

Appendix 3: Boundaries and statistical areas used in the analysis of the Cairngorms National Park

Population and Demographics

The population and demographic information contained within this publication is mostly based on data zones aggregated to a larger geographical area, which roughly corresponds with the area of the Cairngorms National Park.

Data zones are the standard small area geography used by the Scottish Government (SG). In general they have populations of between 500 and 1,000 residents. Data zone boundaries do not exactly match the National Park boundary and so, for the purpose of statistical analysis, data zones are included or excluded based on the 'population weighted centroid'.

The population weighted centroid is essentially the point in the area where population density is the same all around the point, or put more simply, the population 'centre of gravity' of the area. A

data zone has been allocated to the National Park area if the population weighted centroid lies within it.

This is a standard procedure for assigning the population of a small geography to a large geography if the former does not wholly fit within the boundaries of the latter or lies across the border of two large geographies. This is the methodology used in National Records of Scotland's (NRS) population projections for National Parks and Strategic Development Plan Areas (National Records of Scotland, 2014), and while NRS has used a different geography in its most recent projections (National Records Scotland, 2016), it remains a useful methodology for building a consistent aggregate if the National Park.

It should be noted that the Scottish Government published revised 2011 Data Zones on 6 November 2014 and that these geographies replace the original 2001 boundaries used in the NRS population projections (National Records of Scotland, 2014). At a National Park level the changes are very minor with the 2011 data zone

boundaries corresponding closely with those of the 2001 ones. This however means that within this document both 2001 and 2011 data zones are used, as at the time of writing large amounts of data was not yet available in for the revised data zones. Based on this methodology, the data zones shown in **Figure 179** and **Figure 180** have been chosen to represent the National Park.

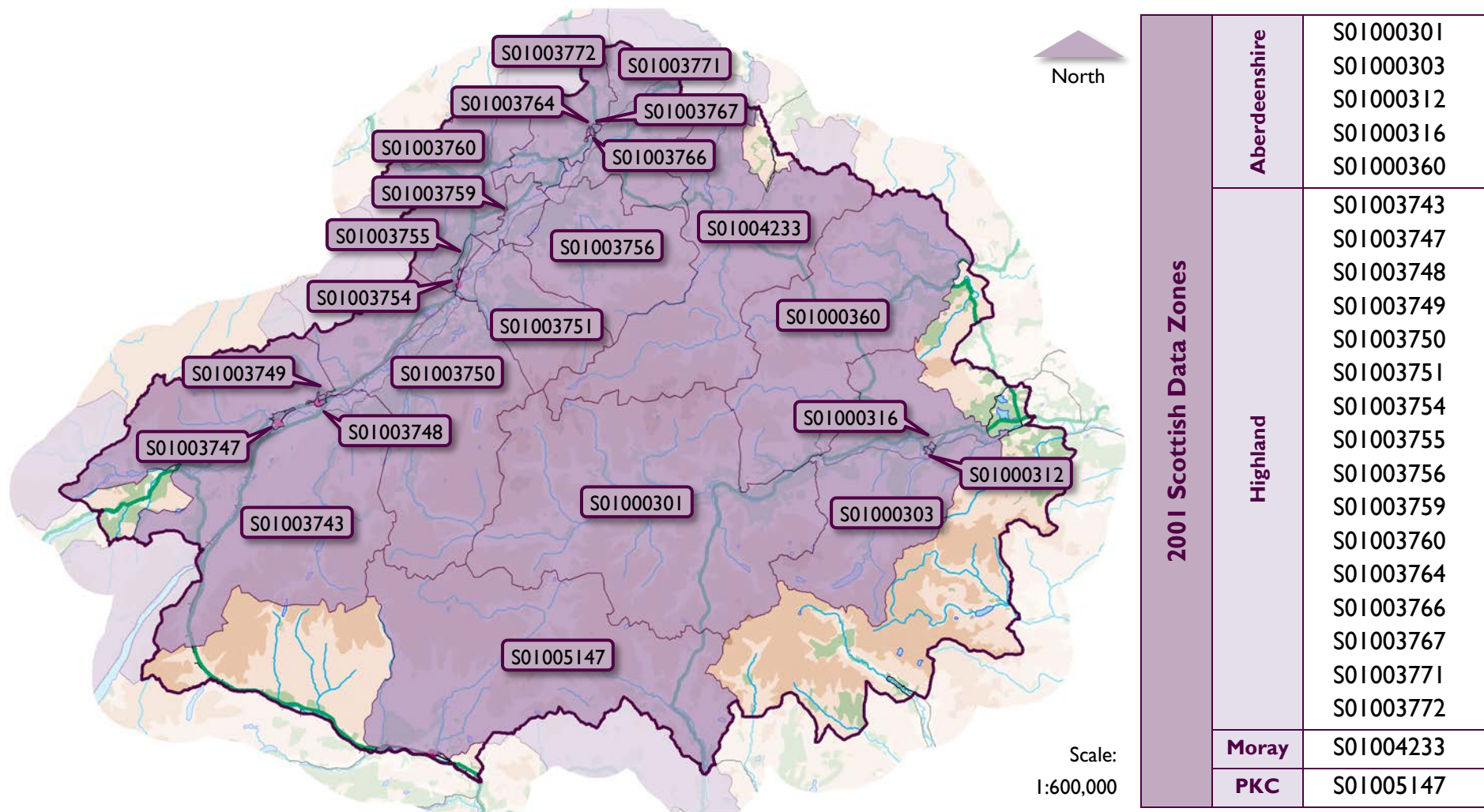


Figure 179 2001 Scottish Data Zones.

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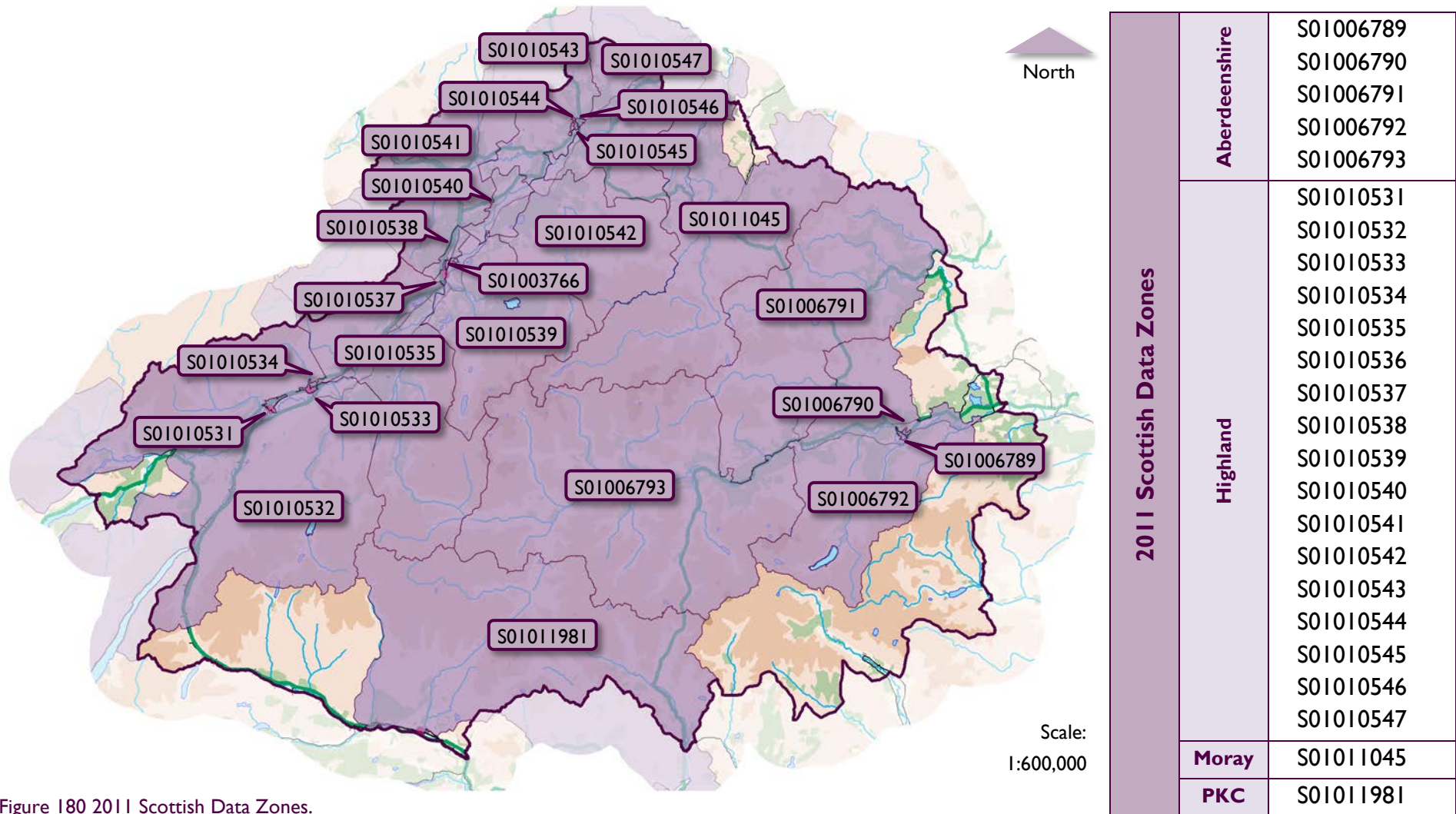


Figure 180 2011 Scottish Data Zones.

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Though the actual National Park boundary does not precisely match the one derived from the data zones, the difference between the two is very small in terms of population. In 2012, data zone populations were estimated to be just 1.89% less than the overall National Park population (National Records of Scotland, 2014).

Notably, the National Park boundary does not coincide with the data zone boundary around Boultenstone and Dinnet to the east, Glen Clova to the south west, Glenlivet to the north east, and the area east of Loch Laggan. Consequently, these areas are omitted with the omission of the area around Glen Clova meaning that no part of the Angus Council area is included in the data zone boundary.

More detailed maps that show the location of population weighted centroids are available within the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics - Boundary Mapping section of the SG website:

www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/sns/BoundMap

A paper describing the methodology for calculating data zone centroids can be found on the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics - Reference Material page of the SG website:

www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/sns/SNSRef

Waterbodies

SEPA are the responsible authority for monitoring water quality in Scotland to the requirements set out by the WFD. The Directive requires all water features in a category (i.e. rivers, lochs, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater) above a certain size threshold to be defined as waterbodies. For Scotland, this was carried out using a combination of typology data and data on ecosystem health (from both SEPA data and consultation with external stakeholders). Waterbodies are by definition of the same typology and overall quality along their length. (Scottish Environment Protection Agency, 2007).

By their nature, waterbodies do not exactly match the National Park boundary. It is also clear that factors affecting a waterbody in the upper part of a catchment area may

also affect other waterbodies in its lower part. Therefore, a judgment as to the waterbodies to include in the baseline for the National Park must be made. For the purpose of this analysis, all waterbodies located within or overlapping the National Park Boundary have been selected.

Table 41 provides the reference numbers for these waterbodies and it is these that form the basis for the information presented in **Figure 23** to **Figure 26**. Data for the whole of Scotland may be gained from:

www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/water-body-classification/

Table 41 Waterbodies within or overlapping the Cairngorms National Park.

River Spey Catchment Area			River Dee Catchment Area			South Esk Catchment Area		
Rivers			Rivers			Rivers		
➤ 23084	➤ 23115	➤ 23141	➤ 23332	➤ 23351	➤ 23362	➤ 5800	➤ 5810	
➤ 23085	➤ 23116	➤ 23142	➤ 23339	➤ 23352	➤ 23363	➤ 5801	➤ 5813	
➤ 23086	➤ 23117	➤ 23143	➤ 23340	➤ 23353	➤ 23364	River Tay Catchment Area		
➤ 23090	➤ 23118	➤ 23144	➤ 23343	➤ 23354	➤ 23365	Rivers		
➤ 23091	➤ 23119	➤ 23145	➤ 23344	➤ 23355	➤ 23366	➤ 6523	➤ 6598	➤ 6608
➤ 23092	➤ 23121	➤ 23146	➤ 23345	➤ 23356	➤ 23367	➤ 6524	➤ 6599	➤ 6609
➤ 23093	➤ 23122	➤ 23148	➤ 23346	➤ 23357	➤ 23368	➤ 6536	➤ 6600	➤ 6610
➤ 23094	➤ 23123	➤ 23149	➤ 23347	➤ 23358	➤ 23372	➤ 6540	➤ 6601	➤ 6836
➤ 23095	➤ 23124	➤ 23150	➤ 23348	➤ 23359	➤ 23577	➤ 6541	➤ 6602	➤ 6911
➤ 23096	➤ 23125	➤ 23151	➤ 23349	➤ 23360		➤ 6544	➤ 6603	➤ 6912
➤ 23097	➤ 23126	➤ 23152	➤ 23350	➤ 23361		➤ 6545	➤ 6605	➤ 6914
➤ 23100	➤ 23127	➤ 23638	Lochs			➤ 6546	➤ 6606	➤ 6915
➤ 23101	➤ 23128	➤ 23639	➤ 100192	➤ 100202		➤ 6552	➤ 6607	
➤ 23102	➤ 23129	➤ 23640	River Don Catchment Area			River Lochy Catchment Area		
➤ 23103	➤ 23130	➤ 23641	Rivers			Rivers		
➤ 23104	➤ 23131	➤ 23907	➤ 23294	➤ 23297	➤ 23299	➤ 20347		
➤ 23105	➤ 23132	➤ 23908	➤ 23295	➤ 23298	➤ 23578	River Deveron Catchment Area		
➤ 23106	➤ 23133	➤ 23909	North Esk Catchment Area			Rivers		
➤ 23110	➤ 23134	➤ 23910	Rivers			➤ 23187		
➤ 23111	➤ 23136	➤ 23913	➤ 5702	➤ 5704	➤ 5722			
➤ 23112	➤ 23137	➤ 23914	➤ 5703	➤ 5721	➤ 5723			
➤ 23113	➤ 23138		Lochs					
➤ 23114	➤ 23140		➤ 100209					
Lochs								
➤ 100181	➤ 100187	➤ 100195						
➤ 100182	➤ 100189	➤ 100199						
➤ 100183	➤ 100193							

Appendix 4: Approach of the Cairngorms NPPP

Outcomes and Policies

Table 42 provides details of the policy approach of the final NPPP and its evolution since the public consultation in June – September 2016.

For further details on the outcome of the consultation, see the Summary Report of Consultation Responses, published December 2016:

<http://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Consultation-Overview-Report-Completev.0.3.pdf>

Table 42 The Development of outcomes and policies of the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2017-2022

Consultation Document Preferred Options	Outcomes & Policies of Final Plan
Outcomes	
Long Term Outcome 1: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	Renamed Long Term Outcome 3
Long Term Outcome 2: A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	Renamed Long Term Outcome 1
Long Term Outcome 3: People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences	Renamed Long Term Outcome 2

Consultation Document Preferred Options	Outcomes & Policies of Final Plan
Policies	
<p>Policy I.1</p> <p>Grow the economy of the Park by strengthening existing business sectors, supporting business start-ups and diversification, and increasing the number of workers employed in the Park through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) supporting the diversification of existing landbased businesses; b) encouraging growth of business sectors that draw on the special qualities of the Park such as sustainable tourism and food and drink; c) broadening the economic base of the Park into sectors such as creative industries, renewable energy, and making stronger links with higher and further education; d) increased provision for business land where there is an identified need and demand; and to support the use of land for small business, particularly within settlements; e) slowing outward migration of young people; to encourage their return; and the inward migration of workers to the Park to meet business and community needs; f) provision of a housing land supply that meets identified need and demand, supports migration of young people and workers to the Park, and maintains vibrant communities; g) securing ways to reduce the proportion of vacant and second homes to support community vibrancy and ensure the overall housing supply best meets local needs. 	<p>Renamed Policy 3.1</p> <p>Policy wording amended as follows:</p> <p>Grow the economy of the Park by strengthening existing business sectors, supporting business start-ups and diversification, and increasing the number of workers employed in the Park through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) maintaining the population of the National Park and maintaining or growing the proportion of the working age population; b) supporting the diversification of existing land based businesses; c) encouraging growth of business sectors that draw on the special qualities of the Park such as sustainable tourism and food and drink; d) broadening the economic base of the Park into sectors such as creative industries, renewable energy, and making stronger links with higher and further education; e) increased provision for business land where there is an identified need and demand; and to support the use of land for small business, particularly within settlements; f) slowing outward migration of young people; to encourage their return; and the inward migration of young people and workers to the Park to meet business and community needs; g) provision of a housing land supply that meets identified need and demand, supports migration of young people and workers to the Park and maintains vibrant communities; h) securing ways to reduce reducing the proportion of vacant and second homes to support community vibrancy by ensuring that new housing development and ensure the overall housing supply

Consultation Document Preferred Options	Outcomes & Policies of Final Plan
	best meets local needs; i) maximising the proportion of new housing development that is affordable in perpetuity.
<p>Policy 1.2 Enable sustainable patterns of settlement growth, infrastructure and communications by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consolidating the role of the existing main settlements of Aviemore, Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore, as well as new community at An Camas Mòr, as the most sustainable places for future growth and the focus for housing land supply while maintaining the integrity of designated sites; b) providing any additional flexibility in future land supply for housing at small sites around a wider range of settlements; c) supporting sensitively designed improvements to the A9 and other trunk roads and main railway line as an integral part of enhancing the connectivity of the Highlands; d) planning and improving integrated and sustainable local transport networks that allow for safe travel off-road and link with public transport; e) planning and supporting improvements to the information technology network; f) planning and supporting improvements to the mobile communications network that improve access to new generation technology and minimise the need for visually intrusive infrastructure. 	<p>Renamed Policy 3.2 Policy wording amended as follows: Enable sustainable patterns of settlement growth development, infrastructure and communications by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consolidating the role of the existing main settlements of Aviemore, Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore, as well as new community at An Camas Mòr, strategic settlements identified in the current and future Local Development Plans as the most sustainable places for future growth and the focus for housing land supply while maintaining the integrity of designated sites; b) providing any additional flexibility in future land supply for housing at small sites around a wider range of settlements; c) supporting sensitively designed improvements to the A9 and other trunk roads and main railway line as an integral part of enhancing the connectivity of the Highlands; d) planning and improving integrated and sustainable local transport networks that allow for safe travel off-road and link with public transport; e) planning and supporting improvements to the information technology network; f) planning and supporting improvements to the mobile communications network that improve access to new generation technology and minimise the need for visually intrusive

