

Draft  
Cairngorms National Park Plan  
2012-2017



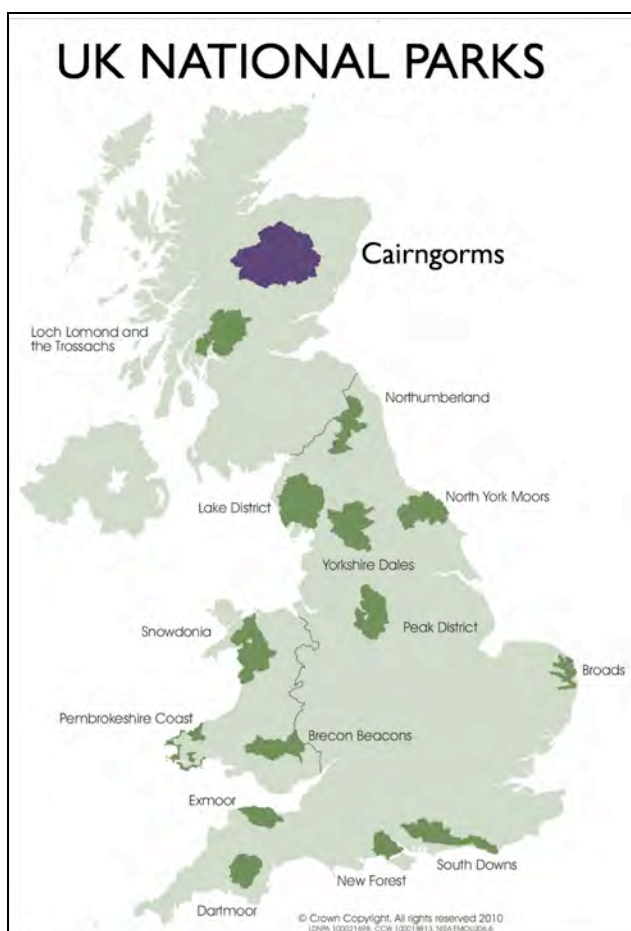
Foreword

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## I Introduction

### National Parks in Scotland

There are two National Parks in Scotland – Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, and the Cairngorms. There are a further ten National Parks in England and three in Wales. New National Park Plans for both Scottish National Parks are currently being developed for the period 2012-17. These build on the successful delivery of the first plans approved in 2007 and are a good opportunity for anyone with an interest in managing Scotland’s National Parks to reflect on our collective experience to date.



A National Park is an internationally recognised brand – throughout the world National Parks represent some of the best landscapes and environments in which people seek enjoyment, exhilaration, relaxation and inspiration. In the

UK National Parks are also places where people live and work.

Scotland’s National Parks are a national asset. Together, they cover approximately 10% of Scotland’s land area and contribute significant benefits at a national scale. They are an internationally recognised part of our tourism economy – places that attract visitors to enjoy some of the best of Scotland. They are places to develop and trial innovative approaches to managing rural Scotland, enhancing landscapes and biodiversity, reconciling competing land use objectives and maintaining thriving rural communities.

### The Aims of Scottish National Parks

The Scottish Parliament designated the Cairngorms and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs as National Parks for three reasons:

- Each area is of outstanding national importance because of its natural and cultural heritage;
- Each area has a distinctive character and coherent identity;
- Designation as a National Park meets the special needs of each area and is the best means of ensuring that the National Park aims are collectively achieved in a co-ordinated way.

It is clear that National Park status means these areas need to be managed differently, to address their special management needs, and in particular that a more co-ordinated approach is required in each area to deliver the aims of National Parks.

While the legislation sets a common framework for National Parks in Scotland, it is clear from the Scottish Parliament’s first discussions on the subject that within that framework, each National Park is expected to be different in its

response to local circumstances – to deliver national benefits while being locally accountable and tailored to local management needs.

There are four aims for Scottish National Parks, set out by the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000:

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

These aims are to be achieved collectively, and in a co-ordinated way. It is their collective delivery, and the management challenges this brings, that lies at the heart of what it means to be a National Park. It is not enough to take each aim in turn, or to trade them off in an attempt to balance each other. What is required in National Parks is an approach that delivers for all four aims together, and that means doing things differently.

At times there will be conflicts in trying to deliver these four aims, and it is in the management of these conflicts that being a National Park should make a difference. The National Parks Act recognises in particular that there may be conflicts between conserving and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage and the other three aims. Where it appears to the National Park Authority that there is such a conflict, the Act requires that greater weight is given to conserving and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage.

The Act recognises that to manage these areas sustainably, the natural and cultural heritage qualities on which designation as a National Park is based, and on which delivery of all four aims ultimately depends, must continue to be conserved and enhanced.

The principle of giving greater weight to conserving and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage where there is a conflict between the aims should not be seen as a last resort, or drawn upon only in extreme cases. Nor, on the other hand, should it be seen as a starting point which gives 'priority' to one aim. Instead it is integral to the way that both National Park Authorities make ongoing decisions about management. It offers a way of reducing or removing conflict in order to reach a point through which all four aims can be delivered.

### **The role of National Park Authorities**

The purpose of a National Park Authority is to ensure that the aims are collectively achieved in a co-ordinated way. National Park Authorities are here to lead the combined efforts of partners in getting the best from Scotland's National Parks. They are hubs for the co-ordinated management of the Park which is delivered by a wide range of public, private and voluntary sector organisations and individuals. In addition National Park Authorities have particular statutory duties as:

- Planning Authorities;
- Outdoor Access Authorities;
- Organisations responsible for preparing National Park Plans.

Since establishment, both National Park Authorities have sought to build the capacity of others to share in the responsibilities and benefits of being in a National Park. This approach is based on an explicit recognition that in each National Park there are some things that the National Park Authority is best

placed to deliver, while there are other things that other organisations in the public, private or voluntary sectors are better placed to deliver. Successful partnership relies on mutual recognition of where the most effective skills and expertise lie and developing a sense of collective ownership for management.

### **The role of other bodies in relation to National Parks**

The model of National Parks established by the Scottish Parliament is one based on collaborative management. By contrast, some other international models place almost all management decisions and functions solely in the hands of a National Park Authority. The Scottish model not only acknowledges the breadth of interests and responsibilities spread amongst the public, private and voluntary sectors, it seeks to build on this in a way that embeds responsibility for National Parks in the organisations and individuals that have direct interests in their day-to-day management. In this way, land managers, businesses, public bodies, local authorities, communities and voluntary organisations all have an opportunity and responsibility to shape and deliver the management of National Parks.

For public bodies, this responsibility is set out explicitly in the National Parks (Scotland) Act

which requires all public bodies whose operations affect a National Park to have regard to the National Park Plan. This emphasises the role and opportunity of National Park Plans as a means to join-up the work of public bodies in a common focus on the needs of people and place in the National Parks and to deliver benefits for the whole of Scotland.

### **Purpose of National Park Plans**

National Park Plans set the direction and framework for all those involved in contributing to the management and success of these special areas. The plans should set clear targets and outcomes to which all relevant public bodies and other partners commit to delivering.

National Parks are an opportunity to deliver public services and policy in a more joined-up way, focused on the needs of people and place, rather than individual organisational remits. Especially at a time of reducing and constrained public finances, the innovation and collaboration needed to manage National Parks can naturally lead to smarter ways of working, more integrated delivery and better value for money. The development and delivery of National Park Plans are the opportunity to ensure we realise this potential.

### **Examples of successful collaboration in the Cairngorms National Park**

***National Parks in the Curriculum for Excellence*** – a partnership between seven Local Authorities, two National Park Authorities and Learning and Teaching Scotland to realise the outdoor learning potential of National Parks for children across Scotland.

***Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust*** – a charitable trust through which a wide range of partners invest in enhancing outdoor access opportunities, leveraging in a total of £XM

***Cairngorms Business Partnership*** – a collaborative private sector organisation combining chamber of commerce and destination management functions offering businesses throughout the Cairngorms National Park a single voice and co-ordinated marketing of the National Park.

***Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group*** – a group bringing together the public, private, voluntary and community interests improving mutual understanding and guiding deer management to balance

**Relationship of National Park Plans to other Plans and Strategies affecting the Park**

National Park Plans provide a framework for the management of the Park as well as a focus for action to deliver changes. Many issues require a more detailed level of planning to establish how best to manage or deliver change.

This is often represented by another plan or strategy covering a particular topic, place or issue. These plans and strategies sit within the context of the National Park Plan. There are other plans and strategies that affect the Park and that are required by law. Many fit within the context of the National Park Plan.

The National Park Plan provides a context for other plans and strategies in the Park:



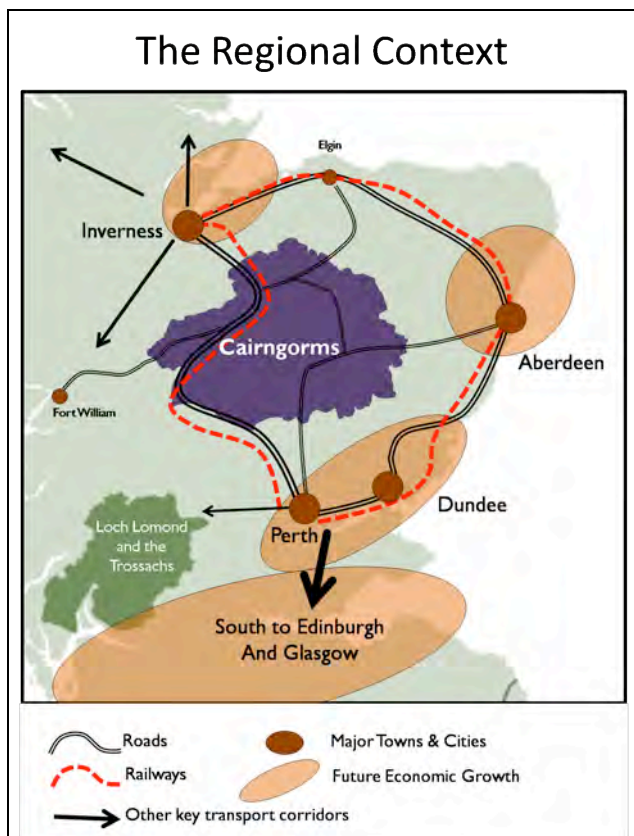
**National Park Plans and the Planning System**

National Park Plans set out the strategic context for development planning in National Parks and are a material consideration in determining planning applications. This draft National Park Plan provides the strategic context and vision for the Local Development Plan as well as explicit direction through the chapter 3 on short term delivery of the Park Plan and chapter 4 on the land use strategy.



## 2 The Cairngorms National Park

The Cairngorms National Park is the UK's largest National Park at 4528 square kilometers, comprising about 6% of Scotland's land area. About 17,000 people live in the Park and a further 1.4 million people visit it each year. The National Park spans the boundaries of five local authority areas: Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire, Angus, and Perth and Kinross, bringing co-ordinated management to a special area otherwise fragmented by administrative boundaries.



The National Park does not exist in isolation, but is an integral part of its surrounding areas. In landscape and biodiversity terms, the National Park is intimately connected with its surrounding areas. In economic terms the National Park is an asset to the wider region and Scotland as a whole, particularly as an internationally recognised tourism destination.

In terms of transport, Scotland's main north-south road and rail routes pass through the Park. Its management therefore needs to consider these cross boundary influences, recognise the wider connections and make the most of the Park as an asset for these regions and Scotland as a whole.

### What makes the Cairngorms National Park special?

We know the National Park is special for its natural heritage. The Park has a remarkable geological heritage; it is home to over a quarter of the UK's rare and threatened species; it includes the most expansive areas of arctic-alpine habitat and semi-native pine forest in the UK; its heather moorlands are of international importance; and it includes the upper catchments of major rivers providing water to significant populations downstream.

We also know it is special for its cultural heritage and recreation opportunities. The area has been and remains central to the culture of Scottish skiing and mountaineering, it is known as a destination for adventure sports and outdoor activity; it has thriving local cultures associated with music and shinty for example; it has some of Scotland's finest examples of planned settlements.

People come to the Cairngorms National Park to enjoy it – for inspiration, relaxation, exhilaration or just quiet appreciation. The way people experience, enjoy and connect to the National Park is integral to the way in which we care for it. The Scottish Parliament designated the Cairngorms as a National Park because of the special qualities that underpin this appeal for people across Scotland and beyond.

Part of what makes the Cairngorms National Park special is that it is a National Park with people living and working in it. People manage

the Park, create its vibrant communities, and provide many of the opportunities and services that visitors to the Park enjoy.

The special qualities combine to create the sense of a special place with a Cairngorms identity. They evoke a response that shapes the way people experience and feel about the place. While everyone brings their own perceptions and experience, there are some special qualities that are commonly identified. These relate in particular to the scale and combination of landscape features together with the visual, cultural and recreational experience of the landscape.

The National Park Plan should describe these special qualities as a reference point for other policies and plans.

We think the special qualities of the Cairngorms can be summarised in the four key themes of the Cairngorms National Park Interpretation Guidance 'Sharing the Stories of the Cairngorms':

**Key Theme 1:** The huge granite mountains of the Cairngorms National Park are unique. Their influence has shaped the natural heritage, people, landscapes and culture around them.

**Key Theme 2:** The Cairngorms National Park is made up of a unique mosaic of habitats of very high quality, and exceptional size and scale. It is a stronghold for British wildlife, including many of the UK's rare and endangered species, and those at the limit of their range.

**Key Theme 3:** The Park is a rich cultural landscape. Separated by the great bulk of the mountains, different areas have their own distinct identity and cultural traditions, but they share deep connections to the same environments. The Park is a place of 'Mountain folk' and 'Forest folk'.

**Key Theme 4:** The Park is a place with a sense of wildness and space at its heart, and it inspires passion both in those who live here and those who visit.

Further work in a 2010 study identifies the special landscape qualities of the Cairngorms National Park as follows:

- Magnificent mountains towering over moorland, forest and strath;
- Vastness of space, scale and height;
- Strong juxtaposition of contrasting landscapes;
- A landscape of layers, from inhabited strath to remote, uninhabited upland;
- The harmony of complicated curves;
- Landscapes both cultural and natural.

These special qualities are described in Table X.

**Question 1**

*What makes the National Park Special to you?*

**Question 2**

*Do you agree with these descriptions of the special qualities?*

**Question 3**

*Are there other special qualities you think should be explicitly identified in the National Park Plan?*

**Table X Special Landscape Qualities of the Cairngorms National Park**

<b>The Mountains and Plateaux</b>	<p>The unifying presence of the central mountains</p> <p>An imposing massif of strong dramatic character</p> <p>The unique plateaux of vast scale, distinctive landforms and exposed boulder-strewn high ground</p> <p>The surrounding hills</p> <p>The drama of deep corries</p> <p>Exceptional glacial landforms</p> <p>Snowscapes</p>
<b>Moorlands</b>	<p>Extensive moorland, linking the farmland, woodland and the high tops</p> <p>A patchwork of muirburn</p>
<b>Glens and Straths</b>	<p>Steep glens and high passes</p> <p>Broad farmed straths</p> <p>Renowned rivers</p> <p>Beautiful lochs</p>
<b>Trees, Woods and Forests</b>	<p>Dark and venerable pine forest</p> <p>Light and airy birch woods</p> <p>Parkland and policy woodlands</p> <p>Long association with forestry</p>
<b>Wildlife and Nature</b>	<p>Dominance of natural landforms</p> <p>Extensive tracts of natural vegetation</p> <p>Association with iconic animals</p> <p>Wildness</p>
<b>Visual and Sensory Qualities</b>	<p>Layers of receding ridge lines</p> <p>Grand panoramas and framed views</p> <p>A landscape of many colours</p> <p>Dark skies</p> <p>Attractive and contrasting textures</p> <p>The dominance of natural sounds</p>
<b>Culture and History</b>	<p>Distinctive planned towns</p> <p>Vernacular stone buildings</p> <p>Dramatic historical routes</p> <p>The wistfulness of abandoned settlements</p> <p>Focal cultural landmarks of castles, distilleries and bridges</p> <p>The Royal connection</p>
<b>Recreation</b>	<p>A landscape of opportunities</p> <p>Spirituality</p>

Source: The Special Landscape Qualities of the Cairngorms National Park; Scottish Natural Heritage; Commissioned Report No. 375

### 3 Vision and Strategic Objectives

#### Vision

Our time frame for the vision in the first National Park Plan was 25 years to 2030. However, we value the place we call the Cairngorms National Park as a result of hundreds, thousands and even millions of years of history. It will continue to be here far beyond 2030 and our thinking should look generations ahead.

