Cairngorms NATIONAL PARK

Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan

Main Issues Report

Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report

SEA Environmental Report - Cover Note

PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
or
SEA Gateway
Scottish Executive
Area 1 H (Bridge)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

PART 2

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

Local Development Plan Main Issues Report

The Responsible Authority is:

The Cairngorms National Park Authority

PART 3

Contact name	Karen Major
Job Title	Development Plan Officer
Contact address	Cairngorms National Park Authority Albert Memorial Hall Station Square Ballater Aberdeenshire AB35 5QB
Contact tel no	013397 53601
Contact email	localplan@cairngorms.co.uk

PART 4

Signature

Date 25 July 2011

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1. Non-Technical Summary

1.1 This is a non-technical summary of the Environmental Report, part of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Main Issues Report for the Cairngorms Local Development Plan. It explains:

- What the SEA is;
- How it has been carried out;
- What effects the Main Issues Report is likely to have on the environment;
- How the SEA has influenced the Main Issues Report;
- Next steps.

1.2 **What is the SEA?**

SEA is a way of ensuring that the environmental implications of a proposed plan are carefully considered during its development. It is a formal part of the plan making process and a legal obligation. The purpose is to ensure that the plan minimises negative effects on the environment and maximise positive effects, and to ensure that information on the likely effects is available to inform public consultation.

1.3 **How has the SEA been carried out?**

The Main Issues Report seeks to help deliver the four aims of the National Park:

- 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.

It is therefore clear that the Plan sets out to have an effect on the environment – a positive effect. Aspects of the Plan could also have a negative effect. An SEA is therefore required.

The assessment:

- Identifies the current state of the environment in the Park, key trends and issues;
- Considers how the environment might change without the Plan;
- Sets out environmental objectives relevant to the issues faced in the Park (associated with the topics SEA is required to consider);
- Frames questions derived from these objectives to assess the Plan;
- Tests the proposals in the Plan against these questions to predict its likely effects on these key aspects of the environment;
- Records the results of this assessment and identifies mitigation that would reduce negative effects or enhance positive effects;
- Identifies indicators against which the effects of implementing the Plan can be monitored.

We have used the framework of ecosystems to identify the key aspects of the environment that the assessment considers. This has helped to ensure that the assessment questions and criteria and relevant to the issues in the Park, and that the relationships between physical assets, their use, value and functions are considered. The methodology shows how this approach can be mapped on to the standard categories of SEA topics we are required to consider.

1.4 What effect is the Main Issues Report likely to have on the environment?

Overall the assessment records no clear negative effects, a small number of identifiable positive effects, and a significant number of uncertain effects – many of which be negative, or in some cases positive, depending on how and where the options are implemented.

The Main Issues Report sets out options to address the main issues the Plan should address, including allocations for housing and economic development. The Report does not make firm policy proposals or propose detailed policies. Those come in the next stage of the Proposed Local Development Plan. There is therefore a high degree of uncertainty in assessing likely effects of options being suggested, and the options are necessarily strategic, making it difficult to assess likely effects.

The options for issues one and two (special qualities and resources) show a likely positive effect as these options are intended to protect special qualities and use resources sustainably. The options for the remaining policy issues are assessed as having many uncertain effects, as the effects could be positive or negative in many cases depending on how and where they are implemented. Assessment of the sites helps to identify the more likely effects of the way these policies influence the settlement strategy.

The options for land allocations also identify a number of uncertain effects, but predominantly record no likely effect. Negative effects are not recorded due to a prior analysis of all the sites proposed in the call for sites, including their ecological, landscape and flooding effects. A Phase one habitat survey, landscape assessment and flood risk assessment of all potential sites was incorporated into the first sift of options for allocations. Only allocations that do not pose unacceptable risks to ecology or landscape were considered for inclusion in the Plan. The other sites were therefore screened out as unreasonable alternatives.

1.5 How has the SEA influenced the Main Issues Report?

Given the aims of the Park development of the Main Issues Report from the outset sought to deliver a positive effect on the environment, so many potential negative effects of individual policy options or land allocations are addressed through mitigation built into the options, or in the case of allocations, screened out as unreasonable alternatives.

The assessment has helped to test the integration of the Plan, ensuring that where elements of the Plan could have a negative effect, sufficient parameters are set within the options, or more likely required in the Proposed Development Plan, to ensure those elements of the Plan are delivered in such a way as to avoid negative impacts and maximise positive impacts.

The assessment has identified some specific mitigation which should be considered in developing the Proposed Development Plan and in delivery:

- Ensure strong policy direction and information provision to protect special qualities;
- Ensure potential effects are addressed through assessment of sites and in turn, specific proposals.

In proposing allocations, the assessment identified the following mitigation measures in particular if specific site proposals are included:

- Tree planting/screening/retention of existing woodland setting;
- Follow existing settlement pattern and layout;
- Use of design statements to ensure sensitive and appropriate design.

1.6 What are the next steps?

The public consultation on the Main Issues Report and this Environmental Report runs from 19 September to 9 December 2011. On completion of the consultation, the CNPA will use the responses to develop the Proposed Development Plan, setting out the proposed policies and allocations across the full range of topics the Plan should cover.

The Proposed Development Plan will be subject to public consultation and a further Environmental Report assessing the environmental effects of the proposals in it will be published alongside it for consultation. The Development Plan Scheme, published on www.cairngorms.co.uk, sets out the full process and timetable for preparing the Local Development Plan.

2 Introduction

Purpose of this Environmental Report

2.1 As part of the preparation of the Main Issues Report (the first formal stage in 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 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.

2.2 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 done 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.

2.3 The purpose of this Environmental Report is to

- Provide information on the Main Issues Report;
- 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 Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan and its Main Issues Report

2.4 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.

2.5 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 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.

2.6 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.

2.7 In the preparation of the Local Development Plan, the Park Authority must prepare a Main Issues Report Plan. The Main Issues Report must:

- Set out the Authority's general proposals for development in the area and in particular proposals as to where development should and should not occur;
- Be sufficiently clear to enable people to understand what is proposed and to make meaningful comments;
- Set out one or more reasonable alternative sets of proposals;
- Draw attention to the ways in which the favoured and alternative proposals differ from the spatial strategy of the existing adopted Local Plan.

2.8 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:

The Aims of the National Park are

- To conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage;
- To promote sustainable use of the natural resources;
- 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.

2.9 The existing Cairngorms National Park Local Plan was adopted in October 2010. This Plan did not include the latterly included area of Perth & 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, and to link with ongoing work to review the National Park Plan which is to be submitted to the Minister for approval in 2012. The Main Issues Report and Draft Cairngorms National Park Plan 2012-2017 and their respective Environmental Reports are being consulted on between 19 September 2011 and 9 December 2011.

2.10 The Main Issues Report falls under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The report, which will inform the Local Development Plan has potential to generate significant environmental effects and so a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is being undertaken.

2.11 The key facts relating to the Main Issues Report are set out in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Key Facts about the Main Issues Report	
Responsible Authority	Cairngorms National Park Authority
Title of PPS	Local Development Plan Main Issues Report
Purpose of PPS	To flush out solutions to the main issues affecting planning policy for the National Park.
What prompted the PPS	Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006, and review of the National Park Plan.
Subject (e.g. 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	The Main Issues Report (MIR) is the first formal stage in preparing a Local Development Plan (LDP). The role of the MIR is intended to stimulate debate on the issues and options for future development in the National Park. It looks at the main issues and key areas of change. It does not set out draft policies – these will be considered in the proposed LDP. The MIR includes a number of main issues and for each, a series of reasonable options to address that issue. The preferred option of the Authority is indicated. The issues and options are then subject to comprehensive public engagement to gauge opinion. This will then inform the proposed LDP.
Contact Point	Karen Major, Development Plan Officer Cairngorms National Park Authority, Albert Memorial Hall, Station Square, Ballater, Aberdeenshire, AB35 5QB

SEA Activities to Date

2.12 SEA has been undertaken at different stages and levels of detail throughout the development of the Main Issues Report. Many of the issues included in the Main Issues Report are intended to provide a framework for dealing with environmental problems which arise as a result of development as well as addressing the needs of communities and delivering the aims of the National Park.

