

PLANNING

Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan (as modified)

Strategic Environmental Assessment
Environmental Report

Cairngorms National Park
Proposed Local Development Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment
Environmental Report

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SEA Environmental Report - Cover Note

PART 1

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PART 2

An SEA Scoping Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled:

Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan as modified

The Responsible Authority is:

The Cairngorms National Park Authority

PART 3

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PART 4

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Date	November 2014

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Non-Technical Summary

This is a non-technical summary of the Environmental Report, part of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the proposed Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan. It explains:

- what the SEA is;
- how it has been carried out;
- what effects the proposed Local Development Plan is likely to have on the environment;
- how the SEA has influenced the Plan;
- next steps.

What is the SEA?

SEA is a way of making sure that the environmental effects of a Plan are thought about carefully as the Plan is made. The point of doing it is to make sure that the Plan has as few bad effects on the environment as possible and has as many good effects as possible. It is also undertaken to help the consultation on the Plan by giving the public information about the effects it could have. It is a legal requirement for public sector bodies to do a SEA on many plans they produce.

How has the SEA been carried out?

The proposed Local Development Plan will set policies and proposals for development and the use of land for the next 5-10 years and will give the basis for the assessment of all planning applications made across the whole of the National Park. The proposed Local Development Plan is the second stage of consultation in developing the Plan. The Cairngorms National Park Authority published and consulted on a Main Issues Report and an Environmental Report of the SEA between 19 September and 9 December 2011 to identify the main land use planning issues for the Park.

The SEA:

- summarises what state the environment is in just now; how it has changed, is expected to change; and the big issues facing it;
- looks at how the environment might change without the Plan;
- picks out the things that are most important in the Park's environment that are relevant to the Plan and need to be thought about while it is prepared;
- tests the different parts of the Plan against those points to predict what effects it might have on them;
- makes the Plan change to avoid bad effects or to have better effects on the environment;
- records the results of this assessment; and
- picks out what information needs to be used in future so that we can see what effects the Plan has on the environment as it is delivered.

For this SEA, the Cairngorms National Park Authority used the idea of ecosystems to help choose what the assessment should test the Plan against. The idea of ecosystems helps people to understand some of the complicated links between different parts of the

environment. Using it has helped us ask questions that are most relevant to the environmental issues in the Park.

What effect is the proposed Local Development Plan likely to have on the environment?

The assessment shows that the proposed Local Development Plan should have many good effects on the environment and is unlikely to have bad effects. This is because:

1. Many of the policies in the proposed Plan are intended to protect the environment and if possible, to make new development improve the environment of the Park;
2. All the policies of the proposed Plan will apply to all development. Although a particular policy or even proposal could have a bad effect if it was used without any thought for its environmental effects, other parts of the proposed Plan balance it or prevent the bad effect;
3. Sites that have been identified for future development in the proposed Plan have been chosen to minimise environmental effects;
4. Comments on the Main Issues Report and its SEA (that were consulted on in 2011) have helped the proposed Plan avoid significant effects on the environment.

The proposed Plan also identifies potential environmental issues that development could have and explains how they can be avoided or what information will be needed by the planning authority in order to decide whether they will be avoided. That means developers can consider relevant environmental issues as they design developments in detail so they comply with the policies in the proposed Plan. If development proposals do not comply with those policies, they do not comply with the Plan.

How has the SEA influenced the Plan?

The SEA has helped to make sure that environmental issues were considered in detail throughout the development of the Plan. It has helped develop strong planning policies and select sites for development that meet the needs of communities and avoid bad effects on the environment.

What are the next steps?

The proposed Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan and the Environmental Report of the SEA are being consulted on between April and July 2013. Following consideration of the representations on the Plan, it will be submitted to Scottish Ministers and an Examination of the Plan by a Scottish Government appointed Reporter will take place. Following direction from the Reporter, any post examination modifications will be published with the Proposed Plan and an updated SEA Environmental Report.

I Introduction

Purpose of this Environmental Report

I.1 As part of the preparation of the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan, the Cairngorms National Park Authority is carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is a systematic method for considering the likely environmental effects of certain Plans, Programmes or Strategies (PPS). SEA aims to:

- integrate environmental factors into PPS preparation and decision making;
- improve PPS and enhance environmental protection;
- increase public participation in decision making; and
- facilitate openness and transparency of decision making.

I.2 SEA is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The key SEA stages are:

Screening	determining whether the PPS is likely to have significant environmental effects and whether an SEA is required.
Scoping	deciding on the scope and level of detail of the Environmental Report, and the consultation period for the report – this is undertaken in consultation with Scottish Natural Heritage, The Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.
Environmental Report	publishing an Environmental Report on the PPS and its environmental effects, and consulting on that report.
Adoption	providing information on: the adopted PPS; how consultation comments have been taken into account; and methods for monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the PPS.
Monitoring	monitoring significant environmental effects in such a manner so as to also enable the Responsible Authority to identify any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and undertake appropriate remedial action.

I.3 The purpose of this Environmental Report is to:

- provide information on the proposed Local Development Plan;
- identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the PPS and its reasonable alternatives;
- provide an early and effective opportunity for the Consultation Authorities and the public to offer views on any aspect of this Environmental Report.

Key Facts about the proposed Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan

- 1.4 Planning in the Cairngorms National Park is unique. It involves the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) working alongside the five local authorities which operate in the Park – Aberdeenshire, Angus, Highland, Moray and Perth & Kinross. The Local Development Plan together with any Supplementary Guidance sets the detailed policies and proposals for the whole of the Park. It is the document against which all planning applications will be judged.
- 1.5 Planning applications are submitted to the relevant local authority in the normal manner. The local authority ensures all the necessary information is supplied and registers receipt of the application. The CNPA is informed by the local authority and then decides whether to call-in the application. Only applications which are of general significance to the aims of the Park are called in and determined by the CNPA. The local authority determines those applications not called-in. The Local Development Plan applies to all planning applications, regardless of whether they are called-in or not.
- 1.6 The Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) is required to prepare a Local Development Plan for the Cairngorms National Park and to update it every five years under the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. The Act requires the Local Development Plan to set out where most new development will happen and include policies that will guide decision making on planning applications.
- 1.7 The first formal stage in the preparation of the Cairngorms Local Development Plan was the preparation of a Main Issues Report for consultation between September and December 2011. An environmental report of the SEA was published for consultation with the Main Issues Report.
- 1.8 A proposed Local Development Plan was published and consulted between April and July 2013. An Examination of the proposed Plan was held between February and September 2014, where Reporters from the Scottish Government's Department of Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA) considered unresolved issues with the Plan. The Report of the Examination was received by the CNPA on 08 September 2014 and sets out the Reporters recommendations on how the CNPA should modify the proposed Plan. Those recommendations are largely binding on the CNPA and the modifications have been made along with any consequential modifications or minor corrections to the Plan. This Environmental Report is for the proposed Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan (as modified).
- 1.9 The general purpose of the National Park Authority set out in the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 is to ensure that the National Park aims are collectively achieved in a co-ordinated way. The Park Authority is therefore an enabling organisation that must work with and through other bodies to bring added value to the management of the Park, to achieve the four aims (see below)

The aims of the National Park are:

- to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area;
- to promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area;

- to promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public;
- to promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.

I.10 The existing Cairngorms National Park Local Plan was adopted in October 2010. This plan did not include the latterly included area of Perth and Kinross into the National Park boundary. The adopted Local Plan does not therefore cover this part of the National Park, where the Perth & Kinross Council Highland Area Local Plan 2000 remains in force. The CNPA is reviewing the Local Plan to provide a Park-wide Local Development Plan that also reflects the strategy and policy framework that is set out in the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017.

I.11 The Local Development Plan falls under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The Plan has potential to generate significant environmental effects and so a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is being undertaken.

I.12 The key facts relating to the proposed Local Development Plan are set out in Table I below:

Table I. Key Facts about the proposed Local Development Plan	
Responsible Authority	Cairngorms National Park Authority
Title of PPS	Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan (the Proposed Plan)
Purpose of PPS	To set out policies and proposals for development and use of land for the next 5-10 years, and provide the basis for the assessment of all planning applications made across the whole of the National Park.
What prompted the PPS	Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006, and review of the National Park Partnership Plan
Subject (eg transport)	Land Use Planning
Period covered by PPS	2013-2018
Frequency of updates	5 years
Area covered by PPS	The Cairngorms National Park
Summary of nature and content of PPS	<p>The Plan provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a vision; • a spatial strategy; • 10 Policies and Supplementary Guidance; • Community information for 28 communities including proposals for development; and • 4 Development Briefs for proposed development sites. <p>Each section has a purpose and provides important information that will be used to determine planning applications. Development proposals will be assessed against all policies and relevant information within the Plan, so the Plan must be read in its entirety to understand the decision making process.</p>

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SEA Activities to Date

- I.13 SEA has been undertaken at different stages and levels of detail throughout the development of the Local Development Plan. The Main Issues Report that was published in 2011 set out the issues that would be most relevant to development in addressing the needs of communities and delivering the aims of the National Park (including some that were related to environmental problems) as well as options for the Local Development Plan to take.
- I.14 Environmental information and assessment was been central to the selection and appraisal of sites as well as the development of policies within the proposed Local Development Plan. This Environmental Report of the SEA should be read alongside the proposed Local Development Plan and the supporting information that goes with it. The background evidence reports that accompany the proposed Plan and those that accompanied the Main Issues Report, include more detailed environmental information relating to different sites such as habitat surveys, flood risk and landscape surveys that have also informed the development of the proposed Plan.
- I.15 Table 2 summarises the SEA activities to date in relation to the proposed Development Plan (as modified):

Table 2. SEA activity to date		
SEA Action/Activity	When carried out	Notes
Scoping the consultation periods and the level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report	<i>June - July 2011</i>	Led to changes in assessment methodology
Outline and objectives of the PPS (Local Development Plan)	<i>2010</i>	
Relationship with other PPS and environmental objectives	<i>2010-2011</i>	
Environmental baseline established	<i>2010-2011</i>	
Environmental problems identified	<i>2010-2011</i>	
Assessment of future of area without the PPS	<i>2010-2011</i>	
Alternatives considered	<i>2010-2011</i>	Alternatives have been considered throughout the process and as an integral part of the development of the Main Issues Report.
Environmental assessment methods established	<i>Apr 2011</i>	
Selection of PPS alternatives to be included in the environmental assessment	<i>May 2011</i>	No reasonable alternatives have been identified for assessment.

Identification of environmental problems that may persist after implementation and measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects	<i>Mar-June 2011</i>	
Monitoring methods proposed	<i>Mar-June 2011</i>	
Consultation timescales	<i>Sept-Dec 2011</i>	
Notification/publicity action	<i>Sep-Dec 2011</i>	
Analysis of Consultation responses	<i>Jan-March 2012</i>	
Development of Proposed Local Development Plan and review and refinement of SEA	<i>March 2012- Feb 2013</i>	Review of consultation comments to both the Main Issues Report and its Environmental Report have helped develop the Proposed Local Development Plan and to refine SEA methodology.
Notification/publicity action	<i>Apr –July 2013</i>	
Review of representations on proposed Local Development Plan and on SEA followed by Examination of Plan by Scottish Government appointed Reporter.	<i>Aug 2013- Sept 2014</i>	
Modifications to proposed Local Development Plan in response to Reporters' Recommendations and review of SEA/Environmental Report in light of modifications.	<i>Sept 2014 – Nov 2014</i>	Modifications have changed proposed Plan slightly. SEA also updated to take account of comments on Environmental Report published with proposed Plan.
Publication of revised Environmental Report with modifications to proposed Plan	<i>Dec 2014</i>	

2 Context for the Local Development Plan

Outline and Objectives of the Local Development Plan

- 2.1 The Cairngorms National Park Authority is the responsible authority for the preparation of the Local Development Plan. The Local Development Plan sets out detailed policies and proposals to guide development for a five-year period as well as a clear sense of where development may go for up to 20 years.
- 2.2 The Local Development Plan builds on the vision, long-term outcomes, and policy context of the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017 and helps to deliver some of the National Park Partnership Plan's five-year outcomes.
- 2.3 Tables 3 and 4 below outline the Local Development Plan. All have been assessed through SEA (some assessed through the SEA of the adopted Local Plan) and have been informed by the environmental issues facing the Cairngorms National Park.

Table 3: Strategy and Policy content of the Plan	
Vision	The Vision from the National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017
Spatial Strategy	Focuses growth and development in the settled valleys and straths of the Park.
Policy & Supplementary Guidance (SG)	Purpose
1. New Housing Development & SG	To provide for new housing development that meets the needs of communities.
2. Supporting Economic Growth & SG	To enable growth and diversification of the economy of the National Park.
3. Sustainable Design & SG	To ensure all new development delivers high standards of sustainable design and contributes to sense of place.
4. Natural Heritage & SG	To ensure that development conserves and enhances the natural heritage of the Park
5. Landscape & SG	To ensure that development conserves and enhances the special landscape qualities of the Park.
6. The Siting and Design of Digital Communications Infrastructure	To support world class digital technology networks whilst ensuring that all such infrastructure installations are sited and designed to keep environmental impacts to a minimum.
7. Renewable Energy & SG	To enable the development of appropriate renewable energy generation schemes.
8. Sport and Recreation & SG	To ensure that development meets the needs of local communities for recreational space and facilities.
9. Cultural Heritage & SG	To conserve and enhance the rich cultural heritage of the Park.
10. Resources & SG	To reduce overall use of resources, protect resources from development where appropriate and ensure resources are used and managed in a sustainable way.
11. Developer Contributions & SG	To ensure new development makes an appropriate contribution to managing the impacts of that development on infrastructure, services and communities.

12. Core Paths Plan SG	The Core Paths Plan SG marks a core paths network to meet the requirements of S17 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.
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Table 4: Communities

(with proposals for new development)

An Camas Mòr	
Aviemore and vicinity	ED1, ED2, ED3, ED4
Ballater	H1, H2, ED1, T1, CI
Blair Atholl	ED1, T1, CI
Boat of Garten	H1, ED1, T1
Braemar	H1, ED1, ED2, T1, CI
Carr-Bridge	H1, H2, ED1, ED2, T1
Cromdale and Advie	H1, ED1
Dalwhinnie	H1, H2, ED1
Dinnet	H1, H2,
Dalnain Bridge	H1, ED1
Glenmore	T1, T2
Grantown-on-Spey	H1, H2, ED1, T1, CI
Inverdrue and Coylumbridge	T1
Killiecrankie	H1
Kincraig and vicinity	H1, ED1
Kingussie	ED1, ED2, ED3, T1, CI, C2, C3
Nethy Bridge	H1
Newtonmore	H1, ED1, ED2
Tomintoul	H1, H2, ED1, ED2, ED3, T1, CI

(with proposals to maintain existing development)

Angus Glens
Bruar and Pitagowan
Calvine
Glenlivet
Glenshee
Insh
Laggan
Strathdon and vicinity

Development Briefs (with additional detail on how particular sites should be developed)

Dalnain Bridge H1
Grantown-on-Spey H1
Kincraig H1
Newtonmore H1

Relationship with other plans, programmes and strategies, and their environmental objectives

- 2.4 Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental Report includes an outline of the PPS relationships with other relevant PPS, and how environmental protection objectives have been taken into account in the PPS preparation. This section covers these issues and describes the policy context within which the PPS operates.
- 2.5 The Local Development Plan must have appropriate regard to a wide range of national and international laws, policy and strategy. For example, the Habitats and Birds Directives, Water Framework Directive, Scottish Climate Change Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy and National Planning Framework all provide a context and direction for the Local Development Plan.
- 2.6 Local strategies and policies are also influential, including local housing strategies, housing need and demand assessments, local transport strategies. Catchment management plans for the rivers Dee, South Esk and Spey also provide direction.
- 2.7 The Local Development Plan must also take direction from policies and plans produced by the CNPA. It gets its strategic context and vision from the National Park Partnership Plan, and is influenced by other documents including, Outdoor Access Strategy and the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. The Local Development Plan incorporates the Core Paths Plan for the Cairngorms National Park as Supplementary Guidance (SG).
- 2.8 The full range of relevant environmental objectives is extensive and often duplicated between PPS at the same level or different levels. Appendix I to this Environmental report summarises the main PPS, environmental objectives and relationships with the Local Development Plan in more detail. Table 5 below summarises the main points related to SEA issues.

Table 5. The points for the proposed Local Development Plan from other PPSs

SEA Issues	Main points for the proposed LDP
Biodiversity, flora, fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance biodiversity, particularly the nationally and internationally rare and threatened species and habitats • Help species and habitats adapt to the effects of climate change
Population & human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve health (particularly through outdoor recreation and exercise) • Adapt to the effects of climate change and avoid hazards as a result of extreme weather events
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain productive capacity of soils • Prevent erosion of soils • Maintain or improve carbon storage of soils and peat
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve water quality • Encourage natural processes, particularly natural flood management and catchment processes • Conserve water

Air & climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases • Adapt to the effects of climate change • Increase sequestration of carbon
Material assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve landscapes of the Park (as one of the attractions for visitors) • Help settlement adapt to the effects of climate change • Maintain and increase the supply of timber and woodfuel for local use • Minimise energy use and encourage development of renewable energy • Minimise waste
Cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve, preserve and record architectural and archaeological heritage
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the special and distinct landscape character and qualities of the Park
Inter-relationships between issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve the health of ecosystems and natural systems (which cut across all issues)

Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment

- 2.9 Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental Report includes a description of ‘the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme’, and ‘the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected’. This section aims to describe the environmental context within which the PPS operates and the constraints and targets that this context imposes on the PPS.
- 2.10 The CNPA has adopted an ecosystems approach to the SEA of the Local Development Plan (continuing the approach adopted to assess the Main Issue Report and the National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017). The ecosystems approach should provide a clearer strategic context for the SEA by focusing on the services that ecosystems provide, their importance to the health of the ecosystem (in the National Park and beyond), and the products or benefits that people get from them (see Appendix 3). The approach will draw on the work of the National Ecosystems Assessment (NEA) <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/Home/tabid/38/Default.aspx>
- 2.11 The ecosystems approach is one that fits well with the Local Development Plan, as a tool for managing the National Park and for delivering the four National Park aims. It also has potential to improve future plans, programmes and strategies (and their SEAs) in the Park by providing a common understanding of the important issues and interactions between systems.

Building the ecosystems approach into SEA

2.12 Ecosystem services are one way of defining the things in the natural environment that benefit people. They range from things like the ways soils are formed, clean water to drink, air to breath, plants and animals we eat, to the pleasure we take from skiing on hills or looking at landscapes and wildlife. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) identifies four broad categories of ecosystem services that were also used for the NEA and have become an accepted way of identifying and categorising them:

1. **Provisioning Services** – the products we get from ecosystems such as food, fibre and water;
2. **Regulating Services** – the benefits we get from the regulation of ecosystem process such as the regulation of pollination, the climate, noise and water;
3. **Cultural Services** – the non-material benefits we get from ecosystems such as spiritual enrichment, inspiration for art, recreation, cultural heritage, tourism and simple aesthetic experience. The way that people value nature can also be a cultural service, for example, iconic or rare species may not be critical to an ecosystem, yet are protected because people would like them to be a self-sustaining part of it;
4. **Supporting Services** – functions of the ecosystem that are essential for the production of all other ecosystem services such as soil formation, the cycling of nutrients, water cycling, production of atmospheric oxygen and provision of habitat.

2.13 The ecosystem approach has been extended to place value on different ecosystems services and to estimate the economic value of different services to human society. A simple categorisation of the importance of different ecosystem services using a high to low scale has been used to indicate relative value.

Environmental baseline

2.14 The NEA identifies eight broad habitats in the UK that can be associated with ecosystems:

- enclosed farmlands
- woodlands
- open waters (rivers, lochs, wetlands and floodplains)
- mountains moor and heathland
- semi-natural grasslands
- urban
- coastal margins
- marine

2.15 Six of those broad habitats are significant in the Cairngorms National Park:

- **Enclosed farmlands** – mainly confined to the straths of the Park. Although very little of the farmland of the Park is classed as prime quality (the highest productive capacity), they are a local source of food for the population of the Park. The farmlands are close to many of the rivers and tributaries, and in some cases are part of the functional floodplains of the Park. They can affect the water

quality and function of those water bodies, and are an important habitat for wading birds – both for breeding and feeding. Enclosed farmlands also contain evidence and remains from past human uses, with historic land uses, remains and evident or hidden in the landscape. The long history of farming and crofting throughout the Park means that the past uses of these areas is easily appreciated by today's society.

- **Woodlands** – the Cairngorms National Park has a wide variety of forests and woodland, including many rare or threatened woodland habitats and associated species. Many woodlands are designated for nature conservation and some are important as a source of timber and woodfuel. Woodlands play an important role in the water cycling by slowing the discharge of water towards rivers, preventing erosion of soils and landslides. They are also important to local climates – riparian woodland can slow or prevent water temperature increases by shading, and woodland provides shelter from strong winds. Woodland in the Park also contains evidence and remains from past human uses – in some case these are evident in the landscape and in others they are hidden. The diversity and age of woodland means that the history of past use and management is celebrated in the Park.
- **Open waters (rivers, lochs, wetlands and floodplains)** – the Park has the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers as well as many smaller ones. Many are designated for nature conservation. It also has an intricate network of high level and lower level wetlands and open water bodies, including valley flood plains. As well as providing water for the habitats and people in the National Park, rivers from the Park provide water to other parts of Scotland. The rivers have strongly influenced society and they way the National Park has been settled and used by society through travel routes and crossing points, with built and archaeological heritage evident along most water courses.
- **Mountains, moor and heathland** – much of the Park falls into this broad habitat, and large areas are designated for habitat or species conservation. The Park is internationally famous and valued for these habitats, and it would be appropriate to make a distinction between mountains and moorland as major habitats in their own rights in the Park. Moorlands in the Cairngorms National Park tend to be managed for grouse shooting but overlap with areas of upland wetland and blanket bog. The peat deposits of moorlands are a significant store of carbon. Moorlands and mountains contain evidence of past human activity, often preserved beneath peat. Some of the earliest evidence of humans in the National Park comes from passes with the mountains that were used as main routes for travel until modern transport and the current established road and rail network were developed.
- **Semi-natural grasslands** – mainly in the form of acid grassland these are often associated with moorlands in the Park. Acid grasslands are not a dominant habitat in their own right in the Park and tend to occur where moorland is used for rough grazing by sheep or cattle, or are present where deer graze heavily. In some locations in the Park, both moorland and acid grassland habitats are used for grazing by sheep and cattle at the margins of farmland and as an integral part of upland farming – the semi-natural grasslands form a transition between farmland in valleys and lower slopes to moorland on the upper slopes and hill tops. These area contain a wealth of archaeology associated with farming

practices and settlement from earlier times going back hundreds and thousands of years. When more people lived a subsistence life from the land, many of these areas supported small and dispersed communities and settlements on land now considered marginal and remote. The final migration to the towns from these areas is only a few generations past and remains a strong part of the identity of parts of the Park.

- **Urban** – only a small part of the land area of the Park is urban (around 13.5 square km or about a third of 1 per cent of the total land area of the Park). However, it's in urban areas where most of the Park's 17,500 residents live, and in and between urban areas where most human activity takes place. A significant part of the built heritage of the Park is linked to its settlements, with planned settlements and distinct architecture.

2.16 So, for the Cairngorms National Park, seven broad habitats can be identified:

- enclosed farmlands
- woodlands
- open waters (rivers, lochs, wetlands and floodplains)
- mountains
- moor
- semi-natural grasslands
- urban

2.17 Each of these habitats has a range of ecosystems services. Appendix 3 of the Environmental Report provides a more detailed explanation of how and why ecosystems services are relevant to the National Park and to the SEA. It also provides a more detailed description of the environmental baseline by habitat types and ecosystems services.

2.18 A more conventional summary of the environmental baseline is shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Conventional Summary Description of Environmental Baseline	
Biodiversity, flora, fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% of UK's threatened species present and is the UK stronghold for many species • 51% of Park area designated for natural heritage conservation (48% of European importance and 26% of national importance). 74.5% of the designated features of these sites are in favourable condition (at December 2010).
Population & human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of c.17,500 • 25.8% of population over 60 (higher than Scottish average) • Average health index in top 25% of Scotland (based on deprivation indices) • Extensive core paths network • 55 Munros including 5 summits over 4,000 feet • 3 ski centres • National Cycle Network Route 7 • 1 Long Distance Route (Speyside Way)
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 SSSIs with soils of international importance • 12 SSSIs with soils of national importance • High proportion of undisturbed soils (only 2% cultivated) • Podzols form 50% of soil cover including internationally significant alpine podzols on the plateau

Table 6. Conventional Summary Description of Environmental Baseline

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peat forms 13% of soil cover • Significant Scottish carbon store in soils and peat
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 81% of streams classified as excellent (A1) or good (A2) (SEPA 2003) • 20 sq km standing waters • Catchments of 6 major rivers • Groundwater resources
Air & climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively low atmospheric pollution • Annual precipitation over 2250mm on summits and under 900mm in straths • Average annual snow cover 200 days on summits and 50 days on low-ground • Prevailing winds from south-west
Material assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding geological heritage • High quality timber from productive native woodlands • Local woodfuel sources • Potential for small scale micro renewables
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 designated historic gardens & designed landscapes • 110 Scheduled Ancient Monuments • 741 listed buildings • 3 Conservation Areas • Numerous records in the National Monuments Record of Scotland • Large number of historic landscapes • 2 Inventory Historic Battlefield sites for Battle of Cromdale and Battle of Killiecrankie • Potential for survival of many unknown remains in upland areas • Distinctive local vernacular architecture • Cultural landscapes and associations with landscapes and land uses
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 GCR sites (of which some are part or all SSSI) • Granite massif and plateau • Internationally important landform record • Coherent identity of landscape across Park from landform and landcover • Extensive areas where the special quality of wildness can be experienced • Understanding and appreciation of the special landscape qualities of the Park

Environmental problems

2.19 Schedule 3, paragraph 4 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental Report includes a description of existing environmental problems, in particular those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance. The purpose of this section is to explain how existing environmental problems will affect or be affected by the Local Development Plan and whether the Plan is likely to aggravate, reduce or otherwise affect existing environmental problems.

2.20 Table 7 summarises the key trends and environmental issues associated with the broad habitats of the Park.

Likely evolution of the environment without the Local Development Plan

- 2.21 The Local Development Plan will not resolve any of the environmental problems in the Park in its own right. It provides a framework for future development to take place without causing environmental problems and where possible to improve the state of the environment.
- 2.22 Without the Local Development Plan, it is likely that fewer environmental issues in the Cairngorms National Park would be tackled as affectively because there would not be an up to date and Park-wide development plan to deal with them. However, many of the environmental problems would be tackled by other PPSs, and other statutory frameworks, including the adopted Local Plan. The implementation of the Local Development Plan should lead to some long-term improvements to elements of the environment as a result of the impact it will have on new development.

