

Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2017-2022

Habitats Regulations Appraisal Screening Report

Post-Mitigation Screening Matrix April 2017

Table I HRA Post Mitigation Screening Matrix

Plan Element	Relevant Natura Sites	Qualifying interest affected	Likely Significant Effect (LSE)	Straight forward mitigation Possible?	Minor Residual Effect (MRE)	Screened out as having no LSE alone following mitigation?	General Policy Statement or too general in nature	Project not proposed by this plan	Aspect protective of the natural environment	Aspect not lead to change or does not promote development	Aspect has no conceivable effect or would not otherwise undermine conservation objectives	Aspect can have no significant effect	Aspect too general to know when, how or which site could be effected
A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage	LC	ong Tern	n Outcor	mes									
enhanced							✓						
People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences							✓						
A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities							✓						
			on Prior										
Priority I	- Suppo	rting La	ndscape	Scale (Conserva	ation			ı		· '		
Target effort and support to the most effective opportunities to deliver the public interest priorities such as woodland expansion, peatland restoration, flood risk management													✓
b) Support and further develop the role of catchment partnerships as mechanisms to co-ordinate land use planning and identify priority area for natural flood management;			~	✓		✓							
c) Support land owner led collaborations to co-ordinate planning,													✓

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	delivery and monitoring across multiple land holdings, including Cairngorms Connect and the East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership;													
d)	Co-ordinate habitat, recreation and development management to secure the capercaillie population through delivery for the Capercaillie framework;									✓				
e)	Deliver co-ordinated conservation action through the Tomintoul and Glenlivet Landscape partnership;								✓					
f)	Develop a regional Natura Plan for the suite of SACs and SPAs in the Cairngorms National Park. The plan will address conservation objectives, measures and priorities for the suite of sites. It will seek to enhance delivery of favourable condition and integrate site management with broader conservation objectives beyond the designated sites;									✓				
g)	Plan proactively for the potential and management implications of beaver populations;													✓
h)	Consider options to provide appropriate public recognition where large areas of land are managed for nature conservation;									✓				
i)	Continue to direct public funds to support delivery of public benefits							✓						

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and explore new opportunities for funding including, for example, carbon management and voluntary conservation contributions.													
Priority	2 - Deer	r M anage	ement - A	Agenda	for Acti	ion							
Public agencies will support delivery through deer management groups by:													
a) Providing clarity on the public interest priorities;							✓						
b) Supporting the use of population modelling, herbivore impact assessments and habitat monitoring to inform management;									✓				
c) Supporting an adaptive approach by monitoring the habitat, economic and welfare implications of changes in the context of the Deer Code;							✓						
d) Supporting greater co-ordination of roe deer management and associated habitat and economic benefits;							✓						
e) Facilitating communication and joint action across Deer Management Group boundaries where necessary.							✓						
Priority	y 3 - Mod	orland A	ction - A	genda 1	for Actio	on							

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Partners will support delivery and recognition of good practice in moorland management which will include:													
a) Improving a shared definition and understanding of healthy moorland ecosystems;									✓				
b) Delivering more habitat and species diversity within and alongside moorlands;									✓				
c) Implementing guidance and trialling new approaches emerging from national initiatives, for example: mapping what implementation of the revised muirburn code means, using the Principles of Moorland management and using the lessons of the Understanding predation project to share knowledge and data;													✓
d) Minimising landscape (impacts)through a presumption against new constructed tracks in open moorland;													✓
Partners will work to improve raptor populations in the National Park through:													
e) Eliminating the illegal killing of raptors through increased wildlife crime enforcement capacity and recognition for good management:							✓	_					

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f)	Develop a multi partner golden eagle project which includes further analysis on occupancy following the 2016 national survey, informs management and develops the wildlife tourism opportunities associated with golden eagles.									✓				
Par	tners will support effective integration of objectives, including:													
g)	Delivering peatland restoration and securing peatland for the long term									✓				
h)	Integrating woodland expansion and montane scrub within and around moorlands,			✓	✓		✓							
i)	Supporting a more collaborative approach to integrating objectives for conservation, sport and woodland through the East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership and with other estates.							✓						
		C	onservat	tion Poli	cies									
ber Par of o	cy I.I The management and use of land should deliver multiple efits – delivering the best possible combination of the National Park tnership Plan's long-term outcomes, always ensuring that the integrity lesignated sites is maintained; and that the special qualities are served and, where possible, enhanced. This will be supported by:											√		