2.13 Table 2 summarises the SEA activities to date in relation to the Main Issues Report.

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	*June - July 2011*	Led to changes in assessment methodology
Outline and objectives of the PPS	*2010*	
Relationship with other PPS and environmental objectives	*2010-2011*	
Environmental baseline established	*2010-2011*	
Environmental problems identified	*2010-2011*	
Assessment of future of area without the PPS	*2010-2011*	
Alternatives considered	*2010-2011*	Alternatives have been considered throughout the process and as an integral part of the development of the Main Issues Report.
Environmental assessment methods established	*Apr 2011*	
Selection of PPS alternatives to be included in the environmental assessment		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	*Mar-June 2011*	
Monitoring methods proposed	*Mar-June 2011*	
Consultation timescales • Timescale for Consultation Authorities • Timescale for public	*June - July 2011* *Sept - Dec2011*	
Notification/publicity action	*Sep-Dec 2011*	

3. Context

Outline and Objectives of the Main Issues Report

3.1 The Cairngorms National Park Authority is the responsible authority for the preparation of the Local Development Plan. The Main Issues Report is the first formal stage in the work to review the adopted Local Plan and prepare a Local Development Plan. The Main Issues Report is intended to stimulate debate on the main issues facing the National Park in terms of development and planning for the future. It is not a document which sets out detailed planning policies in its own right but gives options which will inform the proposed Local Development Plan.

3.2 The Main Issues Report sets out a series of issues and for each issue, a number of reasonable options. These issues and options have been drawn up following engagement with partners and key stakeholders, and informed by work with communities who were asked to consider what long-term development will help to achieve their individual vision. The issues and options are intended to be engaging, clear and reasonable. The issues cannot be seen in isolation. Each has an impact on the others, and it is important to bear this in mind when considering the options for the future.

3.3 The Main Issues Report will inform the proposed Local Development Plan. Development Plans have a five-year timeframe, but must also set out where development might go for up to 20 years. Both the Main Issues Report and the Local Development Plan are also informed by the National Park Plan. This Plan gives the strategic direction for both issues and options, set out in three strategic objectives. It also sets the long-term vision for the National Park.

3.4 Tables 3 to 5 below outline the Main Issues Report issues, options and potential sites for development by settlement. 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: Issues		
Issue 1	Special qualities of the Park	How can we protect the special qualities of the Cairngorms National Park and provide clarity on where development should and should not go?
Issue 2	Resources	How do we plan for the most effective use of the existing resources and respond to the effects of climate change such as water, energy, waste, carbon?
Issue 3	Supporting our communities	How and where can we make sure communities have what they need – jobs, tourism options, facilities etc?
Issue 4	Affordable housing	How and where can we meet the housing need in our communities – open market, affordable, local needs?
Issue 5	Spatial Strategy	How and where should development happen in the Cairngorms National Park?
Issue 6	Support for rural areas	How do we plan for development that supports our rural areas – follow the existing patterns of development or take a different approach?
Issue 7	Connectivity and communications	How can we help people move around the Park – local access, tourists, people travelling through the Park?

Table 4: The Options		
Issue 1	Special Qualities of the Park	Protect the special qualities from inappropriate development through a policy-based approach.
		Protect the special qualities through a policy-based approach. Provide additional spatial guidance to conserve and enhance designated nature conservation sites, habitat connectivity, wildness and landscape character.
Issue 2	Resources	Protect those resources which are important to the National Park through a policy-based approach, and set out options for appropriate development opportunities.
		Provide an 'areas of search' analysis to direct developers to specific opportunities by providing spatial information looking at particular resources (water, energy sources, agricultural land, waste, forestry, etc).
		Combine a policy-based approach with clear spatial guidance identifying sensitivities and opportunities, building on the existing Sustainable Design Guide.
Issue 3	Supporting our communities	Highlight the general opportunities for economic development that fit in key settlements, and also support our rural communities.
		Highlight the different communities in the Park and support appropriate opportunities for economic development, services and facilities within them.

Issue 4	Affordable housing	Limit new housing development to provide only that identified as required in the housing assessments. This will take into account those sites with permission, focus new development opportunities on sites which are allocated in the existing adopted Local Plans. On those sites we would require a proportion of between 25-40 per cent affordable units.
		Focus all new development on the provision of affordable housing by only identifying sites for 100 per cent affordable housing (bearing in mind the existing consents).
		Support the needs of communities by ensuring all main and other settlements have some options for future development. Focus new housing on those sites already in adopted Local Plans. On these sites require a benchmark of 25 per cent affordable development (again, bearing in mind existing consents)
Issue 5	Spatial Strategy	Clarify the settlement hierarchy so communities are clear what they are likely to see in the future. This would include land for housing and economic investment. Clarify what is anticipated in rural communities outwith identified settlements.
Issue 6	Support for rural areas	Deal with development in an ad hoc way.
		Focus development on key settlements. Restrict development outside settlements to particular forms of development/use.
		Support rural communities by providing for growth which matches historic growth patterns. Use the landscape character assessment to protect these important rural areas from inappropriate development.
Issue 7	Connectivity and communications	Secure improvements to the transport and access routes throughout the Park by providing a clear framework for development.
		Identify weaknesses in the communications network, focus on the 'hot spots' of activity and key links/routes across the Park, including review of the core paths network to ensure it is sufficient to meet the needs of residents and visitors. Where key improvements are needed by requiring developments to make a contribution towards existing and new routes.

Table 5: Potential sites	
An Camas Mòr	058a An Camas Mòr
	059 Land by River Spey – An Camas Mòr/Aviemore
Aviemore	012g Aviemore – North Dalfaber
Ballater	026 Ballater – Land NE of Monaltrie Park
Grantown-on-Spey	012f Grantown-on-Spey - North of Beachan Court
Newtonmore	043 Newtonmore H1
	044 Newtonmore H2
Blair Atholl	055 Blair Atholl H27
	057 Blair Atholl I7
Boat of Garten	012h Boat of Garten – South of Deshar Road
Braemar	031d Braemar – West Auchendryne.
	031g Braemar – Linn of Dee Place
Bruar & Pitagowan	005e Blair Atholl – Goods yard
	053 Bruar car park O7
Cromdale	029a Cromdale – land at Auchroisk
Dalwhinnie	027 Dalwhinnie
	046 Dalwhinnie H1
	047 Dalwhinnie H2
	048 Dalwhinnie H3
Dinnet	024a Dinnet – The Clarack
	024b Dinnet – Chalets/Caravan Site
	024c Dinnet – Housing Site H1
	024d Dinnet – Housing Site H2a
Dulnain Bridge	012a Dulnain Bridge – west of play area
	050 Dulnain Bridge H2 existing permission
Killiecrankie	052 Killiecrankie H31
Kincraig	051 Kincraig H1
Nethy Bridge	006b Nethy Bridge – Land at Craigmore
Tomintoul	037a Tomintoul i.1
	060 Tomintoul H1
	061 Tomintoul H2
	062 Tomintoul H3
	063 Tomintoul H4

Relationship with Other Plans, Programmes and Strategies and Environmental Objectives

3.5 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.