Table 7 Summary of main environmental issues in the habitats of the Cairngorms National Park					
Habitat	Ecosystems services or benefits that this habitat is most important for	Main drivers of change	Threats/problems	Opportunities	Key environmental objectives for this habitat in the National Park
Enclosed Farmlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food • soil quality • storage of carbon in soils • water quality • pollination of crops • important wild species and rich habitats • landscape • patterns of settlement • sense of place, history and tradition • living culture and identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agricultural and environmental policy • economic viability • climate change effects • planting of woodland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss of productive land to other uses • loss of edge habitats • loss of iconic wild bird species • effects of extreme weather events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting productive land from other uses • potential diversification of produce in different climatic conditions • enhancement of habitat networks • build resilience to extreme weather events • maximise carbon storage capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to maintain or improve the productive capacity of farmland • to maintain or improve the carbon storage capacity • increase the resilience to climate change effects • conserve or enhance the value for distinctive wild species and habitats • maintain or enhance special landscape qualities • maintain capacity for learning and enjoyment of history and culture
Woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • timber as a material and as fuel • rich and diverse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forestry and environmental policy • recreational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disease risks • loss to other land uses • fragmentation of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhancement of woodland networks including montane and riparian woodland • increased use of locally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain or increase timber and woodfuel production • conserve or enhance

Table 7 Summary of main environmental issues in the habitats of the Cairngorms National Park					
Habitat	Ecosystems services or benefits that this habitat is most important for	Main drivers of change	Threats/problems	Opportunities	Key environmental objectives for this habitat in the National Park
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> habitats and species • stability of soils • storage of carbon • shelter • soil & water quality • pollination of woodland species • ecological knowledge • recreation • landscape • patterns of settlement • sense of place • tradition • living culture and identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses • economic viability • climate change effects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> native and ancient woodland sites • recreational disturbance to key iconic species • effects of extreme weather events and changes in climate • disturbance of archaeological remains in existing or new woodland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> grown timber for construction and fuel • woodland creation and management to build resilience to extreme weather events • increased recreational use of woodland • management of recreational use to avoid disturbance to key species • promoting responsible recreation and dog management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the value for distinctive wild species and habitats • to maintain or improve the carbon storage capacity • increase resilience to climate change effects • maintain recreational value • maintain or enhance special landscape qualities • maintain capacity for learning and enjoyment of history and culture
Open Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fresh water • important wild species and rich habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environmental policy (eg river basin management) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point source and diffuse pollution • water abstraction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhancement of functioning wetlands and floodplains • adoption and extension of natural flood management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conserve or enhance the value for distinctive wild species and habitats

Table 7 Summary of main environmental issues in the habitats of the Cairngorms National Park					
Habitat	Ecosystems services or benefits that this habitat is most important for	Main drivers of change	Threats/problems	Opportunities	Key environmental objectives for this habitat in the National Park
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local climate regulation • regulation of flooding • water quality • ecological knowledge • recreation • landscape • patterns of settlement • sense of place • tradition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plans) • climate change effects • hydro energy schemes • invasive non-native species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • erosion and sediment • effects of extreme weather events and changes in climate to the physical processes, chemistry and distinctive habitats/species of open water systems • invasive non-native species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • techniques • reduction in pollution sources • minimisation of unnecessary water abstraction – reducing water loss following abstraction, more efficient use of water • delivering river basin management plan objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain or improve water quality • minimise unnecessary use of water • maintain or increase ability to store water • increase resilience to climate change effects • maintain recreational value • maintain or enhance special landscape qualities • maintain capacity for learning and enjoyment of history and culture
Mountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rare and fragile species and habitats • climate regulation • soil quality • water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nature conservation policy • climate change effects • grazing pressures and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change effects on marginal arctic-alpine habitats and species • inappropriate grazing by stock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing the sense of wildness • manage changes in habitats, eg towards montane scrub • maintain patchwork of grazing densities for habitat resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conserve or enhance the value for distinctive wild species and habitats • increase resilience to climate change effects • maintain recreational

Table 7 Summary of main environmental issues in the habitats of the Cairngorms National Park					
Habitat	Ecosystems services or benefits that this habitat is most important for	Main drivers of change	Threats/problems	Opportunities	Key environmental objectives for this habitat in the National Park
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seed dispersal and pollination of mountain plant species • ecological and geological knowledge • recreation • landscape • sense of place, history & tradition • living culture and identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changes • disturbance to species and habitats from recreation • the setting of and views from mountains due to renewable energy or other large developments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • or wild mammals • erosion (natural process and human induced) and potential changes brought about by extreme weather events • reduced sense of wildness as a result of visual impact of development • recreational disturbance to sensitive birds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting responsible recreation and dog management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • value to maintain or improve the carbon storage capacity • maintain sense of wildness • maintain or enhance special landscape qualities • maintain capacity for learning and enjoyment of history and culture
Moor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate regulation as stores of carbon • soil quality • water quality • pollination of moorland plant species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nature conservation and environmental policy • land ownership and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss to other uses • inappropriate grazing by stock or wild mammals • disease and pest risks to iconic species (heather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting and enhancing carbon storage capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conserve or enhance the value for distinctive wild species and habitats • conserve or enhance the distinctive wild species and habitats • to maintain or

Table 7 Summary of main environmental issues in the habitats of the Cairngorms National Park

Habitat	Ecosystems services or benefits that this habitat is most important for	Main drivers of change	Threats/problems	Opportunities	Key environmental objectives for this habitat in the National Park
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • important wild species and rich habitats • ecological and geological knowledge • recreation • landscape • sense of place, tradition and history • living culture and identity 	<p>management objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate change effects • planting of woodland 	<p>and grouse)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss of stored carbon • illegal killing of protected species especially raptors 		<p>improve the carbon storage capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase resilience to climate change effects • maintain recreational value • maintain or enhance special landscape qualities • maintain sense of wildness • maintain capacity for learning and enjoyment of history and culture
Semi-natural grasslands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of food where used for livestock grazing • some distinctive wild species and habitats • soil quality and storage of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • grazing regimes • succession to moorland, scrub, woodland, wetland • planting of woodland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss to other uses • changes in grazing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify most diverse semi-natural grasslands for management • identify areas suitable for woodland expansion • use to promote cultural heritage of Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conserve or enhance the value for distinctive wild species and habitats • maintain productive capacity of soils • to maintain or improve the carbon storage capacity

Table 7 Summary of main environmental issues in the habitats of the Cairngorms National Park					
Habitat	Ecosystems services or benefits that this habitat is most important for	Main drivers of change	Threats/problems	Opportunities	Key environmental objectives for this habitat in the National Park
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> carbon knowledge recreation landscape sense of place, tradition history 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain or enhance landscape character maintain capacity for learning and enjoyment of history and culture
Urban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contribution to climate change through release of carbon sources of noise and air pollution introduction of invasive species recreation patterns of settlement, urban forms and landscape sense of place, tradition, history and identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> economic changes population changes climate change – the effects of it and public policy to minimise carbon emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> loss of urban green spaces fragmentation of green networks within towns and villages changes in character and setting of towns and villages through new development dispersed rural settlements rely heavily on transport by private car flooding due to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consolidate and enhance character of settlements through design of new developments improve the energy efficiency of existing and new buildings conserve and enhance urban green spaces and networks, linking with wider habitat networks use urban areas to increase local food production support communities to develop more efficient rural transport links improve communications and IT infrastructure to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> conserve or enhance the value for distinctive wild species and habitats maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste maintain or enhance landscape character maintain capacity for learning and enjoyment of history and culture

Table 7 Summary of main environmental issues in the habitats of the Cairngorms National Park					
Habitat	Ecosystems services or benefits that this habitat is most important for	Main drivers of change	Threats/problems	Opportunities	Key environmental objectives for this habitat in the National Park
			extreme weather events	reduce need to travel to work locations	

SEA Objectives

2.23 Table 8 sets out nine SEA objectives, phrased as questions that are proposed as a basis for the SEA. They build on the environmental objectives identified in Table 7 and have been formulated for the purpose of the SEA of the Local Development Plan. They therefore necessarily cover a wide range of potential issues across all the habitats of the National Park.

Table 8. SEA Questions		
SEA question	Rationale for question	Environmental objective
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?	Local food has potential to be of high quality and with a low carbon footprint from transport. The nutritional values of local fresh food are likely to be greater than from food stored and transported from far away. Management of farmland affects native species; the management of soils; release of greenhouse gases; the quality of the water environment; the material cultural heritage and non-material cultural heritage of tradition and history; the appearance of the landscape; as well as the material value of farmland as a natural resource.	To maintain or improve the productive capacity of farmland
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?	The woodland of the National Park is managed for multiple uses from nature conservation, carbon storage, timber production and a low carbon alternative to fossil fuels.	To maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits (eg habitats, species, recreation, cultural heritage, landscape, timber, fuel, flood management)

Table 8. SEA Questions		
<p>3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?</p>	<p>Water that falls in the Park makes its way through a range of habitats towards the streams and rivers that flow out of the Park. It is taken from ground water sources, rivers and lochs in the Park for use by the human population of the Park as well as providing an important habitat in its own right for a range of rare and distinctive species such as salmon, lamprey and fresh water pearl mussel. Waste water from humans is also returned to the main rivers of the Park, and other products such as fertilisers and pesticides, road salt and some industrial waste may enter water courses and affect water quality. The rivers that leave the Park provide water for other parts of Scotland and are a corridor for many species to use for travel.</p> <p>Rivers and wetlands store water, helping river catchments to cope with extreme weather events such as storms, sudden snow melt and drought. The ability of rivers to flood naturally along their length allows them to avoid sudden and unexpected flooding in other areas. It is likely that we will experience more frequent extreme weather events as our climate changes, so the ability of river systems and wetlands to behave naturally will affect how severely humans experience the events. The natural cycle of flooding also provides diverse habitats that support many important species. Other habitats (particularly woodland) in a river catchment also help to store water, slow its movement downstream, and help prevent erosion from water.</p>	<p>To maintain or improve water quality</p> <p>To minimise unnecessary use of water</p> <p>To maintain or increase ability to store water</p> <p>To increase the resilience of climate change effects</p>
<p>4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?</p>	<p>The Cairngorms National Park has 25% of the UK's rare and threatened species and large areas of habitat that is rare or infrequent. 51% of the Park is designated for nature conservation and 48% is designated as being of European importance for nature conservation. The distinctive species and habitats recognised in these designations, and others in the Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan, rely on both the designated sites as well as a wider network of habitats across the Park. The viability of many species is linked to the appropriate management of habitats and connections between them irrespective of whether the land is designated for them. As well as providing a range of habitats that are important in their own right, the diversity and extent of these habitats helps species adapt to changes or other pressures such as changes in climate.</p>	<p>To conserve or enhance the value for distinctive wild species and habitats</p> <p>To increase the resilience to climate change effects</p>
<p>5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?</p>	<p>The National Park stores carbon in peat, in soils and in plants, particularly woodland. Disturbance of peatland and carbon-rich soils can release carbon to the atmosphere. Conservation of these areas can secure long-term storage of carbon.</p>	<p>To maintain or improve the carbon storage capacity</p>

Table 8. SEA Questions		
<p>6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?</p>	<p>Living in or visiting a relatively remote part of Scotland requires more energy for day to day life, business and travel. Reducing the need to travel by car, improving the energy efficiency of buildings and processes will reduce the need for energy and the need to use fossil fuels. The generation of energy from renewable sources is also an important part of reducing the potential contribution to climate change.</p>	<p>To maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste</p> <p>To increase the resilience to climate change effects</p>
<p>7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?</p>	<p>There are many factors that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. The National Park provides particular opportunities for physical recreation that can benefit physical and mental health. It also provides less tangible opportunities to enjoy and appreciate the nature and landscapes of the Park that can help to contribute to mental health and wellbeing. The Local Development Plan influences management and provision of open space, links to path networks and core paths etc.</p>	<p>To maintain recreational value</p>
<p>8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?</p>	<p>The landscapes of the National Park are distinctive and are valued by the people who live in and visit the Park. This is partly reflected in the categorisation of the Park as an IUCN Category V Protected Landscape. The landscapes of the Park will all change subtly over time, and can change suddenly because of extreme events or with major changes in the use of land. Managing changes in the landscape to maintain and enhance the distinctive character and the ways that people experience it are important to the long-term management of the Park.</p>	<p>To maintain or enhance landscape character</p> <p>To maintain sense of wildness</p>
<p>9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?</p>	<p>The material cultural heritage of the Park – the buildings, archaeological remains, and landscapes, together with the knowledge they provide, are enhanced and enriched by the stories, history, traditions, and communities of the Park. Wherever possible, the built heritage and archaeological remains are preserved or recorded. However, they become a living part of our cultural heritage when they are linked to the lives of people today through shared stories, history and tradition.</p>	<p>To maintain capacity for learning and enjoyment of history and culture</p>

2.24 Table 9 shows how each SEA question is relevant to a number of the SEA topics.

Table 9. SEA Questions and relevant SEA topics										
	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Population and Human Health	Soil	Climatic Factors	Water	Air	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Material Assets	
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?										
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?										
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?										
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?										
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?										
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?										
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?										
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?										
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?										

2.25 Table 10 shows the SEA questions with appropriate SEA assessment criteria and potential indicators for each SEA question. The indicators are based on the availability of data, have been chosen to be consistent with other monitoring of the National Park Partnership Plan, and are intended to be relatively easily understood by the public.

Table 10. SEA questions with assessment criteria and potential indicators		
SEA question	Assessment criteria	Potential indicators
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What effect will the Plan have on the productive capacity of agricultural land? • What effect will the Plan have on soil function? • What other effects will the Plan have on food production? eg support for allotments and community growing spaces. 	Area of land lost from agricultural use to development
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What effect will the Plan have on the take up of commercial timber sourced within the Park in the construction industry? • Will the Plan affect the supply of any other timber or woodfuel products? • What effect will the plan have on woodland that is managed for multiple benefits? 	Area of woodland

Table 10. SEA questions with assessment criteria and potential indicators		
SEA question	Assessment criteria	Potential indicators
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What effect will the Plan have on abstraction of water? • What effect will the Plan have on water quality as a result of waste waters or run-off? • What effect will the Plan have on the flow of water downstream – will it slow water through woodland planting, floodplain management or Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)? • What effect will the Plan have on sediment loading? • What effect will the Plan have on the ability of water catchments to store water? • What effect will the Plan have on water conservation and efficiency? • What effect will the Plan have on the use of groundwater resources? 	<p>The ecological status of water bodies in the Park</p> <p>Reduction in flood risk at key locations or reinstatement of natural flood plain at other locations</p>
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What effect will the Plan have on the features of designated sites? • What effect will the Plan have on protected species? • What effect will the Plan have on habitats and species in the Cairngorms LBAP? • What effect will the Plan have on the resilience of habitats and species to climate change, including connectivity of habitats? 	<p>The condition of the features of designated sites.</p> <p>The ecological status of water bodies in the Park</p>
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What effect will the Plan have on the ability of peatland to store carbon? • What effect will the Plan have on carbon rich soils? • What effect will the Plan have on the total carbon stored in the land and vegetation? 	<p>Number of applications consented affecting carbon-rich soils or net loss of woodland to development</p>
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What effect will the Plan have on the need for oil-based energy? • What effect will the Plan have on the energy efficiency of new development and existing development? • What effect will the Plan have on use of renewable energy sources? • What effect will the Plan have on patterns of travel? • What effect will the Plan have on opportunities to travel by a variety of modes of transport? • What effect will the Plan have on the generation and management of waste? 	<p>Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the Park or sectors of activity in the Park</p>

Table 10. SEA questions with assessment criteria and potential indicators		
SEA question	Assessment criteria	Potential indicators
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What effect will the Plan have on opportunities for physical exercise? • What effect will the Plan have on provision of open space and green networks in and close to settlements? • What effect will the Plan have on the availability of accommodation that meets their needs? • What effect will the Plan have on people's understanding and interest in maintaining healthy lifestyles? 	Provision of open space and paths within new development
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What effect will the plan have on changes in landscape character and the special landscape qualities of the Park? • What effect will the plan have on the qualities of wildness that people experience in the Park? • What effect will the plan have on the character and setting of towns and villages in the Park? • What effect will the Plan have on people's understanding of the historical and current processes and management of the Park that give it its distinctive character? 	Area of land with multiple wildness qualities
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What effect will the Plan have on designated archaeological sites and listed buildings? • What effect will the Plan have on wider archaeological remains and built heritage in the landscapes of the Park? 	Numbers of buildings at risk removed from the register through development and conservation

Consideration of reasonable alternatives

2.26 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that reasonable alternatives to the Plan are considered as part of the SEA. The Local Development Plan Main Issues Report and SEA Environmental Report that were consulted on between September and December 2011 considered reasonable alternative policy approaches and potential sites to address the issues raised. The Local Development Plan now plans for the CNPA's preferred approach in light of the Main Issues Report, SEA and the comments received through consultation.

