



Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022

STRATEGY

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Environmental Report

June 2022

(also incorporating the Habitats Regulations Appraisal)

Cover Note **PART 1**

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PART 2

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

Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 - 2027

The Responsible Authority is:

Cairngorms National Park Authority

PART 3

- The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. or
- The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. or
- The PPS does not require an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, as this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 5 week timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

PART 4

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PART 5

Signature

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Date

2 June 2022

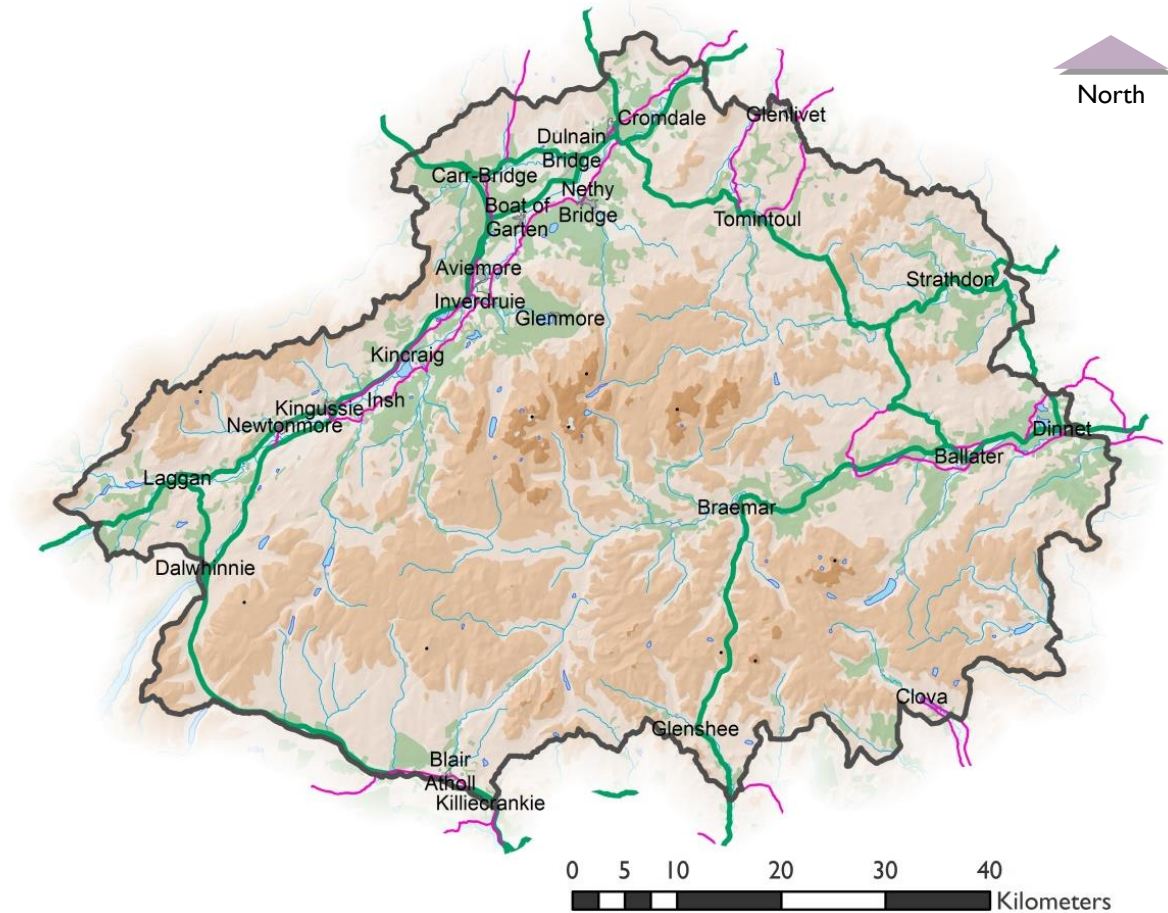
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Note: Topic papers are provided in a separate document

Non-technical summary

This Environmental Report assesses the potential environmental effects of the National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP) for the Cairngorms National Park (figure 1).



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Figure 1 – the area covered by the National Park Partnership Plan.

The NPPP identifies measures that partner organisations and the National Park Authority will work together on to meet the legislative aims for National Parks:

- 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 pursued collectively. However, if there is conflict between the first aim and any of the others then greater weight must be given to the first aim (section 9.6 of the National Parks (Scotland) Act). This is a sustainable development approach in which conservation of the natural and cultural heritage underpins the economic, social and recreation value of the National Park.

The main issues facing the National Park can be summarised as the effects of climate change on people and nature, the effects of people and land management practices on nature, and a housing market that does not meet local housing needs (see separate environmental baseline Topic papers for further information). The NPPP seeks to identify solutions to these issues through a range of policies, objectives, targets and actions. Some of these solutions may have environmental effects. The main purpose of the Strategic Environmental Assessment is to identify whether and where effects may occur, to enable amendments to minimise harmful effects.

None of the policies or objectives in the NPPP were predicted to have negative environmental effects (**Annex II: Environmental assessment tables**). The environmental assessment identified two short term actions (relating to peatland restoration and capercaillie conservation) and four long term targets (relating to raptor conservation, increased habitat and species diversity on grouse moorlands, peatland and freshwater restoration) as having the potential to have environmental effects. All were predicted to have positive environmental effects, with one (peatland restoration) also predicted to have uncertain effects on cultural heritage and another (increased diversity on grouse moorlands) predicted to have uncertain effects on landscapes, cultural heritage, carbon rich soils and peatland habitats.

As the NPPP is implemented, monitoring will occur on an annual basis to see if there are any unexpected effects (**Annex V: Monitoring measures table**). If unexpected effects occur, action will be taken to remedy them as appropriate to the effect and its cause.

I. Context for the Environmental Report

a. Background

The plan being assessed is the fourth National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP). The NPPP is a five year management plan covering the whole of the Cairngorms National Park area (figure 1) for the period 2022 – 2027, although it also contains targets up to 2040. It will replace the current NPPP, which covers the period 2017 – 2022. NPPPs seek to identify key land management, social and economic issues for the Park as a whole, along with strategic measures to alleviate them.

The draft NPPP was subject to SEA scoping in early 2020 and consultation on the draft Environmental Report in autumn 2021. Responses from statutory consultees have been taken into account during the preparation of the revised Environmental Report as outlined in **Annex VII: Consultee comments on draft Environmental Report**. However as a result of public consultation on the draft NPPP, amendments were made to the NPPP wording. This resulted in the need for an overhaul of the environmental assessment, which takes account of the revised wording of the NPPP as well as comments from statutory consultees.

b. Alternatives

Having a NPPP is a legal requirement under section 11 of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000. This limits the options available for consideration of alternatives, as having no NPPP is not permitted. Carrying forward the current 2017 – 2022 NPPP was ruled out as it does not fully reflect or address the contemporary issues facing the National Park. Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) worked with partner organisations to identify issues and solutions during 2020 and 2021, resulting in a draft NPPP. The draft NPPP was refined in early 2022 as a result of consultation feedback. Unfeasible alternative solutions were ruled out during the drafting and refining process, meaning that the solutions felt by partners to be most viable were put forward into the NPPP.

c. About the National Park Partnership Plan and relationship with other plans

The NPPP will:

- Set the strategic vision and priorities for managing the Park by identifying key land management, social and economic issues.
- Identify measures that CNPA and partners think will alleviate the issues and make the biggest contribution to a successful National Park over the plan's lifetime and beyond.
- Provide focus and priorities at a time of limited financial resources.
- Show how the four aims of the National Park can be achieved together, benefiting people and place.

The NPPP will also provide strategic direction for five key strategies and plans that sit below it, as shown in figure 2. In turn, these plans and strategies will support delivery of the NPPP priorities.

(Note that these strategies may change name and location in the hierarchy as the 2022 NPPP is implemented, however they will remain below the NPPP and cover the same topic areas.)



Figure 2 – hierarchy of CNPA plans and strategies currently linked to the NPPP

d. Environmental protection objectives in other plans, programmes and strategies

There are a large number of other plans, programmes and strategies (PPS) that are of relevance to the NPPP. Due to their number, these are listed in **Annex I: Plans, programmes and strategies relevant to the NPPP**. The PPS are categorised according to their international, national and local scales and are accompanied by information on their purpose, relationship with the NPPP and their relevance to the environmental assessment.

2. Current state of the environment

a. Topics considered

Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 lists categories of potential environmental effects that should be considered as part of the environmental assessment process. These have been grouped together into eight Topic areas. The Topics are:

- Topic I: Climatic Factors

- Topic 2: Air
- Topic 3: Water
- Topic 4: Soil (including geodiversity¹)
- Topic 5: Material Assets
- Topic 6: Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
- Topic 7: Landscape and Cultural Heritage
- Topic 8: Population and Human Health

All the SEA Topics have been included in the environmental assessment, as the strategic nature of the NPPP and baseline issues have the potential to influence all topics.

b. Environmental baseline

The separate Topic papers present information on the environmental baseline, ordered by the eight different topic areas: climatic factors, air, water, soil, material assets, biodiversity flora and fauna, landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health. (**Annex IV: Population data analysis information** provides information on how some elements of the population and human health baseline were assessed, due to complexities of gathering data at a National Park rather than Local Authority level.)

A different approach has been taken to presenting the baseline information, by using infographics rather than the traditional text heavy written report style. The aim of this is to make the information more accessible and understandable to consultees and the public. (The infographics are also suitable for use for more purposes than SEA alone. By being multi-purpose, this represents more efficient working for CNPA staff.)

The baseline data has been taken from a variety of sources, such as the 2011 Census, Scottish Government National Statistics, National Records of Scotland, Forestry and Land Scotland, NatureScot, Registrar of Scotland, and the five Councils in the National Park. (**Annex IV: Population data analysis information** provides details of how the population data was gathered at the National Park level.)

3. Environmental assessment

a. Assessment carried out

The environmental assessment is presented in **Annex II: Environmental assessment tables**. The policies, objectives, targets and actions in the NPPP form a chain that will deliver the theme outcomes and overall vision of the NPPP. Therefore the focus of the

¹ Geodiversity is more relevant to soils (Topic 4) due to the small number of quarries in the National Park. The contribution of mineral extraction to resources is still included under Topic 5.

environmental assessment has been on the policies, objectives, targets and actions, as these are what have the potential to drive environmental change.

In summary, none of the policies or objectives in the NPPP were predicted to have negative environmental effects (**Annex II: Environmental assessment tables**). The environmental assessment identified two short term actions (relating to peatland restoration and capercaillie conservation) and four long term targets (relating to raptor conservation, increased habitat and species diversity on grouse moorlands, peatland and freshwater restoration) as having the potential to have environmental effects. All were predicted to have positive environmental effects, with one (peatland restoration) also predicted to have uncertain effects on cultural heritage and another (increased diversity on grouse moorlands) predicted to have uncertain effects on landscapes, cultural heritage, carbon rich soils and peatland habitats.

Table I provides the scoring matrix used to ensure consistency during the environmental assessment.

Table I – scoring matrix

Significance of Effect	
Element would have a major positive environmental effect in its current form as it would resolve an existing issue or maximise opportunities. SIGNIFICANT.	++
Element would have a minor positive environmental effect.	+
Effect of element is uncertain .	?
No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x
Element would have no predicted environmental effects.	0
Element would have a minor adverse environmental effect.	-
The element would have a major adverse environmental effect as it would create significant new problems or substantially exacerbate existing problems. Consider exclusion of option. SIGNIFICANT.	--

Consideration of cumulative/in combination effects was part of the assessment process, rather than being a separate assessment. However no cumulative effects with sufficient information to enable meaningful assessment were found. (For example, while the proposed woodland expansion, biodiversity enhancement and peatland restoration targets are likely to interact, because the NPPP is a high level document, there is limited specific information on where, how and when individual activities/projects arising from the three elements would interact. This means it is not possible to meaningfully assess what cumulative effects, if any, would occur.) Nonetheless, it should be noted that more detailed information of many of the targets would be part of other plans programmes or strategies, which themselves would be subject to environmental assessment at a scale better able to quantify and assess cumulative/in combination effects at that time.

Due to the NPPP being a high level document, many of the policies, objectives, target and actions are too vague to enable meaningful identification of environmental effects. This is because of the non-specific nature of many of them, meaning it is not possible to characterise what effects might occur or identify the location(s) potentially affected, nor the magnitude and spatial extent of effects for many of the policies and objectives/targets. So while actions arising from some of the policies, objectives, target and actions might have the potential to give rise to some environmental effects, it is not possible, on the basis of the limited information within the policy, objective, target or action, to identify what those potential effects might be, where they might occur, their scale and/or their significance.

(Any potential effects would however be managed through other processes at the time that a detailed proposal/project/plan comes forward, such as through the planning or other approvals system, or SEA of other more detailed plans, programmes or strategies.)

Some of the policies, objectives, targets and actions also relate to processes or evidence gathering that in themselves would not result in change or environmental effects. While others are reliant on implementation of other plans or strategies, such as the LDP and Forest Strategy, which are subject to separate SEA on their more detailed content.

The Cairngorms 30 / Heritage Horizons projects mentioned in the NPPP are not assessed, as they have been separately screened for environmental assessment. In addition, while many of the Cairngorms 2030 projects would as coincidentally assist with meeting some objectives of the NPPP, they are separately funded and run discreet projects that are independent of the NPPP.

With regard to the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and Regional Land Use Framework (RLUF) mentioned in the NPPP, the NPPP is also the RSS for the National Park. Therefore no separate assessment of the NPPP as a RSS is required. No detail on the contents of the RLUF is available, other than that it will be derived from the objectives of the NPPP and other relevant plans or strategies. The contents of the RLUF will be subject to screening for environmental assessment at the drafting stage. Therefore no assessment of the RLUF is required as part of the NPPP SEA.

b. Other environmental assessments

A Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) has been undertaken at the same time as the draft Environmental Report. While the HRA is required under different legislation², as a matter of good practice the HRA has been used to inform the Environmental Report and vice versa as part of an iterative process. For ease of cross reference, the HRA is provided in **Annex VI: Habitats Regulations Appraisal**.

² Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, commonly referred to as the Habitats Regulations.

4. Monitoring

The effects of implementation of the NPPP will be monitored during its lifetime. **Annex V: Monitoring measures table** identifies what measures will be used and what monitoring will be undertaken. If unexpected effects occur, action will be taken to remedy them as appropriate to the effect and its cause

5. Next steps

Once the NPPP (and Environmental Report) has gained Ministerial approval, the NPPP will be adopted and a post-adoption statement on the Environmental Report issued. The finalised NPPP is anticipated to be ready for adoption in summer/early autumn 2022.

Annex I: Plans, programmes and strategies relevant to the NPPP

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the NPPP
International Directives and Policies			
European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (European Council, 1992)	European adopted under the auspices of the Council of Europe to protect and promote historical regional and minority languages in Europe. Identifies Gaelic as being an endangered language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landscape and Cultural heritage – Population and Human health 	The proposals in the NPPP should support the Gaelic language where relevant to the priorities identified.
European Landscape Convention (European Commission, 2000)	Promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – Landscape and Cultural heritage – Population and Human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should be a tool for the maintenance and restoration of landscapes and their natural habitats.
The Paris Agreement (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2015)	The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Climatic Factors 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should seek to promote the development and use of appropriate renewable energy sources and contribute to climate change mitigation.
Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC, 1997)	Protocol to the international Framework Convention on Climate Change with the objective of reducing the Greenhouse gases that cause climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Climatic factors 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support measures that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the NPPP
The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (Council of Europe, 1995)	The Strategy aims to reverse the decline of landscape and biological diversity, by promoting innovation and proactive policy making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – Landscape and Cultural Heritage – Population and Human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support the Strategy by considering the contribution that actions could make to protecting biodiversity and landscapes.
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance 1971	Requires conservation and wise use of wetlands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – Landscape and Cultural Heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should ensure the protection and enhancement of wetlands.
Taking Sustainable Use of Resources Forward: A thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste (EU 2005)	A sector based strategy produced as a requirement of the Seventh Environmental Action Programme of the European Community, seeking to help Europe become a recycling society that seeks to avoid waste and uses waste as a resource.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Climatic factors – Air – Material assets 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should seek to minimise waste and promote recycling.
Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection (EU 2006)	A sector based strategy produced as a requirement of the Seventh Environmental Action Programme of the European Community, seeking to establish common principles for the protection and sustainable use of soils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Soil and geodiversity 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should contribute towards the protection and improvement of soil.
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UN, 1992)	An international legally-binding treaty with three main goals: conservation of biodiversity; sustainable use of biodiversity; fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should look for opportunities to

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the NPPP
			conserve, and where possible restore, biodiversity.
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (the Rio Earth Summit) 1992 (UN, 1992)	Treaty aimed at reducing global emissions of greenhouse gases to combat global warming.	– Climatic factors	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should assist in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
– National Legislation (UK and Scotland)			
Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000 (as amended in Scotland)	Establishes standards for air quality and sets limits for various pollutants in Scotland.	– Air – Population and Human health	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support measures that would improve air quality.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended by Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011)	Prescribes the approach to be taken to planning for scheduled ancient monuments and archaeological areas.	– Landscape and Cultural heritage	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should ensure that scheduled ancient monuments and archaeological areas are not adversely affected by new development.
Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	Legislation to set a target for the year 2050, an interim target for the year 2020, and to provide for annual targets, for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; to provide about the giving of advice to the Scottish Ministers relating to climate change; to confer power on Ministers to impose climate change duties on public bodies; to make further provision about mitigation of and adaptation to climate change; to make provision about energy efficiency, including provision enabling council tax discounts; to make	– Climatic factors	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support and include climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the NPPP
	provision about the reduction and recycling of waste; and for connected purposes.		
Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994 (as amended for Scotland)	These regulations relate to the designation of European sites, and provision of protection to various plant and animal species.	– Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should ensure that European sites are protected from loss or damage.
Environment Act 1995	The Act sets new standards for environmental management by National Parks and other statutory bodies.	– All Topics	The CNPA must adhere to the standards set out in the Act.
Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	Requires Strategic Environmental Assessments to be completed for plans, programmes and strategies likely to have significant environmental effects.	– All Topics	Enables the significant environmental effects of the plan to be identified and addressed.
Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 2017	Requires environmental impact assessments for certain forestry projects.	– All Topics	The plan will be required to be compatible with Environmental Impact Assessments legislation.
The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017	Requires environmental impact assessment of site specific projects and specifically requires consideration of Sensitive Areas including National Parks.	– All Topics	The plan will be required to be compatible with Environmental Impact Assessments legislation.
Equality Act 2010	The Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society.	– Population and Human health	The plan should ensure that it does not result in individuals or groups with protected characteristics being discriminated against.
Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	Establishes roles, responsibilities and requirements for sustainable flood management.	– Climatic Factors – Water – Population and Human health	The plan should support flood management, particularly natural flood management.

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the NPPP
Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005	The Act aims to secure Gaelic as an official language of Scotland, "commanding equal respect" with English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landscape and Cultural heritage – Population and Human health 	In its production the plan should meet the requirements of the Act and enable and other partners, including those not covered by the Act, to do the same.
Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014	Amongst other things, establishes Historic Environment Scotland with the general function of investigating, caring for and promoting Scotland's historic environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landscape and Cultural heritage 	The plan should support the protection and preservation of the historic environment.
Housing (Scotland) Act 2014	Makes provision about housing, including provision about the abolition of the right to buy, social housing, the law affecting private housing, the regulation of letting agents and the licensing of sites for mobile homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Population and Human health 	The plan should support the provision of housing, particularly affordable housing.
Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	Establishes right of responsible access to land and water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water – Landscape and Cultural Heritage – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – Population and Human health 	The plan can provide for and support responsible access.
National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000	Specifies what a Park Authority can do and how it should be run, including a requirement to produce a National Park Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All Topics 	Establishes the aims of National Parks. Provides direction on the functions and role of the National Park Authority.
Nature Conservation Act (Scotland) 2004	Act places duties on public bodies for conserving biodiversity, increases protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the NPPP
	(SSSI), amends legislation on Nature Conservation Orders, provides for Land Management Orders for SSSIs and associated land, strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and requires the preparation of a Scottish Fossil Code.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – Landscape and Cultural Heritage 	should support conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997	Prescribes the approach to be taken in planning for listed buildings, conservation areas and designed landscapes and gardens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Material Assets – Landscape and Cultural heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should ensure that listed buildings, conservation areas and designed landscapes and gardens are not adversely affected.
Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended in Scotland)	Sets out offences in relation to the protection of badgers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should seek to protect badgers.
Sewage (Scotland) Act 1968	Along with the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002 this gives responsibilities to Scottish Water to manage the discharge of surface water that enters its drainage systems (by providing sewers and public Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs)) and to maintain water supplies and drainage infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water – Population and Human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should have regard to Scottish Water's duties under this Act.
Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003	Transposes the Water Framework Directive into Scots law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – Landscape and Cultural Heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should encourage improvements to the water environment and support measures for more efficient use of water.

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the NPPP
		– Population and Human health	
Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002	Along with the Sewage (Scotland) Act 1968 this gives responsibilities to Scottish Water to manage the discharge of surface water that enters its drainage systems (by providing sewers and public Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs)) and to maintain water supplies and drainage infrastructure.	– Water – Population and Human health	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should have regard to Scottish Water's duties under this Act.
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended in Scotland)	Sets out offences in relation to the protection of certain species.	– Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support protected species.
Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011	Amends Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and seeks to modernise game law; abolish the designation 'areas of special protection'; improve snaring practice; regulate invasive non-native species; change the licensing system for protected species; amend current arrangements for deer management and deer stalking; strengthen protection of badgers; change how muirburn can be practised; and make operational changes to the management of Sites of Scientific Interest; game law, use of shores, and invasive species legislation.	– Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support provisions of the Act.
Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	To make provision in relation to the conservation of biodiversity; to make further provision in relation to the conservation and enhancement of Scotland's natural features; to amend the law relating to the protection of certain birds, animals and plants; and for connected purposes.	– Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support provisions of the Act.
– National Policy (UK and Scotland)			

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the NPPP
The Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000	Sets out air quality objectives for Scotland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Air – Population and Human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should encourage reductions in emissions through a range of measures.
Creating Places - A policy statement on architecture and place for Scotland (Scottish Government, 2013)	A policy statement on architecture and place setting out the comprehensive value good design can deliver. The document contains an action plan that sets out the work that will be taken forward to achieve positive change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landscape and Cultural heritage – Population and Human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support good design.
Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (Scottish Government, 2014)	Sets objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, Ministerial proposals and policies for meeting those objectives, and the period within which those proposals and policies will be introduced. The Programme also sets out the arrangements for wider engagement in meeting those objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Climatic factors – Population and Human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should encourage reductions in emissions through a range of measures.
Civil Contingencies Act 2004	Delivers a framework for civil protection in the UK and defines the responsibilities for responders to emergency which include (among others)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Material Assets – Population and Human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support the requirements of responders to fulfil their statutory duties.
Cleaner Air for Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future (Scottish Government, 2015)	The national cross-government strategy that sets out how the Scottish Government and its partner organisations propose to reduce air pollution further to protect human health and fulfil Scotland’s legal responsibilities as soon as possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Air – Population and Human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should encourage reductions in emissions through a range of measures.

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the NPPP
Climate Change: The UK Programme (UK Government, 2000)	Goal to reduce carbon emissions in the UK by 60% by 2050.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Climatic factors – Air 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should encourage reductions in emissions through a range of measures.
Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland (SEPA, 2009)	This policy aims to provide a sustainable future for Scotland's groundwater resources by protecting legitimate uses of groundwater and providing a common SEPA framework.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water – Soil and geodiversity 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should aim, where possible, to manage significant flood risk to groundwater from flooding related pollution.
Designations Three Year Plan 2016 – 2019 (HES, 2016)	This document sets out the three year plan for Historic Environment Scotland's work on designations. Find the aims and priorities for the organisation until 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landscape and Cultural heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should follow the guidance when considering designated sites and structures.
Historic Environment Circular I (HES, 2019)	This circular covers the requirements of the secondary legislation ('the Regulations') relating to the Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014 ('the 2014 Act').	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landscape and Cultural heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should follow the guidance for policy development on the management of the historic environment.
Historic Environment Policy Statement (HES, 2019)	Document to which planning authorities are directed in their consideration of applications for conservation area consent, listed building consent for buildings of all three categories and their consideration of planning applications affecting the historic environment and the setting of individual elements of the historic environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landscape and Cultural heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should follow the guidance for policy development on the management of the historic environment.

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the NPPP
Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016 – 2021 (Scottish Government, 2016)	Outlines strategy for achieving sustainable land use across Scotland and getting the best from the land of Scotland.	– All Topics	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP could provide more specific direction on the National Land Use Strategy and can be implemented at a regional level.
Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes (HES, various)	Series of guidance notes which are designed to support the Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) and Scottish Planning Policy.	– Landscape and Cultural heritage	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support positive management of the historic environment.
National Planning Framework 3 (Scottish Government, 2014)	A long term strategy for Scotland that provides the spatial expression of the Government’s Economic Strategy and plans for the development and investment in infrastructure.	– All Topics	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support the strategic context set by NPF3 for future regional change around the Park.
Control of Woodland Removal Policy (Scottish Government, 2009)	Sets out Scottish Ministers policy on woodland removal in Scotland.	– Climatic Factors – Water – Soil and geodiversity – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – Landscape and Cultural Heritage	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support the policy
The River Basin Management Plan for the Scotland River	Fulfils a requirement under the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003.	– Water – Soil and geodiversity	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support management

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the NPPP
Basin District: 2015–2027 (SEPA, 2015)		– Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	objectives for water bodies in the National Park.
Scotland Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 (Scottish Government, 2014)	Sets goals for sustainable rural development and the types of support available.	– All Topics	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP could provide direction on how rural development and diversification should be supported in the Park.
Scotland’s Climate Change Adaptation Framework (Scottish Government, 2009)	The framework plays a central role in building Scotland’s resilience to the changing climate, by setting the strategic direction for Scottish Government actions and providing specific actions for different sectors	– Climatic factors – Population and Human health	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support and include climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.
Scotland’s Economic Strategy (Scottish Government, 2015)	Reaffirms the Scottish Government’s commitment to creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.	– Material assets – Population and Human Health	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should encourage economic development that does not adversely affect the special qualities of the Park.
Scotland’s National Transport Strategy (Transport Scotland, 2006)	Scottish Government’s National Strategy for reducing transport emissions by 80%.	– Climatic Factors – Air – Population and Human health	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support reductions in emissions from transport.
Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (Scottish Government, 2004 / 2013)	Comprises of two documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotland’s Biodiversity – It’s in Your Hands. A strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland (2004) 	– Water – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should reflect the purpose of the Strategy through support for the

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the NPPP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity - A Strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland (2013) Identifies Scottish biodiversity priorities and lead partners for taking action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape and Cultural Heritage 	Cairngorms Nature Action Plan 2013 - 2018.
Scottish Forestry Strategy (Scottish Government, 2019)	Outlines strategic priorities for forestry including management, planting and environmental stewardship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Water Soil and geodiversity Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Landscape and Cultural Heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should provide a strategic direction for forestry policy within the National Park.
Scottish Geodiversity Charter 2018-2023 (Scottish Geodiversity Forum, 2018)	Charter sets out why geodiversity is important, and presents a vision that geodiversity is recognised as an integral and vital part of our environment, economy, heritage and future sustainability to be safeguarded for existing and future generations in Scotland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil and geodiversity Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Landscape and Cultural Heritage 	The CNPA is a signatory to the Charter and therefore, where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should include actions to help meet its objectives.
Scottish Government's Infrastructure Investment Plan (Scottish Government, 2015)	Gives an overview of the Scottish Government's plans for infrastructure investment over the coming decades.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material Assets Population and Human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should take account of potential impacts (both positive and negative) of actions on existing and planned developments.