Consultation Document Preferred Options	Outcomes & Policies of Final Plan
	infrastructure.
<p>Policy I.3</p> <p>Support development of a low carbon economy, with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) increasing renewable energy generation, especially biomass and hydro, that is compatible with conserving the special qualities of the National Park and maintaining the integrity of designated sites. Large-scale wind turbines are not compatible with the landscape character or special landscape qualities of the National Park. They are considered inappropriate within the National Park or where outside the Park they adversely affect its landscape character or special landscape qualities; b) supporting businesses and communities to use less energy, reduce emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy and plan for a changing climate; c) maximising the benefits to communities through direct use of locally generated energy or where sold to the grid, reinvesting income to support community development; d) promoting high standards of sustainable design and efficient use of energy and materials in construction. 	<p>Renamed Policy 3.3</p> <p>Policy wording amended as follows:</p> <p>Support development of a low carbon economy, with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) increasing renewable energy generation, especially biomass and hydro, that is compatible with conserving the special qualities of the National Park and maintaining the integrity of designated sites. Large-scale wind turbines are not compatible with the landscape character or special landscape qualities of the National Park. They are considered inappropriate within the National Park or where outside the Park they adversely affect its landscape character or special landscape qualities; b) supporting businesses and communities to use less energy, reduce emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing climate; c) maximising the benefits to communities through direct use of locally generated energy or, where sold to the grid, reinvesting income to support community development; d) promoting high standards of sustainable design and efficient use of energy and materials in construction.
<p>Policy I.4</p> <p>Support and build the capacity of communities to deliver their aspirations, with a particular focus on:</p>	<p>Renamed Policy 3.4</p> <p>No further changes.</p>

Consultation Document Preferred Options	Outcomes & Policies of Final Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) supporting communities to plan for their own futures, develop and implement projects, engage the support of partners and share good practice; b) supporting innovative approaches to providing affordable housing to meet local needs; c) aligning community planning processes to simplify support to communities; d) engaging communities effectively in the long term management of the National Park and in projects or programmes that affect them. 	
<p>Policy 2.1</p> <p>The management and use of land should deliver multiple benefits – delivering the best possible combination of the National Park Partnership Plan’s long-term outcomes, always ensuring that the integrity of designated sites is maintained; and that the special qualities are conserved and, where possible, enhanced. This will be supported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a long-term planned approach by landbased businesses to delivering environmental, economic and social benefits; b) support for land managers to plan and deliver environmental and social benefits underpinned by sound economic businesses; c) research to support an ecosystems approach to management. 	<p>Renamed Policy 1.1</p> <p>Policy wording amended as follows:</p> <p>The management and use of land should deliver multiple benefits – delivering the best possible combination of the National Park Partnership Plan’s long-term outcomes, always ensuring that the integrity of designated sites is maintained; and that the special qualities are conserved and, where possible, enhanced public interest priorities set out in the Partnership Plan in conjunction with private objectives. This will be supported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a long-term planned approach by land based businesses to delivering environmental, economic and social benefits; b) support for land managers to plan and deliver environmental and social benefits underpinned by sound economic businesses; c) research to support an ecosystems approach to management options; d) linking land management planning with community action planning.
<p>Policy 2.2</p>	<p>Renamed Policy 1.2</p>

Consultation Document Preferred Options	Outcomes & Policies of Final Plan
<p>Enhance the resilience of habitats, species and land use to climate change with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) collaborating on land use and flood management, including natural flood management, through river catchment management plans; b) enhancing the health and connectivity of habitats; c) securing effective management of peat and carbon-rich soils. 	<p>Policy wording amended as follows:</p> <p>Enhance the resilience of habitats, species and land use to climate change, pest and disease risks, with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) collaborating on land use and flood management, including natural flood management, through river catchment management plans; b) enhancing the health and connectivity of habitats; c) expanding woodland on appropriate soils; d) securing effective management protection and sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils and restoring them where they are degraded. <p>All proposals to deliver these objectives will always ensure that the integrity of designated sites is maintained.</p>
<p>Policy 2.3</p> <p>Conserve and enhance the special landscape qualities with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) conserving and enhancing wildness qualities; b) maintaining and promoting dark skies; c) enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements; d) enhancing opportunities to enjoy and experience the landscapes of the Park. 	<p>Renamed Policy 1.3</p> <p>Policy wording amended as follows:</p> <p>Conserve and enhance the special landscape qualities by with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) conserving and enhancing wildness qualities; b) maintaining and promoting dark skies; c) enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements; d) enhancing opportunities to enjoy and experience the landscapes of the Park.
<p>Policy 2.4</p> <p>Conserve and enhance habitat quality and connectivity, with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) woodland enhancement and expansion, especially montane, farm 	<p>Renamed Policy 1.4</p> <p>Policy wording amended as follows:</p> <p>Conserve and enhance habitat quality and connectivity while ensuring the integrity of designated sites is maintained, with a particular</p>

Consultation Document Preferred Options	Outcomes & Policies of Final Plan
<p>and riparian woodlands;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) wetland enhancement; c) delivering a combination of ecosystem services including natural flood management, carbon sequestration and storage, timber and food production. 	<p>focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) woodland enhancement and expansion, especially montane, farm and riparian woodlands; b) wetland conservation and enhancement; c) protection and improvement of the water environment; d) delivering a combination of ecosystem services including natural flood management, carbon sequestration and storage, timber and food production.
<p>Policy 2.5</p> <p>Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important, with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) species whose conservation status is in decline or at risk; b) tackling and reducing the impacts of invasive non-native species; c) engaging people on species that are important in the National Park. 	<p>Renamed Policy 1.5</p> <p>Policy wording amended as follows:</p> <p>Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important, with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) species whose conservation status is in decline or at risk; b) tackling and reducing the impacts of invasive non-native species; c) engaging people on species that are important in the National Park; d) promoting biological recording of species in the Park.
<p>Policy 2.6</p> <p>Support collaboration across ownership boundaries and between interests to reduce conflicts in species and wildlife management including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) deer and moorland management; b) wildlife crime; c) species reintroductions. 	<p>Renamed Policy 1.6</p> <p>No further changes.</p>
<p>Policy 2.7</p> <p>Conserve and enhance the cultural heritage that helps to create the</p>	<p>Renamed Policy 1.7</p> <p>No further changes.</p>

Consultation Document Preferred Options	Outcomes & Policies of Final Plan
<p>sense of place and identity of communities within the Park by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) protecting archaeological sites and their settings and promoting understanding of their significance; b) ensuring appropriate advice and investigation for archaeology is used to inform proposals for land use change; c) protecting and enhancing the built heritage and designed landscapes; d) promoting opportunities to enjoy and celebrate the cultural heritage of the Park. 	
<p>Policy 2.8</p> <p>Enhance the design and sense of place in new development and existing settlements, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) enabling new development which contributes positively to the sense of place; b) promoting a high standard of sustainable design, energy efficiency, sustainably sourced materials and construction in new development; c) supporting the retention and enhancement of local character; d) facilitating the rehabilitation of redundant rural buildings and recycling of resources; e) ensuring road upgrades and improvements respond to local landscape character. 	<p>Renamed Policy 3.5</p> <p>Policy wording amended as follows:</p> <p>Enhance the design and sense of place in new development and existing settlements, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g) enabling new development which contributes positively to the sense of place; h) promoting a high standard of sustainable design, energy efficiency, sustainably sourced materials and construction in new development; i) supporting the retention and enhancement of local character; j) facilitating the rehabilitation of redundant rural buildings and recycling of resources; k) ensuring road upgrades and improvements respond to local landscape character; l) promoting active travel and public transport provision, reducing the reliance on the private car.
<p>Policy 3.1</p>	<p>Renamed Policy 2.1</p>

Consultation Document Preferred Options	Outcomes & Policies of Final Plan
<p>Provide a welcoming and high quality National Park experience for all by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) delivering a visitor/customer experience that spans organisational boundaries; b) providing high quality co-ordinated information setting visitor experiences in the context of the National Park; c) enhancing the provision of ranger services to deliver visitor welcome and resource protection; d) building on the National Park brand and the promise it delivers. 	<p>Policy wording amended as follows:</p> <p>Provide a welcoming and high quality National Park experience for all by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) delivering a visitor/customer experience that spans organisational boundaries; b) providing high quality co-ordinated information setting visitor experiences in the context of the National Park; c) enhancing the provision of ranger services to deliver visitor welcome and resource protection promote responsible access; d) building on the National Park brand and the promise it delivers.
<p>Policy 3.2</p> <p>Promote sustainable tourism management with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) co-ordinated promotion and management of the Cairngorms National Park as a visitor destination; b) ensuring high quality facilities and infrastructure are designed to manage the effects of visitor pressures on the natural heritage and communities; c) implementing and reviewing the strategy and action plan for sustainable tourism in the Cairngorms National Park. 	<p>Renamed Policy 2.2</p> <p>Policy wording amended as follows:</p> <p>Promote sustainable tourism management with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) co-ordinated promotion and management of the Cairngorms National Park as a visitor destination; b) ensuring high quality facilities and infrastructure are designed to manage the effects of visitor pressures on the natural heritage and communities; c) implementing and reviewing the strategy and action plan for sustainable tourism in the Cairngorms National Park.
<p>Policy 3.3</p> <p>Provide high quality opportunities for access and recreation, with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensuring a high quality functional network of core paths and long distance routes; b) promoting the health benefits of outdoor recreation; 	<p>Renamed Policy 2.3</p> <p>Policy wording amended as follows:</p> <p>Provide high quality opportunities for access and recreation, with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensuring a high quality functional network of core paths and long distance routes;

Consultation Document Preferred Options	Outcomes & Policies of Final Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) identifying areas where particular management measures are needed in relation to delivering a high quality visitor experience, safeguarding sensitive environments and maintaining the integrity of designated sites; d) promoting responsible behaviour in enjoying and managing access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) promoting the health benefits of outdoor recreation; c) identifying areas where particular management measures are needed in relation to delivering a high quality visitor experience whilst safeguarding sensitive environments and maintaining the integrity of designated sites. d) promoting responsible behaviour in enjoying and managing access.
<p>Policy 3.4</p> <p>Provide opportunities for inspiration, learning and understanding through engaging with people, with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) young people; b) opportunities to deliver the curriculum for excellence; c) promoting a sense of shared ownership and responsibility towards Scotland's National Parks and rural environment 	<p>Renamed Policy 2.4</p> <p>Policy wording amended as follows:</p> <p>Provide opportunities for inspiration, learning and understanding through engaging with people, with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) young people; b) opportunities to deliver support the delivery of the Curriculum for Excellence and education beyond school; c) Enhancing volunteering opportunities; d) promoting a sense of shared ownership and responsibility towards Scotland's National Parks and rural environment.

Spatial Priority Area

In May 2011 the communities of Glenlivet and Tomintoul came together to kick-start a regeneration project. The aim of the project was to begin to tackle the issues facing the area. The project produced a Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan and attracted the support and funding. The NPPP 2012-17 supported this regeneration project by identifying Tomintoul and Glenlivet as a Spatial Priority Area.

A great deal of progress has been made over the last few years. The communities in the area have worked closely with the partner organisations to produce a number of successful projects and initiatives. Recognising the investment that has gone into the Tomintoul and Glenlivet area and the fact that investment is programmed to continue over the next few years, it has been decided that a new Spatial Priority area should be identified in the NPPP 2017-22. Evidence suggests that the Dalwhinnie, Kingussie, Laggan and Newtonmore area is most in need of support.

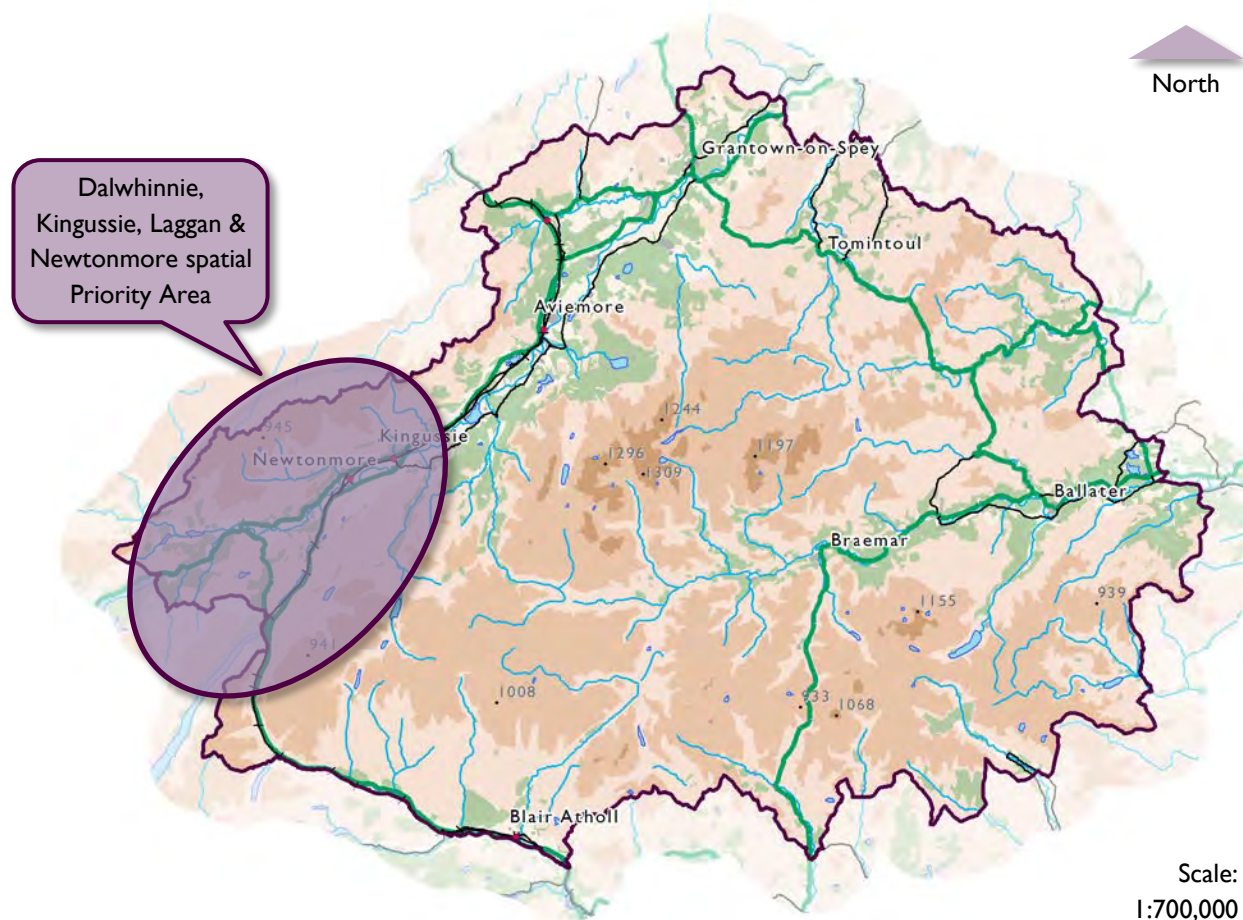


Figure 181 Dalwhinnie, Kingussie, Laggan & Newtonmore Spatial Priority Area.

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Appendix 5: Consultation Responses

Scoping Report

Table 43 Responses to consultation on the Scoping Report and the actions taken in response.

Consultation Authority	Section of Scoping Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
Historic Environment Scotland	General	It is HES' understanding that the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2017 – 2022 will be the management plan for the Cairngorms National Park, setting out strategic direction and priorities.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
		HES note that the historic environment has been scoped into the assessment.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
		On the basis of the information provided, HES is content with the approach and satisfied with the scope and level of detail proposed for the assessment.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
	Consultation / Next Steps	The Next Steps section indicates that there will be a consultation period of six weeks for the draft Environmental Report, and HES is content with this timescale.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
Scottish Environment Protection	General	Generally, the scoping report provides clear and detailed information on the proposed scope	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.

Consultation Authority	Section of Scoping Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
Agency		and level of detail of the assessment and covers most of the aspects that SEPA would wish to see addressed at this stage.		
	Policy Context Appendix I	SEPA consider that the PPS listed in Appendix I provides a good start at providing a background framework to the development of the plan.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
		Some of the PPS included have themselves been subject to SEA. Where this is the case you may find it useful to prepare a summary of the key SEA findings that may be relevant to the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2017 – 2022 (NPPP). This may assist you with data sources and environmental baseline information and also ensure the current SEA picks up environmental issues or mitigation actions which may have been identified elsewhere.	Information from the SEA's of PPS listed in Appendix I has been used to inform the SEA's environmental baseline where relevant. These documents will continue to play a part in the assessment.	No change to the SEA.
	Baseline	Table 2 provides a good summary of baseline data and the aspects of the environment where we have an interest.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
	Environmental	With regards to flooding issues, page	The CNPA welcomes the	Amend paragraph on page 81

Consultation Authority	Section of Scoping Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
	Baseline Appendix 2	<p>81 of the scoping report states that “while all of the National Park’s rivers and watercourses have the potential to flood to some degree, most do not cause great concern as they are in areas or of a magnitude that is unlikely to cause significant damage to property or risk to life”.</p> <p>Although page 81 goes on to highlight the risk in populated areas along the Spey, Dee, and Don and from surface water, we would recommend that the potential flood risk from small watercourses is also highlighted. Small watercourses are often poorly understood with respect to the severity of the flood hazard that can be generated on a catchment of this scale.</p>	comment and proposes a change to address the identified issue.	<p>of the Scoping Report and 103 of the Environmental Report as follows:</p> <p>While All of the National Park’s rivers and watercourses have the potential to flood to some degree (Figure 29),. Most do not cause great concern, as they are in areas or of a magnitude that is unlikely to cause significant damage to property or risk to life. However, the pattern of settlement in the National Park is now is generated along the National Park’s main straths and glens, and so as when the rivers and tributaries that flow along these, namely the Spey, Dee and Don, break their banks, they often result in economic, and occasionally human, cost. Small watercourses also represent a risk but are often poorly understood with respect to the severity of the flood</p>

Consultation Authority	Section of Scoping Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
				<p>hazard that can be generated on a catchment scale. Furthermore, in some areas surface water flooding, which can arise for a number of reasons, is a significant risk.</p>
		<p>SEPA welcome the inclusion of historical flood information for the main river catchments. If required SEPA's local flood risk team can provide further historical flood risk information for specific areas if we have the information available.</p>	<p>CNPA welcome the comment and have added additional information acquired from SEPA covering the flooding that occurred in December 2015 and January 2016 in the Spey, Dee and Don catchment areas.</p>	<p>Changes are too substantial and widely distributed to outline <i>verbatim</i> within the table. See pages 104 to 111 of the Environmental report.</p>
		<p>It is useful to include information on the Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) within the Scoping Report. However with reference to the River Spey PVAs we are unclear as to why the Dalwhinnie PVA has been highlighted as being particularly significant for influencing the annual cost of damage in the Spey catchment. It may be useful to provide more detailed information if a particular PVA is of significance.</p>	<p>The figure for Dalwhinnie has been highlighted to demonstrate that damage by river flooding does not significantly affect all PVAs and that Dalwhinnie is an exceptional within the Spey's catchment area within the National Park on the basis that 100% of damage is caused in this way.</p> <p>In order to more clearly demonstrate this, CNPA agree with SEPA's proposal to provide more detailed information on</p>	<p>Changes are too substantial to outline <i>verbatim</i> within the table; however they include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maps of PVAs and catchment areas; and ➤ Graphics showing the relative cost of damage within individual PVAs, catchment areas and the National Park as a whole. <p>See pages 104 to 111 of the Environmental report.</p>

Consultation Authority	Section of Scoping Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
			PVAs and therefore has made numerous updates to the baseline information contained within the Environmental Report.	
		SEPA consider that the environmental problems described highlight the main issues of relevance for the SEA topics within our remit.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
	Methodology Alternative Plan Scenarios	SEPA note and welcome that during the development of the NPPP alternatives will be considered and that reasonable alternatives identified during the preparation of the plan will be assessed as part of the SEA process. SEPA note the findings of the assessment will inform the choice of the preferred option and will be documented in the Environmental Report.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
	Scoping of SEA Topics	SEPA agree that in this instance all environmental topics should be scoped into the assessment, as detailed in Table 3.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
	Methodology Proposed SEA Objectives	SEPA support the proposal to use the SEA objectives as assessment tools as they allow a systematic, rigorous and	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.