3 Assessment of Environmental Effects and Measures Envisaged for Prevention, Reduction and Offsetting any Significant Adverse Effects

Assessment methods

3.1 The Local Development Plan sets out:

- a vision for the Park (the same as that set out by the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017);
- a spatial strategy for development in the Park;
- 10 policies;
- community information for 28 communities; and
- 4 development briefs.

Each of these elements of the proposed Local Development Plan has been assessed. The vision for the Park was assessed through the SEA of the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017 using the same general approach as set out in its Environmental Report. This vision was considered to have long-term positive effects on all but two SEA objectives. It has no significant effect on these two objectives. The assessment of the remainder of the proposed Local development Plan has therefore been undertaken by answering the nine questions identified in Tables 9-11 for:

- the spatial strategy;
- each policy along with its supplementary guidance ;
- each community with proposals for development or to change land use;
- a collective assessment of the remaining rural communities without proposals for development or changes in land use; and
- a cumulative assessment of all proposals and policies together.

3.2 The potential environmental effects of communities were assessed through considering allocations that propose new development or a change in land use. Allocations that protect an existing land use (such as an existing tourism development or an open space) are not considered to have an additional or new effect on the environment.

3.3 Similarly, settlement boundaries are a proposal in the Plan and have a slightly different policy framework within them than outside of them. They are drawn to avoid conflict with the environment where possible, but also reflect existing uses of land and proposed development sites identified in the Plan. The Plan does not predict what changes may occur inside them, and the policies of the Plan still apply to any development proposals made in the future, so settlement boundaries have not been assessed against the SEA questions. The 4 development briefs in the Plan were considered as additional information on proposed allocations and assessed as part of the assessment of communities.

- 3.4 The assessment criteria shown in Table 10 were used as prompts in the assessment. The SEA objectives, questions and criteria were modified slightly following the responses of consultation authorities to the Environmental Report that accompanied the Main Issues Report.
- 3.5 The assessment was recorded in a similar form to the example shown in Table 11, using a simple, visual five colour scale of effects which will be used to provide a summary of effects. Where effects were predicted, the nature of those effects was explained in more detail and any mitigation measures required to avoid, reduce, or offset them were also recorded.

Table 11. Example of assessment recording form			
Plan Objective/outcome			
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question1			
SEA Question2			
SEA Question3			
SEA Question4			
SEA Question5			
SEA Question6			
SEA Question7			
SEA Question8			
SEA Question9			
Mitigation measures:			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

Summary of effects of the Cairngorms National Park proposed Local Development Plan

3.6 The Plan was assessed using the framework described earlier. A summary of the assessment findings is shown in Table 12 and the full findings are shown in Appendix 2.

Table 12. Summary matrix of potential effects										
	SEA Objectives:									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Policies & SG										
The proposed Plan's Spatial Strategy						L	SML	SML		
Policy 1 New housing development										
Policy 2 Supporting economic growth										
Policy 3 Sustainable design			SML	SML		SML	SML	SML	SML	
Policy 4 Natural heritage			SML	SML	SML					
Policy 5 Landscape								SML		
Policy 6 The Siting and Design of Digital Communications Equipment										
Policy 7 Renewable energy						ML				
Policy 8 Sport and recreation							SML			
Policy 9 Cultural heritage										SML
Policy 10 Resources			SML		SML					
Policy 11 Developer contributions				SML			SML			
Core paths plan SG							SML			SML
Communities										
An Camas Mòr			ML	ML			ML	ML		
Aviemore & vicinity			SML				SML	SML		
Ballater			SML				SML	SML	SML	
Blair Atholl			SML				SML	SML	SML	
Boat of Garten			SML				SML	SML	SML	
Braemar			SML				SML	SML	SML	
Carr-Bridge			SML				SML	SML		
Cromdale and Advie			SML				SML	SML		
Dalwhinnie			SML				SML	SML		
Dinnet			SML				SML	SML		
Dulnain Bridge			SML				SML	SML		
Glenmore			SML				SML	SML		
Grantown-on-Spey			SML				SML	SML		
Inverdrueie & Coylumbridge			SML				SML	SML		
Kincraig & vicinity			SML				SML	SML		
Kingussie			SML				SML	SML		
Nethy Bridge			SML				SML	SML		
Newtonmore			SML				SML	SML		
Tomintoul			SML				SML	SML		
Rural communities without proposals			SML				SML	SML		
Cumulative Assessment of all proposals (and application of policies)			ML			ML	ML	ML	ML	
Duration of effects: L=long term, M=medium term, S=short term										
positive effect	no effect or negligible effect		negative effect			not applicable				

Table 12. Summary matrix of potential effects

uncertain effect/ effect cannot be predicted/ or both positive and negative effects

3.7 The summary of effects is as follows:

The Spatial Strategy: is very general in nature with few predictable effects in its own right. However, it is likely to have a long-term positive effect on energy efficiency by minimising the need to travel and focussing service delivery. It also guides new development towards places that are already well connected to networks of paths and opportunities for recreation so is considered to have a positive effect on the SEA question 7. Finally, by reflecting the current and historic patterns of development (and absence of development) in the landscape, the strategy will maintain landscape character and so have a positive effect on SEA question 8.

Policies and Supplementary Guidance

1. New housing development: is considered to have negligible impact on the environment because it must be considered with all other policies in the Plan.

2. Supporting Economic Growth: is considered to have negligible impact on the environment because it must be considered with all other policies in the Plan.

3. Sustainable Design: is considered to have positive effects on SEA Questions 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 & 9 because it is explicitly about ensuring high standards of design in new development to minimise use of resources and effects on the environment. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

4. Natural Heritage: is considered to have positive effects on SEA Questions 3, 4, & 5 because it requires new development to conserve and enhance biodiversity. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

5. Landscape: is considered to have positive effects on SEA Question 8 because it is explicitly about conserving and enhancing landscape character and the special landscape qualities of the Park. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

6. Renewable Energy: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA question 6 because it supports renewable energy developments. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

7. Sport and Recreation: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA question 7 because it supports the provision of and maintenance of recreation facilities. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

8. Cultural Heritage: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA question 9 because it protects and conserves cultural heritage. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

9. Resources: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3 and 5 because it is about conserving resources, including maintaining the quality, ecological status, and flood risk/management of water resources and minimising the contribution of new development

to climate change. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

10. Developer Contributions: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 4 and 7 because it provides the policy framework to secure improvements or management to conserve and enhance biodiversity and access to path networks and recreational spaces and facilities. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

The Core Paths Plan Supplementary Guidance is considered to have positive effects on SEA questions 7 and 9 (maintaining opportunities for access and physical recreation as well as opportunities to experience and enjoy cultural heritage from core paths). It is considered to have no significant effects on other SEA questions. The potential effect on European designated sites is considered in detail in the Habitats Regulations Appraisal of the proposed Local Development Plan.

Communities with proposals for new development

An Camas Mòr: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 4, 7 and 8 because it will maintain water quality and supply, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area, maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Aviemore and vicinity: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 7 and 8 because it will maintain water quality and supplies, ecological status of water bodies, minimise flood risk, maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Ballater: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9 because it will maintain water and supplies, ecological status of water bodies, minimise flood risk, maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It will also help conserve and enhance the built heritage and Conservation Area of Ballater. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Blair Atholl: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 7, 8 and 9 because it will maintain water and supplies, ecological status of water bodies, minimise flood risk, maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It will also help conserve and enhance the built heritage and Conservation Area of Blair Atholl. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Boat of Garten: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 4, 7 and 8 because it will maintain water quality and supply, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area, maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Braemar: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9 because it will maintain water quality and supply, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area,

maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It will also help conserve and enhance the built heritage and Conservation Area of Braemar. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Carr-Bridge: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 4, 7 and 8 because it will maintain water quality and supply, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area, maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Cromdale and Advie: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 4, 7 and 8 because it will maintain water quality and supply, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area, maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Dalwhinnie: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 4, 7 and 8 because it will maintain water quality and supply, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area, maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Dinnet: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 4, 7 and 8 because it will maintain water quality and supply, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area, maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Dalnain Bridge: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 4, 7 and 8 because it will maintain water quality and supply, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area, maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Glenmore: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 4, 7 and 8 because if development or redevelopment of the allocated sites occurs, it will maintain water quality and supply, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area, maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Grantown-on-Spey: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 4, 7 and 8 because it will maintain water quality and supply, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area, maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Inverdrue & Coylumbridge: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 4, 7 and 8 because because if development or redevelopment of the allocated sites occurs, it will maintain water quality and supply, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area,

maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Kincraig and vicinity: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 4, 7 and 8 because it will maintain water quality and supply, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area, maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Kingussie: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 4, 7 and 8 because it will maintain water quality and supply, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area, maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Nethy Bridge: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 4, 7 and 8 because it will maintain water quality and supply, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area, maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Newtonmore: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 4, 7 and 8 because it will maintain water quality and supply, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area, maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Tomintoul: is considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 4, 7 and 8 because it will maintain water quality and supply, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area, maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It is considered it will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Rural Communities with no proposals for new development

Angus Glens, Bruar & Pitagowan, Calvine, Glenlivet, Glenshee, Insh, Killiecrankie, Laggan, Strathdon & vicinity: are considered to have a positive effect on SEA questions 3, 4, 7 and 8 because if development or redevelopment occurs in allocated sites or within the settlement boundary, it will maintain water quality and supply, conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area, maintain and increase opportunities for recreation and over time will enhance the landscape character of the area. It is considered they will have no significant effect on the other SEA questions.

Cumulative and/or synergistic effects of the Plan

3.8 The assessment of cumulative and in synergistic effects of the Plan has been partly addressed through the assessment of the policies and proposals of the plan outlined above. While each policy and community was considered individually, it was also necessary to consider each in the context of all policies in the Plan applying to any development proposal.

- 3.9 The additional cumulative assessment of the Plan considers the cumulative effects of all the proposals in the Plan and the application of all policies together. It is considered that the Plan will have positive effects on SEA questions 3, 6, 7, 8 & 9 in the medium to long-term. This is because the policies of the Plan will ensure that new development has a range of positive effects on the environment.

Mitigation

- 3.10 The SEA of the proposed Local Development Plan has not raised any environmental effects that require mitigation. This is partly because policies have deliberately been developed to remove or avoid significant environmental effects, partly because all policies must be applied together and partly because the proposed development sites were chosen to avoid significant environmental effects. This approach follows the approach adopted in the Main Issues Report to identify preferred options.

4 Monitoring

4.1 Monitoring of the environmental effects of the Local Development Plan is an integral part of monitoring the implementation of the Plan. Table 13 below identifies proposed monitoring indicators.

Table 13. SEA monitoring indicators	
SEA Question	Proposed Indicators
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of enclosed farmland consented for new development. • Number of consents for agricultural diversification.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of woodland consented for new development.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity of water supply and waste water network.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of applications refused due to failure to meet Natural Heritage policy. • The ecological status of water bodies in the Park. • Number of species licences necessary for development to proceed
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of woodland planting secured through planning permissions. • Area of development on carbon rich soils.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generating capacity of renewable energy developments.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new developments that make contributions to recreation infrastructure.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of windfall housing consents outside settlement boundaries.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of listed buildings conserved through development.

5 Next Steps

- 5.1 The proposed Local Development Plan, together with this SEA Environmental Report, an updated Evidence Report, Action Programme and other assessment reports will be consulted on between April and July 2013. Following consideration of the representations on the Plan, it will be submitted to Scottish Ministers and an examination of the Plan by a Scottish Government appointed Reporter will take place. Following direction from the Reporter, any post examination modifications will be published with the Proposed Plan and an updated SEA Environmental Report.

Appendix I

Other PPSs and Environmental Objectives

Relevant PPS	Relevant Objectives/Purpose	SEA Issue	Relationship between the policy and the Local Development Plan
International Directives			
SEA Directive 2001/42/EC (European Union, 2001)	Requires Strategic Environmental Assessments to be undertaken for plans, programmes and strategies with significant environmental effects.	All SEA Issues listed in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	Enables significant environmental effects of the Local Development Plan to be identified and addressed.
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance 1971	Requires conservation and wise use of wetlands.	Biodiversity Water Landscape	Main Issues and subsequent LDP requires the protection and enhancement of wetlands.
Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds	Requires member states to sustain populations of naturally occurring wild birds by sustaining areas of habitats to maintain ecologically and scientifically sound levels.	Biodiversity Water Landscape Woodlands and Forests	Local Development Plan should support protection and enhancement of bird habitat through policies and targets.
Directive 92/42/EC: The Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora 1992	Requires member states to sustain populations of naturally occurring flora and fauna by sustaining areas of habitats to maintain ecologically and scientifically sound levels.	Biodiversity Water Landscape Woodlands and Forests	Local Development Plan must ensure protection and enhancement of Natura Sites and protection of European Protected Species.
EU Flood Risk Directive 2007/60/EC	Aims to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.	Water Climatic factors	Local Development Plan should reduce and manage flood risk encouraging natural flood management approaches.
Directive 2000/60 EC: The Water Framework Directive	Requires member states to achieve good ecological status of inland water bodies, and develop integrated catchment management and river basin management plans.	Water Biodiversity Landscape	Local Development Plan should support protection and enhancement of the water environment.

