of Foudland. The hill of Foudland SESA is a constraint which cannot be avoided as it crosses the breadth of the segment at its northern end, as does the Foudland LNCS. Other constraints include the avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI and NWSS woodland. Although NWSS woodland is scattered throughout the segment and is not an extensive area constraint, AWI woodland spans almost half of the breadth of the segment at its north east extent.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area No Natura, SSSI or NNR sites within this segment. The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI and NWSS woodland. Neither are extensive area constraints however and they are dispersed throughout the segment.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites No Natura, SSSI or NNR sites within this segment. The key constraint in the segment is the avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the locally designated conservation sites around the Hill of Foudland. The hill of Foudland SESA is a constraint which cannot be avoided as it crosses the breadth of the segment at its northern end, as does the Foudland LNCS. Other constraints include the avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI and NWSS woodland. Although NWSS woodland is scattered throughout the segment and is not an extensive area constraint, AWI woodland spans half of the breadth of the segment at its north east extent.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table					
Section 8: East of Huntly to Old Rayne					
Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option C	East Option B	East Option C	East Option D
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 8km long and 1710Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option C	Approximately 8km long and 1570Ha in area. West Option C is a direct comparator for West Option B	Approximately 7km long and 1400Ha in area. East Option B is a direct comparator for East Option C and East Option D	Approximately 6km long and 1120Ha in area. East Option C is a direct comparator for East Option B and East Option D	Approximately 7km long and 1340Ha in area. East Option D is a direct comparator for East Option B and East Option C
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Soils & Geodiversity					
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Geological & Mixed	None	None	None	None	None
Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites	None	None	None	None	None
Agricultural land classes 1 to 3.1 (Prime agricultural land)	None	None	Total Cover 34.8% (485.2) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 34.8% (485.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites	Total Cover 32.2% (361) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 32.2% (361) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites	Total Cover 33.8% (453.3) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 33.8% (453.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites
Carbon-rich soil classification	Class 1: 88.2% (1507.8) Class 2 11.8% (201.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Class 1: 79.5% (1249.1) Class 2: 10.5% (164.4) Class 4: 10% (157.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Class 1: 96.7% (1349.5) Class 3 3.3% (46.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Negligible • Any designations present minimal constraint in the option area	Class 1: 79.9% (895.8) Class 3 20.1% (225.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Negligible • Any designations present minimal constraint in the option area	Class 1: 81.7% (1095.9) Class 2: 8.5% (113.5) Class 3: 9.8% (132.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area There is relatively little constraint from high carbon soils and there are no designated geological sites in the segment. Constraints will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on carbon-rich soils however the extent and distribution of these does not represent a significant constraint to road dualling.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area There is relatively little constraint from high carbon soils and there are no designated geological sites in the segment. Constraints will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on carbon-rich soils however the extent and distribution of these does not represent a significant constraint to road dualling.	Constraint Sensitivity Assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites The segment is extensively covered by prime agricultural land with associated importance for agriculture. A key constraint will therefore be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on prime agricultural land.	Constraint Sensitivity Assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites The segment is extensively covered by prime agricultural land with associated importance for agriculture. A key constraint will therefore be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on prime agricultural land.	Constraint Sensitivity Assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites The segment is extensively covered by prime agricultural land with associated importance for agriculture. A key constraint will therefore be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on prime agricultural land. There is a small area of carbon-rich soil in the segment however the extent and spatial distribution of these do not present an extensive constraint to dualling.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table

Section 8: East of Huntly to Old Rayne

Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option C	East Option B	East Option C	East Option D
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 8km long and 1710Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option C	Approximately 8km long and 1570Ha in area. West Option C is a direct comparator for West Option B	Approximately 7km long and 1400Ha in area. East Option B is a direct comparator for East Option C and East Option D	Approximately 6km long and 1120Ha in area. East Option C is a direct comparator for East Option B and East Option D	Approximately 7km long and 1340Ha in area. East Option D is a direct comparator for East Option B and East Option C
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Water & Flooding					
1:200 yr fluvial flood extent (surface area)	Total cover 1.8% (31.0) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 0.3% (4.0) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 6.5% (90.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 4.4% (48.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 2.8% (37.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
1:200 yr coastal flood extent (surface area)	None	None	None	None	None
1:200 yr pluvial flooding (surface area)	Total cover 0.3% (5.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 0.6% (8.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 0.8% (10.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 0.8% (9.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 1.1% (14.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation
Major watercourse crossings (Watercourses shown on 1:50k OS mapping)	Likely to be constrained by new/ upgraded crossing requirements as the existing A96 roughly follows the River Urie, crossing a number of tributaries. Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Possibly constrained by crossing smaller watercourses, such as the Burn of Largie, at higher elevation. Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Likely to be constrained by new/ upgraded crossing requirements as the existing A96 roughly follows the River Urie, crossing a number of tributaries. Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Likely to be constrained by crossing smaller watercourses, such as The Shevock and The Kellock, at higher elevations. Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Likely to be constrained by crossing the River Urie and smaller watercourses such as Bonnyton Burn. Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Possibility of groundwater contributing to flooding (surface area)	None	None	None	None	None
Existing flood defence infrastructure	None	None	None	None	None
No. of properties within 1:200yr flood extents	Possibly constrained by properties within the fluvial floodplain. 5 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Possibly constrained by property within the fluvial floodplain. 1 property in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Possibly constrained by properties already within the fluvial floodplain. 10 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Likely to be constrained by several properties already within the fluvial floodplain around Inch. 51 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Possibly constrained by properties within the fluvial floodplain. 2 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Other water resource issues	None	None	None	None	None
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation Crossings and flood risk zones associated with the Glen Water, a tributary of the River Urie, and the River Urie itself are likely to be the key positional constraints to dualling alignment options within the segment. The Glen Water is unavoidable as it spans almost the breadth of the segment before joining the River Urie at the eastern extent of the segment. Risk from fluvial flooding both to the future dualled A96 route and to the properties which are currently in fluvial flood plain, are a key constraint. Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near the current floodplains could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation Key constraint will be risk from fluvial flooding both to future dualled A96 route, to properties currently in fluvial flood plain and from sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near current floodplain which could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents. Water crossings and areas of fluvial flood risk are associated with the Burn of Largie and Glen Water, both of which are located at the outer edges of the segment and as such, could be avoided.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation The River Urie and its tributaries', The Shevock and The Kellock, crossings and flood risk zones are likely to be the key positional constraints to dualling alignment options within the segment. Both tributaries cross more than half of the breadth of the segment, while the River Urie runs through it entire length. Risk from fluvial flooding both to the future dualled A96 route and to the properties which are currently in fluvial flood plain, are a key constraint. Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near the current floodplains could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation The Shevock and The Kellock crossings and flood risk zones are likely to be the key positional constraints to dualling alignment options within the segment. The Shevock is unavoidable as it spans the breadth of the segment, while The Kellock crosses over half of the breadth of the segment in the north east. Risk from fluvial flooding both to the future dualled A96 route and to the properties around Inch which are currently in fluvial flood plain, are a key constraint. Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near the current floodplains could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation The River Urie and Bonnyton Burn crossings and flood risk zones are likely to be the key positional constraints to dualling alignment options within the segment. Bonnyton Burn is unavoidable as it spans the breadth of the segment, while the River Urie crosses over half of the breadth of the segment in the north west. Risk from fluvial flooding both to the future dualled A96 route and to the properties which are currently in fluvial flood plain, are a key constraint. Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near the current floodplains could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table

Section 8: East of Huntly to Old Rayne

Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option C	East Option B	East Option C	East Option D
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 8km long and 1710Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option C	Approximately 8km long and 1570Ha in area. West Option C is a direct comparator for West Option B	Approximately 7km long and 1400Ha in area. East Option B is a direct comparator for East Option C and East Option D	Approximately 6km long and 1120Ha in area. East Option C is a direct comparator for East Option B and East Option D	Approximately 7km long and 1340Ha in area. East Option D is a direct comparator for East Option B and East Option C
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Air					
Air Quality Management Areas	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS) in the segment	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS) in the segment	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS) in the segment	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS) in the segment	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS) in the segment
Traffic flow/ demand data (as a proxy for local air quality where available)	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows are c8,400 . These are forecast to increase to c15,200 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are well within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Existing A96 not located within Option C segments. Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are well within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows are c8,400 . These are forecast to increase to c15,200 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are well within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Existing A96 not located within Option C segments. Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are well within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows are c8,400. These are forecast to increase to c15,200 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are well within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low Air quality in the segment area is generally good and typical of rural areas and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low Air quality in the segment area is generally good and typical of rural areas and will be locally influenced by traffic using local minor roads.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low Air quality in the segment area is generally good and typical of rural areas and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low Air quality in the segment area is generally good and typical of rural areas and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing B992 and busier roads at the edge of Inch.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low Air quality in the segment area is generally good and typical of rural areas and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96 and A920.
Population & Human Health					
Towns and principal centres of population	Bainshole (farm) adjacent to A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	Largie (hamlet) adjacent to A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	Old Rayne (small village) adjacent to A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	Insch adjacent to A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Areas of settlement may be present and extend across parts of the option area	Kirkton of Culsalmond adjacent to A96 Kirkton of Rayne south of the A920 Cairnhill adjacent to A920 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive
'Population' to act as a proxy for receptors subject to potential effects on amenity (number of properties from OS AddressBasePlus dataset)	40 properties Average Moray household size 2012=2.24 people Therefore population density=0.05 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	37 properties Average Moray household size 2012=2.24 people Therefore population density=0.05 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	102 properties Average Moray household size 2012=2.24 people Therefore population density=0.16 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	784 properties Average Moray household size 2012=2.24 people Therefore population density=1.57 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Areas of settlement may be present and extend across parts of the option area	71 properties Average Moray household size 2012=2.24 people Therefore population density=0.12 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive
Traffic volume (as a proxy for road traffic noise where available) Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) by section to nearest 100 vehicles	2012 AADT: c8,400 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c15,200	N/A	2012 AADT: c8,400 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c15,200	N/A	2012 AADT: c8,400 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c15,200
Core paths/ NMUs	None	2 Core Paths which are circular paths around Gartly Moor 2 Local Cycle Route around Inch (Lenchie Loop and Newton Loop) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	1 Core Path in the small village of Old Rayne adjacent to the A96 One Local Cycle Route (Scotston Loop) at the edge of the segment north of Colpy Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Land uses and general character of the area are of limited sensitivity, or high tolerance to change	6 Core Paths mainly near Inch and at the edge of the segment 2 Local Cycle Route around Inch (Lenchie Loop and Scotston Loop) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	None
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Land uses and general character of the area are of limited sensitivity, or high tolerance to change Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres although the number of properties is very low in this segment. Segment sensitivity reflects the low number of properties and population density and absence of NMU routes.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on NMU routes. Segment sensitivity also reflects the proximity and crossing of the segment from local trails and cycle routes.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Land uses and general character of the area are of limited sensitivity, or high tolerance to change Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres, core paths and local cycle route. Segment sensitivity reflects the low number of properties and population density.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres and NMUs (local trails and cycle routes) in a relatively densely populated area (particularly around Inch).	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Land uses and general character of the area are of limited sensitivity, or high tolerance to change Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres although the number of properties is very low in this segment. Segment sensitivity reflects the low number of properties and population density and absence of NMU routes.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table

Section 8: East of Huntly to Old Rayne

Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option C	East Option B	East Option C	East Option D
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 8km long and 1710Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option C	Approximately 8km long and 1570Ha in area. West Option C is a direct comparator for West Option B	Approximately 7km long and 1400Ha in area. East Option B is a direct comparator for East Option C and East Option D	Approximately 6km long and 1120Ha in area. East Option C is a direct comparator for East Option B and East Option D	Approximately 7km long and 1340Ha in area. East Option D is a direct comparator for East Option B and East Option C
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Historic Environment					
Scheduled Monuments (SM)	None	None	5xSM Brownhill, cairns 120m N of - 1,080m SW of A96 Wester Shevock, cairn 385m S of - 500m SW of A96 Colpy Cottage, palisaded enclosure 300m S of - 120m W of A96 Newton House, inscribed stone and symbol stone 90m E of - 450m N of A96 Woodside, hut circles 300m W of - 530m W of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	4xSM Picardy Stone, symbol stone - 4,000m W of A96 Insch Old Parish Church and associated memorials - 2,600m SW of A96 Inschfield, stone circle 300m WNW of - 3,700m E of A96 Mill of Boddom, ring ditch and souterrain 190m NE of - 2,400m W of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	2xSM Woodside, hut circles 300m W of - 530m W of A96 Mummer's Reive, cairn - 1,400m E of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Nationally/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Inventory Battlefields	None	None	None	None	None
A Listed Buildings	None	None	1xA Listed Old Parish Church, Kirkton of Culsalmond - 700m E of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	None	1xA Listed Old Parish Church, Kirkton of Culsalmond - 700m E of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Gardens & Designed Landscapes	None	None	Total cover 18% (202) Newton House 9.4% (96.5) Williamston House 8.6% (105.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	None	Total cover 1.9% (25.7) Williamston House 1.9% (25.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
B & C Listed Buildings	None	None	4xB Listed 2xC Listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	5xB Listed 4xC Listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	3xB Listed 1xC Listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Conservation Areas (HS and Local Authority data)	None	None	None	None	None
Local Historic Designated Sites	Aberdeenshire Archaeological Sites: 2x Regionally Significant 20x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Aberdeenshire Archaeological Sites: 61x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Aberdeenshire Archaeological Sites: 1x Regionally Significant 80x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Local designations and features present with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Aberdeenshire Archaeological Sites: 2x Regionally Significant 50x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Aberdeenshire Archaeological Sites: 2x Regionally Significant 72x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Local designations and features present with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table

Section 8: East of Huntly to Old Rayne

Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option C	East Option B	East Option C	East Option D
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 8km long and 1710Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option C	Approximately 8km long and 1570Ha in area. West Option C is a direct comparator for West Option B	Approximately 7km long and 1400Ha in area. East Option B is a direct comparator for East Option C and East Option D	Approximately 6km long and 1120Ha in area. East Option C is a direct comparator for East Option B and East Option D	Approximately 7km long and 1340Ha in area. East Option D is a direct comparator for East Option B and East Option C
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Commentary on key constraints	<p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area <p>The Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record shows 22 recorded sites within the segment. These will require further assessment at later stages.</p> <p>There are no other designated sites within the segment hence it is relatively unconstrained in terms of the historic environment.</p>	<p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area <p>The Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record shows 61 recorded sites within the segment. These will require further assessment at later stages.</p> <p>There are no other designated sites within the segment hence it is relatively unconstrained in terms of the historic environment.</p>	<p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites <p>There is a particular pinch point within the segment area, where the Williamstone House and Newton House GDLs (with associated listed buildings) and five scheduled monuments could be directly and indirectly impacted on.</p> <p>The Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record shows 81 recorded sites within the segment. These are spread out throughout the segment area and will require further detailed assessment at later stages.</p>	<p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites <p>Key constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on 4 scheduled monuments and a small number of B and C listed buildings. Avoidance could be challenging given the dispersal of these monuments may cause pinch points within the segment area.</p> <p>The Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record shows 52 recorded sites within the segment. These are spread out throughout the segment area and will require further detailed assessment at later stages.</p>	<p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent <p>Key constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on 2 scheduled monuments, and A listed building, a GDL and a small number of B and C listed buildings. Given the dispersal pattern of these assets there are opportunities for avoidance, however potential impacts on these will also need to be carefully considered.</p> <p>The Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record shows 74 recorded sites within the segment. These are spread out throughout the segment area and will require further detailed assessment at later stages.</p>

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table

Section 8: East of Huntly to Old Rayne

Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option C	East Option B	East Option C	East Option D
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 8km long and 1710Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option C	Approximately 8km long and 1570Ha in area. West Option C is a direct comparator for West Option B	Approximately 7km long and 1400Ha in area. East Option B is a direct comparator for East Option C and East Option D	Approximately 6km long and 1120Ha in area. East Option C is a direct comparator for East Option B and East Option D	Approximately 7km long and 1340Ha in area. East Option D is a direct comparator for East Option B and East Option C
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Landscape					
Landscape character types (Level 3)	Agricultural Lowlands of the North East Flat or Rolling, Smooth or Sweeping, Extensive, High Moorlands of the Highlands and Islands	Agricultural Lowlands of the North East Flat or Rolling, Smooth or Sweeping, Extensive, High Moorlands of the Highlands and Islands	Agricultural Lowlands of the North East Flat or Rolling, Smooth or Sweeping, Extensive, High Moorlands of the Highlands and Islands	Agricultural Lowlands of the North East	Agricultural Lowlands of the North East Flat or Rolling, Smooth or Sweeping, Extensive, High Moorlands of the Highlands and Islands
Landscape designations	None	None	None	None	None
Commentary on indicative landscape sensitivity	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - Low/Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to partly accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be: comprised of commonplace elements and features creating generally unremarkable character but with some sense of place. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The landscape character is of steep hills where the slopes are mostly swathes of farmland, and there are a few small forested areas to the west and one to the east.</p> <p>Dummuies windfarm is located at the western extent of the segment and is prominent in the landscape, thereby reducing the sensitivity in this part of the segment. Similarly, the existing A96 is an established part of the local landscape, which further reduces its sensitivity and the enhanced layby on the dual carriageway is a positive feature which highlights the impressive views to the north.</p> <p>Individual properties, scattered through the segment and the hilly landscape throughout are constraints to dualling.</p> <p>It is considered that the landscape character can be maintained, and absorb a dualled route without a significant impact on the quality of the landscape.</p> <p>The terrain may prove to be sensitive to the dualling as the hilly landscape is a constraint within the zone.</p>	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be unable to accommodate change of the type proposed; of high quality with distinctive elements and features making a positive contribution to character and sense of place. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The landscape character of the area is predominately steep hills, with a large block of woodland in the centre and swathes of farmland on the slopes.</p> <p>Although Dummuies windfarm, located at the northern edge of the segment, is prominent in the landscape and partially reduces its sensitivity, the rest of the segment landscape is relatively remote with little in the way of settlement or other infrastructure.</p> <p>A dualled route would therefore substantially change the character of this area as the landscape is very sensitive to change.</p>	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - Low/Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to partly accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be: Locally designated, or their value may be expressed through non-statutory local publications. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The landscape character of the area comprises steep hills to the north of the segment, with some woodland shelterbelts breaking up the open swathes of farmland to the south. The existing A96 is an established part of the local landscape, which reduces its sensitivity and the enhanced layby on the dual carriageway is a positive feature which highlights the impressive views to the south.</p> <p>Williamston House and Newtown House Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) are key constraints as the span half of the segment breadth to the north of the existing A96.</p> <p>There are individual properties scattered throughout the segment and some small villages to the south. The hilly terrain to the north of the segment may be a constraint to dualling and although the open landscape to the south is less constrained, it is still sensitive to change.</p> <p>It is considered that the landscape character can be maintained, and absorb a dualled route without significant impact on the quality of the landscape.</p>	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be unable to accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be: of high quality with distinctive elements and features making a positive contribution to character, and sense of place and areas of special recognised value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The landscape character of the area comprises rolling agricultural landscape which is relatively remote and has little in the way of infrastructure.</p> <p>The village of Insch is located at the southern extent of the segment and there are a number of individual properties located throughout.</p> <p>Scheduled Monuments, the Picardy Stone Symbol Stone and the Inschfield Stone Circle stand in fields to the northern extent of the segment.</p> <p>A dualled route would substantially change the character of this area as the landscape is very sensitive to change.</p>	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be unable to accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be: of high quality with distinctive elements and features making a positive contribution to character, and sense of place and areas of special recognised value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The landscape character comprises steep hills in the north which flow into gently rolling swathes of farmland, to the south of the segment. In the northern extent of the segment, the existing A96 is an established part of the local landscape, which reduces its sensitivity and the enhanced layby on the dual carriageway is a positive feature which captures the impressive views to the south.</p> <p>Williamston House Gardens and Designed Landscapes are located at the north western edge of the segment, increasing the local sensitivity of the landscape. Additionally, the 1km tree lined drive of Freefield House spans more than half of the breadth of the segment and is an historic and sensitive feature in the landscape.</p> <p>There are individual and groups of properties scattered through the segment and the village of Kirkton of Rayne to the south.</p> <p>The hilly terrain to the north of the segment may be a constraint to dualling and although the open landscape to the south is less constrained, it is still sensitive to change.</p> <p>It is considered that a dualled route would have a significant impact on the landscape character within this segment.</p>

