



Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan
2017-2022

**Final Strategic Environmental Assessment
Environmental Report**

Appendix 7: Assessment of Outcomes and Policies

April 2017

THE
BIG 9



Appendix 7: Assessment of Outcomes and Policies

SEA Issue / Topic

Climatic Factors

SEA Objective(s):

Ia Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

SEA Sub-Objectives

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

Significant Interrelationships

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

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Summary and Conclusions:

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

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

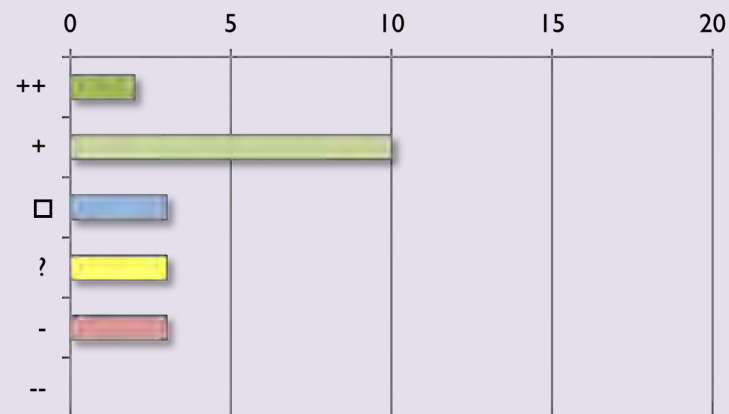
The assessment also recognises the ability of the CNPA and its partners to mitigate negative effects through the implementation of mitigation measures such as better public transport provision and improved cycling and walking networks. Indeed these measures are already built into the Plan’s outcomes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

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

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

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

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Climatic Factors

SEA Objective(s):

Ib Increase resilience to the effects of climate change

SEA Sub-Objectives

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

Significant Interrelationships

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

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

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

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

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
2. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences	There are no predicted effects associated with this outcome.	R	P	□	□	□	
3. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	Through its aim to achieve a sustainable economy, the outcome is implicitly supporting increasing resilience to the effects of climate change.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policies							
Policy I.1	The policy requires the management of land to deliver multiple benefits, including environmental ones. These are set out in the NPPP in terms of public interest benefits, which landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion, the sustainable management of moorland and peatland and river	R	P	+	+	+	

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

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

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

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

Summary and Conclusions:

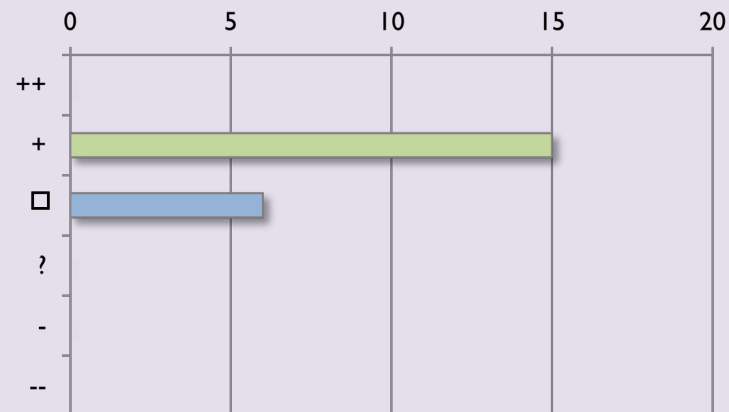
Potential effects are considered to be regional in scale on the basis that the implementation of adaptation measures mostly benefits the location they are developed in.

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

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

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

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Air

SEA Objective(s):

2 Protect and enhance air quality

SEA Sub-Objectives

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

Significant Interrelationships

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

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Summary and Conclusions:

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

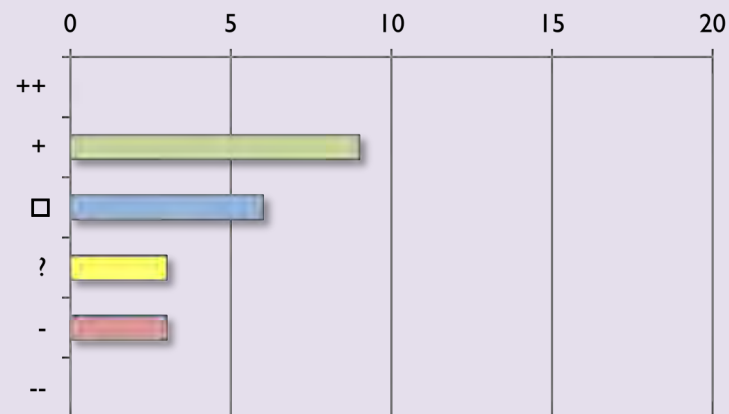
The main potential negative impacts of the Plan on the air quality are those associated with the predicted growth of the economy, the population and the number of visitors to the National Park.

