Cairngorms
NATIONAL PARK
Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh

PLANNING

Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan
2020

Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report November 2017

Report

Cover Note

PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
or
SEA Gateway
2 H (South)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

PART 2

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

The Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2020

The Responsible Authority is:

The Cairngorms National Park Authority

PART 3

Please tick the appropriate box

☑ The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. ***or***

☐ The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. ***or***

☐ The PPS does not require an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, as this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 5 week timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

PART 4

Contact name

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Job Title

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PART 5

Signature (electronic signature is acceptable)

Date 17/11/2017

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List of Abbreviations

2000 Act	National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000
2005 Act	Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
ABD	Aberdeenshire
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BARR	Buildings at Risk Register
BGS	British Geological Society
CA	Consultation Authority
CNAP	Cairngorms Nature Action Plan
CNP	Cairngorms National Park
CNPA	Cairngorms National Park Authority
EC	European Commission
EEC	European Economic Community
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
FWPM	Freshwater Pearl Mussel
GCR	Geological Conservation Review
GP	General Practitioner
Ha	Hectares
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
JSA	Job Seekers Allowance
LDP	Local Development Plan
MW	Megawatts
NH_3	Ammonia
NMVOC	Non-methane volatile organic compound
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NO_2	Nitrogen dioxide
NO_x	Nitrogen oxides
NPF	National Planning Framework
NPPP	National Park Partnership Plan
NRS	National Records of Scotland
NSA	National Scenic Area
O_3	Ground-level ozone
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
PKC	Perth and Kinross Council
$PM_{2.5}$	Particulate matter with particles with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less
PM_{10}	Particulate matter with particles with a diameter of 10 micrometres or less
PPS	Plans, Programmes and Strategies
pSPA	Potential Special Protection Area
PVA	Potentially Vulnerable Area
RCAHMS	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SIMD	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivations
SM	Scheduled Monument
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SO_2	Sulphur dioxide
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPP	Scottish Planning Policy
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SW	Scottish Water
SWWI	Strathspey Wetlands and Waders Initiative
TTWA	Travel To Work Area
WFD	Water Framework Directive
UK	United Kingdom
UK GAP	United Kingdom Geodiversity Action Plan
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Education

A glossary of terms may be found in **Appendix 8** (p. 304).

Non-Technical Summary

Introduction

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan (LDP) is a statutory requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. SEA is a systematic process developed to ensure that potential environmental impacts of Plans, Programmes and Strategies (PPS) (both positive and negative) are assessed and considered during the course of their preparation.

This section presents a non-technical summary of the SEA Scoping Report. The Scoping Report seeks to identify the environmental issues that need to be taken into consideration during the development of the Plan and seeks the views of the Consultation Authorities on the scope of information to be included within the environmental assessment.

Summary of the LDP Process

The LDP is the spatial planning document that will set out the National Park's policies and proposals for the use and development of land across the Cairngorms National Park over the 5 to 10 years from its adoption. It will mainly be concerned with the use of land and will guide future development to the most appropriate locations.

The LDP will provide clear guidance on what development will or will not be allowed and where, and it will address a wide range of policy issues, including housing, shopping, business, industry, transport, recreation, and built and natural heritage.

Summary of the SEA Process

SEA aims to:

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

The SEA process is divided into five main stages which are:

- Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope;
- Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects;
- Stage C: Preparing the Environmental Report.
- Stage D: Consulting on the draft LDP and its Environmental Report; and
- Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the LDP.

The Environmental Report sets out the findings of Stages C and D. To assist this process of the work has been categorised into 8 topic areas designed to provide a wide and detailed coverage of the environmental issues across National Park. These topics are:

- Topic 1: Climatic Factors
- Topic 2: Air
- Topic 3: Water
- Topic 4: Soil
- Topic 5: Material Asset

- Topic 6: Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora
- Topic 7: Landscape and Cultural Heritage
- Topic 8: Population and Human Health

Summary of SEA Objectives

Proposed SEA Objectives have been developed as a result of the review of PPS (**Policy Context**, p. 11) and baseline information (**Baseline**, p. 12). Identifying objectives is an important part of the SEA process as these will be used as the primary tool for testing the emerging LDP to ensure it will not result in any significant environmental effects. This process is referred to as the assessment stage (Stage B). At the Scoping Stage of the SEA, it is only necessary to publish 'proposed' SEA Objectives to allow the Consultation Authorities to offer feedback during the consultation of the Scoping Report.

The SEA Objectives have been separated into 'main' and 'sub' objectives. It is important that the assessment process is proportional, practical and manageable. Consequently, the assessment process will utilise the 'main' SEA Objectives, but take account of the SEA Sub-Objectives. This distinction is important to ensure the assessment work is practical and achievable. The proposed SEA Objectives for the SEA of the Cairngorms National Park LDP are shown in **Table 4** (p. 21).

Summary of the Assessment

Generally, the Options scored well in the assessment (**Figure 7** and **Table 8**). No likely significant adverse effects were identified.

Some minor adverse effects were predicted, these mostly being linked to the settlement strategy and economic growth, and the land-take associated with these. These effects have not resulted in the need to make significant changes to the Plan's proposals at this stage. Mitigation measures have been identified that address potential negative effects (**Table 8**).

Table 1 Summary of SEA's conclusions.

Long Term Significance	Count	%
++	20	8.0%
+	43	17.1%
□	109	43.4%
?	40	15.9%
-	39	15.5%
--	0	0.0%

Summary of Next Steps

The SEA Environmental Report will be consulted on for a period of 15 weeks between 17th November 2017 and 2nd March 2018. The development of the LDP's Proposed Plan and the environmental assessment will take place between March 2018 and November 2018. Following consultation on the Environmental Report, the CNPA will consider any comments received and will amend the SEA work where appropriate. This will take place in early 2018.

Future stages of the SEA process will take place alongside the development of the

LDP. Details of the LDP process can be found in the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan - Development Plan Scheme, which is updated on an annual basis and is available on the CNPA's website:

www.cairngorms.co.uk

The SEA is an ongoing process and will need to be updated at regular intervals throughout the work. For further information contact:

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Introduction

> "*The objective of this Directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.*"
>
> Directive 2001/42/EC

What is a Strategic Environmental Assessment?[1]

As part of the preparation of the Cairngorms Local Development Plan (LDP), the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) is required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is a systematic method for considering the likely environmental effects of certain Plans, Programmes or Strategies (PPS). SEA aims to:

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

The SEA process is divided into five main stages which are:

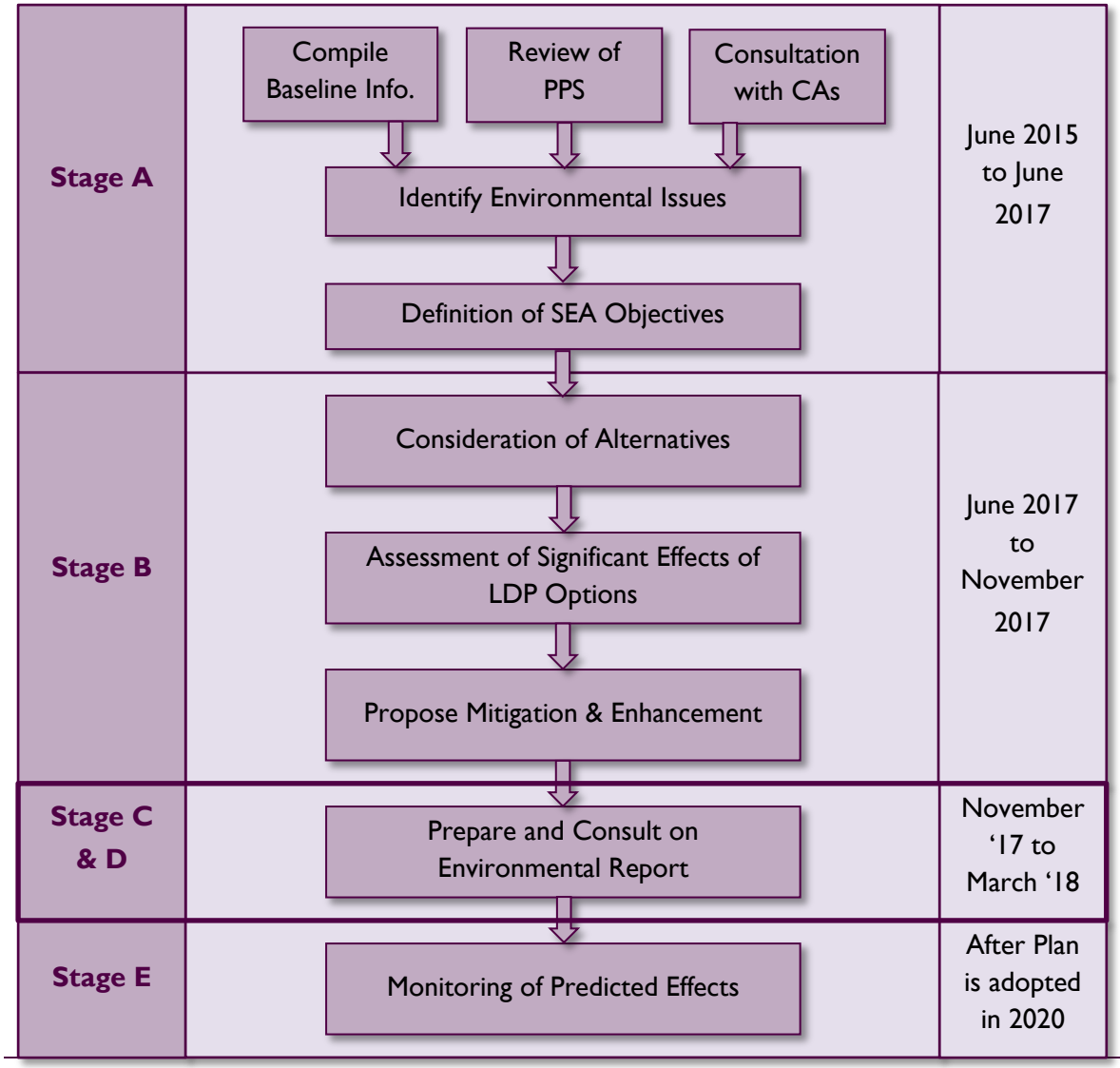
- Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope;
- Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects;
- Stage C: Preparing the Environmental Report.
- Stage D: Consulting on the draft LDP and its Environmental Report; and
- Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the LDP.

Figure 1 provides details of the actions required during these stages as well as the indicative timetable for their completion alongside the production of the LDP.

It is also necessary for the CNPA to undertake a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) in accordance with the The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 (as amended). The HRA will be reported separately during the LDP process.

[1] A glossary of terms used in this report is provided in Appendix 8.

Figure 1 Stages of the SEA of the Cairngorms National Park LDP and its indicative timetable; Scoping stage is outlined in bold.



What is a Scoping Report?

> "*The purpose of scoping is to define the level of detail to be covered in the assessment, and to reach agreement on the consultation timescales.*"
>
> SEA Guidance (Scottish Government, 2013)

This is the 'Environmental Report' for the SEA of the Cairngorms National Park LDP. It represents **Stages C and D** of the SEA process (see **Figure 1**). During this stage, the CNPA must seek to identify the environmental issues that need to be taken into consideration during the development of the Plan and seek the views of the Consultation Authorities (CAs) on the scope of information to be included within the environmental assessment. This Report is the result of this process.

The Cairngorms National Park

The Cairngorms National Park was designated in 2003 by the Scottish Parliament because it satisfied the conditions for a National Park as set out in the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000.

The National Park is the UK's largest, with a total land area of some 4,528km^2. Dominated by mountain plateau, it bastes extensive moorland, forest and straths and is home to around 25% of the UK's threatened bird, animal and plant species. Approximately 18,000 people live in the National Park and it welcomes around 1.4 million visitors each year.

The general purpose of the National Park Authority (NPA), as set out in the 2000 Act, is to ensure that the National Park aims are collectively achieved in a co-ordinated way. The CNPA is therefore an enabling organisation that must work with and through other bodies to bring added value to the management of the National Park, to achieve the four aims.

The aims of the National Park are:

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

If it appears to the authority that there is conflict between the first aim and the others, the first aim must be given greater weight.

Planning in the Cairngorms National Park

Planning in the Cairngorms National Park is unique. It involves the CNPA working alongside the five local authorities which operate in the Park – Aberdeenshire, Angus, Highland, Moray and Perth & Kinross. The LDP together with any Supplementary Guidance sets the detailed policies and proposals for the whole of the National Park. It is the document against which all planning applications will be judged.

Planning applications are submitted to the relevant local authority in the normal manner. The local authority ensures all the necessary information is supplied and registers receipt of the application. The CNPA is informed by the local authority and then decides whether to call-in the application. Only applications which are of general significance to the aims of the Park are called in and determined by the CNPA. The local authority determines those applications not called-in. The Local Development Plan applies to all planning applications, regardless of whether they are called-in or not.

The Local Development Plan

The CNPA is required to prepare an LDP for the Cairngorms National Park under the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. This is the second LDP for the Cairngorms National Park, the first and current LDP having been adopted on 27th March 2015. The Act requires the LDP to set out where most new development will happen and include policies that will guide decision making on planning applications. It also requires that the LDP be updated every five years, therefore once adopted, this LDP will update and replace the current one.