Relevant PPS	Relevant Objectives/Purpose	SEA Issue	Relationship between the policy and the Local Development Plan
Directive 1996/62 EC: Ambient Air Quality and Management	Establishes standards for air quality and sets limits for various pollutants.	Air Human health	Local Development Plan should support measures that would improve air quality.
EU Common Agricultural Policy	Sets policy for agricultural support with increased emphasis on rural development support.	Land Landscape Population	Local Development Plan should recognise and provide for rural diversification of economic activities.
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (the Rio Earth Summit) 1992	Treaty aimed at reducing global emissions of greenhouse gases to combat global warming.	Climatic factors Air	Local Development Plan should assist in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC, 1997)	Protocol to the international Framework Convention on Climate Change with the objective of reducing Greenhouse gases which cause climate change.	Climatic factors Air	Local Development Plan should support measures that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Taking Sustainable Use of Resources Forward: A thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste (EU, 2005)	A sector based strategy produced under the Environmental Action Programme.	Climatic factors Air	Local Development Plan can minimise waste.
National Legislation			
Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	Requires Strategic Environmental Assessments to be completed for plans, programmes and strategies likely to have significant environmental effects.	All SEA Issues listed in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	Enables significant environmental effects of the Local Development Plan to be identified and addressed.
Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003	Transposes the Water Framework Directive into Scots law.	Water Biodiversity Landscape	Local Development Plan should encourage improvements to the water environment and support measures for

Relevant PPS	Relevant Objectives/Purpose	SEA Issue	Relationship between the policy and the Local Development Plan
			more efficient use of water.
Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 2011	Requires environmental impact assessment of site specific projects and specifically requires consideration of Sensitive Areas including National Parks.	Climatic factors Soils Air Biodiversity Water Landscape Human health Cultural heritage	The Local Development Plan will require Environmental Impact Assessments where appropriate.
Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999	Requires environmental impact assessments for certain forestry projects.	Climatic factors Soils Air Biodiversity Water Landscape Human health Cultural heritage	The Local Development Plan will require Environmental Impact Assessments where appropriate.
Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	Establishes right of responsible access to land and water.	Biodiversity Water Land Human health	Local Development Plan can provide for and support responsible access.
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Requires certain species to be protected.	Biodiversity	Local Development Plan should support protected species.
Nature Conservation Act (Scotland) 2004	Act places duties on public bodies for conserving biodiversity, increases protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), amends legislation on Nature Conservation Orders, provides for Land Management Orders for SSSIs and associated land, strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and requires the preparation of a Scottish Fossil Code.	Biodiversity Land Water	Local Development Plan should support conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.
National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000	Specifies what a Park Authority can do and how it should be run, including	All SEA Issues listed in Schedule 2 of the	Establishes the aims of National Parks. Provides direction on the functions

Relevant PPS	Relevant Objectives/Purpose	SEA Issue	Relationship between the policy and the Local Development Plan
	a requirement to produce a National Park Plan.	Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	and role of the National Park Authority.
Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	Establishes roles, responsibilities and requirements for sustainable flood management.	Water Climatic factors	Local Development Plan should support flood management, particularly natural flood management.
Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	Outlines emission reduction targets, adaptation measures, and establishes duties on public bodies.	Climatic factors Soil Water Biodiversity Human health Population	Local Development Plan should support climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.
Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended)	Protects badgers	Biodiversity	Local Development Plan should not harm protected species
Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011	Amends Wildlife Consultation Act 1981, and seeks to modernise game law; abolish the designation 'areas of special protection'; improve snaring practice; regulate invasive non-native species; change the licensing system for protected species; amend current arrangements for deer management and deer stalking; strengthen protection of badgers; change how muirburn can be practised; and make operational changes to the management of Sites of Scientific Interest; game law, use of shores, and invasive species legislation.	Climatic factors Soil Water Biodiversity	Local Development Plan should support provisions of the Act.
National Policy			
Scottish Government Purpose	The Scottish Government's purpose is to secure sustainable economic growth for Scotland. All the public	Air Soil Water Population Human health	The Local Development Plan should support the delivery of sustainable economic growth in the context of the Park and its

Relevant PPS	Relevant Objectives/Purpose	SEA Issue	Relationship between the policy and the Local Development Plan
	sector should be working to the purpose.	Biodiversity Climatic factors Material assets Cultural heritage Landscape	special qualities and management needs.
Scottish Government National Outcomes	The Scottish Government has 15 National Outcomes that the public sector must collectively deliver.	Air Soil Water Population Human health Biodiversity Climatic factors Material assets Cultural heritage Landscape	The Local Development Plan should identify and contribute to delivery of the outcomes that are most appropriate in the Park.
National Planning Framework for Scotland until 2025 (2004)	National framework to guide spatial development.	All SEA Issues listed in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	Provides strategic context for future regional change around the Park.
Scottish Planning Policy Guidance	SPP covering a range of topics relevant to the Local Development Plan.	All SEA Issues listed in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	Provides guidance for developing policies to address specific issues in the Local Development Plan.
Planning Advice Notes (including PAN 42)	Scottish Government good practice advice.	All SEA Issues listed in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	Provides guidance for developing policies to address specific issues in the Local Development Plan.
Scotland River Basin Management Plan	Fulfil a requirement under the EU Water Framework Directive.	Water Biodiversity Soil	Includes management objectives for water bodies in the National Park which the Local Development Plan must take account of.
Land Use Strategy for Scotland	Outlines strategy for achieving sustainable land use across Scotland and	Soil Water Biodiversity	Local Development Plan can provide more specific direction on the National

Relevant PPS	Relevant Objectives/Purpose	SEA Issue	Relationship between the policy and the Local Development Plan
	getting the best from the land of Scotland.	Landscape Population	Land Use Strategy and can be implemented at a regional level.
Scottish Forestry Strategy	Outlines strategic priorities for forestry including management, planting and environmental stewardship.	Water Soils Biodiversity Landscape	Provides strategic direction for forestry policy.
Scotland Policy on Control of Woodland Removal	Sets out Scottish Ministers policy on woodland removal	Biodiversity Water Biodiversity Landscape Soil Climatic factors	LDP should reflect policy
Scotland Rural Development Programme	Sets goals for sustainable rural development and the types of support available.	Water Biodiversity Landscape Soil	Local Development Plan can provide more specific direction on how rural development and diversification should be supported in the Park.
Climate Change: The UK Programme	Goal to reduce carbon emissions in the UK by 60% by 2050.	Climatic factors Air Soil	Local Development Plan should encourage reductions in emissions through a range of measures.
Changing Our Ways: Scotland's Climate Change Programme	Demonstrates how Scotland will deliver carbon savings from devolved policy measures and reduce its vulnerability to the changing climate.	Climatic factors Air Soil	Local Development Plan should encourage reductions in emissions through a range of measures.
Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	Sets out objectives for eight air pollutants.	Air Soil Climatic factors	Local Development Plan should encourage reductions in emissions through a range of measures.
UK Biodiversity Action Plan	Identifies UK priority species and habitats where action to conserve is required.	Biodiversity Water Soil	Local Development Plan should support delivery of the UKBAP and significant Park species through support for Cairngorms LBAP.
Scottish	Identifies Scottish	Biodiversity	Local Development Plan

Relevant PPS	Relevant Objectives/Purpose	SEA Issue	Relationship between the policy and the Local Development Plan
Biodiversity Strategy	biodiversity priorities and lead partners for taking action.	Water Soil	should support delivery of the UKBAP and significant Park species through support for Cairngorms LBAP.
Choosing our future: Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy	Outlines a strategic framework for the Scottish Government's strategies on climate change, transport, renewable energy, energy efficiency, green jobs and biodiversity.	All SEA Issues listed in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	Local Development Plan should help deliver sustainable development.
Zero Waste Scotland	Provides context for waste planning in Scotland	Soil Water Air Climatic factors Population	Directs the LDP to secure zero waste in new development through support for waste management and good design.
A Policy Statement for Scotland – Designing Places	Provides the policy context for important areas of planning policy and design guidance.	Landscape Cultural heritage Population Human health	Local Development Plan should support good design.
A Policy on Architecture for Scotland (2001 updated in 2006)	Scottish Government Guidance 2001.	Landscape Cultural heritage Population Human health	Local Development Plan should support good design.
Scotland's National Transport Strategy 2006	Scottish Government - National Strategy for reducing transport emissions by 80%.	Population Human health Air Climatic factors	Local Development Plan should support reductions in emissions from transport.
Scottish Tourism: The Next Decade – a Tourism Framework for Change (2006)	Scottish Government's ambitions for growth in tourism revenues by 50% by 2015.	Population Land Human health	Local Development Plan should support development of sustainable tourism to contribute to national targets for tourism growth.
Scottish Historic Environment (SHEP)	Outlines Scottish Ministers' policies on the historic environment, and supersedes the policy elements in 'Passed to the Future'.	Cultural heritage Landscape	Guidance for policy development on the management of the historic environment.
Managing Change	Series of guidance notes	Cultural heritage	Guidance for policy

Relevant PPS	Relevant Objectives/Purpose	SEA Issue	Relationship between the policy and the Local Development Plan
in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes	which are designed to support the Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) and Scottish Planning Policy.	Landscape	development on the management of the historic environment.
Scottish Soil Framework 2009	Ministers policies and objectives for the conservation and use of soils.	Air Soil Water Human health Biodiversity Climatic factors Material assets Cultural heritage Landscape	LDP should promote soil conservation.
Local Plans and Strategies			
Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017	Primary management plan for the National Park	All SEA Issues listed in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	Provides the strategic guidance and vision for the LDP.
Cairngorms National Park Local Plan 2010	Establishes development and settlement strategy for the Park, allocates specific development sites, and provides policies for managing development in the Park.	All SEA Issues listed in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	The primary document to be reviewed through the Local Development Plan.
Tayplan (adopted 2012)	Strategic Development Plan for Tayplan area (includes Perth & Kinross Council area of the Park)	All SEA Issues listed in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	Local Development Plan must conform with the Strategic Development Plan. However, Tayplan does not contain specific strategic direction for the area within the National Park.
Perth & Kinross Council Highland Area Local Plan 2000	Establishes development and settlement strategy for the Park, allocates specific development sites, and provides policies for managing development in the Park.	All SEA Issues listed in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	The primary document to be reviewed through the Local Development Plan
Local Authority	Strategic documents	All SEA issues	Local Development Plan

Relevant PPS	Relevant Objectives/Purpose	SEA Issue	Relationship between the policy and the Local Development Plan
Single Outcome Agreements	outlining priorities across communities in the National Park.	listed in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	can help deliver community priorities.
Community Plans	Plans set out how public services will be planned and delivered, through consultation and co-operation.	All SEA Issues listed in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	Local Development Plan can support parts of Community Plans.
Community Visions and Local Community Action or development Plans	Statements from communities in the Park about how they would like to change or develop in future, sometimes with plans on how to get there.	Population Human health Biodiversity Cultural heritage	Local Development Plan can support communities in developing their own plans and capacity.
Local Housing Strategies (prepared by local authorities as housing authorities for each council area)	Required by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001. Sets out how housing authorities will provide for housing needs and demands in their area.	Population Human health	Local Development Plan must take account of LHS and use them to provide evidence to support the approach taken.
Housing Need and Demand Assessments (prepared by local authorities as housing authorities for each council area)	Assess housing need and demand in each local authority area, and identify likely future need and demand to inform housing strategies and development plans.	Population Human health	HNDA's inform housing requirement of Local Development Plan.
Regional and Local Transport Strategies	Set out how to maintain and improve infrastructure.	Air Climatic factors Human health Population	Local Development Plan should support sustainable transport solutions and encourage lower carbon forms of transport.
Economic Development Strategies	Priority areas for economic development.	Soil Material assets Population	Local Development Plan should encourage economic development that does not adversely affect the special qualities

Relevant PPS	Relevant Objectives/Purpose	SEA Issue	Relationship between the policy and the Local Development Plan of the Park.
Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism in the Cairngorms	Identifies measures to support and develop sustainable management of tourism in the Park in line with the Europarc Federation of Protected Areas Charter.	Population Biodiversity Landscape Water Air Material assets	Local Development Plan supports the implementation of the Sustainable Tourism Strategy
Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Priorities and actions for biodiversity in the National Park.	Biodiversity Soil Water Material assets	Local Development Plan supports implementation and review of Cairngorms LBAP
Cairngorms Outdoor Access Strategy	Provides a framework for managing outdoor access in the Park.	Human health Biodiversity Landscape Air Climatic factors	Local Development Plan can support and promote responsible outdoor access.
Cairngorms National Park Core Paths Plan	Identifies a network of core paths throughout the Park.	Human health Biodiversity	Local Development Plan supports promotion and development of core paths.
Cairngorms Landscape Framework	A framework for managing landscape change in the Cairngorms to maintain and enhance the special landscape qualities and character.	Landscape	Local Development Plan will use this to guide appropriate development to the right location.
Catchment Management Plans for rivers Dee, South Esk and Spey	Catchment Management Plans bring together all the people and organisations who affect or are affected by the river catchment to manage in ways that maintain and improves the quality of water and overall health of the catchment.	Water Air Soils Biodiversity Climatic factors Human health Material assets	Local Development Plan supports integrated catchment management as a way of improving water quality and the health of natural systems.

Appendix 2

Assessment Recording Forms

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form The Proposed Local Development Plan's Spatial Strategy			
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			The spatial strategy focuses future growth and diversification within the settled and well-connected valleys and straths of the Park, and particularly around settlements. There is potential for some farmland to be lost to new development in these areas but also potential for productivity of land to be increased through diversified business. It is not considered that this will significantly affect the productive capacity of farmland.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			The spatial strategy focuses future growth and diversification within the settled and well-connected valleys and straths of the Park, and particularly around settlements. There is potential for some woodland or forestry to be lost to new development in these areas. However, the plan also requires developments to conserve and enhance biodiversity, so may result in some new woodland creation. The Plan may also support increased production of timber or woodfuel through supporting diversified business. It is not considered that the spatial strategy will significantly affect the sustainable production of timber or woodfuel.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?			The spatial strategy focuses future growth and diversification within the settled and well-connected valleys and straths of the Park, and particularly around settlements. These are the places where connections to the public water supply and waste water network are possible and are required. The infrastructure has been planned to accommodate the scale of growth anticipated through the Plan and to avoid significant effects on water supply and quality. Sites have been selected to avoid flood risk and the policy framework of the Plan will not permit development in areas of flood risk or that increases flood risk elsewhere. The Plan's strategy will help to maintain the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of water in and from the park and will maintain the ability of water catchments to store water.

<p>4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?</p>			<p>The spatial strategy focuses future growth and diversification within the settled and well-connected valleys and straths of the Park, and particularly around settlements. This means that large areas of the Park are unlikely to be significantly affected by new development. It also means that the settled valleys and straths are most likely to be affected by development and by increased use of land for recreation by new households. However, the policy framework of the Plan provides protection for distinctive species and habitats as well as requiring conservation and enhancement to ensure no net loss. The spatial strategy also focuses this future growth in the areas with the best infrastructure to manage recreation and minimise disturbance to species and habitats. It is not considered that the spatial strategy will significantly affect the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats.</p>
<p>5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?</p>			<p>The spatial strategy focuses future development away from the main areas of peat and many areas of woodland and peat soils. Development could release carbon from soils or loss of woodland, though policies in the Plan will minimise the disturbance to soils and may also provide additional woodland. It is not considered that the spatial strategy will significantly affect the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland.</p>
<p>6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?</p>	<p>L</p>		<p>The spatial strategy in the Plan is intended to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste of new development by focussing development towards locations that minimise the need to travel and maximise opportunities for use of public transport. The strategy also encourages economies of scale in current and future service provision that reduce the need to use energy. However, new development will lead to new energy use, and the plan's strategy only has a partial impact on the energy efficiency of existing development and existing activity. It is considered that the strategy will contribute to some long-term improvements in energy efficiency and reductions in energy waste.</p>
<p>7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?</p>	<p>S M L</p>		<p>The spatial strategy in the Plan is intended to guide new development towards locations that are well connected to path networks and to existing facilities and open spaces. It is considered that this strategy will help maintain opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.</p>

<p>8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?</p>	<p>S M L</p>		<p>The spatial strategy guides new development to the areas that are already settled and have a character that includes linked towns and villages or dispersed rural areas. It also guides most development away from other areas where the landscape is characterised by less development. This will help to conserve and enhance the distinctive character and experience of the Park.</p>
<p>9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?</p>			<p>The spatial strategy reinforces some historic patterns of development. Policies in the Plan provide for the preservation, protection, conservation and enhancement of built and cultural heritage. However, it is not considered that the spatial strategy will significantly maintain or improve opportunities to experience or learn about the cultural heritage of the Park.</p>

Mitigation measures:

KEY

Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term

positive effect

no effect or negligible effect

negative effect

uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects

not applicable

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form Policy & SG I New Housing Development			
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			Policy directs most new housing to existing settlements and allocated sites. Housing development outwith those sites would have a negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			Policy directs most new housing to existing settlements and allocated sites. Housing development outwith those sites would have a negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?			Policy directs most new housing to existing settlements and allocated sites where connections to the waste grid will be made and other policies in the Plan provide further protection (policies 3,4,& 9) that applies to all new development.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			The policy could conflict with this SEA objective on its own, but policy 4 in particular (supported by policy 10) provides protection and measures to avoid or minimise conflict.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			The policy could conflict with this SEA objective on its own, but other policies in the Plan provide further protection or compensation measures (3,4,9).
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			The policy could conflict with this SEA objective on its own, but other policies in the Plan provide further protection or compensation measures (3,9).
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective on its own, but other policies in the Plan provide further protection or positive measures (3,7,9).
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?			The policy could conflict with this SEA objective on its own, but other policies in the Plan provide further protection or compensation measures (3,4,9).
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			The policy could conflict with this SEA objective on its own, but other policies in the Plan provide further protection or compensation measures (5,8,10).
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan			
Assessment recording form			
Policy & SG		2 Supporting Economic Growth	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			The policy could conflict with this SEA objective on its own, but other policies in the Plan provide further protection or compensation measures (3,4,5,9).
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			The policy could conflict with this SEA objective on its own, but other policies in the Plan provide further protection or compensation measures (3,4,5,9). The policy also has some potential to support this objective through supporting timber and woodfuel business.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?			The policy could conflict with this SEA objective on its own, but other policies in the Plan provide further protection or compensation measures (3,4,5,9).
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			The policy could conflict with this SEA objective on its own, but policy 4 in particular (supported by policy 10) provides protection and measures to avoid or minimise conflict.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			The policy could conflict with this SEA objective on its own, but other policies in the Plan provide further protection or compensation measures (3,4,9).
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			The policy could conflict with this SEA objective on its own, but other policies in the Plan provide further protection or compensation measures (3,9). The policy may also support the objective where by supporting businesses improve energy efficiency and reduce energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective on its own, but other policies in the Plan provide further protection or positive measures (3,7,9).
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?			The policy could conflict with this SEA objective on its own, but other policies in the Plan provide further protection or compensation measures (3,4,9).
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			The policy could conflict with this SEA objective on its own, but other policies in the Plan provide further protection or compensation measures (5,8,10). The policy also has potential to support this objective where businesses use cultural heritage.

Mitigation measures:
KEY
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term
positive effect
no effect or negligible effect
negative effect
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects
not applicable

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan			
Assessment recording form			
Policy & SG		3 Sustainable Design	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			The policy could conflict with this SEA objective on its own, but other policies in the Plan provide further protection or compensation measures (3,4,5,9).
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			The policy is unlikely to have any effects on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		The policy should help maintain water quality and supply through ensuring sustainable design, though new development has only a small effect on water supplies compared to existing development and uses of land.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?	S M L		The policy should support this SEA objective by identifying measures that will enhance biodiversity.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			The policy will not have a significant effect on this SEA objective in its own right.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?	S M L		The policy should support this SEA objective by supporting sustainable design, minimising waste and making developments as energy efficient as possible.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		The policy should support this SEA objective by supporting sustainable design, that creates healthy homes and developments that are well connected to open spaces and paths/off-road routes, including core paths.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		The policy should support this SEA objective by supporting sustainable design, that complements that landscape and traditional buildings within it.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?	S M L		The policy should support this SEA objective by supporting sustainable design, that compliments that landscape and traditional buildings within it and by allowing for the conversion and conservation of built heritage.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect effect cannot be predicted or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan			
Assessment recording form			
Policy & SG		4 Natural Heritage	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			The policy will not have any significant effects on this SEA objective, though it has some potential to support it indirectly by maintaining and enhancing biodiversity generally, with subsequent benefits of pollination, health of soils etc.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			The policy will not have any significant effects on this SEA objective, though it has some potential to support it indirectly by encouraging woodland planting associated with some developments.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		The policy supports this SEA objective by ensuring no net loss of biodiversity, enhancing biodiversity and managing to maintain biodiversity. This should help maintain and improve water quality and supply.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?	S M L		The policy is designed to support this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?	S M L		The policy is designed to support this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective on its own, but other policies in the Plan provide further protection or positive measures (3,7,9).
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective on its own, but other policies in the Plan provide further protection or positive measures (3,7,9).
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?			The policy provides some implicit support for this SEA objective through maintaining features that contribute to landscape character and experience.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective on its own, but other policies in the Plan provide further protection or positive measures (3,7,9).
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan			
Assessment recording form			
Policy & SG		5 Landscape	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		The policy supports this SEA objective.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Policy & SG		6 The Siting and Design of Digital Communications Equipment	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan			
Assessment recording form			
Policy & SG		7 Renewable Energy	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective though new biomass energy developments may increase demand for woodfuel.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective because it requires developments to have no detrimental impacts on the environment.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			The policy could conflict with this SEA objective on its own, but policy 4 in particular (supported by policy 10) provides protection and measures to avoid or minimise conflict.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			The policy could conflict with this SEA objective on its own, but policies 3 & 9 provide protection and measures to avoid or minimise conflict.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?	M L		The policy is intended to increase renewable energy production so should support this SEA objective. Policies 3 & 9 provide for improved energy efficiency.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?			The policy could conflict with this SEA objective on its own, but policy 4 provides protection and measures to avoid or minimise conflict.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan			
Assessment recording form			
Policy & SG		8 Sport and Recreation	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective. It states that there must be no adverse environmental impact, and policies 3,4, 9 & 10 provide more detailed protection and support.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective. It states that there must be no adverse environmental impact, and policies 3,4, 9 & 10 provide more detailed protection and support.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		The policy supports this SEA objective.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective. It states that there must be no adverse environmental impact, and policy 5 provides protection.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective. Policy 8 provides further protection.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan			
Assessment recording form			
Policy & SG		9 Cultural Heritage	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective. It states that there must be no adverse environmental impact, and policy 5 provides protection.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?	S M L		The policy provides support for this objective by protecting, and preserving, conserving and enhancing built heritage and archaeology in the Park.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: -L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan			
Assessment recording form			
Policy & SG		10 Resources	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		The policy supports this SEA objective.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective, though there is an indirect benefit to biodiversity of good quality water environment and healthy catchments.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?	S M L		The policy supports this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective, though it supports delivery of the Zero Waste Plan.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective, though some features such as floodplains are an important part of landscape character.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan			
Assessment recording form			
Policy & SG		II Developer Contributions	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective, though allotments or community growing spaces could be established through the policy.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective, though new woodland could be created through the policy.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?	S M L		The policy supports this objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		The policy supports this objective by providing for access to open spaces and the necessary infrastructure for recreation and outdoor access.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			The policy has negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan			
Assessment recording form			
Policy & SG		Core Paths Plan SG	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			The Core Paths Plan will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			The Core Paths Plan will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?			The Core Paths Plan will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			The Core Paths Plan will have negligible effect on this SEA objective. Most core paths are existing paths or routes that are already popular and well used by people for recreation. It is not considered that core paths increase disturbance to sensitive species where a path already exists and a route already used. Proposals for new path construction (constructed where there is currently no path) require necessary consents for construction and will be designed to ensure no significant adverse effects on important species or habitats. Consent for such paths will only be granted where the planning authority is satisfied that there will be no significant effects on designated European sites. The Habitats Regulation Appraisal of the proposed Local Development Plan considers the effects of the core paths proposals on European Sites in detail. The promotion of any core paths sits alongside the promotion of responsible access.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			The Core Paths Plan will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			The Core Paths Plan will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		The Core Paths Plan should support this SEA objective by supporting the maintenance of and connections to the core paths network.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?			The Core Paths Plan will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?	S M L		The Core Paths Plan should support this SEA objective by supporting the core path network which provides opportunities for people to experience cultural heritage.

Mitigation measures:
KEY
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term
positive effect
no effect or negligible effect
negative effect
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects
not applicable

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan			
Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		An Camas Mòr	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			This proposal has negligible effect on this SEA objective. The An Camas Mòr site is mainly woodland with rough grassland and heath. It has been used for livestock grazing in the past.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			This proposal has negligible effect on this SEA objective. The An Camas Mòr site is covered by commercial plantation and areas of scrub and natural regeneration where livestock grazing has been removed. The proposal site sits within an estate and a landscape of sustainably managed woodland, however, there may be opportunities to manage areas around the site for timber and woodfuel.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through this proposal because it will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Spey SAC. The site will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?	M L		The proposal is for a development that conserves and enhances the biodiversity of the site and surrounding area. This will have a positive effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			The proposal will have negligible effect on this SEA objective because it will comply with policies in the Plan and because of the additional woodland planting that will be required to enhance biodiversity.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			The proposal will have negligible effect on this SEA objective though the development will maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	M L		The proposal will be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	M L		The proposal will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			The proposal will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.

Mitigation measures:
KEY
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term
positive effect
no effect or negligible effect
negative effect
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects
not applicable

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		Aviemore and vicinity Proposals ED1, ED2, ED3, ED4	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through these proposals because they will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Spey SAC. Developments will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective. though the development will maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		These proposals will be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		Ballater Proposals H1, H2, ED1, T1, CI	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			Overall, these proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective although the development of H1 will result in a small loss of farmland.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through these proposals because they will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Dee SAC. Developments will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective, though the development will maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		These proposals will be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will support this SEA objective by protecting the built heritage and Conservation Area in Ballater.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		Blair Atholl Proposals EDI, TI, CI	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through these proposals because they will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Tay SAC. Developments will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective, though the development will maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		These proposals will be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will support this SEA objective by protecting the built heritage and Conservation Area in Blair Atholl.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		Boat of Garten Proposals, EDI, TI	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through these proposals because they will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Spey SAC. Developments will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective, though the development will maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		These proposals will be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		Braemar Proposals H1, ED1, ED2, T1, CI	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through these proposals because they will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Dee SAC. Developments will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective, though the development will maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		These proposals will be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will support this SEA objective by protecting the built heritage and Conservation Area in Braemar.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		Carr-Bridge Proposals H1, H2, ED1, ED2, T1	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through these proposals because they will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Spey SAC (the River Dulnain). Developments will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective, though the development will maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		These proposals will be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		Cromdale Proposals HI, EDI	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through these proposals because they will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Spey SAC. Developments will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective, though the development will maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		These proposals will be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		Dalwhinnie Proposals H1, H2, ED1	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through these proposals because they will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Spey SAC (the River Truim). Developments will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective, though the development will maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		These proposals will be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		Dinnet Proposals H1, H2	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through these proposals because they will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Dee SAC. Developments will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective, though the development will maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		These proposals will be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		Dulnain Bridge Proposals H1(+Development Brief), ED1	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through these proposals because they will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Spey SAC (River Dulnain). Developments will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective, though the development will maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		These proposals will be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		Glenmore Proposals T1, T2	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through these proposals because any developments will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Spey SAC. Developments will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective, though the development will maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		These proposals are and will continue to be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles. Both proposal sites contain businesses that are linked to physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		Any development or redevelopment in these proposal sites will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		Granttown-on-Spey Proposals H1(+Development Brief), H2, ED1, T1, CI,	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through these proposals because they will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Spey SAC. Developments will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective. The development brief for the site sets out ecological survey requirements.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective, though the development will maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		These proposals will be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		Inverdrue & Coylumbridge Proposal T1	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			This proposal will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			This proposal will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through this proposal because any development or redevelopment of the camp/caravan site will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Spey SAC. Developments will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective. Any development or redevelopment in this proposal site will have a positive effect on this SEA objective by including measures to enhance biodiversity.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			The proposal will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			The proposal will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		This proposal is and will continue to be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles. The site contains a business that is linked to physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		Any development or redevelopment of the camp/caravan site will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			

positive effect
no effect or negligible effect
negative effect
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects
not applicable