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a) a long-term planned approach by landbased businesses to delivering environmental, economic and social benefits;											✓		
b) support for land managers to plan and deliver environmental and social benefits underpinned by sound economic businesses;											✓		
c) research to support management options.											✓		
d) linking land management planning with community action planning.							✓						
Policy I.2 Enhance the resilience of habitats, species and land use to climate change with a particular focus on:							✓						
a) collaborating on land use and flood management, including natural flood management, through river catchment management plans, Proposals arising from the river catchment management plans will always ensure that the integrity of designated sites is maintained;												✓	
b) enhancing the health and connectivity of habitats;									✓				
b) expanding woodland on appropriate soils;			✓	✓		✓							
c) securing effective management of peat and carbon-rich soils and restoring them where degraded.									✓				

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Policy I.3 Conserve and enhance the special landscape qualities with a particular focus on:							✓						
a) conserving and enhancing wildness qualities;							✓						
b) maintaining and promoting dark skies;											✓		
c) enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements;									✓				
d) enhancing opportunities to enjoy and experience the landscapes of the Park.							✓						
Policy 1.4 Conserve and enhance habitat quality and connectivity, with a particular focus on:									✓				
a) woodland enhancement and expansion, including productive, montane, farm and riparian woodlands;									✓				
b) wetland conservation and enhancement;									✓				
c) protection and improvement of water environment;									✓				
d) delivering a combination of ecosystem services including natural flood management, carbon sequestration and storage, timber and food production.													✓

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Policy 1.5 Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National park is most important, with a particular focus on:									✓				
a) species whose conservation status is in decline or at risk;									✓				
b) tackling and reducing the impacts of invasive non-native species;									✓				
c) engaging people on species that are important in the National Park;									✓				
d) promoting biological recording of species in the Park.									✓				
Policy 1.6 Support collaboration across ownership boundaries and between interests to reduce conflicts in species and wildlife management including:							✓						
a) deer and moorland management;							✓						
b) combating wildlife crime;							✓						
c) species reintroductions.							✓						
Policy 1.7 Conserve and enhance the cultural heritage that helps to create the sense of place and identity of communities within the Park by:							✓						
a) protecting archaeological sites and their settings and promoting understanding of their significance;										✓			

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b)	ensuring appropriate advice and investigation for archaeology is used to inform proposals for land use change;											✓		
c)	protecting and enhancing the built heritage and designed landscapes;										✓			
d)	promoting opportunities to enjoy and celebrate the cultural heritage of the Park.							✓						
		Visito	or Exper	ience Pri	iorities									
	Priorit	y 4- Visit	or Inforr	nation a	nd Infr	astructu	re							
	tners will support delivery of high quality visitor infrastructure and rmation with actions including:													
a)	Developing new ways to fund infrastructure investment and maintaining and upgrading key off-road routes including Speyside Way, Deeside Way and the Core Paths network, maintained;			✓	✓		✓							
b)	Delivering a consistent high quality of visitor welcome through new and improved information, support for rangers services and partnership working to support businesses, communities and visitor attractions;							✓						
c)	Improving the visitor experience in Cairngorm and Glenmore, and							✓						

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	Tomintoul and Glenlivet;													
d)	Completing the 'Snow Roads Scenic Route' and developing a similar experience along the A9; and							✓						
e)	Encouraging the provision of low cost camping and motor home sites in appropriate locations;							✓						
f)	Improving visitor transport options and information.							✓						
		Priori	ty 5 - Ac	tive Cair	ngorm	s								
	ners will support delivery of Active Cairngorms with actions uding:													
a)	Using partnership in the National Park as an example of how to support delivery of Scotland's Natural Health Service							✓						
b)	Encouraging residents and visitors to responsibly enjoy and use the National Park for physical activity as part of daily life;													✓
c)	Targeting people currently living sedentary lifestyles where inactivity is the norm; older adults, teenage girls and those living with long term medical conditions;												✓	

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d)	Maintaining and growing health walks through the Cairngorms Walking project;													✓
e)	Delivering more environmental volunteering opportunities and developing volunteer rangers;									✓				
f)	Better coordination and promotion of public transport and active travel;												✓	
g)	Improving opportunities for active travel in Aviemore that deliver improved transport connections for visitors and residents.													✓
	Priority 6	- Learni	ng and lı	nclusion	- Agend	da for A	ction							
	tners will support delivery of best practice in learning and inclusion n actions including:													
a)	Maintain existing outdoor learning programmes; John Muir Award and Junior Rangers;							✓						
b)	Providing an opportunity for every child to visit the Cairngorms National Park during their school life to learn about and connect with the Park;													✓