3.6 The Main Issues Report 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 Main Issues Report.

3.7 Local Strategies and policies are also influential, including Local Housing Strategies, Housing need and demand assessments, local transport strategies, and catchment management plans for rivers Dee, South Esk and Spey all provide direction.

3.8 The Main Issues Report must also take direction from policies and plans produced by the CNPA. It gets its strategic context and vision from the National Park Plan, and is influenced by other documents including the Core Paths Plan, Outdoor Access Strategy and Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

3.9 The full range of relevant environmental objectives is extensive and often duplicated between PPS at the same level or different levels. Appendix 1 to this Environmental report summarises the main PPS, environmental objectives and relationships with the Main Issues Report in more detail. Table 6, below, summarises the main points related to SEA issues.

Table 6. The Points for the Main Issues Report from Other PPSs

SEA Issues	Main points for the Main Issues Report
Biodiversity, flora, fauna	• 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	• 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	• Maintain productive capacity of soils. • Prevent erosion of soils. • Maintain or improve carbon storage of soils and peat.
Water	• Maintain and improve water quality. • Encourage natural processes, particularly natural flood management and catchment processes. • Conserve water.

Air & Climatic Factors	• Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. • Adapt to the effects of climate change. • Increase sequestration of carbon.
Material Assets	• 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 an woodfuel for local use. • Minimise energy use and encourage development of renewable energy. • Minimise waste.
Cultural Heritage	• Conserve, preserve and record architectural and archaeological heritage.
Landscape	• Conserve and enhance the special and distinct landscape character and qualities of the Park.
Inter-relationships between issues	• Maintain and improve the health of ecosystems and natural systems (which cut across all issues).

Relevant Aspects of the Current State of the Environment

3.10 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

3.11 The CNPA has adopted an ecosystems approach to the SEA of the Main Issues Report (and also the National Park Plan). 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. The approach will draw on the work of the National Ecosystems Assessment (NEA) **http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/Home/tabid/38/Default.aspx**

3.12 The ecosystems approach is one that fits well with the Main Issues Report, and later the proposed 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

3.13 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 categorizing them:

- **Provisioning Services** – the products we get from ecosystems such as food, fibre and water;
- **Regulating Services** – the benefits we get from the regulation of ecosystem process such as the regulation of pollination, the climate, noise and water;
- **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;
- **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.

3.14 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. The argument for placing economic value on ecosystems services is that it can help policy makers take account of the costs and benefits of policy options on the natural environment. Although placing economic value on ecosystems services from the Cairngorms National Park could be a useful extension of the concept, and may be explored through the life of the Main Issues Report and the subsequent Local Development Plan, it will not be done for the SEA. Instead, a simpler categorisation of the importance of different ecosystem services using a high to low scale will be used to indicate relative value.

Environmental Baseline

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

- Enclosed farmlands
- Woodlands
- Semi-natural grasslands
- Open waters (rivers, lochs, wetlands and floodplains)
- Mountains moor and heathland
- Coastal margins
- Marine
- Urban

3.16 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.

- **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. Many woodlands 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.

- **Open waters (rivers, lochs, wetlands and floodplains)** – the Cairngorms National 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.

- **Mountains, moor and heathland** – much of the Cairngorms National Park falls into this broad habitat, and large areas are designated for habitat or species conservation. The Cairngorms National 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 are also associated with moorlands 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.

- **Semi-natural grasslands**, mainly in the form of acid grassland 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.

- **Urban** – only a small part of the land area of the Cairngorms National Park is urban (around 13.5 square km or about a third of 1% 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.

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

- Enclosed farmlands
- Woodlands
- Open waters (rivers, lochs, wetlands and floodplains)
- Mountains
- Moor
- Semi-natural grasslands
- Urban

3.18 Each of those 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.

3.19 A more conventional summary of the environmental baseline is shown in Table 7.

Table 7. Conventional Summary Description of Environmental Baseline	
Biodiversity, flora, fauna	• 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 international 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	• Population of c17,500. • 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 4000 feet. • 3 ski centres. • National Cycle Network Route 7. • 1 Long Distance Route (Speyside Way).
Soil	• 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. • Peat forms 13% of soil cover. • Significant Scottish carbon store in soils and peat.
Water	• 81% of streams classified as excellent (A1) or good (A2) (SEPA 2003). • 20 sq km standing waters. • Catchments of 6 major rivers.
Air & Climatic Factors	• 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	• Outstanding geological heritage . • High quality timber from productive native woodlands. • Local woodfuel sources. • Potential for small scale micro renewable.
Cultural Heritage	• 11 designated Historic Gardens & Designed Landscapes. • 110 Scheduled Ancient Monuments. • 741 listed buildings. • 3 Conservation Areas. • Numerous records in National Monument Record of Scotland. • Large number of historic landscapes. • Potential for survival of many unknown remains in upland areas. • 3 Conservation Areas. • Distinctive local vernacular architecture. • Cultural landscapes and associations with landscapes and land uses.
Landscape	• 30 Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites (of which some are part/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

3.20 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 Main Issues Report and whether the PPS is likely to aggravate, reduce or otherwise affect existing environmental problems.

3.21 Table 8 below summarises the key trends and environmental issues associated with the broad habitats of the Park

Likely Evolution of the Environment without the Main Issues Report

3.22 The Main Issues Report will not resolve any of the environmental problems in the Park in its own right. Its purpose is to stimulate debate and set out options for future development in the National Park. Whilst it is the first formal stage in the preparation of the statutory Local Development Plan, it does not in itself lead to statutory requirements on people or organisations to do anything it proposes.

3.23 Without the Main Issues Report, 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 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 Main Issues Report will not in itself improve the overall effectiveness of these mechanisms but will lead to the proposed Local Development Plan. This Plan should lead to improvement of the environmental issues raised as a result of the impact it will have on new development.

Table 8 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 Cairngorms National Park
Enclosed Farmlands	• Food • Soil quality • Storage of carbon in soils • Water quality • Pollination of crops • Landscape • Patterns of settlement • Sense of place, history and tradition • Living culture and identity	• Agricultural and environmental policy • Economic viability • Climate change effects • Planting of woodland	• Loss of productive land to other uses • Loss of edge habitats • Loss of iconic wild bird species • Effects of extreme weather events	• 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	• 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	• Timber as a material and as fuel • Rich and diverse habitats and species • Stability of soils • Storage of carbon • Shelter • Soil & water quality • Pollination of woodland species • Ecological knowledge • Recreation • Landscape • Patterns of settlement	• Forestry and environmental policy • Recreational uses • Economic viability • Climate change effects	• Disease risks • Loss to other land uses • Fragmentation of 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	• Enhancement of woodland networks including montane and riparian woodland • Increased use of locally 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	• Maintain or increase timber and woodfuel production • Conserve or enhance 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