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the NPPP
Scottish Government's National Performance Framework, National Outcomes (Scottish Government, undated)	As part of the National Performance Framework, Scottish Government have set 15 National Outcomes that the public sector must collectively deliver, on children and young people, economy, fair work and business, international, communities, education, health, poverty, culture, environment, human rights.	– All Topics	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should identify and contribute to delivery of the outcomes that are most appropriate in the Park.
Scottish Planning Policy (Scottish Government, 2014)	National planning policy and guidance.	– All Topics	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should the requirements set out within Scottish Planning Policy.
Scottish Soil Framework (Scottish Government, 2009)	Ministers policies and objectives for the conservation and use of soils.	– All Topics	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should promote soil conservation.
Scottish Water Business Plan 2015 – 2021 (Scottish Water, 2015)	The business plan sets out how Scottish Water will deliver improvements to drinking water quality, the environment and customer service required by Scottish Ministers.	– Water – Population and Human health	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should be developed with regard to the objectives and actions proposed in the Business Plan.
Scottish Zero Waste Plan (Scottish Government, 2010)	Provides context for waste planning in Scotland by sets the strategic direction for waste policy for Scotland, with a target of 70% recycling and maximum 5% to landfill by 2025 for all Scotland's waste.	– Climatic Factors – Soil and geodiversity – Material assets – Population and Human health	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP support waste management and good design.
Tourism Scotland 2020 (HIE, 2012)	The strategy targets those markets that offer Scotland the greatest growth potential, provides collaboration within	– Landscape and Cultural Heritage	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the NPPP
	and across Scotland's tourism destinations and develops the authentic memorable experiences tourists seek.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Population and Human health 	should support development of sustainable tourism to contribute to national targets for tourism growth.
UK Geodiversity Action Plan (UK GAP, 2011)	The Action Plan provides a framework in which actions for geodiversity can be captured in one place, allowing a range of organisations, groups and individuals to demonstrate their achievements in a UK-wide context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Soil and geodiversity – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – Landscape and Cultural Heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should include actions to help promote and protect the National Park's geodiversity.
UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (JNCC/Defra, 2012)	The Framework sets out the common purpose and shared priorities of the UK and Scotland for the management of the environment as a whole.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – Landscape and Cultural Heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should reflect the purpose of the Framework through support for the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan 2013 - 2018.
– Local Plans and Strategies			
A9 Dualling Strategy (Transport Scotland)	The project involves the upgrade of 80 miles of single carriageway along the A9 between Perth and Inverness by 2025.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All Topics 	The plan will need to consider the effects of the dualling on the aims of the National Park and how this will influence the proposals in the NPPP.
Cairngorms National Park Capercaillie Framework (CNPA, 2015) (and subsequent Cairngorms Capercaillie Project)	The Framework provides a set of working data, analysis and recommendations that will inform implementation across a wide spectrum of work, from habitat and species management, to recreation management and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support the aims of the Framework and ensure that

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the NPPP
	planning. The Cairngorms Capercaillie Project will deliver the recommendations of the Capercaillie Framework		capercaillie and their habitat are not adversely affected.
Cairngorms National Park Core Paths Plan (CNPA, 2015)	Identifies a network of core paths throughout the National Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – Population and Human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support the promotion and development of core paths.
Cairngorms Forest Strategy (CNPA, 2018)	The Forest Strategy provides future direction for the management of existing forests and guidance on creating new woodlands that enhance the Cairngorms National Park and support its four aims.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All Topics 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support the aims of the Strategy and ensure that forests and woodlands are not adversely affected.
Cairngorms National Park Economic Strategy 2015-2018 (CNPA, 2015)	The purpose of the Strategy for the Cairngorms National Park is to identify the priorities that are specifically relevant to the area and to ensure that partners are working together to address them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Population and Human Health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support the National Park's aim to promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.
Cairngorms National Park Gaelic Language Plan (CNPA, 2018)	A plan that aims to enhance the Gaelic Language and culture within the National Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landscape and Cultural Heritage – Population and Human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support the aims of the Language Plan.
Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021	Establishes development and settlement strategy for the Park, allocates specific development sites, and provides policies for managing development in the Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All Topics 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP,

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the NPPP
			the plan will need to take account of the proposed Plan contents.
Cairngorms Nature Action Plan (CNPA, 2018)	Priorities and actions for biodiversity in the National Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – Landscape and Cultural Heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support the implementation and review of Cairngorms Action Plan
Active Cairngorms (CNPA, 2015)	Provides a framework for managing outdoor access in the Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – Landscape and Cultural Heritage – Population and Human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP can support and promote responsible outdoor access.
Community Visions and Local Community Action or development plans	Statements from communities in the Park about how they would like to change or develop in future, sometimes with plans on how to get there.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – Landscape and Cultural heritage – Population and Human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support communities in developing their own plans and capacity.
Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs) (prepared by Community Planning Partners)	Strategic documents outlining (usually socio-economic) priorities for communities. Community Planning Partners include local public services such as councils, NHS boards,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All Topics 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should help deliver priorities to

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the NPPP
in each of the 5 Local Authority areas overlapping with the Park)	police and fire services, and other public bodies. They work together to improve the way that local services are planned, co-ordinated and carried out.		address inequalities and issues in communities.
Local Housing Strategies (prepared by Local Authorities as housing authorities for each council area)	Required by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001. Sets out how housing authorities will provide for housing needs and demands in their area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Population and Human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support housing delivery.
Regional and Local Transport Strategies (prepared by Local Authorities)	Set out how to maintain and improve infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Climatic Factors – Air – Population and Human health 	Plan should support sustainable transport solutions and encourage lower carbon forms of transport.
River Dee Catchment Management Plan (Dee Catchment Partnership, 2007)	Aims to promote sustainable use of natural resources, to improve water quality and biodiversity within the river catchment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water – Soil and geodiversity – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – Landscape and Cultural heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support integrated catchment management as a way of improving water quality and the health of natural systems.
River Spey Catchment Management Plan (Spey Catchment Initiative, 2016)	Aims to promote sustainable use of natural resources, to improve water quality and biodiversity within the river catchment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water – Soil and geodiversity – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support integrated catchment management as a way of improving water quality and the health of natural systems.

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the NPPP
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landscape and Cultural Heritage 	
South Esk Catchment Management Plan (River South Esk Catchment Partnership, 2009)	Aims to promote sustainable use of natural resources, to improve water quality and biodiversity within the river catchment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Water – Soil and geodiversity – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – Landscape and Cultural Heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support integrated catchment management as a way of improving water quality and the health of natural systems.
Tourism: Action + Change: Tourism Action Plan for the Cairngorms National Park 2017-2022 (CNPA, 2017)	Developed by the Cairngorms Tourism Partnership, which brings together the key businesses and agencies involved in tourism, the Action Plan sets out the priority actions over the next five years to deliver sustainable tourism in the Cairngorms National Park in line with the Europarc Federation of Protected Areas Charter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Air – Water – Material assets – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – Landscape and Cultural Heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the NPPP should support the implementation of the Sustainable Tourism Strategy.

Annex II: Environmental assessment tables

Table A1 – policy screening table

Policy	Reason for screening in/out
Policy A1 - The Cairngorms National Park will be net zero by (date to be agreed following baseline work) and will contribute to the delivery of net zero for Scotland by 2045. This will be supported by:	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
a) Focusing on nature-based solutions.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
b) Being a rural exemplar in achieving a just transition.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
c) Working with businesses, land managers, communities and visitors across the National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
d) Developing a well-being economy.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
Policy A2 - The management and use of land should deliver multiple benefits and help deliver the Regional Land Use Framework. This will be supported by:	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
a) A long-term planned approach by land based businesses to delivering environmental, economic and social benefits.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
b) Support for land managers to plan and deliver environmental and social benefits underpinned by sound economic businesses.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
c) Working with farmers, crofters, communities and land managers to optimise local food production where factors such as supplier capacity, supply chains and consumer markets are favourable.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.

d) Applying a regionally targeted approach to rural payments to deliver the most appropriate range of public benefits to the National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
e) Developing an approach to private green investment in the National Park to fund nature's recovery and share the benefits between communities, landowners, workers and wider society.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
f) Research to support management options.	OUT - evidence gathering.
Policy A3 - Enhance the resilience of habitats, species and land use to climate change, pest and disease risks, ensuring that the integrity of designated sites is maintained with a particular focus on:	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
a) Collaborating on land use and flood management, including natural flood management, through river catchment management plans.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
b) Enhancing the health and connectivity of habitats.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
c) Encouraging new woodland creation that complements other land uses and the landscapes of the National Park. This should support forest habitat connectivity, be compatible with moorland management and should not adversely impact on local agricultural priorities, including no wholesale conversion of enclosed, in-by-land.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.

d) Securing protection, restoration of degraded peatland and sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
e) Ceasing fires on deep peat and reducing burning on shallow peat soils through licensing.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
f) Reducing red deer and other herbivore (roe deer, fallow deer, sheep and hare) numbers where needed across the National Park to enable woodlands to expand, heather loss to be reversed, peatlands to recover and wider biodiversity and landscape enhancement to take place.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
g) Applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
Policy A4 - Conserve and enhance the special landscape qualities with a particular focus on:	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
a) Wildness qualities.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
b) Maintaining and promoting dark skies.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
c) Support woodland expansion that maximises opportunities for long term enhancement of landscape and wildness qualities and limits short term negative impacts through early engagement and good scheme design.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.

d) Delivering enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
e) Enhancing opportunities to enjoy and experience the landscapes of the Park.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
f) Applying a presumption against new constructed tracks in open moorland and, where agreed, new tracks should be constructed to a high standard	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
Policy A5 - Conserve and enhance habitat quality and connectivity while ensuring the integrity of designated sites is maintained, with a particular focus on:	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
a) Support woodland creation and management, especially natural regeneration and riparian woodlands that delivers more natural and native woodland cover to create habitat connections between catchments and minimises need for fencing.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.

<p>b) Creating a more natural transition from woodland to montane scrub to upland heath with more structural and species diversity. Linking habitats together sympathetically with pockets and strips of trees and shrubs on moorland edges, steep slopes, in gullies and around woodland remnants</p>	<p>OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.</p>
<p>c) Conserving and enhancing wetlands.</p>	<p>OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.</p>
<p>d) Protecting and improving the freshwater environment.</p>	<p>OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.</p>
<p>e) Delivering a combination of ecosystem services including natural flood management, carbon sequestration and storage, timber and food production.</p>	<p>OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.</p>
<p>f) Managing public greenspace and transport networks for biodiversity enhancement and habitat connectivity.</p>	<p>OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.</p>

g) Supporting off-site mitigation from development that contributes to ecological networks.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
Policy A6 - Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important, with a particular focus on:	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
a) Species whose conservation status is in decline or at risk.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
b) Tackling and reducing the impacts of invasive non-native species.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
c) Tackling and reducing wildlife crime.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
d) Minimising disturbance to sensitive species in particular places at particular times of year	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
e) Engaging people on species that are important in the National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
f) Promoting biological recording of species in the National Park.	OUT - evidence gathering.

g) Undertaking appropriate work for species reintroductions or reinforcement as required.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
h) Adaptive management that reflects changing evidence and policy	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
Policy B1 - Deliver a well-being economy in the Cairngorms National Park by strengthening existing business sectors, supporting business start-ups, developing green jobs, supporting diversification, the circular economy and maintaining the number of workers employed in the National Park through:	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
a) Maintaining the population of the National Park and maintaining or growing the proportion of the working age population.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
b) Supporting the diversification of existing land-based businesses and ensuring the traditional skills of the sector are harnessed.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
c) Encouraging growth of business sectors that draw on the special qualities of the National Park, such as sustainable tourism, ecological restoration and food and drink.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
d) Supporting business start-ups and diversification that delivers circular economy benefits.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
e) Promoting the Real Living Wage for the Cairngorms National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.

f) Broadening the economic base of the National Park into sectors such as the creative industries and renewable energy, and making stronger links with higher and further education.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
g) Increasing provision for business land where there is an identified need and demand; and to support the use of land for small business, particularly within settlements.	OUT - too general / this would be done through LDP allocations, with the LDP being subject to separate SEA of the identified sites.
h) Slowing outward migration of young people, encouraging their return, and supporting the inward migration of workers to the National Park to meet business and community needs.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
i) Providing of a housing land supply that supports young people and workers and maintains vibrant communities.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
j) Reducing the proportion of vacant and second homes to support community vibrancy, ensuring that new housing development best meets local needs.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
k) Maximising the proportion of new housing development that is affordable in perpetuity, using short-term let control areas and licensing of short-term let properties to manage the impact of second homes and short-term lets on the housing market (and the availability of housing for residents and workers).	OUT - too general / this would be done through LDP allocations, with the LDP being subject to separate SEA of the identified sites/ short term lets control is the responsibility of the relevant Local Authority who should carry out environmental assessment of their policy if required.
Policy B2 - Support and build the capacity of communities to deliver their aspirations, with a particular focus on:	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
a) Supporting communities to plan for their own futures, develop and implement projects, engage the support of partners and share good practice.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.

b) Encouraging innovative approaches to providing affordable housing to meet local needs.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
c) Supporting communities and landowners to work collaboratively on management of land for shared benefits.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
d) Aligning community planning processes to simplify support to communities.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
e) Engaging communities effectively in the long-term management of the National Park and in projects or programmes that affect them.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
f) Supporting community and public sector control of land for development where appropriate.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
Policy B3 - Provide high-quality opportunities for access and recreation whilst limiting negative impact on wildlife and communities, with a particular focus on:	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
a) Ensuring a high-quality functional network of active travel, core paths and long-distance routes.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
b) Promoting the health benefits of outdoor recreation and GP-led green health referrals.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
c) Identifying areas where particular management measures are needed in relation to delivering a high-quality visitor experience, whilst safeguarding sensitive species and environments.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
d) Promoting responsible behaviour in enjoying and managing access.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.