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table

Section 9: Old Rayne to Kintore

Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option C	West Option D	Inverurie Option B North	Inverurie Option B South	Inverurie Option B Inner	Inverurie Option C
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 7km long and 1490Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option C and West Option D	Approximately 8km long and 1500Ha in area. West Option C is a direct comparator for West Option B and West Option D	Approximately 8km long and 1740Ha in area. West Option D is a direct comparator for West Option B and West Option C	Approximately 16km long and 3160Ha in area. Inverurie Option B North is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B South, Inverurie Option B Inner and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 13km long and 2670Ha in area. Inverurie Option B South is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North Inverurie Option B Inner and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 14km long and 2710Ha in area. Inverurie Option B Inner is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North, Inverurie Option B South and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 12km long and 2470Ha in area. Inverurie Option C is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North Inverurie Option B South and Inverurie Option B Inner
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Biodiversity							
Ramsar Sites	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Biological & Mixed	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Ancient Woodland Inventory sites	Total cover 7.7% (114.7) plantation 7.7% (114.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total cover 14.8% (222.9) plantation 14.7% (221.7) Roy 0.1% (1.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • National/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	Total cover 7.6% (131.9) plantation 7.6% (131.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total cover 4.1% (129.9) plantation 4.0% (126.3) Roy 0.1% (3.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total cover 7.1% (189.0) semi-natural <0.1% (0.8) plantation 6.7% (177.9) Roy 0.4% (10.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total cover 3.6% (96.9) semi-natural <0.1% (<0.1) plantation 3.6% (96.5) Roy <0.1% (0.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total cover 14.4% (354.6) semi-natural 0.3% (8.2) plantation 14.0% (346.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • National/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites
Native Woodland Survey of Scotland sites	Total cover 7.6% (113.9) native woodland 6.1% (90.8) nearly-native woodland 0.1% (1.8) open land habitat 1.4% (21.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total cover 14.8% (222.0) native woodland 13.4% (202.1) nearly-native woodland 0.5% (7.4) open land habitat 0.8% (12.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • National/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	Total cover 3.1% (53.8) native woodland 3.0% (52.5) nearly-native woodland 0.1% (1.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • National/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Total cover 4.3% (136.6) native woodland 3.9% (122.8) nearly-native woodland 0.2% (5.4) open land habitat 0.3% (8.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total cover 6.1% (162.4) native woodland 5.7% (151.0) nearly-native woodland 0.3% (7.0) open land habitat 0.2% (4.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total cover 4.3% (117.9) native woodland 4.1% (112.2) nearly-native woodland 0.2% (5.3) open land habitat <0.1% (0.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total cover 14.5% (356.8) native woodland 14.1% (348.2) nearly-native woodland 0.1% (2.9) open land habitat 0.2% (5.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • National/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites
Locally designated nature conservation sites (e.g. SINS - Sites of Interest to Natural Science)	Aberdeenshire LNCS: Total 0.6% (9.3) Bennachie 0.6% (9.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • National/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Aberdeenshire LNCS: Total 26.7% (401.5) Bennachie 26.7% (401.5) Aberdeenshire SESA: Total 23.0% (346.6) Bennachie 23.0% (346.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • National/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites	Aberdeenshire LNCS: Total 0.2% (3.5) Govals 0.2% (3.2) Pitscurry Moss <0.1% (0.3) Aberdeenshire SESA: Total 2.8% (49.5) Pitcaple Quarry (working 1977) 1.4% (24.1) Govals Quarry -Part overgrown,landscaped 0.8% (14.2) Pitscurry Moss 0.6% (11.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • National/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Aberdeenshire LNCS: Total 0.6% (20.5) Kinkell Belt 0.6% (20.5) Aberdeenshire SESA: Total 2.7% (85.3) Inverurie- area S. of Urie Cottage.1.1% (34.1) Cairnhall 1.5% (46.7) Tuach Hill 0.1% (4.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • National/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Aberdeenshire LNCS: Total <0.1% (<0.1) Kinkell Belt <0.1% (<0.1) Aberdeenshire SESA: Total 1.9% (51.9) Inverurie- area S. of Urie Cottage.<0.1% (1.0) Cairnhall 1.7% (46.7) Tuach Hill 0.2% (4.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • National/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Aberdeenshire LNCS: Total 0.7% (18.5) Kinkell Belt 0.7% (18.5) Aberdeenshire SESA: Total 3.1% (83.2) Inverurie- area S. of Urie Cottage.1.2% (31.9) Cairnhall 1.7% (46.7) Tuach Hill 0.2% (4.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • National/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Aberdeenshire LNCS: Total 4.3% (106.9) Cottown Woods 0.7% (16.4) Fetternear 1.0% (24.0) Bennachie <0.1% (<0.1) Toms Forest 2.7% (66.5) Aberdeenshire SESA: Total 7.7% (189.7) Cottown Woods Kemnay 2.0% (48.4) Tom's Forest 4.5% (112.3) West side of River Don North of Kemnay 1.2% (28.9) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent No Natura, SSSI or NNR sites within this segment. The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI and NWSS woodland which, although not extensive in total area cover, together cross almost the whole breadth of the segment area in a diagonal, through its centre. Other constraints include the avoidance and minimisation of impacts on Bennachie LNCS which is located at the outer edge of the 2km study area and as such, is not an extensive area constraint.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • National/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites No Natura, SSSI or NNR sites within this segment. The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the locally designated conservation sites around Bennachie. The LNCS is an extensive area constraint which cannot be avoided as it crosses the breadth of the segment, and the SESA covers almost half of the breadth of the segment area in the south. Another key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI and NWSS woodland. Although not extensive in total area cover, these woodlands collectively cross the breadth of the segment in several locations.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent No Natura, SSSI or NNR sites within this segment. The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI, all of which is plantation, and although not extensive in cover, crosses over half of the breadth of the segment area in one location. Other constraints include the avoidance and minimisation of impacts on NWSS woodland which, due to its extent and spatial distribution, does not present an extensive constraint to dualling. Similarly, the locally designated conservation sites are located in the south eastern corner of the segment and are not considered extensive area constraints.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent No Natura, SSSI or NNR sites within this segment. The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI and NWSS woodland which are distributed throughout the segment and are not extensive area constraints. Other constraints include the avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the locally designated conservation sites which, due to their distribution within the segment, are not extensive area constraints.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent No Natura, SSSI or NNR sites within this segment. The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI and NWSS woodland which are distributed throughout the segment and are not extensive area constraints. Other constraints include the avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the locally designated conservation sites, two of which are situated at the outer edges of the segment. Cairnhall SESA is located in the centre of the southern part of the segment, however it is not an extensive area constraint.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent No Natura, SSSI or NNR sites within this segment. The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI and NWSS woodland which are distributed throughout the segment and are not extensive area constraints. Other constraints include the avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the locally designated conservation sites which, due to their distribution within the segment, are not extensive area constraints.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • National/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites No Natura, SSSI or NNR sites within this segment. The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI and NWSS woodland. Although not extensive in total area cover, these woodlands collectively cross the breadth of the segment in several locations. Other constraints include the avoidance and minimisation of impacts on locally designated conservation sites which are area constraints in the centre of the segment due to their spatial distribution.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table