The LDP falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. It has potential to generate significant environmental effects and so a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is being undertaken.

The key facts relating to the proposed LDP are set out in **Table 2**.

Table 2 Key Facts about the LDP.

Responsible Authority	Cairngorms National Park Authority
Title of PPS	Local Development Plan
Purpose of PPS	The Local Development Plan (LDP) is a land use planning document that will set out the National Park's policies and proposals for the use and development of land across the Cairngorms National Park over at least the next 10 years. It will mainly be concerned with the use of land and will guide future development to the most appropriate locations. The LDP will provide clear guidance on what development will or will not be allowed and where, and it will address a wide range of policy issues, including housing, shopping, business, industry, transport, recreation, and built and natural heritage.
What prompted the PPS?	Planning Authorities are required to prepare a LDP under Section 2 of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. Planning Authorities must from time to time review their NPPs and, if thought fit, prepare an amended Plan. The review, which must take place at least every 5 years, should focus on what has to change rather than invite the re-opening of settled issues. Therefore, a review of the current LDP 2015 must now take place if the reviewed LDP is to be adopted within the set timescale.
Subject (e.g. Planning, transport etc)	The LDP is concerned with spatial planning and due to its strategic nature will have influence over a wide range of subjects, including: ➢ Housing development; ➢ Economic development; ➢ Infrastructure development; ➢ Natural Heritage; ➢ Historic and cultural heritage; ➢ Transport; ➢ Waste management;

	➢ Energy; ➢ Resources; ➢ Leisure and recreation; ➢ Tourism.
Summary of the nature / content of PPS	Taking its strategic direction from the National Park Partnership Plan 2017-2922, the LDP will set out the planning policies for the whole of the Cairngorms national Park. These policies will guide development by identifying sites for specific uses as well as setting out policies coverings such issues as affordable housing, economic development and nature conservation.
Period Covered by PPS	2020-2025.
Frequency of Updates	Document reviewed every 5 years.
Area covered by PPS	4,528 km^2
Map included?	A map of the Cairngorms National Park is provided on page 10.
Are there any proposed PPS objectives	Full PPS objectives are not yet fully developed, however Main Issues have been identified and preferred and alternative options have been created.
Copy of attached objectives	None to attach.

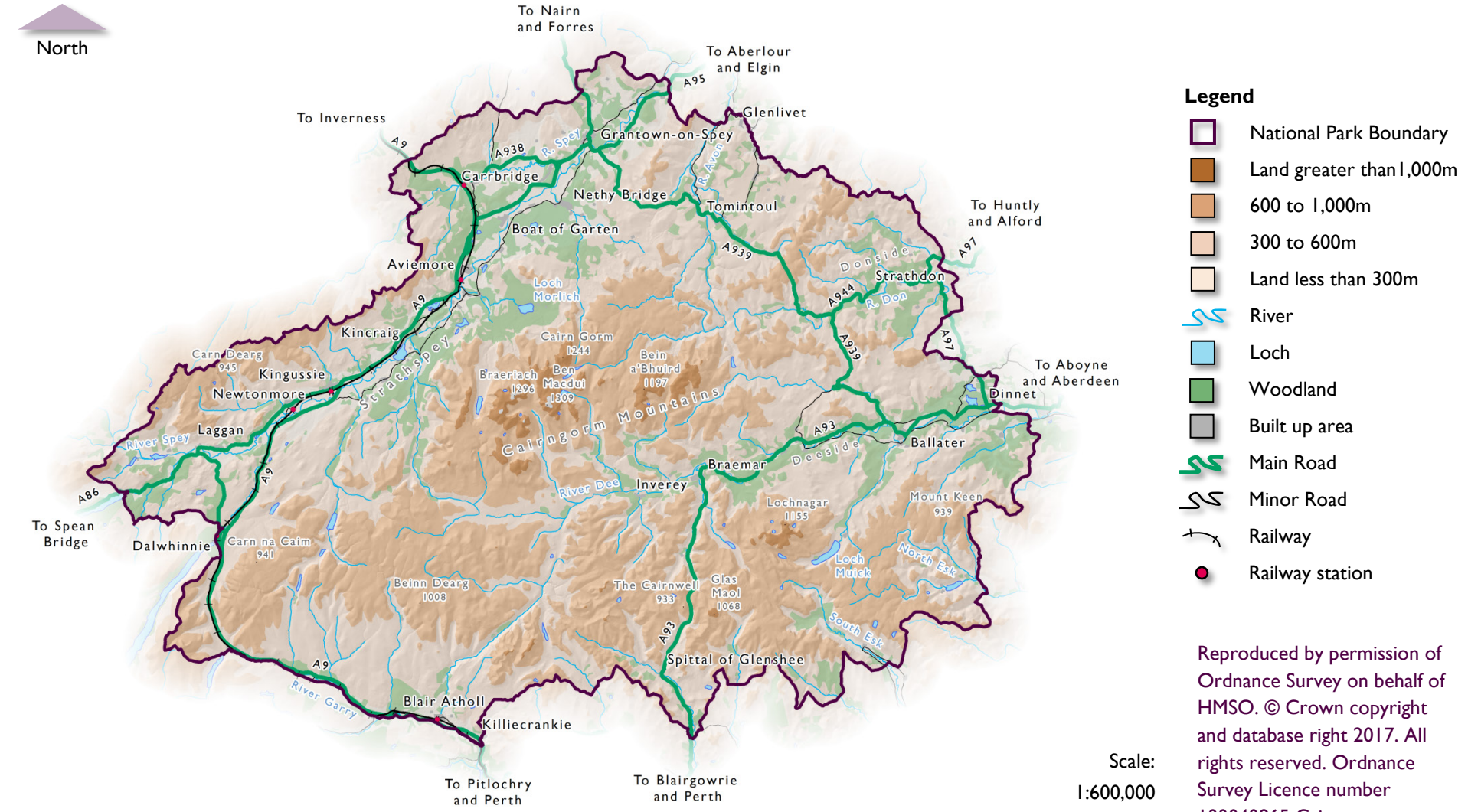


Figure 2 Area covered by the PPS.

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Policy Context

> "*A plan or programme may be influenced in various ways by other plans or programmes, or by external environmental protection objectives such as those laid down in policies or legislation. These relationships enable the Responsible Authority to take advantage of potential synergies and to deal with any inconsistencies and constraints.*"
>
> A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive (ODPM, 2005)

The LDP must have appropriate regard to a wide range of national and international laws, policy and strategy. A review of Plans, Programmes and Strategies (PPS) has therefore been conducted in accordance with the Scottish Government's SEA Guidance (2013) and the ODPM Guidance on SEA (2005). This is an important part of the SEA process as it ensures the work is consistent with up to date policy, is informed by robust information and also helps in the process of identifying environmental issues, which are discussed further under the Baseline section of this report (p. 12).

Review Findings

A preliminary review of all the PPSs considered is presented in **Appendix 1**. The PPSs are categorised according to their international, national and local scales and are accompanied by information on their purpose, relationship with the LDP and the SEA Issue they relate to.

The SEA Environmental Report will need to consider the PPSs that are active at the time of writing and therefore this aspect of the SEA process will be kept under continual review.

Baseline

> "*Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring environmental effects and helps to identify environmental problems and alternative ways of dealing with them.*"
>
> A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive (ODPM, 2005)

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that information should be provided on the "relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme" and "the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected". This section aims to describe the environmental context within which the LDP operates and the constraints and targets that this context imposes on the LDP.

Baseline information serves two purposes, it helps to identify the issues on which the SEA should focus, and provides a benchmark against which the performance of the Plan (and the accuracy of any predictions) can be assessed. As well as showing the current situation the baseline data shows where possible the situation in the past and projections for the future, in order to indicate trends. It is important to recognise that where information on trends is available, the extrapolation of trends into the future can change in response to changes in legislation or other interventions.

An environmental baseline for the Cairngorms National Park is presented in **Appendix 2** of this report. The baseline is presented using a topic based approach, which reflects the Issues set out within Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act:

- Topic 1: Climatic Factors (p. 99);
- Topic 2: Air (p. 108);
- Topic 3: Water (p. 112);
- Topic 4: Soil (p. 129);
- Topic 5: Material Assets (p. 140);
- Topic 6: Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora (p. 159);
- Topic 7: Landscape and Cultural Heritage (p. 231); and
- Topic 8: Population and Human Health (p. 260).

While it is recognised that all topics will inter-relate to some degree, it is beyond the scope of this assessment to describe them all in full detail. However, the report does highlight important inter-relationship where they exist and describes their effects under the most relevant topic.

A summary of the baseline may be found in **Table 3**.

Summary of the Environmental Baseline and Main Issues

Table 3 Summary of baseline information and main issues; see Appendix 2 for full details.

SEA Topic	Summary of environmental baseline
Climatic Factors Pages 99 - 107	➢ Historic trends show an increase in minimum and maximum temperatures and rainfall and a reduction in the number of days of frost. ➢ Climate change projections offer a central estimate of a: ➢ 2.4°C increase in mean annual temperature, ➢ 2.7°C increase in mean summer temperature, ➢ 2.1°C increase in mean winter temperature, ➢ 0.07% increase in mean annual precipitation, but with a ➢ 13.5% decrease in mean summer precipitation, and a ➢ 2% decrease in mean winter precipitation. ➢ Per capita carbon emissions in the form of CO_2 are estimated to have decreased from 10.3 tonnes in 2006 to 7.7 tonnes to 2014.
Air Pages 108 - 111	➢ Air quality is relatively high within the National Park. ➢ No Air Quality Management Areas within National Park. ➢ Most air pollution associated with transport, with emissions of PM_{10} and NO_2 highest along the National Park's main roads, with the A9 being the greatest contributor.
Water Pages 112 - 128	➢ Water quality is relatively high within the National Park. ➢ In 2014 the overall status of waterbodies within and overlapping the Cairngorms National Park was: ➢ 7.8% High, ➢ 49.7% Good, ➢ 25.5% Moderate, ➢ 14.4% Poor, and

SEA Topic	Summary of environmental baseline
	➢ 2.6% Bad. ➢ 2014 saw: ➢ 10.4% of waterbodies improve in overall status, ➢ 80.9% remain the same, and ➢ 8.7% degraded in overall status. ➢ Data from the Spey and Dee indicates a general trend for higher annual maximum instantaneous peak flows. ➢ There is insufficient capacity in the water and sewage treatment works that serve the National Park to meet the projected level of housing growth for the Plan period. ➢ Flood risk: there are nine Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) within the National Park. The estimated total average annual cost of damage in these areas is £1,071,000.
Soil Pages 129 - 239	➢ The Cairngorms National Park does not contain any mapped areas of Prime Agricultural Land. ➢ Around 1,700km^2 of peat soils within the National Park. ➢ Soil erosion represents a risk to soils with high organic content (such as peat) over large areas of the National Park.
Material Assets Pages 140 - 158	➢ 39 GCR sites within or overlapping the National Park boundary. Combined they cover an area of around 592 km^2. ➢ CNPA has permitted around 4.2MW of renewable energy since 2010 although data gaps remain in the exact level of energy generated in the National Park. ➢ Household waste produced is reducing, while the recycling rate is increasing. ➢ In 2015, the Cairngorms National Park: ➢ Produced 10,080 tonnes of household waste, ➢ Recycled 4,608 tonnes of household waste (45.8%). ➢ Transport infrastructure, while good along the National Park's main corridors, is poor elsewhere in the National Park, resulting in long drive times and high levels of deprivation in SIMD domains relating to access. ➢ Rail use is on the increase, although the reliance on private transport remains high. ➢ The National Park's internet infrastructure is currently being upgraded, although plans are yet to be confirmed for a

SEA Topic	Summary of environmental baseline
	third of the exchanges servicing the area.

Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora
Pages 159 - 230
	➢ Cairngorms National Park is home to 25% of the UK's rare animal, insect, lichen, fungi and insect species.
	➢ There are around 1,200 species considered to be important for nature conservation within the National Park.
	➢ National Park contains 11 National Nature Reserves (NNRs), covering an area of around 513 km^2.
	➢ National Park contains 59 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), covering an area of around 1,128 km^2. Of these:
	  ➢ 40 are Biological SSSIs, covering around 449 km^2.
	  ➢ 9 are Geological SSSIs, covering an area of around 9 km^2.
	  ➢ 10 are Mixed SSSI's, covering an area of around 671 km^2.
	➢ Of the 50 SSSIs with biological notifiable interests, 28 have at least one notifiable interest that is in unfavourable condition.
	➢ 5 SSSIs, namely Aldclune and Invervack Meadows, Blair Atholl Meadow, Craigendarroch, Creag Dhubh and Garbh Choire, have no notifiable interests in favourable condition.
	➢ National Park contains 39 sites within the Natura 2000 Network. Of these:
	  ➢ 23 are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), covering around 1,083 km^2.
	  ➢ 16 are Special Protection Areas (SPAs), covering an area of around 2,536 km^2.
	➢ 16 SACs have at least one qualifying feature that is in unfavourable condition.
	➢ 4 SACs, namely Monadhliath, River South Esk, Kinveachy Forest and The Maim, have no qualifying features in favourable condition.
	➢ 33 Annex I (Habitats Directive) habitats occur in the National Park.
	➢ 10 Annex II (Habitats Directive) species are native to, and normally resident in, the National Park.
	➢ 9 SPAs have at least one qualifying feature that is in unfavourable condition.
	➢ 3 SPAs, namely Craigmore Wood, Creag Meagaidh and Muir of Dinnet have no qualifying features in favourable condition.
	➢ 35 Annex I (Birds Directive) species can be found within the Cairngorms National Park.