Table 8 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 Cairngorms National Park**
	• Sense of place, • Tradition • Living culture and identity				
Open Water	• Fresh water • Important wild species and rich habitats • Local climate regulation • Regulation of flooding • Water quality • Ecological knowledge • Recreation • Landscape • Patterns of settlement • Sense of place • Tradition	• Environmental policy • Climate change effects • Hydro energy schemes • Invasive non-native species	• Point source and diffuse pollution • Water abstraction • 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	• Enhancement of functioning wetlands and floodplains • Adoption and extension of natural flood management techniques • Reduction in pollution sources • Minimisation unnecessary water abstraction – reducing water loss following abstraction, more efficient use of water	• Conserve or enhance the value for distinctive wild species and habitats • 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	• Rare and fragile species and habitats • Climate regulation • Soil quality • Water quality • Seed dispersal and pollination of mountain plant species	• Nature conservation policy • Climate change effects • Grazing pressures and changes • Disturbance to species and habitats from	• Climate change effects on marginal arctic-alpine habitats and species • Inappropriate grazing by stock or wild mammals • Erosion (natural process and human induced) and potential changes brought about by	• Enhancing the sense of wildness • Manage changes in habitats – eg towards montane scrub • Maintain patchwork of grazing densities for habitat resilience • Promoting responsible recreation and dog management	• Conserve or enhance the value for distinctive wild species and habitats • Increase resilience to climate change effects • Maintain recreational value to maintain or improve the carbon storage capacity • Maintain sense of wildness • Maintain or enhance special landscape qualities maintain

Table 8 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 Cairngorms National Park
	• Ecological and geological knowledge • Recreation • Landscape • Sense of place, history & tradition • Living culture and identity	recreation • The setting of and views from mountains due to renewable energy or other large developments	extreme weather events • Reduced sense of wildness as a result of visual impact of development • Recreational disturbance to sensitive birds		• capacity for learning and enjoyment of history and culture
Moorland	• Climate regulation as stores of carbon • Soil quality • Water quality • Pollination of moorland plant species • Ecological and geological knowledge • Recreation • Landscape • Sense of place, tradition and history • Living culture and identity	• Nature conservation and environmental policy • Land ownership and management objectives • Climate change effects • Planting of woodland	• Loss to other uses • Inappropriate grazing by stock or wild mammals • Disease and pest risks to iconic species (heather and grouse) • Loss of stored carbon • Illegal killing of protected species especially raptors	• Protecting and enhancing carbon storage capacity	• Conserve or enhance the value for distinctive wild species and habitats • Conserve or enhance the 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 sense of wildness • Maintain capacity for learning and enjoyment of history and culture
Semi-natural grasslands	• Provision of food where used for livestock grazing • Some distinctive wild species and habitats	• Grazing regimes • Succession to moorland, scrub, woodland, wetland • Planting of woodland	• Loss to other uses • Changes in grazing	• Identify most diverse semi-natural grasslands for management • Identify areas for suitable for woodland expansion • Use to promote cultural heritage of Park	• 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 8 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 Cairngorms National Park**
	• Soil quality and storage of carbon • Knowledge • Recreation • Landscape • Sense of place, tradition history				• Maintain or enhance landscape character • Maintain capacity for learning and enjoyment of history and culture
Urban	• 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	• Economic changes • Population changes • Climate change – the effects of it and public policy to minimise carbon emissions	• 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 extreme weather events	• 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 reduce need to travel to work locations	• 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

SEA Objectives

3.24 Table 9 sets out 9 objectives, phrased as questions that are proposed as a basis for the SEA. They build on the environmental objectives identified in table 8 and have been formulated for the purpose of the SEA of the Main Issues Report. They therefore necessarily cover a wide range of potential issues across all the habitats of the National Park. Because the Main Issues Report is a document intended to stimulate debate rather than provide detailed planning policy, which will come in the proposed Local Development Plan, it does not consider the detail of many issues. However, the future SEAs of other PPSs in the National Park, including the Local Development Plan, could relate to a smaller set of ecosystems services applying to fewer habitats.

Table 9. 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?	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 increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?	Timber from woodland is an important material for with many uses. Local wood as a source of fuel can be a low carbon alternative to fossil fuels. While many woodlands in the Park are managed for the conservation of distinctive species and habitats, many are also managed to provide economic benefits.	To maintain or increase timber and woodfuel production
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?	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 fertilizers 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. 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.	To maintain or improve water quality To minimise unnecessary use of water To maintain or increase ability to store water To increase the resilience to climate change effects

Table 9. SEA Questions		
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?	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.	To conserve or enhance the value for distinctive wild species and habitats To increase the resilience to climate change effects
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park.	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 area can secure can secure long-term storage of carbon.	To maintain or improve the carbon storage capacity
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?	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.	To maximise energy efficiency and minimise energy waste To increase the resilience to climate change effects
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles ?	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.	To maintain recreational value
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive character and experience of the Park?	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 categorization 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 in 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.	To maintain or enhance landscape character To maintain sense of wildness
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park.	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.	To maintain capacity for learning and enjoyment of history and culture

3.25 Table 10 shows how each SEA question is relevant to a number of the SEA topics.

Table 10. 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?	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?	■		■	■	■		■	■	■
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 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.		■					■	■	

3.26 Table 11 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 Plan, and are intended to be relatively easily understood by the public.

Table 11. 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?	• 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 increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?	• 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 products?	Area of woodland.
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?	• 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 orange systems (SUDS)? • What effect will the Plan have on sediment loading?	The ecological status of water bodies in the Park.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?	• 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?	The condition of the features of designated sites. The growth of the forest habitat network.

Table 11. SEA Questions with Assessment Criteria and Potential Indicators

SEA Question	Assessment Criteria	Potential Indicators
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park.	• 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?	Number of applications consented affecting carbon-rich soils.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?	• 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?	Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the Park or sectors of activity in the Park.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles ?	• What effect will the Plan have on the flow of water downstream – will it slow water through woodland Planting, floodplain management or SUDS?	Area of land identified as at risk of flooding in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive character and experience of the Park?	• 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.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?	• 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.

Consideration of Reasonable Alternatives

3.27 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that reasonable alternatives to the Plan are considered as part of the SEA. The Main Issues Report is all about alternatives. Its role is to present reasonable alternatives to address the issues raised. Whilst not delivering change in itself it will inform the Local Development Plan and the options taken forward will come directly from the MIR.

3.28 The MIR sets out the alternatives where these exist. Where no alternatives are presented it is as a result of the existing position with extant planning consents. The MIR explains more fully, where necessary, why no alternatives are suggested.

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

Assessment Methods

4.1 The Main Issues Report sets out a number of issues, each with a variety of options. It then looks at options for development sites. Each of these must therefore be assessed.

4.2 The assessment of the Main Issues Report has therefore been done by answering the nine questions identified in Tables 9-11 for each issue, option or site. Sites which have been assessed in previous SEA are not included. Nor are sites suggested but not considered reasonable options to be carried forward into the Local Development Plan. The assessment criteria shown in Table 11 were used as prompts in the assessment. The assessment methods, SEA objectives, questions and criteria were modified and simplified following the response of consultation authorities on the SEA scoping report.

4.3 The assessment was recorded in a similar form to the example shown in Table 12, using a simple visual 5-colour scale of effects 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 12. 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			

Assessment of the Draft Cairngorms National Park Plan 2012-2017

4.4 The Plan was assessed using the framework described earlier. A summary of the assessment findings is shown in Table 13 and the full findings are shown in Appendix 2.

Table 13. Summary matrix of potential effects

SEA Objectives:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Cumulative Effects									
Synergistic Effects									
Issue 1 Special Qualities Option 1				ML				ML	
Issue 1 Special Qualities Option 2				ML				ML	
Issue 2 Resources Option 1	ML	ML	ML		L	ML			
Issue 2 Resources Option 2	ML	ML	ML		L	ML			
Issue 2 Resources Option 3	ML	ML	ML		L	ML		ML	
Issue 3 Support for communities Option 1									
Issue 3 Support for communities Option 2									
Issue 4 Housing Option 1									
Issue 4 Housing Option 2				ML				ML	
Issue 4 Housing Option 3				ML				ML	
Issue 4 Spatial Strategy Option 1	SML	SML	SML	SML	SML	SML	SML	SML	SML
Issue 6 Support for Rural areas Option 1	ML	ML		ML		ML		ML	
Issue 6 Support for Rural areas Option 2	ML	ML		ML				ML	
Issue 6 Support for Rural areas Option 3	ML	ML		ML				ML	
Issue 7 Connectivity Option 1				ML		ML		SML	ML
Issue 7 Connectivity Option 1				ML		ML	SML	ML	SML
Site 005e									
Site 006b									
Site 012a									
Site 012f				SML				SML	
Site 012g				SML				SML	
Site 012h				SML			SML	SML	
Site 024a								SML	
Site 024b				SML					

Table 13. Summary matrix of potential effects									
Site 024c				SML					
Site 024d				SML				SML	
Site 026	SML							SML	
Site 027				SML					
Site 029a	SML							SML	
Site 031d				SML				SML	
Site 031g									
Site 037a								SML	
Site 043	SML							SML	
Site 044	SML								
Site 046									
Site 047									
Site 048									
Site 050							SML	SML	
Site 051	SML							SML	
Site 52								SML	
Site 053									
Site 055								SML	
Site 057								SML	
Site 058a			SML	SML		SML	SML	SML	
Site 059									
Site 60								SML	
Site 061								SML	
Site 062								SML	
Site 063								SML	

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

positive effect	*no effect or negligible effect*	*negative effect*	*not applicable*

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

4.5 In looking at the likely environmental effect the MIR will have, it can therefore be seen that it will have no effect/a negligible effect on the ability of farmland in the Park to produce high quality local and seasonal food. There are a number of uncertain aspects, notably in connection with the spatial strategy and how we support our rural areas. This uncertainly will be tested in the ongoing assessment of the Plan as it becomes more detailed (the next formal stage).

4.6 The MIR will also have no effect/a negligible effect on the ability to maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park. The MIR deals with aspects of the development process which are affected by the planning system. Much development associated with commercial forestry and woodland is not directly affected by this Plan, and the predicted effects are therefore understandably.

4.7 The MIR will have a similarly negligible effect on the Park's ability to provide a high quality supply of fresh water. In itself, it does not propose significantly increased levels of development, in addition to that contained in existing adopted local plans, or with extant planning consent. It does identify water as a key resource which must be planned for in a sustainable way. Further assessments will be required in the proposed Development Plan to assess the precise impacts of any detailed policy stance taken.

4.8 Regarding the conservation and enhancement of the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity, the picture is less clear. There are several uncertain effects, most notably associated with the spatial strategy, our support for rural areas, and connectivity. However these uncertainties arise as a result of uncertainly of the effects on actual sites. Detailed policy could offer appropriate protection, and this will be further developed in the proposed Development Plan, the next formal stage where detailed policies are introduced.

4.9 Overall the MIR will have no or a negligible effect on the ability of the Park as a whole to maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gasses in peat, soils and woodland. It is likely to have some limited positive effects particularly in association with the way resources are addressed.

4.10 In regard to increasing energy efficiency and reducing energy waste the MIR will have no or a negligible effect overall, but is likely to have some positive effect, particularly in relation to the way resources are addressed in the options analysis. Some uncertain effects are identified associated with the settlement strategy, how we support our rural areas, and how we deal with connectivity. While these uncertainties are addressed through site specific assessments, further policy development may be necessary in the proposed Development Plan.

4.11 On the MIR's ability to maintain opportunities for enjoyment and recreation, it has no or a negligible effect. At this point the Plan is insufficiently detailed to provide clear direction on this issue, although site specific assessments to provide some clarity. Some positive effects are identified in association with the issue of connectivity, where options seek to improve routes that provide the infrastructure for recreation and walking.

4.12 The effects of the MIR on the conservation and enhancement of the distinctive character and experience of the Park is less clear. Specific protection will be necessary as the next stage is completed to ensure adequate protection of the special qualities is secured.

4.13 Finally, on the ability of the MIR to maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park, the overall effects are predicted to be negligible. While some effects may exist at a site specific level, and are assessed accordingly, the approach proposed in the MIR could offer opportunities to enjoy and learn about the cultural heritage of the Park.

4.14 Looking at the effects of the site specific proposals, a variety of mitigation will be necessary. Screen planting and retention of existing planting, coupled with sensitive design will be key to development having an acceptable level of impact.

4.15 As an overarching conclusion it can be seen that the MIR in itself is predicted to have negligible effect on the environment. The balance of issues matched with site specific proposals serve to set out options for development in the right locations, which help conserve and enhance the special qualities of the Park. This is perhaps an expected overall conclusion for a Main Issues Report which is, by its very nature, a document intended to stimulate debate rather than set out detailed policies. Further assessments will be required as the proposed Development Plan is prepared to ensure that as more detail is introduced, the potential effects are assessed fully.

5. Mitigation

5.1 A number of mitigation measures have been built into the development of the options in the Main Issues Report as a result of assessment. These include:

- Removal of land allocations within a flood risk area;
- Stronger protection for special qualities built into preferred options for some issues, including use of spatially specific data;
- A number of potential effects of policies can be assessed at a site level when considering individual allocations.

The following mitigation measures have been identified by the assessment as being required in further developing and implementing the Local Development Plan:

- Ensure strong policy direction and information provision to protect special qualities;
- Ensure potential effects are addressed through assessment of sites and in turn, specific proposals;

In proposing allocations, the assessment identified the following mitigation measures in particular if specific site proposals are included:

- Tree planting/screening/retention of existing woodland setting;
- Follow existing settlement pattern and layout
- Use of design statements to ensure sensitive and appropriate design.

These will be considered where relevant to individual allocations if they are incorporated into the Proposed Local Development Plan.

6. Next Steps in Developing the Local Development Plan

6.1 The Main Issues Report, together with this Environmental Report is subject to public consultation from 19 September to 9 December 2011.

6.2 On completion of the consultation the National Park Authority will work to develop the Proposed Local Development Plan, taking account of responses to the options raised in the Main Issues Report. An updated Environmental Report will be published to accompany public consultation on the Proposed Local Development Plan.