Section 9: Old Rayne to Kintore

Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option C	West Option D	Inverurie Option B North	Inverurie Option B South	Inverurie Option B Inner	Inverurie Option C
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 7km long and 1490Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option C and West Option D	Approximately 8km long and 1500Ha in area. West Option C is a direct comparator for West Option B and West Option D	Approximately 8km long and 1740Ha in area. West Option D is a direct comparator for West Option B and West Option C	Approximately 16km long and 3160Ha in area. Inverurie Option B North is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B South, Inverurie Option B Inner and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 13km long and 2670Ha in area. Inverurie Option B South is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North Inverurie Option B Inner and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 14km long and 2710Ha in area. Inverurie Option B Inner is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North, Inverurie Option B South and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 12km long and 2470Ha in area. Inverurie Option C is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North Inverurie Option B South and Inverurie Option B Inner
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Soils & Geodiversity							
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Geological & Mixed	Pittodrie (Geological) 0.007% (0.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Pittodrie (Geological) 0.007% (0.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Pitcapple and Legatsden Quarries (Geological) 0.4% (7.6) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	None	None	None	None
Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites	Pittodrie (Quaternary of Scotland) 0.03% (0.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Pittodrie (Quaternary of Scotland) 0.03% (0.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Pitsmedden and Pitscurry Quarries (Caledonian Igneous) 0.4% (7.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	None	None	None	None
Agricultural land classes 1 to 3.1 (Prime agricultural land)	Total Cover 32.3% (482.2) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 32.3% (482.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites	Total Cover 9.7% (146.2) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 9.7% (146.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total Cover 29.6% (515.5) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 29.6% (515.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites	Total Cover 25.8% (817) Grade 2 Arable Agriculture 0.006% (0.2) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 25.8% (816.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites	Total Cover 7.4% (198.2) Grade 2 Arable Agriculture 0.007% (0.2) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 7.4% (198) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent	Total Cover 13.4% (363) Grade 2 Arable Agriculture 0.007% (0.2) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 13.4% (362.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent	None
Carbon-rich soil classification	Class 1: 73.9% (1102.6) Class 3 26.1% (390.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Negligible • Any designations present minimal constraint in the option area	Class 1: 31.1% (467.3) Class 3 52.5% (790.1) Class 4: 16.4% (246.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent	Class 1: 95.9% (1673.1) Class 3: 4.1% (70.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Negligible • Any designations present minimal constraint in the option area	Class 0: 4% (129.2) Class 1: 86.1% (2720.3) Class 3: 7.6% (239.4) Class 4: 2.3% (72.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Class 1: 84.6% (2258.6) Class 3: 12.6% (335.9) Class 4: 2.8% (74.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Class 0: 6.2% (168.9) Class 1: 79.3% (2151.8) Class 3: 11.8% (319.2) Class 4: 2.7% (72.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area	Class 1: 86.4% (2133.8) Class 3: 7.1% (174.6) Class 4: 6.5% (160.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint Sensitivity Assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites The segment is extensively covered by prime agricultural land with associated importance for agriculture. A key constraint will therefore be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on prime agricultural land. The segment is partly covered by a very small area of SSSI and GCR and whilst these are important designations they are not extensive and do not represent a significant constraint to dualling	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent The segment is not extensively covered by prime agricultural land although agriculture remains important and a constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the better quality land. The segment is partly covered by a very small area of SSSI and GCR and whilst these are important designations they are not extensive and do not represent a significant constraint to dualling. Other constraints will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on carbon-rich soils although these are limited in their area and spatial distribution across the segment.	Constraint Sensitivity Assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites The segment is extensively covered by prime agricultural land with associated importance for agriculture. A key constraint will therefore be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on prime agricultural land. The segment is partly covered by a very small area of SSSI and GCR and whilst these are important designations they are not extensive and do not represent a significant constraint to dualling	Constraint Sensitivity Assessment - High • Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites The segment is extensively covered by prime agricultural land with associated importance for agriculture. A key constraint will therefore be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on prime agricultural land. Other constraints will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on carbon-rich soils although these are limited in their area and spatial distribution across the segment.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation The segment is not extensively covered by prime agricultural land although agriculture remains important and a constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the better quality land. The segment is partly covered by carbon-rich soils and these represent an important constraint to dualling particularly on the southern side of the existing A96 route.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation The segment is not extensively covered by prime agricultural land although agriculture remains important and a constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the better quality land. The segment is partly covered by carbon-rich soils and these represent an important constraint to dualling particularly on the southern side of the existing A96 route.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area The segment does not include any prime agricultural land although agriculture remains important and a constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the better quality land. There are no designated geological sites in the segment. Constraints will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on carbon-rich soils however the extent and distribution of these does not represent a significant constraint to road dualling.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table

Section 9: Old Rayne to Kintore

Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option C	West Option D	Inverurie Option B North	Inverurie Option B South	Inverurie Option B Inner	Inverurie Option C
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 7km long and 1490Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option C and West Option D	Approximately 8km long and 1500Ha in area. West Option C is a direct comparator for West Option B and West Option D	Approximately 8km long and 1740Ha in area. West Option D is a direct comparator for West Option B and West Option C	Approximately 16km long and 3160Ha in area. Inverurie Option B North is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B South, Inverurie Option B Inner and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 13km long and 2670Ha in area. Inverurie Option B South is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North Inverurie Option B Inner and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 14km long and 2710Ha in area. Inverurie Option B Inner is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North, Inverurie Option B South and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 12km long and 2470Ha in area. Inverurie Option C is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North Inverurie Option B South and Inverurie Option B Inner
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Water & Flooding							
1:200 yr fluvial flood extent (surface area)	Total cover 5.1% (75.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 2.8% (42.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 4.2% (73.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 17.2% (542.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 11.2% (299.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 14.2% (384.4) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 5.3% (130.0) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
1:200 yr coastal flood extent (surface area)	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
1:200 yr pluvial flooding (surface area)	Total cover 2.3% (34.0) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 0.7% (10.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 2.4% (42.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 9.5% (300.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 7.1% (189.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 8.3% (226.1) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Total cover 5.2% (127.5) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation
Major watercourse crossings (Watercourses shown on 1:50k OS mapping)	Likely to be constrained by new/ upgraded crossing requirements as the existing A96 roughly follows the River Urie, crossing a number of tributaries. Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Likely to be constrained by crossing tributaries of the River Urie and River Don. Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Likely to be constrained by a new River Urie crossing. Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Very likely to be constrained by crossings of the Rivers Urie/ Don Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation	Likely to be constrained by a new River Don crossing. Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Likely to be constrained by a new River Don crossing. Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Likely to be constrained by a new River Don crossing. Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Possibility of groundwater contributing to flooding (surface area)	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Existing flood defence infrastructure	None	None	None	Inverurie (Strathburn & Overburn) Flood Prevention Scheme Overburn Culvert, Inverurie Flood Prevention Scheme Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Inverurie (Strathburn & Overburn) Flood Prevention Scheme Overburn Culvert, Inverurie Flood Prevention Scheme Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Inverurie (Strathburn & Overburn) Flood Prevention Scheme Overburn Culvert, Inverurie Flood Prevention Scheme Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	None