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		Kincaig and vicinity Proposals H1(+Development Brief), ED1	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through these proposals because they will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Spey SAC. Developments will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective, though the development will maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		These proposals will be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		Kingussie Proposals ED1, ED2, ED3, T1, C1, C2	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through these proposals because they will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Spey SAC or its tributaries. Developments will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective, though the development will maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		These proposals will be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		Nethy Bridge Proposal H1	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through these proposals because they will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Spey SAC. Developments will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective, though the development will maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		These proposals will be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		Newtonmore Proposals H1(+Development Brief), ED1, ED2	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through these proposals because they will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Spey SAC or its tributaries. Developments will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective, though the development will maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		These proposals will be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Settlement & Proposals		Tomintoul Proposals H1, H2, ED1, ED2, ED3, T1, CI	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through these proposals because they will comply with protective policies in the Plan, minimise water use and will not adversely affect the River Spey SAC or its tributaries (the rivers Avon and Conglass). Developments will include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage water discharge and will require detailed flood risk assessments of detailed proposals.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective, though the development will maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		These proposals will be linked to a path network and provide open spaces that support physical recreation and healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	S M L		These proposals will comply with the policies in the Plan, and will enhance the landscape character over time through careful planning and long-term management.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			These proposals will have negligible effect on this SEA objective.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Rural Communities without proposals for development		Angus Glens, Bruar & Pitagowan, Calvine, Glenlivet, Glenshee, Insh, Killiecrankie, Laggan, Strathdon & vicinity.	
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			The objectives of the Plan in relation to these communities will have a negligible effect on this SEA objective.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			The objectives of the Plan in relation to these communities will have a negligible effect on this SEA objective.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	S M L		Water quality and supply will be maintained through these community statements because development proposals will be assessed against all policies in the Plan as well as their contribution to the specific objectives for each community.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			The objectives of the Plan in relation to these communities, as well as the application of all policies in the Plan to any development proposals could have a positive effect on this SEA objective. Development proposals will be assessed against all policies in the Plan as well as their contribution to the specific objectives for each community.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			The objectives of the Plan in relation to these communities will have a negligible effect on this SEA objective. Development proposals will be assessed against all policies in the Plan as well as their contribution to the specific objectives for each community.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?			The objectives of the Plan in relation to these communities will have a negligible effect on this SEA objective. Development proposals will be assessed against all policies in the Plan as well as their contribution to the specific objectives for each community.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		The objectives of the Plan in relation to these communities, as well as the application of all policies in the Plan to any development proposals will have a positive effect on this SEA objective. Development proposals will be assessed against all policies in the Plan as well as their contribution to the specific objectives for each community.

<p>8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?</p>	<p>S M L</p>		<p>The objectives of the Plan in relation to these communities, as well as the application of all policies in the Plan to any development proposals will have a positive effect on this SEA objective. Development proposals will be assessed against all policies in the Plan as well as their contribution to the specific objectives for each community.</p>
<p>9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?</p>			<p>The objectives of the Plan in relation to these communities will have a negligible effect on this SEA objective. Development proposals will be assessed against all policies in the Plan as well as their contribution to the specific objectives for each community.</p>
<p>Mitigation measures:</p>			
<p>KEY</p>			
<p>Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term</p>			
<p>positive effect</p>			
<p>no effect or negligible effect</p>			
<p>negative effect</p>			
<p>uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects</p>			
<p>not applicable</p>			

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan			
Assessment recording form			
Cumulative Assessment of all proposals (and application of policies) in the Plan			
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
SEA Question:			
1. Will the Plan maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food sustainably?			The implementation of the proposals in the Plan will result in a small loss of land currently used for agriculture (mostly to housing proposals at Ballater and Newtonmore). However, these areas are a small part of the total farmland of the Park and are not high quality agricultural land. The Plan also includes a policy framework for ensuring that allotments or community growing spaces are provided in developments where necessary. It is considered that the net effect on this SEA objective is negligible.
2. Will the Plan maintain or improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits?			The implementation of the proposals in the Plan will result in a small loss of woodland (most significantly at An Camas Mòr). However, the total areas of woodland that would be lost are small in comparison to both the total area of woodland in the Park and the areas of new woodland planting expected over the life of the Plan. In addition, the policies of the Plan require that developments conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the Park, and encourage use of local timber in construction. It is considered that the net effect of the Plan's proposals on this SEA objective is negligible.
3. Will the Plan maintain or improve the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water in and from the Park, including the ability of river catchments to store water?	M L		The implementation of the proposals in the Plan will increase the demand for water and the discharge of waste water in the Park. The scale of increase in demand and discharge has been factored into calculations for Scottish Water abstraction and waste water infrastructure and is not considered to have a significant effect on water supply or quality. The Plan also identifies where there are potential flood risks and that more detailed flood risk assessment will be required with detailed proposals for development. The ability of the Park to supply a high quality supply in and from the Park will be maintained.

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan			
Assessment recording form			
Cumulative Assessment of all proposals (and application of policies) in the Plan			
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			The implementation of the many proposals and policies in the Plan should have a positive effect on this SEA objective. Each proposal will help to conserve and enhance biodiversity, though there will be change in habitats and disturbance on and near development sites during construction. The implementation of the Plan will support an increase in the population of the Park, but that increase in population will be small in relation to the number of visitors to the Park, so will not significantly increase disturbance that would harm distinctive species or habitats. The provision of appropriate access infrastructure, open space, and recreation facilities will also focus and manage people to avoid significant harm. There is also potential for mitigation measures that allow new development to take place to reduce existing levels of disturbance to sensitive species, creating an additional positive effect.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park?			The implementation of the proposals in the Plan will result in some disturbance to soils in the Park. However, there will be no new commercial peat extraction, and disturbance to soils, peat and associated vegetation will be minimised through policies in the Plan. It is considered that the net effect of the Plan's proposals on this SEA objective is negligible.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?	M L		The implementation of the proposals and policies in the Plan is intended to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste. The Plan will increase energy use through new development, but will help make that new development as efficient as possible. The policies and proposals focus new development to locations that minimise the need for transport by private car where possible and supports renewable energy generation. It is considered that the Plan will have a positive net effect on this SEA objective in the medium and longer-term by consolidating a pattern of development that can be serviced by public transport and by foot and cycle.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	M L		The implementation of the proposals and policies in the Plan will have a positive effect on this SEA objective. New development will be linked to existing path networks and open spaces, as well as providing new paths, open spaces and recreation facilities where necessary.

SEA of Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan Assessment recording form			
Cumulative Assessment of all proposals (and application of policies) in the Plan			
Summary of effect at scale of:	Park	Scotland	Commentary on assessment
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and experience of the Park?	M L		The implementation of the proposals and policies in the Plan will have a positive effect on this SEA objective. There will be changes in the landscape over time, but all new development will conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character of the Park.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park??	M L		The implementation of the proposals and policies in the Plan will have a positive effect on this SEA objective. The Plan will help to protect, conserve, and enhance the cultural heritage of the Park. In particular, the built heritage of the Park will be conserved through development for future generations to enjoy.
Mitigation measures:			
KEY			
Duration of effects: L-long term, M-medium term, S-short term			
positive effect			
no effect or negligible effect			
negative effect			
uncertain effect/effect cannot be predicted/or both positive and negative effects			
not applicable			

Appendix 3

Using the Ecosystems Approach in the SEA

Building the Ecosystems Approach into the SEA

1. Ecosystems are a natural unit of living things and their physical environment. The living parts and non-living parts work together as an independent system. An impact on one part of the system can lead to impacts on other parts of the system. The Earth is made up of many ecosystems at many scales and there is often overlap between ecosystems. The Cairngorms National Park contains and is part of many ecosystems. It therefore makes sense to consider the Park and how it is managed in terms of its ecosystems.
2. Table 14 below identifies the main broad ecosystems services that are likely to be important in the Cairngorms National Park. It draws on and extends the work of the National Ecosystems Assessment.

Table 14 – Ecosystems Services in the Cairngorms National Park

<p>Provisioning services:</p> <p>The products obtained from ecosystems. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food (crops & livestock) • fibre (crops, trees, wool, etc) • fuel • fresh water • distinctive wild species 	<p>Regulating services:</p> <p>The benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes. For example,;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate regulation (local temperature regulation, emission and storage of greenhouse gases) • hazard regulation (eg flooding, landslides, wildfire) • disease and pest regulation • soil quality • water quality • seed dispersal • air quality and noise • pollination
<p>Cultural services:</p> <p>The non-material benefits people obtain from ecosystems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge - ecological and geological • recreation - enjoyment, physical and mental health • patterns and forms of settlement • aesthetic experience of landscape • sense of place • tradition • awareness and appreciation of the historic environment • spiritual and personal association or connection with place, history and tradition • spiritual and personal association or connection with nature • societal identity and pride 	<p>Supporting services:</p> <p>Ecosystem services that are necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biodiversity • biomass production • atmospheric oxygen production • natural weathering processes • erosion • soil formation and retention • nutrient cycling • water cycling • river processes • provisioning of habitat • provision of rock/minerals & landforms • photosynthesis • evolutionary processes

3. Clearly, not all ecosystems services will be as important in all the broad habitats of the National Park. Nor will they all benefit the same people in the same way. Some will benefit people who live or work in the Park, some those who visit, and some will be important for people outside the Park. A scoping or sifting exercise can help tell us what ecosystems services are important in each habitat.
4. Table 15 summarises the importance of different ecosystems services from different habitats in the Cairngorms National Park. It also shows that there are some differences in the services or benefits that we take or get from the different habitats of the National Park. There are two points about the table that are worth highlighting. Firstly, the supporting ecosystems services are all, by their nature important. Secondly, the habitats of the National Park are linked to and important for many cultural ecosystems services – partly reflecting the value that society places on the National Park as a special place.
5. The ecosystems services identified can be linked to SEA topics. Table 16 shows how SEA topics are relevant to the different ecosystems services. Because the ecosystems services are derived from complex and interacting systems, most services are linked to many of the formal SEA issues.
6. However, not all ecosystems services are things that are likely to be affected by the proposed LDP. In particular, many supporting ecosystems services are linked to natural processes that are unlikely to be significantly influenced by humans.
7. For example, supporting services such as the provision of rocks and landforms rely on geological processes operating over thousands and millions of years. Humans have little influence over such processes. Similarly, photosynthesis is a process that's vital to most terrestrial life, yet its function or the potential for it to function will not be significantly influenced by the proposed LDP.
8. The cultural ecosystems services provided by the Park are some of the most significant of all the ecosystems services provided by the Park's habitats. They reflect the way society experiences and values its special qualities, recognising that many of the benefits of the Park are nationally important.

Table 15 The importance of ecosystems services in broad habitats of the Park.

Importance of the Ecosystems Service		High							
		Medium-High	Enclosed Farmland	Woodlands	Open Waters	Moor	Semi-natural Grasslands	Mountains	Urban
Medium-Low		Low							
Provisioning Ecosystems Services	food								
	fibre								
	fuel								
	fresh water								
	Distinctive wild species								
Regulating Ecosystems Services	climate regulation (local temperature regulation, emission and storage of greenhouse gases)								
	hazard regulation (eg flooding, landslides, wildfire)								
	disease and pest regulation								
	soil quality								
	water quality								
	seed dispersal								
	air quality and noise								
	pollination								
Cultural Ecosystems Services	knowledge - ecological and geological								
	recreation - enjoyment, physical and mental health								
	patterns and forms of settlement								
	aesthetic experience of landscape								
	sense of place								
	tradition								
	awareness and appreciation of the historic environment								
	spiritual and personal association or connection with place, history and tradition								
	spiritual and personal association or connection with nature								
	societal identity and pride								
Supporting Ecosystems Services	Biodiversity								
	biomass production								
	atmospheric oxygen production								
	natural weathering processes								
	erosion								
	soil formation and retention								
	nutrient cycling								
	water cycling								
	river processes								
	provisioning of habitat								
	provision of rock/minerals								
	provision of landform								
	photosynthesis								
evolutionary processes									

Table 16 Ecosystems services and SEA issues		Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Population and Human Health	Soil	Climatic Factors	Water	Air	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Material Assets
Provisioning Ecosystems Services	food									
	fibre									
	fuel									
	fresh water									
	distinctive wild species									
Regulating Ecosystems Services	climate regulation (local temperature regulation, emission and storage of greenhouse gases)									
	hazard regulation (eg flooding, landslides, wildfire)									
	disease and pest regulation									
	soil quality									
	water quality									
	seed dispersal									
	air quality and noise									
	pollination									
Cultural Ecosystems Services	knowledge - ecological and geological									
	recreation - enjoyment, physical and mental health									
	patterns and forms of settlement									
	aesthetic experience of landscape									
	sense of place									
	tradition									
	awareness and appreciation of the historic environment									
	spiritual and personal association or connection with place, history and tradition									
	spiritual and personal association or connection with nature									
societal identity and pride										
Supporting Ecosystems Services	Biodiversity									
	biomass production									
	atmospheric oxygen production									
	natural weathering processes									
	erosion									
	soil formation and retention									
	nutrient cycling									
	water cycling									
	river processes									
	provisioning of habitat									
	provision of rock/minerals									
	provision of landform									
	photosynthesis									
	evolutionary processes									

The Environmental Baseline

9. This section sets out the current state of the environment in the Cairngorms National Park. In using an ecosystems approach to inform the assessment, the information is presented by the seven broad habitats of the Park. The information supplements information in the State of the Park Report of 2006, and other publications of the CNPA. Table 15 summarises the ecosystems services that different habitats provide. We have made an assumption that with the exception of urban habitats, all the habitat types are important in their own right for providing supporting ecosystem services

Enclosed Farmlands

10. It is estimated that around 7 percent of the area of the Park is enclosed farmland, confined to the straths of the Park. Most of that is enclosed pasture, with less than 1 per cent of the area of the Park used for crops. The Park has seen a steady reduction in the area of enclosed farmlands, partly because of the history of small-scale and marginal upland farming that has been becoming steadily less economical. There has been a trend towards loss of the enclosed pasture to more marginal rough grazing as well as a growth in farm woodlands¹. The majority of agricultural production in the Park is linked to beef and lamb. The long-term trend in these sectors has been one of declining numbers of stock, again linked to the marginal economics of farming in much of the Park.
11. Historically, the farmlands of the straths of the Park have provided important habitat for wading birds. They continue to be important (the Strathspey area is one of Scotland's most significant areas for breeding waders) though populations have been in decline. The relationship of farmlands in the Park with water and wetlands is significant, partly because much farmland is within the functional or constrained floodplains of the main rivers. In some places the farmland has been drained and protected from flooding, but many areas continue to flood.
12. Farmland provides an important link to our cultural heritage, with historical remains and landscapes, active tradition and stories of the past. It is an integral part of the landscape in the valleys and straths of the Park.