Appendix 1

Other PPSs and Environmental Objectives

Relevant PPS	Relevant Objectives/Purpose	SEA Issue	Relationship between the policy and the Main Issues Report and subsequent 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 Main Issues Report 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 79/409/EC: the Conservation of Wild Birds 1979	Requires member states to sustain populations of naturally occurring wild birds by sustaining areas of habitats to maintain ecologically and scientifically sounds levels.	Biodiversity Water Landscape Woodlands and forests	Main Issues Report should support protection and enhancement of bird habitat through policies and targets.
Directive 92/42EC: 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	Main Issues Report must ensure protection and enhancement of Natura Sites.
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	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report should support protection and enhancement of the water environment.
Directive 1996/62 EC: Ambient Air Quality and Management	Establishes standards for air quality and sets limits for various pollutants.	Air Human Health	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report should assist in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC, 1997)	Protocol to the international Framework Convention on Climate Change Framework with the objective of reducing Greenhouse gases which cause climate change.	Climatic factors Air	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report 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 Main Issues Report to be identified and addressed.
Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003	Transposes the Water Framework Directive into Scots law.	Water Biodiversity Landscape	Main Issues Report should encourage improvements to the water environment and support measures for more efficient use of water.
Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 1999	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	Main Issues Report can provide for and support responsible access.
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Requires certain species to be protected.	Biodiversity	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report 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 a requirement to produce a National Park Plan.	All SEA Issues listed in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	Establishes the Aims of National Parks. Provides direction on the functions and role of the National Park Authority.
Flood Risk Management Act (Scotland) Act 2009	Establishes roles, responsibilities and requirements for sustainable flood management.	Water Climatic factors	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report should support climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.
Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill 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	Main Issues Report 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 sector should be working to the purpose.	Air Soil Water Population Human health Biodiversity Climatic factors Material assets Cultural heritage Landscape	The Main Issues Report should support the delivery of sustainable economic growth in the context of the Park and its 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 Main Issues Report 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 an 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	Fulfils a requirement under the EU Water Framework Directive.	Water Biodiversity Soil	Includes management objectives for water bodies in the National Park which the Main Issues Report must take account of.
Land Use Strategy for Scotland	Outlines strategy for achieving sustainable land use across Scotland and getting the best from the land of Scotland.	Soil Water Biodiversity Landscape Population	Main Issues Report can provide more specific direction on the National Land Use Strategy 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 Rural Development Programme	Sets goals for sustainable rural development and the types of support available.	Water Biodiversity Landscape Soil	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report should support delivery of the UKBAP and significant Park species through support for Cairngorms LBAP.
Scottish Biodiversity Strategy	Identifies Scottish biodiversity priorities and lead partners for taking action.	Biodiversity Water Soil	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report should help deliver sustainable development.
National Waste Strategy	Strategy for decreasing volume of waste land filled and increased recycling.	Soil Water Air Climatic factors Population	Main Issues Report should support reduction in waste.
Zero Waste Scotland	Provides context for waste planning in Scotland	Soil Water Air Climatic Factors Population	Directs the MIR and 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	Main Issues Report should support good design.
A Policy on Architecture for Scotland (2001 updated in 2006)	Scottish Government Guidance 2001.	Landscape Cultural heritage Population Human health	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report 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 in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes	Series of guidance notes which are designed to support the Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) and Scottish Planning Policy.	Cultural heritage Landscape	Guidance for policy development on the management of the historic environment.

Local Plans and Strategies			
Cairngorms National Park Plan	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 MIR and LDP.
Cairngorms National Park Local Plan 2010	Establishes development and settlement strategy for the Park, allocations 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 Main Issues Report.
Perth & Kinross Council Highland Area Local Plan 2000	Establishes development and settlement strategy for the Park, allocations 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 Main Issues Report.
Local Authority Single Outcome Agreements	Strategic documents outlining priorities across communities in the National Park.	All SEA issues listed in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2006	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report 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	HNDAs 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	Main Issues Report should support sustainable transport solutions and encourage lower carbon forms of transport.
Area Waste Plans	Strategies for waste management, minimisation and recycling for each local authority area.	Soil Water Air Material assets Population	Main Issues Report should support minimisation of waste.

Economic Development Strategies	Priority areas for economic development.	Soil Material assets Population	Main Issues Report should encourage economic development that does not adversely affect the special qualities 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	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report 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	Main Issues Report 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	MIR and LDP 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	Main Issues Report 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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Plan Issue	1 Special qualities		
Option: 1: protect the special qualities form inappropriate development through a policy-based approach.			
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?	**M L**	**M L**	Option seeks to protect the special qualities which include species and habitats.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**M L**	**M L**	Option seeks to protect the special qualities which include landscape character.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of 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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Plan Issue	1 Special qualities		
Option: 2: protect the special qualities form inappropriate development through a policy-based approach. Provide additional spatial guidance to conserve and enhance designated nature conservation sites, habitat connectivity, wildness and landscape character			
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?	**M L**	**M L**	Option seeks to protect special qualities, strengthened from option 1 by explicit reference to spatial data on designated sites and habitat 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 character and experience of the Park?	**M L**	**M L**	Option seeks to protect special qualities, strengthened from option 1 by explicit reference to spatial data on wildness and landscape character.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of 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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Plan Issue	2 Resources/reducing our consumption		
Option: 1: Protect those resources which are important to the National Park through a policy-based approach and set options for appropriate development opportunities			
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?	**M L**		Option seeks to protect the agricultural capacity, small changes to the limited productive agricultural land may have a significant impact in the Park but are not significant at a Scottish scale.
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?	**M L**		Option seeks to protect timber as a resource. Changes in the woodland cover and productive timber could have a significant effect in the Park, but not at a Scottish scale.
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**	**M L**	Options seeks to protect the water resource, of significance to communities beyond the Park as well as within the boundaries.
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.	**L**	**L**	Options seeks to protect the carbon resource of soils, significant at a Scottish level.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?	**M L**		Options seeks to provide for improved energy efficiency which could significantly improve at a Park scale, but would not make a significant contribution to national targets.
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 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?			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Plan Issue	2 Resources/reducing our consumption		
Option: 2: Provide and 'areas of search' analysis to direct developers to specific opportunities by providing spatial information looking at particular 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?	**M L**		Option seeks to protect the agricultural capacity, small changes to the limited productive agricultural land may have a significant impact in the Park but are not significant at a Scottish scale.
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?	**M L**		Option seeks to protect timber as a resource. Changes in the woodland cover and productive timber could have a significant effect in the Park, but not at a Scottish scale.
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**	**M L**	Option seeks to protect the water resource, of significance to communities beyond the Park as well as within the boundaries.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Risk of adverse impacts arising from definition as areas of development opportunity.
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park.	**L**	**L**	Option seeks to protect the carbon resource of soils, significant at a Scottish level.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?	**M L**		Option seeks to protect timber as a resource. Changes in the woodland cover and productive timber could have a significant effect in the Park, but not at a Scottish scale.
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 character and experience of the Park?			Risk of adverse impacts arising from definition as areas of development opportunity.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: ensure protection of special qualities			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Plan Issue	2 Resources/reducing our consumption		
Option: 3: Combine a policy-based approach with clear spatial guidance identifying sensitivities and opportunities, building on the existing sustainable design guide			
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?	**M L**		Option seeks to protect the agricultural capacity, small changes to the limited productive agricultural land may have a significant impact in the Park but are not significant at a Scottish scale. Spatial guidance strengthens protection.
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?	**M L**		Option seeks to protect timber as a resource. Changes in the woodland cover and productive timber could have a significant effect in the Park, but not at a Scottish scale. Spatial guidance strengthens protection.
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**	**M L**	Option seeks to protect the water resource, of significance to communities beyond the Park as well as within the boundaries.
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.	**L**	**L**	Option seeks to protect the carbon resource of soils, significant at a Scottish level. Spatial guidance strengthens protection.
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?	**M L**		Option seeks to protect timber as a resource. Changes in the woodland cover and productive timber could have a significant effect in the Park, but not at a Scottish scale.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**M L**		
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: this option builds in more protection of special qualities through use of spatial data to identify sensitivities and opportunities			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Plan Issue	3 Support for our communities		
Option 1: Highlight the general opportunities for economic development that fit within the settlement hierarchy and also that support our rural communities			
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?			Option is about ways of classifying economic opportunities and settlements which do not have impacts on the environment.
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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 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?			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011
Assessment recording form

Plan Issue 3 Support for our communities

Option 2: Highlight the different communities in the Park and support appropriate development opportunities for economic development, services and facilities within them.