SEA Topic	Summary of environmental baseline
	➢ National Park contains 3 Ramsar Sites, covering an area of around 15 km^2. ➢ National Park contains one Biogenetic Reserve at Muir of Dinnet. ➢ National Park contains 2 Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Reserves at Loch Garten and Insh Marshes. ➢ National Park contains the most extensive tracts of Caledonian forest in Britain. ➢ Native tree species comprise around 79% of the National Park's woodlands, representing a quarter of the entire Scottish native woodland resource. ➢ Aspen dominated woodland is unique to the Cairngorms National Park, the stands are small and total less than 350ha concentrated in Strathspey and Deeside. ➢ Around 340 km^2 of the National Park's woodlands are identified as being ancient according to SNH's Ancient Woodland Inventory. ➢ Around 160 km^2 of this has also been identified as being semi-natural. ➢ Some of the UK's best ancient floodplain woodlands are located in the Cairngorms National Park. ➢ Caledonian Pinewood is at threat from habitat loss lack of regeneration, limited deadwood and poor structural diversity. ➢ Approximately 1,120ha of new native woodland was created between 2013 and 2017. ➢ Conifer plantations make up 50% of the woodland resource and are of limited value for biodiversity. ➢ Lack of regeneration, poor structural diversity and grazing pressure has reduced the biodiversity value of upland oak. ➢ Capercaillie populations in Scotland have declined significantly from an estimated 20,000 birds in 1970 to around 1,285 at the most recent national winter survey in 2009/10. ➢ The National Park holds a significant proportion of the national Capercaillie population – at least 75% of the national number of lekking males, with the majority in Strathspey. ➢ The Strathspey capercaillie population is crucial to the long-term survival of the species in the UK. ➢ The National Park is one of the last strongholds for red squirrel and Scottish Wildcat in the UK. ➢ The National Park is one of the most important sites for breeding waders due to the combination of wetlands, wet grassland and low-intensity mixed farming.

SEA Topic	Summary of environmental baseline
	➢ Wetlands have historically been drained for agriculture, suffered water shortages as a result of over abstraction and impoundment and been subject to pollution pressure from diffuse and point sources. The remaining wetlands are now often small and fragmented. ➢ Wet grasslands are under threat from over-grazing and poaching by livestock, cutting for hay at critical wader breeding times and drainage to create productive agricultural land. ➢ Rivers, lochs and the species they support have been affected by large scale impoundments which have a hydrological impact and also affect sediment dynamics, create barriers to fish passage, diffuse and point source pollution and invasive species ➢ The freshwater pearl mussel is declining dramatically throughout its range. Mussel populations have been affected by multiple issues, including wildlife crime, habitat degradation and declining water quality. ➢ The Cairngorms Mountains support a rich arctic montane flora. ➢ Montane and moorland habitat under threat from climate change, trampling, erosion and disturbance. ➢ Upland heathland under threat from drainage issues. ➢ Blanket bog under threat from erosion, which is likely to be a significant cause of carbon emissions. ➢ Montaine scrub is under threat from overgrazing and burning. ➢ Small fragmented areas of lowland and upland hay meadows, which are locally important for biodiversity and include many species of orchid and waxcap fungi, still exist in places.
Landscape and Cultural Heritage Pages 231 - 259	➢ At 4,528 square kilometres, and comprising 6% of Scotland's land area, the Cairngorms National Park is the UK's largest protected landscape. ➢ National Park contains 3 National Scenic Areas (NSA), with two, namely the Cairngorm Mountains NSA and Deeside and Lochnagar NSA, located entirely within the National Park's boundary. ➢ Combined, the two main NSAs cover an area of around 1,072 km^2, which equates to just under 25% of the National Park's land area. ➢ Around 2,100 km^2 (46%) of the Cairngorms National Park has been identified as Wild Land Areas.

SEA Topic	Summary of environmental baseline

	➢ There are 106 Scheduled Monuments recorded within the National Park.
	➢ 'The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland' lists 10 gardens and designed landscapes within the National Park.
	➢ There are 2 Inventory Battlefields within the National Park.
	➢ There are 5 historic planned towns within the National Park.
	➢ There are 6 Conservation Areas within the National Park.
	➢ There are around 753 Listed buildings or structures within the National Park, with:
	  ➢ 56 in Category A,
	  ➢ 341 in Category B, and
	  ➢ 356 in Category C.
	➢ There are 17 buildings on the Buildings at Risk Register within the National Park.
	➢ There are around 370 Gaelic and 5,400 Scots speakers living in the National Park.

Population and Human Health Pages 260 - 298	➢ In 2014, the population of the population of the National Park was estimated to be 18,594, with 9,186 males and 9,408 females. ➢ The National Park has a relatively high proportion of people within the 10 to 29 and 55 to 74 age cohorts. ➢ National Park has a working age population of approximately 10,909 people (51.9% of total population), with 5,666 males and 5,243 females. ➢ Those of pensionable age numbered 4,539 (24.6% of total population) with 1,911 males and 2,628 females. ➢ Since 2001, the National Park has experienced a significant net increase in its resident population, rising by approximately 2,087 persons (a growth of 12.8%). ➢ Greatest rate of population growth occurred in Aviemore, which increased by around 1,009 people since 2001. ➢ Population projections for the National Park estimate that between 2014 and 2039, the population is projected to drop from 19010 to 18337 (an increase of around 4%). ➢ Over the projection period:

SEA Topic	Summary of environmental baseline
	➢ Number of children aged under 16 are projected to decrease by 21% from 3,030 to 2,383. ➢ The working age population is projected to decrease by 10% from 11,250 to 10,178. ➢ People of pensionable age are projected to rise by 23% from 4,730 to 5,776. ➢ Household projections suggest that households are set to increase from 8,653 in 2012 to 9,195 in 2039, an increase of 6%. ➢ The average household size is projected to fall from 2.12 people in 2014 to 1.91 people in 2039. ➢ Around 76.8% of the 16+ Census population had NVQ1 level and above (Scotland 73.2%), and around 30.8% had NVQ4 and above (Scotland 26.1%). ➢ Around 95% of people classed as being economically active were in employment in 2011, which is slightly higher than the Scottish level of 91.9%. ➢ Of the economically inactive in 2011, who numbered 5,377 (around 33.9% of the 16+ population), 75.1% were inactive due to retirement. ➢ The level of full time (72.8%) and part time (27.2%) employee jobs (excludes self-employed, government, trainees and HM Forces) is generally consistent with Scotland as a whole. ➢ Unemployment levels are low, with only 225 people claiming Job Seekers Allowance in Q 4 of 2012. ➢ Gross median wage is relatively low in the National Park, but gross household income is above the Scottish median. ➢ Estimated life expectancy of the National Park is 79 for males and 82.3 for females. ➢ Low levels of people with long term health problems or disabilities and high levels of people with good health within the National Park. ➢ Low levels of overall deprivation within the National Park, with 3 data zones being in the 20% least deprived in Scotland. ➢ Extensive public footpath network, including 1,073km of Core Path.

Environmental Assessment

SEA Objectives

> "*The review of relevant environmental objectives can be used to construct a framework of objectives against which a plan can be assessed. This can identify whether a plan supports wider environmental objectives or whether there are any environmental gaps.*"
>
> SEA Guidance
> (Scottish Government, 2013)

This section of the Scoping Report sets out the CNPA's proposed approach to assessment of the LDP.

Proposed SEA Objectives have been developed as a result of the review of PPS (**Policy Context**, p. 11) and baseline information (**Baseline**, p. 12) as well as the responses to the consultation on the Scoping Report (**Appendix 4**, p.304). Identifying objectives is an important part of the SEA process as these will be used as the primary tool for testing the emerging LDP to ensure it will not result in any significant environmental effects.

The proposed SEA Objectives are thematically based and are designed to cover the environmental assets that the Plan could potentially affect. It is important to recognise that environmental effects are rarely confined to a single a single issue, therefore it has been highlighted where significant inter-relationships occur. The SEA Objectives proposed here therefore represent the scope of the assessment that will be undertaken to identify potential environmental effects of the Cairngorms National Park LDP.

It is important that the assessment process is proportional, practical and manageable. Consequently, the assessment process will utilise the 'main' SEA Objectives, but take account of the SEA Sub-Objectives. This distinction is important to ensure the assessment work is practical and achievable. It should also be noted that not all SEA Sub-Objectives will not be relevant to every aspect of the Plan. Therefore, in the interest of proportionality, where they are not relevant, they will not be considered as part of the assessment process.

The Objectives and their relationship with the SEA Issues identified for the National Park are outlined in **Table 4**, along with any associated sub objectives. The main objectives have been tested for their compatibility with one another, the findings of which can be found in the section on the **Compatibility of Objectives** (p. 28). The framework in which they will be utilised is set out on page 30.

Table 4 Proposed SEA Objectives.

SEA Topic	No.	SEA Objective	SEA Sub-Objectives	Inter-relationships
Climatic Factors	1a	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	➢ Reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases with particular focus on emissions from buildings, transport, energy generation and industry (especially CO_2). ➢ 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.	➢ Air ➢ Water ➢ Soil ➢ Material Assets ➢ Population and Human health
	1b	Increase resilience to the effects of climate change	➢ 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.	➢ Water ➢ Soil ➢ Landscape and Cultural Heritage ➢ Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora ➢ Population and Human health

SEA Topic	No.	SEA Objective	SEA Sub-Objectives	Inter-relationships
Air	2	Protect and enhance air quality	➢ Reduce levels of the UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO_2, PM_{10}, SO_2). ➢ Reduce levels of ground-level ozone (O_3). ➢ 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.	➢ Water ➢ Soil ➢ Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora ➢ Population and Human health
Water	3a	Reduce flood risk	➢ 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, stablise 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.	➢ Climatic factors ➢ Soil ➢ Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora ➢ Landscape and Cultural Heritage ➢ Population and Human health

SEA Topic	No.	SEA Objective	SEA Sub-Objectives	Inter-relationships
			➢ Increase provision to manage stormwater.	
	3b	Maintain and improve the quality of water resources	➢ 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.	➢ Climatic factors ➢ Soil ➢ Material Assets ➢ Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora ➢ Population and Human health

SEA Topic	No.	SEA Objective	SEA Sub-Objectives	Inter-relationships
Soil	4	Minimise contamination and safeguard and improve soil and peat quality.	➢ 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 SO_2 and NO_2 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.	➢ Climatic factors ➢ Water ➢ Material Assets ➢ Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora ➢ Landscape and Cultural Heritage ➢ Population and Human health

SEA Topic	No.	SEA Objective	SEA Sub-Objectives	Inter-relationships
Material Assets	5	Encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets	➢ 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.	➢ Climatic factors ➢ Air ➢ Water ➢ Soil ➢ Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora ➢ Landscape and Cultural Heritage ➢ Population and Human Health
Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora	6a	Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity, distinctive native species and habitats	➢ 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 qualifying 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 natural 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.	➢ Climatic factors ➢ Air ➢ Water ➢ Soil ➢ Material Assets ➢ Landscape and Cultural Heritage ➢ Population and Human Health

SEA Topic	No.	SEA Objective	SEA Sub-Objectives	Inter-relationships
			➢ Enable people to access and appreciate the Cairngorms National Park's natural heritage more.	
	6b	Maintain and improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits	➢ 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 ecosystem services woodland provide (e.g. flood alleviation and pollution mitigation). ➢ Protect and promote the recreational, cultural, landscape and economic value of woodland.	➢ Climatic factors ➢ Air ➢ Water ➢ Soil ➢ Material Assets ➢ Landscape and Cultural Heritage ➢ Population and Human Health
Landscape and Cultural Heritage	7	Protect and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the National Park's landscape and cultural heritage	➢ Protect and enhance the National Park's special landscape qualities**.** ➢ Work towards creating landscapes that are ecologically functional. ➢ Minimise the loss of wild land. ➢ 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.	➢ Climatic Factors ➢ Material Assets ➢ Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora ➢ Population and Human health