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c) Developing and promoting learning resources and training opportunities that make it easier for education providers to use the National Park;													✓
d) Raising awareness and understanding of the Park and the issues and choices involved in management of the Park; and									✓				
e) Creating a 'Park for All' that reduces barriers and inspires diversity of people to engage with and care for their National Park through lifelong learning.							✓						
f) Using volunteering and physical activity to promote learning and inclusion													✓
	Visit	tor Expe	rience Po	olicies									
Policy 2.1 Provide a welcoming and high quality National Park experience for all by:							✓						
a) delivering a visitor/customer experience that spans organisational boundaries;											✓		
b) providing high quality co-ordinated information setting visitor experiences in the context of the National Park;											✓		

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c) enhancing the provision of ranger services to deliver visitor welcome and resource protection;							✓						
d) building on the National Park brand and the promise it delivers.											✓		
Policy 2.2 Promote sustainable tourism management with a particular focus on:							✓						
a) co-ordinated promotion and management of the Cairngorms National Park as a visitor destination;							✓						
b) ensuring high quality facilities and infrastructure are designed to manage the effects of visitor pressures on the natural heritage and communities.									✓				
c) implementing and reviewing the sustainable tourism action plan for the Cairngorms National Park							✓						
Policy 2.3 Provide high quality opportunities for access and recreation while maintaining the integrity of designated sites, with a particular focus on:"							√						
ensuring a high quality functional network of core paths and long distance routes;													✓

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b) promoting the health benefits of outdoor recreation;													✓
c) identifying areas where particular management measures are needed in relation to delivering a high quality visitor experience, safeguarding sensitive environments;									✓				
d) promoting responsible behaviour in enjoying and managing access.											✓		
Policy 2.4 Provide opportunities for inspiration, learning and understanding through engaging with people, with a particular focus on:													✓
a) young people;													✓
b) opportunities to support the delivery Of the Cirriculum for Excellence and education beyond school;													✓
c) enhancing volunteering opportunities:													✓
d) promoting a sense of shared ownership and responsibility towards Scotland's National Parks and rural environment.											✓		
	Rural	Develop	ment Pr	ioritie	5								
	ı	Priority 7	7 - Housi	ng									

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	ners will respond to the unique housing challenges and pressures nin the Cairngorms National Park by:													
a)	Reducing the proportion of second homes by ensuring that new housing development is targeted at meeting local needs as far as possible;							✓						
b)	Maximising the proportion of new housing that is affordable in perpetuity;												✓	
c)	Identifying sites in the next Local Development Plan where the affordable housing contribution will be more than 25% because of acute affordability pressures and the shortage of supply;												✓	
d)	Using the next Local Development Plan to manage the nature of new open market housing so it is better targeted towards local needs (eg by seeking a greater mix of house types and sizes, including smaller homes, in new developments)												✓	
e)	Applying flexible planning policies to encourage or enable majority affordable housing developments and encouraging the use of innovative delivery models to maximise the number of affordable homes that are built;							✓						

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f)	Targeting public sector funding towards sites with the greatest potential for delivering affordable housing;							✓						
g)	Supporting communities to deliver community-led housing solutions, including by making the most of powers to buy land and taking a more pro-active role in management where appropriate;													✓
	Priority	8 - Com	munity (Capacity	& Emp	owerme	ent			•				
	tners will support opportunities and actions to develop community acity and empowerment by:													
a)	Offering support to communities across the National Park through locally based support organisations and working with partner organisations, with a presumption in favour of collaborative working;							✓						
b)	Supporting community groups to improve communication and engagement with their communities in order to enhance local democracy and participation							✓						
c)	Continuing to support communities to review and update their Community Action Plans at least every five years;							✓						
d)	Working with community groups to improve succession planning and volunteering in order to allow them to take advantage of new							✓						

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	opportunities and proactively address issues; ;													
e)	Working collaboratively through community planning structures within the five Community Planning Partnership areas to provide consistent and clear support and information to communities;							√						
f)	Continuing to offer support to the Association of Cairngorms Communities and using it as a forum for broader engagement;							✓						
g)	Establishing a new spatial priority area to provide an enhanced level of future assistance/collaboration over a focused time period to the Dalwhinnie, Kingussie, Laggan and Newtonmore area from 2019/20, making the most of investment in the A9 dualling project							√						
h)	Establishing a new spatial priority area to provide an enhanced level of future assistance/collaboration over a focused time period to the Dalwhinnie, Kingussie, Laggan and Newtonmore area from 2020/21, making the most of investment in the A9													
		Priority	9 - Econo	omic Dev	/elopm	ent								
a)	Developing sector-specific plans (e.g. forestry, food and drink) to tackle investment, skills and support long-term resilience as well as building business on the natural capital of the National Park;							✓						