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?			Option is about ways of classifying economic opportunities and settlements which do not have impacts on the environment.
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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 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?			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Plan Issue	4 Housing/affordable housing		
Option 1: Limit new housing development to provide that identified as required in the housing assessments. This will take into account those sites with permission, focus new development on opportunities on sites which are allocated in the existing local plans. On those sites we would require a proportion of between 25-40% affordable units .			
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?			This option would not result in any new allocations or impacts that could be assessed. Sites with permission and existing allocations have already been assessed through the existing Local Plan.
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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 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?			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Plan Issue	4 Housing/affordable housing		
Option 2: Focus all new development on the provision of affordable housing only, by identifying sites only for 100% affordable (bearing in mind existing consents)			
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?	**M L**	**M L**	Option raises the potential for new sites to be identified, therefore the effects of the policy option are uncertain, depending on which sites may be proposed. Realistic site options are assessed later in this report.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**M L**	**M L**	Option raises the potential for new sites to be identified, therefore the effects of the policy option are uncertain, depending on which sites may be proposed. Realistic site options are assessed later in this report.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: potential effects to be addressed through assessment of sites			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Plan Issue	4 Housing/affordable housing		
Option 3: Support the needs of communities by ensuring that all main and other settlements have some options for development for future. Focus those additional on those which are already in adopted local plans On these sites require a benchmark fo 25% affordable development (bear in mind existing consents)			
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?	**M L**	**M L**	Option raises the potential for new sites to be identified, therefore the effects of the policy option are uncertain, depending on which sites may be proposed. Realistic site options are assessed later in this report.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**M L**	**M L**	Option raises the potential for new sites to be identified, therefore the effects of the policy option are uncertain, depending on which sites may be proposed. Realistic site options are assessed later in this report.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: potential effects to be addressed through assessment of sites			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011
Assessment recording form
Plan Issue 5 Spatial Strategy

Option 1: Clarify the preferred settlement hierarchy so communities are clear what they are likely to see in the future. This would include land for housing and economic investment. Clarify what will be expected in rural communities outwith settlements

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?	S M L		This option indicates that sites will be identified for housing and economic development giving rise to potential f uncertain effects across a range of questions. Likely effects of realistic site options are assessed later in the Environmental Report.
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?	S M L		
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	S M L	
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?	S M L	S M L	
5. Will the Plan maintain or improve the storage of greenhouse gases in peat, soils and woodland in the Park.	M L	M L	
6. Will the Plan increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste?	S M L		
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	S M L		
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive character and experience of the Park?	S M L	S M L	
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?	S M L		

Mitigation measures: potential effects to be addressed through assessment of sites

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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Plan Issue	6 Support for our rural areas		
Option 1: Deal with development in an ad-hoc way			
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?	**M L**		Under this option it would be difficult to predict or actively guide the location of development so there are considerable uncertain effects that could only be ascertained when proposals come forward.
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?	**M L**		Under this option it would be difficult to predict or actively guide the location of development so there are considerable uncertain effects that could only be ascertained when proposals come forward.
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?	**M L**	**M L**	Under this option it would be difficult to predict or actively guide the location of development so there are considerable uncertain effects that could only be ascertained when proposals come forward.
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?	**M L**		Under this option it would be difficult to predict or actively guide the location of development so there are considerable uncertain effects that could only be ascertained when proposals come forward.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**M L**	**M L**	Under this option it would be difficult to predict or actively guide the location of development so there are considerable uncertain effects that could only be ascertained when proposals come forward.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: potential effects to be addressed through assessment of sites, greater protection could be built into policy option			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Plan Issue	6 Support for our rural areas		
Option 2: Focus development on key settlements. Restrict development outside settlements to particular forms of development /use			
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?	**M L**		Locations can be more clearly indentified than under option 1, but there remain uncertain effects including potential loss of agricultural land.
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?	**M L**		Locations can be more clearly indentified than under option 1, but there remain uncertain effects including potential loss of woodland.
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?	**M L**	**M L**	Locations can be more clearly indentified than under option 1, but there remain uncertain effects including potential loss of habitats or species.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**M L**	**M L**	Locations can be more clearly indentified than under option 1, but there remain uncertain effects including potential impacts on landscape character.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: potential effects to be addressed through assessment of sites, greater protection could be built into policy option			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Plan Issue	6 Support for our rural areas		
Option 3: Support rural communities by providing for growth which matches historic growth patterns Use landscape character assessment to protect these important rural areas from inappropriate 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?	**M L**		Locations can be more clearly indentified than under option 1, but there remain uncertain effects including potential loss of agricultural land.
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?	**M L**		Locations can be more clearly indentified than under option 1, but there remain uncertain effects including potential loss of woodland.
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?	**M L**	**M L**	Locations can be more clearly indentified than under option 1, but there remain uncertain effects including potential effects on habitats and species.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**M L**	**M L**	This option explicitly seeks to protect rural areas against inappropriate development using landscape character assessment, and match historic growth patterns.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: potential effects to be addressed through assessment of sites, greater protection of landscape character built into this option			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Plan Issue	7 Connectivity and Communications		
Option 1: Secure improvements to the transport and access routes throughout the Park by providing a clear framework for 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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?	**M L**	**M L**	Improvements to routes could affect habitats and species depending on location, scale and type of work and use.
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?	**M L**		Improvements to routes could have an effect on GHG emissions and fuel use if they result in fewer car journeys being required.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?			Options seeks to improve routes that will provide the infrastructure for recreation and walking as a contributor to healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Improvements to routes could affect the landscape character and experience depending on location, scale and nature of work.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?	**M L**		Improvements to routes could offer new opportunities to enjoy and learn about the cultural heritage, or potentially impact on historic environment features, depending on location, nature of works and use.
Mitigation measures: potential effects to be assessed at site level, protection of special qualities			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Plan Issue	7 Connectivity and Communications		
Option 2: Identify weaknesses in the communications network, focus on hot spots of activity and key links/routes across the Park, including review of core paths. Identify where key improvements are needed and require development to make a contribution towards existing and new routes.			
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?	**M L**	**M L**	Improvements to routes could affect habitats and species depending on location, scale and type of work and use.
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?	**M L**		Improvements to routes could have an effect on GHG emissions and fuel use if they result in fewer car journeys being required.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Options seeks to improve routes that will provide the infrastructure for recreation and walking as a contributor to healthy lifestyles.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive character and experience of the Park?	**M L**	**M L**	Improvements to routes could affect the landscape character and experience depending on location, scale and nature of work.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?	**S M L**		Improvements to routes could offer new opportunities to enjoy and learn about the cultural heritage, or potentially impact on historic environment features, depending on location, nature of works and use.
Mitigation measures: : potential effects to be assessed at site level, protection of special qualities			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	005e Blair Atholl – Goods yard		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			Adjacent to flood risk area.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?			No significant effect.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of 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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	006b Nethy Bridge – Land at Craigmore		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?			Local views only, small scale development could be accommodated with sufficient tree planting, screening from road and good design.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: tree planting/screening			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	012a Dulnain Bridge – west of play area		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?			No significant effect. Peripheral planting would help maintain character.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: peripheral planting			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	012f Grantown-on-Spey - North of Breachin Court		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Waders are known to be a significant issue on this site and a comprehensive survey would need to be undertaken before consideration for development.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Potential effects, structural planting should be retained and expanded, distinctive field boundaries should be maintained.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?	**-**		
Mitigation measures: woodland planting, boundary marking, low height of development in key areas			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	012g Aviemore – North Dalfaber		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			Adjacent to flood risk area.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?	**S M L**	**S M L**	The majority of the site is semi-natural broadleaved woodland comprising birch. Upland birch is a UKBAP and Cairngorms LBAP priority habitat. The remaining site is comprised of semi-improved acid grassland and a section of bare ground. The woodland should be retained, leaving a small area that may potentially be developed.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Maintenance of sufficient woodland and balance of woodland/development is key.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: retention of sufficient woodland and planting where appropriate			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	012h Boat of Garten – South of Deshar Road		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Majority of area is mature Scot's pine woodland, part of which is listed on AWI. Capercailie issues are known to be a significant issue in this area. Comprehensive ecological surveys would need to be undertaken and extensive mitigation required for potential development of a small number of units.
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?	**S M L**		Area is well used for recreation.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Small area of development could be accommodated to limit impact on woodland setting.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of 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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	024a Dinnet – The Clarack		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Prominent site from road, some screening may be required.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: screening and sensitive design			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	024b Dinnet – Chalets/Caravan Site		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Scot's pine mature plantation. Site borders Muir of Dinnet SSSI, which includes wetlands of River Dee SAC. Potential for low level of development in this area with suitable mitigation to prevent damage to SSSI site from increased disturbance from site users.
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 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?			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	024c Dinnet – Housing Site 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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Site of Scot's pine woodland ranging from young to semi-mature woodland. Birch also present throughout the site. Small development may be possible after further ecological survey and suitable mitigation.
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 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?			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	024d Dinnet – Housing Site H2a		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			Adjacent to flood risk area
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?	**S M L**		Scattered mature birch woodland, with limited understorey as grazed by cattle. May be possible for small development, however, detailed ecological survey required to ascertain true ecological value of site.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of 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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	026 Ballater – Land NE of Monaltrie Park		
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?	**S M L**		Agricultural land.
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			Adjacent to flood risk area. Part of former allocation within flood risk area removed from proposal.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Prominent site, structure planting required.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: structure planting, part area within flood risk area removed from allocation proposal			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	027 Dalwhinnie		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Area is improved grassland and an impoverished area of wet grassland with some remaining areas of open water on the floodplain. Waders may potentially be an issue on this site so comprehensive surveys would be required to determine the status of waders to determine the scale of development possible.
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 character and experience of the Park?			Opportunity to enhance the built form of Dalwhinnie including framework of woodland planting.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: woodland planting			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	029a Cromdale – land at Auchroisk		
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?	**S M L**		Agricultural land.
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			Adjacent to flood risk area.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Opportunity to enhance the village form through good design.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of 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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	031d Braemar – West Auchendryne		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Area of ecologically rich mosaic of habitats. Expanse of marshy grassland, providing suitable habitat for waders. Two species of high conservation concern were recorded – round leaved wintergreen (nationally scarce and near threatened according to 2001 IUCN criteria) and fragrant orchid (least threatened according to IUCN criteria). Possibility of potential of small number of houses on site. Detailed ecological surveys would be required.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Consistent with landscape capacity study, opportunity to enhance structure of village edge.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of 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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	031g Braemar – Linn of Dee Place		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 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?			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	037a Tomintoul i.1		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Little impact if development reflects existing pattern (layout) of development (ie not cul de sacs).
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: match existing layout pattern			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	043 Newtonmore 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?	**S M L**		Agricultural land
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			Adjacent to flood risk area.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Prominent site – planting required.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: structure planting			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	044 Newtonmore 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?	**S M L**		Agricultural fields.
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 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?			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	046 Dalwhinnie 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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?			Within current settlement boundary.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of 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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	047 Dalwhinnie 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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?			Within current settlement boundary.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of 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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	048 Dalwhinnie H3		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?			Within current settlement boundary.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of 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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	050 Dulnain Bridge H2 existing permission		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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?	**S M L**	**S M L**	
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of 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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form 051 Kincraig 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?	**S M L**		Agricultural land
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Locally prominent site, landscaping required.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: landscaping			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	052 Killiecrankie H31		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Distinctive 'big tree' character of setting. Sensitive design and maintaining sufficient woodland space would be key.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: retain woodland setting			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	053 Bruar car park O7		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 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?			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	055 Blair Atholl H27		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Within settlement – need for design to complement character.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: possible need for design statement			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	057 Blair Atholl 17		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Within settlement - need for design to complement character.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: possible need for design statement			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	058a 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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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**	**S M L**	Adjacent to flood risk area. Potential negative effects on water quality.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Potentially significant effects on priority habitats and species. Could be addressed through on and off-site mitigation. Detailed survey and monitoring work required as part of application.
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?	**S M L**		Positive impact through focusing development on area with good existing communications. Opportunity to design settlement for low energy use.
7. Will the Plan maintain the opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and healthy lifestyles?	**S M L**		Potential benefits through increased access by River Spey and proposed connections to Aviemore.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Prominent site which will change the character of open ground to wooded settlement. Potential adverse effects on visual impact. Mitigation could include screening and substantial woodland corridors as an integral part of settlement layout.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of the Park?			
Mitigation measures: Detailed impacts assessed through an EIA accompanying application for planning permission On and off-site structure planting, habitat enhancement and sensitive design			
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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	059 Land by River Spey – An Camas Mòr/Aviemore		
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?			Agricultural land.
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			Adjacent to flood risk area.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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?			Provision of greater access to attractive landscape focused on river Spey.
8. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the distinctive character and experience of the Park?			Landscape enhancement opportunities.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of 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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	060 Tomintoul 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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Development should match existing layouts and pattern of development.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of 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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	061 Tomintoul 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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Development should match existing layouts and pattern of development.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of 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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	062 Tomintoul H3		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Development should match existing layouts and pattern of development.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of 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 LDP Main Issues Report 2011 Assessment recording form			
Potential site	063 Tomintoul H4		
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?			
2. Will the Plan maintain or increase the production of timber and woodfuel in the Park?			
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?			No flood risk identified.
4. Will the Plan conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity?			Ecology survey found no significant issues.
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 character and experience of the Park?	**S M L**	**S M L**	Development should match existing layouts and pattern of development.
9. Will the Plan maintain or improve opportunities to experience, learn about and share the cultural heritage of 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			