Consultation Authority	Section of Scoping Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
		consistent framework with which to assess environmental effects.		
	Methodology Proposed Assessment Framework	SEPA welcome the proposed assessment matrix in Table 5. It will help to fully explain the rationale behind the assessment results and will give the opportunity for transparency and background understanding to the scores given.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
	Methodology	Where it is expected that other plans, programmes or strategies are better placed to undertake more detailed assessment of environmental effects this should be clearly set out in the Environmental Report.	This approach to the PPS has been integrated into the assessment matrices in Appendix 7.	No change to the SEA.
		SEPA would expect all aspects of the PPS which could have significant effects to be assessed.	This approach to the PPS has been integrated into the assessment matrices in Appendix 7.	No change to the SEA.
	Methodology	When it comes to setting out the results of the assessment in the Environmental Report please provide enough information to clearly justify the reasons for each of the assessments presented. It would also be helpful to set out assumptions that	This information will be presented in the 'Nature of Effect' column of the assessment matrix.	No change to the SEA.

Consultation Authority	Section of Scoping Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
		are made during the assessment and difficulties and limitations encountered.		
	Methodology Table 6	SEPA are content with the proposed detailed assessment matrix and particularly welcome the commentary box to fully explain the rationale behind the assessment results. We also welcome the link between effects and mitigation / enhancement measures in the proposed assessment framework and the consideration of mitigation of impacts.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
	Methodology Proposed Objectives	SEPA are generally content with the proposed SEA objectives to be used in the assessment.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
		SEPA do have a comment on the sub-objective encouraging the restoration of a natural flood regime within SEA objective 3a Reduce flood risk in Table 4. While we agree in principle that natural flood management can have benefits we would caution that any proposals for natural flood management practices are carefully considered to ensure that they are appropriate and does not increase	Comment noted. The CNPA will consider this issue when assessing the NPPP's options.	No change to the SEA.

Consultation Authority	Section of Scoping Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
		flood risk elsewhere.		
	Methodology	SEPA would encourage you to use the assessment as a way to improve the environmental performance of individual aspects of the final option. One of the most important ways to mitigate significant environmental effects identified through the assessment is to make changes to the plan itself so that significant effects are avoided. The Environmental Report should therefore identify any changes made to the plan as a result of the SEA.	The CNPA note and agree with the comment and will include a table of changes to the NPPP as a result of the SEA in the Environmental Report.	Add Table 7 (page 44) to the Environmental Assessment section of the Environmental Report.
		SEPA welcome the recognition on page 36 that additional mitigation may be required even where positive effects are identified, to strengthen the impact of intervention.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
		Where the mitigation proposed does not relate to modification to the plan itself then it would be extremely helpful to set out the proposed mitigation measures in a way that clearly identifies: (1) the measures required, (2) when they would be required and (3) who will be required	The CNPA will include a summary of the mitigation required, including timescales and responsibilities, in the Environmental Report.	Add Table 9 (page 50) to the Environmental Assessment section of the Environmental Report.

Consultation Authority	Section of Scoping Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
		to implement them.		
	Monitoring	It is noted that proposals for monitoring indicators will be developed iteratively during the assessment of the draft NPPP and confirmed in the finalised NPPP. Early consideration to the monitoring approach particularly in the choice of indicators is welcomed. It would be helpful if the Environmental Report included a description of the measures envisaged to monitor the significant environmental effects of the plan.	The CNPA agree with the comment and have included a table in the Monitoring section of the Environmental Report.	Add Table 10 (page 58) to the Monitoring section of the Environmental Report.
	Consultation / Next Steps	SEPA are satisfied with the proposal for a six week consultation period for the Environmental Report.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
	General	SEPA would find it helpful if the Environmental Report included a summary of the scoping outcomes and how comments from the Consultation Authorities were taken into account.	The CNPA agree; you are reading the summary.	Create Appendix 5: Consultation Responses in the Environmental Report.
Scottish Natural Heritage	General	Scoping report is comprehensive.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
		Content with the proposed scope, SEA objectives and assessment	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.

Consultation Authority	Section of Scoping Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
		framework.		
		The proposed 6 week consultation period for the Environmental Report is fine.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
	Table 4, Proposed SEA Objectives 1a, 1b, 3a	<p>SNH recommend expanding to the lists of proposed SEA criteria for Objectives 1a Reduce Greenhouse gas emissions, 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change, and 3a Reduce flood risk, so that they cover the contribution of land use and habitats as well as built development.</p> <p>Potential additional criteria might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1a Avoid erosion and support restoration of peat and carbon rich soils ➤ 1a Minimise carbon emissions from land use (e.g. muirburn) ➤ 1a Expand woodland cover (to increase carbon sequestration) ➤ 1b Enhance habitat connectivity and species diversity ➤ 3a Promote land uses and habitat changes that will help to decrease run-off, stabilise slopes, and 	<p>The CNPA welcomes the comment, but does not consider objectives 1a and 1b to be the most appropriate place for any amendments. The SEA strongly recognises the interrelationships that exist between topics and that Climatic factors have relationship with most. It is therefore considered that any amendments are best placed in under other topics.</p> <p>The CNPA considers that the suggested sub-objective to “Avoid erosion and support restoration of peat and carbon rich soils” is mostly covered by the following sub-objectives to Objective 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain or improve the carbon storage capacity of peat and soils. 	<p>Amend the sub-objective to Objective 4 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain, restore or improve the carbon storage capacity of peat and soils. <p>Add the following sub-objective to Objective 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minimise carbon emissions from land use (e.g. muirburn). <p>Amend the sub-objective to Objective 6b as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain or improve the carbon storage capacity of woodland to sequester and store carbon. <p>Add the following sub-objective to Objective 3a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote land uses and habitat changes that

Consultation Authority	Section of Scoping Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
		attenuate flows.	<p>➤ Minimise soil erosion.</p> <p>However, the CNPA does not consider that the ‘restoration of peat and carbon rich soils’ has been fully covered and therefore proposes an amendment.</p> <p>Carbon emissions from land use are covered by Topic 4: Soil. However, a sub-objective does not exist to deal with it. The addition of the suggested sub-objective to Objective 4, rather than 1a has therefore been proposed.</p> <p>It is considered that the suggested sub-objective to “Expand woodland cover (to increase carbon sequestration)” would be best incorporated into the first sub-objective of Objective 6b.</p> <p>It is considered that the suggested sub-objective to “Enhance habitat connectivity and species diversity” is fully covered by Objective 6a Value, conserve</p>	<p>will help to decrease run-off, stabilise slopes, and attenuate flows.</p>

Consultation Authority	Section of Scoping Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
			and enhance biodiversity, distinctive native species and habitats and therefore no changes are needed. The CNPA support the addition of the suggested sub-objective to “Promote land uses and habitat changes that will help to decrease run-off, stabilise slopes, and attenuate flows”.	
	Table 4, Proposed SEA Objective 6a	SNH recommend adding a criterion that seeks to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases.	The CNPA agrees with the suggestion.	Add the following sub-objective to Objective 6a: ➤ Avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases.
	Table 4, Proposed SEA Objective 7	SNH recommend adding a criterion seeking to protect and enhance the Park’s special landscape qualities.	The CNPA agrees with the suggestion.	Add the following sub-objective to Objective 7: ➤ Protect and enhance the National Park’s special landscape qualities.
	Appendix 2: Environmental Baseline	It may be worth referring to the various sources of carbon emissions associated with land use e.g. erosion	These matters are already covered under Topic 4: Soil. The interrelationship between the	No change to the SEA.

Consultation Authority	Section of Scoping Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
	Topic 1: Climatic Factors	of peat and carbon rich soils; muirburn.	Climatic Factors and Soil topics is recognised throughout the SEA.	
	Appendix 2: Environmental Baseline Topic 6: Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora	Dinnet Oakwood is no longer managed or promoted as an NNR.	CNPA welcomes the comment and proposes the following change.	Amend footnote 10 (page 143) of the Environmental Report to: “While the Cairngorms NNR, Dinnet Oakwood NNR and Morrone Birkwood NNR are technically declared NNRs (see Table 12), they are under review and not managed or promoted as NNRs.”
		Tables 13 & 14. For the purposes of reporting to Scottish Government, notified and qualifying features in ‘unfavourable recovering’ condition are classified as ‘favourable’ rather than ‘unfavourable’ (it can take many years of positive management for habitats and species to recover). It would be helpful to use the same approach in these tables.	The CNPA welcomes the comment and proposes the following changes.	The latest assessed condition of each interest or qualifying feature for the sites listed in Tables 14 of the Scoping has been provided in the Environmental Report. In order to keep the data manageable Table 14 has been split into two, one covering SACs and the other SPAs (Tables 18 and 19 of the Environmental Report).
		We recommend identifying that, across all the unfavourable features on	The CNPA welcomes the comment and proposes the	The identified pressures for each interest or qualifying

Consultation Authority	Section of Scoping Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
		designated sites in the Park, the two main pressures leading to unfavourable status are over-grazing and inappropriate burning. A wide variety of other pressures are affecting smaller numbers of features and sites.	following changes.	feature of have been provided in Tables 17, 18 and 19 of the Environmental Report.
		Table 16 It would be worth identifying invasive non-natives and tree diseases as issues affecting woodlands in the Park.	The CNPA welcomes the comment and agrees that the lack of data on invasive non-natives and tree diseases represents a gap in the information presented within the Scoping Report. This comment has also drawn the CNPA's attention to the fact that there are other non-native species, diseases and pathogens which do not relate to woodlands that should also be covered. The CNPA do not therefore propose a change to Table 16 (now Table 21 of the Environmental Report) but instead have decided that a more comprehensive section on biosecurity is required.	A section titled 'Biosecurity' has been added to Topic 6: Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora (pages 212 – 213) of the Environmental Report.

Consultation Document Environmental Report

Table 44 Responses to consultation on the Environmental Report for the Consultation document and the actions taken in response.

Consultation Authority	Section of Environmental Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
Historic Environment Scotland	Appendix 7: Assessment of Outcomes and Options	<p>We are broadly content with the findings of the Environmental Report (ER). However, we noted that commentary on the assessment of the Landscape and Cultural Heritage topic focussed on landscape and was limited in its discussion of effects of cultural heritage, and historic environment in particular. It would have been helpful for the commentary to describe the assessment of effects for the historic environment.</p> <p>In the case of Policy 2.2, we would have expected the assessment to recognise the potential for negative effects on the historic environment from woodland expansion.</p>	CNPA welcomes the comment and proposes a change to address the identified issue.	<p>The historic and cultural environment is represented within the National Park's special qualities, which are described in Table 28. These are referenced throughout the assessment and have been taken account when considering potential effects.</p> <p>Specific reference to the potential for negative effects on the historic environment from woodland expansion has been added to the assessment of Policy, 2.2 which has been renamed in this document as policy 1.2.</p>
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	General	SEPA consider the ER to be well written and structured. They are pleased to see that the comments provided in our scoping response have been taken into account in the preparation of the ER, and welcome Table 52 contained in Appendix 5	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.

Consultation Authority	Section of Environmental Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
		which shows how the scoping consultation comments have been addressed for all consultees.		
		SEPA agree that significant negative effects on the environment in which they have an interest are not likely.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
	Non-Technical Summary	SEPA consider the Non-Technical Summary to be clear and comprehensive, providing a good summary of the contents of the ER	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
	Introduction	SEPA consider the Non-Technical Summary to be clear and comprehensive, providing a good summary of the contents of the ER	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
	Policy Context	SEPA are satisfied that a comprehensive review has taken place of the key plans, programmes and strategies (PPS) in the preparation of the ER and welcome Appendix which lists these and the relationship between the NPPP and the PPS.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
	Appendix 2: Environmental Baseline	The ER provides a good summary of the baseline data and the aspects of the environment we have an interest.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.

Consultation Authority	Section of Environmental Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
		<p>For your information the RBMP data for 2015 is now available at http://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/classification/classification-results/.</p> <p>To aid ease of obtaining the information relevant to the NPPP area a map of the 2015 classification a classification spreadsheet of the water bodies within the Cairngorms will be sent separately to you via email. In summary, we are pleased to report there has been an increase in water bodies improving their overall status within the NPPP area.</p>		
	Appendix 7	SEPA generally agree with the assessment results and detailed assessment available in Appendix 7.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
		SEPA note that the assessment of the preferred Policy 2.2 is a major positive effect on the SEA Objective 4 - Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality. SEPA are of the opinion that as the preferred Policy 2.2 is currently	CNPA welcomes the comment and proposes a change to address the identified issue.	Change policy wording to: d) securing effective management protection and sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils and

Consultation Authority	Section of Environmental Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
		<p>worded this may not be achieved.</p> <p>In order for a major positive effect to be achieved we would recommend the following rewording of part c of this policy:</p> <p>c) securing effective management sustainable management and protection of peat and carbon-rich soils.</p> <p>The term 'effective management' is a little ambiguous and this rewording would make the aim of the policy clearer and stronger, providing enhanced mitigation for this effect.</p>		<p>restoring them where they are degraded.²⁴</p>
		<p>SEPA note that the assessment has identified only one potentially significant negative effect and that mitigation proposals are included for this and those preferred policy options where the significance of the environmental effect is uncertain or may have a minor negative effect.</p> <p>SEPA welcome the identification of a</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>	<p>No change to the SEA.</p>

²⁴ Details of all changes between to the outcomes and policies between the consultation and final versions of the NPPP are provided in Appendix 4.

Consultation Authority	Section of Environmental Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
		number of opportunities for enhancing the performance of the NPPP throughout the SEA process and that, as a result of this and the fact that all polices will be applied together, that no further mitigation measures are needed to avoid significant negative environmental effects arising from the application of the plan policies.		
	Mitigation	SEPA welcome the inclusion of Table 9 which clearly identifies the mitigation measures required, when they are required and who will be responsible for implementing them.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
	Monitoring	SEPA note that the potential for significant effects has only been identified for one element of the NPPP and welcome that the ER proposes a monitoring strategy for this. There are minimal monitoring proposals for other environmental effects but welcome and support the intention to develop a monitoring regime further as the NPPP is developed.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
Scottish Natural	General	SNH generally agree with CNPA's assessment of significant environmental	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.

Consultation Authority	Section of Environmental Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
Heritage		effects arising from the proposed plan vision, objectives and policies.		
		With the exception of the issues highlighted below, SNH also agree that the mitigation already contained within the wording of the policies, and the fact that all policies will be applied together, mean that no further mitigation measures are needed to avoid significant environmental effects arising from application of the plan policies	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
		CNPA have included minimal proposals for monitoring at this stage. SNH support CNPA's intention to develop the monitoring regime further as the Partnership Plan is developed.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
		SNH welcome CNPA's incorporation of their comments on the scoping report.	Comment noted.	No change to the SEA.
	Table 2, Environmental baseline, p15 'Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora'	SNH recommend the report on the 'Summary condition' of features on designated sites, rather than 'Assessed condition'. For the purposes of reporting to Government and making	CNPA welcomes the comment and proposes a change to address the identified issue.	Changes are too substantial to outline <i>verbatim</i> within the table. However, Table 18 and Table 19 have been amended to reflect this comment.

Consultation Authority	Section of Environmental Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
	and Appendix 2 p145-188	<p>public statements we use 'Summary condition'. Features in 'recovering' summary condition are reported as 'favourable'. We report in this way because 'Assessed condition' reflects the last site-based monitoring visit, and these take place only every 6-18 years. 'Summary condition' additionally takes into account whether agreed management is in place to address the causes of unfavourable condition.</p> <p>Some of the sites identified on p15 as having no features in favourable condition do, in fact, have features in 'recovering' summary condition, which have been under remedial management for over decade and are no longer a cause for concern.</p>		
	Appendix 2: Environmental Baseline	Wildcat, p199-200 text & Fig 104. They are 'Wildcat Priority areas' (not 'protection areas').	CNPA welcomes the comment and proposes a change to address the identified issue.	References to 'Wildcat Protection Areas' changed to 'Wildcat Priority Areas'.
	Topic 6: Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora	Biodiversity key messages, p214. The 2nd paragraph presents a rather depressing picture. It might also be worth mentioning in the preceding pages, and highlighting here, the	CNPA welcomes the comment and proposes a change to address the identified issue.	References to Cairngorms Connect, the East Cairngorms Moorland Management Group and the area of native woodland created since 2013

Consultation Authority	Section of Environmental Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
		increase in the area of the CNP now under ownership and management driven by conservation objectives, and the increase in area of native woodland over the past decade or so?		have been added to the baseline and recognised in the assessment.
	Table 6: Summary of the SEA of the NPPP's Outcomes and Options Appendix 7: Assessment of Outcomes and Options Policy 1.2 SEA objective 6a	SNH disagree with CNPA's rationale for identifying a major adverse environmental effect. Policy 1.2a states that the main settlements and An Camas Mor will be the focus for future growth and housing land supply, while maintaining the integrity of designated sites. It would not be possible for a growth or housing plan or project to comply with this policy if there is a threat of significant recreational disturbance to capercaillie in nearby woodlands, or of significant impacts on freshwater pearl mussel in the river SACs, because either scenario would not maintain the integrity of designated sites. SNH therefore disagree that this policy, as worded, has potential for major adverse effects in relation to the SEA criteria to protect the integrity of	CNPA welcomes the comment and proposes a change to address the identified issue.	A number of changes to this policy have occurred since the consultation. These have partly been on the basis of consultation responses and partly in response to a changing baseline. The SEA has taken account of SNH's comments in its reassessment.