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b)	Supporting Cairngorms Community Broadband to deliver superfast broadband in the hardest to reach parts of the Park;							√						
c)	Continuing to improve physical infrastructure, including access to affordable housing and digital connectivity;							✓						
d)	Maximising the opportunities for businesses, communities and visitors from the A9 dualling project;							✓						
e)	Using the next Local Development Plan (LDP) to identifying new sites for business use and expansion and the delivery of the LDP to target investment that opens up those sites to business.							✓						
		Rura	l Develo	pment P	olicies									
bus	cy 3.1 Grow the economy of the Park by strengthening existing ness sectors, supporting business start-ups and diversification, and easing the number of workers employed in the Park through:													✓
a)	maintaining the population of the National Park and maintaining or growing the proportion of the working age population;													✓
b)	supporting the diversification of existing landbased businesses;								_					✓
c)	encouraging growth of business sectors that draw on the special							✓						

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	qualities of the Park such as sustainable tourism and food and drink;													
d)	broadening the economic base of the Park into sectors such as creative industries, renewable energy, and making stronger links with higher and further education;													✓
e)	increased provision for business land where there is an identified need and demand; and to support the use of land for small business, particularly within settlements;													✓
f)	slowing outward migration of young people; to encourage their return; and the inward migration of workers to the Park to meet business and community needs										✓			
g)	provision of a housing supply that supports migration of young people and workers to the Park and maintains vibrant communities;													✓
h)	reducing the proportion of vacant and second homes to support community vibrancy by ensuring that new housing development best meets local needs											✓		
i)	maximising the proportion of new housing development that is affordable in perpetuity.													✓
Poli	cy 3.2 Enable sustainable patterns of settlement development,													✓

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	astructure and communications while maintaining the integrity of gnated sites by:													
a)	consolidating the role of the strategic settlements identified in the current and future Local Development Plans as the most sustainable places for future growth and the focus for housing land supply;											✓		
b)	providing any additional flexibility in future land supply for housing at small sites around a wider range of settlements;													✓
c)	supporting sensitively designed improvements to the A9 and other trunk roads and main railway line as an integral part of enhancing the connectivity of the Highlands;								✓					
d)	planning and improving integrated and sustainable local transport networks that allow for safe travel off-road and link with public transport;													✓
e)	planning and supporting improvements to the information technology network;	_									_	✓		
f)	planning and supporting improvements to the mobile communications network that improve access to new generation technology and minimise the need for visually intrusive infrastructure.													✓

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y 3.3 Support development of a low carbon economy, with a cular focus on:							✓						
increasing renewable energy generation, especially biomass and hydro, that is compatible with conserving the special qualities of the National Park and maintaining the integrity of designated sites. Large-scale wind turbines are not compatible with the landscape character or special landscape qualities of the National Park. They are inappropriate within the National Park or where outside the Park they adversely affect its landscape character or special landscape qualities;											✓		
supporting businesses and communities to use less energy, reduce emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy and plan for a changing climate;											√		
maximising the benefits to communities through direct use of locally generated energy or where sold to the grid, reinvesting income to support community development;											✓		
promoting high standards of sustainable design and efficient use of energy and materials in construction											✓		

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Policy 3.4 Support and build the capacity of communities to deliver their aspirations, with a particular focus on:							✓						
 a) supporting communities to plan for their own futures, develop and implement projects, engage the support of partners and share good practice; 							✓						
b) supporting innovative approaches to providing affordable housing to meet local needs;													✓
c) aligning community planning processes to simplify support to communities;							✓						
d) engaging communities effectively in the long term management of the National Park and in projects or programmes that affect them							✓						
Policy 3.5 Enhance the design and sense of place in new development and existing settlements, in particular:							✓						
a) enabling new development which contributes positively to the sense of place;													✓
b) promoting a high standard of sustainable design, energy efficiency, sustainably sourced materials and construction in new development;											✓		

	Plan Element	Relevant Natura Sites	Qualifying interest affected	Likely Significant Effect (LSE)	Straight forward mitigation Possible?	Minor Residual Effect (MRE)	Screened out as having no LSE alone following mitigation?	General Policy Statement or too general in nature	Project not proposed by this plan	Aspect protective of the natural environment	Aspect not lead to change or does not promote development	Aspect has no conceivable effect or would not otherwise undermine conservation objectives	Aspect can have no significant effect	Aspect too general to know when, how or which site could be effected
c)	supporting the retention and enhancement of local character;											✓		
d)	facilitating the rehabilitation of redundant rural buildings and recycling of resources;													✓
e)	ensuring road upgrades and improvements respond to local landscape character;													✓
f)	Promoting active travel and public transport provision, reducing the reliance on the private car.											✓		