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 1 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 1 – Ecosystems Services in the Cairngorms National Park

Provisioning services:

The products obtained from ecosystems. For example:

- food (crops & livestock)
- fibre (crops, trees, wool, etc)
- fuel
- fresh water
- distinctive wild species

Regulating services:

The benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes. For example,:

- 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 services:

The non-material benefits people obtain from ecosystems.

- 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 services:

Ecosystem services that are necessary for the production of all other ecosystem 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 & 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 2 (page 97) 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 3 (page 98) 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 Main Issues Report. 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 Main Issues Report.

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 2 The importance of ecosystems services in broad habitats of the Park.

Importance of the Ecosystems Service	
	High
	Medium- High
	Medium-Low
	Low

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

Table 3Ecosystems services and SEA topics		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 2 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% 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% 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 woodlands[1]. 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 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

[1] The Economic and Social Health of the Cairngorms National Park Report, 2010.

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 in the future. The national target for increasing Scotland's trees cover to 25% 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% of the Park area, with around half being semi-natural woodland and half planted woodland[2]. 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 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 for 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 have 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.

[2] Cairngorms National Park Forest and Woodland Framework, 2008.

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 not fully understood. The national target for increasing Scotland's trees cover to 25% 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, 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 effects the chemical composition and the ways that nutrients and chemical 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.

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 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 more 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 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 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 effects 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 effect 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% 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% may result in woodland replacing some areas of semi-natural grassland.

Urban

40. About a third of 1% 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 play 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 and linking 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 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 of the past 2 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.

Cairngorms
NATIONAL PARK

For a large print version of this publication, please contact the Cairngorms National Park Authority at the Grantown-on-Spey office or telephone 01479 873535.

Cairngorms National Park Authority
14 The Square
Grantown-on-Spey
Moray
PH26 3HG
(t) 01479 873535
(f) 01479 873527
enquiries@cairngorms.co.uk

Planning and Development Management
Albert Memorial Hall
Station Square
Ballater, Aberdeenshire
AB35 5QB
(t) 013397 53601
(f) 013397 55334
localplan@cairngorms.co.uk

www.cairngorms.co.uk

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