Consultation Authority	Section of Environmental Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
		<p>designated sites.</p> <p>SEA objective 6a has a wide range of criteria and in our view Policy 1.2 could potentially have minor adverse effects on some, minor positive effects on others, and uncertain effects on others.</p>		
	<p>Table 6: Summary of the SEA of the NPPP's Outcomes and options</p> <p>Appendix 7: Assessment of Outcomes and Options</p> <p>Policy 2.4</p> <p>SEA objective 6a</p>	<p>We advise that the policy to expand woodland, as depicted in the 'woodland expansion' map presented on p17 of the Big Issues report, could have adverse effects on the integrity of (a) some SACs (eg Beinn a'Ghlo; Cairngorms), as a consequence of the potential for loss of qualifying open ground habitats due to conversion to woodland; and (b) some golden eagle SPAs (e.g. Cairngorms Massif), due to potential loss of foraging habitat. There is likely to be scope for some trees and/or woodland types in the locations shown on this map, but they will need to be planned and located carefully to avoid adverse effects. As a consequence we recommend a score of '-'. This could be mitigated by</p>	<p>CNPA welcomes the comment and proposes a change to address the identified issue.</p>	<p>Change policy wording to:</p> <p>Conserve and enhance habitat quality and connectivity while ensuring the integrity of designated sites is maintained, with a particular focus on:</p>

Consultation Authority	Section of Environmental Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
		adding the following to Policy 2.4 'ensuring the integrity of designated sites is maintained'.		
	Table 6: Summary of the SEA of the NPPP's Outcomes and options Appendix 7: Assessment of Outcomes and Options Policies 3.2 and 3.3 SEA objective 6a	There is potential for the promotional aspects of policies 3.2a, 3.3a, 3.3b to encourage recreation that could disturb sensitive species such as capercaillie and other ground nesting birds. This could have negative effects on SEA objective 6a biodiversity. We also recognise that other parts of these policies (3.2b, 3.3c, 3.3d) should have positive effects. If all parts of the policies are to be applied simultaneously then your assessment of a minor positive effect seems reasonable. However it would be worth flagging the potential negative effects in the final column of Table 6, and considering mitigation in Table 9.	CNPA welcomes the comment and proposes a change to address the identified issue.	The potential for disturbance has been recognised in the assessment of policies 3.2 and 3.3, renamed 2.2 and 2.3 in this document. This has also been summarised in Table 9 but no changes were needed to Table 6.
	Monitoring	The CNPA's proposals are currently restricted to monitoring the capercaillie population. SNH feel that this restricted focus is unlikely to be appropriate in the light of their	CNPA welcomes the comment and proposes a change to address the identified issue.	A broader set of indicators has been developed and is presented in Table 10. The monitoring framework will be finalised in the Post Adoption

Consultation Authority	Section of Environmental Report	Comment	Response of CNPA	Change to SEA
		<p>comments. They would advise that a wide variety of factors influence the size and productivity of the capercaillie population; of which recreation is but one. They would therefore caution against inferring anything about trends in recreational disturbance from your proposed indicators.</p>		<p>Statement and the CNPA would welcome the input of the Consultation Authorities in developing these.</p>
		<p>We welcome your intention to consider monitoring and indicators further as you develop the Partnership Plan.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>	<p>No change to the SEA.</p>

Appendix 6: SEA Assessment Key

Table 45 SEA Assessment Key.

Significance of Effect		Scale and Permanence of Effect	
Option would have a major positive effect in its current form as it would resolve an existing issue or maximise opportunities. SIGNIFICANT.	++	Local (e.g. settlement or community council level)	L
Option would have a minor positive effect.	+	Regional (e.g. National Park or neighbouring LA level)	R
Effect of Option is uncertain.	?	National (i.e. Scotland)	N
Option would have no predicted effects or no site specific effects.	□	International (i.e. trans-national boundary effects)	I
Option would have a minor adverse effect.	-	Permanent	P
The Option would have a major adverse effect as it would create significant new problems or substantially exacerbate existing problems. Consider exclusion of option. SIGNIFICANT.	--	Temporary	T

Appendix 7: Assessment of Outcomes and Policies

SEA Issue / Topic

Climatic Factors

SEA Objective(s):

Ia Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

SEA Sub-Objectives

- Reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases with particular focus on emissions from buildings, transport, energy generation and industry (especially CO₂).
- Encourage energy conservation and higher energy efficiency.
- Encourage investment in cleaner technologies.
- Support investment in suitable renewable energy sources.
- Decouple increase in GDP and greenhouse gas emissions
- Encourage the appropriate local sourcing of materials, resources and food produce.

Significant Interrelationships

Air, water, soil, material assets, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016, 7th March 2017, 8th March 2017, 24th March 2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to reducing GHG emissions is the link to nature and people thriving together. Such an approach requires the management of the National Park to take on principles that limit negative impacts on the environment and encourage positive change; these may have either direct or indirect positive benefits in meeting the SEA Objective. For example, promoting woodland expansion and the better management of moorland both play a strong role in the storage and sequestration of carbon.	I	P	+	+	+	
Long Term Outcomes							
I. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	Through the promotion of landscape scale habitat management techniques such as woodland expansion and the better management of moorlands, the outcome may play a role in the storage and sequestration of GHGs.	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
2. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences	There are no predicted effects associated with this outcome.	I	P	□	□	□	
3. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	For a local economy to be truly sustainable it needs prepare for likely environmental, social and macro-scale economic changes. The adoption of low carbon technologies and the investment can hold many financial benefits for companies and therefore if sustainability is to be a key facet of the economy, a reduction in GHG emissions should be a synergistic outcome. However, a sustainable economy may also mean a growing economy, which has rarely been achieved without generating additional energy needs or transportation requirements. The overall effect of the outcome is therefore uncertain, as it is greatly dependent on the scale and	I	P	?	?	?	Policy 3.2 concentrates the majority of economic growth in the strategic settlements as identified in the current and future Local Development Plans. As explained on page 35 of this report, a radically different strategy is not considered reasonable as it would lead to substantial changes in the character of other settlements, threaten the viability of others and increase the need for people to travel. Therefore current and future settlement strategies will be similar in nature. Following these strategies will have the effect of limiting the number of additional journeys needed to be made by private motor-vehicle as these locations already have a significant number of facilities within normal walking distances and also act as local public transport hubs.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	direction the National Park's economy takes.						<p>Furthermore, Policy 2.3 seeks to provide a high quality network of core paths which will also encourage walking and cycling.</p> <p>Policy 3.3, which supports the development of a low carbon economy, Policy 1.2 which seeks to secure the effective management of peat and carbon rich soils, Policy 1.4, which focuses on woodland expansion and enhancement and Policy 2.2, which seeks to ensure that facilities and infrastructure are deigned to manage the effects of visitor pressures on natural heritage and communities, also offer means of offsetting any negative effects arising from the outcome / policy.</p>
Policies							
Policy 1.1	The policy requires the management of land to deliver multiple benefits, including environmental ones. These are set out in the NPPP in terms of public interest benefits, which include landscape scale habitat management techniques such as woodland enhancement and expansion and the sustainable management of	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	moorland and peatland which can play an important role in the storage and sequestration of carbon.						
Policy I.2	Enhancing the health and connectivity of habitats, expanding woodlands and securing the effective management of peat and carbon rich soils can play an important role in the storage and sequestration of carbon.	I	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.3	Enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements may also provide opportunities for the storage and sequestration of carbon.	I	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.4	The policy explicitly aims to deliver carbon sequestration as an ecosystem service. Specific mechanisms within the policy include woodland enhancement and expansion.	I	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.5	Positive effects may be gained from the enhancement and expansion of the woodland habitats associated with capercaillie (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>), since woodlands play an important role in the	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	storage and sequestration of carbon.						
Policy 1.6	The sustainable management of deer and moorlands can result in both the expansion of woodland and the restoration of peatland, both of which can play an important role in the storage and sequestration of carbon. While not significantly different, the inclusion moorland management in this policy delivers greater benefit than the business as usual scenario.	I	P	+	+	+	
Policy 1.7	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	I	P	□	□	□	
Policy 2.1	The policy's concern with providing a high quality visitor experience could lead to an increase in visitor numbers. Since visitors to the Cairngorms National Park overwhelmingly use private motor vehicles as their mode of transport to and around the National Park, there is likely to be an increase in associated GHG emissions.	I	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 3: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.
Policy 2.2	The policy encourages the co-ordinated management of the Cairngorms National	I	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 3: A sustainable economy supporting thriving

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	Park as a visitor destination. There may therefore be opportunities to develop a better and more integrated public transport network as well as additional walking and cycling routes. Since the policy does not explicitly state the means in which it will deliver, its overall effects are uncertain						businesses and communities.
Policy 2.3	The provision of a high quality network of core paths and long distance routes as well as the promotion of the benefits of outdoor recreation should encourage walking and cycling. However, they may also result in an increase in visitor numbers. Since visitors to the Cairngorms National Park overwhelmingly use private motor vehicles as their mode of transport to and around the National Park, there is likely to be an increase in associated GHG emissions.	I	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 3: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.
Policy 2.4	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	I	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.1	Economic growth is rarely achieved without generating additional energy needs or transportation requirements and as such it is likely to result in an increase in GHG emissions. However, given the policy’s aim that the economy be sustainable and expand the renewable energy sector and Policy 3.2’s requirement that additional development accord with a strategy that concentrates growth on the main and most sustainable settlements, it is unlikely that this effect will be significant.	I	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 3: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.2	The policy focuses development in the strategic settlements as identified in the current and future Local Development Plans. As explained on page 35 of this report, a radically different strategy is not considered reasonable as it would lead to substantial changes in the character of other settlements, threaten the viability of others and increase the need for people to travel. Therefore current and future settlement strategies will be similar in nature. Following these strategies should reduce the need to travel to access work and services and encourage alternative means of transport. The policy also supports the improvement of an integrated and sustainable walking and cycling network with better links to transport.	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.3	The policy, which encourages the use of renewable energy sources and promotes high standards of design and the efficient use of energy and materials in development, actively supports the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
Policy 3.4	Building community capacity should enable communities to develop local renewable energy projects, like those that are underway in Braemar and Kingussie, thus helping reduce GHG emissions.	I	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.5	The policy promotes a high standard of design, energy efficiency, sustainably sourced materials and construction in new development and promotes active travel, the use for public transport and aims to reduce the reliance on private motorised transport.	I	P	++	++	++	Amend criterion f) to “promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the reliance on private car motor vehicles. ”

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area	The Dalwhinnie and Laggan area is a relatively remote part of the National Park, perhaps second only to the eastern area from Tomintoul to Strathdon. Unlike that area however, it does have access to the rail network with stations in Dalwhinnie, Kingussie and Newtonmore. There is a chance that the policy could lead to an increase in the area's population and encourage more visitors to the area, both of which would lead to an increase in car journeys. On the other hand, investment in broadband infrastructure could increase home working, thereby reduce the need of local people to travel while investment in renewable energy infrastructure could have broader environmental benefits. Overall, the effects of the policy are uncertain as their magnitude will depend very much on the sort of projects that take shape.	I	P	?	?	?	

Summary and Conclusions:

The scale of the effects is considered to be international, with the Plan’s impact on GHG emissions contributing to wider climatic changes.

The main potential negative impacts of the Plan are those associated with the predicted growth of the economy, the population and the number of visitors to the National Park.

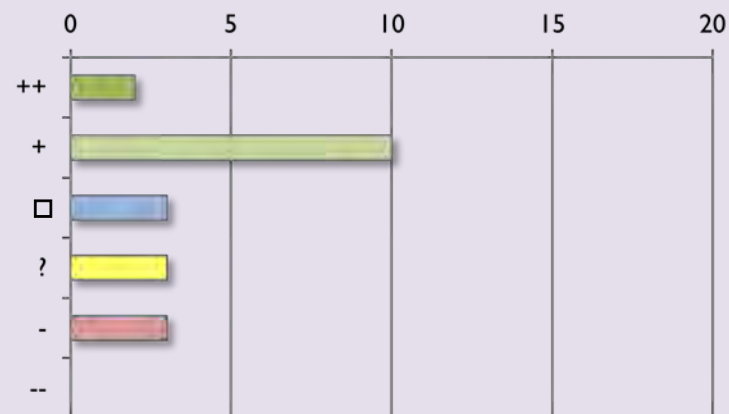
The assessment also recognises the ability of the CNPA and its partners to mitigate negative effects through the implementation of mitigation measures such as better public transport provision and improved cycling and walking networks. Indeed these measures are already built into the Plan’s outcomes and policies.

Since the negative effects arise from different sources, cumulative, in-combination and synergistic effects are considered possible, but not to a great enough degree as to become significant.

As a counterpoint, most of the predicted effects are in fact positive, with the Plan’s promotion of suitable renewable energy sources, protection of peatlands and expansion of woodlands offering strong means of reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide and other green house gases.

Again, due to the multiple sources these effects come from, cumulative, in-combination and synergistic effects are considered possible but not significant.

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Climatic Factors

SEA Objective(s):

Ib Increase resilience to the effects of climate change

SEA Sub-Objectives

- Ensure that new development is appropriately located, having considered the potential effects of future climate conditions.
- Ensure infrastructure and buildings are designed to cope with future climate conditions.
- Encourage climate change adaptation through green infrastructure.
- Encourage existing infrastructure and buildings to adapt to cope with future climate conditions.

Significant Interrelationships

Water, soil, landscape and cultural heritage, biodiversity, fauna and flora, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016, 7th March 2017, 8th March 2017, 24th March 2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to increasing resilience to climate change is the link to nature and people thriving together. Landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion and river restoration offer means of creating rich habitats that provide important ecosystem services with regard to climate change adaptation. Therefore it may be argued that the vision plays a direct role in meeting the SEA objective.	R	P	+	+	+	
Long Term Outcomes							
I. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	Landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion and river restoration offer means of creating rich habitats that provide important ecosystem services with regard to climate change adaptation.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
2. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences	There are no predicted effects associated with this outcome.	R	P	□	□	□	
3. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	Through its aim to achieve a sustainable economy, the outcome is implicitly supporting increasing resilience to the effects of climate change.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policies							
Policy 1.1	The policy requires the management of land to deliver multiple benefits, including environmental ones. These are set out in the NPPP in terms of public interest benefits, which landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion, the sustainable management of moorland and peatland and river	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	restoration which can play an important role in building resilience to climate change.						
Policy I.2	Landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion, the sustainable management of moorland and peatland and river restoration can play an important role in building resilience to climate change.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.3	Enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements, such as woodland expansion or river restoration may help build resilience to the effects of the changing climate.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.4	The policy explicitly aims to deliver flood management as an ecosystem service. Specific mechanisms within the policy include woodland enhancement and expansion (including riparian woodland) and wetland enhancement.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.5	Positive effects may be gained from the enhancement and expansion of the	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	woodland habitats associated with capercaillie (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>), since woodlands play an important role in the storage and sequestration of carbon.						
Policy 1.6	The sustainable management of deer and moorlands can result in both the expansion of woodland and the restoration of peatland, both of which can play an important role in the storage of water and flood management. While not significantly different, the inclusion moorland management in this policy delivers greater benefit than the business as usual scenario.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 1.7	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Policy 2.1	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Policy 2.2	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Policy 2.3	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 2.4	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	
Policy 3.1	The policy's aim to broaden the economic base of the National Park, and in particular its focus on the renewable energy sector should contribute towards increasing resilience to the effects of climate change.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.2	Encouraging sustainable patterns of development will help ensure that it considers the potential effects of future climate conditions, deliver infrastructure and buildings are designed to cope with future climate conditions and encourage existing infrastructure and buildings to adapt to cope with future climate conditions.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.3	The policy actively supports the SEA objective by promoting high standards of sustainable design and helping businesses and communities plan for a changing climate.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.4	Building community capacity should enable communities to contribute towards projects that build resilience to the effects of climate change, such as the implementation of natural flood management techniques.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.5	The policy promotes a high standard of design, energy efficiency, sustainably sourced materials and construction in new development.	R	P	+	+	+	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area	Investment in infrastructure should take account of climate change and provide a means for the local area to adapt to its implications.	L	P	+	+	+	

Summary and Conclusions:

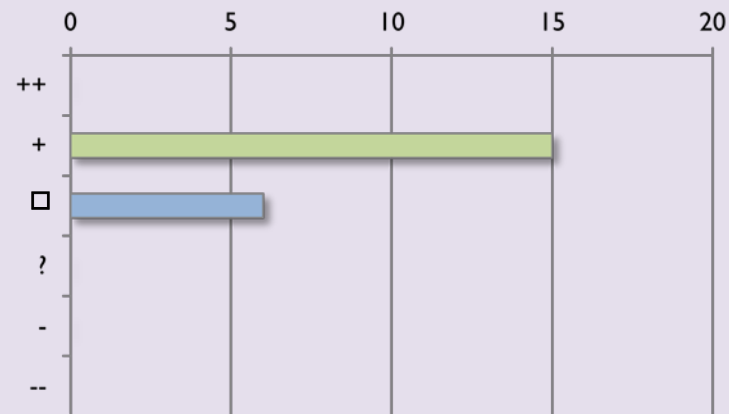
Potential effects are considered to be regional in scale on the basis that the implementation of adaptation measures mostly benefits the location they are developed in.

On the whole, the Plan should have a positive effect with regard to climate change adaptation, with the promotion of landscape scale habitat management, natural flood management, the sustainable use of resources and building techniques providing the opportunities to create a network of built and natural infrastructure that address the impacts of a changing climate.

Since the positive effects arise from different sources, cumulative, in-combination and synergistic effects are considered possible, but not to a great enough degree as to become significant.

The assessment concluded that there would be no predicted effects for a relatively high number of options; this largely reflects the fact that those elements of the Plan have no relevance to climate adaptation.

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Air

SEA Objective(s):

2 Protect and enhance air quality

SEA Sub-Objectives

- Reduce levels of the UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO₂, PM₁₀, SO₂).
- Reduce levels of ground-level ozone (O₃).
- Reduce the need for travel, through appropriate siting of new developments and provision of public infrastructure.
- Reduce negative effects of power generation, industry and transport on local air quality.
- Contribute towards reducing levels of stratospheric ozone depletions.
- Encourage appropriate cleaner technology for power generation, industry and transport.
- Reduce levels of acid deposition.
- Reduce levels of ammonia deposition.