Drivers of Change

13. Changes in farmland management have been for economic and policy reasons. The marginal nature of much farming in the Park means that some farm units are not viable businesses. It also means that most farming is reliant on subsidy in order to be economically viable, and the policy objectives of the subsidies drive farming practice.
14. Much agricultural land is managed for a range of public benefits including biodiversity, public access, and flood management as well as food. Climate change may increase the potential productivity of some farmland in the Park in the future. However, the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as adapt to potential extreme weather events are becoming stronger drivers of public policy. It is likely that more management will be based on the management of carbon-rich soils and the improved function of floodplains

¹ The Economic and Social Health of the Cairngorms National Park Report, 2010.
<http://www.cairngorms.co.uk/parkauthority/publications/>

in the future. The national target for increasing Scotland's trees cover to 25 per cent may result in woodland replacing some areas of farmland.

Woodlands

15. Woodlands are the Park's richest and most diverse habitats. Woodland covers about 20 per cent of the Park area, with around half being semi-natural woodland and half planted woodland². The semi-natural woodlands in particular are important with ancient pine woods, and important areas of birch woodland, aspen and oak. Woodland supports some of the Cairngorms most iconic and distinctive species such as capercaillie, pine marten, crossbill, crested tit and red squirrel. They are also important for a wide range of plant, fungi and lichen species that only survive in particular woodland habitats. Many areas of woodland are protected by Natura designations and SSSI designations, and there are a number of woodland National Nature reserves in the Park.
16. Woodland plays an important local role in the regulation of climate in the Park by providing shelter from wind and from sunlight. Woodland on floodplains and throughout catchments can improve their ability to store and slow the release of water, protect against erosion of slopes and the release of sediment into water courses. Woodland can also have the capacity to store atmospheric carbon. Woodlands in the Park are an important recreation resource providing many marked routes for people to follow and potential to absorb many people without obvious impact. Nevertheless some woodland habitats and some species are sensitive to disturbance by people and by dogs. Woodlands are an intrinsic part of the landscape of the Park, and provide strong links with the historic environment and cultural heritage of the Park.
17. Woodland cover in the Park has been increasing for the past 50 years or so, initially through planting of commercial timber and latterly through planting and natural regeneration of native species. The Park has a significant industry based around the management of woodland for timber and timber products, for recreation, for biodiversity, and for woodfuel.
18. Semi-natural and native woodland is expanding in the Park, but there has been loss of some area of ancient semi-natural woodland to growth of settlements in Badenoch and Strathspey. Almost all settlement in Badenoch and Strathspey has at some point during the past 20 years expanded over areas of ancient semi-natural woodland. Although there remain contentious sites for housing development within the planning system (either as planning applications or sites zoned for potential future development), no significant new areas of ancient semi-natural woodland have been identified for development in development plans since the National Park was established.

Drivers of Change

19. Most woodland management is influenced by public policy through designation and through financial support. A continued emphasis on management for biodiversity and for recreation as well as timber and woodfuel production and management of carbon is likely to remain. The effects of climate change on the species that inhabit woodland is

² Cairngorms National Park Forest and Woodland Framework, 2008.
<http://www.cairngorms.co.uk/parkauthority/publications/>

not fully understood. The national target for increasing Scotland's trees cover to 25 per cent may result in more woodland replacing other habitats.

Open Waters

20. The Cairngorms National Park has the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers as well as many smaller ones. Many of the rivers and their tributaries as well as lochs and wetlands are designated as Natura sites and SSSIs. The rivers in particular provide water for society in the National Park, and for people outside the Park as they flow downstream towards the sea.
21. The open waters cut across many of the habitats of the Park and receive water from them. Each habitat plays a role in the quality of the water, sometimes removing chemicals or materials and sometimes adding them to the water system. The open waters themselves provide further changes to the qualities of the water. As well as providing fresh drinking water, the rivers are used to remove waste. Treated sewage normally flows back to the river system, and waste from farmland and industries such as whisky distilling often re-enters the rivers. River processes of erosion and deposition, turbulence, and flooding all contribute to the water quality and the function of the river systems. Changes in a river or water systems can affect it downstream and upstream.
22. Open waters play an important role in recreation for water sports and for angling and are an integral part of the landscape of the Park. Because of their importance to human society, they have long historical connections of use and change, providing an important link with the Park's cultural heritage.

Drivers of Change

23. Open waters are subject to a regulatory system to ensure their continued high quality, and this manages many human activities that could affect open waters. However, because of the connections with so many other habitats, open waters can be sensitive to a number of pressures. Climate change has already increased the temperature of many water bodies, so much so that some species such as salmon, which rely on a specific temperature range to spawn successfully, may be affected by small increases in future. The temperature of water also affects the chemical composition and the ways that nutrients and chemicals are processed. The pollutants that fall with rain can also change with changes in climate.
24. Extreme weather events such as rainstorms and sudden snow melt increase the runoff from other habitats to open waters. The runoff can contain large volumes of chemicals and materials that the open waters are not used to, and the extra volume of water is either stored through flooding or runs downstream faster, increasing the likelihood of destructive erosion and flooding downstream. Invasive non-native species of plant and animal can have a destructive effect on wetland habitats too.
25. The development of small-scale hydro energy schemes has potential to change water courses. Water is abstracted, used and returned as waste water by humans for land management and business activities as well as domestic uses. With projected increases in households and new developments of housing, this has potential to change the demand for water and discharge of waste water.

Mountains

26. Mountains form a large and iconic part of the Cairngorms National Park. They are a backdrop to most views of the National Park; are a distinguishing part of the landscape character of the Park; have a range of iconic species, habitats and geological and geomorphological features; and are a significant resource for recreation. The height and mass of the Cairngorms themselves provide a range of habitats and associated species that are rare or unique in the British Isles. Large areas of the mountains of the Park are designated as Natura sites, SSSIs, and NNRs for their species, habitats and geological importance. The mountains provide a focus for precipitation and an important starting point for the buffering of pollutants in precipitation as they move towards open waters.
27. Mountains are amongst the least intensively managed parts of the Park, with deer stalking and management for a few other game species as well as recreation management and management for biodiversity being the main objectives. The habitats of the mountains can be very sensitive to the level of grazing by herbivore such as deer, sheep and hare. The mountains are particularly important as a recreation resource for hillwalking, rock climbing in summer and winter climbing as well as skiing. The mountains have a long cultural history of use and exploration that is well documented and shared. They contain material evidence of past ways of life that is well preserved, and have numerous associations with stories, songs and art.

Drivers of Change

28. Because so many species and habitats of the mountain occupy a particular niche of temperature range and precipitation that is not present elsewhere in the UK, they are particularly sensitive to changes in climate. Increases in temperature and changes in snowfall or the length of time snow remains have already changed the nature of habitats and the composition of species, and will continue to do so in future. The deposition of chemicals on the mountains is also slowly changing the chemical composition of soils, making them more fertile in some cases, but also allowing different plant species to grow in place of others. Soils and surfaces on mountains are often less stable than in other habitats and can be more likely to slip and slide during and after heavy rainfall or snow melt.
29. Different parts of the mountains are important for different habitats. Some species and habitats can cope with grazing by deer and sheep while others die back. Managing the numbers of deer and sheep and their grazing pressure to support a range of species and habitats is a driver of public policy on designated areas.
30. People enjoying the mountain for recreation can also effect the habitats and species. Human feet can cause erosion of vegetation and soils; people can disturb birds; and animals, and dogs can disturb and kill birds and animals even when people do not. However, work to maintain paths and reinstate damaged ground has proved effective in the past and is likely to be effective in the future. Few people who recreate in the mountains do so with the intention of disturbing wildlife, so improving peoples understanding of the sensitive species and habitats is likely to reduce disturbance.

Moorland

31. Moorland habitats in the Cairngorms run between the mountains and woodland and farmland. The moorlands of the Park are a distinctive and iconic habitat and landscape that is internationally famous. Moorlands tend to be managed for red grouse shooting but are also important for black grouse near woodland margins.
32. Moorland frequently overlaps areas of upland wetland and blanket bog and is also associated with a mosaic semi-natural acid grassland on drier ground, by water courses and where heavily grazed by sheep cattle or deer. The use of moorland for rough grazing by sheep and cattle is an integral part of upland farming. The peat deposits of moorlands are a significant store of carbon. They also play an important role in maintaining water quality by buffering some pollutants.
33. Moorland's role in recreation is significant, partly because of the network of tracks and paths that provides easy access, and partly because most mountain habitats are accessed via moorland habitats. Moorland often preserves archaeological remains and evidence of past environments that tells us about historical life and culture of human society as well as what the land was like before humans managed it. In common with many other habitats of the Cairngorms, there is a recorded history, stories and tradition linked to moorland that enriches our cultural heritage.

Drivers of Change

34. Moorland management relies on muirburn or cutting to promote new heather growth and maintain a habitat that supports as many red grouse as possible. Without this active management, moorland would change as heather grows rank and scrub or woodland may succeed it. Similarly, the level of grazing by sheep, cattle and deer affects the habitat. The habitat is more sensitive to extreme events than some others. For example, periods of very low humidity and low temperature can kill heather, and infestations of the Heather Beetle will similarly affect the growth of heather.
35. Intensive management for grouse can reduce or remove populations of other species such as deer and mountain hare, and illegal persecution of raptors is often associated with moorland management.
36. The conditions for the formation of peat require a particular temperature and precipitation range that may be influenced by climate change. As an important store of carbon, it is likely that future public support for the management of moorland will seek to secure the long-term storage and management of the carbon in peat and soils. Changes in climate can lead to erosion of peat from sudden weather events and may also play a role in the success of species such as ticks and the diseases they can carry.
37. The national target for increasing Scotland's trees cover to 25 per cent may result in woodland replacing some areas of moorland.

Semi-natural Grasslands

38. Semi-natural grassland habitats are mostly associated with the margins between farmland and moorland and an area of rough grazing, or in a mosaic of semi-natural acid grassland

and moorland on drier ground, by water courses and where heavily grazed by sheep cattle or deer. They are frequently on areas of ground that were previously farmed and have since been abandoned. This means they often provide clear physical remains of past uses, ways of life and communities.

Drivers of Change

39. Most grasslands are maintained by grazing. Changes to semi-natural grasslands are therefore mostly associated with changes in the grazing regime. This may occur through changes in management of livestock or deer by fencing or removal. Woodland planting will change a grassland over time and will also normally be accompanied by a reduction in grazing. Where semi-natural grasslands occur on abandoned farmland, heather moorland, scrub woodland and wetland areas may also develop. The national target for increasing Scotland's trees cover to 25 per cent may result in woodland replacing some areas of semi-natural grassland.

Urban

40. About a third of 1 per cent of the Cairngorms National Park's area is within a settlement boundary in the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan. Perhaps as much land is covered by other buildings, roads and human development. These areas are important because it is in them that most human activity takes place. Urban habitats are diverse, with a range of buildings, garden and open spaces and unique micro climates. They require energy to function, create waste energy, pollution to the air, water and soil, noise and light.
41. The urban areas of the Park are the established way of living for most of its human population. The quality of accommodation, services and resources available in urban areas plays a vital role in the health and wellbeing of the population. They also have a long cultural history, with a distinctive built heritage and a focus for cultural celebrations. The streetscapes and views with urban areas are a distinctive part of their character, and views of the straths and valleys of the Park are linked by the settlements and their connecting routes.
42. All urban areas within the Park provide some opportunities for recreation within them, or are connected to a network of paths and tracks and open areas around them which link to other habitats of the Park. They are a significant place for visitors to the Park, both as a place of shelter, food and drink, but also as a place to get information about opportunities to experience, enjoy and learn about the Park.
43. The design of our urban areas has changed over time. New developments should now incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) and other measures to minimise their impacts on natural systems.

Drivers of Change

44. Urban areas in the Park are linked to people's ability to live there and for most people are therefore linked to economic opportunity or availability of money. Changes in the wider Scottish economy may affect the ability of people to live in the Park.

45. Migration to the Park has been slightly higher than migration from the Park since 2003, and this has led to a slow increase in the population. Allied to the increasing population, changes in the composition of households (a trend towards a greater number of smaller households) mean a requirement for more house units to hold the same population. Current allocations of land for future housing development are expected to provide 20-25 years of housing land supply if the population continues to increase at its recent rates. However, constraints to the supply of new housing, such as the slow-down in bank lending to house builders over the past two years will also slow or stop increases in population. Nevertheless, new development can change the character and appearance of existing settlements and other areas.

46. Life in the National Park is currently heavily reliant on oil for energy. Much of the built fabric of the Park is old and requires a lot of energy to heat. The remote location of the Park increases transport costs. Without action to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and ways of life, reduce energy consumption, and use lower carbon energy sources, life in the Park could become economically unviable for many of the working population.

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