Policy B4 - Provide opportunities for inspiration, learning and understanding through engaging with people, with a particular focus on:	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
a) Reaching out to equalities groups and young people.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
b) Creating opportunities to support the delivery of the Curriculum for Excellence and education beyond school.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
c) Promoting and enhancing volunteering opportunities.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
d) Promoting a sense of shared ownership and responsibility towards Scotland's National Parks and rural environment.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
e) Promoting knowledge exchange and sharing development experience between rural areas nationally and internationally.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
f) Celebrating Gaelic language and culture.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
Policy B5 - Support under-represented groups to visit, work and live in the National Park and ensure a Park for All, with a particular focus on:	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
a) Equal access and opportunities that are affordable for all.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
b) Promoting targeted opportunities to support people from protected groups to visit and enjoy the National Park	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
c) Increasing our understanding of barriers to inclusion and access to nature for hard-to-reach groups through improving baseline data and data gathering methods	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.

d) Addressing any barriers to participation	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
e) Improve promotion and quality of opportunities for hard-to-reach groups to become involved with and access the National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
f) Ensuring that the infrastructure of the National Park is designed and maintained to be as accessible as possible to people with the widest range of abilities.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
g) Working in partnership with local businesses, health sector and community groups to improve inclusion and access to the National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
h) Improving reporting processes and effective feedback loops to increase engagement with protected groups.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
i) Improving digital accessibility and inclusive communications, in particular publications, video / streamed content and the National Park website.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
j) Diversifying and improving representation of protected groups in consultation and promotional material	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
Policy CI - Enable sustainable patterns of settlement development, infrastructure and communications while maintaining the integrity of designated sites by:	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.

a) Consolidating the role of the strategic settlements identified in the current and future Local Development Plans as the most sustainable places for future growth and the focus for housing land supply.	OUT - too general / no change to existing approach in the current LDP, with the LDP being subject to separate SEA.
b) Providing any additional flexibility in future land supply for housing at small sites around a wider range of settlements.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
c) Supporting sensitively-designed improvements to the A9 and other trunk roads and the main railway line as an integral part of enhancing the connectivity of the Highlands.	OUT - although the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect in defined locations (eg A9, trunk roads and railway line), the policy itself is too general to be assessed / improvement projects should be subject to separate SEA by the proposer (eg Transport Scotland, Network Rail) at the detailed design stage.
d) Planning and improving integrated and sustainable local transport networks that allow for safe travel off-road and link with public transport.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
e) Planning and improving integrated public transport that meets the needs of residents and visitors to the National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
f) Planning and supporting improvements to the information technology network.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
g) Planning and supporting improvements to the mobile communications network that improve access to new generation technology and minimise the need for visually intrusive infrastructure.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.

<p>Policy C2 - Support development of a low carbon, circular economy, with a particular focus on:</p>	<p>OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.</p>
<p>a) Increasing renewable electricity and heat generation, especially biomass, hydro, solar, small-scale wind turbines and heat exchange pumps that are compatible with conserving the special qualities of the National Park and maintaining the integrity of designated sites. Large-scale wind turbines are not compatible with the landscape character or special landscape qualities of the National Park. They are inappropriate within the National Park or in areas outside the National Park where they adversely affect its landscape character or special landscape qualities.</p>	<p>OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.</p>
<p>b) Supporting businesses and communities to use less energy, reduce emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing climate.</p>	<p>OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.</p>
<p>c) Maximising the benefits to communities through direct use of locally generated energy or, where sold to the grid, reinvesting income to support community development.</p>	<p>OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.</p>
<p>d) Promoting high standards of sustainable design and efficient use of energy and materials in construction.</p>	<p>OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.</p>

e) Electrifying public transport, and increase cycle carrying capacity in trains, buses, and taxis.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
f) Installing electric car and bike-charging facilities at visitor hubs when investing in upgrades or refurbishment, where electricity supplies allow it.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
Policy C3 - Enhance the design and sense of place in new development and existing settlements, in particular:	OUT - no change to existing approach in LDP, which was subject to separate SEA.
a) Enabling new development which contributes positively to the sense of place.	OUT - no change to existing approach in LDP, which was subject to separate SEA.
b) Promoting a high standard of sustainable design, energy efficiency, sustainably sourced materials and construction in new development.	OUT - no change to existing approach in LDP, which was subject to separate SEA.
c) Supporting the retention and enhancement of local character.	OUT - no change to existing approach in LDP, which was subject to separate SEA.
d) Facilitating the rehabilitation of redundant rural buildings and recycling of resources.	OUT - no change to existing approach in LDP, which was subject to separate SEA.

e) Ensuring road upgrades and improvements respond to local landscape character.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
f) Promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.	OUT - no change to existing approach in LDP, which was subject to separate SEA.
Policy C4 - Develop plans to help manage visitor pressure in key areas, including:	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
a) Ensuring high quality facilities and infrastructure are designed to manage the effects of visitor pressures on the natural heritage and communities.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.
b) Ensuring that the upgrading or refurbishment of visitor hubs improve accessibility for all potential users and incorporate disabled access toilets and changing places facilities where possible.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
c) Enhancing the provision of ranger services to deliver visitor welcome and promote responsible access.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
d) Reduce fire risk by limiting or excluding barbeques and open fires in key areas of the Park, such as woodland and peatland.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
e) Reducing impacts on sensitive habitats.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.

f) Ensuring appropriate transport management to facilitate and enhance the visitor experience.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
Policy C5	
Promote sustainable tourism management, with a particular focus on:	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
a) Taking a co-ordinated approach to responsible tourism and management of the Cairngorms National Park as a visitor destination.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
b) Delivering a visitor / customer experience that spans organisational boundaries.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
c) Providing high-quality co-ordinated information setting visitor experiences in the context of the wider National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
d) Building on and promoting the National Park brand and the promise it delivers.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
Policy C6 - Conserve and enhance the cultural heritage that helps to create the sense of place and identity of communities within the National Park by:	OUT - no change to existing approach in LDP, which was subject to separate SEA.
a) Protecting archaeological sites and their settings and promoting understanding of their significance.	OUT - no change to existing approach in LDP, which was subject to separate SEA.
b) Ensuring appropriate advice and investigation for archaeology is used to inform proposals for land use change.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.

c) Protecting and enhancing the built heritage and designed landscapes.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
d) Promoting opportunities to enjoy and celebrate the cultural heritage of the National Park, including its arts, sports, natural history and community heritage.	OUT - while the policy is likely to encourage projects/actions that have an environmental effect, the policy itself is too general to be assessed.

Table AII – long term objectives and targets screening table

Objective reference	Objective	Target	Reason for screening in/out
A1 net zero	Ensure the Cairngorms National Park reaches net zero as soon as possible and contributes all it can to helping Scotland meet its net zero commitments.	By 2023 establish year by which Cairngorms National Park will be net-zero and target for carbon negative	OUT - while there is potential for environmental effects from achieving net-zero, the action is process based so does not enable meaningful assessment.
		Annual independent progress report on net zero for the Cairngorms National Park	
A2 woodland	Increase the amount of woodland in the National Park to support larger, more natural woodlands, expanding in places up to a natural treeline, providing connections across river catchments and around the	A minimum of 35,000 ha of new woodland cover created by 2045 which;	OUT - while there is potential for environmental effects from increasing woodland cover, this will be delivered as part of the existing Forest Strategy, which was subject to separate SEA. (The Forest Strategy assessed the entire National Park for potential for trees and includes similar requirements regarding planting on agricultural land and fencing.)
		a) Includes a minimum of 80% native woodland.	
		b) Includes a minimum of 10,000ha by natural regeneration without planting.	
		c) Results in no wholesale conversion of enclosed, in-by agricultural land to forestry.	

	central core of the mountains.	d) Minimises the amount of fencing in the Park by favouring establishment through herbivore management and removing redundant fences.	
A3 peatland	Restore and manage peatland within the National Park to reduce carbon emissions and improve biodiversity.	A minimum of 38,000 ha peatland under restoration management by 2045.	IN - potential for environmental effects and broad location (peatland habitats) enables consideration.
		80% of all drains restored by 2035	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		All erosion features restored by 2050.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
A4 deer	Reduce the negative impacts of red deer and other herbivores across the National Park to enable woodlands to expand, heather loss to be reversed, peatlands to recover and wider biodiversity and landscape enhancements to take place.	Impact of herbivores on partnership plan ecological restoration targets (peatland, woodland and structural diversity in moorland)	OUT - evidence gathering.
		Average open range red deer densities in each deer management group are a maximum of five to eight per km ² by 2030.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		Non-native sika and fallow deer will be contained within their current distribution in the National Park by 2030.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
A5 moorland management	Increase the sustainability of moorland management in the National Park to ensure greater species and structural diversity in moorland areas of the Park.	A measurable and sustained increase in both home range, occupation and breeding success of golden eagle, hen harrier, merlin and peregrine across the National Park	IN - potential for environmental effects on specific species enables consideration.
		Increased species and habitat diversity on grouse moors linking together a natural transition from woodland to montane scrub to upland heath	IN - potential for environmental effects on species and habitat diversity enables consideration.
		No negative impact on native biodiversity	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.

A6 game bird management	Ensure that all pheasant and partridge shoots adhere to best practice and that all game bird releases are sustainable and do not negatively impact on native biodiversity.	Gamebird releases have no negative impact on native biodiversity.	OUT – too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		Impacts of gamebirds released around the National Park each year.	OUT – evidence gathering.
A7 fire management	Ensure that all managed burning (muirburn) follows best practice, as defined by the muirburn licensing scheme, supporting habitat restoration and recovery.	All muirburn will comply with regulations set out in the muirburn licensing scheme, including stopping burning on deep peatlands as defined by the licensing regime	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Reduce wildfire risk by developing an integrated wildfire management plan for the Park.		
A8 farming	Work with farms in the National Park to reduce their carbon footprint, conserve soil carbon, encourage sustainable production and deliver increased biodiversity on in-by-land.	Carbon and biodiversity plans are in place for farms across the National Park by 2028.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
		Target rural payments to support sustainable food production, reduce carbon, increase and maintain the health of habitats and ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and help connect different habitats across the National Park	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
		Establish a Regional Land Use Partnership and Framework for the National Park by 2023.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
A9 river restoration	Restore and connect rivers to thriving wetlands and	70% of rivers in good ecological condition by 2045 with ecological structure, function and	IN - potential for environmental effects and broad location (river systems) enables consideration.

	floodplains as part of a wider restoration of the National Park’s freshwater systems, helping mitigate the impacts of climate change.	productivity not deviating significantly from a near-natural system condition. The Cairngorms Nature Index will establish baseline and measure change in river naturalness. This is aligned with Water Framework Directive and enhanced by indicators.	
A10 ecological network	Connect habitats and ecosystems across all different types of land use in the National Park to create an ecological network, which will bring wider landscape, biodiversity and people benefits.	Establish framework for an ecological network across the National Park by 2025.	OUT - process based.
A11 ecological restoration	Improve ecosystem functionality and resilience across the National Park by increasing the area of land managed principally for ecological restoration.	At least 50% of the National Park to be managed principally for ecosystem restoration by 2045 (see Nature objective A12 – Cairngorms Nature Index).	OUT - while there is potential for environmental effects from achieving 50% managed for ecosystem restoration, the action is too general to enable meaningful assessment.
A12 Cairngorms nature index	Develop a more complete understanding of the National Park’s species, habitats and ecosystems, and help monitor long term progress through a dedicated Cairngorms Nature Index.	Develop and roll out the Cairngorms Nature Index by 2024	OUT - process based.

A13 species	Ensure species thrive in the National Park with key assemblages across the Park within the semi-natural landscape.	Species Recovery Curve – Priority species progress from research to developing solutions to sustainable management.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
A14 green investment	Use private green investment in the National Park to fund nature's recovery and share the benefits between communities, landowners, workers and wider society.	The Cairngorms National Park attracts an increasing amount of green finance per annum for projects that deliver multiple benefits (carbon, biodiversity, flood mitigation, community).	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
B1 population	The proportion of young and working age people in the National Park increases relative to the total resident population, which remains stable.	The proportion of young people and working-age people in the National Park relative to the total resident population increases between 2020 and 2045	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		The population stabilises between 2020 and 2045.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
B2 wellbeing economy	Develop a well-being economy that delivers social	Develop Cairngorms Cornerstone Indicators and Well-being Economy Action Plan by 2023	OUT - process based.

	justice in a healthy ecosystem, drawing on the special natural and cultural qualities of the Cairngorms.		
B3 real living wage	Increase the number of Real Living Wage employers in the National Park.	The Park will have an increasing number of Real Living Wage employers and will aim to have the highest proportion in rural Scotland by 2030.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
B4 skills and training	Increase skills and training opportunities for people in the National Park to meet business needs and ensure opportunities created by the growth in green jobs can be filled by residents and under-represented groups.	There is an increasing number of apprenticeships within the National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		An increasing number of people employed in green jobs, such as, peatland restoration, deer management etc.	OUT - evidence gathering.
B5 community assets/land	Increase the number of assets in community ownership or management, the number of social enterprises that generate a profit and the area of land where communities are involved in management decisions.	The numbers of assets in community ownership or management increases year on year from 2021.	OUT - evidence gathering.

B6 new approaches to citizen participation	Strengthen the structures that support participation in planning and decision making at a local level.	Trial and test new approaches to community participation and engagement in decision making by June 2023	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
B7 community-led planning and development	Communities have up to date community action plans and are supported by a community-led local development funding programme, delivering the National Park Partnership Plan	All communities have Community Action Plan in place that is no more than 5 years old	OUT - process based.
		A new scheme is in place to deliver funding for communities, at least equivalent to LEADER programme.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
B8 Gaelic	Encourage greater use of Gaelic in the National Park.	Increased opportunities for individuals and communities to engage with Gaelic language and culture.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
B9 mental and physical health	Improve the mental and physical health and wellbeing of the people of the National Park through connection with nature and the outdoors.	There will be Green Health Referral programmes in place in all GP practices in the Park.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.

B10 Park for all	There will be better opportunities for everyone to enjoy the National Park and the visitor profile will be more diverse, especially with regards to people who are disabled, from lower socio-economic backgrounds, LGBTQ+ and from minority and ethnic groups.	Visitors to the National Park will more closely resemble the overall demography of Scotland.	OUT - evidence gathering.
		Resident and visitor values and attitudes to key issues in the Park are regularly evaluated.	OUT - evidence gathering.
B11 volunteering and outdoor learning	Increase the number of volunteer days spent caring for the National Park and ensure inclusive approach to volunteering recruitment.	At least 200 volunteer rangers in the National Park by 2030.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		Increase the number of National Park volunteer days every year.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Support and deliver opportunities for outdoor learning linked to the special qualities of the National Park	An increase in the number of John Muir Awards undertaken within the National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
CI access to housing	Ensure that there is sufficient affordable housing stock to enable people to live and	A maximum of 15% of all housing stock in the National Park will be second homes, vacant or short-term let properties by 2040.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.

	work within the National Park.		
C2 new housing	Deliver new housing in the National Park and ensure as much as possible is secured for key workers and/or to resolve affordability issues.	By 2030 75% of new housing is for social rental, mid-market rental or other affordable categories that provide affordability in perpetuity.	OUT - while there is potential for environmental effects on population, the action is too general to enable meaningful assessment.
C3 housing and community benefit	Work with communities to ensure that the majority of land allocated for development around villages and towns in the National Park is controlled by communities or public bodies to help manage long-term development needs.	The percentage of developable land in community or public body ownership is increasing.	OUT - evidence gathering.
		The percentage of developable land in community or public body ownership is increasing.	OUT - evidence gathering.
C4 village and town centres	Ensure villages and town centres in the National Park are thriving places where people live, shop and meet.	The percentage of vacant commercial properties on high streets of the National Park reduces.	OUT - evidence gathering.
		An increasing number of rural 20minute neighbourhoods (or rural equivalent).	OUT - evidence gathering.
C5 visitor numbers and infrastructure	Work to stabilise visitor numbers in the peak season, focusing growth on quieter months and on those areas	Growth in visitor numbers is concentrated at off peak times of year and in areas with capacity.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		Length of visitor stay increases.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.

	<p>that have the infrastructure and capacity to manage for additional visitors.</p> <p>Maximise the economic and community benefit of tourism by encouraging longer stays, while maintaining existing high levels of visitor satisfaction.</p>	Visitor satisfaction levels remain high.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
C6 a sustainable destination	Secure the National Park's reputation as an international exemplar in sustainable tourism and the management of protected areas.	The National Park continues to be accredited with the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas and the Glasgow Declaration (Climate Action in Tourism)	OUT - process based.
C7 transport to and around the Park	Promote a modal shift towards sustainable and active travel in the way visitors and commuters get to, and everyone moves around, the National Park.	20% of current journeys by visitors and residents within the National Park do not take place by car by 2030.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		Increase active travel and public transport usage within the Park	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		25% of visitors get to the National Park by public transport by 2045.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		E-bike and adapted bike hire and charging facilities will be available in all main settlements and major visitor hubs by 2030	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		Key public transport options will have capacity for people to bring bikes to the National Park by 2030.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
C8 access network	Improve path, cycle and outdoor access networks to		OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.

	give outstanding opportunities to experience the natural and cultural heritage of the National Park to the widest range of people, while minimising disturbance to vulnerable species, habitats and sites.	Increase the number of km of safe and inclusive off-road or segregated on-road routes between communities by 2030.	
		All core paths are in good condition and accessible to the widest possible range of users.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
C9 high quality visitor experience	Welcome visitors and provide a high-quality experience while managing their impacts through providing better infrastructure and high quality ranger services.	Number of public toilets within the National Park is maintained	OUT - evidence gathering.
		Increased public toilet facilities for people of all needs	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		Number of managed facilities for campervans increases.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		Visitor satisfaction levels remain high.	OUT - evidence gathering.
		Number of rangers employed within National Park is stable or increasing.	OUT - evidence gathering.
C10 cultural heritage	Safeguard and promote the Park's cultural heritage and provide opportunities for everyone to experience and learn about the National Park's outstanding historic environment, history and culture.	A Cairngorms cultural heritage network is established and flourishing.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		An increasing number of community led cultural heritage projects delivered.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.

Table AIII – short term actions screening table

Objective reference	Actions by 2027	Reason for screening in/out
A1 net zero	Carbon audit and baseline established for the Cairngorms National Park in 2022.	OUT - while there is potential for environmental effects from achieving net-zero, the action is process based so does not enable meaningful assessment.
	Establish date for Cairngorms National Park to be net-zero and carbon negative by 2023.	
	Establish a Community Climate Action Hub for the National Park.	OUT – process based.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
A2 woodland	Expand woodland by a minimum of 7,000 ha through delivery of Cairngorms National Park Forest Strategy and targeted grants schemes.	OUT - while there is potential for environmental effects from increasing woodland cover, this will be delivered as part of the existing Forest Strategy, which was subject to separate SEA. (The Forest Strategy assessed the entire National Park for potential for trees.)
	Ensure all scales of woodland are considered and supported including agro-forestry and that at least 2,500ha is achieved through natural regeneration without planting.	
	Work with land managers to ensure existing woodlands are managed for a range of benefits including timber production, public access, biodiversity etc.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Work to deliver improvements to deer management planning in forest plans.	OUT - while there is potential for environmental effects from improving deer management planning, the action is process based so does not enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
A3 peatland	Restore a minimum of 6,500 ha of peatland.	IN - potential for environmental effects and broad location (peatland habitats) enables consideration.

	Increase contractor and estate capacity while creating job opportunities through a peatland skills training programme.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop guidance on the integration of peatland restoration and woodland expansion in the National Park.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Explore protection options for peatland restoration from herbivores.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme.	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
A4 deer	Work in partnership with Deer Management Groups to produce strategic land use plans which explore a wide range of income streams (including from natural capital), reduce habitat impacts and deliver a wide range of public and private benefits.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Explore new models of public/private partnership for maintaining stalker employment in key areas in the Park to achieve overall deer policy objectives.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
A5 moorland management	Introduction of grouse moor licencing and other elements of Independent Grouse Moor Review within the Cairngorms National Park.	OUT - process based.
	Support knowledge exchange and sharing good practice from East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership to other parts of the National Park.	OUT - process based.
	Develop and support Estate Management Plans and Wildlife Estates Scotland accreditation.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.

A6 game bird management	Establish a baseline for the number of gamebirds released in the National Park and assess their impact on native biodiversity.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Depending on the evidence gathered, investigate the use of Park Authority powers to regulate gamebird releases and develop a regulatory approach if required.	OUT - process based.
A7 fire management	Conduct an audit to establish an accurate baseline for the extent of deep peat in the National Park.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Introduce and support a muirburn licencing regime in the National Park.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop Integrated wildfire management plan for the National Park, including strategic firebreaks.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop and agree a National Park approach on campfires and barbeques.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
A8 farming	Agree carbon and biodiversity management plans with farmers in the National Park to help guide activities.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop nature-friendly farming projects (woodland, waders, species rich grassland) as part of the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop and establish a Regional Land Use Framework and Partnership.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
A9 river restoration	Deliver Catchment Management Plans.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop and agree long-term approach to water management and abstraction to help alleviate flood and drought issues.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.

	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
A10 ecological network	Develop Cairngorms Nature Networks – a spatial mapping of potential strategic areas for expanding, enhancing and increasing connectivity of habitats and species in the National Park.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Undertake a ‘call’ for new nature restoration sites in the Cairngorms that deliver ecological functionality and look to secure long term funding.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Review and develop approach to designations in the National Park to help deliver ecological restoration, contribute to ecological networks and net zero in line with new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.	OUT - process based.
	Develop NatureScot Conservation Advice Packages.	OUT - process based.
A11 ecological restoration	Work with partners to identify areas for ecological restoration as part of a revised Cairngorms Nature Action Plan, linked to the Cairngorms Nature Index.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Work with Cairngorms Connect, East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership and others to expand the area of the National Park under ecosystem restoration.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop case studies demonstrating what success looks like, share knowledge and agree an appropriate monitoring framework.	OUT - evidence gathering.
A12 Cairngorms nature index	Establish Cairngorms Nature Index.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Establish Cairngorms Nature Atlas / data portal.	OUT - process based.
	Monitor changes in Special Landscape Qualities.	OUT - evidence gathering.

	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
A13 species	Deliver Species Recovery Plans for priority species through the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan.	OUT - process based.
	Deliver a work programme to support capercaillie conservation in the Cairngorms, based on best available evidence.	IN - potential for environmental effects on a specific species enables consideration.
	Facilitate beaver translocation in the Cairngorms National Park.	OUT - no beaver currently in the National Park to be translocated
	Reduce wildlife crime as an issue in the Park with a specific focus eliminating it as a constraint on raptor numbers and range occupancy in the National Park.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Deliver Cairngorms Raptor Project, in partnership with land managers and raptor study groups.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
A14 green investment	Trial a green finance project for peatland restoration in the National Park.	OUT - process based.
	Explore green finance opportunities at landscape scale and for a wider range of benefits including local community benefit.	OUT - process based.
	Identify a pipeline of projects within the National Park over the next five years.	OUT – too general to enable meaningful assessment / evidence gathering.
	Identify opportunities to strengthen role of communities and public authorities in land purchase decisions in the Park through the next Land Reform Bill.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
BI population	Develop and implement Local Development Plan.	OUT - the LDP is subject to separate environmental assessment.

	Develop green skills/ youth apprenticeship project to help grow a strong working age population.	OUT - process based.
	Grow the influence and level of youth participation in the Cairngorms Youth Action Team.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
B2 wellbeing economy	Develop Cairngorms Cornerstone Indicators for a wellbeing economy to track key social and economic data and trends.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Develop and implement a Wellbeing Economy Action Plan with targeted support and development measures for key sectors.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Support employers to gain accreditation for eg Disability Confident, Carer Positive and the Young Person's Guarantee.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
B3 real living wage	Undertake a Real Living Wage audit of employers in the National Park.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Promote best practice and provide regular reports.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
B4 skills and training	Support skills training programmes relevant to business needs and changes in land management within the National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop scholarships and a mentoring scheme for young people who want to study and be employed in the National Park.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.

	Develop targeted skills initiatives to support social enterprises.	OUT - process based.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
B5 community assets/land	Identify opportunities for community land ownership through a refreshed set of community action plans / local place plans.	OUT - process based.
	Promote Scottish Land Commission Guidance and monitor compliance.	OUT - process based.
	Develop targeted skills initiatives to support social enterprises.	OUT - process based.
	Support communities to acquire and manage assets / land through enhanced funding and training support.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
B6 new approaches to citizen participation	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
B7 community-led planning and development	Refreshed programme of support for community action planning and local place plans.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop and administer new community-led development funding stream	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
B8 Gaelic	All public bodies implement their Gaelic language plans in full.	OUT - no change to existing requirements.

	Develop suite of support tools for Gaelic, in collaboration with local businesses and community /cultural groups.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
B9 mental and physical health	Review, update and deliver the Active Cairngorms Action Plan.	OUT - process based.
	Extend the health walks programme to every community in the National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Increase number of opportunities for green volunteering.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Make greater use of green health directories to support self-led green health activities.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
B10 Park for all	Work with the Cairngorms Equalities Advisory Panel to address systemic issues to enable a Park for All.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Review, update and deliver the Active Cairngorms Action Plan, Infrastructure Plans and Tourism Action Plan.	OUT - the plans should be subject to separate environmental assessment on their detailed content and the action is too general to enable meaningful assessment
	Grow the role, remit and influence of the Cairngorms Youth Action Team.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop targeted support programmes to overcome specific barriers to enjoying the National Park including looking at business and infrastructure capacity.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Conduct regular surveys of residents and visitors values and attitudes to key issues in the Park.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Refresh the Park for All campaign to address barriers to participation from groups / sectors that are under-represented in the National Park.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.

	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
B11 volunteering and outdoor learning	Review, update and deliver the Active Cairngorms Action Plan.	OUT - the plans should be subject to separate environmental assessment on their detailed content and the action is too general to enable meaningful assessment
	Develop and expand volunteer and junior ranger and John Muir Award programmes.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Support communities in maintaining and improving their local environment (path network, litter collection, open spaces, species and habitat etc).	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
C1 access to housing	Introduce short-term let control areas and short-term let licensing to increase the supply of mid-market properties available for local residents and workers.	OUT - implemented and managed by relevant Local Authority, who should carry out their own environmental assessment.
	Secure investment in the private rented sector to provide long-term housing for workers and local people.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop partnership approaches led by local businesses and community-led initiatives to address accommodation needs for workers and local people.	OUT - process based.
C2 new housing	Deliver at least 200 new affordable and mid-market rent homes through local authority Strategic Housing Investment Plans and affordable housing delivery programmes.	OUT - while there is potential for environmental effects on population, the action is too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Use the next Local Development Plan to identify further locations where more than 25% affordable housing is required and bring up to 75% affordable overall.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment and the future LDP will be subject to separate environmental assessment of the allocation sites.

	Support communities to deliver community-led housing solutions, including by making the most of powers to buy land and taking a more pro-active role in management where appropriate.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
C3 housing and community benefit	Review options and funding for public sector purchase of allocated development land.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Support communities to use all possible options to access land for the development they need.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
C4 village and town centres	Review mechanisms available to public sector to encourage regeneration of town and village centres.	OUT - process based.
	Promote business and community led collaborative projects to promote local expenditure and supply chains.	OUT - process based.
	Develop rural approach to the 20 minute neighbourhoods concept in the Park.	OUT - process based.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
C5 visitor numbers and infrastructure	Review, update and deliver Cairngorms Tourism Action Plan to promote areas where with geographic and/or seasonal capacity in a sustainable manner.	OUT - the plan should be subject to separate environmental assessment on their detailed content and the action is too general to enable meaningful assessment
	Develop Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Plan to provide higher quality infrastructure at key visitor hotspots and for key sectors (eg camping and motor homes).	OUT - the plan should be subject to separate environmental assessment on their detailed content and the action is too general to enable meaningful assessment
	Collect and share high quality data on visitor numbers, behaviour, perceptions and aspirations.	OUT - evidence gathering.

C6 a sustainable destination	Submit Tourism Action Plan to Europarc by 2023 and secure accreditation.	OUT - process based.
	Maintain our status with the Glasgow Declaration (Climate Action in Tourism).	OUT - process based.
C7 transport to and around the Park	Work to ensure bike capacity as part of the Highland Mainline development	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Support Sustrans led work on promoting and developing Lochs and Glens Way (formerly National Cycle Network 7) and National Cycle Network 195.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Promote low-cost initiatives to access the National Park by public transport	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Promote innovative approaches based on 'mobility as a service', demand responsive transport initiatives, improved connectivity of bus routes, and e-scooters, electric car schemes, car share schemes, etc.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
C8 access network	Develop and implement new Cairngorms Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Plan.	OUT - the plan should be subject to separate environmental assessment on their detailed content and the action is too general to enable meaningful assessment
	Review Active Cairngorms Action Plan.	OUT - process based.
	Complete extension of Deeside Way to Braemar.	OUT - existing planning permission is in place for this, so the proposal has been through environmental assessment via the planning process. (see https://www.eplanningcnpa.co.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=PFVV83SI0CH00&activeTab=summary for the planning permission and associated documents)

	Increase promotion of Speyside Way and provide options for cycling.	OUT - already a well promoted route used by a variety of recreation modes (eg running, walking, cycling, etc), additional promotion unlikely to cause additional or new environmental effects.
	Consider all potential mechanisms to reduce disturbance on key species and recreational impacts on high ground.	OUT - process based.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.
C9 high quality visitor experience	Develop and implement new Cairngorms Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Plan and Active Cairngorms Action Plan and Tourism Action Plan.	OUT - the plans should be subject to separate environmental assessment on their detailed content and the action is too general to enable meaningful assessment
	Support the implementation of the Cairngorm Mountain masterplan.	OUT – too general to enable meaningful assessment / as a public body HIE are responsible for environmental assessment of their plans, and have overall responsibility for their implementation
	Support a coordinated family of ranger services across the National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Map accessible facilities, so people can identify in advance of their journeys available accessibility support.	OUT - evidence gathering.
C10 cultural heritage	Develop a Cairngorms cultural heritage network, building on the success of the Badenoch: The Storylands project, Tomintoul and Glenlivet Landscape Partnership and Catearan Eco-museum.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Provide grant funding for community heritage projects that contribute to a cultural heritage network	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment.

Table AIV – assessment for N3 peatland restoration

Assessor(s):		Nina Caudrey, Planning Officer (Development Planning and Environmental Advice)			
Date of assessment:		June 2022			
SECTION OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED:		Objective A3: long term target - a minimum of 38,000 ha peatland under restoration management by 2045; short term action by 2027 - restore a minimum of 6,500 ha of peatland.			
ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS					
SEA objective	SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation	Mitigation and enhancement	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation
la	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
la	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
la	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

la	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	Yes, through restoration of exposed eroding areas of peat to functioning peatland habitat, which is a carbon capture and sink.	++	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
la	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	No. While contractors will have to travel to carry out works, this will be incidental and not significant in the wider volume of traffic in the National Park.	0	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
lb	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	No. The peatlands in the National Park that are suitable for restoration tend to be located far from existing buildings and infrastructure.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	No. The peatlands in the National Park that are suitable for restoration tend to be located far from existing settlements and infrastructure, which is where the LDP focusses future development.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO ₂ , PM ₁₀ , PM _{2.5} , SO ₂)?	No. While contractors will have to travel to carry out works, this will be incidental and not significant in the wider volume of traffic in the National Park and the pollutants fossil fuelled vehicles produce.	0	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	No. While contractors will have to travel to carry out works, this will be incidental and not significant in the wider volume of traffic in the National Park and the particulates fossil fuelled vehicles produce.	0	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	No. While eroding peatland can pollute water, the area and locations of existing eroding peat is not known to be causing a significant issue in the National Park.	0	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	Yes, through improved functioning of restored peatland habitats enabling natural water retention.	++	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
3a	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	No. While eroding peatland can pollute water, the area and locations of existing eroding peat is not known to be causing a significant issue in the National Park.	0	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?	No. The restoration of peatland should not introduce non-native species.	0	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	Yes - through improved functioning of restored peatland habitats enabling natural water retention.	++	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	No as no development would occur that would cause soil sealing.	0	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	No, peatland restoration should not cause contamination.	0	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	Yes - through restoration of exposed eroding areas of peat to functioning peatland habitat.	+	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	No as the restoration of peatland habitats would not affect geological interests underneath (if present).	0	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
5a	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
5a	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	<p>Potentially, if areas restored are part of or connected to areas protected for nature conservation.</p> <p>While there is very little detail on where restoration would take place or what would be involved, there could be effects on the non-peatland qualifying interests/notified features of areas protected for nature conservation, for example</p>	?	Individual projects will be subject to screening for environmental effects on areas protected for nature conservation by NatureScot and site specific mitigation measures applied where relevant, ensuring that restoration does not adversely affect areas protected for nature conservation, so that the residual effects (from restoration of peatland) are positive.	+

		through access with machinery to and from the restoration area causing damage and sediment release, noise and lighting from machinery and human activity causing disturbance, and/or works timed inappropriately so causing disturbance or increased damage. This in addition to potentially beneficial effects on peatland habitats being restored.			
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	Yes - there is potential to have an effect on protected species (eg breeding birds) that use peatland habitats (eg waders such as curlew).	?	Restoration projects would have to comply with protected species legislation, meaning that overall residual effects should be neutral.	0
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	Yes - contributes to CNAP aim to restore peatland habitats. (Effects on other CNAP habitats and plants are unlikely to be at a significant level.)	++	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird and mammal species?	No. While there are likely to be benefits to other biodiversity as a result of peatland restoration, this is unlikely to be at a significant level.	0	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	No. While there are likely to be benefits to other biodiversity as a result of peatland restoration, this is unlikely to be at a significant level.	0	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	No there will not be direct effects on deer management practices as a result of the activity of peatland restoration.	0	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	No there will not be an effect on land management practices seeking to avoid the introduction of non-native species or tree diseases.	0	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
7a	Will there be an effect on the special qualities of the National Park landscapes?	Potentially, if areas restored are large and visually obvious, where erosion was detracting from the landscape and visual experience.	+	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same

7a	Will there be an effect landscape character and local distinctiveness?	Potentially, if areas restored are large and visually obvious, where erosion was detracting from the landscape and visual experience.	+	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
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<p>7b</p>	<p>Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?</p>	<p>Potential for effects: HES advice is that “peatlands preserve unique archaeological remains and are considered to be living historical landscapes. Peatland restoration works, including measures to reprofile and remove or block both historic and modern drainage systems, can result in changes to, and loss of, cultural heritage assets. Equally, the restoration of degraded peatland can help to preserve important paleo-environmental evidence and improve preservation conditions for some archaeological remains.” However, there is insufficient detail on which to base identification of the type, scale, duration or location of potential effects, resulting in the scoring of uncertain.</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>No mitigation is identified and the effects remain uncertain. This is because it is not possible to know where or what restoration projects may come forward in future, and therefore it is not possible to identify what mitigation may be appropriate for each proposal. (Individual restoration projects that do come forward should be subject to separate assessment for effects (for example as part of the funding or planning process they have to go through), and so site specific mitigation should be identified at that stage, if required.)</p>	<p>?</p>
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8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	Potentially, if local contractors are upskilled and able to carry out peatland restoration works.	+	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same

Table AV – assessment for N5 moorland management/raptors

Assessor(s):		Nina Caudrey, Planning Officer (Development Planning and Environmental Advice)			
Date of assessment:		June 2022			
SECTION OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED:		Objective A5: long term target – a measurable and sustained increase in both the home range, occupation and breeding success of golden eagle, hen harrier, merlin and peregrine across the National Park.			
ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS					
SEA objective	SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation	Mitigation and enhancement	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
1a	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
1a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO ₂ , PM ₁₀ , PM _{2.5} , SO ₂)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3a	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
5a	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
5a	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	There is potential for a positive effect on areas protected for nature conservation that have one or more of the species as a qualifying interest or notified feature.	+	As the effects are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	There is potential for a positive effect on the protected species identified in the long term target.	+	As the effects are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same

6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird and mammal species?	There is potential for a positive effect on the current CNAP species of golden eagle, hen harrier and peregrine falcon.	+	As the effects are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	There is potential for a positive effect on merlin.	+	As the effects are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

7a	Will there be an effect on the special qualities of the National Park landscapes?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
7a	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

Table AVI – assessment for N5 increased diversity on grouse moorland

Assessor(s):		Nina Caudrey, Planning Officer (Development Planning and Environmental Advice)			
Date of assessment:		June 2022			
SECTION OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED:		Objective A5: long term target - Increased species and habitat diversity on grouse moors linking together a natural transition from woodland to montane scrub to upland heath.			
ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS					
SEA objective	SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation	Mitigation and enhancement	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation
la	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
la	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
la	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	There is potential for a positive effect through the increased habitat (including woodland) diversity in the wider countryside.	+	As the effects are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO ₂ , PM ₁₀ , PM _{2.5} , SO ₂)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3a	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	Potential for effects: grouse moors can contain peatland habitats and carbon rich soils, which would be affected by direct interventions to increase habitat diversity. However, there is insufficient detail on which to base identification of the type, scale, duration or location of potential effects, resulting in the scoring of uncertain.	?	No mitigation is identified and the effects remain uncertain. This is because it is not possible to know where or what proposals to increase diversity may come forward in future, and therefore it is not possible to identify what mitigation may be appropriate for each proposal.	?
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

5a	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
5a	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	No, as grouse moors that are part of areas protected for nature conservation would be under particular management to avoid adverse effects/restore or maintain favourable conservation status.	0	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	There is potential for a positive effect on the protected species that would benefit from the increased habitat diversity in the wider countryside.	+	As the effects are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same

6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	There is potential for a positive effect on the CNAP habitat and plant species that would benefit from the increased habitat diversity in the wider countryside.	+	As the effects are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird and mammal species?	There is potential for a positive effect on CNAP species that would benefit from the increased habitat diversity in the wider countryside.	+	As the effects are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	There is potential for a positive effect on biodiversity that would benefit from the increased habitat and species diversity in the wider countryside.	+	As the effects are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

7a	Will there be an effect on the special qualities of the National Park landscapes?	Potential for effects, as increased habitat diversity on a large enough scale could have effects on the Special Landscape Qualities, although there is insufficient detail on which to base identification of the type, scale, duration or location of potential effects, resulting in the scoring of uncertain.	?	No mitigation is identified and the effects remain uncertain. This is because it is not possible to know where or what proposals to increase diversity may come forward in future, and therefore it is not possible to identify what mitigation may be appropriate for each proposal.	?
7a	Will there be an effect landscape character and local distinctiveness?	Potential for effects, as increased habitat diversity on a large enough scale could have effects on landscape character and local distinctiveness, although there is insufficient detail on which to base identification of the type, scale, duration or location of potential effects, resulting in the scoring of uncertain.	?	No mitigation is identified and the effects remain uncertain. This is because it is not possible to know where or what proposals to increase diversity may come forward in future, and therefore it is not possible to identify what mitigation may be appropriate for each proposal.	?

<p>7b</p>	<p>Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?</p>	<p>Potential for effects: grouse moors can contain peatland habitats, which would be affected by direct interventions to increase habitat diversity. HES advice is that “peatlands preserve unique archaeological remains and are considered to be living historical landscapes. Peatland restoration works, including measures to reprofile and remove or block both historic and modern drainage systems, can result in changes to, and loss of, cultural heritage assets. Equally, the restoration of degraded peatland can help to preserve important paleo-environmental evidence and improve preservation conditions for some archaeological remains.” However, there is insufficient detail on which to base identification of the type, scale, duration or location of potential effects, resulting in the scoring of uncertain.</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>No mitigation is identified and the effects remain uncertain. This is because it is not possible to know where or what proposals to increase diversity may come forward in future, and therefore it is not possible to identify what mitigation may be appropriate for each proposal.</p>	<p>?</p>
<p>8a</p>	<p>Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?</p>	<p>N/a as not related to the sub-objective.</p>	<p>x</p>		<p>n/a as no effects predicted</p>

8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

Table AVII – assessment for N9 river restoration

Assessor(s):		Nina Caudrey, Planning Officer (Development Planning and Environmental Advice)			
Date of assessment completion:		June 2022			
SECTION OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED:		Objective A9: long term target - 70% of our rivers are in good ecological condition by 2045, with ecological structure, function and productivity not deviating significantly from a near-natural system condition.			
ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS					
SEA objective	SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation	Mitigation and enhancement	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation
la	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
la	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
la	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	The natural ecological function should help manage flood situations better, resulting in reduced flooding and a positive effect.	+	As the effects are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same

1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	The natural ecological function should help manage flood situations better, resulting in reduced flooding and a positive effect.	+	As the effects are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO ₂ , PM ₁₀ , PM _{2.5} , SO ₂)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	The natural ecological function should help manage flood situations better, improving flood storage and natural flood management, resulting in reduced flooding and a positive effect.	+	As the effects are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
3a	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
5a	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
5a	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

<p>6a</p>	<p>Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?</p>	<p>Potentially, if areas restored are part of or connected to areas protected for nature conservation.</p> <p>The natural ecological function should maintain or restore favourable conservation status for riverine areas protected for nature conservation, resulting in a positive effect.</p> <p>While there is very little detail on where restoration would take place or what would be involved, there could be effects on areas protected for nature conservation, for example through access with machinery to and from the restoration area causing damage to habitats and/or pollution through sediment release, noise and/or lighting from machinery and human activity causing disturbance to species, and/or works timed inappropriately so causing disturbance or increased damage/pollution.</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>Individual projects will be subject to screening for environmental effects on areas protected for nature conservation by NatureScot and site specific mitigation measures applied where relevant, ensuring that restoration does not adversely affect areas protected for nature conservation, so that the residual effects (from river restoration) are positive.</p>	<p>+</p>
<p>6a</p>	<p>Will there be an effect on protected species?</p>	<p>The natural ecological function should have positive effects on the habitats and food sources of protected species associated with freshwater.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>As the effects are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.</p>	<p>n/a as the scoring remains the same</p>

6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	The natural ecological function should have positive effects on CNAP freshwater and wetland habitats.	+	As the effects are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird and mammal species?	The natural ecological function should have positive effects on the habitats and food sources of CNAP species associated with freshwater (such as freshwater pearl mussel). While there are likely to be benefits to other biodiversity as a result of peatland restoration, this is unlikely to be at a significant level.	+	As the effects are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	The natural ecological function should have positive effects on other species and habitats associated with freshwater (such as otter, water vole, amphibians, wet woodlands, etc).	+	As the effects are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
7a	Will there be an effect on the special qualities of the National Park landscapes?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
7a	Will there be an effect landscape character and local distinctiveness?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

Table AVIII – assessment for N13 capercaillie

Assessor(s):		Nina Caudrey, Planning Officer (Development Planning and Environmental Advice)			
Date of assessment completion:		June 2022			
SECTION OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED:		Objective A13: short term action – deliver a work programme to support capercaillie conservation in the Cairngorms, based on best available evidence (currently this is the NatureScot Scientific Advisory Committee capercaillie advice, which has been used in this assessment)			
ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS					
SEA objective	SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation	Mitigation and enhancement	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation
la	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
la	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
la	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
la	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO ₂ , PM ₁₀ , PM _{2.5} , SO ₂)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3a	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
5a	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
5a	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	<p>Delivery of the Scientific Advisory Committee advice should result in a positive effect for capercaillie SPAs.</p> <p>Works to deliver the advice will be subject to individual site specific HRA, which will identify appropriate site specific mitigation where relevant. These measures should also take into account overlapping other designations, such as SSSIs and Ramsar sites.</p>	+	As the effects are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same

6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	Delivery of the Scientific Advisory Committee advice should result in a neutral effect on predators that are protected species (such as pine marten) through translocation.	0	As the effects are neutral, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird and mammal species?	Delivery of the Scientific Advisory Committee advice should result in a positive effect for capercaillie.	+	As the effects are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
7a	Will there be an effect on the special qualities of the National Park landscapes?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
7a	Will there be an effect landscape character and local distinctiveness?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	N/a as not related to the sub-objective.	x	n/a as no effects predicted	n/a as no effects predicted

Annex III: Baseline environmental data – see *separate document*

Please see the separate Topic paper infographics document.

Annex IV: Population data analysis information

The population and demographic information contained in the environmental baseline Topic papers is mostly based on data zones aggregated to a larger geographical area, which roughly corresponds with the area of the National Park.

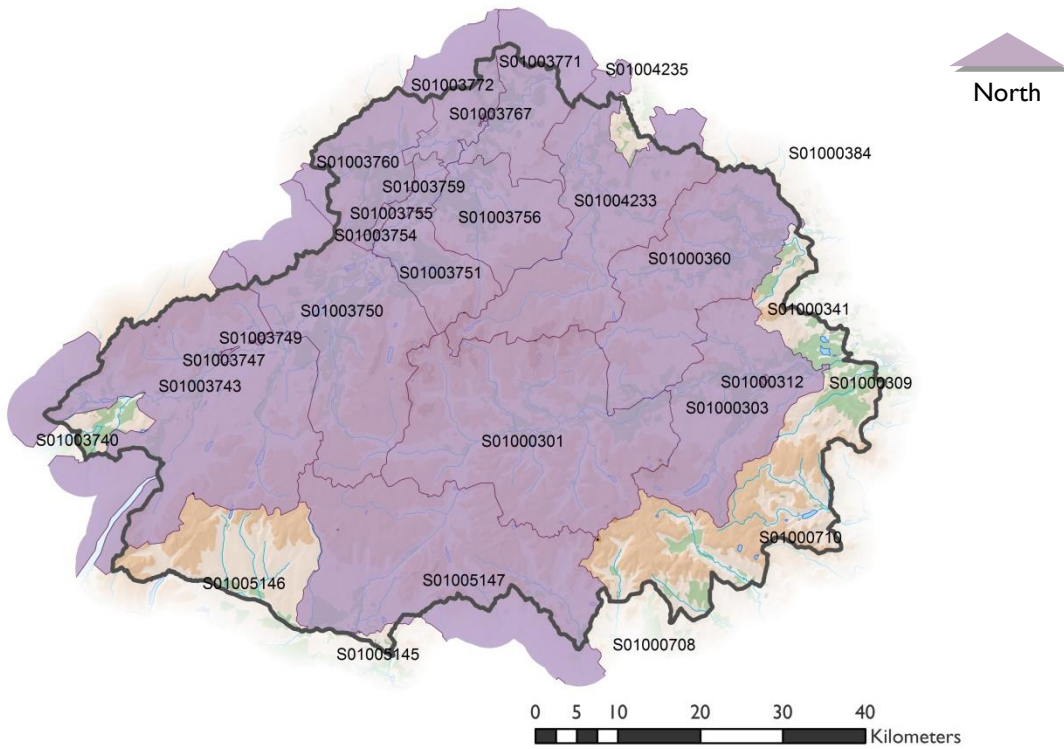
Data zones are the standard small area geography used by the Scottish Government. In general they have populations of between 500 and 1,000 residents. Data zone boundaries do not exactly match the National Park boundary and so, for the purpose of analysis, data zones are included or excluded based on the 'population weighted centroid'. This is a standard procedure for assigning the population of a small geography to a large geography if the former does not wholly fit within the boundaries of the latter or lies across the border of two large geographies. This is the methodology used in National Records of Scotland's (NRS) population projections for National Parks and Strategic Development Plan Areas (<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/sns/SNSRef>). For the sake of transparency and consistency, the same approach has been applied to all relevant data-sets within the Topic papers, particularly Topic 8, Population and human health.

It should be noted that the NRS has not in the past included data zone S01005147 / S01011981 within its projections. It is assumed that this is because the data zone, which is entirely within Perth and Kinross, only became part of the National Park with the boundary change in 2010. The population weighted centroid is however within the National Park and therefore the data zone has been included within the CNPA analyses of the demographic and socio-economic character of the National Park.

The population weighted centroid is essentially the point in the area where population density is the same all around the point, or put more simply, the population 'centre of gravity' of the area. A data zone has been allocated to the National Park area if the population weighted centroid lies within it. The data zones shown in table 4, figure 3 and figure 4 have been chosen to represent the National Park.

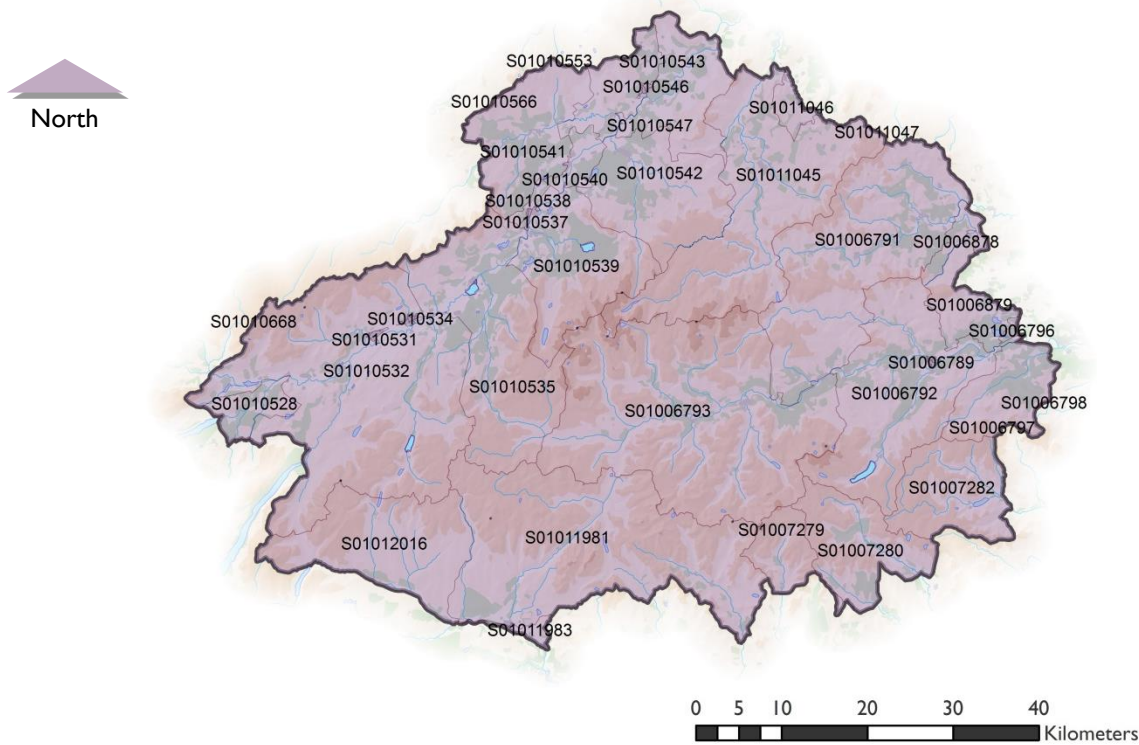
It should be noted that the Scottish Government published revised 2011 Data Zones on 6 November 2014. These geographies replace the original 2001 boundaries used in the NRS population projections. At a National Park level the changes are very minor, with the 2011 data zone boundaries corresponding closely with those of the 2001 ones. This however means that both 2001 and 2011 data zones are used in the environmental baseline Topic papers.

The National Park boundary does not coincide with the data zone boundary around Boultenstone and Dinnet to the east, Glen Clova to the south west, Glenlivet to the north east, and the area east of Loch Laggan. Consequently, these areas are omitted, with the omission of the area around Glen Clova meaning that no part of the Angus Council area is included in the data zone boundary.



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Figure 3 – 2001 datazones for the National Park



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Figure 4 – 2011 datazones for the National Park

Table 4 - corresponding 2001 and 2011 data zones used as an aggregate for the National Park

Highland		Aberdeenshire	
2001	2011	2001	2011
S01003743	S01010532	S01000301	S01006793
S01003747	S01010531	S01000303	S01006792
S01003748	S01010533	S01000312	S01006789
S01003749	S01010534	S01000316	S01006790
S01003750	S01010535	S01000360	S01006791
S01003751	S01010539	Moray	
S01003754	S01010536	2001	2011
S01003755	S01010538 & S01010537	S01004233	S01011045
S01003756	S01010542	Perth and Kinross	
S01003759	S01010540	2001	2011
S01003760	S01010541	S01005147	S01011981
S01003764	S01010544		
S01003766	S01010545		
S01003767	S01010546		
S01003771	S01010547		
S01003772	S01010543		

More detailed maps that show the location of population weighted centroids are available within the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics - Boundary Mapping section of <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/sns/BoundMap>.

A paper describing the methodology for calculating data zone centroids can be found on the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics - Reference Material page <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/sns/SNSRef>.

Annex V: Monitoring measures table

Main objective	Sub-objective	Measurable?	How will be measured	
Reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases with particular focus on emissions from buildings, transport, energy generation and industry (especially CO₂), but also from natural carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands).	Ia	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	Number of units granted permission that have energy efficiency measures built in.	Identified annually through planning application information.
	Ia	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	Number of renewable energy developments granted permission (identified through policy use in committee reports). Number of developments incorporating renewable energy generation (eg pv, solar heating, heat pumps) (identified through policy use in committee reports).	Identified annually through policy use in committee reports.
	Ia	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	Change in the number of businesses producing local materials/produce.	Identified annually through new planning applications.
	Ia	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	Number of projects or developments that affect woodland or peatlands. (and hectares affected if quantifiable)	<i>Combine with 4a:</i> Identified annually through LDP policy use (4 and 10) and assessment of planning application information.
	Ia	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	Number of developments, projects or initiatives that change travel habits (eg increased or decreased need for journeys due to level of provision of services within reasonable active travel distance).	<i>Combined with 8a:</i> Identified annually through LDP policy (3 and 11) use in committee reports and assessment of planning application information.

Ensure existing and proposed infrastructure and buildings are located and designed to cope with future climate conditions.	1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	Area of land where consent is granted for development on PVAs.	Combine with 3a and 5b: https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/flooding/developing-our-knowledge/#National_Flood_Risk_Assessment and/or Identified annually through LDP policy (10) use in committee reports and assessment of planning application information.
	1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	n/a as such development should have been screened out or appropriate mitigation applied at the draft NPPP environmental assessment stage.	n/a
To maintain or improve air quality and reduce emissions of key pollutants.	2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO2, PM10, PM2.5, SO2)?	Estimated emissions in the National Park for gases associated with climate change.	Using data from https://statistics.gov.scot/data/greenhouse-gas-emissions-by-source-sector and http://www.scottishairquality.scot/data/mapping?view=data
	2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	Estimated emissions in the National Park for particulates.	