Significant Interrelationships

Water, soil biodiversity, fauna and flora, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016, 7th March 2017, 8th March 2017, 24th March 2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to protecting and enhancing air quality is the link to nature and people thriving together. For example, the protection and expansion of woodlands will have some indirect positive effects on air quality.	L	P	+	+	+	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the outcome with regard to protecting and enhancing air quality is the link to making the National Park a special place for people and nature. For example, the protection and expansion of woodlands will have some indirect positive effects on air quality.	L	P	+	+	+	
2. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences	There are no predicted effects associated with this outcome.	L	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
3. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	While the requirement for the economy to be sustainable should contribute towards improving air quality, the effect of the outcome is dependent on the extent to which economic growth contributes to its achievement. Air pollution in the National Park is largely caused by road traffic, therefore if economic growth results in increased vehicular movement then there may also be an increase in roadside pollutants. The effects of the outcome are therefore uncertain.	L	P	?	?	?	<p>Policy 3.2 concentrates the majority of economic growth in the strategic settlements as identified in the current and future Local Development Plans. As explained on page 35 of this report, a radically different strategy is not considered reasonable as it would lead to substantial changes in the character of other settlements, threaten the viability of others and increase the need for people to travel. Therefore current and future settlement strategies will be similar in nature. This will have the effect of limiting the number of additional journeys needed to be made by private motor-vehicle as these locations already have a significant number of facilities within normal walking distances and also act as local public transport hubs. Furthermore, Policy 2.3 seeks to provide a high quality network of core paths which will also encourage walking and cycling.</p> <p>Policy 1.2, which seeks to enhance the health and connectivity of habitats, Policy 1.4, which focuses on woodland expansion and enhancement and Policy 2.2, which seeks to</p>

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
							ensure that facilities and infrastructure are designed to manage the effects of visitor pressures on natural heritage and communities, also offer means of offsetting any negative effects arising from the outcome / policy.
Policies							
Policy I.1	The policy requires the management of land to deliver multiple benefits, including environmental ones. These are set out in the NPPP in terms of public interest benefits, which include landscape scale habitat management techniques such as woodland enhancement and expansion and tree planting which can play a role in reducing the effects of localised air pollution.	L	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.2	Enhancing the health and connectivity of woodland habitats can play a role in reducing the effects of localised air pollution.	L	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.3	Enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements, such as woodland and tree planting, may also play a role in reducing	L	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	the effects of localised air pollution.						
Policy 1.4	Woodland enhancement and expansion can play a role in reducing the effects of localised air pollution.	L	P	+	+	+	
Policy 1.5	Positive effects may be gained from the enhancement and expansion of the woodland habitats associated with capercaillie (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>), since woodlands play an important role in reducing the effects of localised air pollution.	L	P	+	+	+	
Policy 1.6	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	L	P	□	□	□	
Policy 1.7	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	L	P	□	□	□	
Policy 2.1	The policy's concern with providing a high quality visitor experience could lead to an increase in visitor numbers. Since visitors to the Cairngorms National Park overwhelmingly use private motor vehicles as their mode of transport to and around the National Park, there is likely to be an	L	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 3: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	increase in associated air pollution.						
Policy 2.2	The policy encourages the co-ordinated management of the Cairngorms National Park as a visitor destination. There may therefore be opportunities to develop a better and more integrated public transport network as well as additional walking and cycling routes. Since the policy does not explicitly state the means in which it will deliver, its overall effects are uncertain	L	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 3: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.
Policy 2.3	The provision of a high quality network of core paths and long distance routes as well as the promotion of the benefits of outdoor recreation should encourage walking and cycling. However, they may also result in an increase in visitor numbers. Since visitors to the Cairngorms National Park overwhelmingly use private motor vehicles as their mode of transport to and around the National Park, there is likely to be an increase in associated air pollution.	L	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 3: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 2.4	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	L	P	☐	☐	☐	
Policy 3.1	Economic growth is rarely achieved without generating additional energy needs or transportation requirements and as such it is likely to result in an increase in roadside emissions. However, given that all air quality objectives are currently being met within the National Park, that no AQMAs exist within its boundary, that the Policy aim's that the economy be sustainable and that Policy 3.2 requires that additional development accord with a strategy that concentrates growth on the main and most sustainable settlements, thereby reducing the need to travel by motor vehicle, it is unlikely that the effects of the policy will be significant.	L	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 3: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.2	The policy focuses development in the strategic settlements as identified in the current and future Local Development Plans. As explained on page 35 of this report, a radically different strategy is not considered reasonable as it would lead to substantial changes in the character of other settlements, threaten the viability of others and increase the need for people to travel. Therefore current and future settlement strategies will be similar in nature. Following these strategies should reduce the need to travel to access work and services and encourage alternative means of transport. The policy also supports the improvement of an integrated and sustainable walking and cycling network with better links to transport.	L	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.3	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	L	P	□	□	□	
Policy 3.4	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	L	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.5	The policy aims to promote active travel and public transport provision and reduce the reliance on private motorised transport.	L	P	+	+	+	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area	The Dalwhinnie and Laggan area is a relatively remote part of the National Park, perhaps second only to the eastern area from Tomintoul to Strathdon. Unlike that area however, it does have access to the rail network with stations in Dalwhinnie, Kingussie and Newtonmore. There is a chance that the policy could lead to an increase in the area's population and encourage more visitors to the area, both of which would lead to an increase in car journeys and their associate air polutants. Overall, the effects of the policy are uncertain as their magnitude will depend very much on the sort of projects that take shape.	L	P	?	?	?	

Summary and Conclusions:

Mapping of nitrate and particulate levels indicates that emissions from motor vehicles are greatest close to roads. The effects identified in this assessment are considered to be local in scale as they are unlikely to be problematic across the wider area.

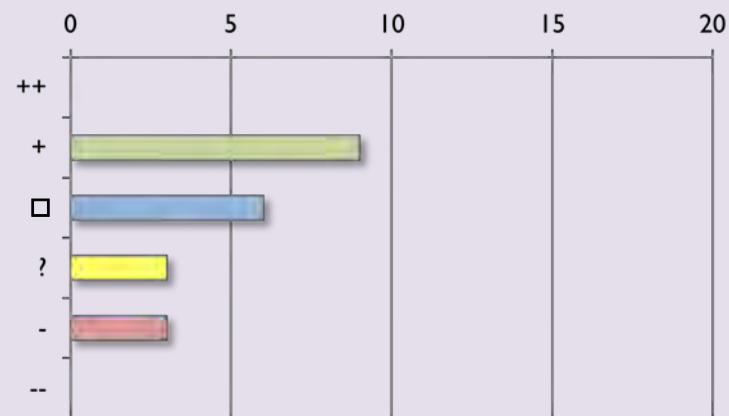
The main potential negative impacts of the Plan on the air quality are those associated with the predicted growth of the economy, the population and the number of visitors to the National Park.

The effects are likely to vary across the National Park, with the greatest potential for negative effects arising in Badenoch and Strathspey, where the greatest level of growth is predicted to occur. Indeed policy decisions, notably the dualling of the A9 and the development of a new settlement at An Camas Mòr, as identified in the current LDP (2015), are likely to result in cumulative and in-combination effects occurring.

It is not however considered that these effects will become significant since all air quality objectives are currently being within the National Park. Furthermore, the SEA on the A9 Dualling Strategy concludes that the effects of the road’s upgrade will be to reduce ambient roadside carbon, NOx and particulate levels through resultant improved traffic flows.

The assessment also recognises the ability of the CNPA and its partners to mitigate many of the negative effects through the implementation of mitigation measures such as better public transport provision. Indeed these measures are already built into the Plan’s outcomes and options.

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Water

SEA Objective(s):

3a Reduce flood risk

SEA Sub-Objectives

- Safeguard the functional floodplain.
- Encourage the restoration of a natural flood regime.
- Promote land uses and habitat changes that will help to decrease run-off, stabilise slopes, and attenuate flows.
- Ensure new development is not located in areas of high or medium flood risk.
- Ensure new development does not increase flood risk on site or elsewhere.
- Increase the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in both new and refurbished developments.
- Avoid loss of soils to non-permeable surfaces.
- Reduce reliance on flood mitigation and hard engineered solutions.
- Increase provision to manage stormwater.

Significant Interrelationships

Climatic factors, soil, biodiversity, fauna and flora, landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016, 7th March 2017, 8th March 2017, 24th March 2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to reducing flood risk is the link to nature and people thriving together. Landscape scale habitat management and other natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion and river restoration offer means of creating rich habitats while also reducing flood risk. Therefore it may be argued that the vision plays a strong and direct role in meeting the SEA objective.	R	P	++	++	++	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	Landscape scale habitat management and other natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion and river restoration offer means of creating rich habitats while also reducing flood risk. Therefore it may be argued that the vision plays a direct role in meeting the SEA objective.	R	P	+	+	+	
2. People enjoying the Park	There are no predicted effects associated with this outcome.	R	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
through outstanding visitor and learning experiences							
3. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	The fact that the outcome requires the economy to be sustainable means that any development that occurs in relation to it should not cause an increase in flood risk. However, the outcome does not itself actively contribute towards reducing flood risk and therefore, it is not considered that the outcome will contribute either positively or negatively to meeting the SEA objective.	R	P	□	□	□	
Policies							
Policy 1.1	The policy requires the management of land to deliver multiple benefits, including environmental ones. These are set out in the NPPP in terms of public interest benefits, which include landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	expansion, the sustainable management of moorland and peatland and river restoration which can play an important role in reducing flood risk.						
Policy I.2	Landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion, the sustainable management of moorland and peatland and river restoration can play an important role in reducing flood risk.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.3	Enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements, such as woodland expansion or river restoration may help reduce flood risk.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.4	The policy explicitly aims to deliver flood management as an ecosystem service. Specific mechanisms within the policy include woodland enhancement and expansion (including riparian woodland) and wetland enhancement.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.5	Positive effects may be gained from the enhancement and expansion of the woodland habitats associated with	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	capercaillie (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>), since woodlands play an important role in the storage of water.						
Policy 1.6	The sustainable management of deer and moorlands can result in both the expansion of woodland and the restoration of peatland, both of which can play an important role in the storage of water and flood management. While not significantly different, the inclusion moorland management in this policy delivers greater benefit than the business as usual scenario.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 1.7	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	
Policy 2.1	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	
Policy 2.2	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	
Policy 2.3	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 2.4	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Policy 3.1	Owing to the nature of growth, there will inevitably be some loss of soils to non-permeable surfaces through the development of new buildings and facilities, particularly as there are few opportunities to develop for brownfield land within the National Park. However, the LDP and national planning policy require that development does not increase flood risk. The small scale of the likely development means that the impact of the policy on flood risk likely to be minimal.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.2	The policy focuses development in the strategic settlements as identified in the current and future Local Development Plans. As explained on page 35 of this report, a radically different strategy is not considered reasonable as it would lead to substantial changes in the character of other settlements, threaten the viability of others and increase the need for people to travel. Therefore current and future settlement strategies will be similar in nature. Some of the settlements in the current strategy, including Ballater in particular, have recently experienced severe flood events. However, the LDP and national planning policy effectively prevent future development from increasing flood risk and therefore it is not considered that the policy is likely to have an effect on the SEA objective	R	P	□	□	□	
Policy 3.3	The promotion of high standards of design should include the creation of SuDS schemes.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.4	Building community capacity should enable communities to contribute towards projects that contribute towards reducing flood risk, such as the implementation of natural flood management techniques.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.5	The policy promotes a high standard of design in the construction in new development. This should include the implementation of SuDS schemes.	R	P	+	+	+	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area	Should investment result in physical development taking place then it is likely that there will be some soils lost to non-permeable surfaces, increasing surface water run-off. However, the LDP and national planning policy require that development does not increase flood risk. The small scale of the likely development means that the impact of the policy on flood risk likely to be minimal.	L	P	□	□	□	

Summary and Conclusions:

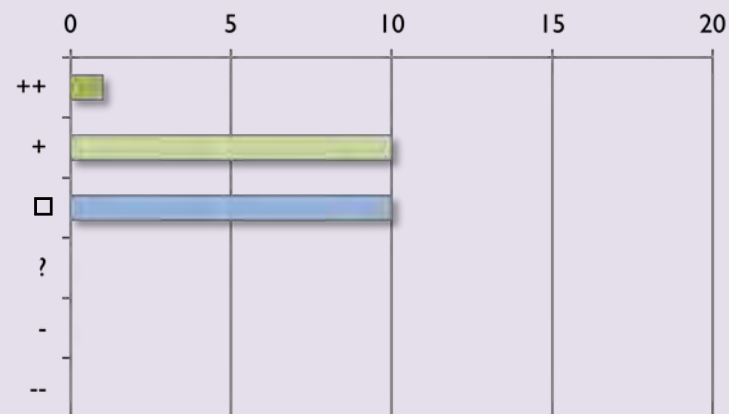
The Cairngorms National Park encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland’s major rivers as well as many smaller ones. Actions taken in the upper part of these catchments may be felt downstream and therefore the scale of the identified effect is considered to be regional.

The assessment has not predicted any effects for a large number of outcomes and options. This reflects the fact that many do not have a strong spatial element and therefore have little chance of impacting on flood risk, while other spatial options are so minor, or located in such locations, that an impact of any kind is highly unlikely.

Furthermore, policy interventions, such as those contained within local and national planning policy and Flood Risk Management Plans actively mitigate against generating additional flood risk.

Overall it is thought that the effects of the Plan are likely to be positive, with its promotion of forest expansion, natural flood management and peatland protection all offering means of slowing the flow of water and reducing flood risk. Due to the multiple sources of these interventions, it is considered that positive cumulative and in-combination are likely.

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Water

SEA Objective(s):

3b Maintain and improve the quality of water resources

SEA Sub-Objectives

- Ensure the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water is maintained or improved.
- Maintain and improve the ability of river catchments to store water.
- Conserve public water supply.
- Reduce demand for water and minimise unnecessary water use.
- Reduce diffuse pollution from urban and rural areas.
- Limit land use related pollution (particularly nitrates) on water resources.

Significant Interrelationships

Climatic factors, soil, biodiversity, fauna and flora, landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016, 7th March 2017, 8th March 2017, 24th March 2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to maintaining and improving water quality is the link to nature and people thriving together. By taking this approach the NPPP must ensure that development and approaches to landscape management do not have a negative effect on the water quality of waterbodies within and flowing from the National Park.	N	P	+	+	+	
Long Term Outcomes							
I. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	The crucial aspect of the outcome with regard to maintaining and improving water quality is the link to making the National Park a special place for people and nature and the enhancement of natural heritage. By taking this approach the NPPP must ensure that development and approaches to landscape management do not have a negative effect on the water quality of waterbodies within and flowing from the National Park.	N	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
2. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences	There are no predicted effects associated with this outcome.	N	P	□	□	□	
3. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	The outcome's aim to deliver a sustainable economy means that the effect of development or economic activity on water quality should be taken into account. It is likely therefore that the outcome will help maintain the quality of the National Park's water resources.	N	P	+	+	+	
Policies							
Policy 1.1	The policy requires the management of land to deliver multiple benefits, including environmental ones. These are set out in the NPPP in terms of public interest benefits, which include landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion, the sustainable management of	N	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	moorland and peatland and river restoration which can play an important role in increasing the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.						
Policy I.2	Landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion, the sustainable management of moorland and peatland and river restoration can play an important role in increasing the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.	N	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.3	Enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements, such as woodland expansion or river restoration can play an important role in increasing the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.	N	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.4	The policy explicitly aims to deliver environmentally beneficial ecosystem	N	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	service. The enhancement and expansion of woodland and wetland habitats, including riparian woodland, can play an important role in increasing the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.						
Policy I.5	Many of the National Park’s waterbodies are important habitats for freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>). It is thought that the species’ success is heavily influenced by water quality, therefore bringing them into better conservation status supports the SEA objective. Further positive effects may be gained from the enhancement and expansion of the woodland habitats associated with capercaillie (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>), since woodlands offer of means of limiting land relating pollution entering waterbodies.	N	P	++	++	++	
Policy I.6	The sustainable management of deer and moorlands can result in both the expansion of woodland and the	N	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	restoration of peatland, both of which can play an important role in increasing the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality. While not significantly different, the inclusion moorland management in this policy delivers greater benefit than the business as usual scenario.						
Policy 1.7	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	N	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Policy 2.1	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	N	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Policy 2.2	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	N	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Policy 2.3	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	N	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Policy 2.4	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	N	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.1	The construction of new buildings associated with economic uses will lead to increased pressure on water resources. It also has the potential to have an impact on water quality at certain locations, if not properly considered. Given the small scale at which development is likely to occur, the impact of the policy is unlikely to be significant.	N	P	-	-	-	The LDP and national planning policy can be used to ensure that development does not have a negative effect on water quality. This can include effects that are likely to arise from construction and be temporary in nature.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.2	The policy focuses development in the strategic settlements as identified in the current and future Local Development Plans. As explained on page 35 of this report, a radically different strategy is not considered reasonable as it would lead to substantial changes in the character of other settlements, threaten the viability of others and increase the need for people to travel. Therefore current and future settlement strategies will be similar in nature. The level of growth, particularly in the Aviemore area, is likely to place pressure on the local water supply, with the Aviemore water treatment works only having capacity for a further 966 housing units.	N	P	-	-	-	The LDP and national planning policy can be used to ensure that development does not have a negative effect on water quality. This can include effects that are likely to arise from construction and be temporary in nature. Where insufficient capacity is identified within the network, money may be levied from the developer(s) to make sure upgrades occur before the effects of the development can be felt.
Policy 3.3	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	N	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.4	Building community capacity should enable communities to contribute towards projects, such as river restoration and riparian woodland enhancement and expansion, that improve the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.	N	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.5	The policy promotes a high standard of design in the construction in new development. This should include the implementation of SuDS schemes which should help increase the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.	N	P	+	+	+	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area	Should investment result in physical development then it is possible that increased pressure will be placed on water resources. There is also the possibility of an impact on water quality at certain locations, if not properly considered. Given the small scale at which development is likely to occur, the impact of the outcome is unlikely to be significant.	L	P	□	□	□	

Summary and Conclusions:

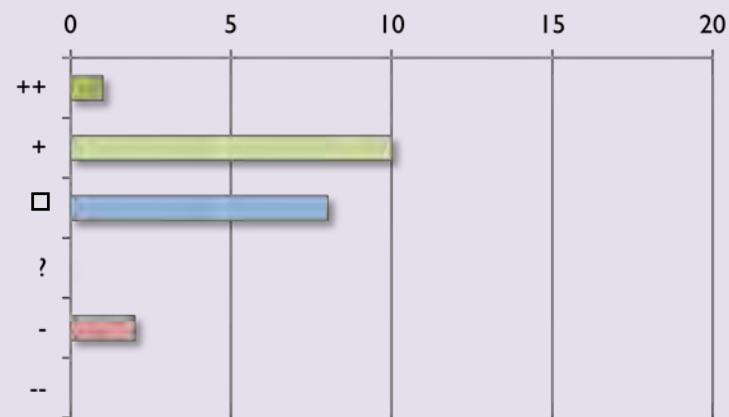
The Cairngorms National Park encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland’s major rivers as well as many smaller ones. Actions taken in the upper part of these catchments may be felt downstream and therefore the scale of the identified effect is considered to be regional.