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table

Section 9: Old Rayne to Kintore

Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option C	West Option D	Inverurie Option B North	Inverurie Option B South	Inverurie Option B Inner	Inverurie Option C
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 7km long and 1490Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option C and West Option D	Approximately 8km long and 1500Ha in area. West Option C is a direct comparator for West Option B and West Option D	Approximately 8km long and 1740Ha in area. West Option D is a direct comparator for West Option B and West Option C	Approximately 16km long and 3160Ha in area. Inverurie Option B North is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B South, Inverurie Option B Inner and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 13km long and 2670Ha in area. Inverurie Option B South is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North Inverurie Option B Inner and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 14km long and 2710Ha in area. Inverurie Option B Inner is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North, Inverurie Option B South and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 12km long and 2470Ha in area. Inverurie Option C is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North Inverurie Option B South and Inverurie Option B Inner
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Water & Flooding (cont.)							
No. of properties within 1:200yr flood extents	Possibly constrained by properties already within the fluvial floodplain. 5 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Possibly constrained by properties already within the fluvial floodplain. 11 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Possibly constrained by properties already within the fluvial floodplain. 3 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Very likely to be constrained by several properties already within the fluvial floodplain. 141 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation	Likely to be constrained the significant number of properties already within the fluvial floodplain. 34 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Very likely to be constrained by several properties already within the fluvial floodplain. 119 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation	Possibly constrained by properties already within the fluvial floodplain. 14 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Other water resource issues	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Commentary on key constraints	<p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium</p> <p>• Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation</p> <p>Crossings and flood risk zones associated with the River Urie and one of its tributaries, Gadie Burn, are likely to be the key positional constraints to dualling alignment options within the segment.</p> <p>Gadie Burn is unavoidable as it spans the breadth of the segment before joining the River Urie at the eastern side of the segment boundary.</p> <p>Risk from fluvial flooding both to the future dualled A96 route and to the properties which are currently in fluvial flood plain, are a key constraint.</p> <p>Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near the current floodplains could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.</p>	<p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium</p> <p>• Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation</p> <p>Crossings and flood risk zones associated with tributaries of the River Urie and River Don are likely to be the key positional constraints to dualling alignment options within the segment.</p> <p>Gadie Burn, a tributary of the River Urie, is unavoidable as it spans the breadth of the segment in the north, while Linn Burn, a tributary of the River Don is located in the south eastern corner of the segment, and could potentially be avoided.</p> <p>Risk from fluvial flooding both to the future dualled A96 route and to the properties which are currently in fluvial flood plain, are a key constraint.</p> <p>Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near the current floodplains could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.</p>	<p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium</p> <p>• Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation</p> <p>Crossings and flood risk zones associated with the River Urie and one of its tributaries, Burn of Durno, are likely to be the key positional constraints to dualling alignment options within the segment.</p> <p>The River Urie is unavoidable as it spans the breadth of the segment in the south, however the Burn of Durno is located in the east of the segment and could potentially be avoided.</p> <p>Risk from fluvial flooding both to the future dualled A96 route and to the properties which are currently in fluvial flood plain, are a key constraint.</p> <p>Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near the current floodplains could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.</p>	<p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - High</p> <p>• Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation</p> <p>Crossings and flood risk zones associated with the Rivers Don and Urie and their tributaries are likely to be the key positional constraints to dualling alignment options within the segment.</p> <p>The River Urie spans the segment breadth and is unavoidable in north of the segment, and after the confluence with the River Don in the middle of the segment, the River Don is also unavoidable in the south.</p> <p>River Urie tributaries, the Strathnaterick and Lochter Burns in the north, and River Don tributaries the Bridgealehouse and Tuach Burns in the south, are also unavoidable as they span the breadth of the segment.</p> <p>Risk from fluvial flooding both to the future dualled A96 route and to the high number of properties around Inverurie and Kintore which are currently in fluvial flood plain, are a key constraint.</p> <p>Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near the current floodplains could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.</p>	<p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium</p> <p>• Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation</p> <p>Crossings and flood risk zones associated with the River Don and its tributaries are likely to be the key positional constraints to dualling alignment options within the segment.</p> <p>The River Don is unavoidable as it spans the breadth of the segment in the north and, after the confluence with the River Urie, it skirts the south eastern edge of the segment.</p> <p>The River Urie tributary the Strathnaterick Burn in the north, and River Don tributaries the Bridgealehouse and Tuach Burns in the south, are also unavoidable as they span the breadth of the segment.</p> <p>Risk from fluvial flooding both to the future dualled A96 route and to the properties around Inverurie and Kintore which are currently in fluvial flood plain, are a key constraint.</p> <p>Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near the current floodplains could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.</p>	<p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - High</p> <p>• Features with limited capacity to accommodate change or which are already subject to pressures and degradation</p> <p>Crossings and flood risk zones associated with the Rivers Don and Urie and their tributaries are likely to be the key positional constraints to dualling alignment options within the segment.</p> <p>The River Don is unavoidable as it spans the breadth of the segment in the north of the segment and, after the confluence with the River Urie at the eastern edge of the segment, it skirts this eastern edge, south.</p> <p>The River Urie tributary the Strathnaterick Burn in the north, and River Don tributaries the Bridgealehouse and Tuach Burns in the south, are also unavoidable as they span the breadth of the segment.</p> <p>Risk from fluvial flooding both to the future dualled A96 route and to the high number of properties around Inverurie and Kintore which are currently in fluvial flood plain, are a key constraint.</p> <p>Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near the current floodplains could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.</p>	<p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium</p> <p>• Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation</p> <p>Crossings and flood risk zones associated with the River Don and its tributaries are likely to be the key positional constraints to dualling alignment options within the segment.</p> <p>The River Don is unavoidable as it spans the breadth of the segment in the north. Similarly, one of its tributaries, Tuach Burn, crosses the breadth of the segment in the south, making it unavoidable.</p> <p>Burn Hervie, joins the River Don in the north of the segment, however, as it is located to the west of the segment, it could potentially be avoided.</p> <p>Risk from fluvial flooding both to the future dualled A96 route and to the properties which are currently in fluvial flood plain, are a key constraint.</p> <p>Sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near the current floodplains could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.</p>

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table

Section 9: Old Rayne to Kintore

Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option C	West Option D	Inverurie Option B North	Inverurie Option B South	Inverurie Option B Inner	Inverurie Option C
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 7km long and 1490Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option C and West Option D	Approximately 8km long and 1500Ha in area. West Option C is a direct comparator for West Option B and West Option D	Approximately 8km long and 1740Ha in area. West Option D is a direct comparator for West Option B and West Option C	Approximately 16km long and 3160Ha in area. Inverurie Option B North is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B South, Inverurie Option B Inner and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 13km long and 2670Ha in area. Inverurie Option B South is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North Inverurie Option B Inner and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 14km long and 2710Ha in area. Inverurie Option B Inner is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North, Inverurie Option B South and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 12km long and 2470Ha in area. Inverurie Option C is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North Inverurie Option B South and Inverurie Option B Inner
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Air							
Air Quality Management Areas	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment
Traffic flow/ demand data (as a proxy for local air quality where available)	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows are c8,400. These are forecast to increase to c15,200 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Existing A96 not located within this part of Option C. Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows are c8,400. These are forecast to increase to c15,200 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows are c8,400 to 27,300. These are forecast to increase to c15,200 to 27,700 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 however monitored NO2 levels at sites in Inverurie town centre are close to objective levels Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows are c8,400 to 27,300. These are forecast to increase to c15,200 to 27,700 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 however monitored NO2 levels at sites in Inverurie town centre are close to objective levels Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows are c8,400 to 27,300. These are forecast to increase to c15,200 to 27,700 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 however monitored NO2 levels at sites in Inverurie town centre are close to objective levels Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows are c22,800 to 23,800. These are forecast to increase to c24,000 to 32,700 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Baseline environment not generally subject to pressures and degradation
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low Air quality in the segment area is generally fair although predicted levels of PM10 are closer to objective limit levels and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96 and other busy roads in the area	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low Air quality in the segment area is generally fair although predicted levels of PM10 are closer to objective limit levels and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96 and other busy roads in the area such as the B9902.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low Air quality in the segment area is generally fair although predicted levels of PM10 are closer to objective limit levels and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96 and other busy roads in the area.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium Air quality in the segment area is generally fair although predicted levels of PM10 are closer to objective limit levels and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96 and other busy roads in the area.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium Air quality in the segment area is generally fair although predicted levels of PM10 are closer to objective limit levels and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96 and other busy roads in the area around Inverurie and Kintore.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium Air quality in the segment area is generally fair although predicted levels of PM10 are closer to objective limit levels and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96 and other busy roads in the area around Inverurie and Kintore.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low Air quality in the segment area is generally fair although predicted levels of PM10 are closer to objective limit levels and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96 and other busy roads in the area around Inverurie and Kintore.
Population & Human Health							
Towns and principal centres of population	Old Rayne (small village) adjacent to A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	Oyne adjacent to B9002 south of the existing A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	Whiteford (small town) north of the existing A96 Pitcaple (small town) adjacent to the existing A96 Chapel of Garioch (small town) south of the existing A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	Inverurie adjacent to A96 Kintore adjacent to A96 Port Elphinstone adjacent to A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Extensive areas of settlement extending across option area	Inverurie adjacent to A96 Kintore adjacent to A96 Port Elphinstone adjacent to A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Extensive areas of settlement extending across option area	Inverurie adjacent to A96 Kintore adjacent to A96 Port Elphinstone adjacent to A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Extensive areas of settlement extending across option area	Kintore adjacent to A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive
'Population' to act as a proxy for receptors subject to potential effects on amenity (number of properties from OS AddressBasePlus dataset)	191 properties Average Aberdeenshire household size 2012=2.47 people Therefore population density=0.32 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	138 properties Average Aberdeenshire household size 2012=2.47 people Therefore population density=0.23 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	222 properties Average Aberdeenshire household size 2012=2.47 people Therefore population density=0.31 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive	2761 properties Average Aberdeenshire household size 2012=2.47 people Therefore population density=2.2 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Extensive areas of settlement extending across option area	1408 properties Average Aberdeenshire household size 2012=2.47 people Therefore population density= 1.3 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Areas of settlement may be present and extend across parts of the option area	4815 properties Average Aberdeenshire household size 2012=2.47 people Therefore population density=4.4 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Extensive areas of settlement extending across option area	488 properties Average Aberdeenshire household size 2012=2.47 people Therefore population density=0.49 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Areas of settlement may be present but not extensive
Traffic volume (as a proxy for road traffic noise where available) Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) by section to nearest 100 vehicles	2012 AADT: c8,400 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c15,200	N/A	2012 AADT: c8,400 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c15,200	2013 AADT: c8,400 to c27,300 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c15,200 to c27,700	2014 AADT: c8,400 to c27,300 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c15,200 to c27,700	2014 AADT: c8,400 to c27,300 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c15,200 to c27,700	2015 AADT: c22,800 to 23,800 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c24,000 to 32,700
Core paths/ NMUs	9 Core Paths mainly near Old Rayne and at southern end of the segment north and south of the line of the existing A96 road Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Land uses and general character of the area are of limited sensitivity, or high tolerance to change	13 Core Paths crossing the segment mainly around Oxen Craig and Mither Tap peaks of Bennachie Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	3 Core Paths First one located just outside Old Rayne Second one south of Durno Third one crossing Whiteford Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Land uses and general character of the area are of limited sensitivity, or high tolerance to change	25 Core Paths mainly located along the existing A96 and around Inverurie and Kintore Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	23 Core Paths mainly located along the existing A96 and around Inverurie and Kintore Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	39 Core Paths mainly located along the existing A96 and around Inverurie and Kintore Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	13 Core Paths mainly located south of Kintore and around Aquhytie and Cairntown wood Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Land uses and general character of the area are of limited sensitivity, or high tolerance to change Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres although the number of properties is very low in this segment. Segment sensitivity reflects the low number of properties and population density and relatively limited constraints from NMU routes.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on NMU routes. Segment sensitivity also reflects the proximity and crossing of the segment from local trails. Segment sensitivity also reflects the low number of properties and low population density.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Land uses and general character of the area are of limited sensitivity, or high tolerance to change Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres although the number of properties is very low in this segment. Segment sensitivity reflects the low number of properties and population density and relatively limited constraints from NMU routes.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Extensive areas of settlement extending across option area Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres as the number of properties is high in this segment. Segment sensitivity reflects the high number of properties and population density which acts to constrain the corridor available for dualling, as well as constraints from a large number and density of NMU routes within Inverurie and across the segment area north of the town.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres as the number of properties is relatively high in this segment. Segment sensitivity reflects the number of properties and population density which acts to constrain the corridor to some degree, as well as constraints from a large number of NMU routes.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Extensive areas of settlement extending across option area Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres as the number of properties is high in this segment. Segment sensitivity reflects the high number of properties and population density which acts to constrain the corridor, as well as constraints from a large number of NMU routes.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on NMU routes. Segment sensitivity also reflects the relatively low number of properties and population density.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table