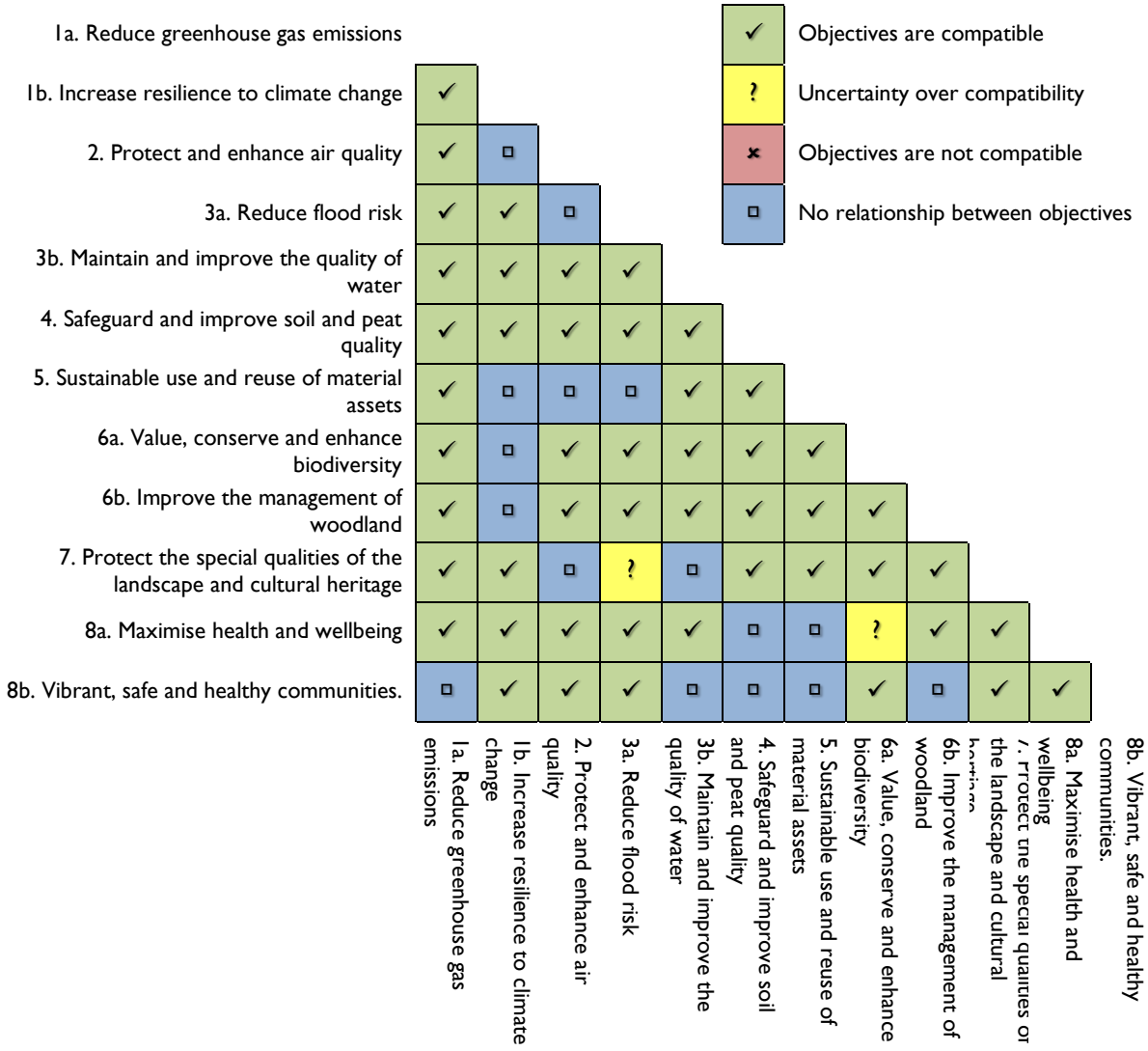
SEA Topic	No.	SEA Objective	SEA Sub-Objectives	Inter-relationships
Population and Human Health	8a	Promote opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities.	➢ Maintain the recreational value of the Cairngorms National Park. ➢ Promote and maintain opportunities 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.	➢ Landscape and Cultural Heritage ➢ Population and Human Health
	8b	Support vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	➢ 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.	➢ Climatic factors ➢ Air ➢ Water ➢ Soil ➢ Material Assets ➢ Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora ➢ Landscape and Cultural Heritage ➢ Population and Human Health

Compatibility of SEA Objectives

> "*It may be useful to test the internal compatibility of the SEA objectives... There may be tensions between objectives that cannot be resolved: the compatibility assessment will clarify these so that subsequent decisions are well based, and mitigation or alternatives can be considered.*"
>
> A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive (ODPM, 2005)

The SEA Objectives identified in **Table 4** have been tested for compatibility in accordance with the guidance as set out by the ODPM. A matrix approach has been used which is consistent with this guidance. The results of the compatibility assessment are summarised in **Figure 3**. Only the 'main' objectives have been considered as part of the compatibility test, since the sub-objectives effectively feed into these.

Figure 3 Compatibility assessment of SEA objectives (abridged).



As can be seen from **Figure 3**, a large number of the SEA objectives are either compatible with each other, or there is no relationship between them. Where there is no relationship between objectives this means they can be achieved simultaneously without conflict. However, there is uncertainty between the compatibility of some objectives, for example the objectives 3a and 7. This uncertainty will be considered in greater detail within the assessments.

Likely changes to the environment in the absence of a Plan

> "*It is important to be aware that baselines will change over time under 'no plan or programme' and 'business as usual' alternatives, as well as under new plans or programmes.*"
>
> A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive (ODPM, 2005)

In forecasting the 'business as usual', or 'without the plan' scenario it is first necessary to determine what that means. In the case of the LDP, the absence of a Plan is taken to mean the continued implementation of the CNPA's overarching Plans such as the NPPP 2017 and current Local Development Plan (LDP) 2015 as well as the international and national PPS listed in **Appendix 1** (p. 75).

The Environmental effects of this interpretation are forecast in the context of the SEA Objectives (**Table 4**). The SEA Objectives have been chosen as a context for this exercise because:

- They provide the context against which the likely effects of the Plan have been assessed; and
- They provide the proposed framework for SEA monitoring.

Table 5 Likely environmental changes in the absence of a Plan.

SEA Objective	Business as Usual Scenario
1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	In the absence of the Plan, statutory plans such as the National Park Plan (NPPP) 2017 will provide strategic context for decisions on development and help direct it to the most appropriate locations and promote sustainable development. The NPPP also provides the policy basis which all daughter PPS should follow, therefore its existence ensures that issues such as climate change are not missed at a lower level. However, the NPPP does not identify specific settlements and therefore the absence of an LDP could lead to an increase in speculative development resulting in greater levels of car use. National guidance such as Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which as the aim of turning Scotland into "A low carbon place – reducing our carbon emissions and adapting to climate" will also be material. SPPP requires that decision makers support climate change mitigation and adaptation including taking account of flood risk. National Planning Framework (NPF) 3 would also play a role as it aims to facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy, particularly by supporting diversification of the energy sector. However, it is important to note that both SPPP and SPF require LDP's to deliver their objectives and therefore, in its absence, the ability of the CNPA to reduce climate change emissions is more limited.
1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change	The NPPP has a number of measures that help mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. These include targets to expand woodland and restore peatland. National guidance such as Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which as the aim of turning Scotland into "A low carbon place – reducing our carbon emissions and adapting to climate" will also be material. SPPP requires that decision makers support climate change mitigation and adaptation including taking account of flood risk. National Planning Framework (NPF) 3 would also play a role as it aims to facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy, particularly by supporting diversification of the energy sector. However, it is important to note that both SPPP and SPF require LDP's to deliver their objectives and therefore, in its absence, the ability of the CNPA to encourage develop climate change adaptation is more limited.
2a Protect and enhance air quality	With a growing population, increasing visitor numbers and high levels of private motor vehicle use, there is likely to be a minor negative impact on air quality over the Plan period. The NPPP provides strategic direction

SEA Objective	Business as Usual Scenario
	for the location of development and also aims is to integrate sustainable patterns of development and travel. However, it requires the LDP to provide the policy basis for decisions on development to be to be made and therefore in its absence it is likely that development would be harder to direct to locations that limit air pollution.
3a Reduce flood risk	NPPP may act as a means of coordinating the delivery of natural flood management measures, particularly when they are implemented as part of broader landscape scale habitat management priorities, such woodland expansion or peatland restoration. National policy in the form of SPP and NPF would also play a role, with the NPF in particular supporting a catchment-scale approach to sustainable flood risk management. Furthermore, SPP states that the planning system should prevent development which would have a significant probability of being affected by flooding or would increase the probability of flooding elsewhere. Therefore, while it is likely that flood risk would still be a key consideration in the development process, it would be harder to deliver more strategic benefits, that coordinating actions between different land ownership interests. It is likely therefore, that in the absence of a LDP, that opportunities for reducing flood risk could be missed.
3b Maintain and improve the quality of water resources	According to SPPP, where relevant policies in a development plan are out-of-date then the presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development will be a significant material consideration. However, the LDP plays an important role on minimising the effect on water quality, particularly through the designation of sites that are likely to have the least impact. In its absence of a plan ad-hoc development could lead water resources may be damaged by inappropriate placement. To a certain extent, national policy will be able to limit some of the effects by restricting development on established floodplains
4 Minimise contamination and safeguard and improve soil and peat quality.	According to SPPP, where relevant policies in a development plan are out-of-date then the presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development will be a significant material consideration. However, the absence of a settlement strategy the location of development is harder to manage and therefore greater adverse impact on soil could occur through an increase in development of greenfield sites. This could be particularly significant if large scale development were to be allowed on the best and most versatile

SEA Objective	Business as Usual Scenario
	agricultural land.
5 Encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets	According to SPPP, where relevant policies in a development plan are out-of-date then the presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development will be a significant material consideration. While decisions can be made it may reduce the ability for the CNPA to deliver desirable outcomes for specific types of applications e.g. mineral operations and hill tracks.
6a Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity, distinctive wild species and habitats	The National Park is protected by many tiers of protected site and even in the absence of the LDP, development and land management practices would still have to meet the requirements of Natura legislation. However, biodiversity is more than just protected sites and the National Park is home to many important yet undesignated habitats, many of which are important to the protected sites themselves. In the absence of an LDP national policy will continue to restrict development in the open countryside, and national and international legislation for conservation sites will continue to protect them from direct development. However, the overall biodiversity value of individual sites, and of the National Park as a whole could be damaged in the absence of policies concerning the selection of development sites and means of mitigating negative effects. Biodiversity is therefore likely to decline more than if and LDP was not in place. This is probable because the landscape and biodiversity policies of the plan provide additional policy guidance, which is amplified through the preparation of supplementary planning guidance. Furthermore, in this scenario it's likely that the CNPA would have difficulty meeting its aim "*to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area*".
6b Maintain and improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits	The National Park contains the most extensive tract of Caledonian forest in Britain. It has around 340 km^2 of ancient woodland, of which around 160 km^2 is semi-natural. Woodland is therefore an important habitat and resource of interest to many of the National Park's partners. In the LDP's absence, national policy such as SPP would continue to protect Ancient and Semi-natural woodland, however it would become more difficult to protect undesignated, yet still important woodlands, from development.
7 Protect and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the National Park's	The Cairngorms National Park represents the UK's largest protected landscape and the NPPP offers the CNPA the ability to protect the special qualities of the National Park's landscape from development or land management practices that take place both within and outwith its boundary. However, the LDP and its

SEA Objective	Business as Usual Scenario
landscape and cultural and historic heritage	Supplementary Guidance provide direction at a site level and help direct and formulate the implementation of landscaping schemes. Should this ability be lost then it may result in a loss of landscape quality at a local level, which in combination with other sites, could have a wider landscape impact.
8a Promote opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities	One of the aims of the National Park is "*to promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public*". The LDP is not the greatest contributor to meeting this objective. For example, it is the NPPP 2017 offers a framework for the coordinated delivery of services and facilities that support healthy living. However, the LDP's remit over the location of development sites can play a role in creating environments in which opportunities for health and wellbeing can be maximised. In the absence of an LDP to coordinate development, such opportunities could be lost.
8b Support vibrant, safe and healthy communities	One of the aims of the National Park is "*to promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities*". Issues include a growing but aging population, relatively high house prices and relatively low median incomes. SPP states that here relevant policies in a development plan are out-of-date, then the presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development will be a significant material consideration. Decisions may therefore be made on a development management basis, however it will reduce the ability to gain housing that meets specific affordable and other special needs, or at least the ability to shape development for specific needs.

Development of the Cairngorms LDP Main Issues

> "[Reasonable alternatives] *can be used to achieve environmental benefits and, where well executed, can be an opportunity for the SEA to add value to the planning process by encouraging lateral or creative thinking. Alternatives must be realistic and are likely to emerge from the plan-making process. However, the SEA can encourage further thinking around alternatives, and highlight where environmentally preferable options exist.*"
>
> SEA Guidance
> (Scottish Government, 2013)

The Main Issues Report asks for views on the big issues that the Local Development Plan 2020 will need to address and the options for tackling them.

The consultation on the Main Issues Report is an important opportunity to get involved in shaping the future of the National Park. It represents the public's chance to influence what the new Local Development Plan does to help make sure it provides the homes, jobs and services that our communities need as well as protecting and enhancing the National Park's unique environment and cultural heritage for future generations.

This consultation does not try to cover all the topics that will eventually be included in the Local Development Plan 2020. These will be dealt with in detail at the Proposed Local Development Plan stage in 2018.

The MIR Report identifies nine key priorities to be addressed:

- Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy;
- Main issue 2: Designing great places;
- Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades;
- Main issue 4: Housing;
- Main issue 5: The affordability of housing;
- Main issue 6: Economic development;
- Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations;
- Main issue 8: Planning obligations;
- Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience; and
- Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas.

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) 2005 requires that reasonable alternatives to the Plan be considered as part of the SEA. Therefore, a range of options were considered as a means of best addressing the identified issues.

Assessing the effects of Plan Options

> "*Evaluation involves forming a judgement on whether or not a predicted effect will be environmentally significant.*"
>
> A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive (ODPM, 2005)

The options for the LDP were assessed for their likely effects in relation to the SEA Objectives. That is to say, are the steps necessary to pursue the LDP likely to have an effect on the aims of the SEA Objective?