The assessment has not predicted any effects for a large number of outcomes and options. This reflects the fact that many objectives do not have a strong spatial element and therefore have little chance of impacting on water quality, while other spatial options are so minor, or located in such locations, that an impact of any kind is highly unlikely.

Negative effects are predicted against outcomes and options that deal with economic and housing development. These largely relate to the pressure they might place on water and waste treatment infrastructure, which in some areas does not have enough capacity to meet projected growth.

While negative effects on water quality are considered possible, they are not considered to offer a significant threat. In fact, the overall effect of the Plan on water quality is considered to be positive, with interventions such as woodland expansion, peatland restoration and natural flood management offering means of slowing and preventing the introduction of pollutants to waterbodies. As a result, it is considered that positive cumulative and in-combination are likely.

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Soil

SEA Objective(s):

4 Minimise contamination and safeguard and improve soil and peat quality.

SEA Sub-Objectives

- Maintain or improve the productive capacity of soils.
- Maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to sustainably produce high quality local and seasonal food.
- Avoid increased diffuse pollution, particularly SO₂ and NO₂ emissions and nitrate pollution from agriculture and other economic activities.
- Protect and enhance soil quantity (including non-chemical soil functions and processes such as permeability) and quantity, especially of carbon rich soils.
- Maintain, restore or improve the carbon storage capacity of peat and soils.
- Minimise carbon emissions from land use (e.g. muirburn).
- Avoid and reduce contamination of soils.
- Promote the regeneration and redevelopment of brownfield and contaminated land.
- Take account of soil function.
- Minimise soil erosion.
- Minimise soil sealing.
- Minimise soil compaction.

Significant Interrelationships

Climatic factors, water, material assents, biodiversity, fauna and flora, landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016, 7th March 2017, 8th March 2017, 24th March 2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to soil quality is the link to nature and people thriving together. By taking this approach the NPPP must ensure that development and approaches to landscape management do not have a negative impact on soils, including those with a carbon rich content.	R	P	+	+	+	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	The crucial aspect of the outcome with regard to soil quality is the link to making the National Park a special place for people and nature and the enhancement of natural heritage. By taking this approach the NPPP must ensure that development and approaches to landscape management do not have a negative impact on soils, including those with a carbon rich content.	R	P	+	+	+	
2. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and	There are no predicted effects associated with this outcome.	R	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
learning experiences							
3. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	The outcome's aim to deliver a sustainable economy means that the effect of development or economic activity on soil quality should be taken into account. It is likely therefore that the outcome will help minimise contamination and contribute towards the safeguarding of the National Park's soil and peat resources.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policies							
Policy 1.1	The management of land for multiple benefits should help safeguard the National Park's soils. For example, limiting the use of muirburn as a form of vegetation management may reduce both soil erosion and soil sealing.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 1.2	Landscape scale habitat management techniques such as woodland expansion and moor and peatland restoration and natural flood management techniques should deliver multiple benefits with regard to the protection and improvement	R	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	soil and peat quality.						
Policy I.3	Enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements, such as woodland expansion may help safeguard soils by minimising soil erosion.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.4	The policy explicitly aims to deliver ecosystem services, of which soils offer a rich variety. Of particular importance are the services offered by carbon rich soils which act as a store for both carbon and groundwater.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.5	Positive effects may be gained from the enhancement and expansion of the woodland habitats associated with capercaillie (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>), since woodland may help safeguard soils by minimising soil erosion.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.6	The sustainable management of deer and moorlands can result in both the expansion of woodland and the restoration of peatland, the latter offering a safeguard against erosion, the latter an important soil type in its own right. While	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	not significantly different, the inclusion moorland management in this policy delivers greater benefit than the business as usual scenario.						
Policy 1.7	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
Policy 2.1	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
Policy 2.2	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
Policy 2.3	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
Policy 2.4	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
Policy 3.1	The construction of new buildings associated with economic uses will lead to increased pressure on water resources. It also has the potential to have an impact on water quality at certain locations, if not properly considered. Given the small scale at which development is likely to occur, the impact of the policy is unlikely to be	N	P	-	-	-	Policy 3.2 can play a part in minimising the loss of soil by directing development to the most sustainable locations and encouraging the coalescence of uses. Some of these locations are also home to areas of previously developed land, which can be used with no negative impact on soils. Overall, the LDP and national planning policy can be used to ensure that development

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	significant.						makes efficient use of land and does not have a negative effect on soil quality.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.2	<p>The policy focuses development in the strategic settlements as identified in the current and future Local Development Plans. As explained on page 35 of this report, a radically different strategy is not considered reasonable as it would lead to substantial changes in the character of other settlements, threaten the viability of others and increase the need for people to travel. Therefore current and future settlement strategies will be similar in nature. While allocated sites in these settlements offer the ability to demand densities of development that maximise the use of land and limit the loss of soil, most sites are on greenfield land. Furthermore, in the current LDP (2015) An Camas Mòr is identified as an entirely new settlement on an entirely greenfield site and over the long term there is likely to be the loss of a considerable area of soil. It is important to note however that the mapping of agricultural soils indicates there are no areas of prime agricultural land in these areas, while mapping of carbon rich soils indicate that there are no areas of peat. The overall effect of the policy is therefore likely to be minor in scale.</p>	R	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Policy 3.1
	<p>Caithness National Park Authority</p>						Assessment of Outcomes and Options

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.3	The policy promotes high standards of sustainable design and the efficient use of energy and materials in construction. The protection of high quality and carbon rich soils should therefore form part of this consideration.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.4	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	
Policy 3.5	The policy promotes high standards of sustainable design and the efficient use of energy and materials in construction. The protection of high quality and carbon rich soils should therefore form part of this consideration.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area	If investment results in physical development taking place then there is the potential for the loss and sealing of soil through the creation of new buildings and facilities. As there are few opportunities to develop for brownfield land within the area, much of this development is likely to occur on greenfield land. There is the possibility therefore that some agricultural land will be lost. The small scale of the likely development means that the impact of the policy on the SEA objective is unlikely to be significant.	L	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

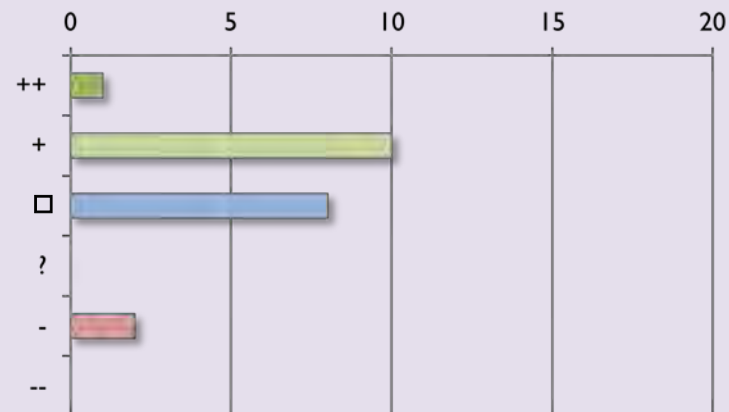
Summary and Conclusions:

The effect of land use and land management decisions on soils may range from local to international in scale depending on the soils affected and the scale of the effects. While important soils, such as those with a high carbon content, have been identified within the National Park, the Plan’s proposals are unlikely to impact upon them significantly. The effects identified in this assessment are therefore considered to be regional in scale.

Negative effects associated with economic growth and housing development have been identified. These are not however considered to be significant, owing to the limited nature of the development that is likely to take place.

Overall, the effects of the Plan are likely to be positive, with interventions such as woodland expansion, peatland restoration and sustainable moorland management offering means of preventing reducing soil erosion.

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Material Assets

SEA Objective(s):

5 Encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets.

SEA Sub-Objective

- Promote decoupling of resource use from economic prosperity.
- Encourage sustainable use of natural resources e.g. water, timber, aggregates.
- Minimise the use of finite resources and promote higher resource efficiency and the use of secondary and recycled materials.
- Promote the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Value, conserve and enhance geodiversity.

Significant Interrelationships

Climatic factors, air, water, soil, biodiversity, fauna and flora, landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016, 7th March 2017, 8th March 2017, 24th March 2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to the sustainable use of material assets is the link to nature and people thriving together. By taking this approach the NPPP must ensure that development and approaches to landscape management take a sustainable approach to such assets and that the resources within the National Park are not exploited without heed for other environmental and social concerns.	R	P	+	+	+	
Long Term Outcomes							
I. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	The crucial aspect of the outcome with regard to the sustainable use of material assets is the link to making the National Park a special place for people and nature. By taking this approach the NPPP must ensure that development and approaches to landscape management take a sustainable approach to such assets and that the resources within the National Park are not exploited without heed for other environmental and social concerns.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
2. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences	There are no predicted effects associated with this outcome.	R	P	□	□	□	
3. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	The outcome's aim to deliver a sustainable economy means that the sustainable use of material assets should be paramount. It is likely therefore that the outcome will result in the sustainable use and reuse of material assets and help promote the decoupling of resource use from economic prosperity.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policies							
Policy 1.1	The policy's aim that land be managed to deliver multiple benefits and public interest priorities should encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets.	R	P	++	++	++	
Policy 1.2	Enhancing the resilience of habitats should	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	encourage the sustainable use of natural resources e.g. water, timber, aggregates.						
Policy I.3	The geodiversity of the National Park’s landscape is responsible for a wide variety of its special qualities. The policy’s focus on conserving and enhancing these special qualities therefore supports the SEA objective’s aim to value, conserve and enhance geodiversity.	R	P	++	++	++	
Policy I.4	The policy’s aim to deliver a combination of ecosystem services should encourage the sustainable use of material assets.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.5	Positive effects may be gained from the enhancement and expansion of the woodland habitats associated with capercaillie (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>), since achieving a better conservation status will require the sustainable use of the National Park’s woodland resource.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.6	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	
Policy I.7	There are no predicted effects associated	R	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	with this policy.						
Policy 2.1	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
Policy 2.2	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
Policy 2.3	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
Policy 2.4	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
Policy 3.1	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
Policy 3.2	The policy offers some positive effects through its support for improvements to the information technology mobile communications networks, the A9 and other trunk roads, and the railway line.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.3	The policy actively supports the SEA objective through its support for development of appropriately located and scaled renewable energy developments and promotes high standards of sustainable design and efficient use of energy and materials in construction.	R	P	++	++	++	
Policy 3.4	Building community capacity should enable communities to develop local renewable energy projects, like those that are underway in Braemar and Kingussie, thus sustainably harnessing local material assets.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.5	The policy supports the SEA objective through its support for development of appropriately located and scaled renewable energy developments and promotes high standards of sustainable design and efficient use of energy and materials in construction.	R	P	++	++	++	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area	Investment in the Spatial Priority Area should encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets, particularly within the local area.	L	P	+	+	+	

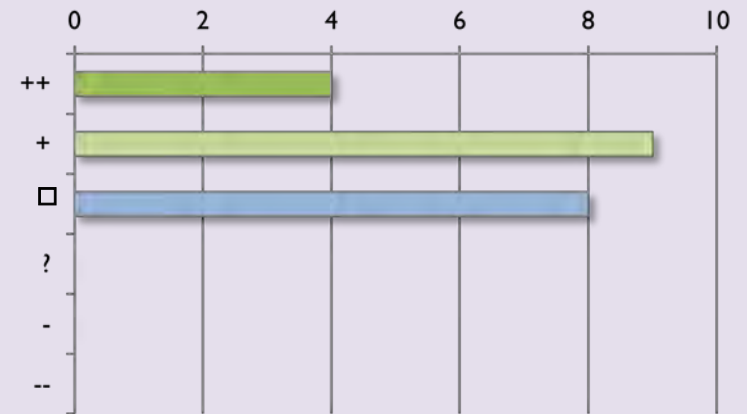
Summary and Conclusions:

Owing to the limited nature of the identified effects, the scale of the Plan’s impact on material assets is considered to be regional.

The overall effects of the Plan are considered to be positive, with policy options supporting the development of appropriately located and scaled renewable energy developments, high standards of sustainable design, the efficient use of energy and materials in construction and sustainable land management practices.

Many outcomes and options carry no resource implications and this is reflected in the relatively high number of assessments that predict no effects.

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora

SEA Objective(s):

6a Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity, distinctive wild species and habitats

SEA Sub-Objective

- Protect the integrity of European sites, proposed European sites and listed Ramsar sites, and to conserve or, where not at a favourable conservation status, enhance their interest features.
- Avoid damage or fragmentation of designated sites, habitats and protected species and encourage their enhancement and connection.
- Conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity.
- Avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases.
- Conserve, enhance and create appropriate wildlife habitats and wider biodiversity within and outwith settlements.
- Encourage innovative methods of producing biodiversity gain for both new and existing developments.
- Reduce the ecological footprint of the Cairngorms National Park.
- Enable people to access and appreciate the Cairngorms National Park's natural heritage.

Significant Interrelationships

Climatic factors, air, water, soil, material assets, landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 22nd February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016, 7th March 2017, 8th March 2017, 24th March 2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	The vision's objective to ensure that nature thrives within the National Park positively contributes to all aspects of the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	The outcome's interest in creating a special place for nature and enhancing natural heritage positively contributes to all aspects of the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
2. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences	The importance of the National Park's environment to visitor and learning experiences means that the outcome actively contributes to meeting the SEA objective.	I	P	+	+	+	
3. A sustainable	Given the reliance of the National Park's	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	economy on the quality of its environment, it's implicit within the outcome that the valuing, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity will be an important aspect of achieving its aims.						
Policies							
Policy 1.1	The management of land to deliver multiple benefits and public interest priorities should help deliver significant gains for biodiversity, for example through the implementation of landscape scale habitat management techniques such as woodland expansion and peatland restoration.	I	P	++	++	++	
Policy 1.2	While the policy actively supports the SEA objective through the enhancing the resilience of habitats, species and land to climate change, supporting the use of rover catchment management plans, enhancing the connectivity of habitats, and protecting and restoring peat and carbon rich soils, there is concern that as worded, criterion c) may have a negative effect on	I	P	++	++	++	The implementation of policy 1.4 will ensure that the integrity of designated sites is maintained.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	some SACs (e.g. Beinn a’Ghlo; Cairngorms), as a consequence of the potential for loss of qualifying open ground habitats due to conversion to woodland; and (b) some golden eagle SPAs (e.g. Cairngorms Massif), due to potential loss of foraging habitat. It is recognised that this addressed through the implementation of Policy 1.4, which ensures that woodland enhancement and expansion should not be pursued without heed for the integrity of designated sites.						
Policy 1.3	The policy states that enhancements to the special qualities of the National Park should also deliver habitat improvements.	I	P	+	+	+	
Policy 1.4	Landscape scale habitat management, such as woodland expansion and wetland enhancement may have significant positive effects on the National Park’s biodiversity.	I	P	++	++	++	
Policy 1.5	The policy actively supports the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
Policy 1.6	The policy actively supports the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 1.7	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	I	P	□	□	□	
Policy 2.1	Providing high quality co-ordinated information setting visitor experiences in the context of the National Park and enhancing the network of ranger services should help people to access and appreciate the Cairngorms National Park's natural heritage.	I	P	+	+	+	
Policy 2.2	While encouraging outdoor recreation in woodland areas has the potential to disturb sensitive species such as capercaillie and other ground nesting birds, the co-ordinated promotion and management of the National Park as a visitor destination should help people access and appreciate the Cairngorms National Park's natural heritage while avoiding harm. Overall, the policy is considered to have a minor positive effect.	I	P	+	+	+	<p>Combined, Policies 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6 offer a strong means of protecting and enhancing the National Park's biodiversity, which would help mitigate negative effects associated with disturbance. Furthermore, Policy 2.3 aims to ensure that the access and recreation objectives are not pursued without heed for conservation objectives.</p> <p>With regard to Capercaillie, the CNPA is in the process of developing a Capercaillie Framework, which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bring together existing knowledge on the state of Capercaillie across the Cairngorms National Park, the combined knowledge of

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
							<p>the pressures they face, particularly with regard to recreation and housing development; and the suite of management measures currently being deployed, using spatial mapped data where possible;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ inform future decisions about co-ordinated deployment of management measures for Capercaillie conservation; ➤ identify what else we may need to do, where we may need further investment or resources and highlight the future agenda for management action. <p>The CNPA has published a report on Phase I of the Framework (2015). This takes the form of a map-based framework that helps to co-ordinate the management of the National Park with the aim of safeguarding and expanding the Capercaillie population across the area.</p>
Policy 2.3	While encouraging outdoor recreation in woodland areas has the potential to disturb sensitive species such as capercaillie and other ground nesting birds, the policy aims to ensure that	I	P	+	+	+	See mitigation for Policy 2.2

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	access and recreation do not negatively impact on biodiversity by safeguarding sensitive environments and maintaining the integrity of designates sites. On balance it is therefore considered that the policy will have a minor positive effect as it offers a means avoiding future problems and addressing existing ones.						
Policy 2.4	The policy will enable people to access and appreciate the Cairngorms National Park’s natural heritage.	I	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.1	The construction of new buildings to facilitate economic development could have some negative effects on biodiversity. However, it’s stated within the policy that growth and diversification should draw on the National Park’s special qualities, of which its rich biodiversity is one. It is implicit within the policy therefore that the valuing, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity will be an important aspect of achieving its aims. Overall, the nature of the effect will be dependent on the scale, location and	I	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Policy 2.2

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	nature of development and therefore the policy's effects are uncertain.						
Policy 3.2	The policy focuses development in the strategic settlements as identified in the current and future Local Development Plans. As explained on page 35 of this report, a radically different strategy is not considered reasonable as it would lead to substantial changes in the character of other settlements, threaten the viability of others and increase the need for people to travel. Therefore current and future settlement strategies will be similar in nature. This development is to be delivered in while maintaining the integrity of designated sites. Overall the policy's effects are uncertain as they will depend on site specific conditions that cannot be determined until either those sites are chosen or detailed assessments are carried out as part of a planning applications.	I	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Policy 2.2

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.3	The development of renewable energy facilities such as hydroelectric schemes have the potential to have an impact on ecosystems, however the nature of this effect will be dependent on the location and scale of the development. High standards of design should however take biodiversity into consideration and where possible seek the enhancement of habitats. Overall, the effects of the policy are uncertain.	I	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Policy 2.2
Policy 3.4	Empowering communities to deliver plan their own futures and develop and implement project should aid the delivery of projects that help deliver the SEA objective, for example river restoration or community woodland management.	I	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.5	Biodiversity enhancements may play a strong role in delivering high quality design and creating a distinctive sense of place in new developments and existing settlements.	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area	Given the reliance of the area’s economy on the quality of its environment it will be important that investment within the Spatial Priority Area values, conserves and enhances local biodiversity.	L	P	+	+	+	

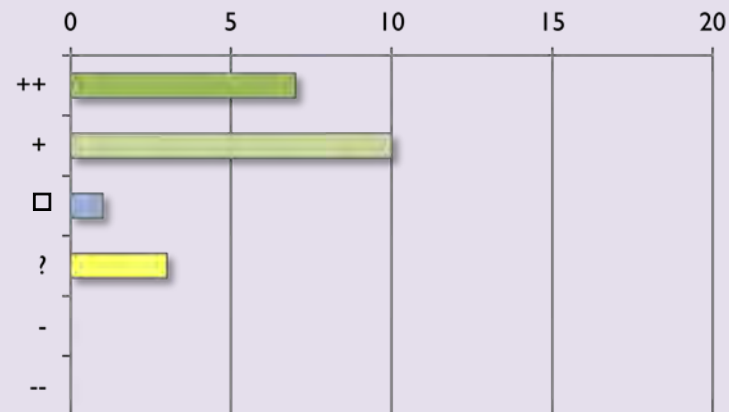
Summary and Conclusions:

Around 50% of the National Park is protected by some form of Natura designation. The identified effects are therefore considered to be international in scale.