Section 9: Old Rayne to Kintore

Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option C	West Option D	Inverurie Option B North	Inverurie Option B South	Inverurie Option B Inner	Inverurie Option C
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 7km long and 1490Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option C and West Option D	Approximately 8km long and 1500Ha in area. West Option C is a direct comparator for West Option B and West Option D	Approximately 8km long and 1740Ha in area. West Option D is a direct comparator for West Option B and West Option C	Approximately 16km long and 3160Ha in area. Inverurie Option B North is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B South, Inverurie Option B Inner and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 13km long and 2670Ha in area. Inverurie Option B South is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North Inverurie Option B Inner and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 14km long and 2710Ha in area. Inverurie Option B Inner is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North, Inverurie Option B South and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 12km long and 2470Ha in area. Inverurie Option C is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North Inverurie Option B South and Inverurie Option B Inner
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Historic Environment							
Scheduled Monuments (SM)	<p>6x SM Durno, Roman temporary camp, 420m ESE of Westerton - 750m E of A96 Maiden Castle, fort 285m ESE of Rowantree Cottage - 1,250m S of A96 Maiden Stone, cross slab - 810m S of A96 Logie House, 3 symbol stones 160m W of - 330m N of A96 Candle Hill, stone circle 600m SE of Old Rayne - 700m NE of A96 Old Rayne, Episcopal manse and moat 45m ENE of Old Rayne School - 500m NE of A96</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites</p>	<p>5x SM Gowk Stone, standing stone 80 WSW of Craigeconock - 1,400m SW of A96 Maiden Castle, fort 285m ESE of Rowantree Cottage - 1,250m S of A96 Berry Hill, enclosure 600m SW of Bogend - 2,500m SW of A96 Hatton of Ardoyne, stone circle 350m SE of - 1,600m SW of A96 Westerton of Petmathen, standing stone 395m NNW of - 1,400m SW of A96</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites</p>	<p>4x SM Durno, Roman temporary camp, 420m ESE of Westerton - 750m E of A96 Newton of Lewesk, enclosure 165m ESE of - 1,300m NE of A96 The Law, cairn 175m NNW of East Law - 1,900m NE of A96 Pitscurry, cairn 410m N of - 1,350m N of A96</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites</p>	<p>16x SM Aberdeenshire Canal, milestone 14 1/2 at Canal Cottage, Kintore - 720m E of A96 Aberdeenshire Canal, milestone 15 at Bridgend House, Kintore - 150m E of A96 Balquhain Castle - 950m W of A96 Broomend, henge, standing stones and symbol stone - 90m E of A96 Caskieben moat, moated site and symbol stone 170m N of Keith Hall - 1,600m NE of A96 Castle of Hallforest - 650m W of A96 Deer's Den, roundhouses 195m and 250m S of - 10m W of A96 Drimmies, symbol stone - 30m E of A96 East Blairbowie, standing stone 250m ENE of - 1,350 SW of A96 Fullerton, ring ditches & cairn circle 420m SE of - 20m NE of A96 Inverurie Cemetery, four symbol stones - 850m E of A96 Kinkell Church and burial ground - 850m E of A96 Kintore, symbol stone near church - 700m E of A96 Mains of Balquhain, stone circle 715m NE of - 450m W of A96 Midmill, long cairn 400m SSE of Tuach Hill - 950m E of A96 The Bass and Little Bass, motte and bailey - 900m E of A96</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites</p>	<p>15x SM St Apollinaris' Chapel and burial ground Bruce's Camp, hillfort - 700m W of A96 Aberdeenshire Canal, milestone 14 1/2 at Canal Cottage, Kintore - 720m E of A96 Aberdeenshire Canal, milestone 15 at Bridgend House, Kintore - 150m E of A96 Balquhain Castle - 950m W of A96 Broomend, henge, standing stones and symbol stone - 90m E of A96 Castle of Hallforest - 650m W of A96 Deer's Den, roundhouses 195m and 250m S of - 10m W of A96 Drimmies, symbol stone - 30m E of A96 East Blairbowie, standing stone 250m ENE of - 1,350 SW of A96 Fullerton, ring ditches & cairn circle 420m SE of - 20m NE of A96 Inverurie Cemetery, four symbol stones - 850m E of A96 Kintore, symbol stone near church - 700m E of A96 Mains of Balquhain, stone circle 715m NE of - 450m W of A96 Midmill, long cairn 400m SSE of Tuach Hill - 950m E of A96</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites</p>	<p>20x SM Midmill, long cairn, 400m SSE of Tuach Hill - 950m E of A96 Castle of Hallforest - 650m W of A96 Deer's Den, roundhouses 195m and 250m S of - 10m W of A96 Aberdeenshire Canal, milestone 14 1/2 at Canal Cottage, Kintore - 720m E of A96 Kintore, symbol stone near church - 700m E of A96 Aberdeenshire Canal, milestone 15 at Bridgend House, Kintore - 150m E of A96 Fullerton, ring ditches & cairn circle 420m SE of - 20m NE of A96 Kinkell Church and burial ground - 850m E of A96 Broomend, henge, standing stones and symbol stone - 90m E of A96 The Bass and Little Bass, motte-and-bailey castle - 900m E of A96 Inverurie Cemetery, four symbol stones - 850m E of A96 Conyng Hillock, mound E of Parkview, Inverurie - 430m NE of A96 Dillyhill, enclosure 510m WNW of - 860m SW of A96 Brandsbutt Stone, symbol stone - 350m W of A96 East Blairbowie, standing stone 250m ENE of - 1,350m SW of A96 Drimmies, symbol stone - 30m E of A96 Balquhain Castle - 950m W of A96 Mains of Balquhain, stone circle 715m NE of - 450m W of A96 Bruce's Camp, hillfort - 700m W of A96 Drimmies, symbol stone - 30m E of A96</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites</p>	<p>5x SM Ratch-hill, settlement, field system & enclosures S and SE of - 1,000m W of A96 Old Braco, chapel and enclosure 190m SSE of - 4,000m SW of A96 Deer's Den, roundhouses 195m and 250m S of - 10m W of A96 East Aquhorthies, stone circle - 3,000m W of A96 Castle of Hallforest - 650m W of A96</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites</p>
Inventory Battlefields	None	None	Total cover 0.1% (0.10) Harlaw Battlefield 0.1% (0.10) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • National/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint in the area	Total cover 9% (283.2) Harlaw Battlefield 9% (283.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites	None	Total cover 3.3% (90.2) Harlaw Battlefield 3.3% (90.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • National/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint in the area	None
A Listed Buildings	4x A Listed Chapel of Garioch - 1,350m S of A96 Harthill Castle - 840m SW of A96 Westhall - 750m S of A96 Old Rayne, Market Cross - 350m E of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites	1x A Listed Harthill Castle - 840m SW of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	2x A Listed Chapel of Garioch - 1,350m S of A96 Pitcapple Castle - 200m N of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	2x A Listed Keith Hall - 1,600m E of A96 Town House, The Square, Kintore - 600m E of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	1x A Listed Town House, The Square, Kintore - 600m E of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • National/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint in the area	1x A Listed Town House, The Square, Kintore - 600m E of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • National/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint in the area	1x A Listed House of Aquhorthies - 3,500m SW of A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • National/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint in the area