This stage of the SEA involves:

- Predicting the effects of the plan or programme, including alternatives;
- Evaluating the effects of the draft plan or programme, including alternatives;
- Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects; and
- Proposing measures to monitor the environmental and sustainability effects of plan or programme implementation.

A summary of the assessment of the Main Issues options is shown in **Table 6**. The full appraisal matrices are included in **Appendix 6**.

The assessment was carried out using the following criteria:

++	Option would have a major positive effect.
+	Option would have a minor positive effect.
?	Effect of Option is uncertain.
□	Option would have no predicted effects or no site specific effects.
-	Option would have a minor adverse effect.
--	The Option would have a major adverse effect.

A full outline of the assessment criteria can be found in **Appendix 5**.

Radar graphs have been provided as a summary of the assessment for each outcome and option. **Figure 4** provides they key to these.

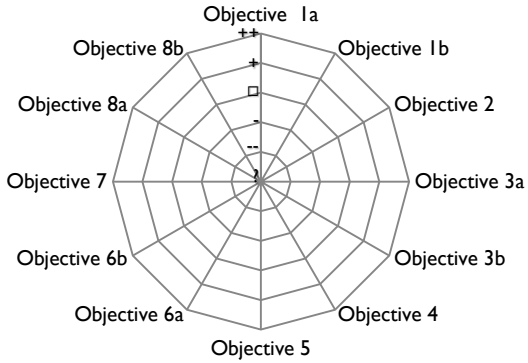


Figure 4 Key to radar graphs.

Table 6 Summary of SEA Assessment of Main Issues Preferred Options and Reasonable Alternatives

Outcome / Option	SEA Objectives												
	1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1b. Increase resilience to climate change	2. Protect and enhance air quality	3a. Reduce flood risk	3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water	4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality	5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets	6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity	6b. Improve the management of woodland	7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape	8a. Maximise health and wellbeing	8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	Assessment Summary
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	++	++	++	++	++	
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Preferred Option	+	+	+	□	-	-	□	?	□	+	+	++	
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Reasonable Alternative	-	-	-	□	-	-	□	?	□	-	-	-	
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Preferred Option	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	□	□	++	++	+	

Outcome / Option	SEA Objectives												
	1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1b. Increase resilience to climate change	2. Protect and enhance air quality	3a. Reduce flood risk	3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water	4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality	5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets	6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity	6b. Improve the management of woodland	7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape	8a. Maximise health and wellbeing	8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	Assessment Summary
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Reasonable Alternative	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	□	□	-	-	-	
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Preferred Option	□	□	-	□	-	?	□	?	?	?	□	□	
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Reasonable Alternative	?	□	?	□	-	?	□	?	?	?	□	□	
Main issue 4: Housing – Preferred Option	-	□	-	□	?	-	□	?	?	?	+	++	

Outcome / Option	SEA Objectives												
	1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1b. Increase resilience to climate change	2. Protect and enhance air quality	3a. Reduce flood risk	3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water	4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality	5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets	6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity	6b. Improve the management of woodland	7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape	8a. Maximise health and wellbeing	8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	Assessment Summary
Main issue 4: Housing – Reasonable Alternative	-	□	-	□	?	-	□	?	?	?	?	?	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Preferred Option	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	++	++	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Reasonable Alternative	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	+	+	
Main issue 6: Economic development – Preferred Option	-	□	-	□	?	-	□	?	?	?	+	□	

Outcome / Option	SEA Objectives												
	1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1b. Increase resilience to climate change	2. Protect and enhance air quality	3a. Reduce flood risk	3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water	4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality	5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets	6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity	6b. Improve the management of woodland	7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape	8a. Maximise health and wellbeing	8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	Assessment Summary
Main issue 6: Economic development – Reasonable Alternative	-	□	-	□	?	-	□	?	?	?	?	□	
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Preferred Option	□	?	□	?	□	□	□	+	+	?	?	□	
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Reasonable Alternative	□	?	□	?	□	□	□	?	?	?	?	□	
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Preferred Option	□	□	□	□	+	□	□	+	+	+	++	□	

Outcome / Option	SEA Objectives												
	1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1b. Increase resilience to climate change	2. Protect and enhance air quality	3a. Reduce flood risk	3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water	4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality	5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets	6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity	6b. Improve the management of woodland	7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape	8a. Maximise health and wellbeing	8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	Assessment Summary
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Reasonable Alternative	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	++	0	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Preferred Option	++	++	0	++	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Reasonable Alternative	++	++	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Preferred Option	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	

Outcome / Option	SEA Objectives												
	1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1b. Increase resilience to climate change	2. Protect and enhance air quality	3a. Reduce flood risk	3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water	4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality	5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets	6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity	6b. Improve the management of woodland	7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape	8a. Maximise health and wellbeing	8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	Assessment Summary
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Reasonable Alternative	□	□	□	□	□	-	-	-	□	-	□	□	

Assessment of Sites

The SEA formed part of the process for evaluating potential development sites and help identify preferred options (see **Appendix 6**). The sites were assessed for their likely effects in relation to the SEA Objectives. That is to say, would development of a site be likely to have an effect on the aims of the SEA Objective.

A summary of the assessment of the sites is shown in **Table 7**. The full appraisal matrices, including details regarding the predicted effects of the sites, are included in **Appendix 6**.

Generally the effects that are predicted to result from implementation of the Preferred Sites are found to be compatible with the SEA Objectives. Some adverse effects have been predicted, these largely being linked to the effects on the environmental SEA Objectives. These also relate to pre-mitigation effects and as a result do not reflect the final outcome that is expected from the Plan. A conclusion of no site specific effects has also been the result of a large number of assessments. This is because, while development might have an effect on the Objective, the choice of one site over another in any particular settlement, would not. For example developing new houses in a settlement may put pressure on existing infrastructure (e.g. waste water treatment), but the exact location of the houses has no effect on this issue.

Table 7 Summary of SEA Assessment of Main Issues Preferred Sites and Reasonable Alternatives

Site Reference	Settlement	Preferred?	SEA Objectives											
			1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1b. Increase resilience to climate change	2. Protect and enhance air quality	3a. Reduce flood risk	3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water	4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality	5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets	6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity	6b. Improve the management of woodland	7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape	8a. Maximise health and wellbeing	8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities.
THC031	An Camas Mor	✓	?	-	?	-	-	-	□	--	--	--	?	?
THC006	Aviemore	✖	+	-	+	-	-	-	□	□	□	--	+	+
THC007	Aviemore	✓	+	□	+	□	□	+	+	□	-	□	+	+
THC008	Aviemore	✓	+	□	+	□	□	+	+	□	□	□	+	+
THC009	Aviemore	✓	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	□	□	+	+	+
THC010	Aviemore	✓	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+
THC011	Aviemore	✓	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	□	-	-	+	+
THC012	Aviemore	✓	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+
THC013	Aviemore	✓	+	□	+	□	□	+	+	□	□	□	+	+
THC014	Aviemore	✓	+	-	+	-	-	-	□	-	□	□	+	+
THC045	Aviemore	✓	-	□	-	□	□	-	□	-	-	-	-	-
THC059	Aviemore	✓	-	□	-	□	□	-	□	-	-	-	-	-

Site Reference	Settlement	Preferred?	SEA Objectives											
			1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1b. Increase resilience to climate change	2. Protect and enhance air quality	3a. Reduce flood risk	3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water	4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality	5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets	6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity	6b. Improve the management of woodland	7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape	8a. Maximise health and wellbeing	8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities.
THC061	Aviemore	✓	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	☐	☐	☐	+	+
C1 / THC079	Aviemore	✓	+	☐	+	☐	☐	-	☐	-	☐	☐	+	+
ED1	Aviemore	✓	+	☐	+	☐	☐	+	+	☐	☐	+	+	+
ED2	Aviemore	✓	+	-	+	-	-	-	☐	-	☐	☐	+	+
ED3	Aviemore	✓	+	☐	+	☐	☐	+	+	☐	☐	☐	+	+
C2	Aviemore	✓	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	☐	☐	☐	+	+
EP2	Aviemore	✓	-	☐	-	☐	☐	-	☐	--	☐	-	-	-
EP3	Aviemore	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	☐	-	☐	☐	-	-
N. Aviemore	Aviemore	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	☐	☐	?	-	-	-
H1 / AB017	Ballater	✓	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	☐	☐	☐	+	+
ED1	Ballater	✓	+	☐	+	☐	☐	+	+	+	☐	+	+	+
C1	Ballater	✓	+	☐	+	☐	☐	+	+	☐	☐	+	+	+
T1	Ballater	✓	+	☐	+	☐	☐	+	+	☐	☐	☐	+	+

Site Reference	Settlement	Preferred?	SEA Objectives											
			1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1b. Increase resilience to climate change	2. Protect and enhance air quality	3a. Reduce flood risk	3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water	4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality	5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets	6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity	6b. Improve the management of woodland	7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape	8a. Maximise health and wellbeing	8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities.
PKC002	Blair Atholl	×	+	□	+	□	□	+	+	□	□	-	+	+
PKC004	Blair Atholl	×	+	□	+	□	□	+	+	□	□	?	+	+
PKC006	Blair Atholl	×	--	-	--	-	-	-	□	-	□	--	--	--
PKC007	Blair Atholl	×	-	□	-	□	□	-	□	□	□	-	-	-
PKC003	Blair Atholl	✓	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	-	□	--	+	+
PKC005	Blair Atholl	✓	--	□	--	□	□	-	□	□	□	-	--	--
ED1	Blair Atholl	✓	+	□	+	□	□	+	+	+	□	□	+	+
C1	Blair Atholl	✓	+	□	+	□	□	+	+	□	□	-	+	+
T1	Blair Atholl	✓	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	□	□	-	+	+
EP2	Blair Atholl	✓	+	□	+	□	□	+	+	□	--	□	+	+
THC043	Boat of Garten	×	-	-	-	-	□	-	□	--	--	-	-	-
THC044	Boat of Garten	×	+	-	+	-	□	-	□	--	--	-	+	+
THC058	Boat of Garten	×	+	-	+	-	-	-	□	--	□	--	+	+
THC073	Boat of Garten	×	+	-	+	-	-	-	□	□	□	□	+	+

Site Reference	Settlement	Preferred?	SEA Objectives											
			1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1b. Increase resilience to climate change	2. Protect and enhance air quality	3a. Reduce flood risk	3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water	4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality	5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets	6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity	6b. Improve the management of woodland	7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape	8a. Maximise health and wellbeing	8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities.
THC074	Boat of Garten	×	+	-	+	-	□	-	□	□	-	-	+	+
THC075	Boat of Garten	×	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	□	□	□	+	+
ED1	Boat of Garten	✓	+	□	+	□	□	+	+	□	□	□	+	+
T1	Boat of Garten	✓	+	□	+	□	□	+	+	□	□	□	+	+
AB002	Braemar	×	-	-	-	-	□	-	□	--	-		-	-
AB003	Braemar	×	-	□	-	□	□	-	□	--	-	-	-	-
AB004	Braemar	×	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	-	-	-	+	+
AB005	Braemar	×	+	--	+	--	-	-	□	□	□	-	+	+
AB006	Braemar	×	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	-	-	-	+	+
AB007	Braemar	×	-	-	-	-	□	-	□	-	-	-	-	-
AB008	Braemar	×	-	□	-	□	□	-	□	-	-	-	-	-
AB021	Braemar	×	+	--	+	--	-	-	□	□	□	□	+	+
AB022	Braemar	×	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	□	□	-	+	+
AB024	Braemar	×	-	-	-	-	-	-	□	-	-	--	-	-

Site Reference	Settlement	Preferred?	SEA Objectives											
			1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1b. Increase resilience to climate change	2. Protect and enhance air quality	3a. Reduce flood risk	3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water	4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality	5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets	6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity	6b. Improve the management of woodland	7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape	8a. Maximise health and wellbeing	8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities.
AB009	Braemar	✓	-	□	-	□	□	-	□	-	-	-	-	-
AB019	Braemar	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	□	□	□	-	-	-
AB023	Braemar	✓	+	--	+	--	-	-	□	□	□	□	+	+
H1	Braemar	✓	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	□	□	-	+	+
ED1	Braemar	✓	+	□	+	□	□	+	+	□	□	□	+	+
ED2	Braemar	✓	+	□	+	□	□	+	+	□	□	□	+	+
T1	Braemar	✓	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	□	-	+	+
EP2	Braemar	✓	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	□	□	-	+	+
EP3	Braemar	✓	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	-	□	-	+	+
THC057	Carr-Bridge	×	-	-	-	-	□	-	□	--	--	--	-	-
THC066	Carr-Bridge	×	+	-	+	-	□	--	□	--	--	--	+	+
THC067	Carr-Bridge	×	+	□	+	□	□	+	+	-	-	-	+	+
THC030	Carr-Bridge	✓	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	?	□	+	-	-
H1 /	Carr-Bridge	✓	-	-	-	-	□	-	+	--	-	-	-	-