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

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

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

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Water

SEA Objective(s):

3a Reduce flood risk

SEA Sub-Objectives

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

Significant Interrelationships

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

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Summary and Conclusions:

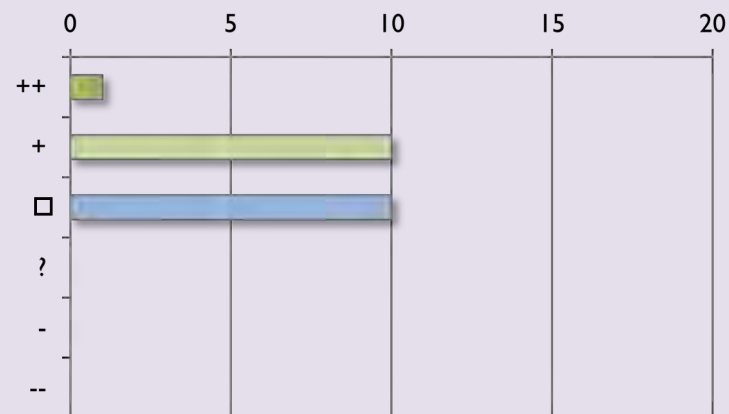
The Cairngorms National Park encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland’s major rivers as well as many smaller ones. Actions taken in the upper part of these catchments may be felt downstream and therefore the scale of the identified effect is considered to be regional.

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

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

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

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Water

SEA Objective(s):

3b Maintain and improve the quality of water resources

SEA Sub-Objectives

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

Significant Interrelationships

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

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

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

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

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

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	moorland and peatland and river restoration which can play an important role in increasing the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.						
Policy 1.2	Landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion, the sustainable management of moorland and peatland and river restoration can play an important role in increasing the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.	N	P	+	+	+	
Policy 1.3	Enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements, such as woodland expansion or river restoration can play an important role in increasing the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.	N	P	+	+	+	
Policy 1.4	The policy explicitly aims to deliver environmentally beneficial ecosystem	N	P	+	+	+	

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

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

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

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

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

Summary and Conclusions:

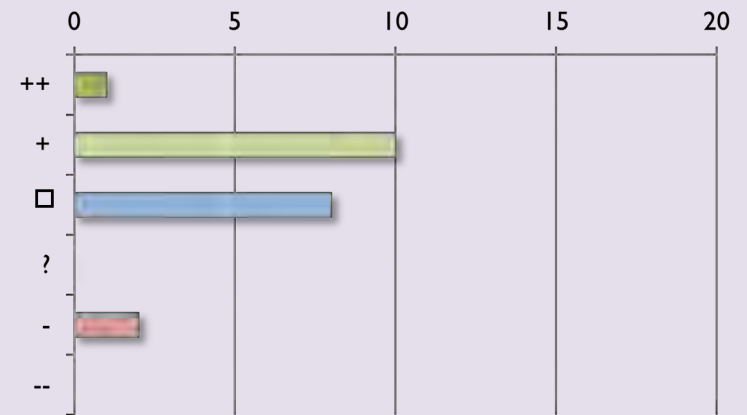
The Cairngorms National Park encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland’s major rivers as well as many smaller ones. Actions taken in the upper part of these catchments may be felt downstream and therefore the scale of the identified effect is considered to be regional.