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table

Section 9: Old Rayne to Kintore

Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option C	West Option D	Inverurie Option B North	Inverurie Option B South	Inverurie Option B Inner	Inverurie Option C
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 7km long and 1490Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option C and West Option D	Approximately 8km long and 1500Ha in area. West Option C is a direct comparator for West Option B and West Option D	Approximately 8km long and 1740Ha in area. West Option D is a direct comparator for West Option B and West Option C	Approximately 16km long and 3160Ha in area. Inverurie Option B North is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B South, Inverurie Option B Inner and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 13km long and 2670Ha in area. Inverurie Option B South is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North Inverurie Option B Inner and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 14km long and 2710Ha in area. Inverurie Option B Inner is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North, Inverurie Option B South and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 12km long and 2470Ha in area. Inverurie Option C is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North Inverurie Option B South and Inverurie Option B Inner
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Historic Environment (cont.)							
Gardens & Designed Landscapes	None	None	None	Total cover 9.4% (295.7) Keith Hall 9.4% (295.71) Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites	None	Total cover 0.9% (23.2) Keith Hall 0.9% (23.2) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint in the area.	None
B & C Listed Buildings	8x B Listed 4x C Listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	4x B Listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • National/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint in the area	3x B Listed 4x C Listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • National/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint in the area	37x B listed 18x C listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites	10x B Listed 4x C Listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	30x B Listed 9x C Listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent	6x B Listed Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Conservation Areas (HS and Local Authority data)	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Local Historic Designated Sites	Aberdeenshire Archaeological Sites: 8x Regionally Significant 121x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Local designations and features present with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Aberdeenshire Archaeological Sites: 3x Regionally Significant 76x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Local designations and features present with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Aberdeenshire Archaeological Sites: 9x Regionally Significant 112x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Local designations and features present with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Aberdeenshire Archaeological Sites: 18x Regionally Significant 322x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Local designations and features present with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Aberdeenshire Archaeological Sites: 9x Regionally Significant 223x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Local designations and features present with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Aberdeenshire Archaeological Sites: 13x Regionally Significant 293x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Local designations and features present with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation	Aberdeenshire Archaeological Sites: 2x Regionally Significant 141x Standard Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Local designations and features present with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites The presence of a relatively large number of scheduled monuments and 4 A listed buildings is a particular constraint given the high value of these assets, the potential for direct and indirect impacts on them, and the lack of opportunities for avoidance. The Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record shows 129 recorded sites within the segment. These are spread out throughout the segment area and will require further detailed assessment at later stages.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites The presence of a high density of scheduled monuments, and an A listed building, is a particular constraint given the high value of these assets, the potential for direct and indirect impacts on them, and the lack of opportunities for avoidance. The Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record shows 79 recorded sites within the segment. These are spread out throughout the segment area and will require further detailed assessment at later stages.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites Within the segment area there are a large number of designated assets, comprising 4 scheduled monuments, 2 A listed buildings, part of Harlaw Inventory Battlefield and B and C Listed Buildings. There is the potential, therefore, for direct and/ or indirect impacts on all or some of these assets, and avoidance might not be possible for all of them. The Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record shows 121 recorded sites within the segment. These will require further detailed assessment at later stages.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites The main constraint within the segment is the large number of scheduled monuments (16) as well as Harlaw Battlefield, Keith Hall GDL, 2 A listed buildings and a large number of B and C listed buildings. Avoidance is likely to be very challenging and there is a high potential for impacts on the setting and structure of these assets. The Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record shows 340 recorded sites within the segment. These will require further detailed assessment at later stages.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites There are a large number of scheduled monuments within the segment area (15) as well as an A listed building and a number of B and C listed buildings. Avoidance may be challenging, and it may not be possible to reduce potential impacts on all designated assets. The Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record shows 232 recorded sites within the segment. These will require further detailed assessment at later stages.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - High • Nationally/ local important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through area covered and/ or number and distribution of sites There are a large number of scheduled monuments within the segment area (20) as well as part of Harlaw Battlefield, Keith Hall GDL, and A, B and C listed buildings. Avoidance may be challenging, and it may not be possible to reduce potential impacts on all designated assets. The Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record shows 306 recorded sites within the segment which will require further detailed assessment at later stages.	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent Key constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on 5 scheduled monuments, 1 A listed buildings and 6 B listed buildings. Despite the presence of these assets, their dispersal across the segment area, and the fact that there are no Battlefields or GDLs within the segment area, means that there is a greater opportunity for avoidance. The Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record shows 143 recorded sites within the segment which will require further detailed assessment at later stages.

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table

Section 9: Old Rayne to Kintore

Strategic Intervention Option	West Option B	West Option C	West Option D	Inverurie Option B North	Inverurie Option B South	Inverurie Option B Inner	Inverurie Option C
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 7km long and 1490Ha in area. West Option B is a direct comparator for West Option C and West Option D	Approximately 8km long and 1500Ha in area. West Option C is a direct comparator for West Option B and West Option D	Approximately 8km long and 1740Ha in area. West Option D is a direct comparator for West Option B and West Option C	Approximately 16km long and 3160Ha in area. Inverurie Option B North is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B South, Inverurie Option B Inner and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 13km long and 2670Ha in area. Inverurie Option B South is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North Inverurie Option B Inner and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 14km long and 2710Ha in area. Inverurie Option B Inner is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North, Inverurie Option B South and Inverurie Option C	Approximately 12km long and 2470Ha in area. Inverurie Option C is a direct comparator for Inverurie Option B North Inverurie Option B South and Inverurie Option B Inner
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Landscape							
Landscape character types (Level 3)	Agricultural Lowlands of the North East Flat or Rolling, Smooth or Sweeping, Extensive, High Moorlands of the Highlands and Islands	Agricultural Lowlands of the North East Flat or Rolling, Smooth or Sweeping, Extensive, High Moorlands of the Highlands and Islands	Agricultural Lowlands of the North East	Agricultural Lowlands of the North East	Agricultural Lowlands of the North East	Agricultural Lowlands of the North East	Agricultural Lowlands of the North East
Landscape designations	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Commentary on Indicative Landscape sensitivity	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to partly accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be; comprised of commonplace elements and features creating generally unremarkable character but with some sense of place; Locally designated, or their value may be expressed through non-statutory local publications; likely to contain some features and elements that could not be replaced. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The landscape character comprises two character types; gently rolling open farmland with some small hills to the northern and southern extents of the segment, and the hills of Bennachie at the western edge.</p> <p>The existing A96 is an established part of the local landscape in the north which reduces its sensitivity, and the enhanced laybys on the dual carriageway are a positive feature which capture the views to the south. There are also pockets of woodland in the middle of the segment, the railway line crossing the centre of the segment and two, highly visible overhead power lines which run across its south-east corner, further reducing the local landscape sensitivity.</p> <p>There are a number of Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings throughout the segment which increase its landscape sensitivity, and there are a number individual properties and small villages scattered through the segment.</p> <p>The hilly terrain to the south and west of the segment is a constraint to dualling and although the open landscape of the river valley in the centre is less of a constraint, it is still sensitive to change.</p> <p>It is considered that the landscape character within the north can be maintained, and absorb a dualled route without a significant impact on the quality of the landscape, however a route to the south of the segment would be less sensitive along the hillside.</p>	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be unable to accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be; of high quality with distinctive elements and features making a positive contribution to character and sense of place. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The landscape character of the area consists of two character types; gently rolling open farmland and the steep slopes of the Bennachie hills, specifically Craighannoch, spanning the centre of the segment which have some wooded areas at their base.</p> <p>There are a number of Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings within the segment which increase it landscape sensitivity, and there are individual properties scattered throughout and the small village of Oyne to the north-east.</p> <p>The railway line runs across the northern extent of the segment and is a constraint to dualling. The steep slopes of Craighannoch Hill in the centre of the segment are a constraint to dualling and although the open landscape in the rest of the segment is less of a constraint, it is still sensitive to change.</p> <p>It is considered that a dualled route would have a significant impact on the landscape character within this relatively remote segment.</p>	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - Medium/ High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be unable to accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be; of high quality with distinctive elements and features making a positive contribution to character and sense of place and areas of special recognised value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The landscape character comprises gently rolling open farmland with Gallows Hill to the south. The hills of Bennachie are still visible to the west and there are some woodland areas scattered through the segment.</p> <p>The existing A96 is an established part of the local landscape in the south which reduces its sensitivity. The railway line also crosses the south of the segment and two, highly visible overhead power lines run through it, further reducing the local landscape sensitivity. However, the landscape would be sensitive to any new elevated structures required to cross the River Urie and the railway in the south.</p> <p>There are a number of Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings throughout the segment which increase its landscape sensitivity, and there are a number individual properties and small villages scattered through the segment.</p> <p>The hilly terrain of Gallows Hill to the south of the segment is a constraint to dualling and although the open landscape throughout the rest of the segment is less of a constraint, it is still sensitive to change. It is considered that a dualled route could have a significant impact on the landscape character within this segment.</p>	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be unable to accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be; Areas of special recognised value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The landscape character comprises gently rolling open farmland following the river valley from north to south. There are some small hills and an areas of woodland which span over half of the breadth of the segment at its eastern extent.</p> <p>The existing A96 is an established part of the local landscape in the northern and southern extents, which reduces its sensitivity, as do the overhead power lines at either extent. The railway line also runs through the segment further reducing the local landscape sensitivity. However, the landscape would be sensitive to any new elevated structures required to cross the railway or the Rivers Urie and Don.</p> <p>The significant number of Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings throughout the segment, and Keith Hall Gardens and Designed Landscapes which span more than half its breadth, are highly sensitive historic assets which contribute to the landscape character.</p> <p>There are many individual properties scattered through the segment and it skirts the highly populated area of Inverurie to the north-east, with the town of Kintore located in the centre of its southern extent.</p> <p>It is considered that a dualled route could have a significant impact on the landscape character within this segment.</p>	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to partly accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be; comprised of commonplace elements and features creating generally unremarkable character but with some sense of place. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The landscape character comprises rolling, agricultural land with small hills and woodland areas through the segment. The existing A96 is an established part of the local landscape in the southern extent which reduces its sensitivity, as do the highly visible overhead power lines which cross the segment's northern and southern extents.</p> <p>The River Don spans the segment breadth, as does a strip of woodland to the west of Port Elphinstone, and both may be difficult to avoid. The landscape would be sensitive to any new elevated structure required to cross the Rivers Don.</p> <p>There are many individual properties scattered through the segment and it skirts the highly populated area of Inverurie to the west, with the town of Kintore located in the centre of its southern extent. In addition, there are large number of historic environment assets which, due to their dispersal, may be difficult to avoid. It is considered that the landscape character could accommodate a dualled route without significant impact to its quality.</p>	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - Low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be; not designated and likely to contain few, if any, features and elements that could not be replaced. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The landscape character comprises rolling terrain with small hills to the west of the segment, settlements and a golf course to the east and woodland scattered throughout. The existing A96 runs through the centre of the segment and is an established part of the local landscape which reduces its sensitivity, as do the highly visible overhead power lines which cross the segment's northern and southern extents.</p> <p>The River Don spans the segment breadth and the landscape would be sensitive to any new elevated structure required to cross it.</p> <p>There are many individual properties scattered through the segment and it includes half the town of Inverurie to the east, the village of Port Elphinstone further south, and the town of Kintore at its southern extent. In addition, there are large number of historic environment assets which, due to their dispersal, may be difficult to avoid.</p> <p>It is considered that the landscape character could accommodate a dualled route without significant impact to its quality.</p>	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes which by nature of their character would be unable to accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be; of high quality with distinctive elements and features making a positive contribution to character and sense of place. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The landscape character comprises gently undulating terrain with a hillier landscape located in the north of the segment. There are large areas of woodland throughout the segment, some which span the breadth of the segment and may be difficult to avoid. The existing A96 runs through the southern extent of the segment and is an established part of the local landscape which reduces its sensitivity, as do the highly visible overhead power lines in the south.</p> <p>The town of Kintore is located to the south of the segment and there are some individual properties scattered throughout. In addition there are a number of historic environment assets located within the segment which are highly sensitive features.</p> <p>The River Don spans the segment breadth and the landscape would be sensitive to any new elevated structure required to cross it.</p> <p>The rolling hills and relatively remote landscape mean that the segment landscape character would be highly sensitive to dualling.</p>