Site Reference	Settlement	Preferred?	SEA Objectives											
			1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1b. Increase resilience to climate change	2. Protect and enhance air quality	3a. Reduce flood risk	3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water	4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality	5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets	6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity	6b. Improve the management of woodland	7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape	8a. Maximise health and wellbeing	8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities.
THC033														
H2 / THC034	Carr-Bridge	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	□	-	□	-	-	-
ED1 / THC068	Carr-Bridge	✓	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	--	--	-	-	-
THC069	Carr-Bridge	✓	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	?	□	+	-	-
ED2	Carr-Bridge	✓	+	□	+	□	□	+	+	□	□	+	+	+
T1	Carr-Bridge	✓	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	--	--	-	+	+
THC027	Coylumbridge	×	--	-	--	-	-	-	□	-	-	--	--	--
THC018	Cromdale	×	-	-	-	-	-	-	□	--	□	--	-	-
THC019	Cromdale	×	-	□	-	□	□	-	□	--	□	--	-	-
THC020	Cromdale	×	-	-	-	-	-	-	□	--	□	--	-	-
THC021	Cromdale	×	-	-	-	-	-	-	□	?	-	-	-	-
H1	Cromdale	✓	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	□	□	□	+	+
ED1	Cromdale	✓	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	□	□	+	+	+

Site Reference	Settlement	Preferred?	SEA Objectives											
			1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1b. Increase resilience to climate change	2. Protect and enhance air quality	3a. Reduce flood risk	3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water	4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality	5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets	6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity	6b. Improve the management of woodland	7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape	8a. Maximise health and wellbeing	8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities.
EP1	Cromdale	✓	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	□	□	□	+	+
THC015	Dalwhinnie	×	+	-	+	-	-	-	□	□	□	□	+	+
THC056	Dalwhinnie	×	-	-	-	-	-	-	□	--	□	--	-	-
THC016	Dalwhinnie	✓	-	--	-	--	-	+	+	□	□	+	-	-
H1	Dalwhinnie	✓	-	□	-	□	□	-	□	-	□	□	-	-
ED1	Dalwhinnie	✓	-	□	-	□	□	-	□	+	□	+	-	-
AB011	Dinnet	×	-	-	-	-	□	-	□	-	-	-	-	-
AB012	Dinnet	×	+	-	+	-	□	-	□	-	-	□	+	+
AB013	Dinnet	×	+	-	-	-	□	-	□	-	-	□	+	+
AB014	Dinnet	×	-	□	-	□	□	-	□	□	□	□	-	-
AB015	Dinnet	×	-	□	-	□	□	+	+	□	□	+	-	-
AB016	Dinnet	×	+	-	+	-	□	-	□	-	-	-	+	+
H2 / AB010	Dinnet	✓	+	-	+	-	□	-	□	-	-	-	+	+
THC032	Dulnain Bridge	×	+	-	+	-	□	-	□	-	-	-	+	+

Site Reference	Settlement	Preferred?	SEA Objectives											
			1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1b. Increase resilience to climate change	2. Protect and enhance air quality	3a. Reduce flood risk	3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water	4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality	5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets	6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity	6b. Improve the management of woodland	7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape	8a. Maximise health and wellbeing	8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities.
THC041	Dulnain Bridge	×	+	-	+	-	-	-	□	--	--	-	+	+
THC042	Dulnain Bridge	×	+	-	+	-	-	-	□	--	--	-	+	+
THC070	Dulnain Bridge	×	+	-	+	-	□	-	□	--	--	-	+	+
THC071	Dulnain Bridge	×	+	-	+	-	□	-	□	-	-	-	+	+
THC072	Dulnain Bridge	×	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	-	□	-	+	+
H1	Dulnain Bridge	✓	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	-	□	-	+	+
ED1	Dulnain Bridge	✓	+	□	+	□	□	+	+	□	□	□	+	+
EP2	Dulnain Bridge	✓	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	-	□	-	+	+
THC028	Grantown-on-Spey	×	--	-	--	-	-	-	□	-	--	--	--	--
THC040	Grantown-on-Spey	×	+	--	+	--	-	-	□	-	□	-	+	+
THC048	Grantown-on-Spey	×	-	□	-	□	□	+	+	□	□	□	+	++
THC049	Grantown-on-Spey	×	+	□	+	□	□	+	+	+	□	□	+	++
THC055	Grantown-on-Spey	×	+	-	+	-	-	-	□	□	□	--	+	+
THC064	Grantown-on-Spey	×	-	-	-	-	□	-	□	-	--	-	-	-

Site Reference	Settlement	Preferred?	SEA Objectives											
			1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1b. Increase resilience to climate change	2. Protect and enhance air quality	3a. Reduce flood risk	3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water	4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality	5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets	6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity	6b. Improve the management of woodland	7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape	8a. Maximise health and wellbeing	8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities.
THC038	Grantown-on-Spey	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	□	-	-	--	-	-
H2 / THC039	Grantown-on-Spey	✓	+	-	+	-	-	-	□	-	-	-	+	+
H1	Grantown-on-Spey	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	□	+	□	+	-	-
ED1	Grantown-on-Spey	✓	-	□	-	□	□	+	+	+	□	+	-	-
C1	Grantown-on-Spey	✓	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	□	□	□	+	+
C2	Grantown-on-Spey	✓	-	□	-	□	□	-	□	□	□	□	-	-
T1	Grantown-on-Spey	✓	-	□	-	□	□	+	+	--	--	--	-	-
THC001	Insh	×	--	-	--	-	□	-	□	--	--	--	--	--
THC062	Kincraig	×	□	+	□	+	□	+	□	+	+	+	++	++
THC046	Kincraig	✓	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	-	-	--	+	+
THC054	Kincraig	✓	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	□	□	-	+	+
H1	Kincraig	✓	+	-	+	-	-	-	□	□	□	□	+	+
ED1	Kincraig	✓	+	□	+	□	□	-	□	□	□	□	+	+

Site Reference	Settlement	Preferred?	SEA Objectives											
			1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1b. Increase resilience to climate change	2. Protect and enhance air quality	3a. Reduce flood risk	3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water	4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality	5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets	6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity	6b. Improve the management of woodland	7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape	8a. Maximise health and wellbeing	8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities.
THC053	Kingussie	✗	+	--	+	--	-	-	□	□	□	-	+	+
ED1	Kingussie	✓	+	□	+	□	□	+	+	□	□	□	+	+
ED2	Kingussie	✓	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	□	□	+	+	+
C1	Kingussie	✓	+	□	+	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	+	+
C2	Kingussie	✓	+	□	+	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	+	+
T1	Kingussie	✓	-	□	-	□	□	+	+	-	□	-	-	-
EP1	Kingussie	✓	-	□	-	□	□	-	□	+	□	□	-	-
THC065	Laggan	✗	--	-	--	-	-	--	□	-	-	--	--	--
THC029	Lynchat	✗	--	--	--	--	-	-	□	□	-	-	--	--
THC005	Nethybridge	✗	-	-	-	-	□	-	□	-	-	--	-	-
THC017	Nethybridge	✗	-	--	-	--	-	-	□	□	□	--	-	-
THC035	Nethybridge	✗	-	-	-	-	□	-	□	--	--	-	-	-
THC036	Nethybridge	✗	-	-	-	-	-	-	□	-	--	-	-	-
THC037	Nethybridge	✗	-	-	-	-	-	-	□	--	--	-	-	-

Site Reference	Settlement	Preferred?	SEA Objectives											
			1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1b. Increase resilience to climate change	2. Protect and enhance air quality	3a. Reduce flood risk	3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water	4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality	5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets	6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity	6b. Improve the management of woodland	7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape	8a. Maximise health and wellbeing	8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities.
THC052	Nethybridge	×	+	-	+	-	-	-	□	□	□	-	+	+
THC060	Nethybridge	×	+	-	+	-	-	-	□	-	-	-	+	+
THC063	Nethybridge	×	-	-	-	-	-	-	□	-	□	--	-	-
THC002	Nethybridge	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	□	-	□	--	-	-
THC003	Nethybridge	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	□	-	□	-	-	-
THC004	Newtonmore	×	+	-	+	-	□	+	+	-	-	-	+	+
THC022	Newtonmore	×	-	□	-	□	□	-	□	□	□	-	-	-
THC051	Newtonmore	×	-	--	-	--	-	-	□	?	□	-	-	-
H1	Newtonmore	✓	-	□	-	□	□	-	□	□	□	-	-	-
ED1	Newtonmore	✓	-	□	-	□	□	+	+	□	□	□	-	-
ED2	Newtonmore	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	□	+	□	□	-	-
T1	Newtonmore	✓	-	□	-	□	□	-	□	□	□	□	-	-
AB001	Outwith	×	--	□	--	□	□	-	□	?	□	□	--	--
AB020	Outwith	×	--	□	--	□	□	-	□	--	--	-	--	--

Site Reference	Settlement	Preferred?	SEA Objectives											
			1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1b. Increase resilience to climate change	2. Protect and enhance air quality	3a. Reduce flood risk	3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water	4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality	5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets	6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity	6b. Improve the management of woodland	7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape	8a. Maximise health and wellbeing	8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities.
PKC008	Outwith	×	--	☐	--	☐	☐	+	+	☐	☐	-	--	--
PKC009	Outwith	×	--	☐	--	☐	☐	+	+	☐	☐	--	--	--
PKC010	Outwith	×	--	☐	--	☐	☐	+	+	☐	☐	☐	--	--
THC025	Outwith	×	--	--	--	--	-	+	+	☐	☐	-	--	--
THC026	Outwith	×	--	-	--	-	☐	-	☐	-	--	-	--	--
THC050	Outwith	×	--	☐	--	☐	☐	+	+	☐	☐	☐	--	--
H1 / MOR001	Tomintoul	✓	+	☐	+	☐	☐	-	☐	☐	☐	☐	+	+
H2 / MOR002	Tomintoul	✓	+	☐	+	☐	☐	-	☐	☐	☐	☐	+	+
ED1	Tomintoul	✓	+	☐	+	☐	☐	-	☐	☐	☐	+	+	+
ED2	Tomintoul	✓	+	☐	+	☐	☐	-	☐	-	☐	-	+	+
ED3	Tomintoul	✓	+	☐	+	☐	☐	-	☐	-	☐	--	+	+

Changes Arising from the Assessment

During the assessment of the options of the LDP a number of opportunities for enhancing its performance were identified.

Owing to the strategic nature of the options at this time, no changes have been suggested. Greater consideration will be given at the time of the Proposed Plan.

Assessing Cumulative Effects

> "*Many environmental problems result from the accumulation of multiple small and often indirect effects, rather than a few large and obvious ones.*"
>
> A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive (ODPM, 2005)

It is a requirement of the SEA Directive that the effects of Strategy's objectives and spatial options are assessed in combination with other Strategy elements (as opposed to in isolation) (**Figure 5**, **Figure 6**, **Figure 7** and **Table 8**). These combined effects are called cumulative effects; effects that arise due to the addition of the effects of a number of elements to produce a greater effect; and synergistic effects; those that arise from an interaction of the effects of objectives, and can be thought of as effects that are greater than the sum of the parts.

It is important to note that in isolation, no significant adverse effects were identified by the assessment. However, consideration

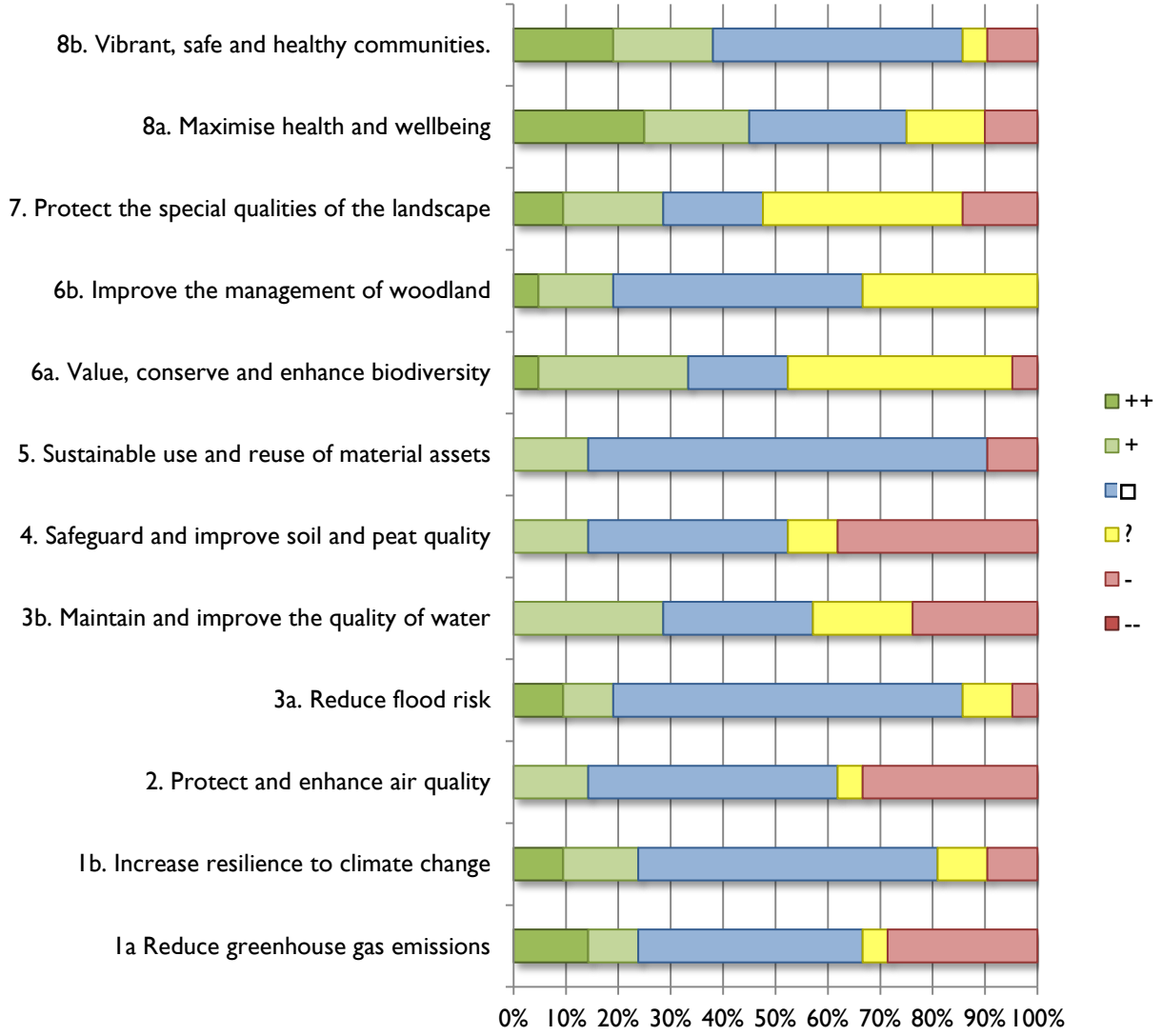


Figure 5 Summary of assessment by SEA Objective.

also needs to be given as to whether or not significant in-combination or cumulative effects might arise from the 10 predicted minor adverse effects identified in the assessment.

The adverse effects cluster around certain options and certain SEA Objectives. SEA Objective 1a to Reduce GHG emissions, Objective 2 to protect and enhance air quality and Objective 4 to Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality returned the greatest number of minor adverse effects, with 6, 7 and 8 respectively. Most of these are associated with economic growth as well as the provision of additional housing for a growing population.

In terms of GHG emissions, it is not considered that the cumulative effects are likely to become significant. This largely because the National Park's population is a small one and is not projected to grow let alone reach levels whereby considerable harm might be caused. Furthermore, improvements to the insulatory standards and energy efficiency of buildings means that the effects of any new development are likely to be limited.

Where the effects of SEA Objectives 1a and 2 meet is with the emissions caused by private motor vehicles. The SEA predicts that a growing population combined with growing visitor numbers is likely to result in a concurrent rise in the use of private motor vehicles.

These effects also need to be considered in combination with the dualling of the A9, which is set to take place over the Plan period, with work already underway within the National Park.

In terms of GHG emissions, it is not considered that the number of additional journeys created is likely to result in significant harm. Again, this is because the projections over the Plan period and beyond indicate a small reduction in the population and therefore the growth in car journeys is unlikely to be high.

In terms of the effect on air quality, the fact that no air quality objectives are currently failing within the National Park and that the dualling of the A9 is likely to result in a reduction in ambient air pollution means that again, the effects are unlikely to become significant.

In terms of soil and peat quality, minor effects relate to the fact that most development is likely to occur on greenfield sites. There is little that can be done about this, although particularly valuable and sensitive soils should be avoided. Again, owing to the limited scale at which development is likely to take place over the Plan period, this is not expected to become significant.

A number of minor negative effects have also been identified around SEA Objective 3b, which is concerned with water quality and quantity. All of these relate to the pressure new development will place on water resources. Since all of these effects essentially relate to the same cause, cumulative effects are not considered likely. In fact, taken together with the work carried out by River Catchment Initiatives, the overall effects of the Plan are likely to be positive.

Overall, the Strategy's cumulative effects are likely to be positive in nature, with strong environmental priorities protecting and encouraging the conservation and enhancement of the National Park's important habitats and species and progressive economic and recreational outcomes generating positive effects on human health and wellbeing.

Evaluation of Uncertainties and Risks

Although some objectives and options score negatively against one or more SEA Objective, the implementation of mitigation measures can help alleviate, if not neutralise some of these effects. It is worth noting that the all of these potential adverse effects are only minor in nature.

It is the alternative, non-preferred options that yield the greatest number of adverse effects and it is partly due to this that they are not deemed preferable. Of the Preferred Options 1 and 3, which deal with the Settlement Strategy and economic growth, have the highest number of

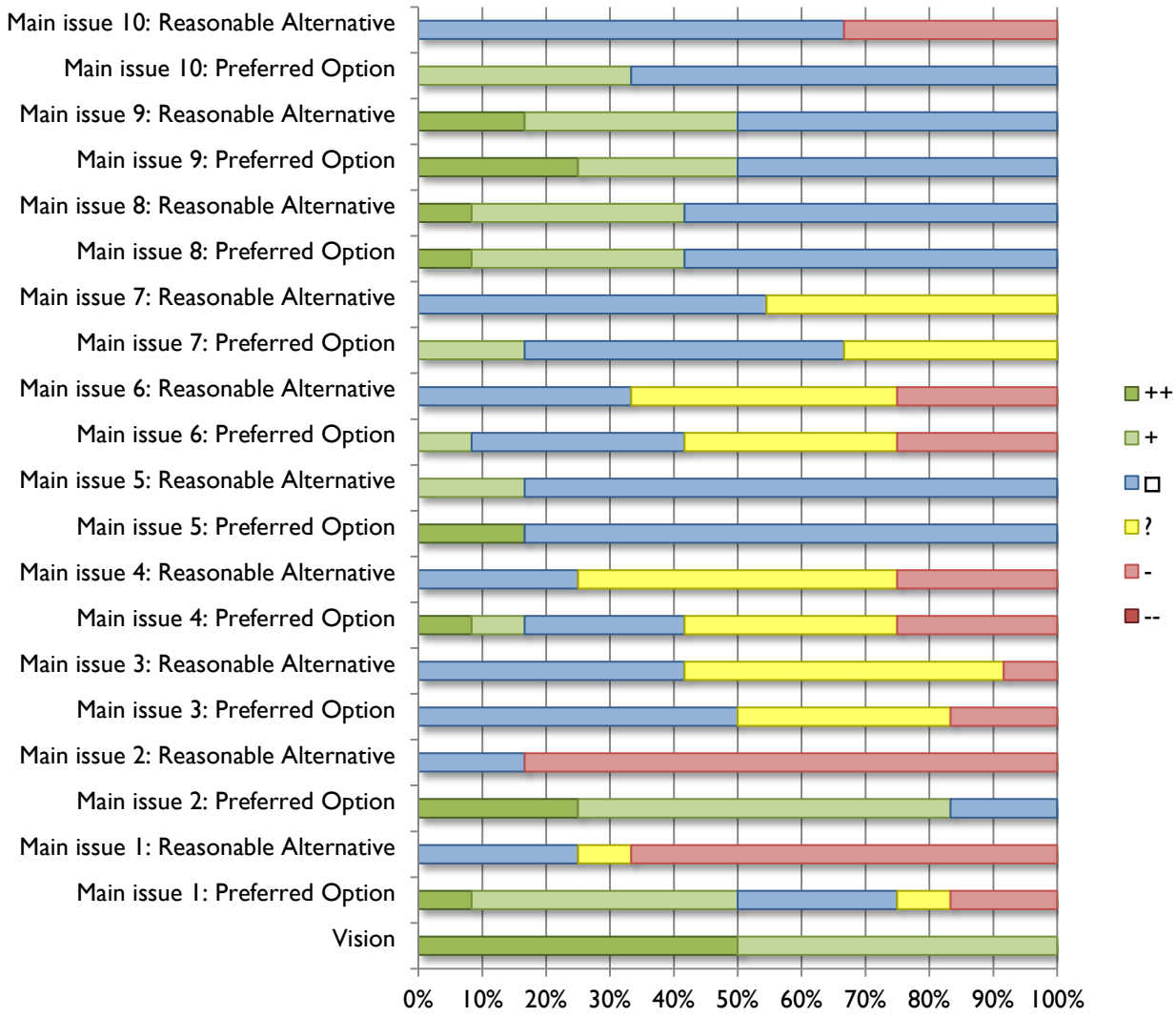


Figure 6 Summary of assessment by LDP's Main Issues and Reasonable Alternatives.

predicted adverse effects. The basis for this is that development and economic growth are likely have some adverse environmental effects, energy demand may lead to an increase in GHG emissions, possible decreases in air quality and additional pressures on biodiversity.

A large number of uncertainties were identified. This is because the options are broad and strategic in nature and lack the detail of criteria based policies. The assessment of the main issues therefore represents the first stage in an iterative assessment process. Detailed policies and proposals will be developed for the Proposed Plan and therefore more detailed assessment will be carried out on these.

It is not however predicted that any of these uncertainties will develop into significant adverse effects, as a precautionary measure mitigation measures have been identified in relation to them. These are described in **Table 9**.

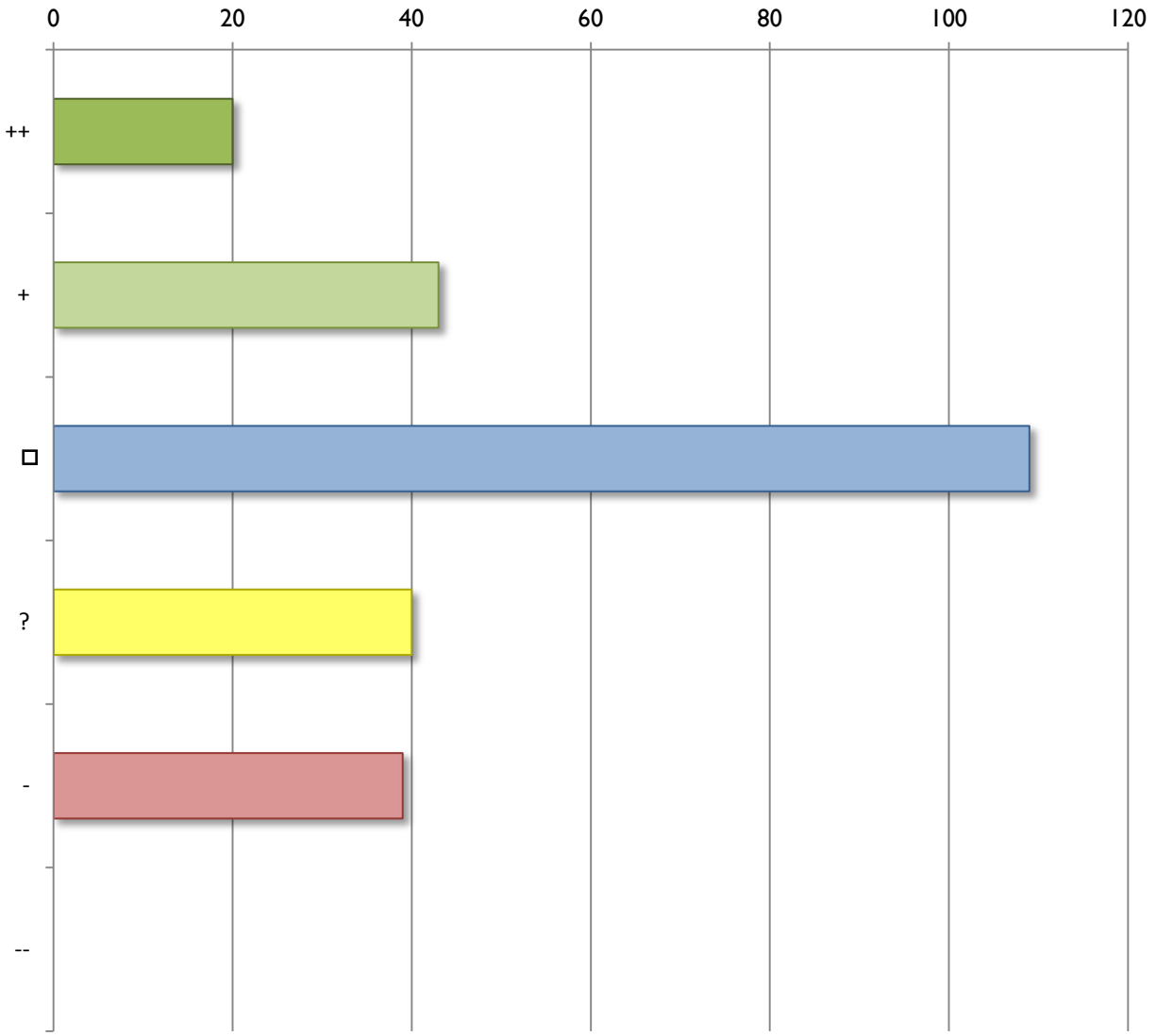


Figure 7 Overall summary of the LDP Main Issues and Reasonable Alternatives predicted long term effects.

Key Messages from Assessment

Generally, the Options scored well in the assessment (**Figure 7** and **Table 8**). No likely significant adverse effects were identified.

Some minor adverse effects were predicted, these mostly being linked to the settlement strategy and economic growth, and the land-take associated with these. These effects have not resulted in the need to make significant changes to the Plan's proposals at this stage. Mitigation measures have been identified that address potential negative effects (**Table 8**).

Table 8 Summary of SEA's conclusions on Main Issues and Reasonable Alternatives.

Long Term Significance	Count	%
++	20	8.0%
+	43	17.1%
□	109	43.4%
?	40	15.9%
-	39	15.5%
--	0	0.0%

Mitigation

Table 9 Summary of measures proposed to mitigate any negative effects arising from the implementation of the LDP.

SEA Objective	Issue / Impact Identified	Mitigation Measure	Lead Authority	Proposed Timescale
1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change 2 Protect and enhance air quality	Alternative option represents a radical departure from the settlement strategy of the past. Indeed, it does not possess a great deal in the form of strategy. Pursuing it would likely result in an increased 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.	As the overarching strategy for policy within the National Park the NPPP offers a means of mitigation that would need to be incorporated within the Proposed LDP. NPPP's Policy 3.2 concentrates the majority of growth in the strategic settlements as identified in the current and future Local Development Plans.	CNPA	2020-2025
3a Reduce flood risk	Alternative option could have an adverse effect because small developments account for the vast majority of the applications within the National Park. Not requiring them to implement SuDS schemes could lead to negative effects.	It is not possible to mitigate the effects of this option since SuDS is a form of mitigation in itself. In the face of better alternatives the option would be regarded as ill-advise,.	N/A	N/A
3b Maintain and improve the quality of water resources	The policy preferred option's focuses development in the strategic settlements of Aviemore, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore – along with a proposed new settlement at An Camas Mòr. 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.	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	CNPA	2020-2025

SEA Objective	Issue / Impact Identified	Mitigation Measure	Lead Authority	Proposed Timescale
	Alternative option could have an adverse effect because small developments account for the vast majority of the applications within the National Park. Not requiring them to meet the principle of being resource efficient could mean that opportunities for the sustainable use of the water resource are lost.	occur before the effects of the development can be felt.		
4 Minimise contamination and safeguard and improve soil and peat quality.	The preferred option's policy focuses development in the strategic settlements of Aviemore, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore – along with a proposed new settlement at An Camas Mòr. 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, 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.	The policy 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 makes efficient use of land and does not have a negative effect on soil quality.	CNPA	2020-2025

SEA Objective	Issue / Impact Identified	Mitigation Measure	Lead Authority	Proposed Timescale
5 Encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets.	The alternative option on designing great places could have adverse effects because small developments account for the vast majority of the applications within the National Park. Not requiring them to meet the principle of being resource efficient could have a negative effect on the SEA objective.	It is not possible to mitigate the inefficient use of finite resources in the face of better alternatives.	N/A	N/A
	The alternative option in hilltracks would see historic levels of hill track development, with its consequent use of resources and materials.			
6a Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity, distinctive wild species and habitats	The preferred option's policy focuses development in the strategic settlements of Aviemore, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore – along with a proposed new settlement at An Camas Mòr. 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. These have been assessed individually.	While it is intended that the Preferred Option under Main Issue 7 endure that negative effects on Natura sites do not occur and that positive ones occur instead, it is the NPPP that offers the greatest means of mitigation. Furthermore, negative effects may occur beyond the Natura sites. From the NPPP, 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	CNPA	2020-2025

SEA Objective	Issue / Impact Identified	Mitigation Measure	Lead Authority	Proposed Timescale
		recreation objectives are not pursued without heed for conservation objectives. With regard to Capercaillie, the CNPA is in the process of developing a Capercaillie Framework, which it is intended the LDP support, which will: ➢ Bring together existing knowledge on the state of Capercaillie across the Cairngorms National Park, the combined knowledge of 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; ➢ 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		

SEA Objective	Issue / Impact Identified	Mitigation Measure	Lead Authority	Proposed Timescale
		for management action. The CNPA has published a report on Phase 1 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.		
	The reasonable alternative's approach to upland management policy would result in a continued degradation of local habitats and species. Because these habitats and species could be of international importance, the effect is still considered to be 'international' in scale.	While it is intended that the Preferred Option under Main Issue 7 endure that negative effects on Natura sites do not occur and that positive ones occur instead, it is the NPPP that offers the greatest means of mitigation. Furthermore, negative effects may occur beyond the Natura sites. From the NPPP, 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	CNPA	2020-2025

SEA Objective	Issue / Impact Identified	Mitigation Measure	Lead Authority	Proposed Timescale
		objectives.		

SEA Objective	Issue / Impact Identified	Mitigation Measure	Lead Authority	Proposed Timescale
7 Protect and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the National Park's landscape and cultural and historic heritage	The alternative option for the settlement strategy would lead to more dispersed pattern of settlement, which could have negative impacts as locations less able to accommodate development within the landscape are developed.	As the overarching strategy for policy within the National Park the NPPP offers a means of mitigation that would need to be incorporated within the Proposed LDP. NPPP 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.	CNPA	2020-2025
	The alternative option for designing great places could have an adverse effect because small developments account for the vast majority of the applications within the National Park. Not requiring them to complement local features and materials to create places with a sense of identity could have a negative effect on the SEA objective.			
	The alternative option to upland management would see the continued development of hill tracks, which is likely to result in negative effects on landscape quality.			
8a Promote opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities.	The alternative option for the settlement strategy would see the promotion of a more dispersed pattern of settlement, which is likely to result in the need to use private motor vehicles. It is therefore unlikely to encourage walking or cycling as an alternative means of transportation or promote healthy lifestyles.	As the overarching strategy for policy within the National Park the NPPP offers a means of mitigation that would need to be incorporated within the Proposed LDP. NPPP's Policy 3.2 concentrates the majority of growth in the strategic settlements as identified in the current and future Local Development Plans.	CNPA	2020-2025
	The alternative option for designing great places could have an adverse effect because small developments account for the vast majority of the			

SEA Objective	Issue / Impact Identified	Mitigation Measure	Lead Authority	Proposed Timescale
	applications within the National Park. Not requiring them to contribute positively to a sense of place and to retain and enhance local character, to create spaces that are legible, inclusive and pleasurable to be in or promote active travel could have a negative effect the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities alike.			
8b Support vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	The alternative option for the settlement strategy would see the promotion of a more dispersed pattern of settlement, which means it is likely to be harder to find sufficient land to meet strategic need. Population growth may be concentrated in locations that are not appropriate, with distance from and access to services resulting in fewer social interactions. The need to travel can increase inequality, deprivation and exclusion while the burden of ill-health on the population and public finances is likely to be increased.	As the overarching strategy for policy within the National Park the NPPP offers a means of mitigation that would need to be incorporated within the Proposed LDP. NPPP's Policy 3.2 concentrates the majority of growth in the strategic settlements as identified in the current and future Local Development Plans.	CNPA	2020-2025
	The alternative option for designing great places could have an adverse effect because small developments account for the vast majority of the applications within the National Park. Not requiring them to meet the six principles of successful places could mean that opportunities to remove barriers and create opportunities for positive interactions are lost.			

Monitoring

> "…*focusing monitoring on the significant environmental effects identified in the assessment is likely to encourage the creation of new monitoring regimes. It is therefore practical to make a clear link between the significant effects predicted within an assessment and the indicators selected to monitor the likely environmental effects.*"
>
> SEA Guidance
> (Scottish Government, 2013)

It is a requirement of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or program are monitored. This environmental monitoring may in turn form part of the monitoring framework for the LDP itself.

SEA monitoring should be undertaken for the following reasons:

- to identify whether the SEA's predictions of environmental effects were accurate;
- to identify unforeseen adverse effects and to enable appropriate remedial action to be taken;
- to identify whether the plan is contributing to the achievement of SEA Objectives;
- to identify whether mitigation measures are performing as well as expected;
- to identify whether any adverse effects are within acceptable limits or whether remedial action is required;
- to help compile a baseline for future plans and programmes; and
- to provide information for the EIAs of projects.

The 2005 Act does not require bespoke monitoring arrangements or timelines to be set out for SEA. Furthermore SEA monitoring should be based around the significant environmental effects identified during the assessment. The potential significantly adverse effects has not been identified by the assessment and therefore there is not a duty under the act to establish a monitoring framework.

However, owing to the special nature of the National Park's environment and the scope of the LDP to affect it, a proposed monitoring framework is being been developed. The framework designed to monitor what are considered to be the key environmental impacts of the LDP (**Table 10**, p.70). Indicators have not been developed for all SEA objectives as the potential for effects has been determined to be negligible. The indicators will be monitored as part of the LDP implementation and sit alongside the monitoring regimes of other PPS active within the Cairngorms, for example the NPPP (2017) and its successors.

The Environmental Report is not the conclusion of the SEA process and the proposed monitoring framework will be

refined following its publication. A finalised set of indicators will be set out in the Post-adoption Statement, which will be published following the LDP's approval by the Scottish Government.

Table 10 Proposed SEA Monitoring Framework.

Indicator	Related Objectives	Rationale	Source	Frequency
Estimated per capita CO_2 emissions (t) for the National Park	1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change	Carbon dioxide emissions account for around 82% of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK. As the population of the National Park grows it is important to ensure it does so sustainably and that per capita emissions continue to decline for significant adverse effects to be avoided.	Department of Energy and Climate Change	Annual
Area of land permitted on 1:200 floodplain	3a Reduce flood risk	The estimated total average annual cost of damage in Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) within and overlapping the National Park is £1,071,000. To avoid significant adverse effects it is important to ensure that floodplains remain functional and people and infrastructure are not placed at increased risk.	CNPA	Annual
Water quality classification of waterbodies within and overlapping the Cairngorms National Park	3b Maintain and improve the quality of water resources	Good water quality is essential for many of the National Park's important wetland habitats and species as well as for providing clean drinking water.	SEPA	Annual

Indicator	Related Objectives	Rationale	Source	Frequency
Area of peatland restoration	4 Minimise contamination and safeguard and improve soil and peat quality.	Peat and carbon rich soils offer a range of important ecosystem services as well as being important ecosystems in their own right.	CNPA	Annual
Estimated household waste per person (kg per person) in National Park	5 Encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets	Reducing the amount of waste produced and increasing the percentage of this waste that is recycled is essential for the sustainable use and management of our material assets.	Scottish Government	Annual
Estimated recycling rate (%) in National Park				
Number cappercaillie recorded during the annual lek count	6a Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity, distinctive native species and habitats	The LDP's spatial strategy focuses growth on the main settlements as identified in the current and future LDP. Many of these settlements are near to important habitats and protected sites, for example Glenmore and the River Spey near Aviemore.	CNPA	Annual
Number cappercaillie recorded during the annual brood count			SNH RSPB FCS	Annual
Number of cappercaillie recorded during the National Winter Survey			SNH RSPB	Every 6 years (Most recent count Winter 15/16)
The Ecological status of waterbodies within and overlapping the National Park			SEPA	Annual

Indicator	Related Objectives	Rationale	Source	Frequency
Percentage of designated features in favourable condition		It is important that the application of the LDP avoids having adverse effects on designated sites. The LDP should have a positive effect. The indicator will provide information for a wide range of habitat types.	SNH	As and when sites are assessed.
Area of new native woodland created in the National Park	6b Maintain and improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits	Woodlands offer a range of important ecosystem services as well as being important ecosystems in their own right.	FCS	Annual
Change in the wildness of land within the National Park.	7 Protect and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the National Park's landscape and cultural heritage	Changes to land management practices and the development delivered through the LDP could have an effect of the special qualities of the landscape, with relative wildness being an important part.	CNPA SNH	Once at end of Plan period
Percentage of visitors using active travel during their stay	8a Promote opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities.	In 2015, 16% of visitors used active travel during their stay in the National Park. An increase in this level would contribute towards the National Park's overall sustainability.	CNPA	2020
Percentage of new dwellings with a selling price below the overall median house price of the National Park	8b Support vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	Access to suitable housing is essential for the health and wellbeing of communities. Houses sold at or above the median price are however out of the range of those with incomes around the	CNPA	Annual

Indicator	Related Objectives	Rationale	Source	Frequency
		median. Delivering 'affordable housing' is therefore essential to avoid significant adverse effects.		
Average distance of households from key community facilities (e.g. post office, petrol station, primary school, secondary school, GP).		Facilities such as post offices and primary schools are essential for the viability of communities while facilities such as GPs are important for supporting healthy lifestyles. The indicator can be compared against 2012 and 2016 baselines.	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation	2020

Consultation / Next Steps

> "*Consultation with the Consultation Authorities at screening and scoping stages has a statutory duration period of 28 days and five weeks respectively.*"
>
> SEA of Development Plans (Scottish Government, 2010)

The SEA Environmental Report will be submitted to the SEA Gateway and consulted on with the CAs for a period of 15 weeks between 17th November 2017 and 2nd March 2018. Following consultation on the Environmental Report, the CNPA will consider any comments received and will amend the SEA work where appropriate. This will take place in early 2018.

The development of the Proposed Plan and its environmental assessment will take place between March 2018 and November 2018

All documents will be available for inspection in the CNPA's main office in Grantown-on-Spey and in on its website.

Once the LDP has been adopted an Adoption Statement will be published. The Adoption Statement will summarise how the CNPA took the findings of the SEA process into account and how environmental considerations more generally have been integrated into the LDP. It will also be stated within the Post-adoption Statement if any changes have been made to the LDP as a result of the SEA process and following responses to consultation. If changes have been rejected this will also be explained.

It will also be necessary for the CNPA to monitor significant effects following the adoption of the LDP in accordance with the Scottish Government's SEA Guidance (2013).

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