We want the National Park Plan's Vision to be simple and compelling. We think the Vision can be made clearer and stronger by changing it to:

**An outstanding National Park, enjoyed and valued by everyone, where nature and people thrive together**

#### Strategic Objectives

We propose three Strategic Objectives to provide a clear direction for delivery in the Park over the next five years. We have identified three objectives that we think address the most significant issues facing the Park and are the most important to address during this Plan period.

**1. To ensure the Cairngorms National Park is a special place where the natural and cultural heritage is conserved and enhanced**

**2. To develop a sustainable economy that supports thriving and resilient business and communities**

**3. To ensure the Cairngorms National Park delivers an outstanding visitor experience and is an international benchmark for sustainable tourism**

#### What progress have we made so far?

The first National Park Plan (2007) set out 23 long term outcomes to which that plan and subsequent plans could work towards. They are set out below for information.

A natural starting point for planning the next five years is to assess our progress towards these outcomes over the past five years. We think the outcomes continue to provide a comprehensive and relevant framework for managing the Park. However, we also think that they could be condensed and updated to provide a shorter list and still convey the same sense of direction.

#### Question 4

*Do you think the long term outcomes should be updated and condensed? If so, how?*

#### The Long Term Outcomes of the first National Park Plan

##### A Special Place

1. The distinct character of the Cairngorms **landscape** and its diverse mix of mountains, straths, glens, forests and farmland will be conserved and enhanced, shaped by natural processes and positive management.
2. The sense of **wildness**, particularly in the high montane areas, will be enhanced and renowned as a particular special quality of the area that continues to be enjoyed by many.
3. The Park will continue to have a rich **biodiversity** which will be better connected and able to adapt to a changing climate. Areas of national and international importance will be exemplars of good management, set within a broader network of well managed habitats.
4. The important **geodiversity** record in the Park will be widely recognised and will be well managed and conserved.

5. There will continue to be an **active and productive land management** sector that conserves and enhances the special qualities and is a significant economic asset.
6. The **built heritage** of the Park will be safeguarded and new buildings will complement or enhance their setting, including the settlement pattern and character.
7. The **archaeological evidence and material records** of previous generations will be well recorded and understood, actively cared for and safeguarded.
8. The **cultures and traditions** associated with the people and communities of the Park will be well recognised and continue to evolve as part of a living culture that secures tomorrow's cultural heritage.

### A Sustainable Economy

9. There will be **thriving and sustainable communities** throughout the Park that are confident to share their ideas, experience and culture in actively shaping their own future and enjoying a sense of ownership of the National Park.
10. There will be a wide range of opportunities for people in the National Park to develop their **skills and employment options** that will meet the needs of individuals and businesses.
11. The outstanding environment of the Park will stimulate economic activity, **businesses will thrive**, and the Park will be an economic asset to the wider regional economy.
12. Delivering **economic, social and environmental sustainability** will be an integral part of every business. Businesses will manage their impacts to ensure a positive contribution to the area's communities, environment and special qualities.
13. People will be able to access **housing** that meets their needs through rent or purchase. Housing of all types will be of good quality and new development will implement sustainable design principles.
14. The National Park will be a leader in **sustainable rural transport**. Infrastructure and provision will meet the needs of residents, businesses and visitors and strengthen the regional interaction of the Park. Barriers to transport and dependence on private car use will have reduced, helping to facilitate sustainable development.
15. There will be a **vibrant renewable energy, recycling and waste sector** in the National Park together with greater awareness and action by individuals, businesses and organisations. This will result in more sustainable patterns of use, supply and management of energy, water and waste.

### An Outstanding Visitor Experience

16. The Cairngorms National Park will be **renowned** in Scotland and internationally and will make a significant positive contribution to Scotland's national identity.
17. The Cairngorms National Park will be an internationally recognized **world class sustainable tourism destination** that consistently exceeds residents' and visitors' expectations in terms of quality of environment, services and experience.
18. There will be an excellent and integrated network of routes to enjoy **outdoor access** across the Park that meets the needs of residents and visitors.
19. There will be an even higher quality and increased range of **outdoor recreation** activities available and accessible to a wider range of people of all abilities to enjoy the Park.
20. There will be a high level of understanding and widespread practice of **responsible behaviour** in the Cairngorms. Outdoor access will be enjoyed and managed as an integral part of a broader recreational experience and in ways that promote enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park while conserving them.
21. **Interpretation** of the National Park will be of an internationally high standard revealing the significance and meaning of the National Park and its special qualities, helping people to understand and enjoy the area.
22. The Park will be a significant **national learning resource** that raises understanding of the special qualities of the area and sustainable development, while also contributing to national objectives.
23. Key gaps in **knowledge** will have been addressed, and the National Park will lead the way in research on issues such as sustainable development and rural tourism. Information will be widely accessible and contribute fully to the knowledge economy of the region and Scotland.

The following sections give a summary of progress to date in the themes associated with each strategic objective.

***To ensure the Cairngorms National Park is a special place where the natural and cultural heritage is conserved and enhanced***

The special qualities of the National Park are the basis for its designation and their conservation and enhancement underpins delivery of all four aims of the National Park.

**Over the period of the first National Park Plan:**

- The National Park has become the focus for a range of habitat and species projects including the Scottish wildcat, rare plants, red squirrels, water voles, wetlands and waders, aspen, raptors, black grouse, capercaillie, riparian woodlands.
- The National Park has become focus for a range of land management and farming projects including monitor farms, green farms, farmers guide to climate change, animal health initiatives.
- The Land Based-Business Training Programme has delivered training to over 200 businesses and 4800 individuals.
- Active catchment management groups have developed and grown on the Rivers Spey, Dee and South Esk, now providing effective mechanisms to bring together land use interests and manage the water resource, and associated land use issues, on a big enough scale.
- A partnership approach between the public, private and voluntary sectors has developed, recognising the key role that land owners and managers play in shaping the special

qualities of the Park. Initiatives such as Wildlife Estates Scotland, being piloted in the Cairngorms National Park demonstrate this partnership and the opportunity the National Park offers for innovation.

- Research and policy to conserve and enhance the special qualities has been implemented including:
  - An analysis of the special landscape qualities of the National Park
  - Assessing and mapping the wildness qualities of the National Park
  - Adoption of supplementary planning guidance on natural heritage and wildness
  - Review of the Cairngorms Forest and Woodland Framework
  - Completion of the Cairngorms Deer Framework
  - New Landscape Character Assessment
  - Cultural Heritage Audit
  - Habitat network mapping
- Effective networks for all those with an interest in land management to exchange information, discuss issues and provide advice have been established including the Cairngorms Farmers Forum, the Cairngorms Land Management Forum and the Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group.
- A Cairngorms Biological Recording System has been established, bringing together over 100,000 new records of species presence and delivering courses on species identification .
- Over 30 community heritage projects have been supported, creating more opportunities for communities to share their experience in conserving, promoting and enjoying their local heritage.

***To develop a sustainable economy that supports thriving and resilient business and communities***

Communities and business in the Park face real challenges over the coming years as Scotland's economy adjusts to a lower carbon future. Both communities and businesses in the Park rely on the local and wider economy for jobs, homes, people and products, and the economy of the Park is closely linked to its natural resources and the way we appreciate them as special qualities.

Over the period of the first National Park Plan:

- Businesses have increasingly worked together to promote the Park and its special places as a destination. The Cairngorms Business Partnership has evolved as strong focus for the private sector and is working to market the Park as a destination for visitors from all over the world.
- The Cairngorms Business Partnership has piloted and developed new technology to help visitors find out about products and services in the Park. People can now download an 'i-phone app' that provides up to date information from businesses and helps people decide on what and when to visit – by providing information about snow sports conditions for example.
- The Cairngorms National Park Brand has been established and used to help market businesses ranging from the 'Cairngorms Hostels' to 'Cairngorms Farmers' Market' in the Park. 21% of businesses in the Park now use the brand.
- The Cairngorms Local Action Group has invested £2.5 million through the LEADER programme in projects that support communities and businesses in the Park.
- Hundreds of people and land based businesses in the Park have been supported by training courses in many topics that help them deliver public benefits in the Park.
- Woodfuel has developed as a low carbon heat source in the Park, with information for consumers and suppliers of products. A local network of woodfuel products and the businesses that supply and maintain the woodfuel boilers and stoves is developing.
- The Cairngorms "Food for Life" programme is developing local food products and networks to help people eat local food and strengthen supply chains.
- Communities throughout the Park have been helped through the "Our Community – A Way Forward" initiative to produce their own community needs surveys and develop action plans to address their needs. Communities continue to be supported in developing their plans further, engaging the whole community in planning further into the future, and building their skills, resources and ability to work with public agencies to improve services. An electric vehicle was used by the Badenoch and Strathspey Community Transport Company to help highlight and adapt to the effects of climate change.
- More than 250 affordable houses have been built in the Park in towns, villages and countryside, through both public funding as well as private contributions from house builders and landowners.
- Research to find out more about the characteristics of the economy and the population of the Cairngorms and the

different sectors within it was carried out including :

- The Economic and Social Health of the Park study
- The Cairngorms Business Barometer continues to provide feedback on business confidence

***To ensure the Cairngorms National Park delivers an outstanding visitor experience and is an international benchmark for sustainable tourism***

The Cairngorms National Park is already great place to visit and to enjoy. The high quality opportunities, products, facilities, and services mean that most people enjoy their visit to the National Park. The Cairngorms National Park has a Sustainable Tourism Strategy since 2005 and was the first UK National Park to gain the Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas. A revised Sustainable Tourism Strategy was prepared in 2010 and provides the framework for future development of sustainable tourism in the National Park.

Over the period of the first National Park Plan:

- More people have become aware of the Cairngorms National Park and the expectations of visitors have increased.
- The National Park Brand has been managed to help reinforce the core values and associations with the National Park by visitors and businesses; 82% of visitors know they are in a National Park.
- The National Park has had a higher profile in the media, with stories about its special qualities and the opportunities to enjoy them. In 2010, the Adventure Travel World Summit was held in Aviemore, raising the profile of the Park across the world.

Following the world summit, the Cairngorms National Park was listed amongst the top 20 places to visit in 2011 by National Geographic Magazine.

- There has been significant investment by the private and public sector in visitor facilities and services. Visitor centres have been updated and branded with National Park material. Interpretation guidance has been established and used, helping to inform National Park information and orientation materials, and helping businesses provide tailored interpretation and local information.
- Outdoor access recreation opportunities have been improved for all abilities through the identification of core paths, a £2M programme of path improvement and maintenance. Signage and information about opportunities has also been strengthened.
- The Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust has been established, building on the successful record of the Upper Deeside Access Trust.
- A very wide range of tourism-related businesses and communities have been supported through training programmes and courses.
- 10,000 outdoor learning opportunities have been delivered through the John Muir Award; National Parks are better connected to the Curriculum for Excellence as outdoor learning opportunities.

**Challenges we faced over the past 5 years**

Developing and implementing a first National Park Plan for a new Scottish National Park was always going to present challenges. Since 2003, when the Cairngorms National Park was established, there has been a new designation, new legislation and new National Park



Authority and new relationships to build between people and organizations in the Park.

There are inevitably tensions as people and organizations find their feet, learn to trust each other, and work together developing partnerships. Many organizations and individuals have an interest in the Cairngorms National Park and help manage the Park. That's one of the reasons why the National Park was established – to improve the coordination of management across the many administrative and operational boundaries that cover the Cairngorms.

Here are some of the challenges that influenced the delivery of the current National Park Plan:

- Continued decline in the health of some rare and threatened species and habitats.
- The complexity of the Scotland Rural Development Programme and the challenges of making a new national support scheme work for a National Park.
- Coordination of public sector activity in the Park and establishing the Park as the visitor and customer focus that goes across organizational remits.
- Dealing with the direct economic effects of the credit crunch and with the reduced public sector funding.
- Improving access to housing for people earning typical wages in the Park.

### **Challenges we will face to 2017**

We know many of the challenges we will face over the life of the Next National Park Plan. Some of the main issues and challenges will be:

- The collective challenge of reduced public spending. This affects both what the public sector can do itself and what it pays the private and voluntary sector to do.
- The real economic effects of transition to a low carbon economy in Scotland where oil and gas costs are higher, making life in rural and remote communities more difficult.
- Diversifying the economy and increasing the profitability of business sectors so that earnings in the Park increase
- Developing an IT and communications infrastructure that provides high speed broadband and mobile communications to meet business, visitor and community needs
- Funding for community development and support will be less easily accessed and may become available as loans. Communities will need to develop more sources of income to maintain and develop facilities.
- The increased likelihood of sudden and extreme weather events as a result of climate change and the effects they may lead to such as flooding or landslides.
- Successfully managing and mitigating the pressures on rare and threatened species and habitats brought about by a changing climate, or by combinations of factors we do not yet understand.



## 4 What should our focus be for 2012-2017?

The first National Park Plan made lot of progress in working towards the Vision for the National Park. We want the second plan to build on that success by setting clear priorities for work and achievable outcomes. We also want it to reflect the collective experience and learning by partners of how to work together most effectively in the Park.

### 5 Year Outcomes for the Park

This section of the Draft National Park Plan sets out what we think the organisations who deliver the National Park Plan should focus their work on over the next five years to make further progress towards the Vision. The 5 year outcomes are the way we will achieve our strategic objectives and deliver the Scottish National Outcomes.

Our 10 proposed 5-Year Outcomes are:

<b>Draft 5 Year Outcomes for the Park</b>	
1.	<i>The quality and connectivity of habitats will have improved, enhancing the landscape at a Park scale</i>
2.	<i>The species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important will be in better conservation status in the Park</i>
3.	<i>The qualities of wildness in the Park will be greater than in 2010</i>
4.	<i>Settlements and built development will retain and enhance the distinct sense of place and identity within the landscapes of the Park</i>
5.	<i>There will be a better targeted programme of advice and support for land managers in the Park that delivers the National Park Plan</i>
6.	<i>The economy of the Park will have grown and diversified, drawing on Park's special qualities</i>
7.	<i>Business and communities will be successfully adapting to a low carbon economy</i>
8.	<i>The Park's communities will be more empowered and able to develop their own models of sustainability</i>
9.	<i>The Park's recreation opportunities will have improved the health and enjoyment of residents and visitors</i>
10.	<i>More people will learn about, enjoy, and help to conserve and enhance the special natural and cultural qualities of the Park</i>

These are our suggestions based on discussions with public agencies, local communities, voluntary sector organisations and business so far. We want the outcomes to be ambitious and to make real changes in the Park, and to be realistic about what the resources available to different organisations can achieve. We hope you agree with them, but you may think other outcomes are more important, or know of better ways of achieving them. We particularly want to know what you and your organisation can do to achieve them. We have posed questions to help you respond on the issues that we need feedback on and that will help us prepare the final National Park Plan.

#### **Question 5**

*Do you agree this set of outcomes provides the right focus for the next five years? If not, what else is more important?*

#### **Question 6**

*Which are the most important outcomes to you?*

The National Park Plan provides co-ordination in managing the Park. One of the lessons learnt from delivering the first National Park Plan was that 'how' we do things changes over time as we learn and circumstances change. We want this Park Plan to provide a strong framework to focus work and draw together the best people to deliver it, but we don't want to be prescriptive about how the work is done. For that reason, we have proposed what we think the appropriate work programmes and delivery mechanisms should be, and who should be involved, but have not yet detailed exactly how the outcomes should be delivered. That sort of planning is best done by the relevant partners together and should be able to adapt over time.

The following sections set out in more detail what we want each outcome to achieve, the programmes or packages of work we think are needed to achieve them, and who's most important to planning and delivering that work.

### Monitoring our Progress

We will all want to know how well we are doing at achieving our outcomes. The simplest way of doing that is to identify indicators of progress and targets to aim towards.

We don't expect indicators to tell us everything about each outcome. Nor do we want the indicators to be so difficult to measure that they distract from working to achieve the outcomes. We want one or two relevant and easily recorded measures that will be a helpful guide to our work. We want our targets to be ambitious but achievable. They should help motivate us and demonstrate real changes or achievements.

Each outcome has some suggestions of possible indicators and targets. Many of you who will respond to the draft National Park Plan have

expertise in specialist areas and access to useful data or suitable indicators. We have asked a question about indicators at each 5 Year outcome. If you can provide better data for indicators of targets please let us know by answering those questions.

### Delivering for Scotland

Our draft 5 Year Outcomes are also intended to help deliver the Scottish Government's National Outcomes. The 15 National Outcomes set by the Scottish Government describe what the Government wants to achieve in Scotland. They provide the link through which public bodies and others can show how their work to manage the National Park is delivering the wider ambitions for Scotland.

Table 3.1 summarises where the proposed 5 Year outcomes will make a significant contribution to National Outcomes. We think the National Park Plan makes a significant contribution to twelve out of the fifteen outcomes (not numbers 2, 9 and 15).

Table 3.1 The contribution of our draft 5 Year Outcomes to Scottish National Outcomes		Draft 5 Year Outcomes									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No	National Outcomes										
1	<i>We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.</i>										
2	<i>We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger</i>										
3	<i>We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people</i>										
4	<i>We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need</i>										
5	<i>We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation</i>										
6	<i>We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.</i>										
7	<i>Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens</i>										
8	<i>We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations</i>										
9	<i>Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed</i>										

<b>10</b>	<b><i>We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity</i></b>	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
<b>11</b>	<b><i>We live longer, healthier lives</i></b>	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
<b>12</b>	<b><i>We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production</i></b>	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
<b>13</b>	<b><i>We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.</i></b>	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
<b>14</b>	<b><i>Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs</i></b>	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
<b>15</b>	<b><i>We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk</i></b>													

**5 Year Outcome 1**

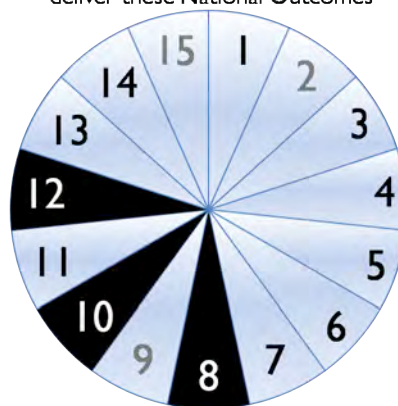
***The quality and connectivity of habitats will have improved, enhancing the landscape at a Park scale***

The Park has an outstanding patchwork of habitats that support many important species. It's one of the reasons the Park is a special place. Many of the best examples are designated sites with particular management to conserve them. However, many habitats and species would do better if there were larger areas and better connection between them. This outcome is intended to focus work to 2017 on establishing a few significant enhancements to habitats in the Cairngorms National Park.

In order to achieve changes that will make a real difference, we think the proactive focus should be on two habitats in particular. Woodlands and wetlands are two of the most diverse habitats in the Park, supporting some of the Parks rarest and most threatened species. They also play an important role in helping the Park and its species adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. Woodland, together

with peatland, is a very significant carbon store for Scotland. It helps regulate local climate by giving shelter and providing shade, and helps prevent erosion of soils. Wetlands play a vital role in managing flood risk by storing water and slowing its flow downstream. They also help maintain water quality by catching pollutants and other material in the water.

This 5 Year Outcome would help deliver these National Outcomes



**Here are some of the benefits we think it would bring by 2017:**

- There will be more of some of the most valuable habitats – particularly woodland and wetlands – and they will be better connected with similar areas
- Many of the UK’s rarest and threatened species that rely on those habitats will be better able to adapt to changes in climate
- Increased wetland and floodplain habitat will reduce some of the risks of sudden flooding
- More estates and land management units will plan across their boundaries , further improving connectivity of habitats and the ability of the species which rely on them to do well
- The landscape experience and views will be enhanced
- Increased carbon storage in woodland
- Better understanding of ecosystems in the Park

**Here’s what we think should be done to achieve it:**

What's needed to deliver this outcome?	What packages of work could deliver it	Who has the expertise and resources to make it happen?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased native woodland establishment and forest cover</li> <li>Management to improve the quality of native woods and increase diversity of species</li> <li>Increased natural flood management through creation and management of wetlands</li> <li>Maintenance of an effective moorland network</li> <li>More estates demonstrating successful management for biodiversity</li> <li>Increased management planning across estate boundaries</li> <li>Better understanding of ecosystems and the links between them</li> <li>Support and advice for land managers to be tailored to the needs of the National Park</li> <li>Greater engagement in, awareness and understanding of the need for and implications of habitat quality and connectivity improvements by the public</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape scale habitat enhancement programme that identifies opportunities for woodland and wetland expansion and connection for habitat improvement, species conservation and landscape character benefits</li> <li>Further development of Catchment Management Partnerships</li> <li>Delivery of the Cairngorms Deer Framework</li> <li>Targeted and proactive advice and support for land managers</li> <li>Communication, awareness raising and engagement to help public to see benefits of improvement to habitat quality and connectivity and understand the role of land management in achieving it</li> </ol>	<p>CNPA, SNH, FC, SEPA, SLE, RSPB, NTS, Local Land Managers and Communities</p> <p>Catchment Management Partnerships</p> <p>CDAG, CNPA, SNH, FC, SLE</p> <p>SEARS, SLE, NFUS</p> <p>LBAP, CNPA, SNH, RSPB, NTS SLE, NFUS</p>

**Our suggested indicators and targets for Outcome 1:**

Indicator	Target for 2017
Increase in area of woodland in the Park	Increase of 5%
Increase in area of active floodplain	Increase of 5%

**Question 7**

**A**

*Do you agree that 5 Year Outcome 1 is an appropriate one for this National Park Plan to 2017?*

<b>Yes</b>		
<b>No</b>		
<b>Why?</b>		

**B**

Do you agree that the packages of work identified for this 5 Year Outcome would deliver it?

Yes

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

No

Why?

<input type="text"/>
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**C**

Are there any **better** packages of work that would deliver the outcome?

Yes

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

No

Why?

<input type="text"/>
----------------------

**D**

What can your organization do to deliver the outcome? Eg provide leadership and coordination, provide skills and advice, provide money

**E**

Do you agree with the indicators and targets suggested for this outcome?

Yes

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

No

Why?

<input type="text"/>
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**F**

Can you tell us about better indicators or more appropriate targets?

**G**

Can you provide data for better indicators?



**5 Year Outcome 2**

**The species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important will be in better conservation status in the Park**

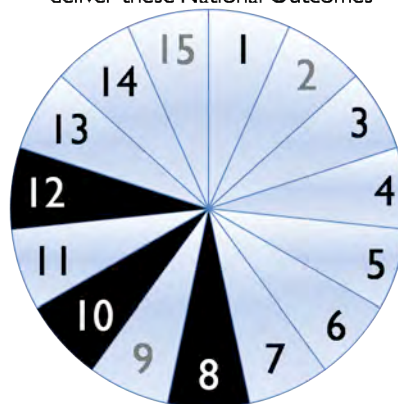
The Cairngorms National Park is internationally important for some species and they are what make it a special place for many people. Many species will benefit from the habitat improvements that will be achieved through 5 Year Outcome 1.

This outcome adds to it by targeting the few UK critically rare or threatened species for which the Cairngorms is important and where additional action, protection or support is required. In some places, this will build on the particular management of designated sites. In others it requires action to deal with specific threats to species.

One of the issues of management for rare and threatened species is that the techniques used or actions needed sometimes affect the ways in which people expect to work in or enjoy the

Park. A further part of this outcome will be increasing people’s understanding of the special needs of some of these vulnerable species so that management to help them is supported by the people who live, work and visit the Park.

This 5 Year Outcome would help deliver these National Outcomes



**Here are some of the benefits we think it would bring by 2017:**

- Some of the UK’s rarest and threatened species for which the Cairngorms is important, for example wildcat, breeding waders, capercaillie, raptors will do better
- There will be fewer cases of wildlife crime
- There will be effective management of invasive non-native species
- Better understanding by the public of the importance and sensitivity of rare and threatened species and support for management.

**Here’s what we think should be done to achieve it:**

What’s needed to deliver this outcome?	What packages of work could deliver it	Who has the expertise and resources to make it happen?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved habitat quality and connectivity at a landscape scale across estate boundaries</li> <li>• A revised Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan that identifies the species for which action</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local Biodiversity Plan and Partnership review to provide focus for delivery</li> <li>2. Wildlife crime reduction partnership</li> </ol>	<p>LBAP Partnership</p> <p>SG &amp; SEARS, Police Forces, CNPA, SLE,</p>

What's needed to deliver this outcome?	What packages of work could deliver it	Who has the expertise and resources to make it happen?
<p>is needed most and the actions to improve their conservation status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reduction in wildlife crime</li> <li>• More estates demonstrating successful management for biodiversity</li> <li>• Increased management planning across estate boundaries</li> <li>• Better understanding of ecosystems and the links between them</li> <li>• Support and advice for land managers to be tailored to the needs of the National Park</li> <li>• Better understanding, communication and sharing of good practice in managing recreation impacts on sensitive species</li> <li>• Greater engagement in, awareness and understanding of the needs of rare and threatened CNP species by the public</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Invasive non-native species programme, reducing the spread and removing the source of invasive non-native species</li> <li>4. Targeted and proactive advice and support for land managers to deliver conservation</li> <li>5. Communication, awareness raising and engagement to involve and help public to see benefits of special management for rare and threatened CNP species</li> </ol>	<p>SGA</p> <p>LBAP, SEARS</p> <p>SEARS, SLE, NFUS</p> <p>LBAP, CNPA, SNH, RSPB, NTS, SLE, NFUS</p>

**Our suggested indicators and targets for Outcome 2:**

Indicator	Target for 2017
Active conservation projects for priority LBAP species	100% of priority species
Estates actively participating in level 2 of the Wildlife Estates Scotland initiative	50% of eligible estates

**Question 8**

A

*Do you agree that 5 Year Outcome 2 is an appropriate one for this National Park Plan to 2017?*

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Why?</b>	<input type="text"/>	

**B**

Do you agree that the packages of work identified for this 5 Year Outcome would deliver it?

Yes

No

Why?

**C**

Are there any **better** packages of work that would deliver the outcome?

Yes

No

Why?

**D**

What can your organization do to deliver the outcome? Eg provide leadership and coordination, provide skills and advice, provide money

**E**

Do you agree with the indicators and targets suggested for this outcome?

Yes

No

Why?

**F**

Can you tell us about better indicators or more appropriate targets?

**G**

Can you provide data for better indicators?

**5 Year Outcome 3**

***The qualities of wildness in the Park will be greater than in 2010***

One of the things that makes the Park a special place is the experience of wildness within it. It is a special quality of the Park that is under threat across Scotland. That means conserving and enhancing what we already value about it, as well as seeking opportunities to enhance wildness is important in the Cairngorms.

cumulative changes that would significantly change its setting and character. The second part is about managing places in ways that maintain or enhance the qualities of wildness; building on the hundreds of years of management that have created the Park we experience today.

The most significant threats to wildness are from inappropriate development, sometimes from hill tracks and increasingly as a result of wind farm developments that change the landscape, the setting and views to and from the National Park.

This outcome is intended to make sure the Cairngorms National Park continues to be a place where people can experience wildness. There are two distinct parts to delivering the outcome. The first part is about protecting the Park from dramatic or incremental and



**Here are some of the benefits we think it would bring by 2017:**

- The Cairngorms National Park will remain an important and accessible place for people to experience wildness
- The Cairngorms National Park will remain an attractive tourism destination with a distinct brand identity known for its wildness
- By maintaining wildness qualities, a range of other biodiversity, landscape and recreation benefits will be delivered.

**Here's what we think should be done to achieve it:**

What's needed to deliver this outcome?	What packages of work could deliver it	Who has the expertise and resources to make it happen?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inappropriate development that would significantly reduce the qualities of wildness experienced in the Park will not happen</li> <li>• The Park will continue to have a</li> </ul>	<p>1. Landscape scale habitat enhancement programme that identifies opportunities for woodland and wetland expansion and connection for habitat improvement, species</p>	<p>CNPA, SNH, FC, SEPA, SLE, RSPB, NTS, Local Land Managers and</p>

What's needed to deliver this outcome?	What packages of work could deliver it	Who has the expertise and resources to make it happen?
<p>diverse range of habitats, species and landscapes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land management will continue to deliver multiple public benefits</li> <li>• Active management of infrastructure in remote places to minimize unnecessary intrusion, including the removal of redundant or abandoned infrastructure</li> <li>• Land managers will all follow best practice guidance on the design and maintenance of hill tracks</li> <li>• People will continue to be able to experience wildness throughout the Park</li> </ul>	<p>conservation and landscape character benefits</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Protection of the Park's special qualities and wildness from inappropriate development in or outside the Park through the Local Development Plan and development management</li> <li>3. 'Quality in Design' programme that demonstrates good practice in the design of development and of habitat management such as woodland creation – reinforcing or improving some of the qualities of wildness</li> <li>4. A programme of information, interpretation and experiences that celebrate habitat expansion and and the sense of wildness in the Park.</li> </ol>	<p>Communities</p> <p>SG, CNPA, LAs, SNH, CBP</p> <p>CNPA, SNH, RSPB, NTS, SLE, A&amp;DS</p> <p>CNPA, SNH, RSPAB, NTS, JMT, SRPBA</p>

**Our suggested indicators and targets for Outcome 3:**

Indicator	Target for 2017
Increase in qualities of wildness in the Park	10% increase in area characterised as high or medium wildness

**Question 9**

**A**

*Do you agree that 5 Year Outcome 3 is an appropriate one for this National Park Plan to 2017?*

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Why?</b>	<input type="text"/>	

**B**

*Do you agree that the packages of work identified for this 5 Year Outcome would deliver it?*

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Why?**

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**C**

Are there any **better** packages of work that would deliver the outcome?

**Yes**

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**No**

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**Why?**

--

**D**

What can your organization do to deliver the outcome? Eg provide leadership and coordination, provide skills and advice, provide money

**E**

Do you agree with the indicators and targets suggested for this outcome?

**Yes**

--

**No**

--

**Why?**

--

**F**

Can you tell us about better indicators or more appropriate targets?

**G**

Can you provide data for better indicators?

### 5 Year Outcome 4

#### **Settlements and built development will retain and enhance the distinct sense of place and identity within the landscapes of the Park**

The distinct character and identity of the Cairngorms National Park is one of the things that makes it a special place. This is reflected in the National Park designation and the way the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classifies Scottish National Parks as a category 5 protected area where: *“where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value: and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values”*.

The basic structure of the landscape; the mountains and valleys, is formed by the geology of the Park and changes slowly over time. For as long as people have lived in the Park, they have left impressions on the landscape and evidence of their ways of life. The way that we use, manage and live in the land continues to influence the colours, textures and structures in the wider landscape.

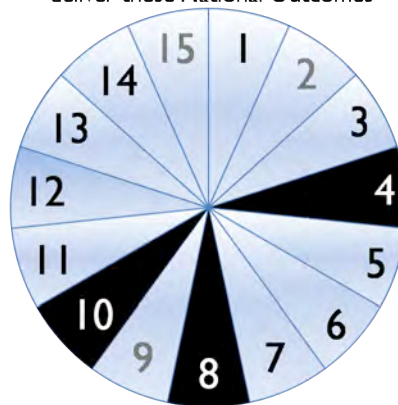
Many of the most obvious stamps of people in the landscape come through our built development and the settlements where most people live. The settlements contribute to our sense of place and to the quality of life for those who live in and visit them. Built development elsewhere in the countryside can either

enhance or detract from the quality of landscape depending on its design and siting.

Managing changes in the landscape of the countryside and of our settlements is important in order to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the Park. In practice, this means making the most of opportunities to conserve and enhance the distinctive characteristics that we like and avoiding changes that would erode or remove them.

This outcome is intended to focus work on managing changes in the built environment and enhancing the settlements of the Park and its wider landscape. It is closely linked to our appreciation and enjoyment of the outstanding natural and cultural heritage of the Park.

This 5 Year Outcome would help deliver these National Outcomes



#### **What benefits would it bring by 2017**

- Settlements of the Park will continue to be attractive and well-functioning places to live and work
- The distinctive character of our settlements will be protected and enhanced giving a sense of place for residents and visitors
- The public spaces in and around settlements will be appealing and well used community spaces, supporting the environment on which local businesses depend
- The landscape of the Park will continue to have a distinct Cairngorms identity

What's needed to deliver this outcome?	What packages of work could deliver it	Who has the expertise and resources to make it happen?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New development is designed and sited in ways that retain and enhance the sense of place and Cairngorms identity</li> <li>Public space in settlements is well designed and maintained</li> <li>Conservation areas in towns and villages are effectively conserved</li> <li>Opportunities to enhance existing streetscapes are identified</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Quality in Design' programme that demonstrates good practice and innovation in the design of development</li> <li>Proactive guidance for new development in location and siting through the Local Development Plan</li> </ol>	<p>CNPA, LAs, A&amp;DS</p> <p>CNPA</p>

**Our suggested indicators and targets for Outcome 4:**

Indicator	Target for 2017

**Question 10**

**A**

*Do you agree that 5 Year Outcome 4 is an appropriate one for this National Park Plan to 2017?*

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Why?</b>	<input type="text"/>

**B**

*Do you agree that the packages of work identified for this 5 Year Outcome would deliver it?*

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Why?</b>	<input type="text"/>

**C**

*Are there any **better** packages of work that would deliver the outcome?*

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Why?</b>	<input type="text"/>



**D**

What can your organization do to deliver the outcome? Eg provide leadership and coordination, provide skills and advice, provide money

**E**

Do you agree with the indicators and targets suggested for this outcome?

Yes

No

Why?


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**F**

Can you tell us about better indicators or more appropriate targets?

**G**

Can you provide data for better indicators?

**5 Year Outcome 5**

**There will be a better targeted programme of advice and support for land managers in the Park that delivers the National Park Plan**

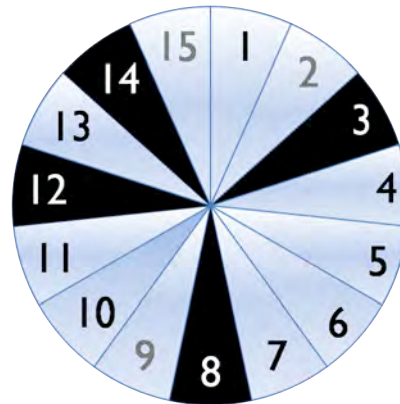
The ways that the land in the Park is managed delivers a wide range of public benefits, contributes to the special qualities of the Park and helps make the Park a special place. The management of land and land based business also underpins much of the rural economy and supports rural communities.

system to support the best possible combinations of public benefits in the right places. This outcome is intended to make sure that happens in future, and to set in place a more effective and easily used service for its land manager customers.

Many land managers are given public support to deliver those benefits through national schemes. The systems of support are complicated – both for land managers who would like to access them, and for the public sector agencies who must deliver the service. The need to deliver the service across Scotland can make it difficult for it to reflect differing local or regional needs and distinctiveness.

The Cairngorms National Park is a place with special management needs and pressures where it should be possible to tailor the support

This 5 Year Outcome would help deliver these National Outcomes



What benefits would it bring by 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective delivery of 5 year outcomes 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• Land management actively contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation</li> <li>• Supporting skills development within the land management sector</li> <li>• More effective and efficient public sector service delivery giving a better service to land managers</li> </ul>

What's needed to deliver this outcome?	What packages of work could deliver it	Who has the expertise and resources to make it happen?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of the public benefits that are delivered in different parts of the Park to guide priorities for land management support and advice</li> <li>• Proactive and coordinated support and advice targeted at specific priorities and public benefits</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A programme to identify the public benefit priorities of different parts of the CNP and reconcile competing land use objectives</li> <li>2. Coordinated advice and support for land managers to deliver CNP public</li> </ol>	<p>SEARS partners, land managers</p> <p>SEARS partners, SLE, NFUS</p>

What's needed to deliver this outcome?	What packages of work could deliver it	Who has the expertise and resources to make it happen?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and advice for land managers that helps them plan for and deliver priorities and public benefits</li> </ul>	benefits  3. Continued delivery of the Cairngorms Land-Based Business Training (LBBT) Project that provides customer-led training and skills development for land based business	CNPA, LEADER, SEARS, SLE, NFUS

**Our suggested indicators and targets for Outcome 5:**

Indicator	Target for 2017
The number of land management units receiving Rural Priorities contracts to deliver CNP priorities	60% of eligible land holdings
Customer satisfaction with the training and skills support	90% satisfaction

**Question 11**

**A**

*Do you agree that 5 Year Outcome 5 is an appropriate one for this National Park Plan to 2017?*

**Yes**  
**No**  
**Why?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	

**B**

*Do you agree that the packages of work identified for this 5 Year Outcome would deliver it?*

**Yes**  
**No**  
**Why?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	

**C**

*Are there any **better** packages of work that would deliver the outcome?*

**Yes**  
**No**  
**Why?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	

**D**

What can your organization do to deliver the outcome? Eg provide leadership and coordination, provide skills and advice, provide money

**E**

Do you agree with the indicators and targets suggested for this outcome?

**Yes**

**No**

**Why?**


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**F**

Can you tell us about better indicators or more appropriate targets?

**G**

Can you provide data for better indicators?

**5 Year Outcome 6**

***The economy of the Park will have grown and diversified, drawing on the Park’s special qualities***

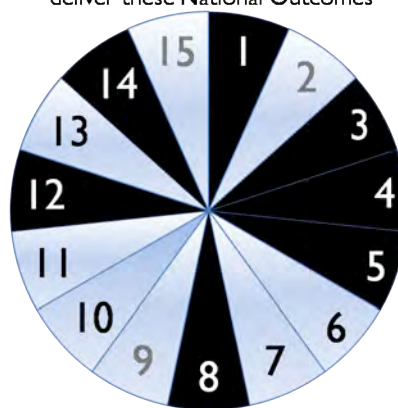
The Park’s economy, like many rural economies, is based around a series of volatile or fragile sectors, with relatively low wage structures. Tourism is a key strength, but compared with other parts of Scotland, it is a disproportionate part of the economy of the Park, particularly in Badenoch and Strathspey, both in terms of the value and employment. Farming, forestry and wild game are all also distinctive parts of the employment structure of the Park.

the communities who live here. It means strengthening the existing sectors and businesses, but also means diversifying the economic opportunities of the Park, encouraging new business sectors to start up and grow. For that to happen, the Park needs to build on its foundation as a great place to live and become a more attractive place for business, with infrastructure that supports business development and an effective network of support and advice.

The dominance of these low paid sectors means that many of the people working in the Park are relatively worse off to people in other parts of Scotland. This has straightforward implications for the amount of money spent in the local economy by them, and for their ability to pay for necessities such as housing, transport and energy. It is exacerbated by the attractiveness of the Park as a place to move to by those who have generated wealth elsewhere.

This outcome is intended to strengthen the economy of the Park, developing greater resilience to future pressures, and supporting

This 5 Year Outcome would help deliver these National Outcomes



**What benefits would it bring by 2017**

- There will be a culture of creating a business friendly environment
- Business growth will not be constrained by IT and communications infrastructure
- Unemployment will remain low
- More businesses will pay higher wages
- The Park will continue to attract people who want to work here
- Economic growth will support vibrant communities
- The value of tourism will grow
- The expectations and needs of visitors will be understood and addressed
- There will be greater visitor satisfaction, improved business performance and more repeat visits to the Park

What's needed to deliver this outcome?	What packages of work could deliver it	Who has the expertise and resources to make it happen?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism in the Cairngorms</b></li> <li>• More businesses will start and prosper in the Park as a result of its special qualities</li> <li>• More business start ups will come from the non-land based sector</li> <li>• The exemplar businesses that use the Park's special qualities will be highlighted and promoted</li> <li>• IT and communications infrastructure will be improved to the highest possible standards</li> <li>• There will be support for businesses that builds capacity to use improved IT and communications infrastructure</li> <li>• Business development support will demonstrate how to use the Park's special qualities</li> <li>• Business development support will help existing as well as new businesses</li> <li>• Workers need to be able to find suitable housing</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism in the Cairngorms</b></li> <li>2. Business support and development services and advice tailored to CNP business needs and opportunities, using exemplar practices in the Park and coordinated between public and private sector.</li> <li>3. Infrastructure improvement for business development - high speed broadband, enhanced telecoms coverage, transport connectivity, access to housing for employees</li> </ol>	<p><b>Sustainable Tourism Forum partners</b></p> <p>CBP, Enterprise networks, LAs, CNPA</p> <p>Enterprise Networks SG, CBP, CNPA, Telecomms Cos</p>

**Our suggested indicators and targets for Outcome 6:**

Indicator	Target for 2017
GVA of the Park	An increase of 10% over inflation
Number of businesses in the Park	10% increase on 2010
Number of jobs created	To have grown by twice the % population increase
Business confidence from the Cairngorms Business Barometer	Maintain or increase confidence
Visitor satisfaction	Increase in the average visitor satisfaction score in Cairngorms Visitor Survey

**Question 12**

**A**

Do you agree that 5 Year Outcome 6 is an appropriate one for this National Park Plan to 2017?

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Why?</b>	<input type="text"/>	

**B**

*Do you agree that the packages of work identified for this 5 Year Outcome would deliver it?*

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Why?</b>	<input type="text"/>	

**C**

*Are there any **better** packages of work that would deliver the outcome?*

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Why?</b>	<input type="text"/>	

**D**

*What can your organization do to deliver the outcome? Eg provide leadership and coordination, provide skills and advice, provide money*

**E**

*Do you agree with the indicators and targets suggested for this outcome?*

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Why?</b>	<input type="text"/>	

**F**

*Can you tell us about better indicators or more appropriate targets?*

**G**

*Can you provide data for better indicators?*

**5 Year Outcome 7**

***Business and communities will be successfully adapting to a low carbon economy***

Scotland is moving towards a low carbon economy, driven by both climate change and escalating fuel costs. The need to reduce carbon emissions, mainly from the burning of fossil fuels, means that Scotland needs to become more energy efficient, to find lower carbon sources of energy, and to adapt to different ways of living that this may bring.

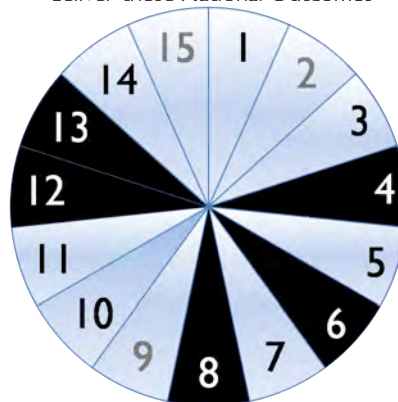
The low carbon economy is also one where we are adapting to the effects of climate change – whether that is because of more extreme weather and hazards such as floods or landslides, or because it has changed the global supply chains of food and goods we currently rely on. Land management businesses will increasingly be supported to maintain the substantial carbon stores in peatland, soils and woodland in the Park, and to manage land in ways that reduce the severity of extreme weather events.

Adaptation is particularly relevant in the National Park where both the ecology and economy are vulnerable to changes in climate, where the land stores significant volumes of carbon, and where the special qualities mean we

need to develop appropriate solutions that deliver all four aims.

There are practical measures that businesses and communities can take to adapt to these changes successfully and before they become critical. However, to do so requires leadership and support from government and the public sector. This outcome is intended to put in place the support structures to help businesses and communities in the Park make the transition to a low carbon economy as easily as possible, building resilience and sustainability.

This 5 Year Outcome would help deliver these National Outcomes



**What benefits would it bring by 2017**

- Businesses and communities will understand more about the likely effects of climate change and how to adapt to them and mitigate it
- Businesses and homes will be more energy efficient
- There will be less fuel poverty than there otherwise would have been
- People will make more use of public transport
- More energy for homes and business will come from renewable sources
- There will be more use of local food and timber products
- There will be better connected local supply chains for communities and businesses
- Land based businesses will manage land to mitigate and adapt to climate change



What's needed to deliver this outcome?	What packages of work could deliver it	Who has the expertise and resources to make it happen?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and advice tailored to business and community needs</li> <li>• Need a reduction in waste and more efficient waste recycling schemes for business and domestic waste</li> <li>• Need to build more effective connections between businesses and public agencies</li> <li>• Increase the functional use of paths for transport by foot/cycle etc</li> <li>• Improve public transport promotion and connection with paths</li> <li>• Increase the installation and generating capacity of small-scale renewable energy schemes</li> <li>• Increase the energy efficiency of existing building stock</li> <li>• Public transport will be lower carbon</li> <li>• Increase support for demand responsive low carbon public transport</li> <li>• Land-based and land management businesses will be supported in managing land to minimize carbon loss through appropriate soil, moorland and forestry management</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Training, advice and demonstration tailored to business and community needs on energy &amp; resource efficiency, renewable energy technology, active transport etc</li> <li>2. A programme to identify and deliver infrastructure improvements that will help business and communities adapt to a low carbon economy</li> <li>3. Pilots ways of reducing the energy needs of old buildings and funding to deliver solutions across the Park</li> <li>6. 'Quality in Design' programme that demonstrates good practice in the design of sustainable development that adapts to and mitigates climate change</li> <li>4. SRDP funding ensuring support for appropriate carbon management of land and climate change mitigation/adaption measures</li> </ol>	<p>ESTs, SG, LAs, CBP, CNPA, Voluntary organisations</p> <p>CNPA, COAT, LAs, HIE/SE, CBP</p> <p>ESTs, SG, Historic Scotland, RCAHMS, CBP &amp; Local trades/ housebuilders FCS, CBP,</p> <p>ESTs, CNPA, SEPA, FCS, CBP, Local trades/ housebuilders</p> <p>SG, SEARS, CNPA, SLE, NFUS</p>

**Our suggested indicators and targets for Outcome 7:**

Indicator	Target for 2017
Energy savings made to existing building stock	25%
The amount of carbon in the land actively stored through land management	
Increase in number of journeys to work in the Park made by foot or cycle	20%
% of population living within connection of high speed broadband	75%
Increase in renewable energy generation within	300%

the Park from small scale renewable schemes

**Question 13**

**A**

Do you agree that 5 Year Outcome 7 is an appropriate one for this National Park Plan to 2017?

**Yes**

**No**

**Why?**

**B**

Do you agree that the packages of work identified for this 5 Year Outcome would deliver it?

**Yes**

**No**

**Why?**

**C**

Are there any **better** packages of work that would deliver the outcome?

**Yes**

**No**

**Why?**

**D**

What can your organization do to deliver the outcome? Eg provide leadership and coordination, provide skills and advice, provide money

**E**

Do you agree with the indicators and targets suggested for this outcome?

**Yes**

**No**

**Why?**

**F**

Can you tell us about better indicators or more appropriate targets?

**G**

Can you provide data for better indicators?

**5 Year Outcome 8**

***The Park’s communities will be more empowered and able to develop their own models of sustainability***

The Park’s communities help make it a special place for the people who live here and for visitors to the Park. It is within the thriving communities of the Park that many people learn about and celebrate its outstanding natural and cultural heritage; where people work and play; where they live and love. They define the Cairngorms National Park as much as the mountain and forests.

Each community has its own unique character, set of needs and hopes for the future. However, most are faced with similar challenges such as maintaining and improving community assets; finding the right sort of housing for local needs; improving the way local services are delivered; maintaining or improving the quality of life for different groups of the community; finding time and money to do the things they’d like to.

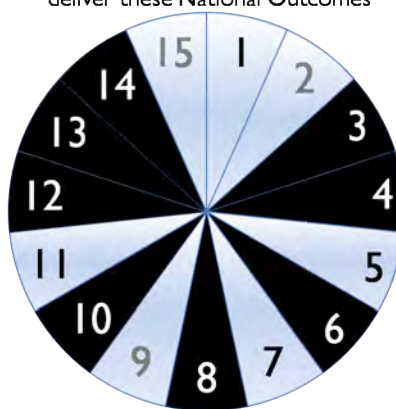
During 2010, all the communities in the National Park prepared ‘visions’ for the future, identifying what’s important to them and what they want to be like in the future. Those visions, in each community’s own words, are set out in Appendix I of the draft Park Plan. For some communities, the visions build on work they’ve already done to plan for their future needs. For others, this was a first step. For all communities, the value in preparing their vision for the future comes from their ability to work towards it; through planning and learning; doing what they’ve planned; and adapting to changes,

often over many years and through a great deal of effort and energy.

This outcome is intended to support the thriving communities of the National Park in planning for their future needs and to help tackle the issues they face.

The National Park Plan can best help the communities of the Park by making a strong framework to support them in their development. It can’t itself resolve the individual issues facing each community, but it can put together the tools for communities to tackle things themselves with support from the right organisations. This means providing the right sorts of training and skills development, advice and support to develop plans and projects, and improving both communities’ and public sector agencies’ ability to work together.

This 5 Year Outcome would help deliver these National Outcomes



**What benefits would it bring by 2017**

- Communities will have greater influence over how they change and how services are delivered
- More members of the community will be involved in planning for their future
- It will be easier for communities to develop and implement projects that will help them thrive
- More communities will be able to generate their own income to develop and maintain the facilities

and services they want

- Communities and public agencies will work better together and have a better understanding of each other's needs

What's needed to deliver this outcome?	What packages of work could deliver it	Who has the expertise and resources to make it happen?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities need to be able to prepare plans for future needs</li> <li>• Communities need to be inclusive and to engage all parts of their community, including businesses, in planning activities</li> <li>• Community Councils, Development trusts/companies, local groups etc need to work together</li> <li>• Public sector provide support for communities to develop and build capacity</li> <li>• Communities able to generate income to support local facilities/services</li> <li>• Community planning partnerships coordinate public sector support for community development</li> <li>• Communities need access to affordable and sustainable housing to keep young</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support for community development with training and support for planning and developing projects, establishing and running enterprise, involving all the community, business and public sector, and sharing good practice and experience</li> <li>2. Alignment of Community Planning Partnerships and community planning to support local community development and planning</li> <li>3. Innovation in affordable housing provision to find ways of better matching new provision with local needs</li> <li>4. LEADER support targeted at projects that have been developed through inclusive community planning processes</li> </ol>	<p>Community Support Orgs, CNPA, LAs, CBP, Community Development Trusts LEADER, ACC</p> <p>LAs, CNPA, Community Support Orgs, Community Councils LEADER, ACC</p> <p>LAs, CNPA, Community Support Orgs, HSCT</p> <p>LEADER, CNPA</p>

**Our suggested indicators and targets for Outcome 8:**

Indicator	Target for 2017
The number of communities with active community plans being delivered	All communities that have set out a community vision
Number of communities with community development trusts	To have increased by 50%
The number of community projects that have generated income for the community	To have increased by at least 100%

**Question 14**

**A**

Do you agree that 5 Year Outcome 8 is an appropriate one for this National Park Plan to 2017?

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Why?</b>	<input type="text"/>	

**B**

Do you agree that the packages of work identified for this 5 Year Outcome would deliver it?

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Why?</b>	<input type="text"/>	

**C**

Are there any **better** packages of work that would deliver the outcome?

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Why?</b>	<input type="text"/>	

**D**

What can your organization do to deliver the outcome? Eg provide leadership and coordination, provide skills and advice, provide money

**E**

Do you agree with the indicators and targets suggested for this outcome?

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Why?</b>	<input type="text"/>	

**F**

Can you tell us about better indicators or more appropriate targets?

**G**

Can you provide data for better indicators?

**5 Year Outcome 9**

***The Park’s recreation opportunities will have improved the health and enjoyment of residents and visitors***

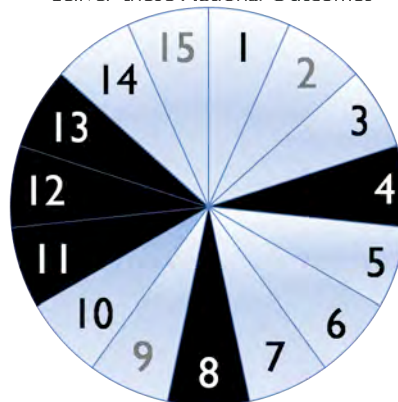
The Cairngorms National Park has a fantastic range of recreation opportunities to suit all abilities and many interests. In particular, it has a comprehensive and improving network of paths through the core path network and other local networks and access routes. These are already the foundation for much of the outdoor recreation that takes place in the Park, and provide a resource for maintaining and improving the physical and mental health of many residents and visitors. They also support the existing and successful ‘Health Walks’ schemes that use the Park.

This outcome is intended to make the most of the recreation opportunities of the Park by helping more people who do not exercise regularly to start to do so; by shifting more travel from vehicles to foot or cycle; and increasing awareness of the benefits and components of healthy lifestyles. It is outcome that applies to all diverse people who live in, visit or would like to be able to visit the Park people

Providing an infrastructure for recreation is an important contribution to improving the health and well-being of people. Further action focuses on helping people use it in ways that best help them and establishing regular sensible exercise as part of healthy lifestyles for more people. This means giving people information and support throughout their lives – whether it is via the healthcare system, in schools, in their community or at work.

Beyond the path infrastructure, the Park has an unusually wide range of outdoor activities all easily accessible to suit all ages and abilities.

This 5 Year Outcome would help deliver these National Outcomes



**What benefits would it bring by 2017**

- Improved physical and mental wellbeing of residents and visitors
- Greater contact with nature for residents and visitors
- Increased awareness by residents and visitors of health benefits of exercise influencing behaviour
- More residents involved in active travel and fewer car journeys reducing carbon emissions

**What’s needed to deliver this outcome?**

**What packages of work could deliver it**

**Who has the expertise and resources to make it happen?**

What's needed to deliver this outcome?	What packages of work could deliver it	Who has the expertise and resources to make it happen?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance, promotion and development of the core path network and other promoted paths</li> <li>Promotion of core paths network and other key routes for health walks, active transport</li> <li>Increase the range of people who take part in physical activities in the Park</li> <li>Increase recreation opportunities for less active people</li> <li>Increase public awareness of the health benefits of recreation activities in the Park and how to take part in them</li> <li>Increase the number of people using paths for active travel</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing core and promoted paths management, promotion and maintenance</li> <li>Development of an 'Active Cairngorms' project to increase the health of residents and visitors linking public health with exercise and the recreation opportunities in the CNP</li> <li>Promotion and upgrading of the existing long distance routes in the Park to make active travel along valleys and straths easier</li> <li>Establish a "Mountain Bike Development Cluster" to promote increased participation, mountain bike visitors and sporting success.</li> </ol>	<p>CNPA, COAT</p> <p>CNPA, NHS, SNH, COAT, Paths for All Partnership</p> <p>SNH, CNPS, COAT, Paths for All Partnership</p> <p>FCS, Sport Scotland,</p>

**Our suggested indicators and targets for Outcome 9:**

Indicator	Target for 2017
The number of people in the Park making one or more visits to the outdoors each week	To increase by greater than the national increase
The number of visitors to the Park taking part in active exercise	To increase by more than national average
The proportion of journeys made to work by active transport in the Park	To increase by 50%

**Question 15**

**A**

*Do you agree that 5 Year Outcome 9 is an appropriate one for this National Park Plan to 2017?*

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Why?</b>	<input type="text"/>	

**B**

Do you agree that the packages of work identified for this 5 Year Outcome would deliver it?

Yes

No

Why?

**C**

Are there any **better** packages of work that would deliver the outcome?

Yes

No

Why?

**D**

What can your organization do to deliver the outcome? Eg provide leadership and coordination, provide skills and advice, provide money

**E**

Do you agree with the indicators and targets suggested for this outcome?

Yes

No

Why?

**F**

Can you tell us about better indicators or more appropriate targets?

**G**

Can you provide data for better indicators?



**5 Year Outcome 10**

**More people will learn about, enjoy, and help to conserve and enhance the special natural and cultural qualities of the Park**

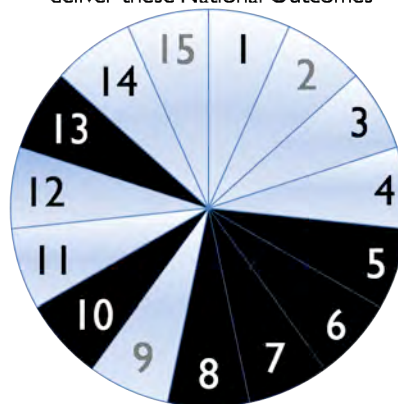
The Cairngorms National Park is a special place and people who visit, live here and work here experience its special qualities. The outstanding cultural heritage of the Park helps make it a special place. It provides a sense of place, gives pride and identity to communities and visitors. It is as much a source of wonder and enjoyment of the Park as the outstanding natural heritage.

The opportunities for active care of the Park’s special qualities could be formal and through the education system, through business transactions, donations or physical volunteering. However, they can also through a clear understanding of what responsible behavior means and how to practice it in different circumstances.

This outcome is about helping enrich that experience with better understanding of the significance of the special qualities and their special management needs in order to foster a deeper appreciation and active care for them.

This means providing the best information and interpretation, tailored to the needs of the visitor or customer. It also means providing the highest quality experiences of the Park and opportunities for learning from them, together with the information and opportunity to put the appreciation and care to good use by conserving and enhancing those special qualities.

This 5 Year Outcome would help deliver these National Outcomes



**What benefits would it bring by 2017**

- Information about the special natural and cultural heritage of the Park will be easily accessible and will be part of what attracts people to the Park
- Children and young people will learn about the special qualities and help conserve and enhance them through the curriculum for excellence
- More people will take part in conserving and enhancing the Park’s special qualities through volunteering activities
- More of the management that conserves and enhances the Park’s special qualities will supported by visitor’s contributions because they understand the need for management

What’s needed to deliver this outcome?	What packages of work could deliver it	Who has the expertise and resources to make it happen?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continual improvement of marketing and promotional material</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cairngorms Business Partnership (CBP) Marketing Framework</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CBP, VistScotland</li> </ul>

What's needed to deliver this outcome?	What packages of work could deliver it	Who has the expertise and resources to make it happen?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test new and innovative interpretation methods that help convey the significance and meaning of the special qualities</li> <li>• Continued promotion of innovative ways of encouraging responsible outdoor access</li> <li>• A wider range of people of are able to participate in learning, enjoying and helping conserve and enhance the Park</li> <li>• Promotion of enhancement of sites and experiences where people come into contact with natural and cultural heritage</li> <li>• Interpretive material is visitor focused, based on the Park and its special qualities not corporate or organizational identity</li> <li>• More coordinated and collaborative management for visitor needs and pressures across land management boundaries</li> <li>• Increased opportunities to volunteer to conserve and enhance the special qualities through labour and or financial contribution</li> <li>• Caring for special qualities becomes a core message for tourism business</li> <li>• Continuous development of National Parks within the Curriculum for Excellence</li> <li>• Increase the use of the Park for school activities and outdoor learning</li> <li>• Increase the use of the Park for informal education and outdoor learning such as the John Muir Award</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Delivery of the Cairngorms Sustainable Tourism Strategy</li> <li>3. Development of a Cairngorms Volunteering programme to coordinate and expand volunteering opportunities for all that conserve and enhance the Park's special qualities and include biological recording</li> <li>4. Development of a cultural heritage programme that provides a coordinating framework for interpreting the significance of the Park's cultural heritage, helps communities explore and share their cultural heritage through advice, training and support, and develops web resources to help record, collate and access information about the Park's cultural heritage.</li> <li>5. Updating and delivery of the Cairngorm, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Group (CRAGG) Strategy to deliver an outstanding visitor experience and manage visitor pressures across land ownership boundaries</li> <li>6. Development of National Park learning resource materials for formal and informal education, outdoor learning and business</li> <li>7. Develop a web-based research hub to provide a focus for knowledge exchange and research collaboration in</li> </ol>	<p>STF &amp; Partners</p> <p>CNPA, RSPB, NTS, FC, CBP, Voluntary Groups</p> <p>RCAHMS, HS, LAs, CNPA, community groups</p> <p>CRAGG</p> <p>LTS, CNPA, LAs, CBP, RSPB, Voluntary sector</p> <p>UHI, Hutton Institute, CNPA,</p>

What's needed to deliver this outcome?	What packages of work could deliver it	Who has the expertise and resources to make it happen?
	the Park	researchers

**Our suggested indicators and targets for Outcome 10:**

Indicator	Target for 2017
Number of school children using the Park through the Curriculum for Excellence	To increase by
The number of volunteer days spent caring for the National Park	To increase by
The financial contributions made by visitors towards caring for the Park's special qualities	To increase by
The number of tourism businesses involved in active care for the Park's special qualities	To increase by 100%

**Question 16**

**A**

*Do you agree that 5 Year Outcome 10 is an appropriate one for this National Park Plan to 2017?*

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Why?</b>	<input type="text"/>

**B**

*Do you agree that the packages of work identified for this 5 Year Outcome would deliver it?*

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Why?</b>	<input type="text"/>

**C**

*Are there any **better** packages of work that would deliver the outcome?*

<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>No</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Why?</b>	<input type="text"/>

**D**

*What can your organization do to deliver the outcome? Eg provide leadership and coordination, provide skills and advice, provide money*

**E**

*Do you agree with the indicators and targets suggested for this outcome?*

**Yes**

**No**

**Why?**

**F**

*Can you tell us about better indicators or more appropriate targets?*

**G**

*Can you provide data for better indicators?*

## **5 Managing competing demands on the land – land use strategy**

Section 4 of the draft has set out a focus for positive action. The National Park Plan also needs to set out a clear policy framework to help manage competing demands on the land that makes up the Park.

The National Park Plan will set out how the principles of the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework and Land Use Strategy will be applied in a Cairngorms context. This will provide a clear context and direction for the Local Development Plan and wider land use planning and management.

This section of the draft therefore seeks views on:

- A key principle for land use – delivering multiple benefits
- The issues facing land use
- Proposed policy directions:
  - Enhance the special landscape qualities
  - Enhance biodiversity
  - Expand and enhance woodland
  - Enhance resilience of habitats and land use to climate change
  - Contribute to a low carbon economy
  - Provide high quality recreation opportunities
  - Target proactive advice and public support to help land managers deliver multiple benefits
  - Develop sustainable patterns of settlement growth, infrastructure and communications

### **Key principle – delivering multiple benefits**

The land that makes up the Cairngorms National Park is a special place. The special qualities set out in section 2 identify many qualities associated with the land that we should conserve and enhance.

The outstanding natural and cultural heritage underpins designation as a National Park. The landscapes and sense of wildness offer a rich source of spiritual and recreational pleasure for many people. It is a land rich in a cultural history that has drawn from, and in turn shaped, the land, and it continues to be an actively worked and managed landscape.

People derive a range of goods, services and benefits from the land. These vary from basic human and community needs to a range of products such as food, timber and of course the high quality environment on which the significant tourism economy of the area is based. Land management in the National Park also delivers a much wider set of public benefits and services that benefit people in the Park and beyond its boundaries, such as clean water and flood management.

We also know that about 17,000 people live in the Park; that land-based businesses make up approximately 10% of the GVA of the economy; and that the outstanding landscape is the basis of the Park's international reputation as a tourism destination – worth £115M to the local economy and more to Scotland as a whole.

The National Park Plan should provide strategic direction and a framework to help achieve the most for these different interests we have in the land in the National Park.

Land use in the Cairngorms National Park is notable for the multiple benefits delivered, on individual management units and at a National Park scale. We propose the following principle should guide land use decisions:

**The management and use of land in the Cairngorms National Park should deliver multiple benefits – delivering the best possible combination of the National Park Plan’s long term outcomes, always ensuring that the special qualities are conserved and, where possible, enhanced.**

The National Park Plan can set out the high level suite of benefits that can be delivered at a Park scale. It is, though, impractical for the plan to try to reconcile all the potential tensions and determine the precise balance of benefits and priorities across the whole Park.

A programme of work is proposed to define the public benefit priorities and support needs in across different areas of the Park. This will offer a more local means to identify the opportunities, priorities and match support and advice accordingly (see land management support programme, section 4 outcome 5).

**Question 17**

*Do you agree with the key principle?*

**Question 18**

*If not, why?*

**Thinking Big**

At 4528 square kilometres the Cairngorms National Park is the UK’s biggest National Park. To deliver the aims on this scale we need to think big, and think about connections. Achieving the four aims collectively means we need to think about the way they interact and affect each other.

Ecosystems are a useful framework to identify these connections and consider how we use and benefit from the land. Ecosystems are a series of connected, living, interacting systems. It is not just individual species or habitats that are important, but the way in which they combine to create our distinctive landscapes and, for example, to cycle nutrients or create clean air and water. The Scottish Government’s Land Use Strategy states that land use decisions should be informed by an understanding of ecosystems. That is particularly appropriate in a National Park.

The accompanying SEA Environmental Report sets out a summary of the ecosystem services relevant to the Cairngorms National Park.

At a UK level, the recently published National Ecosystems Assessment (NEA) ([www.uknea.unep-wcmc.org](http://www.uknea.unep-wcmc.org)) sets out a broad framework for using this approach. The NEA identifies eight broad habitats in the UK that can be associated with ecosystems, of which six are relevant to the Cairngorms National Park:

- Enclosed Farmlands
- Woodlands
- Semi-natural Grasslands
- Open Waters (Rivers, lochs, wetlands and floodplains)
- Mountains Moor and Heathland
- Urban (towns and villages)

**What are the issues?**

This section looks at each of these broad habitat types in turn, looking at the strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities.

**Farmlands** - are mainly confined to the straths of the National Park. Although very little of the farmland of the Park is classed as prime quality (the highest productive capacity), they are a local source of food and an integral part of the economy. The farmlands are close to many of the rivers and tributaries, and in some cases are part of the functional floodplains of the Park. They can affect the water quality and function of those water bodies, and are an important habitat for wading birds - both for breeding and feeding.

Grazed and cropped farmlands are important in contributing to the range of landscapes in the Park, they provide opportunities for many fine views and an insight into the cultural history of these long-settled straths and glens.

Farmlands	
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• farming directly supports 900 jobs</li> <li>• high quality local food products</li> <li>• rich and diverse landscapes and important cultural 'archive'</li> <li>• supports distinctive range of rare species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• limited range of production capability</li> <li>• fragile processing infrastructure</li> </ul>
Threats	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss of productive land to other uses</li> <li>• loss of edge habitats</li> <li>• loss of iconic wild bird species</li> <li>• effects of extreme weather events</li> <li>• continued reduction in economic viability of farming and reliance on changing public support mechanisms</li> <li>• loss of skills and of active hill farming heritage</li> <li>• loss of landscape diversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protecting productive land from other uses</li> <li>• increased local consumption of local produce</li> <li>• diversification of produce in different climatic conditions</li> <li>• Enhancement of habitat networks and strengthening landscape character</li> <li>• build resilience to extreme weather events</li> <li>• provision of long term targeted public support for delivery of public and ecosystem benefits including longer term economic sustainability</li> </ul>

**Woodland & Forestry** - the National Park is known for its forests and woodland, including

many rare or threatened woodland habitats and associated species. Many of the Park's

woodlands are multi-functional, with many being designated for nature conservation as well as producing timber and providing a fantastic setting for recreation. The extent of productive native woodland is a particular strength of multifunctional land use in the Cairngorms. Woodlands play an important role in the water

system by slowing the discharge of water towards rivers, reducing erosion of soils and landslides. They are also important to local climates – riparian woodland can slow or prevent water temperature increases by shading, and woodland provides shelter from strong winds.

Woodland & Forestry	
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>productive native woodlands</li> <li>recreation infrastructure</li> <li>a defining characteristic of the Cairngorms National Park</li> <li>iconic woodland species &amp; habitats are key asset for the local tourism industry</li> <li>woodland cover improves slope stability and helps to regulate the climate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lack of natural treelines and transition scrub woodland</li> <li>some woodlands are blocks of single exotic species of low value for nature and landscapes</li> <li>the woodland habitat network is fragmented</li> </ul>
Threats	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>disease risks</li> <li>loss to other land uses</li> <li>further fragmentation of native and ancient woodland sites</li> <li>recreational disturbance to key iconic species</li> <li>effects of extreme weather events and changes in climate (eg wild fires)</li> <li>fire and storm risks</li> <li>fluctuation timber prices</li> <li>reduced profitability of commercial forestry re-planted with native species</li> <li>inappropriate grazing by stock or wild mammals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>enhancement of woodland networks including montane and riparian woodland</li> <li>increased use of locally grown timber for construction and fuel</li> <li>woodland creation and management to build resilience to extreme weather events and help mitigate climate change</li> <li>management of recreational use to avoid disturbance to key species</li> <li>management to diversify the range of recreational experience and foster understanding</li> <li>provision of long term targeted public support for delivery of public and ecosystem benefits, including longer term economic sustainability</li> <li>better integration between management of adjacent habitats (eg moorlands) with woodlands</li> </ul>

**Rivers, Lochs, Wetlands and Floodplains** - the National Park has the headwaters of three of Scotland’s major rivers as well as many smaller ones. Many are designated for nature conservation, provide popular recreation

opportunities and provide water to large populations downstream. There is also an intricate network of high and lower level wetlands and open water bodies, including valley flood plains.



Rivers, Lochs, Wetlands and Floodplains	
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• high water quality</li> <li>• popular recreation opportunities</li> <li>• reliable water supplies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• modified channels restrict natural flood management in places</li> </ul>
Threats	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• point source and diffuse pollution</li> <li>• water abstraction</li> <li>• rates of erosion and sediment exacerbated by human activity</li> <li>• effects of extreme weather events and changes in climate to the physical processes, chemistry and iconic habitats/species of open water systems</li> <li>• introduction and spread of non-native species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enhancement of functioning wetlands and floodplains</li> <li>• adoption and extension of natural flood management techniques</li> <li>• reduction in pollution sources</li> <li>• minimisation of water abstraction – reducing water loss following abstraction</li> <li>• Enhancement of quality of recreational use (e.g. fishing, canoeing)</li> <li>• hydro power generation</li> <li>• improving connectivity &amp; function via removing man-made structures &amp; obstacles</li> </ul>

**Mountains, Moor and Heathland** – this habitat covers much of the National Park and large areas are designated for habitat or species conservation. The National Park is internationally famous and valued for these habitats, and it would be appropriate to make a distinction between mountains and moorland as major habitats in their own right. Moorlands tend to be managed for grouse shooting but overlap with areas of upland wetland and

blanket bog. The peat deposits of moorlands are a significant store of carbon. Moorland is often also used for sheep and cattle grazing as an integral part of the upland farming system and increasingly as a management tool for sporting objectives. The mountains of the Park are of course the major feature in its identity, iconic for both natural heritage and recreation, including four of Scotland’s five highest mountains.

Mountains, Moor and Heathland	
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• unique mountain landscapes, a combination of pre-glacial and glacial landforms</li> <li>• large extent of connected moor and heathland – archetypal ‘highland’ landscape experience</li> <li>• significant carbon storage</li> <li>• high value for informal recreation</li> <li>• home to downhill ski resorts and shooting &amp; stalking enterprises which are of significant benefit to local economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• economically fragile management system</li> <li>• fragile ecosystems</li> <li>• rare species vulnerable to climate change</li> <li>• ski industry vulnerable to climate change</li> <li>• montane vegetation and soils vulnerable to trampling &amp; disturbance</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• home to rare arctic-alpine species and habitats</li> </ul>	
Threats	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• climate change effects on marginal arctic-alpine habitats and species</li> <li>• inappropriate grazing by stock or wild mammals can adversely affect habitat condition; fail to maximize carbon sequestration; and increase risks of flooding downstream &amp; slope erosion</li> <li>• illegal killing of birds of prey</li> <li>• rates of erosion exacerbated by human activity and potential changes brought about by extreme weather events</li> <li>• reduced sense of wildness as a result of visual impact of development</li> <li>• Loss to other uses</li> <li>• inappropriate grazing by stock or wild mammals</li> <li>• disease and pest risks to iconic and economically important species (heather and grouse)</li> <li>• loss of stored carbon through erosion, especially of peat</li> <li>• recreational disturbance to some key sensitive species</li> <li>• inappropriate muirburn damaging sensitive habitats &amp; species, and increasing vulnerability to erosion</li> <li>• reduced diversity of iconic species (eg raptors, mountain hares) as a result of trend towards intensive single-species management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enhancing the sense of wildness</li> <li>• manage changes in habitats – eg towards montane scrub</li> <li>• maintain patchwork of grazing densities for habitat resilience</li> <li>• protecting and enhancing carbon storage capacity</li> <li>• managing erosion risks</li> <li>• increasing diversity of moorland habitats and species</li> </ul>

**Semi-natural Grasslands** - grasslands form the transition from the farmed straths to the moorland and are integral to the stock grazing system. Being integral to the development of crofting and farming in the area over history,

they often contain a significant cultural record of human land use. They also often reveal interesting aspects of the geodiversity of the Park.

Semi-natural Grasslands

Strengths

Weaknesses

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• significant cultural heritage record</li> <li>• supports distinctive range of rare species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fragmented habitat</li> <li>• economically fragile management system</li> </ul>
Threats	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inappropriate grazing by stock or wild mammals</li> <li>• rates of erosion exacerbated by human activity and potential changes brought about by extreme weather events</li> <li>• loss to other uses</li> <li>• loss of stored carbon</li> <li>• loss of species diversity by reseeding and fertilising</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintain patchwork of grazing densities for habitat resilience</li> <li>• protecting and enhancing carbon storage capacity</li> <li>• maintain grazing to conserve and enhance cultural heritage record</li> </ul>

**Towns and villages ('urban')** - only a small part of the land area of the National Park is within towns and villages (around 13.5 square km or about a third of 1% of the total land area

of the Park). However, it is in these areas where most of the Park's 17,000 residents live, and where most human activity takes place.

Towns and villages ('urban')	
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• distinctive settlement characters and sense of place</li> <li>• attractive and popular places to live</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• need for travel to services for many communities</li> <li>• energy inefficiency of many old properties</li> <li>• lack of IT connectivity</li> <li>• lack of safe, sustainable routes to services (footpaths/cycleways)</li> <li>• lack of affordable housing</li> <li>• some previous development has been on floodplains and is prone to flooding</li> </ul>
Threats	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss of urban green spaces</li> <li>• fragmentation of green networks within towns and villages</li> <li>• changes in character and setting of towns and villages through new development.</li> <li>• loss of long-established (but informal) access and views into surrounding countryside</li> <li>• dispersed rural settlements rely heavily on transport by private car</li> <li>• effects of extreme weather events and changes in climate to people's property and ways of life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enhance the urban form of settlements to better meet community needs</li> <li>• consolidate and enhance character of settlements through design of new developments</li> <li>• improve the energy efficiency of existing and new buildings</li> <li>• conserve and enhance urban green spaces and networks, linking with wider habitat networks</li> <li>• conserve, enhance, create, provide opportunities for access and views into countryside around settlements, and to local landmarks.</li> <li>• use urban areas to increase local food</li> </ul>

	<p>production through community growing spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use public and private green space to contribute to landscape enhancement of settlement</li> <li>• support communities to develop more efficient rural transport links</li> <li>• improve communications and IT infrastructure to reduce need to travel to work locations</li> <li>• increase use of sustainable urban drainage systems</li> <li>• avoid development on floodplains</li> </ul>
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**A matrix of habitats in the landscape**

While the individual habitat types above are valuable in their own right, it is the way in which they come together to form landscapes that creates the special qualities of the Cairngorms National Park. This matrix underpins the multiple benefits characteristic of the Park – the employment and economic contribution, the rich biodiversity and the landscapes people come to enjoy.

This analysis helps to identify the opportunities we want to build on and some of the threats to address.

Significant threats running through many of these habitat types include:

- habitat fragmentation and loss of connectivity
- inappropriate grazing from wild or domestic mammals

- rates of erosion increase through human activity
- impact of extreme weather events
- loss of land to other uses – therefore the balance of land uses

Some of the significant opportunities emerging include:

- enhancing habitat connectivity
- species conservation
- enhancing resilience to climate change
- managing the balance of land uses and pressures for land use change
- improving the support and advice network to support delivery

**Question 19**  
Do you agree with the threats and opportunities identified, if not why?

**Question 20**  
What are the particular threats and opportunities that you think the plan should address between 2012-17?

## Proposed policy directions

### **Policy Direction 1: Enhance the special landscape qualities**

The special landscape qualities underpin designation as a National Park. The landscape is the product of many different land use decisions and physical influences, and in itself has become a product which underpins the appeal of the National Park as a visitor destination. Conserving and enhancing these qualities needs

work on a big scale, on the scale of the landscape itself. Managing the National Park in this way will help to meet the UK's obligations under the European Landscape Convention. The Cairngorms Landscape Framework will be completed in 2012 providing an analysis of sensitivity of landscape in all areas of the Park to particular changes as well as opportunities for enhancement.

Proposed approach:

Policy approach	Implications
Use landscape character areas as a basis to identify sensitivities and opportunities for enhancement	The CNP landscape character assessment identifies units that can be used to inform land use change decisions. Sensitivities and opportunities can be mapped to provide guidance.
Conserve and enhance wildness, monitoring it as a special quality	Wildness as mapped in the CNP can be interpreted as a result of a matrix of qualities, natural and cultural. It could be considered as an effective proxy for a range of individual qualities at a landscape scale.
Enhance habitat connectivity	Existing habitat networks are mapped. Significant opportunities for connectivity of habitat can be identified to guide future incentives.
Promote new approaches to enhancing accessibility to the special landscape qualities for all	Core Paths provide the basic physical network but incentives and guidance could stimulate imaginative approaches to maximize this investment and make special landscape qualities more accessible
<i>Contributes to national land use strategy objective: responsible stewardship of Scotland's natural resources delivering more benefits to Scotland's people</i>	

### **This Policy would support these 5-Year Outcomes**

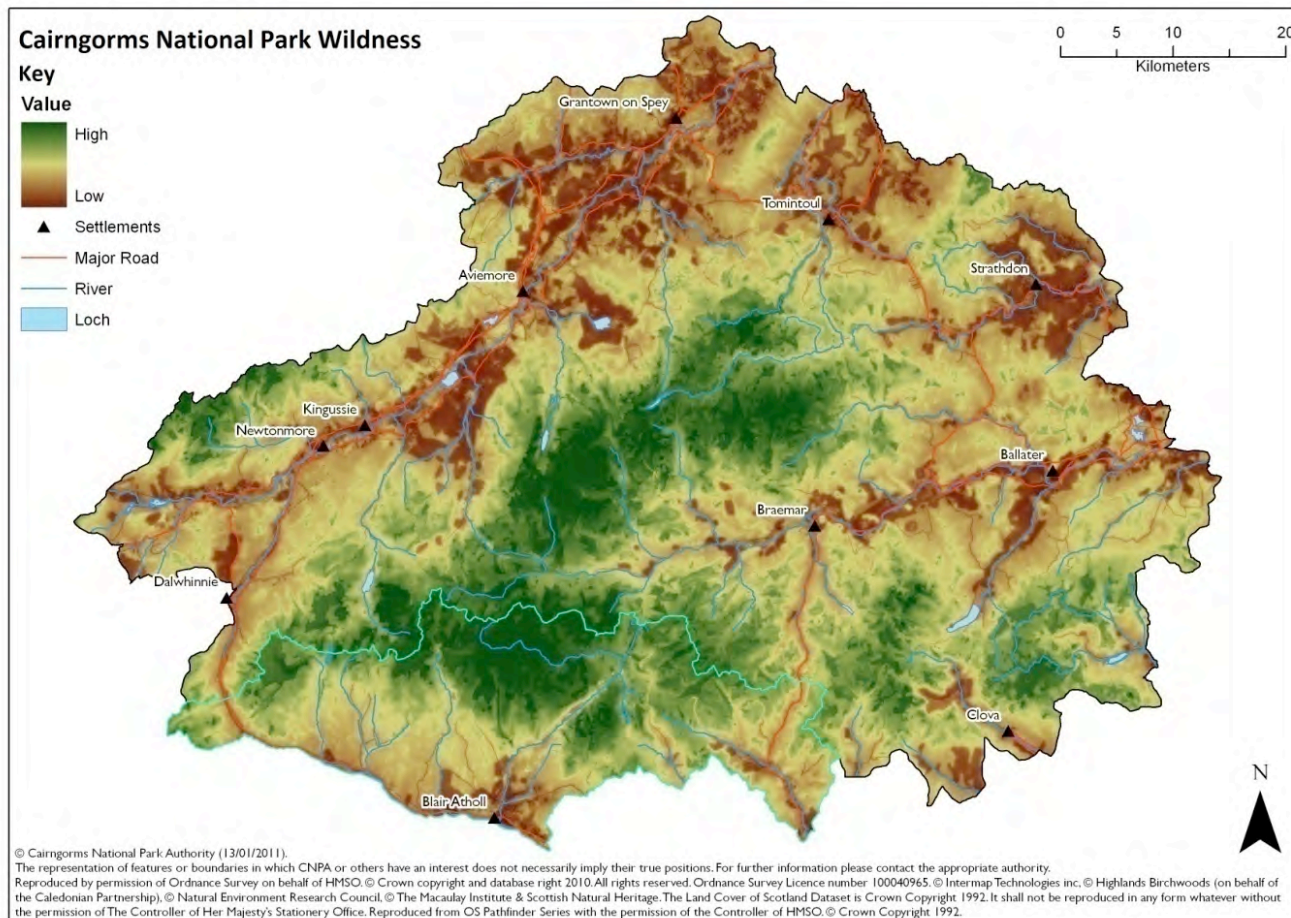
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### **Question 21**

A Do you agree with the proposed approach?

B Would you suggest a different or additional policy approach?

**MAP – Qualities of Wildness in the Park**



**Policy Direction 2: Enhance biodiversity**

Conserving biodiversity is a national and international policy commitment, and is integral to conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the National Park. The Cairngorms National Park is nationally important for a range of habitats and species such as raptors, waders, capercaillie and wildcat. The National Park can also play a significant part in working towards Scotland’s 2020 biodiversity targets. To conserve and enhance biodiversity at a National Park scale requires a dynamic approach –

recognising that species will move and change. Habitat enhancement is key to conserving and enhancing biodiversity in the long term and building resilience to change. In the shorter term there will also be species for which particular species conservation measures are necessary. The Cairngorms Biodiversity Action Plan provides a focus and point of co-ordination for biodiversity management, and is being reviewed alongside the National Park Plan.

Preferred approach:

Policy Approach	Implications
Achieve favourable condition of designated sites	SSSIs and Natura sites make up x% of the Park, so favourable condition would secure habitat quality across a significant area of the Park. However, the effort is limited to specific features and does not address the wider health of ecosystems at a National Park scale.
Establish monitoring and reporting systems for key habitat and species states beyond designated sites	Beyond designated sites there is currently little information available on habitat quality. This is important if the wider ecosystem health and functionality is to be maintained and enhanced.
Adopt a presumption of ‘no net biodiversity loss’ resulting from land use change or management decisions. Establish a biodiversity fund to direct financial contributions in a co-ordinated approach to enhancement	Would conserve existing biodiversity through dynamic approach allowing change and enhancement. Would require proactive and objective decisions about mitigation, compensation and enhancement.
Target species action to national and LBAP priorities	While habitat enhancement is a long term focus, there are some species for which shorter-term conservation action is necessary. This should include action to address unacceptable levels of wildlife crime.
<i>Contributes to national land use strategy objective: responsible stewardship of Scotland’s natural resources delivering more benefits to Scotland’s people</i>	

**This Policy would support these 5-Year Outcomes**

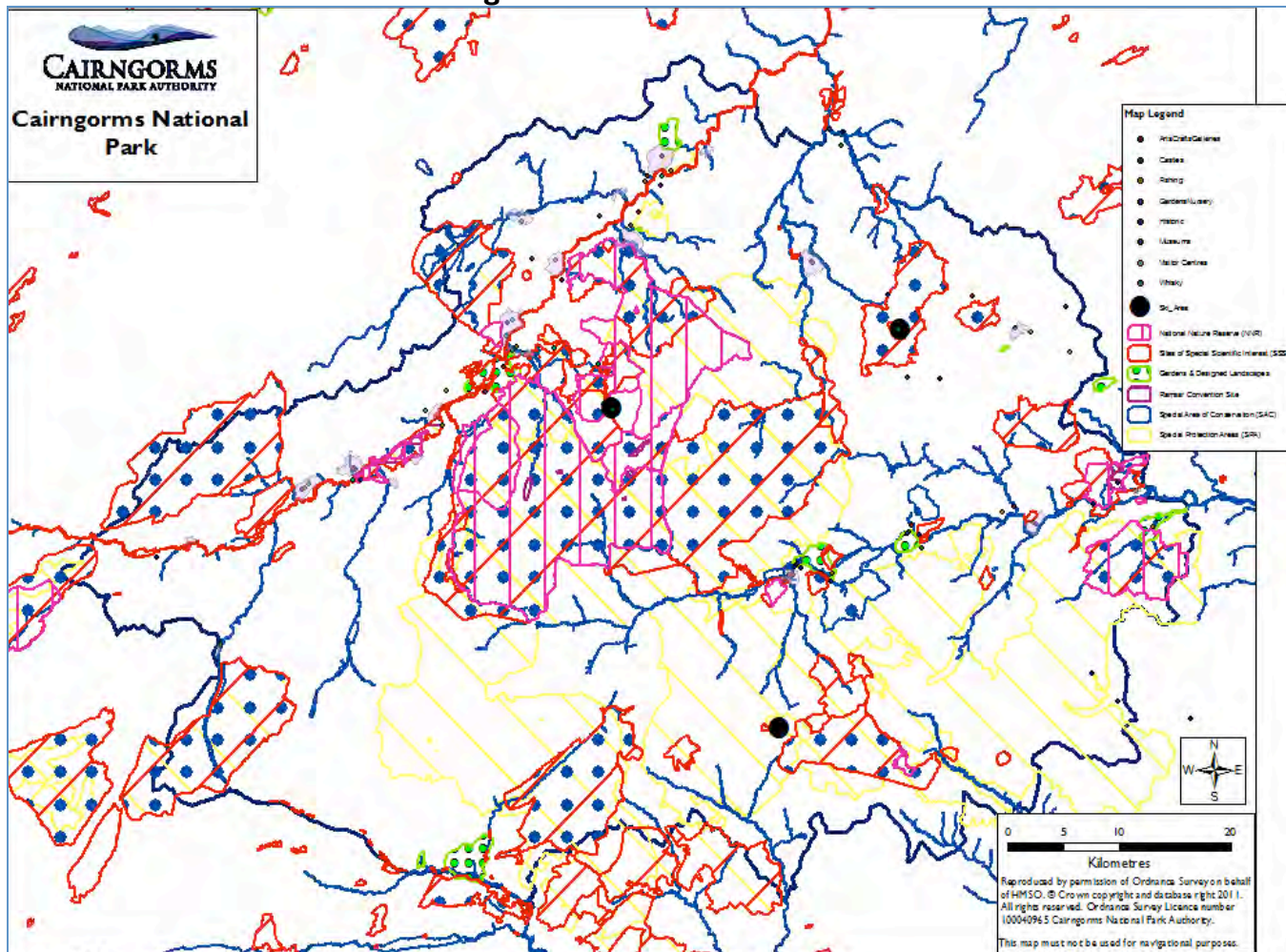
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**Question 22**

A Do you agree with the proposed approach?

B Would you suggest a different or additional policy approach?

**MAP – Nature Conservation Designations**





**Policy Direction 3: Expand and enhance woodland**

The Scottish Government has a policy objective to increase woodland cover in Scotland to 25% of the land area as an integral part of climate change mitigation and adaptation. Woodlands in the National Park already cover approximately 20% of the area and provide a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits – and could deliver more. In particular there are benefits to be gained for habitat connectivity, natural flood management, slope stability, biodiversity, recreation and employment through woodland expansion.

The Forest and Woodland Framework for the Cairngorms identifies significant potential for woodland expansion in the Park, including some key connections between the woodlands of the east and west of the Park. Woodland expansion should not however, take place at the expense of carbon rich soils, other habitats of high conservation value or agricultural production, and the effects on landscape character, cultural heritage and other special qualities need to be identified and considered. These potential conflicts can be addressed through the land management programme proposed in section 4 outcome 5.

Preferred approach:

Policy Approach	Implications
Expand woodland cover towards 25% of the area of the National Park, targeting expansion primarily to enhance connectivity of the existing woodland habitat network	Woodland expansion would deliver multiple economic, environmental and social benefits. Expansion should be considered using the landscape character assessment to enhance the special qualities. Increasing connectivity will enhance resilience to climate change and biodiversity targets.
Promote productive native woodlands that deliver economic and environmental benefits	The Cairngorms has a great strength in its productive native woodland that underpins the range of benefits provided. Expansion should aim to enhance productivity as well as environmental gains.
Promote woodland in places that will contribute to natural flood management (riparian, floodplain and wider catchment woodlands)	Woodland has a significant part to play in natural flood management, intercepting run off, slowing the flow and reducing the effects of flooding.
Encourage coordinated development of woodfuel supply and demand	Woodfuel is potentially a significant additional market in the Cairngorms, and the demand and supply sides need to be developed in a co-ordinated way to maximise the potential and manage the risks.
<i>Contributes to national land use strategy objectives: responsible stewardship of Scotland’s natural resources delivering more benefits to Scotland’s people; and land based businesses working with nature to contribute more to Scotland’s prosperity</i>	

**This Policy would support these 5-Year Outcomes**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
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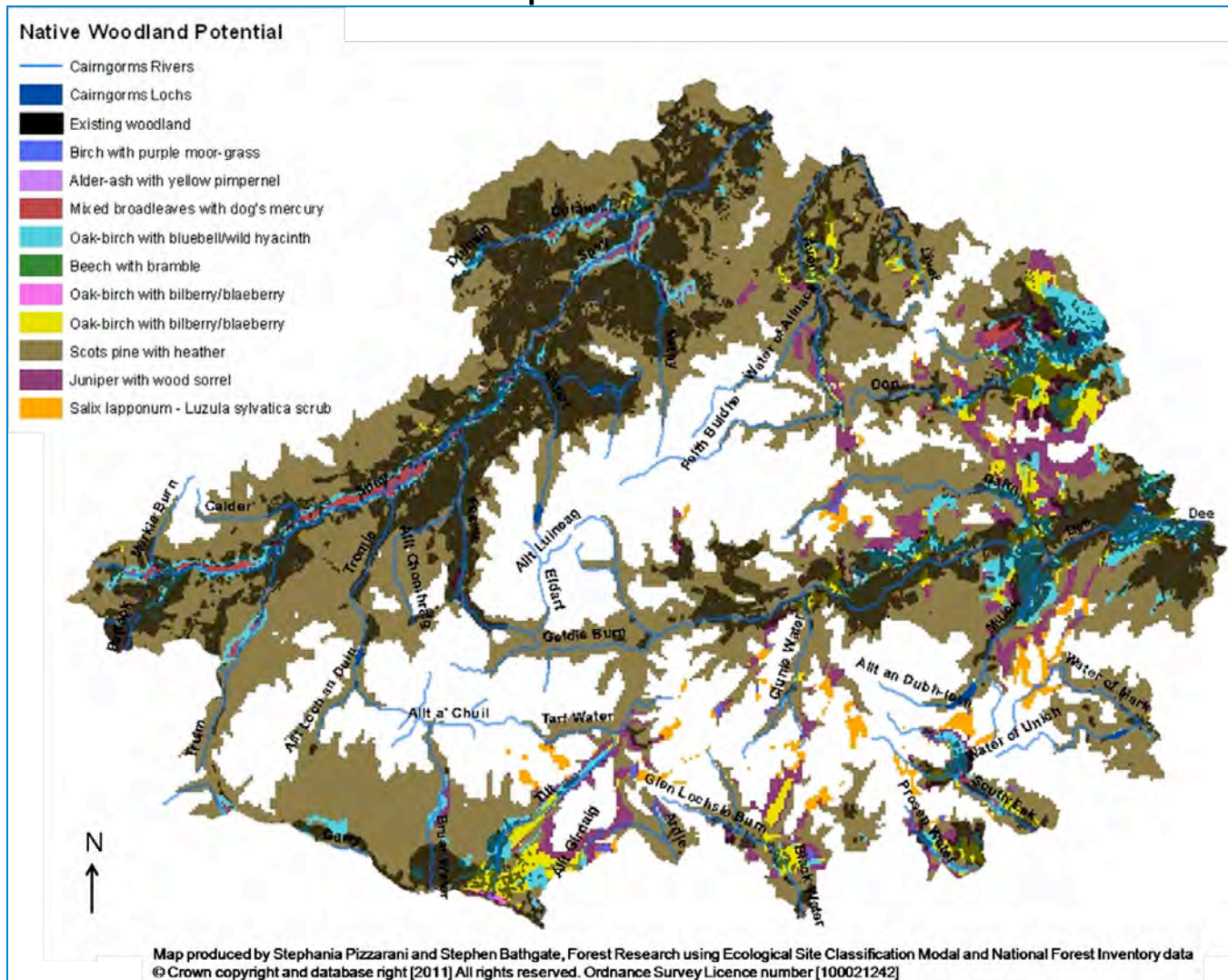
**Question 23**

A Do you agree with the proposed approach?

B Would you suggest a different or additional policy approach?



### MAP – Native Woodland Potential Map



**Policy Direction 4: Enhance resilience of habitats and land use to climate change**

Climate change and its policy responses are likely to be significant for the Cairngorms National Park. The fragile montane habitats are particularly susceptible to changes in wind and temperatures and species composition of the woodlands that are so integral to the character

of the Cairngorms could change. The major rivers of the Park may also change their flood patterns. Land use and the habitats of the National Park will have to continue to adapt to climate change, and to the changes in policy and management seeking to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Preferred approach

Policy Approach	Implications
Enhance connectivity of habitat networks	Enhanced connectivity will increase the ability of species and habitats to adapt as the climate changes. Enhanced connectivity of one habitat may come at the expense of another habitat, and these priorities will need to be determined at a more local scale.
Increase natural floodplain functionality	Increased floodplain functionality will slow the flow of flood waters and reduce the impacts of flooding downstream. It will require long-term public support in return for the benefits provided by long-term land management change.
Enhance vegetation cover to help improve slope stability and tackle unnaturally high levels of erosion & sedimentation	Increasing biomass helps to stabilize slopes and river banks and makes them less vulnerable to erosion.
<i>Contributes to national land use strategy objectives: responsible stewardship of Scotland's natural resources delivering more benefits to Scotland's people.</i>	

**This Policy would support these 5-Year Outcomes**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
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**Question 24**

A Do you agree with the proposed approach?

B Would you suggest a different or additional policy approach?

**Policy Direction 5: Contribute to a low carbon economy**

The Scottish Government has set a clear ambition to move to a low carbon economy, which requires changes in practice but also opens economic opportunities. Land-based businesses face increasing costs for fossil-fuel

based inputs, but also opportunities to reduce inputs, use and generate low carbon energy, and secure carbon storage and sequestration. Land use is one of the sectors through which the Cairngorms National Park can make a significant contribution to national climate change targets.

Preferred approach

Policy Approach	Implications
Map significant carbon stores	Would provide clarity on sensitive areas where carbon management could be considered a priority.
Adopt a presumption against development/ground disturbance on significant carbon stores	Would provide clarity in land use change decisions.
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from land use practices	Will help contribute to climate change mitigation and help businesses adapt to rising fossil fuel prices and the emerging low carbon economy.
Promote low impact energy generation and maintain a presumption against windfarms	A focus on the impacts of generation would enable energy generation that is compatible with the special qualities to proceed, while a presumption against windfarms would provide clarity.
Provide spatial guidance on sensitivities and opportunities for renewable energy generation	Guidance would provide greater clarity on areas that would be unsuitable for particular technologies and promote positively those areas where there are opportunities for particular technologies.
<i>Contributes to national land use strategy objectives: responsible stewardship of Scotland's natural resources delivering more benefits to Scotland's people; and land based businesses working with nature to contribute more to Scotland's prosperity</i>	

**This Policy would support these 5-Year Outcomes**

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
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**Question 25**

A Do you agree with the proposed approach?

B Would you suggest a different or additional policy approach?

**Policy Direction 6: Provide high quality recreation opportunities**

The National Park provides a range of high quality recreation opportunities for all. Combined with the high quality environment, these opportunities are the draw for the 1.4M visitors that come to the Park annually. Continuing to enhance the range and quality of provision, and managing the interactions with other land uses is key to making the National Park work. Delivering the high standards of destination management we aspire to needs a collaborative approach.

Recreation activities can have impacts on other land uses and on the special qualities of the Park. These impacts are normally easily

managed by collaboration and careful management on a site by site or issue by issue basis. The Cairngorms Outdoor Access Strategy provides an effective framework for managing these issues.

One part of the Park, from Aviemore to Cairngorm Mountain, is a particular focus for visitors with a wide variety of recreation activities crossing land ownership boundaries. It is also an area of internationally important sensitive habitats and species. A more coordinated approach would help to improve the visitor experience and manage visitor pressures throughout the area.

Preferred approach

Policy Approach	Implications
Identify areas of need for particular co-ordination in visitor management and establish collaborative management approaches across land ownership/business boundaries	Recognises particular needs and circumstances and allows tailored management approaches to be established
Use the core paths network as the basis for promoting paths and ensuring access for all	Provides a focus for maintenance and effort to maintain a functioning network of paths
Trial new approaches to managing recreation in sensitive environments	The Cairngorms have a particular concentration of areas & routes that are both popular for recreation and home to easily disturbed habitats and species. We need to develop new techniques for managing the issues arising more effectively.
<i>Contributes to national land use strategy objectives: responsible stewardship of Scotland's natural resources delivering more benefits to Scotland's people; and urban and rural communities better connected to the land, with more people enjoying the land and positively influencing land use.</i>	

**This Policy would support these 5-Year Outcomes**

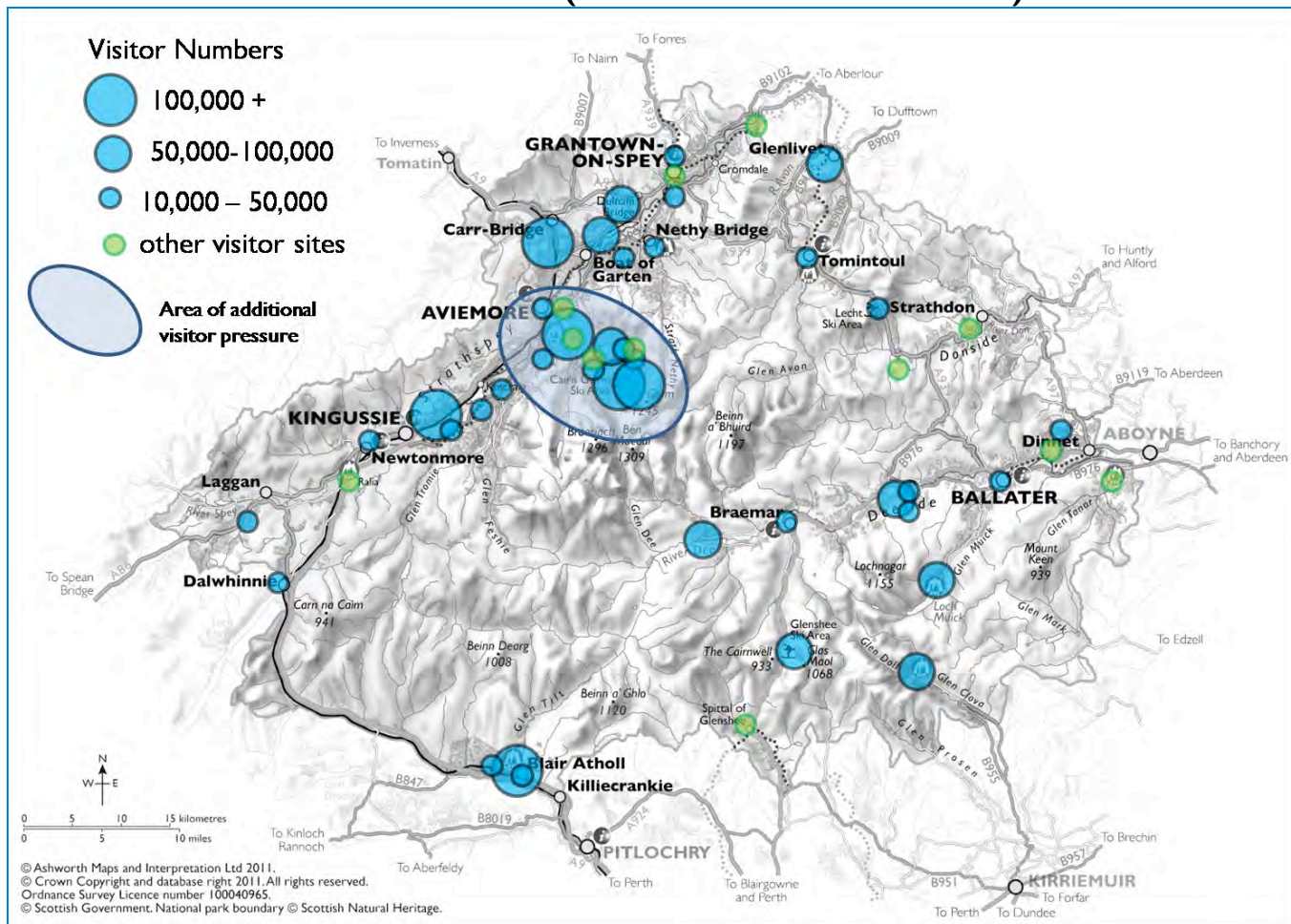
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**Question 26**

A Do you agree with the proposed approach?

B Would you suggest a different or additional policy approach?

**MAP – Visitor Numbers and Pressures (based on available information)**



**Policy Direction 7: Target proactive advice and public support to help land managers deliver multiple benefits**

There is significant public investment to help land managers deliver public benefits. In the Cairngorms National Park approximately £5M per year has been invested through the SRDP

Rural Priorities Scheme. Targeting this support, and the networks of advice and information to go with it, to the public benefit priorities in the National Park will help land managers to deliver multiple benefits and adapt their businesses to changes ahead.

Preferred approach

Policy Approach	Implications
Identify the public benefit priorities in ‘sub-areas’ of the Park using landscape character areas as a basis, to provide clarity for public support.	While it is difficult to reconcile a wide and overlapping range of land uses and benefits at a Park scale, it is possible to identify in more discrete areas what the public benefit priorities are. Through engagement with land managers and other interests this would provide a targeted and transparent basis for public support.
Develop integrated networks of advice through public, private and voluntary sectors	Would offer a more co-ordinated ‘place-based’ network of advice to help land managers deliver public benefits in ways targeted to the priorities and opportunities for their area and the Park.
Continue to provide and co-ordinate training to maintain and enhance the skills base for land-based businesses	Helps to deliver outcomes for the National Park and develops the capacity of individuals and businesses.
Support whole-unit management plans for all farms and estates in the National Park	Would provide a basis for delivering multiple benefits and identifying collaboration opportunities.
Use catchment management and deer management groups as hubs for land management collaboration	Could build on existing mechanisms to provide a focus for land managers to collaborate in delivering public benefits and managing the cross boundary implications.
Investigate alternative ways to pay land managers for the value of the public benefits delivered.	Would develop ways to ensure a fair return for existing as well as new and developing public benefits (eg carbon management)
<i>Contributes to national land use strategy objectives: land based businesses working with nature to contribute more to Scotland’s prosperity; responsible stewardship of Scotland’s natural resources delivering more benefits to Scotland’s people; and urban and rural communities better connected to the land, with more people enjoying the land and positively influencing land use.</i>	

**This Policy would support these 5-Year Outcomes**

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**Question 27**

A Do you agree with the proposed approach?

B Would you suggest a different or additional policy approach?



**Policy Direction 8: Develop sustainable patterns of settlement growth, infrastructure and communications**

Achieving the vision for the National Park needs communities that are sustainable in economic, social and environmental terms. It needs settlements that create a sense of place, where people want to live and work, and that encourage mixed and balanced communities.

The Main Issues Report for the Local Development Plan sets out a series of detailed options to guide future built development in the National Park. Those options help to deliver this policy approach.

Policy Approach	Implications
Retain a settlement strategy that reinforces the existing pattern of settlement by supporting greater growth in the main settlements and supports growth to meet community needs in other settlements.	Focuses growth in settlements that are better serviced and can best accommodate growth in a sustainable way. Supports growth in other settlements and areas that is incremental and reflects the existing scale and pattern of settlement. Existing planning consents (unbuilt) support this strategy looking to the next 20 year period.
Develop the new community of An Camus Mor as a focus for growth in Badenoch and Strathspey.	Focuses growth in the most sustainable way on a new community with good transport connectivity and the opportunity to plan and develop a functioning community. Relieves pressure for development on other settlements in Badenoch and Strathspey with less capacity to accommodate development.
Identify Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore and (in the long term) An Camus Mor as main settlements within the settlement hierarchy	Each settlement supports a range of services, from schools, shops, visitor infrastructure, transport infrastructure, and service points that are particularly important to their surrounding areas. These are the main settlements of the National Park.
Support well planned improvements to the A9 road and main railway line as an integral part of enhancing the connectivity of the Highlands. Ensure effective planning of improvements to safeguard natural heritage while maximizing the views and enjoyment for visitors to be had from these routes.	Supports the Scottish Government’s aspirations to enhance road and rail connectivity and seeks to maximize the benefits to the Park from these routes passing through the area.
Support and promote improvements to IT communications.	Supports economic diversification and growth and a varied age demographic in communities.
<i>Contributes to national land use strategy objectives: land based businesses working with nature to contribute more to Scotland’s prosperity; responsible stewardship of Scotland’s natural resources delivering more benefits to Scotland’s people; and urban and rural communities better connected to the land, with more people enjoying the land and positively influencing land use.</i>	

**This Policy would support these 5-Year Outcomes**

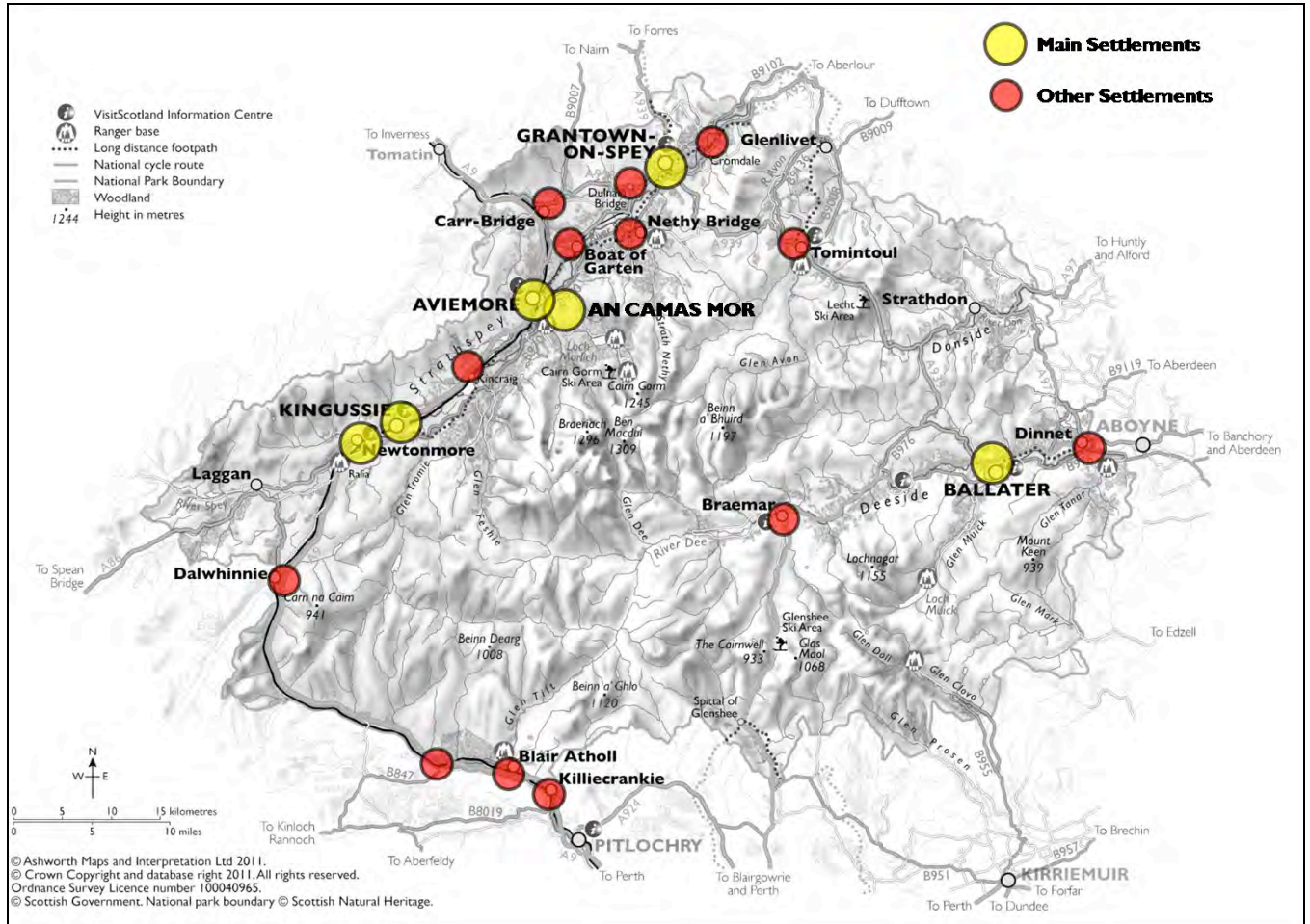
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
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**Question 28**

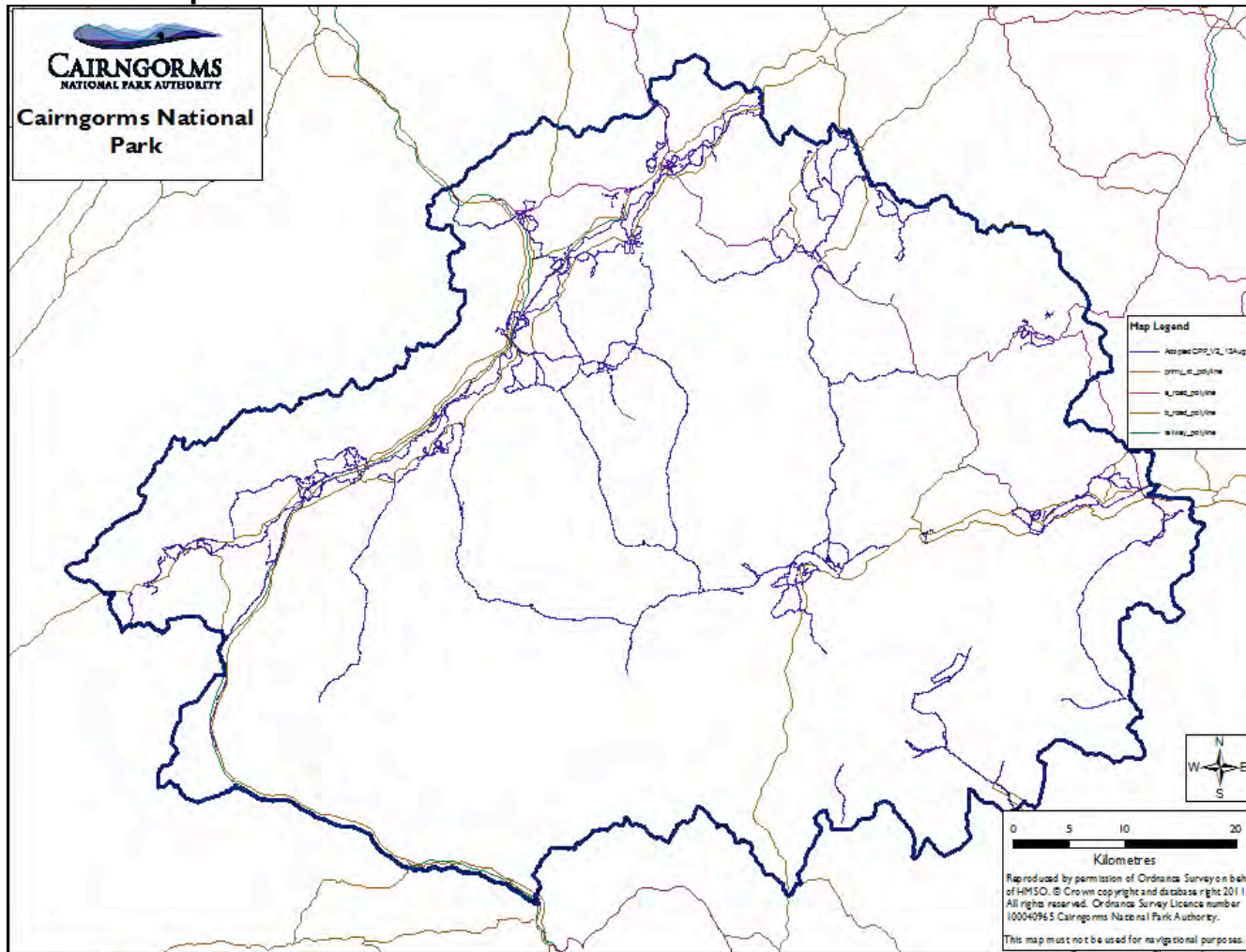
A Do you agree with the proposed approach?

B Would you suggest a different or additional policy approach?

**MAP – Settlement Hierarchy**



### MAP – Transport Infrastructure



## **Delivery**

The challenge running through all the proposals in this consultation document is to make real partnership and collaboration the norm in the National Park. Together with a range of partner organisations across the public, private and voluntary sectors we have developed some effective partnerships to deliver the first National Park Plan. We need to build on these further.

We think partnership in the National Park should be characterised by:

- mutual recognition of the strengths and weaknesses of public, private and voluntary sectors and how to combine these to best effect;
- a willingness to lead where you are best placed to lead, and to let go where others are best placed to lead;
- trust in partners to deliver on behalf of others;
- focus on the best outcomes for the Park; and above all,
- commitment to the shared vision.

The final National Park Plan will set out a series of programmes, with lead and supporting partners identified. During the consultation we will be discussing what each of our partners will commit to deliver over the next plan period so that the final plan can show clearly who will share responsibility for which programmes.

The Cairngorms National Park Authority will co-ordinate and report on delivery, drawing together the efforts of public, private and voluntary sector partners towards the five year outcomes.