The National Park is protected by a range of national and international designation and is therefore highly sensitive to land use and land management changes. The objective is the only one to return a potentially significant negative effect, which is associated with the growth of settlements, particularly those in Badenoch and Strathspey. Many of these settlements are located near areas protected by Natura sites, for example Anagach Woods near Grantown-on-Spey and Glenmore and Rothiemurchus forests near An Camas Mòr. In these areas, disturbance of species such as cappercaillie is possible through increased recreational activities. Mitigation is however already built into the Plan’s policies and therefore it is not predicted that negative effects, significant or minor, will arise.

In most areas the effects of the Plan are considered to be positive, with the promotion of landscape scale habitat management, and in particular woodland expansion, offering significantly positive effects.

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora

SEA Objective(s):

6b Maintain and improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits

SEA Sub-Objectives

- Maintain or improve the capacity of woodland to sequester and store carbon.
- Enhance the ecological functioning of woodland at a landscape scale.
- Avoid the loss of ancient woodland and veteran trees.
- Protect and enhance the environmental services woodland provide (e.g. flood alleviation and pollution mitigation).
- Protect and promote the recreational, cultural, landscape and economic value of woodland.

Significant Interrelationships

Climatic factors, air, water, soil, material assents, landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 22nd February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016, 7th March 2017, 8th March 2017, 24th March 2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	The vision's objective to ensure that nature and people thrive together within the National Park positively contributes to all aspects of the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	The outcome's interest in creating a special place for nature and enhancing natural heritage positively contributes to all aspects of the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
2. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences	The importance of the National Park's environment, which includes its woodlands, to visitor and learning experiences means that the outcome actively contributes to meeting the SEA objective.	I	P	+	+	+	
3. A sustainable	Agriculture and forestry account for	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	around 4% if the National Park’s jobs. The sustainable management of woodlands is therefore of importance to the economic health of the area. It is likely therefore that the sustainable growth of the economy is likely to compliment overall aim of the SEA objective.						
Policies							
Policy 1.1	The management and use of land to deliver multiple benefits and public interest priorities expressly includes the sustainable management and expansion of woodland.	I	P	++	++	++	
Policy 1.2	The policy actively supports the enhancement of the ecological functioning of woodland at a landscape scale, the protection of ancient woodland and veteran trees and the enhancement of environmental services.	I	P	++	++	++	
Policy 1.3	Trees, woods and forests contribute significantly to the National Park’s special qualities. Therefore, the policy may help Maintain and improve the sustainable	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	management of woodland for multiple benefits.						
Policy 1.4	The policy is explicit in its aim to enhance and expand woodland, especially montane, farm and riparian woodlands.	I	P	++	++	++	
Policy 1.5	Positive effects may be gained from the enhancement and expansion of the woodland habitats associated with important species such as capercaillie (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>).	I	P	+	+	+	
Policy 1.6	Supporting collaboration across ownership boundaries should help deliver a more sustainable approach to woodland management. The better management of deer is also likely to benefit the health of woodlands, while the better management of moorlands may help promote the expansion of montane woodlands.	I	P	+	+	+	
Policy 1.7	Woodlands are part of the National Park's historic and cultural heritage. By promoting opportunities to enjoy and celebrate the cultural heritage of the Park, the policy should help promote the	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	recreational, cultural and landscape value of woodlands.						
Policy 2.1	Providing high quality co-ordinated information setting visitor experiences in the context of the National Park and enhancing the network of ranger services should help promote the recreational, cultural, landscape and economic value of woodland.	I	P	+	+	+	
Policy 2.2	The co-ordinated promotion and management of the National Park as a visitor destination and ensuring that facilities and infrastructure are designed to manage the effects of visitor pressures on the natural heritage communities should help promote the recreational, cultural, landscape and economic value of woodland.	I	P	+	+	+	
Policy 2.3	The policy supports the protection and promotion of the recreational, cultural, landscape and economic value of woodland.	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 2.4	Providing opportunities for inspiration, learning and understanding should help promote the recreational, cultural, landscape and economic value of woodland.	I	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.1	Supporting the diversification of existing landbased businesses should encourage the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits.	I	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.2	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	I	P	□	□	□	
Policy 3.3	Promoting high standards of sustainable design and the efficient use of materials supports the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits.	I	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.4	Supporting and building community capacity should help communities deliver projects such as woodland expansion or community woodland management.	I	P	+	+	+	

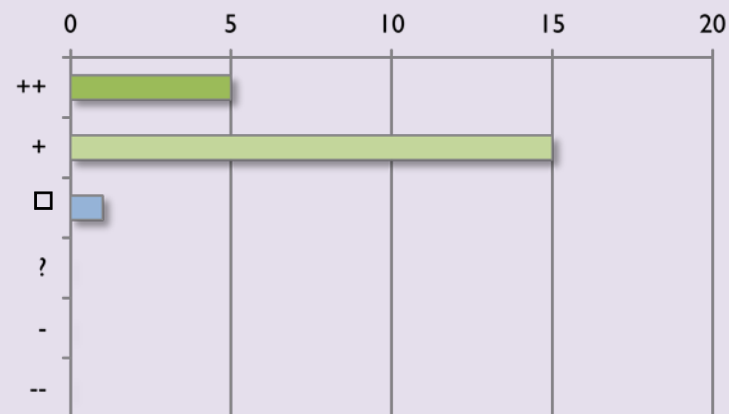
Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.5	Trees and woodlands contribute significantly to the sense of place of many of the National Park’s settlements. The policy aims to support the retention and enhancement of local character, which should therefore include trees and woodlands.	I	P	+	+	+	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area	Woodlands are an important feature of the local economy, both as recreational and commercial assets. Investment in the Spatial Priority Area should therefore encourage the sustainable management of woodlands for these multiple benefits.	L	P	+	+	+	

Summary and Conclusions:

The National Park is home to large areas of woodland, much of which is identified as being semi-natural and / or ancient. This woodland act as important habitats and support a wealth of species. Consequently, many are protected by Natura designations. The identified effects are therefore considered to be international in scale.

The effects of the Plan are largely positive, with interventions such landscape scale habitat management offering strong means of supporting and enhancing the National Park’s woodlands. Furthermore, the policy of woodland expansion aims to create new habitats and improve connectivity between existing ones.

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Landscape and Cultural Heritage

SEA Objective(s):

7 Protect and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the National Park's landscape and cultural and historic heritage

SEA Sub-Objectives

- Protect and enhance the National Park's special landscape qualities.
- Work towards creating landscapes that are ecologically functional.
- Minimise the loss of wildness.
- Reduce light pollution.
- Value, protect and enhance the historic and cultural environment and its assets.
- To promote high quality design based on a comprehensive understanding of landscape character and distinctiveness.
- Protect and enhance townscape and respect the existing pattern, form and setting of settlements.

Significant Interrelationships

Climatic factors, material assets, biodiversity, fauna and flora, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 22nd February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016, 7th March 2017, 8th March 2017, 24th March 2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	The vision's objective to ensure that nature and people thrive together, encompassing both the natural and social aspects of landscape and cultural heritage, positively contributes to meeting all aspects of the SEA objective.	N	P	++	++	++	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	All aspects of the outcome actively and positively contribute to all aspects of the SEA objective.	N	P	++	++	++	
2. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences	The importance of the National Park's environment, which includes its landscape, historic and cultural heritage, to visitor and learning experiences means that the outcome actively contributes to meeting the SEA objective.	N	P	+	+	+	
3. A sustainable	Given the reliance of the National Park's	N	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	economy on the quality of its environment, it's implicit within the outcome that the protecting and enhancing the character, diversity and special qualities of its landscape and cultural and historic heritage will be an important aspect of achieving its aims.						
Policies							
Policy 1.1	The management and use of land to deliver multiple benefits and public interest priorities expressly include the conservation and enhancement of the special qualities of the National Park.	N	P	++	++	++	
Policy 1.2	Landscape scale habitat management techniques, such as woodland expansion, and other forms of habitat enhancement can have significant positive effects on landscape quality. There is the potential for woodland expansion to have negative effects on the historic environment, however, given the scale at which the expansion is proposed it is unlikely to be significant.	N	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy I.3	All aspects of the policy actively and positively contribute to all aspects of the SEA objective.	N	P	++	++	++	
Policy I.4	Landscape scale habitat management techniques, such as woodland expansion, and other forms of habitat enhancement can have significant positive effects on landscape quality.	N	P	++	++	++	
Policy I.5	The enhancement and expansion of habitats to support the National Park’s important species is likely to have a positive effect on the character, diversity and special qualities of the area’s landscape.	N	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.6	Deer management may offer synergistic landscape benefits as reduced deer numbers enables the expansion and enhancement of woodlands, particularly montane woodlands, which contribute to the special qualities of the National Park. Better management of moorlands may also contribute in areas where muir-burn has been used inappropriately.	N	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 1.7	The policy actively and positively contributes to the protection and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the National Park’s cultural and historic heritage.	N	P	++	++	++	
Policy 2.1	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	N	P	□	□	□	
Policy 2.2	Ensuring that facilities and infrastructure are designed to manage the effects of visitor pressures on the natural heritage should help protect the character, diversity and special qualities of its landscape and cultural and historic heritage.	N	P	+	+	+	
Policy 2.3	Improving recreational opportunities may have both positive and negative impacts on landscape quality. Improving and rationalising certain visitor destination may produce positive benefits as ad-hoc developments are redesigned. However, in sensitive areas, expansions to existing facilities, or the creation of new access arrangements may result in negative	N	P	?	?	?	Policy 1.3 seeks to ensure that the management of the National Park results in the conservation and enhancement of the National Park’s special qualities.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	effects. The effect of the policy is highly dependent on the nature, design and location of forthcoming proposals and therefore, the overall effects of the outcome are uncertain.						
Policy 2.4	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	N	P	□	□	□	
Policy 3.1	The policy's demand that the diversified economy draw upon the National Park's special qualities means that its landscape and cultural and historic heritage should be protected and valued, protected and enhanced. The policy's aim to reduce the proportion of vacant and second homes will support community vibrancy, on which many cultural activities, including the use of minority languages, rely.	N	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.2	Focusing development in the strategic settlements as identified in the current and future Local Development Plans concentrates the landscape impact of significant development in a small number of locations that are able to accommodate the scale proposed. Negative impacts can therefore be avoided at locations less able to accommodate development within the landscape.	N	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.3	The development of renewable energy projects such as hydroelectric schemes and wind turbines can have a negative impact on landscape quality. The nature of the effect will however be dependent on the scale and location of development and therefore the overall effects of the policy are uncertain. It is however unlikely that the effects would ever be significant, as the policy states that large scale wind turbines are not compatible with the landscape character of the National Park.	N	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Policy 2.3

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.4	Supporting and building the capacity of communities should enable communities to pursue project that contribute towards protecting and enhancing the National Park’s special landscape qualities, creating landscapes that are ecologically functional, reducing light pollution, promoting high quality design, protecting and enhancing townscape and respecting the existing pattern, form and setting of settlements.	N	P	++	++	++	
Policy 3.5	The policy contributes towards promoting high quality design based on a comprehensive understanding of landscape character and distinctiveness, protecting and enhancing townscapes and respecting the existing pattern, form and setting of settlements.	N	P	++	++	++	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area	Given the reliance of the area’s economy on the quality of its environment, it will be important that investment helps protect and enhance the character diversity and special qualities of its landscape and cultural and historic heritage.	L	P	+	+	+	

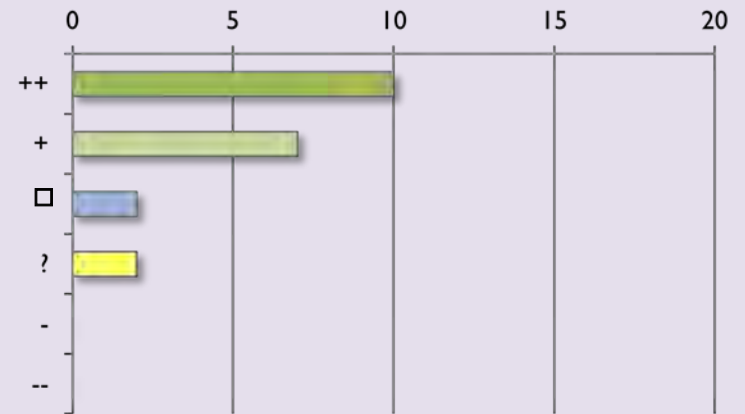
Summary and Conclusions:

The Cairngorms National Park is the UK’s largest protected landscape and has a character that is well recognised for its special qualities. Any potential effects on landscape quality or the cultural and historic environment are therefore considered to be national in scale.

Overall, the Plan’s landscape credentials are very high, with a large number of assessments predicting positive effects; combined these are likely to be significant.

Uncertainty is however identified around the improvement of infrastructure associated with recreation, with the creation of additional tracks for sporting practices being of particular concern. The effects of such developments are likely to be highly dependent on their nature, design and location. The Plan does however contain policies that are able to prevent development occurring where it might have a negative impact.

Assessments at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Population and Human Health

SEA Objective(s):

8a Promote opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities.

SEA Sub Objective

- Maintain the recreational value of the Cairngorms National Park.
- Promote and maintain opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and lead healthy lifestyles.
- Encourage walking or cycling as an alternative means of transportation.
- Empower people to experience, learn about and share the Cairngorms National Park's historic, cultural and natural heritage.
- Promote the improvement and maintenance of social and physical environments / facilities that provide opportunities to enhance health and wellbeing.

Significant Interrelationships

Landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 22nd February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016, 7th March 2017, 8th March 2017, 24th March 2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	The vision explicitly supports the enjoyment of the National Park and therefore actively promotes opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities.	R	P	++	++	++	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	The outcome's interest in making the National Park a special place for people and enhancing cultural heritage actively promotes opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities.	R	P	++	++	++	
2. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences	The outcome actively supports the delivery of the SEA objective.	R	P	++	++	++	
3. A sustainable	The importance of outdoor recreation,	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	with its health and wellbeing benefits, to the National Park's economy means that outcome will support the aims of the SEA objective						
Policies							
Policy 1.1	The management and use of land for multiple benefits and public interest priorities expressly include the provision and maintenance of an outstanding access network. The policy will therefore contribute towards maximising the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 1.2	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	
Policy 1.3	The policy aims to enhance opportunities to enjoy and experience the landscapes of the National Park, empowering people to experience, learn about and share its historic, cultural and natural heritage.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 1.4	There are no predicted effects associated	R	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	with this policy.						
Policy 1.5	The policy aims to engage people on species that are important to the National Park, empowering people to experience, learn about and share its historic, cultural and natural heritage.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 1.6	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	
Policy 1.7	The policy empowers people to experience, learn about and share the Cairngorms National Park’s historic and cultural heritage.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 2.1	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	
Policy 2.2	The policy’s overall aim to promote sustainable tourism un the National Park, should help promote opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities.	R	P	++	++	++	
Policy 2.3	The policy will help maintain the recreational value of the Cairngorms National Park and promote and maintain	R	P	++	++	++	

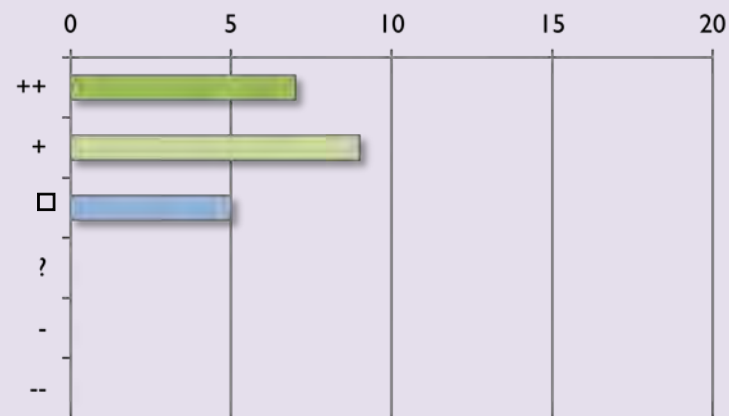
Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and lead healthy lifestyles.						
Policy 2.4	The policy will help empower people to experience, learn about and share the Cairngorms National Park's historic, cultural and natural heritage.	R	P	++	++	++	
Policy 3.1	The policy's requirement that a diversified economy draw upon the National Park's special qualities means that it should help promote opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.2	The co-location of housing and economic growth development in the strategic settlements as identified in the current and future Local Development Plans will help reduce the reliance on private motor vehicles and encourage walking and cycling.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.3	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.4	Building the capacity of communities to deliver their aspirations will enable communities to pursue the improvement and maintenance of social and physical environments / facilities that provide opportunities to enhance health and wellbeing.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.5	The policy aims to enable new development that contributes positively to a sense of place and to retain and enhance local character, which should create spaces that are legible, inclusive and pleasurable to be in and also promote active travel thus indirectly and directly promoting opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities alike.	R	P	++	++	++	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area	The importance of outdoor recreation, with its health and wellbeing benefits, to the area's economy means that Spatial Priority Area should support the aims of the SEA objective.	L	P	+	+	+	

Summary and Conclusions:

Overall, the Plan offers strong recreational benefits, increasing opportunities physical recreation and enhancing health and wellbeing. Combined, these effects are likely to be significant, particularly when considering the population and housing growth projected and permitted in the local area.

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Population and Human Health

SEA Objective(s):

8b Support vibrant, safe and healthy communities.