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

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

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

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Soil

SEA Objective(s):

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

SEA Sub-Objectives

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

Significant Interrelationships

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

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

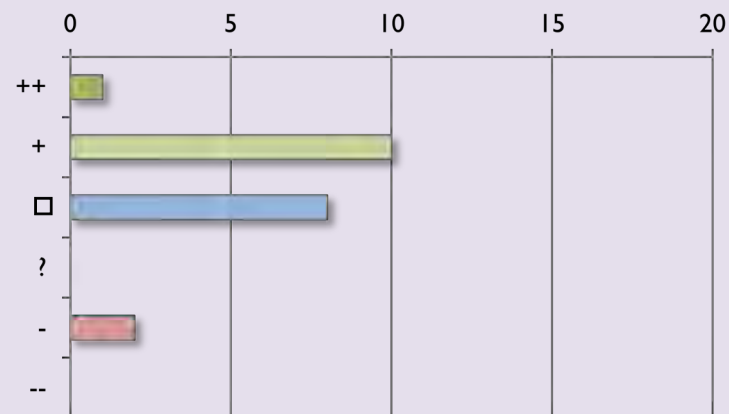
Summary and Conclusions:

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

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

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

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Material Assets

SEA Objective(s):

5 Encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets.

SEA Sub-Objective

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

Significant Interrelationships

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

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

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

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

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

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	encourage the sustainable use of natural resources e.g. water, timber, aggregates.						
Policy 1.3	The geodiversity of the National Park's landscape is responsible for a wide variety of its special qualities. The policy's focus on conserving and enhancing these special qualities therefore supports the SEA objective's aim to value, conserve and enhance geodiversity.	R	P	++	++	++	
Policy 1.4	The policy's aim to deliver a combination of ecosystem services should encourage the sustainable use of material assets.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 1.5	Positive effects may be gained from the enhancement and expansion of the woodland habitats associated with capercaillie (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>), since achieving a better conservation status will require the sustainable use of the National Park's woodland resource.	R	P	+	+	+	
Policy 1.6	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	
Policy 1.7	There are no predicted effects associated	R	P	□	□	□	

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

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

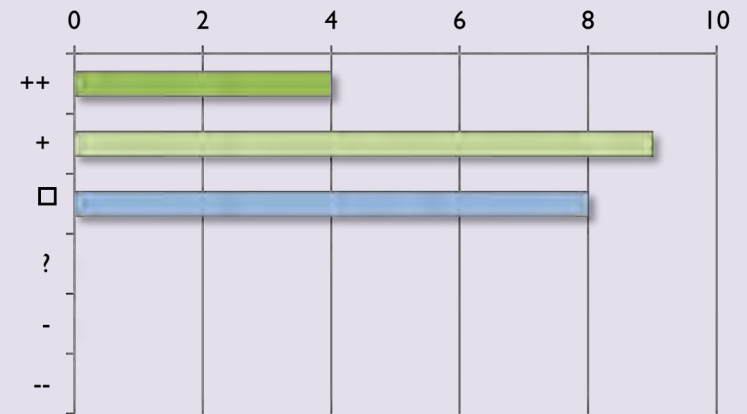
Summary and Conclusions:

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

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

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

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora

SEA Objective(s):

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

SEA Sub-Objective

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

Significant Interrelationships

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

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

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

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

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

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	some SACs (e.g. Beinn a’Ghlo; Cairngorms), as a consequence of the potential for loss of qualifying open ground habitats due to conversion to woodland; and (b) some golden eagle SPAs (e.g. Cairngorms Massif), due to potential loss of foraging habitat. It is recognised that this addressed through the implementation of Policy I.4, which ensures that woodland enhancement and expansion should not be pursued without heed for the integrity of designated sites.						
Policy I.3	The policy states that enhancements to the special qualities of the National Park should also deliver habitat improvements.	I	P	+	+	+	
Policy I.4	Landscape scale habitat management, such as woodland expansion and wetland enhancement may have significant positive effects on the National Park’s biodiversity.	I	P	++	++	++	
Policy I.5	The policy actively supports the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
Policy I.6	The policy actively supports the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	

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

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

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

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

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

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

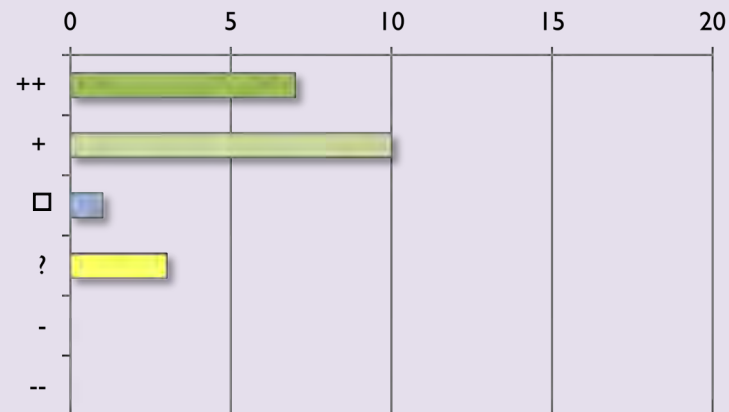
Summary and Conclusions:

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

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

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

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora

SEA Objective(s):

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

SEA Sub-Objectives

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

Significant Interrelationships

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

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

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

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

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

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

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

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

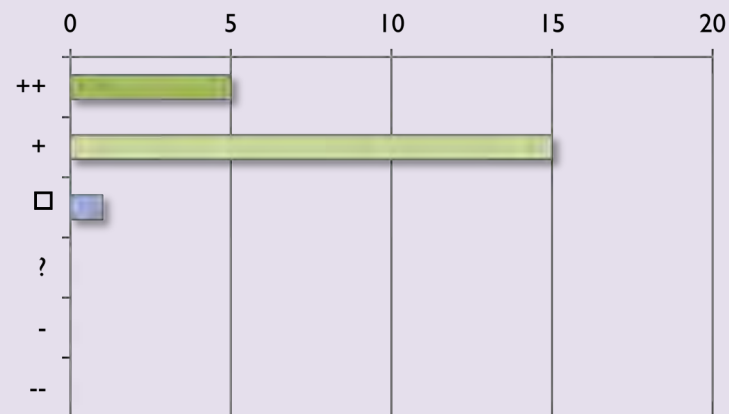
Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Policy 3.5	Trees and woodlands contribute significantly to the sense of place of many of the National Park’s settlements. The policy aims to support the retention and enhancement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

Summary and Conclusions:

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

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

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Landscape and Cultural Heritage

SEA Objective(s):

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

SEA Sub-Objectives

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

Significant Interrelationships

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

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

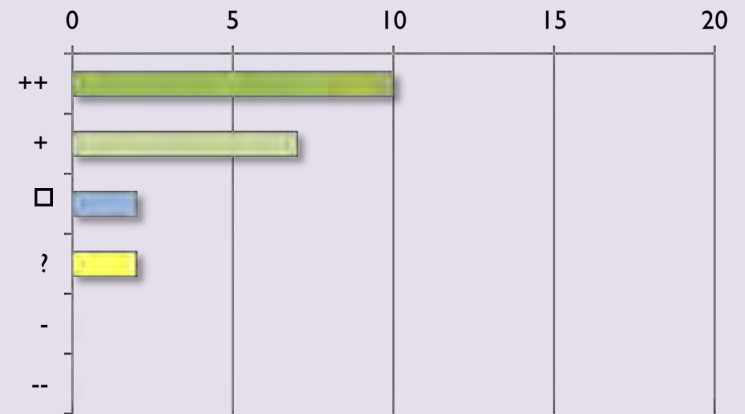
Summary and Conclusions:

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

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

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

Assessments at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Population and Human Health

SEA Objective(s):

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

SEA Sub Objective

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

Significant Interrelationships

Landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

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

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

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

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

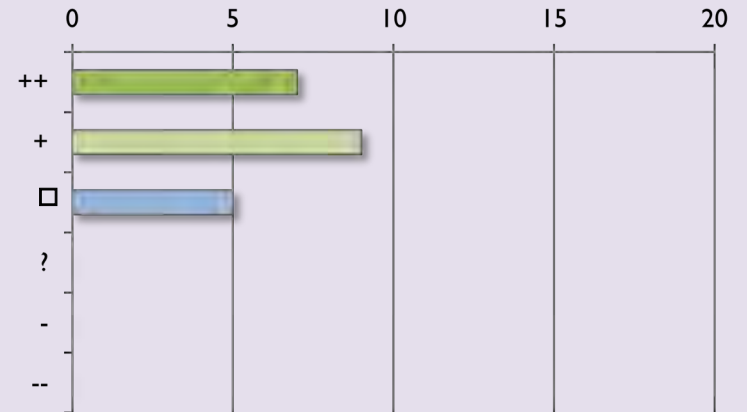
Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and lead healthy lifestyles.						
Policy 2.4	The policy will help empower people to experience, learn about and share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

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

Summary and Conclusions:

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

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Population and Human Health

SEA Objective(s):

8b Support vibrant, safe and healthy communities.

SEA Sub-Objectives

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

Significant Interrelationships

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

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Summary and Conclusions:

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

Preferred options at glance:

