

Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan  
2020

**Strategic Environmental Assessment  
Environmental Report November 2017**

Appendix 6

## Appendix 6: Assessment of Main Issue Options

### SEA Issue / Topic

Climatic Factors

### SEA Objective(s):

Ia Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

### SEA Sub-Objectives

- Reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases with particular focus on emissions from buildings, transport, energy generation and industry (especially CO<sub>2</sub>).
- Encourage energy conservation and higher energy efficiency.
- Encourage investment in cleaner technologies.
- Support investment in suitable renewable energy sources.
- Decouple increase in GDP and greenhouse gas emissions
- Encourage the appropriate local sourcing of materials, resources and food produce.

### Significant Interrelationships

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

### Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

### Date of Assessment:

13/09/2017, 14/09/2017, 15/09/2017 and 19/09/2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to reducing GHG emissions is the link to nature and people thriving together. Such an approach requires the management of the National Park to take on principles that limit negative impacts on the environment and encourage positive change; these may have either direct or indirect positive benefits in meeting the SEA Objective. For example, promoting woodland expansion and the better management of moorland both play a strong role in the storage and sequestration of carbon.	I	P	+	+	+	
<b>Main Issues – Preferred Options and Reasonable Alternatives</b>							
Main issue I: Over-arching development strategy – Preferred Option	The 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. Following this strategy should reduce the need to travel to access work and services	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	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.						
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Reasonable Alternative	This option would be considered 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.	I	P	-	-	-	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.
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Preferred Option	The option promotes a high standard of design, energy efficiency, sustainably sourced materials and construction in new development and promotes active travel, the use for public transport and aims to reduce the reliance on private motorised transport.	I	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Reasonable Alternative	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 climate change mitigation and adaptation are lost.	I	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue I – Reasonable alternative.
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Preferred Option	Economic growth is rarely achieved without generating additional energy needs or transportation requirements and as such it is likely to result in an increase in GHG emissions. However, this option places economic strategy within the context of taking advantage of the upgrade of the A9. The issue is not therefore whether or not to provide land for economic growth, but its location relative to the road. It is not therefore considered that the option is likely to have any predicted effects against the SEA objective.	I	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and	Economic growth is rarely achieved without generating additional energy needs or transportation requirements and as such it is likely to result in an increase	I	P	?	?	?	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Highland Main Line Upgrades – Reasonable Alternative	in GHG emissions. This option places economic strategy within the context of a flexible policy approach and therefore it is uncertain as to how much will be development will occur and its location. The overall effects of the option are therefore uncertain.						
Main issue 4: Housing – Preferred Option	By its very nature, growth in households will inevitably lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, from both energy consumption and increased vehicle journeys.	I	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue I – Reasonable alternative.
Main issue 4: Housing – Reasonable Alternative	By its very nature, growth in households will inevitably lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, from both energy consumption and increased vehicle journeys. Aiming for a higher level of growth than the identified need will result in a more significant effect while aiming for a lower one will result in a lesser impact. Due to the relatively low level of development proposed however, the effects of option are likely to remain minor.	I	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue I – Reasonable alternative.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 6: Economic development – Preferred Option	Economic growth is rarely achieved without generating additional energy needs or transportation requirements and as such it is likely to result in an increase in GHG emissions. However, given the option’s aim that additional development accord with a strategy that concentrates growth on the main and most sustainable settlements, it is unlikely that this effect will be significant.	I	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue I – Reasonable alternative.
Main issue 6: Economic development – Reasonable Alternative	Economic growth is rarely achieved without generating additional energy needs or transportation requirements and as such it is likely to result in an increase	I	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue I – Reasonable alternative.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	in GHG emissions. Because the option relies on a flexible policy based approach it is difficult to ascertain the extent to which the option will have an effect, however, given the relatively small amount of economic development (that requires additional land) that has historically taken place in the National Park, it is unlikely that this effect will be significant.						
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Preferred Option	The option positively contributes towards the SEA Objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Reasonable Alternative	The option positively contributes towards the SEA Objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	

**Summary and Conclusions:**

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

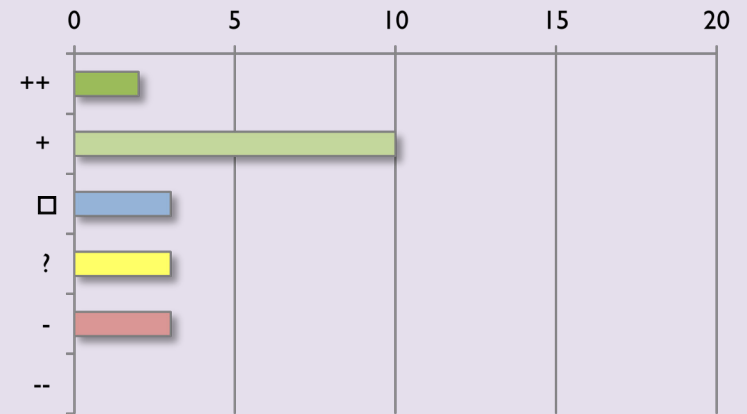
The main potential negative impacts of the Plan are those associated with the predicted growth of housing and the economy, which is predicted to result in an increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

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

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

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

**Preferred options at glance:**



**SEA Issue / Topic**

Climatic Factors

**SEA Objective(s):**

Ib Increase resilience to the effects of climate change

**SEA Sub-Objectives**

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

**Significant Interrelationships**

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

**Assessor(s):**

Dan Harris

**Date of Assessment:**

13/09/2017, 14/09/2017, 15/09/2017 and 19/09/2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to increasing resilience to climate change is the link to nature and people thriving together. Landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion and river restoration offer means of creating rich habitats that provide important ecosystem services with regard to climate change adaptation. Therefore it may be argued that the vision plays a direct role in meeting the SEA objective.	R	P	+	+	+	
<b>Main Issues – Preferred Options and Reasonable Alternatives</b>							
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Preferred Option	Encouraging sustainable patterns of development will help ensure that it considers the potential effects of future climate conditions, deliver infrastructure and buildings are designed to cope with future climate conditions and encourage existing infrastructure and buildings to adapt to cope with future climate	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	conditions.						
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Reasonable Alternative	Failure to encourage sustainable patterns of development may make it more difficult to consider the potential effects of future climate conditions and deliver infrastructure that will help manage it in a coordinated way. The choice of location for sites will however still need to recognise issues relating to flooding etc, so the effects are not considered to be significant.	R	P	-	-	-	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.
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Preferred Option	The option promotes a high standard of design, energy efficiency, sustainably sourced materials and construction in new development	R	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Reasonable Alternative	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 climate change mitigation and adaptation are lost.	R	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue 1 – Reasonable alternative.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 4: Housing – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 4: Housing – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 5: The affordability of	There are no predicted effects associated	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
housing – Preferred Option	with this option.						
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 6: Economic development – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 6: Economic development – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Preferred Option	The construction of new buildings could lead to the removal of some trees and the loss of some woodland. However, there may also be opportunities for gain in places, with mitigation and compensatory schemes offering opportunities for additional planting and woodland expansion, which has benefits by reducing	R	P	?	?	?	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	the magnitude of flood events. The nature of the effect will be dependent on the scale, location and nature of any one development and therefore the effects are uncertain.						
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Reasonable Alternative	The issue is concerned with the way in which the potential impact of development of capercaillie is managed. This option takes a case by case approach to management, as is the current policy approach. Consequently it is unlikely that landscape scale mitigation such as woodland expansion will occur and the ability of the option to aid with climate change adaptation limited. Overall however, the effects of the option are uncertain as it will depend on the location, scale and timing of development.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Preferred Option	The option positively contributes towards the SEA Objective.	R	P	++	++	++	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Reasonable Alternative	The option positively contributes towards the SEA Objective.	R	P	++	++	++	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	

**Summary and Conclusions:**

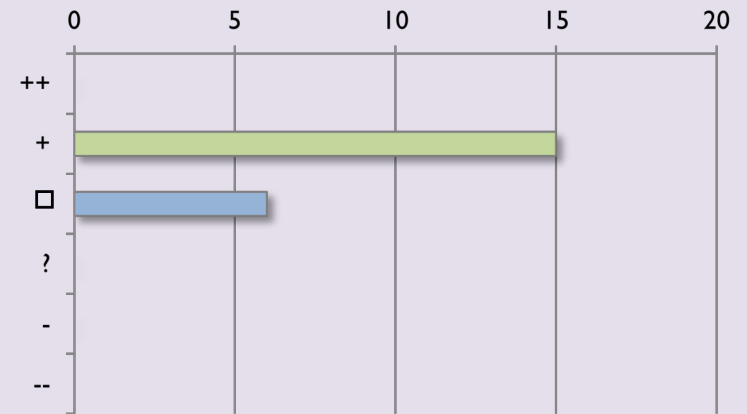
Potential effects are considered to be regional in scale on the basis that the implementation of adaptation measures mostly benefits the location they are developed in.

Negative effects have only been identified in relation to the reasonable alternatives.

A considerable number of options are considered to have no predicted effects. This is due to the very specific nature of many of the Main Issues options while others have no relevance to climate adaptation

The greatest positive effects therefore reflect the plan’s approach to managing and reducing the effects of flood risk.

**Preferred options at glance:**



**SEA Issue / Topic**

Air

**SEA Objective(s):**

2 Protect and enhance air quality

**SEA Sub-Objectives**

- Reduce levels of the UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>).
- Reduce levels of ground-level ozone (O<sub>3</sub>).
- Reduce the need for travel, through appropriate siting of new developments and provision of public infrastructure.
- Reduce negative effects of power generation, industry and transport on local air quality.
- Contribute towards reducing levels of stratospheric ozone depletions.
- Encourage appropriate cleaner technology for power generation, industry and transport.
- Reduce levels of acid deposition.
- Reduce levels of ammonia deposition.

**Significant Interrelationships**

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

**Assessor(s):**

Dan Harris

**Date of Assessment:**

13/09/2017, 14/09/2017, 15/09/2017 and 19/09/2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to protecting and enhancing air quality is the link to nature and people thriving together. For example, the protection and expansion of woodlands will have some indirect positive effects on air quality.	L	P	+	+	+	
<b>Main Issues – Preferred Options and Reasonable Alternatives</b>							
Main issue I: Over-arching development strategy – Preferred Option	The 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. Following this strategy should reduce the need to travel to access work and services and encourage alternative means of transport. The policy also supports the improvement of an integrated and sustainable walking and cycling network with better links to transport.	L	P	+	+	+	
Main issue I: Over-arching development	This option would be considered a radical departure from the settlement strategy of the past. Indeed, it does not possess a	L	P	-	-	-	As the overarching strategy for policy within the National Park the NPPP offers a means of mitigation that would need to be incorporated

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
strategy – Reasonable Alternative	great deal in the form of strategy. Pursuing it would likely result in an increased need to travel to access work and services and not encourage alternative means of transport. The option does not the improvement of an integrated and sustainable walking and cycling network with better links to transport						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.
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Preferred Option	The option aims to make development easy to move around and beyond thereby promoting active travel and public transport provision and reduce the reliance on private motorised transport.	L	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Reasonable Alternative	Small developments account for the vast majority of the applications within the National Park. Not requiring them to be easy to move around and beyond could lead to an increase in the use of private motor vehicles.	L	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue 1 – Reasonable alternative.
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and	Economic growth is rarely achieved without generating additional energy needs or transportation requirements and as such it is likely to result in an increase	L	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue 1 – Reasonable alternative.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Highland Main Line Upgrades – Preferred Option	in roadside emissions. However, given that all air quality objectives are currently being met within the National Park, that no AQMAs exist within its boundary, that the option aims to locate economic development near the A9, thereby reducing the distances needed to travel by motor vehicle, it is unlikely that the effects of the policy will be significant.						
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Reasonable Alternative	Pursuing the option could lead to a more dispersed pattern of economic development. However, because economic growth is to be delivered on a policy basis, there is no certainty as to the degree of economic development to be delivered. The extents of the effects are therefore unknown.	L	P	?	?	?	
Main issue 4: Housing – Preferred Option	The overall number of vehicle and associated air pollution will rise with the increase in households. The option is therefore likely to have a negative effect on the SEA Objective, though the overall impact will depend on the availability of public transport to/from the new	L	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue 1 – Reasonable alternative.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	developments to services and facilities.						
Main issue 4: Housing – Reasonable Alternative	The overall number of vehicle and associated air pollution will rise with the increase in households. The option is therefore likely to have a negative effect on the SEA Objective, though the overall impact will depend on the availability of public transport to/from the new developments to services and facilities. Aiming for a higher level of growth than the identified need will result in a more significant effect while aiming for a lower one will result in a lesser impact. Due to the relatively low level of development proposed however, the effects of option are likely to remain minor.	L	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue 1 – Reasonable alternative.
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Reasonable	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Alternative							
Main issue 6: Economic development – Preferred Option	Economic growth is rarely achieved without generating additional transportation requirements and as such it is likely to result in an increase in localised increases in ambient air pollutants. However, given the option’s aim that additional development accord with a strategy that concentrates growth on the main and most sustainable settlements, it is unlikely that this effect will be significant.	R	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue 1 – Reasonable alternative.
Main issue 6: Economic development – Reasonable Alternative	Economic growth is rarely achieved without generating additional transportation requirements and as such it is likely to result in an increase in localised increases in ambient air pollutants. Because the option relies on a flexible policy based approach it is difficult to ascertain the extent to which the option will have an effect, however, given the relatively small amount of economic development (that requires additional land) that has historically taken place in the National Park, it is unlikely that this	R	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue 1 – Reasonable alternative.



Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	effect will be significant.						
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Summary and Conclusions:**

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

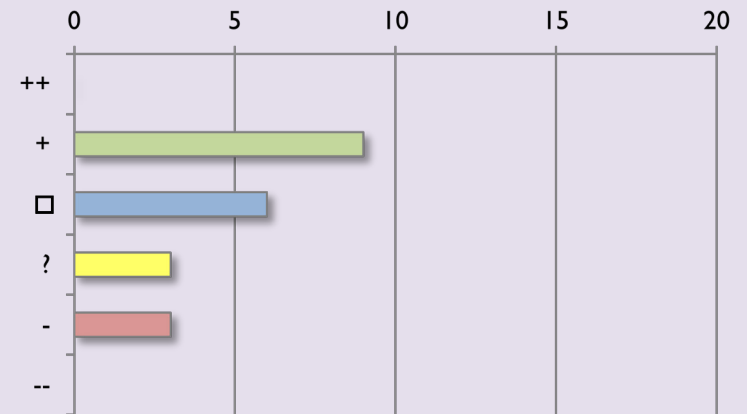
The main potential negative impacts of the Plan on the air quality are those associated with the predicted growth of housing and the economy of the National Park.

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

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

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

**Preferred options at glance:**



**SEA Issue / Topic**

Water

**SEA Objective(s):**

3a Reduce flood risk

**SEA Sub-Objectives**

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

**Significant Interrelationships**

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

**Assessor(s):**

Dan Harris

**Date of Assessment:**

13/09/2017, 14/09/2017, 15/09/2017 and 19/09/2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to reducing flood risk is the link to nature and people thriving together. Landscape scale habitat management and other natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion and river restoration offer means of creating rich habitats while also reducing flood risk. Therefore it may be argued that the vision plays a strong and direct role in meeting the SEA objective.	R	P	++	++	++	
<b>Main Issues – Preferred Options and Reasonable Alternatives</b>							
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Preferred Option	The 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. Some of the settlements in the current strategy, including Ballater in particular, have recently experienced severe flood events. However, the choice of sites in the LDP and national planning policy effectively	R	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	prevent future development from increasing flood risk and therefore it is not considered that the policy is likely to have an effect on the SEA objective						
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Reasonable Alternative	With regard to flooding, it is the choice of site that has the greatest effect. Even with a dispersed pattern of settlement, the LDP and National guidance would continue to prevent sites that are either on the medium probability flood zone or are likely to cause flooding elsewhere from being delivered.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Preferred Option	The option promotes a high standard of design in the construction in new development. This should include the implementation of SuDS schemes.	R	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Reasonable Alternative	Small developments account for the vast majority of the applications within the National Park. Not requiring them to implement SuDS schemes where necessary could lead to negative effects.	R	P	-	-	-	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-advised.
Main issue 3: Impacts and	Owing to the nature of growth, there will inevitably be some loss of soils to non-	R	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Preferred Option	permeable surfaces through the development of new buildings and facilities, particularly as there are few opportunities to develop for brownfield land within the National Park. However, the LDP and national planning policy require that development does not increase flood risk. The small scale of the likely development means that the impact of the policy on flood risk likely to be minimal.						
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Reasonable Alternative	Owing to the nature of growth, there will inevitably be some loss of soils to non-permeable surfaces through the development of new buildings and facilities, particularly as there are few opportunities to develop for brownfield land within the National Park. However, the LDP and national planning policy require that development does not increase flood risk. The small scale of the likely development means that the impact of the policy on flood risk likely to be minimal.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 4: Housing – Preferred Option	By providing for growth in housing it is inevitable that development will to some extent alter water flow patterns. Also the tendency towards high density developments could lead to greater impermeable surface areas. However, appropriately located development will minimise these effects. Overall the effects of the option are likely to be minimal, providing sites are properly selected.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 4: Housing – Reasonable Alternative	By providing for growth in housing it is inevitable that development will to some extent alter water flow patterns. Also the tendency towards high density developments could lead to greater impermeable surface areas. However, appropriately located development will minimise these effects. Overall the effects of the option are likely to be minimal, providing sites are properly selected.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 6: Economic development – Preferred Option	By providing for economic growth it is inevitable that development will to some extent alter water flow patterns. Also the tendency towards high density developments could lead to greater impermeable surface areas. However, appropriately located development will minimise these effects. Overall the effects of the option are likely to be minimal, providing sites are properly selected.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 6: Economic development – Reasonable Alternative	By providing for economic growth it is inevitable that development will to some extent alter water flow patterns. Also the tendency towards high density developments could lead to greater impermeable surface areas. However, appropriately located development will minimise these effects. Overall the effects of the option are likely to be minimal,	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	providing sites are properly selected.						
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Preferred Option	The construction of new buildings could lead to the removal of some trees and the loss of some woodland. However, there may also be opportunities for gain in places, with mitigation and compensatory schemes offering opportunities for additional planting and woodland expansion, which has benefits by reducing the magnitude of flood events. The nature of the effect will be dependent on the scale, location and nature of any one development and therefore the effects are uncertain.	R	P	?	?	?	
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Reasonable Alternative	The issue is concerned with the way in which the potential impact of development of capercaillie is managed. This option takes a case by case approach to management, as is the current policy approach. Consequently it is unlikely that landscape scale mitigation such as woodland expansion will occur and the ability of the option to help reduce the effects of flooding is limited. Overall	R	P	?	?	?	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	however, the effects of the option are uncertain as it will depend on the location, scale and timing of development.						
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Preferred Option	Through its increased interest in mitigating the effects of flood risk, the option positively contributes towards the SEA objective.	R	P	++	++	++	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Reasonable Alternative	While the option contributes positively towards the SEA objective, it is not regarded as being as strong as the preferred option.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Summary and Conclusions:**

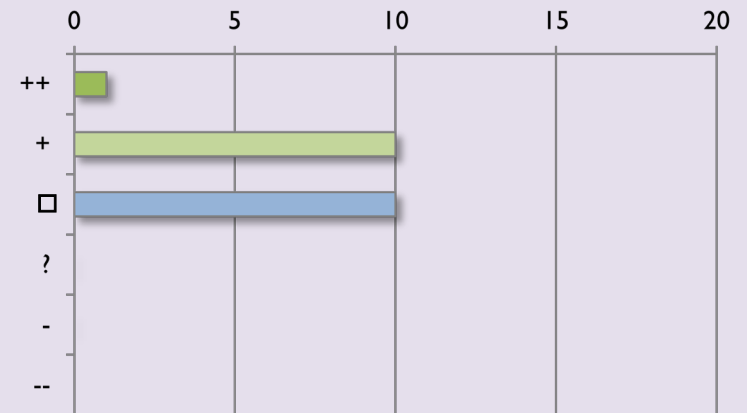
The Cairngorms National Park encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland’s major rivers as well as many smaller ones. Actions taken in the upper part of these catchments may be felt downstream and therefore the scale of the identified effect is considered to be regional.

The assessment has not predicted any effects for a large number of outcomes and options. This reflects the fact that many of the options are specific that broader effects cannot be identified

Negative effects are only identified against one of the reasonable alternatives.

Overall it is thought that the effects of the Plan are likely to be positive, with the overarching impact of Main Issue 9 impacting on all aspects of plan implementation.

**Preferred options at glance:**



**SEA Issue / Topic**

Water

**SEA Objective(s):**

3b Maintain and improve the quality of water resources

**SEA Sub-Objectives**

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

**Significant Interrelationships**

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

**Assessor(s):**

Dan Harris

**Date of Assessment:**

13/09/2017, 14/09/2017, 15/09/2017 and 19/09/2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to maintaining and improving water quality is the link to nature and people thriving together. By taking this approach the LDP must ensure that development and approaches to landscape management do not have a negative effect on the water quality of waterbodies within and flowing from the National Park.	N	P	+	+	+	
<b>Main Issues – Preferred Options and Reasonable Alternatives</b>							
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Preferred Option	The 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. The level of growth, particularly in the Aviemore area, is likely to place pressure on the local water supply, with the Aviemore water treatment works only having capacity for a further 966 housing units.	N	P	-	-	-	The LDP and national planning policy can be used to ensure that development does not have a negative effect on water quality. This can include effects that are likely to arise from construction and be temporary in nature. Where insufficient capacity is identified within the network, money may be levied from the developer(s) to make sure upgrades occur before the effects of the development can be felt.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Reasonable Alternative	Having a more dispersed pattern of development is likely to place increased pressure on water infrastructure, particularly where infrastructure is currently under capacity. The exact nature would depend on the location of said development.	N	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue 1 – Preferred Option.
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Preferred Option	The option promotes a high standard of design in the construction in new development. This should include the implementation of SuDS schemes which should help increase the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.	N	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Reasonable Alternative	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.	N	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue 1 – Preferred Option.
Main issue 3: Impacts and	The construction of new buildings associated with economic uses will lead to	N	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue 1 – Preferred Option.



Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Preferred Option	increased pressure on water resources. It also has the potential to have an impact on water quality at certain locations, if not properly considered. Given the small scale at which development is likely to occur, the impact of the policy is unlikely to be significant.						
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Reasonable Alternative	The construction of new buildings associated with economic uses will lead to increased pressure on water resources. It also has the potential to have an impact on water quality at certain locations, if not properly considered. Given the small scale at which development is likely to occur, the impact of the policy is unlikely to be significant.	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue 1 – Preferred Option.
Main issue 4: Housing – Preferred Option	The construction of new buildings will lead to increased pressure on water resources. It may also have an impact on quality at certain locations. However, concentrating housing development in the main settlements should limit the negative effects of the option as most of these centres either already have the	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>	?	?	?	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	infrastructure to manage water supply and sewage treatment, or their status can be used as a focus for investment in improvements by companies such as Scottish Water. The overall effects of the policy are therefore uncertain						
Main issue 4: Housing – Reasonable Alternative	The construction of new buildings will lead to increased pressure on water resources. It may also have an impact on quality at certain locations. Concentrating housing development in the main settlements should limit the negative effects of the option as most of these centres either already have the infrastructure to manage water supply and sewage treatment, or their status can be used as a focus for investment in improvements by companies such as Scottish Water. The overall effects of the policy are therefore uncertain	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 6: Economic development – Preferred Option	The construction of new buildings will lead to increased pressure on water resources. It may also have an impact on quality at certain locations. However, concentrating economic development in the main settlements should limit the negative effects of the policy as these centres either already have the infrastructure to manage water supply and sewage treatment, or their status can be used as a focus for investment in improvements by companies such as Scottish Water. The overall effects of the policy are therefore uncertain.	R	P	?	?	?	
Main issue 6: Economic development – Reasonable Alternative	The construction of new buildings will lead to increased pressure on water resources. It may also have an impact on quality at certain locations. Concentrating economic development in the main settlements	R	P	?	?	?	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	should limit the negative effects of the option as most of these centres either already have the infrastructure to manage water supply and sewage treatment, or their status can be used as a focus for investment in improvements by companies such as Scottish Water. However, given that the option proposes that economic development be delivered on a flexible policy basis, there are uncertainties about the location and scale of its delivery. The overall effects of the policy are therefore uncertain						
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 8:	The option offers a more effective	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Planning obligations – Preferred Option	procedural approach to asking for developer contribution, with requirements based on pre-identified settlement specifics. It is considered that these requirements could relate to improvements in water infrastructure, which, could result in improvements to existing conditions.						
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Reasonable Alternative	This is the current approach to asking for developer contribution, with requirements based on requirements identified at the time of an application. It is considered that these requirements could relate to improvements in water infrastructure, which, could result in improvements to existing conditions.	I	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Preferred Option	The option may have positive synergistic effects on water quality.	I	P	+	+	+	

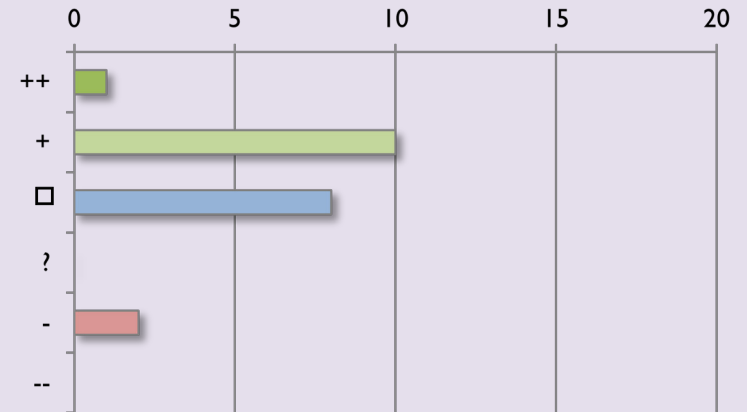
Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Reasonable Alternative	The option may have positive synergistic effects on water quality.	I	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	

**Summary and Conclusions:**

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

Negative effects are predicted against outcomes and options that deal with economic and housing development. These largely relate to the pressure they might place on water and waste treatment infrastructure, which in some areas does not have enough capacity to meet projected growth. It is expected however that this infrastructure be upgraded if development is to take place; therefore the overall effect of the plan are likely to be neutral or positive.

**Preferred options at glance:**



**SEA Issue / Topic**

Soil

**SEA Objective(s):**

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

**SEA Sub-Objectives**

- Maintain or improve the productive capacity of soils.
- Maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to sustainably produce high quality local and seasonal food.
- Avoid increased diffuse pollution, particularly SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> emissions and nitrate pollution from agriculture and other economic activities.
- Protect and enhance soil quantity (including non-chemical soil functions and processes such as permeability) and quantity, especially of carbon rich soils.
- Maintain, restore or improve the carbon storage capacity of peat and soils.
- Minimise carbon emissions from land use (e.g. muirburn).
- Avoid and reduce contamination of soils.
- Promote the regeneration and redevelopment of brownfield and contaminated land.
- Take account of soil function.
- Minimise soil erosion.
- Minimise soil sealing.
- Minimise soil compaction.

**Significant Interrelationships**

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

**Assessor(s):**

Dan Harris

**Date of Assessment:**

13/09/2017, 14/09/2017, 15/09/2017 and 19/09/2017.



Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to soil quality is the link to nature and people thriving together. By taking this approach the LDP must ensure that development and approaches to landscape management do not have a negative impact on soils, including those with a carbon rich content.	R	P	+	+	+	
<b>Main Issues – Preferred Options and Reasonable Alternatives</b>							
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Preferred Option	The 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	R	P	-	-	-	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.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	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.						
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Reasonable Alternative	A more dispersed pattern of development is likely to mean a greater area of greenfield land is taken up.	R	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for preferred option.
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Preferred Option	The policy promotes high standards of sustainable design and the efficient use of energy and materials in construction. The protection of high quality and carbon rich soils should therefore form part of this consideration.	R	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 2: Designing great places –	Small developments account for the vast majority of the applications within the National Park. Not requiring them to	R	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue I preferred option.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Reasonable Alternative	meet the principle of being resource efficient could lead to a loss of soil quality.						
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Preferred Option	The construction of new buildings associated could lead to soil loss and soil sealing. However, the extent and significance will depend on the sites chosen to deliver the economic growth, as there may be brownfield options available.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	?	?	?	
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Reasonable Alternative	The construction of new buildings associated could lead to soil loss and soil sealing. However, the extent and significance will depend on the sites chosen to deliver the economic growth, as there may be brownfield options available.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	?	?	?	
Main issue 4: Housing – Preferred Option	Owing to the nature of growth, there will inevitably be some loss and sealing of soil. As there is little opportunity for brownfield to be developed in most settlements, the effects of this option are increased by the need develop on	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue I preferred option.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	greenfield sites in order to meet growth.						
Main issue 4: Housing – Reasonable Alternative	Owing to the nature of growth, there will inevitably be some loss and sealing of soil. As there is little opportunity for brownfield to be developed in most settlements, the effects of this option are increased by the need develop on greenfield sites in order to meet growth.	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue I preferred option.
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	□	□	□	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	□	□	□	
Main issue 6: Economic development – Preferred Option	Owing to the nature of growth, there will inevitably be some loss and sealing of soil. As there is little opportunity for brownfield to be developed in most settlements, the effects of this option are increased by the need develop on	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue I preferred option.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	greenfield sites in order to meet growth.						
Main issue 6: Economic development – Reasonable Alternative	Owing to the nature of growth, there will inevitably be some loss and sealing of soil. As there is little opportunity for brownfield to be developed in most settlements, the effects of this option are increased by the need develop on greenfield sites in order to meet growth.	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue 1 preferred option.
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	<b>I</b>	<b>P</b>	□	□	□	
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	<b>I</b>	<b>P</b>	□	□	□	
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	<b>I</b>	<b>P</b>	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	☐	☐	☐	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Preferred Option	Having a presumption against hill track creation should help protect soils. Owing to the limited nature of the development relative to the size of the National Park, this effect is considered to be a minor one.	R	P	+	+	+	

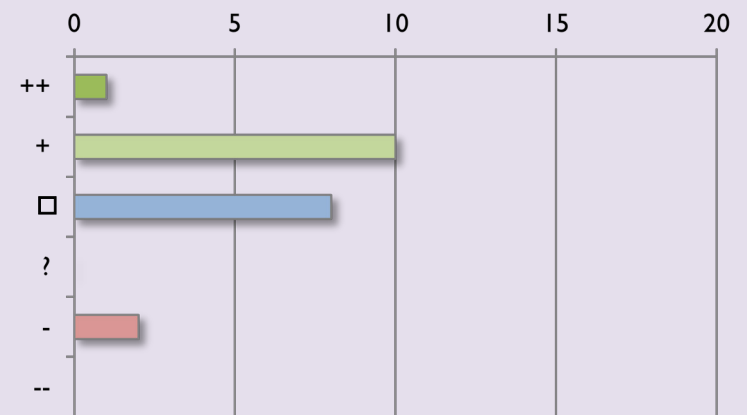
Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Reasonable Alternative	The option represents the status quo. It is likely that localised area swill continue to be negatively affected under this approach.	L	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue 1 preferred option.

**Summary and Conclusions:**

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

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

**Preferred options at glance:**



**SEA Issue / Topic**

Material Assets

**SEA Objective(s):**

5 Encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets.

**SEA Sub-Objective**

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

**Significant Interrelationships**

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

**Assessor(s):**

Dan Harris

**Date of Assessment:**

13/09/2017, 14/09/2017, 15/09/2017 and 19/09/2017.



Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to the sustainable use of material assets is the link to nature and people thriving together. By taking this approach the LDP must ensure that development and approaches to landscape management take a sustainable approach to such assets and that the resources within the National Park are not exploited without heed for other environmental and social concerns.	R	P	+	+	+	
<b>Main Issues – Preferred Options and Reasonable Alternatives</b>							
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this policy.	R	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Preferred Option	The policy supports the SEA objective through its support for development of appropriately located and scaled renewable energy developments and promotes high standards of sustainable design and efficient use of energy and materials in construction.	R	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Reasonable Alternative	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.	R	P	-	-	-	It is not possible to mitigate the inefficient use of finite resources in the face of better alternatives.
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Reasonable Alternative							
Main issue 4: Housing – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 4: Housing – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 6: Economic	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
development – Preferred Option							
Main issue 6: Economic development – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Preferred Option	A presumption against the development of hill tracks should result in fewer resources and materials being consumed.	R	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Reasonable Alternative	The <i>status quo</i> would continue to see historic levels of hill track development, with its consequent use of resources and materials.	R	P	-	-	-	It is not possible to mitigate the inefficient use of finite resources in the face of better alternatives.

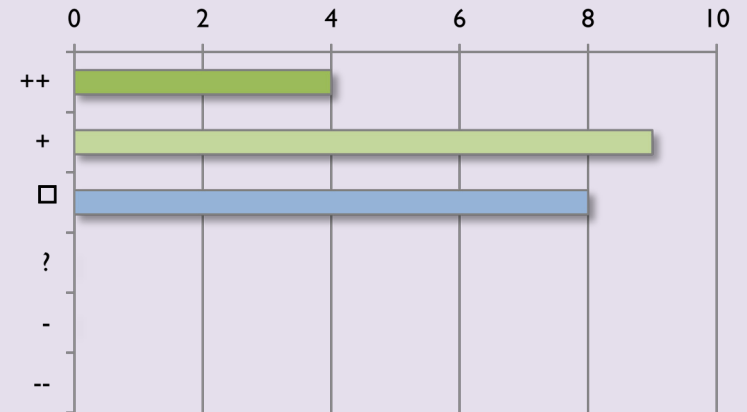
**Summary and Conclusions:**

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

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

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

**Preferred options at glance:**



**SEA Issue / Topic**

Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora

**SEA Objective(s):**

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

**SEA Sub-Objective**

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

**Significant Interrelationships**

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

**Assessor(s):**

Dan Harris

**Date of Assessment:**

13/09/2017, 14/09/2017, 15/09/2017 and 19/09/2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	The vision's objective to ensure that nature thrives within the National Park positively contributes to all aspects of the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
<b>Main Issues – Preferred Options and Reasonable Alternatives</b>							
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Preferred Option	The 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.	I	P	?	?	?	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>



Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
							<p>pursued without heed for conservation objectives.</p> <p>With regard to Capercaillie, the CNPA is in the process of developing a Capercaillie Framework, which it is intended the LDP support, which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 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;</li> <li>➤ inform future decisions about co-ordinated deployment of management measures for Capercaillie conservation;</li> <li>➤ identify what else we may need to do, where we may need further investment or resources and highlight the future agenda for management action.</li> </ul> <p>The CNPA has published a report on Phase I of the Framework (2015). This takes the form of a</p>

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
							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.
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Reasonable Alternative	The policy’s effects are uncertain as they will depend on site specific conditions. These have been assessed individually.	I	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Main Issue I – Preferred Option.
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and	The construction of new buildings to facilitate economic development could have some negative effects on biodiversity. Overall, the nature of the effect will be	I	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Main Issue I – Preferred Option.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Highland Main Line Upgrades – Preferred Option	dependent on the scale, location and nature of development and therefore the policy’s effects are uncertain.						
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Reasonable Alternative	The construction of new buildings to facilitate economic development could have some negative effects on biodiversity. Overall, the nature of the effect will be dependent on the scale, location and nature of development and therefore the policy’s effects are uncertain.	I	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Main Issue I – Preferred Option.
Main issue 4: Housing – Preferred Option	The construction of new buildings could have some negative effects on biodiversity. However, there may also be opportunities for biodiversity gain in places. The nature of the effect will be dependent on the scale, location and nature of any one development and therefore the effects are uncertain.	I	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Main Issue I – Preferred Option.
Main issue 4: Housing – Reasonable Alternative	The construction of new buildings could have some negative effects on biodiversity. However, there may also be opportunities for biodiversity gain in places. The nature	I	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Main Issue I – Preferred Option.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	of the effect will be dependent on the scale, location and nature of any one development and therefore the effects are uncertain.						
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 6: Economic development – Preferred Option	The construction of new buildings could have some negative effects on biodiversity. However, there may also be opportunities for biodiversity gain in places. The nature of the effect will be dependent on the scale, location and nature of any one development and therefore the effects are uncertain.	I	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Main Issue I – Preferred Option.
Main issue 6: Economic	The construction of new buildings could have some negative effects on biodiversity.	I	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Main Issue I – Preferred Option.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
development – Reasonable Alternative	However, there may also be opportunities for biodiversity gain in places. The nature of the effect will be dependent on the scale, location and nature of any one development and therefore the effects are uncertain.						
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Preferred Option	The issue is concerned with the way in which the potential impact of development of capercaillie is managed. This option takes an approach that looks at the issue in a holistic manner, considering the cumulative effects of all development and offering a coordinated means of action. It is likely therefore that the option will have a positive impact against the SEA objective.	I	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Reasonable Alternative	The issue is concerned with the way in which the potential impact of development of capercaillie is managed. This option takes a case by case approach to management, as is the current policy approach. Evidence continues to suggest that the capercaillie population continue to struggle and while the causes of this	I	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Main Issue I – Preferred Option.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	cannot be fully linked to development it is possible that development has had an impact. The <i>status quo</i> therefore may not offer the best means of mitigating potential negative effects. Overall however, the effects of the option are uncertain as it will depend on the location, scale and timing of development.						
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Preferred Option	The option offers a more effective procedural approach to asking for developer contribution, with requirements based on pre-identified settlement specifics. It is considered that these requirements could relate to habitat improvements.	I	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Reasonable Alternative	This is the current approach to asking for developer contribution, with requirements based on requirements identified at the time of an application. It is considered that these requirements, could relate to habitat improvements.	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Preferred Option	The option may have synergistic positive effects on wetland habitats and species.	I	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Reasonable Alternative	The option may have synergistic positive effects on wetland habitats and species.	I	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Preferred Option	The option may have synergistic positive effects on upland habitats and species.	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Reasonable Alternative	The current approach to 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.	I	P	-	-	-	<p>While it is intended that the Preferred Option under Main Issue 7 ensure 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.</p> <p>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 objectives.</p>



**Summary and Conclusions:**

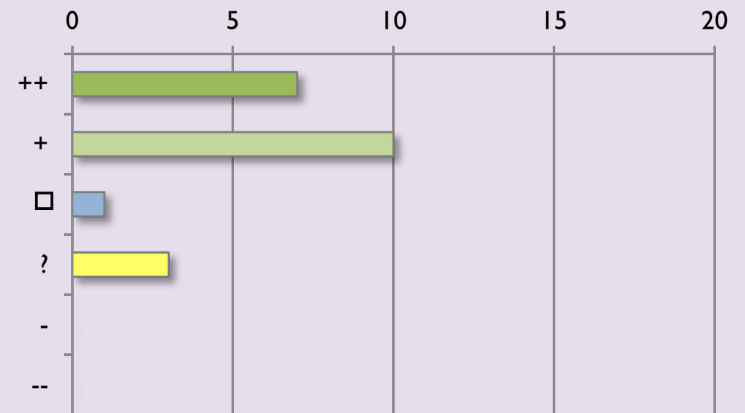
Around 50% of the National Park is protected by some form of Natura designation. The identified effects are therefore considered to be international in scale.

The National Park is protected by a range of national and international designation and is therefore highly sensitive to land use and land management changes. Negative effects have not been identified however a high degree of uncertainty has. This largely because of the size and location of sites within settlements that is likely to have the greatest effect and the options do not deal with these specifically.

This is not to say the potential for negative effects are not recognised. Settlements in Badenoch and Strathspey, for example, are located near areas protected by Natura sites, for example Anagach Woods near Grantown-on-Spey and Glenmore and Rothiemurchus forests near An Camas Mòr. In these areas, disturbance of species such as cappercaillie is possible through increased recreational activities. Mitigation is however already built into the Plan’s Main Issue 7 preferred option as well as the policies of the NPPP and therefore it is considered that negative effects, significant or minor, are unlikely.

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

**Preferred options at glance:**



**SEA Issue / Topic**

Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora

**SEA Objective(s):**

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

**SEA Sub-Objectives**

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

**Significant Interrelationships**

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

**Assessor(s):**

Dan Harris

**Date of Assessment:**

13/09/2017, 14/09/2017, 15/09/2017 and 19/09/2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	The vision’s objective to ensure that nature and people thrive together within the National Park positively contributes to all aspects of the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
<b>Main Issues – Preferred Options and Reasonable Alternatives</b>							
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Preferred Option	The option would only have an effect if sites were to be proposed that were currently occupied by woodland. Overall, the nature of the effect will be dependent on the scale, location and nature of development and therefore the policy's effects are uncertain.	I	P	?	?	?	
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Reasonable Alternative	The option would only have an effect if sites were to be proposed that were currently occupied by woodland. Overall, the nature of the effect will be dependent on the scale, location and nature of development and therefore the policy's effects are uncertain.	I	P	?	?	?	
Main issue 4: Housing – Preferred Option	The construction of new buildings could lead to the removal of some trees and the loss of some woodland. However, there	I	P	?	?	?	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	may also be opportunities for gain in places, with mitigation and compensatory schemes offering opportunities for additional planting and woodland expansion. The nature of the effect will be dependent on the scale, location and nature of any one development and therefore the effects are uncertain.						
Main issue 4: Housing – Reasonable Alternative	The construction of new buildings could lead to the removal of some trees and the loss of some woodland. However, there may also be opportunities for gain in places, with mitigation and compensatory schemes offering opportunities for additional planting and woodland expansion. The nature of the effect will be dependent on the scale, location and nature of any one development and therefore the effects are uncertain.	I	P	?	?	?	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 6: Economic development – Preferred Option	The construction of new buildings could lead to the removal of some trees and the loss of some woodland. However, there may also be opportunities for gain in places, with mitigation and compensatory schemes offering opportunities for additional planting and woodland expansion. The nature of the effect will be dependent on the scale, location and nature of any one development and therefore the effects are uncertain.	I	P	?	?	?	
Main issue 6: Economic development – Reasonable Alternative	The construction of new buildings could lead to the removal of some trees and the loss of some woodland. However, there may also be opportunities for gain in places, with mitigation and compensatory schemes offering opportunities for additional planting and woodland expansion. The nature of the effect will be	I	P	?	?	?	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	dependent on the scale, location and nature of any one development and therefore the effects are uncertain.						
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Preferred Option	The issue is concerned with the way in which the potential impact of development of capercaillie is managed. This option takes an approach that looks at the issue in a holistic manner, considering the cumulative effects of all development and offering a coordinated means of action. As the habitat of capercaillie is woodland it is likely that the option will have a positive impact against the SEA objective, as mitigation and compensatory measures are likely to include the expansion and improvement of woodland.	I	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Reasonable Alternative	The issue is concerned with the way in which the potential impact of development of capercaillie is managed. This option takes a case by case approach to management, as is the current policy approach. Evidence continues to suggest that the capercaillie population continue to struggle and while the causes of this	I	P	?	?	?	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	cannot be fully linked to development it is possible that development has had an impact. The <i>status quo</i> therefore may not offer the best means of mitigating potential negative effects. Overall however, the effects of the option are uncertain as it will depend on the location, scale and timing of development.						
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Preferred Option	The option offers a more effective procedural approach to asking for developer contribution, with requirements based on pre-identified settlement specifics. It is considered that these requirements could relate to habitat improvements, such as woodland expansion.	I	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Reasonable Alternative	This is the current approach to asking for developer contribution, with requirements based on requirements identified at the time of an application. It is considered that these requirements could relate to habitat improvements, such as woodland expansion.	I	P	+	+	+	



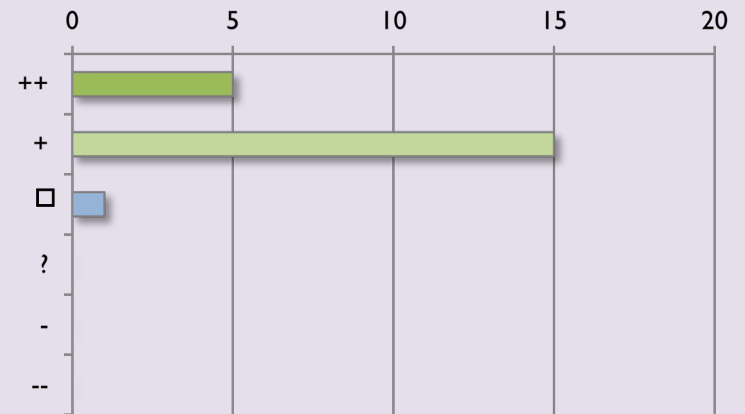
Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Preferred Option	Forestry tracks are the subject of different legislation and guidance. Therefore, there are no predicted effects associated with option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Reasonable Alternative	Forestry tracks are the subject of different legislation and guidance. Therefore, there are no predicted effects associated with option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Summary and Conclusions:**

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

Where predicted effects are identified, they are all positive, with interventions within the preferred options to Main Issues 7 and 8 offering a means of support for the expansion and enhancement the National Park’s trees woodlands.

**Preferred options at glance:**



**SEA Issue / Topic**

Landscape and Cultural Heritage

**SEA Objective(s):**

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

**SEA Sub-Objectives**

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

**Significant Interrelationships**

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

**Assessor(s):**

Dan Harris

**Date of Assessment:**

13/09/2017, 14/09/2017, 15/09/2017 and 19/09/2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	The vision’s objective to ensure that nature and people thrive together, encompassing both the natural and social aspects of landscape and cultural heritage, positively contributes to meeting all aspects of the SEA objective.	N	P	++	++	++	
<b>Main Issues – Preferred Options and Reasonable Alternatives</b>							
Main issue I: Over-arching development strategy – Preferred Option	Focusing development in the strategic settlements concentrates the landscape impact of significant development in a small number of locations that are able to accommodate the scale proposed. Negative impacts can therefore be avoided at locations less able to accommodate development within the landscape.	N	P	+	+	+	
Main issue I: Over-arching development strategy – Reasonable Alternative	A more dispersed pattern of settlement could have negative impacts as locations less able to accommodate development within the landscape are developed.	N	P	-	-	-	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

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
							qualities.
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Preferred Option	The policy contributes towards promoting high quality design based on a comprehensive understanding of landscape character and distinctiveness, protecting and enhancing townscapes and respecting the existing pattern, form and setting of settlements.	N	P	++	++	++	
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Reasonable Alternative	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.	N	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue 1 – Reasonable alternative.
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Preferred Option	Focusing development in the strategic settlements close to the A9 concentrates the landscape impact of significant development in a small number of locations that are able to accommodate the scale proposed. Negative impacts can therefore be avoided at locations less able to accommodate development within the	N	P	?	?	?	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	landscape. However, overall, the nature of the effect will be dependent on the scale, location and nature of development and therefore the policy's effects are uncertain.						
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Reasonable Alternative	Because the economic development would be delivered on a policy basis a more dispersed approach to delivery could occur, which could result in negative effects. However, the option's effects will be dependent on nature of the effect will be dependent on the scale, location and nature of development and therefore the policy's effects are uncertain.	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	
Main issue 4: Housing – Preferred Option	Growth has the potential to have an impact on landscape, townscape and the historic environment, although the exact nature of that impact is unknown as it is entirely dependent on the location, nature and scale of the development. Through good design, there may be opportunities for improvement in places.	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	
Main issue 4:	Growth has the potential to have an	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Housing – Reasonable Alternative	impact on landscape, townscape and the historic environment, although the exact nature of that impact is unknown as it is entirely dependent on the location, nature and scale of the development. Through good design, there may be opportunities for improvement in places.						
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 6: Economic development – Preferred Option	Growth has the potential to have an impact on landscape, townscape and the historic environment, although the exact nature of that impact is unknown as it is entirely dependent on the location, nature and scale of the development. Through good design, there may be opportunities	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>	?	?	?	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	for improvement in places.						
Main issue 6: Economic development – Reasonable Alternative	Growth has the potential to have an impact on landscape, townscape and the historic environment, although the exact nature of that impact is unknown as it is entirely dependent on the location, nature and scale of the development. Through good design, there may be opportunities for improvement in places.	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Preferred Option	The issue is concerned with the way in which the potential impact of development of capercaillie is managed. This option takes an approach that looks at the issue in a holistic manner, considering the cumulative effects of all development and offering a coordinated means of action. It is possible that mitigation and compensatory measures will include woodland expansion at a landscape scale. Could have both positive and negative effects on landscape quality depending on where the expansion takes place.	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	
Main issue 7:	The issue is concerned with the way in	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	



Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Impacts on Natura designations – Reasonable Alternative	which the potential impact of development of capercaillie is managed. This option takes a case by case approach to management, as is the current policy approach. The approach is unlikely to deliver landscape scale changes, however it could bring local changes that have a landscape impact. Overall, the effects of the option are uncertain as they will be dependent on the location and scale of development.						
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Preferred Option	The option offers a more effective procedural approach to asking for developer contribution, with requirements based on pre-identified settlement specifics. It is considered that these requirements could result in landscape enhancement.	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Reasonable Alternative	This is the current approach to asking for developer contribution, with requirements based on requirements identified at the time of an application. It is considered that these requirements could result in landscape enhancement.	N	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	N	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	N	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Preferred Option	The presumption against hill track development is likely to have a positive effect on landscape quality.	N	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Reasonable Alternative	The continued development of hill tracks is likely to result in negative effects on landscape quality.	N	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue 1 – Reasonable alternative.

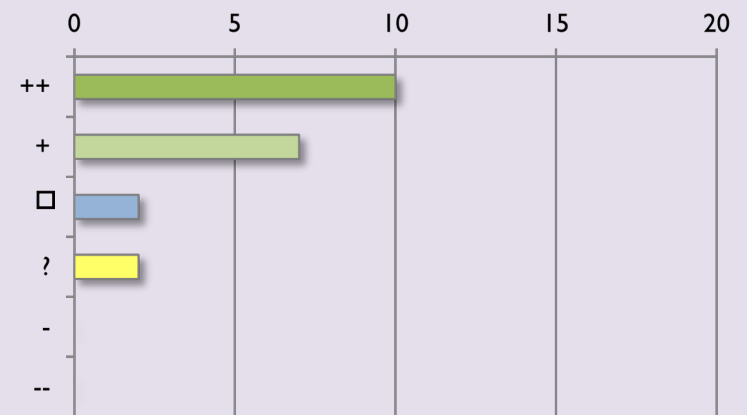
**Summary and Conclusions:**

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

Uncertainty identified against a large number of options as it is likely that effects will be dependent on the nature, design and location of development.

Negative effects are only identified against the reasonable alternative to Main Issue 10, which concerns the development of hill tracks.

**Assessments at glance:**



**SEA Issue / Topic**

Population and Human Health

**SEA Objective(s):**

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

**SEA Sub Objective**

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

**Significant Interrelationships**

Landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

**Assessor(s):**

Dan Harris

**Date of Assessment:**

13/09/2017, 14/09/2017, 15/09/2017 and 19/09/2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	The vision explicitly supports the enjoyment of the National Park and therefore actively promotes opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities.	R	P	++	++	++	
<b>Main Issues – Preferred Options and Reasonable Alternatives</b>							
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Preferred Option	The co-location of housing and economic growth development in the strategic settlements as identified in the will help reduce the reliance on private motor vehicles and encourage walking and cycling.	R	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Reasonable Alternative	Promoting a more dispersed pattern of settlement 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.	R	P	-	-	-	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.
Main issue 2: Designing great	The policy aims to enable new	R	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
places – Preferred Option	development that contributes 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 and also promote active travel thus indirectly and directly promoting opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities alike.						
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Reasonable Alternative	Small developments account for the vast majority of the 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.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue I – Reasonable alternative.
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Upgrades – Preferred Option							
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 4: Housing – Preferred Option	By meeting growth and the identified range of needs of the National Park’s communities, positive effects on human health and wellbeing will be met.	R	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 4: Housing – Reasonable Alternative	Having housing growth exceed the needs of the National Park’s communities should have the same positive effects as simply meeting them by contributing towards people’s well-being. Not meeting growth could however have a negative effect on well-being as people’s housing needs are not met. The overall effects of the option are therefore uncertain.	R	P	?	?	?	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Preferred Option	Good health and wellbeing is linked to the availability of good quality and affordable housing. Aiming for a higher level of affordable housing provision in areas that are under particular pressure will therefore have significant positive benefits against the SEA objective.	R	P	++	++	++	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Reasonable Alternative	If affordable housing is delivered with a cap of 25% for private developers then it is likely that the total level of affordable housing need will not be met. While the provision of some affordable housing will have some health and wellbeing benefits they are unlikely to be as positive as the preferred option,	R	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 6: Economic development – Preferred Option	Ensuring that economic development is provided in specific locations can help maximise the health and wellbeing of local people and communities.	R	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 6: Economic development – Reasonable	Because the option relies on a flexible policy approach there is uncertainty about the extent at which it can have a positive effect. Overall, the nature of the effect will	R	P	?	?	?	



Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Alternative	be dependent on the scale, location and nature of development.						
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Preferred Option	The issue is concerned with the way in which the potential impact of development of capercaillie is managed. This option takes an approach that looks at the issue in a holistic manner, considering the cumulative effects of all development and offering a coordinated means of action over a wide area. It is possible that mitigation measures will include changes to the areas in which people are encouraged to recreate. This may include the removal of infrastructure in some places but its improvement in others. There could therefore be localised positive and negative effects on the SEA objective, although overall net effects are uncertain as they will depend on the exact nature of the mitigation proposed.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Reasonable	The issue is concerned with the way in which the potential impact of development of capercaillie is managed. This option takes a case by case approach to	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Alternative	management, as is the current policy approach. It is possible that mitigation measures will include changes to the areas in which people are encouraged to recreate. This may include the removal of infrastructure in some places but its improvement in others. There could therefore be localised positive and negative effects on the SEA objective, although overall net effects are uncertain as they will depend on the exact nature of the mitigation proposed.						
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Preferred Option	The option offers a more effective procedural approach to asking for developer contribution, with requirements based on pre-identified settlement specifics. These requirements could relate to a range of recreation infrastructure and public services facilities that would contribute positively to the SEA Objective.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>++</b>	<b>++</b>	<b>++</b>	

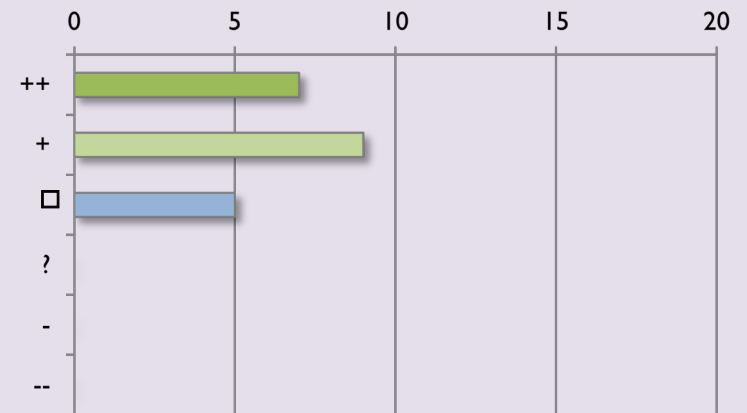
Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Reasonable Alternative	This is the current approach to asking for developer contribution, with requirements based on requirements identified at the time of an application. These requirements could relate to a range of recreation infrastructure and public services facilities that would contribute positively to the SEA Objective.	R	P	++	++	++	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	

**Summary and Conclusions:**

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

**Preferred options at glance:**



**SEA Issue / Topic**

Population and Human Health

**SEA Objective(s):**

8b Support vibrant, safe and healthy communities.

**SEA Sub-Objectives**

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

**Significant Interrelationships**

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

**Assessor(s):**

Dan Harris

**Date of Assessment:**

13/09/2017, 14/09/2017, 15/09/2017 and 19/09/2017.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	The vision's explicit objectives to support the enjoyment of the National Park by everyone, where nature and people thrive together actively contributes towards supporting vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	R	P	++	++	++	
<b>Main Issues – Preferred Options and Reasonable Alternatives</b>							
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Preferred Option	The policy's aim to meet the majority housing need in in the strategic settlements but also to ensure that there is a flexible land supply in the smaller settlements should help deliver the SEA objective's aims to ensure the population and household growth is accommodated in appropriate locations and to ensure a suitable affordable housing stock is available to meet needs, thus supporting vibrant, safe and healthy communities. The concentration of growth in these locations will also help provide easy access to the National Park's main facilities and services.	R	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 1: Over-arching development strategy – Reasonable Alternative	A more dispersed pattern of settlement 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.	R	P	-	-	-	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.
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Preferred Option	The policy will help promote the design of settlements that improve social fabric by removing barriers and creating opportunities for positive interactions and ensure the quality of the built environment complements the high quality natural environment.	R	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 2: Designing great places – Reasonable Alternative	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	R	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Main Issue I – Reasonable alternative.

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	barriers and create opportunities for positive interactions are lost.						
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 3: Impacts and opportunities from the A9 and Highland Main Line Upgrades – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 4: Housing – Preferred Option	By meeting growth and the identified range of needs of the National Park’s communities, the option positively contributes to the meeting the SEA objective,	R	P	++	++	++	
Main issue 4:	Having housing growth exceed the needs	R	P	?	?	?	



Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Housing – Reasonable Alternative	of the National Park’s communities should have the same positive effects as simply meeting them. Not meeting growth could however have a negative effect on well-being as people’s housing needs are not met. The overall effects of the option are therefore uncertain.						
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Preferred Option	Aiming for a higher level of affordable housing provision in areas that are under particular pressure will have significant positive benefits against the SEA objective.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>++</b>	<b>++</b>	<b>++</b>	
Main issue 5: The affordability of housing – Reasonable Alternative	If affordable housing is delivered with a cap of 25% for private developers then it is likely that the total level of affordable housing need will not be met. While the provision of some affordable housing will meet some need it are unlikely to meet it all and therefore the option is not positive as the preferred option.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	
Main issue 6: Economic development – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>□</b>	<b>□</b>	<b>□</b>	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 6: Economic development – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 7: Impacts on Natura designations – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Main issue 8: Planning obligations – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Outcome / Policy	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Preferred Option	Managing the effects of flood risk has positive health and safety benefits.	R	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 9: Flood risk and climate change resilience – Reasonable Alternative	Managing the effects of flood risk has positive health and safety benefits.	R	P	+	+	+	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Preferred Option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Main issue 10: Land management in upland areas – Reasonable Alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	

**Summary and Conclusions:**

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

**Preferred options at glance:**