A96 Dualling Programme Tier 2 SEA Data Capture and Constraints Analysis Table

Section 10: Kintore to proposed junction with the AWPR

Strategic Intervention Option	Option B
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 8km long and 1620Ha in area. This section of Option B has no direct comparator.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Biodiversity	
Ramsar Sites	None
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	None
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	None
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Biological & Mixed	None
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	None
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	None
Ancient Woodland Inventory sites	<p>Total cover 18.3% (296.1) semi-natural 0.3% (4.5) plantation 18.0% (291.5)</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - High</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationally/ locally important designations and features forming extensive constraints either through the area covered and/ or the number and distribution of sites
Native Woodland Survey of Scotland sites	<p>Total cover 4.3% (69.8) native woodland 4.3% (69.8)</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Locally designated nature conservation sites (e.g. SINS - Sites of Interest to Natural Science)	<p>Aberdeen City LNCS: Total 15.4% (250.2) Three Hills 15.4% (250.2)</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Commentary on key constraints	<p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent <p>No Natura, SSSI or NNR sites within this segment.</p> <p>The key sensitivity in this segment is associated with avoidance and minimisation of impacts on AWI, the majority of which is plantation, and although not extensive in cover, crosses over half of the breadth of the segment area to the east.</p> <p>Other constraints include the avoidance and minimisation of impacts on NWSS woodland which is scattered throughout the segment and the LNCS which, in the south east, covers half of the breadth of the segment.</p>

Section 10: Kintore to proposed junction with the AWPR

Strategic Intervention Option	Option B
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 8km long and 1620Ha in area. This section of Option B has no direct comparator.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Soils & Geodiversity	
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Geological & Mixed	None
Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites	None
Agricultural land classes 1 to 3.1 (Prime agricultural land)	Total Cover 6% (96.8) Grade 3.1 Arable Agriculture 6.1% (96.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent
Carbon-rich soil classification	Class 1: 90.0% (1459.9) Class 3 3.8% (60.9) Class 4 6.2% (100.8) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Low • Nationally/ locally designated sites may be present but do not form an extensive constraint, and could be avoided within the option area
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • National / local designations and features present but not extensive in area / number and could be avoided within the option extent The segment is not extensively covered by prime agricultural land although agriculture remains important and a constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on the better quality land. Other constraints will include avoidance and minimisation of impacts on carbon-rich soils although these are limited in their area and spatial distribution across the segment.
Water & Flooding	
1:200 yr fluvial flood extent (surface area)	Total cover 4.4% (71.3) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
1:200 yr coastal flood extent (surface area)	None
1:200 yr pluvial flooding (surface area)	Total cover 5.0% (80.7) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Major watercourse crossings (Watercourses shown on 1:50k OS mapping)	Possibly constrained by crossing Black Burn, a tributary of the River Don. Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Possibility of groundwater contributing to flooding (surface area)	None
Existing flood defence infrastructure	None
No. of properties within 1:200yr flood extents	Possibly constrained by the significant number of properties already within the fluvial floodplain around Blackburn. 29 properties in fluvial floodplain Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Other water resource issues	None
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation The Black Burn crossing and flood risk zone are likely to be the key positional constraints to dualling alignment options within the segment; both are unavoidable as they span the breadth of the segment. There is also a large area of fluvial floodplain in the south of the segment where several field drains run into the Black Burn. Risk from fluvial flooding both to the future dualled A96 route and to the properties around Blackburn, which are currently in fluvial flood plain, are a key constraint. Similarly, sensitive properties and other receptors in areas near the current floodplains could be at risk from changes to floodplain extents as a result of dualling and become a constraint.

Section 10: Kintore to proposed junction with the AWPR

Strategic Intervention Option	Option B
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 8km long and 1620Ha in area. This section of Option B has no direct comparator.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Air	
Air Quality Management Areas	No designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the segment
Traffic flow/ demand data (as a proxy for local air quality where available)	Current (2012) A96 trunk road Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flows are c23,800 . These are forecast to increase to c32,700 by 2032 with a new dualled route in place Current (2011) levels of key air pollutants (PM10 and NO2) are within air quality objective levels and predicted to remain so for 2030 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium Air quality in the segment area is generally fair although predicted levels of PM10 are closer to objective limit levels and will be locally influenced by traffic using the existing A96 and other busy roads in the area.
Population & Human Health	
Towns and principal centres of population	Kinellar adjacent to A96 Blackburn adjacent to A96 Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Areas of settlement may be present and extend across parts of the option area
'Population' to act as a proxy for receptors subject to potential effects on amenity (number of properties from OS AddressBasePlus dataset)	796 properties Average Aberdeenshire household size 2012=2.47 people Therefore population density=1.21 people per Ha Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Areas of settlement may be present and extend across parts of the option area
Traffic volume (as a proxy for road traffic noise where available) Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) by section to nearest 100 vehicles	2012 AADT: c23,800 2032 (Forecast) AADT: c32,700
Core paths/ NMUs	12 Core Paths located in and around Blackburn adjacent to the A96 with one crossing the A96 3 Local Cycle Routes, one through Blackburn, one southwest of Aberdeen Airport and one loop through Kirkhill forest (Cycling in Kirkhill) Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation
Commentary on key constraints	Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium • Features with some capacity to accommodate change and which may already be subject to pressures and degradation Key constraints will be avoidance of impacts on population centres and NMU routes in a relatively densely populated area. The existing A96 is dualled through this section and has an influence on population through provision of accessibility and from amenity related effects from traffic to properties and settlements near to the road.

Section 10: Kintore to proposed junction with the AWPR

Strategic Intervention Option	Option B
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 8km long and 1620Ha in area. This section of Option B has no direct comparator.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Historic Environment	
Scheduled Monuments (SM)	<p>3x SM Little Clinterty, standing stone 20m E of - 150m S of A96 Hillhead of Clinterty, hut circle 135m SSW of - 950m S of A96 St Mary's Chapel and graveyard - 30m S of A96</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Inventory Battlefields	None
A Listed Buildings	None
Gardens & Designed Landscapes	None
B & C Listed Buildings	<p>7x B Listed 3x C Listed</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Conservation Areas (HS and Local Authority data)	None
Local Historic Designated Sites	<p>Aberdeenshire Archaeological Sites: 31 x Standard</p> <p>No validated data for the Aberdeen City HER is currently available so this does not represent a total number of archaeological sites for the segment.</p> <p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent
Commentary on key constraints	<p>Constraint sensitivity assessment - Medium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National/ local designations and features present but not extensive in area/ number and could be avoided within the option extent <p>Key constraint will be avoidance and minimisation of impacts on 3 scheduled monuments, 7 B listed and 3 C listed buildings. These assets are evenly dispersed throughout the segment area and there would be appear to be ample opportunities for avoidance. However careful consideration will need to be given to potential impacts on the setting of these assets.</p> <p>The Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record shows 31 recorded sites within the segment. There is currently no validated data relating to archaeological sites within Aberdeen City. Further detailed assessment will need to be undertaken at later stages.</p>

Section 10: Kintore to proposed junction with the AWPR

Strategic Intervention Option	Option B
Description/ Assumptions Applied for each Segment	Approximately 8km long and 1620Ha in area. This section of Option B has no direct comparator.
SEA Topic	Description of Constraint (% coverage of segment area and coverage in Ha)
Landscape	
Landscape character types (Level 3)	Agricultural Lowlands of the North East Lowland Cities, Towns and Settlements
Landscape designations	None
Commentary on Indicative Landscape sensitivity	<p>Indicative Landscape sensitivity assessment - Low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to accommodate change of the type proposed. Typically these would be: not designated and likely to contain few, if any, features and elements that could not be replaced. <p>There are no national landscape designations within the segment.</p> <p>The landscape character of the area comprises undulating terrain which is predominately farmland, although there are large woodlands of Kirkhill Forest, Clinterty Woods and Elrick Hill Country Park to the east of the segment. The A96 is an established part of the local landscape, and therefore is an existing precedent, which reduces its sensitivity.</p> <p>There are a three Scheduled Monuments which are widely dispersed throughout the segment and add to the landscape character.</p> <p>Blackburn is situated in the northern part of the segment and spans half its breadth; there are also individual properties scattered throughout the segment. An existing dualled section of the A96 runs along the southern edge of Blackburn, and is an established part of the landscape.</p> <p>It is considered that the landscape character can absorb a dualled route without a significant impact to its quality.</p>



© Crown copyright 2015

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/> or e-mail: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.