SEA Sub-Objectives

- Ensure the population and household growth is accommodated in appropriate locations.
- Ensure a suitable affordable housing stock is available to meet needs.
- Promote the design of settlements that improve social fabric by removing barriers and creating opportunities for positive interactions.
- Promote the inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups.
- Redress imbalances of inequality, deprivation and exclusion.
- Provide easy access to high quality facilities and services.
- Ensure that adequate healthcare premises are provided throughout the National Park.
- Reduce burden of ill-health in the population.
- Reduce the causes of accidents.
- Ensure the quality of the built environment complements the high quality natural environment.

Significant Interrelationships

Climatic factors, air, water, soil, material assets, biodiversity, fauna and flora, landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 22nd February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016, 7th March 2017, 8th March 2017, 24th March 2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	The vision's explicit objectives to support the enjoyment of the National Park by everyone, where nature and people thrive together actively contributes towards supporting vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	R	P	++	++	++	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	The outcome's interest in making the National Park a special place for people and enhancing cultural heritage actively contributes towards supporting vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	R	P	++	++	++	
2. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences	While not a direct intervention, the outcome's interest in outstanding visitor and learning experiences means that it should have some synergistic positive effects on the Sea objective.	R	P	+	+	+	
3. A sustainable	The outcome actively supports the SEA	R	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	objective's aims to support vibrant, safe and healthy communities and redress imbalances of inequality, deprivation and exclusion.						
Policies							
Policy 1.1	The policy's aim to support a long-term planned approach by land-based businesses to deliver environmental, economic and social benefits should help support vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 1.2	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	
Policy 1.3	Enhancing opportunities to enjoy and experience the landscapes of the National Park can help promote inclusion and redress imbalances of inequality, deprivation and exclusion.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 1.4	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 1.5	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	
Policy 1.6	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	
Policy 1.7	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	
Policy 2.1	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	
Policy 2.2	Ensuring visitor facilities and infrastructure are designed to manage the effects of visitor pressure on the natural heritage and communities of the National Park should support vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 2.3	Providing high quality opportunities for access and recreation through ensuring a high quality network of core paths and promoting the health benefits of outdoor recreation should help provide easy access to facilities and services, redress imbalances of inequality, deprivation and exclusion promote the inclusion of	R	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	disadvantaged and minority groups and reduce burden of ill-health in the population.						
Policy 2.4	The policy should help promote the inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups and redress imbalances of inequality, deprivation and exclusion.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 3.1	The policy actively supports the SEA objective's aims to support vibrant, safe and healthy communities and redress imbalances of inequality, deprivation and exclusion.	R	P	++	++	++	

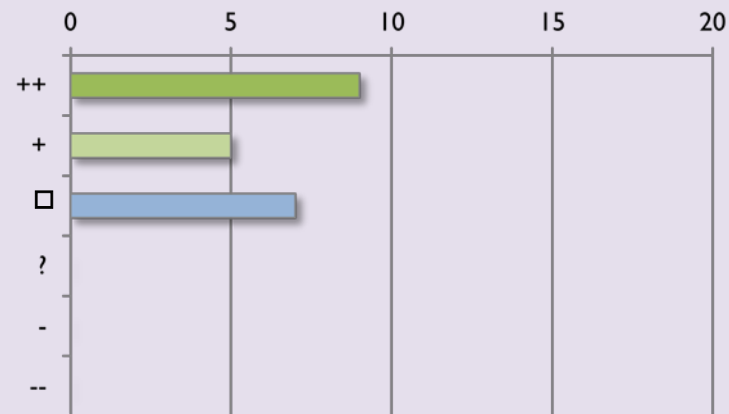
Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.2	The policy's aim to meet the majority housing need in in the strategic settlements as identified in the current and future Local Development Plans but also to ensure that there is a flexible land supply in the smaller settlements should help deliver the SEA objective's aims to ensure the population and household growth is accommodated in appropriate locations and to ensure a suitable affordable housing stock is available to meet needs, thus supporting vibrant, safe and healthy communities. The concentration of growth in these locations will also help provide easy access to the National Park's main facilities and services.	R	P	++	++	++	
Policy 3.3	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	
Policy 3.4	Supporting and building the capacity of communities to deliver their aspirations will actively support the maintenance and creation of vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	R	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.5	The policy will help promote the design of settlements that improve social fabric by removing barriers and creating opportunities for positive interactions and ensure the quality of the built environment complements the high quality natural environment.	R	P	++	++	++	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area	The purpose of the Spatial Priority Area actively supports the SEA objective's aims to support vibrant, safe and healthy communities and redress imbalances of inequality, deprivation and exclusion.	L	P	++	++	++	

Summary and Conclusions:

Overall, the Plan offers strong benefits for increasing inclusion and positive social interactions. Combined, these effects are likely to be significant, particularly when considering the population and housing growth projected and permitted in the local area.

Preferred options at glance:



Appendix 8: Glossary

Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)

If a local authority finds any places where the air quality objectives are not likely to be achieved, it must declare an Air Quality Management Area there. This area could be just one or two streets, or it could be much bigger. Then the local authority will put together a plan to improve the air quality in this area.

Alternatives

These are different ways of achieving the objectives of the plan. Alternatives are also referred to as policies.

Baseline

Data that describes issues and condition at the inception of the SEA. Serves as a starting point for measuring impacts, performance etc. and is an important reference for evaluations

Biodiversity

The variety of life on Earth at all its levels, from genes to ecosystems, and the

ecological and evolutionary processes that sustain it.

Biogenetic Reserve

Biogenetic Reserves area designated under the European network of 'living laboratories' representative of various types of natural environment found in Europe.

Buildings at Risk

Buildings, usually of some historic or cultural importance, that are considered to be at risk or under threat and placed on the Buildings at Risk Register.

Built Heritage

Built heritage represents the historical layers of our built environment in places made of brick, plaster, wood, metal and stone. Built heritage includes cathedrals and cemeteries, factories and fences, houses and hotels, museums and markets. It includes areas, precincts and streetscapes. It is the physical evidence of our cultural development.

Carbon Sink

A natural resource that takes in and stores more carbon than it releases. Important examples are peat bogs, trees and woodlands.

Catchment Area

An area of land bounded by watersheds draining into a river, basin, or reservoir. Also known as a catchment basin, drainage area or drainage basin.

Climate Change

A long term change in the 'average weather' experienced by a given region. 'Average weather' includes features such as temperature, wind patterns and precipitation.

Compensation

Providing for the equivalent of what has been lost. In biodiversity, compensation may be bigger or more than the actual original habitat due to the time delay, often years, for the compensation habitat to reach the size/quality of the original habitat.

Conservation Areas

Conservation areas are areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Planning authorities may designate areas that are of special architectural or historic interest as Conservation Areas

Consultation Authorities

Organisations with a particular status for involvement in the SEA under the Regulations. In Scotland these are the Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland).

Contaminated Land

Land that has been polluted or harmed in some way making it unfit for safe development and usage unless cleaned.

Corbett

Corbetts are Scottish mountains that are 2,500–3,000 ft (762.0–914.4 m) high with a relative height of 500ft (152.4 m).

Core Path

Core paths are paths, waterways or any other means of crossing land to facilitate, promote and manage the exercise of access rights under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, and are identified as such in access authority (either a Local or National Park Authority) core paths plans.

Cultural Heritage

Relates to both the physical artefacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present for the benefit of future generations. Includes Scheduled Monuments and other significant archaeological sites and landscapes, listed buildings, conservation areas, historic gardens and designed landscapes included in the published inventory and others of national and corporate importance which are likely to be included.

Cultural Landscape

A landscape that is taken to embrace any kind of human activity that can be related to landscape. It includes the contrived and sometimes pre-eminent expressions of

culture, like art or literature, in which the landscape may be depicted or described, as well as the prosaic and commonplace expressions, like the choice of building materials, which were perhaps not intended to create something valuable or special.

Cumulative Effects

The effects that result from changes caused by a project, plan, programme or policy in association with other past, present or reasonably foreseeable future plans and actions. Cumulative effects are specifically noted in the SEA Directive in order to emphasise the need for broad and comprehensive information regarding effects.

Ecological Connectivity

The natural link for species/genetic information to travel between habitats/populations to prevent/reverse the effects of habitats fragmentation and to allow species to adapt better to climate change.

Ecological Footprint

The ecological footprint is a measure of human demand on the Earth's ecosystems, the amount of natural capital used each year.

Ecosystem services

Ecosystem services are the products and services, such as oxygen production, water purification, carbon sequestration etc, which humans receive from functioning ecosystems. These services and products are provided by the natural environment when it is in good condition. For example, a peat bog in good condition can provide services of water purification, carbon sequestration and flood alleviation.

Enhancement

Measures envisaged to maximise the benefits of the positive actions of implementing the plan. Biodiversity enhancements are an improvement to a habitat/species population over and above what is already there. This could be through increasing/restoring habitats or increasing/improving opportunities for species.

Environment

Mostly used in an ecological sense to cover natural resources and the relationships between them. However, more broadly it is the surroundings or conditions in which all persons, animals, or plants live or operate.

Environmental Assessment

A tool for integrating environmental considerations into decision making by assessing the significant environmental effects. In the SEA Directive, an environmental assessment means “the preparation of an Environmental Report”, the carrying out of consultations, the taking into account of the Environmental Report and the results of the consultations in decision making and the provision of information on the decision”, in accordance with the Directive’s requirements.

Environmental Report

Document required by the SEA Directive as part of an environmental assessment, which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme.

European Sites

For the purpose of the SEA, European sites comprise Special Areas for Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Ramsar sites and Biogenetic Reserves.

Flood

The temporary inundation of land not normally covered by water.

Flood Prevention

Works, including man-made walls, channels, embankments and flood storage areas that are designed to protect an area from flooding or to reduce its effects.

Flood Risk

A combination of the probability of a flood and of the potential for adverse consequences associated with a flood for human health, the natural and historic environment and economic activity.

Geoconservation

Geoconservation involves recognising, protecting and managing sites and landscapes identified as important for their rocks, fossils, minerals, or other geological or geomorphological features of interest.

Geodiversity

Geodiversity is the variety of rocks, minerals, fossils, landforms, sediments and soils, together with the natural processes which form and alter them.

Geological Conservation Review (GCR) Sites

The GCR identifies those sites of national and international importance that show the scientific elements of the Earth heritage of Britain. These sites display sediments, rocks, fossils, and features of the landscape that make a special contribution to our understanding and appreciation of Earth science and the geological history of Britain,

Geomorphology

The branch of geology that is concerned with the structure, origin, and development of the topographical features of the earth's surface.

Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA)

An Appraisal of the potential effects of PPS on one or more International sites, both within the Responsible Authority's boundary and any sites that could be

affected outside the boundary. The assessment looks at whether a PPS is likely to have a significant effect on an International site, alone or in combination. If so, an Appropriate Assessment is carried out to see whether the PPS would have an adverse effect on site integrity. If it is found that the PPS is likely to have a significant negative impact on any of the sites, the plan will need to be amended accordingly.

Historic Environment

The historic environment includes ancient monuments, archaeological sites and landscapes, historic buildings, townscapes, parks, gardens and designated landscapes and features, both statutory and non-statutory. It also includes the location of historic features in the landscape and the patterns of past use.

Historic Landscape

A landscape which displays a myriad of features that are the result of the activities of the people who used and shaped the land to serve their needs in the past: they reflect the beliefs, attitudes, traditions and values of those people.

Household

A household is defined as:

- one person living alone, or
- a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room or dining area.

Household Waste

Waste from a domestic property, caravan, residential home or from premises forming part of a university, school or other educational establishment.

Indicator

A means by which change in a system or to an objective can be measured.

International Sites

See European Sites.

Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland

The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland is a listing of gardens and designed landscapes of national artistic and/or historical significance.

The Inventory of Historic Battlefields

The Inventory of Historic Battlefields is a heritage register listing nationally significant battlefields.

Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)

JSA is an unemployment benefit that can be claim by those looking for work. It can be used as an indicator for employment rates.

Landfill

The permanent disposal of waste into the ground, by the filling of man-made voids or similar features, or the construction of landforms above ground level (land-raising).

Landscape Character

The distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements that occur within a particular landscape and how these are perceived. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landforms, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement.

Landscape Character Areas

Single unique areas that are the discrete geographical expression of a particular landscape type.

Local Authority

In Scotland, a Unitary Authority with the responsibility for all local government functions within its area.

Listed Buildings

A building or structure of special archaeological or historic interest. Listed buildings are graded A, B or C, with Grade A being the highest. Listing can include the interior and exterior of a building an any building or permanent structure. Historic Environment Scotland is responsible for designating listed buildings in Scotland.

Local Development Plan

The Local Development Plan is a statutory plan which sets out policies and specific proposals for the development and use of land in the county for approximately 5 years and provides strategic direction for the next 20. Local Development Plans were introduced in 2004 following the introduction of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006.

Mitigation

Measures to avoid, reduce or offset significant adverse effects.

Monitoring

Activities undertaken after the decision is made to adopt the plan or programme to examine its implementation. For example, monitoring to examine whether the significant environmental effects occur as predicted or to establish whether mitigation and enhancement measures are implemented and are working.

Muirburn

Prescribed burning used to improve spring grazing for sheep and deer, but is deployed mainly on driven grouse moors as rotational strip burning ('strip muirburn') of heather moorland to maintain a mosaic of young and old heather to provide forage and cover respectively for red grouse.

Munro

A Munro is a mountain in Scotland with a height over 3,000ft (914.4 m).

National Designations

For the purpose of the SEA, National Designations comprise areas statutorily designated by the UK government i.e. National Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP)

The Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP) 2017-2022 will be the management plan for the Cairngorms National Park as required under section 11 of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000.

National Nature Reserves (NNR)

NNRs are statutory nature reserves designed under Part III of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

National Scenic Area (NSA)

NSAs were designated in 1980/1981 in recognition of their outstanding scenery. Along with Scotland's two National Parks, they represent our nation's finest landscapes.

Natura 2000

Under the EU Habitats Directive, SPAs and SACs are together intended to form a European-wide network of protected areas designed to maintain or restore the distribution and abundance of species and habitats of EU interest. Many areas qualify for both SPA and SAC designation and as a matter of Government policy Ramsar Convention sites are afforded the same level of protection.

Natural Flood Management

Natural Flood Management means working with natural processes with the aim of restoring a catchment's natural capacity to deal with floods, thereby reducing flood risk and delivering other important social and environmental benefits.

Objective

A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends.

Policies

See Alternatives.

Placemaking

A design process aimed at creating integrated communities that are based upon high quality, distinct, accessible areas, which will help generate strong a sense of community enabling healthy lifestyles.

Planned Towns

A town that was carefully planned from its inception and is typically constructed in a previously undeveloped area.

Plans, Policies and Strategies

Part of Stage A of the SEA process, the 'scoping' stage, requires a thorough review of relevant plans, policies and strategies (PPSs) to be completed. This review is used to inform the SEA process, to ensure the plan is informed by up to date information and is also based on sound evidence.

Potentially Vulnerable Area (PVA)

Potentially vulnerable areas are areas identified by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in accordance with section 13 of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 where

SEPA considers that significant flood risk exists or is likely to occur.

Prime Quality Agricultural Land

Prime Quality Agricultural Land is land identified as being of Class 1, 2 or 3.1 in the land capability classification for agriculture as developed by the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute.

Protected Areas

Protected areas represent the very best of Scotland's landscapes, plants and animals, rocks, fossils and landforms. They take the form of local, national and international designations, including National Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites.

Quantitative Reasoning

Quantitative reasoning is the application of mathematical concepts and skills to solve real-world problems.

Ramsar Site

Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention. The designation recognises the fundamental ecological functions of these areas as well as

their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value.

Responsible Authority

Under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, the authority by which or on whose behalf the plan is prepared, or its successor.

Scheduled Monuments

A Scheduled Monument is a monument of national importance that the Scottish Ministers have given legal protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. There are over 200 classes of monuments from prehistoric standing stones and burial mounds, through the many types of medieval site (e.g. castles, monasteries, abandoned farmsteads and villages) to more the recent result of human activity, such as collieries and wartime pillboxes.

Scoping Report

The Scoping Report summarises the findings of Stage A of the SEA process and outlines such matters as identifying other relevant plans, policies and programmes,

baseline information, environmental issues (problems and opportunities).

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across all of Scotland in a consistent way. It allows effective targeting of policies and funding where the aim is to wholly or partly tackle or take account of area concentrations of multiple deprivation.

Secondary Effects

This concept recognises that achieving economic growth has to be done in such a way that does not harm the environment or squander the natural resources we depend on, whilst at the same time distributing the wealth this creates equally to improve quality of life now and in the future.

Significant Environmental Effects

There is no statutory definition of significance. However, for the purposes of this assessment a significant effect has been defined as an effect that, either in isolation

or in combination with others, should, in the opinion of the assessor, be taken into account in the decision-making process.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Designated under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, SSSIs are those areas of land and water that SNH considers to best represent Scotland's natural heritage - its diversity of plants, animals and habitats, rocks and landforms, or a combinations of such natural features

Soil Sealing

The covering of the soil surface with impervious materials as a result of urban development and infrastructure construction. Sealed areas are lost to uses such as agriculture or forestry while the ecological soil functions are severely impaired or even prevented (e.g. soil working as a buffer and filter system or as a carbon sink). In addition, surrounding soils may be influenced by change in water flow patterns or the fragmentation of habitats.

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SACs are strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive.

Special Protection Areas

SPAs are strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Birds Directive.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment is a systematic method for considering the likely environmental effects of certain PPS. It is required under the SEA Directive.

Sustainable Development

This concept recognises that achieving economic growth has to be done in such a way that does not harm the environment or squander the natural resources we depend on, whilst at the same time distributing the wealth this creates equally to improve quality of life now and in the future.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

An approach to managing rainfall and run off in developments, with a view to replicating natural drainage. SuDS also aim to reduce pollution, control flooding and often provide environmental enhancements.

Synergistic Effects

A type of cumulative effect where two or more impacts combine to produce a complex interaction where the effect may be larger or smaller than component impacts. Synergistic effects are specifically noted in the SEA Directive in order to emphasise the need for broad and comprehensive information regarding the effects.

SEA Directive

Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

Waste

Waste is any material or object that is no longer wanted and requires disposal. If a material or object is re-usable, it is still classed as waste if it has first been discarded.

Waste Hierarchy

A framework for securing a sustainable approach to waste management. The Revised Waste Framework Directive 2010 outlines a new hierarchy which should act

as a 'priority order' in waste prevention, legislation and policy. The amended hierarchy is Prevention; then Preparing for reuse; Recycling; Other recovery including energy recovery; and finally Disposal.

Wellbeing

A holistic, subjective state which is present when a range of feelings, among them energy, confidence, openness, enjoyment, happiness, calm and caring, are combined and balanced.

Wild Land

Large areas whose largely semi-natural landscapes show minimal signs of human influence. These areas can be mountains and moorland, stretches of undeveloped coast or large areas of peat bog.

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