Maintain and improve the quality of water resources and to protect and enhance the state of the water environment.	3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	Change in the number of water bodies identified by SEPA identified with water quality issues caused by diffuse or point source pollution.	Combine with 3c: Using SEPA data https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-classification-hub/
	3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	See 1b re PVAs	See 1b
	3a	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?		
Reduce demand for water and minimise unnecessary water use.	3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	Number of developments constrained by water supplies being at capacity.	Combine with 5a: Consultation responses to planning applications from Scottish Water.
	3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?		
To reduce the impact of invasive non-native species on the water environment.	3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?	Number of waterbodies with invasive non-native species recorded.	SEPA data – see 3a
Minimise contamination and safeguard and improve	4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	See also 1a – Number of projects or developments that affect carbon rich peatland soils. (or hectares affected)	See 1a.

soil, peat quality and geodiversity.	4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	Area of land lost to development.	Captured in planning application information where this information is quantifiable.
	4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	<p>Change in the number of sites on the Local Authority contaminated land registers.</p> <p>https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1281/pollution/76/contaminated_land/4</p> <p>https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/environmental-health/contaminated-land/</p> <p>Perth & Kinross don't have an online register and appear to be assessing potential sites although their undated strategy states they have no sites</p> <p>https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/15311/Contaminated-land</p> <p>Angus doesn't have any contaminated land as at November 2019</p> <p>https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/contaminated_land_register_5#incoming-1476489</p> <p>Moray doesn't have an online version but in December 2020 there were 3 contaminated land sites</p>	<p>Identified annually through LDP policy (10) use in committee reports and assessment of planning application information.</p> <p>Also check with Local Authorities where information available.</p>

			http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_105631.html	
	4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	n/a as should have been screened out at proposed plan stage.	n/a
	4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	Number of developments affecting geological SSSI or GCR sites.	Identified annually through LDP policy use (4) and assessment of planning application information.
Encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets.	5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	Number of developments permitted that rely heavily on natural resources.	Identified annually through LDP policy use (10) and assessment of planning application information.
	5a	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	See 1b, 3a and 3b.	See 1b, plus 3a and 3b.
	5a	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	Through how much material is being recycled as a proportion of waste generated in the National Park.	https://www.environment.gov.scot/data/data-analysis/household-waste/

Protect and enhance the biodiversity of the National Park.	6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	Change in number of features/interests in favourable condition as a result of pressures caused by the implementation of the LDP.	Scotland's Environment website https://www.environment.gov.scot/data/useful-data-sources/#habitatsAndSpecies
	6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	Number of planning applications requiring a Species Protection Plan or mitigation measures for protected species or CNAP habitats, plants, birds or mammals.	Identified annually through LDP policy use (4) and assessment of planning application information.
	6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?		
	6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird and mammal species?		
	6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	Number of developments incorporating biodiversity enhancement measures.	Identified annually through LDP policy use (4 and 3.3k) and assessment of planning application information.
	6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	Anecdotal evidence might come to light during deer management group meetings.	Reports from deer management groups.
	6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	Indirectly linked to 3c (water environment) and 6a (protected area condition), so changes related to those environments would be picked up through those objectives.	See 3c and 6a.

Protect and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the landscapes of the Park.	7a	Will there be an effect on the special qualities of the National Park landscapes?		
	7a	Will there be an effect landscape character and local distinctiveness?	Number of developments having effects on landscape interests (Identified annually through policy use in committee reports).	Identified annually through LDP policy use (5) and assessment of planning application information.
Protect and enhance the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic) of the Park.	7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	Number of developments having effects on cultural heritage interests.	Identified annually through LDP policy use (9) and assessment of planning application information.
Support and enhance the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors to the Park through housing, recreation and employment opportunities.	8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	Number of affordable housing units.	Identified annually through LDP policy use (1.5 affordable housing) and assessment of planning application information.
	8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	Number of developments, projects or initiatives that change travel habits (eg increased or decreased need for journeys due to level of provision of services within reasonable active travel distance).	<i>See also la re active travel.</i> Identified annually through LDP policy use (3.3 and 11) and assessment of planning application information.
	8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	Number of economic developments in settlements.	Identified annually through LDP policy use (2) and assessment of planning application information

Annex VI: Habitats Regulations Appraisal

Introduction

A Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) has been undertaken at the same time as the draft Environmental Report. While the HRA is required under different legislation³, as a matter of good practice the HRA has been used to inform the Environmental Report and vice versa as part of an iterative process. A summary of the HRA findings is provided below, with the assessment against each of the objectives, targets and actions presented in Tables 5 and 6.

Elements of the NPPP screened in for initial consideration

Only the elements of the NPPP that have potential for connectivity to or are predicted to have environmental effects on European sites have been screened in for consideration in the HRA process. Those without potential connectivity or any predicted environmental effects have been screened out of requiring further consideration in the HRA for the reasons presented in Tables 5 and 6.

In summary, the elements of the draft NPPP screened in for consideration as part of the HRA process are:

- The long term target and short term action for objective A3, peatland restoration (long term target - a minimum of 38,000 ha peatland under restoration management by 2045; short term action by 2027 - restore a minimum of 6,500 ha of peatland).
- The long term target for objective A5, moorland management, in relation to increased species and habitat diversity on grouse moors linking together a natural transition from woodland to montane scrub to upland heath.
- The long term target for objective A5, moorland management, in relation to raptors (measurable and sustained increase in both home range, occupation and breeding success of golden eagle, hen harrier, merlin and peregrine across the National Park).
- The long term target for objective A9, river restoration (70% of our rivers are in good ecological condition by 2045, with ecological structure, function and productivity not deviating significantly from a near-natural system condition).
- The short term action for A13, capercaillie conservation (deliver a work programme to support capercaillie conservation in the Cairngorms, based on best available evidence).

Elements of the NPPP scoped out after further consideration

One of the elements of the NPPP screened in for consideration has subsequently been scoped out of requiring HRA for the following reasons:

³ Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, commonly referred to as the Habitats Regulations.

- The long term target for objective A5 (increased diversity on grouse moors) has been scoped out. While it is broadly known where grouse moors occur in the National Park, it is not known where proposals to increase diversity will come forward. This makes assessment impossible. Significant changes in land management or habitat cover within European sites will require agreement from NatureScot, so individual proposals should be subject to scrutiny at the detailed proposal stage.

Summary findings for A3, A5, A9 and A13

Tables 7a, 8, 9 and 10 present the appraisals for A3 peatland restoration, A5 moorland management in relation to raptors, A9 river restoration and A13 capercaillie conservation. (Table 7b contains the conservation objectives for the European sites assessed in Table 7a, as their collective length made them unsuitable for inclusion within the assessment table.)

In summary, the appraisals found:

- For the European sites identified in Tables 7a and 8: A3 peatland restoration, A5 moorland management in relation to raptors and A9 river restoration are not connected with or necessary for the management of the European sites for nature conservation.
- For the European sites identified in Table 10: A13 was found to be connected with and necessary for the management of the capercaillie SPAs for the conservation of capercaillie, so there was no requirement to assess effects on capercaillie (NatureScot guidance⁴ section 2.2). However the other qualifying interests of the capercaillie SPAs were subject to further assessment.
- For the European sites identified in Table 8: following NatureScot guidance (section 3.0), no likely significant effects were identified from A5 moorland management in relation to raptors. An Appropriate Assessment for this long term target was therefore not required.
- For the European sites identified in Tables 7a, 9 and 10: while there may be beneficial effects on some of the species or habitats (eg blanket bog for A3, riverine habitat and species for A9, capercaillie for A13) as an end result of A3, A9 and A13, there is also potential for the works required to implement A3, A9 and A13 to have likely significant effects on some of the other qualifying interests, mainly through the potential for habitat damage and disturbance.
- However, the Appropriate Assessments found that application of straightforward site specific mitigation at the detailed proposal design and implementation stage would ensure that the conservation objectives would not be compromised as a result of the implementation of A3, A9 and A13. Therefore it can be ascertained that there would

⁴ <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-05/Guidance%20-%20Natura%20Casework%20Guidance%20-%20How%20to%20consider%20plans%20and%20projects%20affecting%20Special%20Areas%20of%20Conservation%20%28SACs%29%20and%20Special%20Protection%20Areas%20%28SPAs%29.pdf>

not be an adverse effect on site integrity for any of the European sites assessed in Tables 7a, 9 and 10.

Appraisals for A3, A5, A9 and A13

Table 5 – HRA screening of long term objectives/targets

Objective reference	Objective	Target	Reason for screening in/out
A1 net zero	Ensure the Cairngorms National Park reaches net zero as soon as possible and contributes all it can to helping Scotland meet its net zero commitments.	By 2023 establish year by which Cairngorms National Park will be net-zero and target for carbon negative	OUT - process based/evidence gathering and will not in themselves result in effects on European sites.
		Annual independent progress report on net zero for the Cairngorms National Park	
A2 woodland	Increase the amount of woodland in the National Park to support larger, more natural woodlands, expanding in places up to a natural treeline, providing connections across river catchments and around the central core of the mountains.	A minimum of 35,000 ha of new woodland cover created by 2045 which;	OUT - while there is potential for connectivity with European sites from increasing woodland cover, this will be delivered as part of the existing Forest Strategy, which was subject to separate HRA. (The Forest Strategy assessed the entire National Park for potential for trees and includes similar requirements regarding planting on agricultural land and fencing.)
		a) Includes a minimum of 80% native woodland.	
		b) Includes a minimum of 10,000ha by natural regeneration without planting.	
		c) Results in no wholesale conversion of enclosed, in-bye agricultural land to forestry.	
		d) Minimises the amount of fencing in the Park by favouring establishment through herbivore management and removing redundant fences.	
A3 peatland	Restore and manage peatland within the National Park to reduce carbon emissions and improve biodiversity.	A minimum of 38,000 ha peatland under restoration management by 2045.	IN - potential for connectivity to peatland habitat European sites.
		80% of all drains restored by 2035	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment / would occur as part of the restoration target and action which is already subject to assessment.

		All erosion features restored by 2050.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment / would occur as part of the restoration target and action which is already subject to assessment.
A4 deer	Reduce the negative impacts of red deer and other herbivores across the National Park to enable woodlands to expand, heather loss to be reversed, peatlands to recover and wider biodiversity and landscape enhancements to take place.	Impact of herbivores on partnership plan ecological restoration targets (peatland, woodland and structural diversity in moorland)	OUT - evidence gathering.
		Average open range red deer densities in each deer management group are a maximum of five to eight per km ² by 2030.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		Non-native sika and fallow deer will be contained within their current distribution in the National Park by 2030.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
A5 moorland management	Increase the sustainability of moorland management in the National Park to ensure greater species and structural diversity in moorland areas of the Park.	A measurable and sustained increase in both home range, occupation and breeding success of golden eagle, hen harrier, merlin and peregrine across the National Park	IN - potential for connectivity via named qualifying interests of European sites across the National Park.
		Increased species and habitat diversity on grouse moors linking together a natural transition from woodland to montane scrub to upland heath	IN - potential for connectivity to European sites in the vicinity of grouse moors.
A6 game bird management	Ensure that all pheasant and partridge shoots adhere to best practice and that all game bird releases are sustainable and do not negatively impact on native biodiversity.	No negative impact on native biodiversity	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		Gamebird releases have no negative impact on native biodiversity.	OUT - evidence gathering.
		Impacts of gamebirds released around the National Park each year.	

A7 fire management	Ensure that all managed burning (muirburn) follows best practice, as defined by the muirburn licensing scheme, supporting habitat restoration and recovery.	All muirburn will comply with regulations set out in the muirburn licensing scheme, including stopping burning on deep peatlands as defined by the licensing regime	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Reduce wildfire risk by developing an integrated wildfire management plan for the Park.		
A8 farming	Work with farms in the National Park to reduce their carbon footprint, conserve soil carbon, encourage sustainable production and deliver increased biodiversity on in-by-land.	Carbon and biodiversity plans are in place for farms across the National Park by 2028.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
		Target rural payments to support sustainable food production, reduce carbon, increase and maintain the health of habitats and ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and help connect different habitats across the National Park	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
		Establish a Regional Land Use Partnership and Framework for the National Park by 2023.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
A9 river restoration	Restore and connect rivers to thriving wetlands and floodplains as part of a wider restoration of the National Park's freshwater systems, helping mitigate the impacts of climate change.	70% of rivers in good ecological condition by 2045 with ecological structure, function and productivity not deviating significantly from a near-natural system condition.	IN - potential for connectivity to riverine European sites.
		The Cairngorms Nature Index will establish baseline and measure change in river naturalness. This is aligned with Water Framework Directive and enhanced by indicators.	OUT - evidence gathering.

A10 ecological network	Connect habitats and ecosystems across all different types of land use in the National Park to create an ecological network, which will bring wider landscape, biodiversity and people benefits.	Establish framework for an ecological network across the National Park by 2025.	OUT - process based.
A11 ecological restoration	Improve ecosystem functionality and resilience across the National Park by increasing the area of land managed principally for ecological restoration.	At least 50% of the National Park to be managed principally for ecosystem restoration by 2045 (see Nature objective A12 – Cairngorms Nature Index).	OUT - European sites are already managed for ecosystem restoration, so no change.
A12 Cairngorms nature index	Develop a more complete understanding of the National Park's species, habitats and ecosystems, and help monitor long term progress through a dedicated Cairngorms Nature Index.	Develop and roll out the Cairngorms Nature Index by 2024	OUT - process based.
A13 species	Ensure species thrive in the National Park with key assemblages across the Park within the semi-natural landscape.	Species Recovery Curve – Priority species progress from research to developing solutions to sustainable management.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.

A14 green investment	Use private green investment in the National Park to fund nature's recovery and share the benefits between communities, landowners, workers and wider society.	The Cairngorms National Park attracts an increasing amount of green finance per annum for projects that deliver multiple benefits (carbon, biodiversity, flood mitigation, community).	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
B1 population	The proportion of young and working age people in the National Park increases relative to the total resident population, which remains stable.	The proportion of young people and working-age people in the National Park relative to the total resident population increases between 2020 and 2045	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		The population stabilises between 2020 and 2045.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
B2 wellbeing economy	Develop a well-being economy that delivers social justice in a healthy ecosystem, drawing on the special natural and cultural qualities of the Cairngorms.	Develop Cairngorms Cornerstone Indicators and Well-being Economy Action Plan by 2023	OUT - process based.

B3 real living wage	Increase the number of Real Living Wage employers in the National Park.	The Park will have an increasing number of Real Living Wage employers and will aim to have the highest proportion in rural Scotland by 2030.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
B4 skills and training	Increase skills and training opportunities for people in the National Park to meet business needs and ensure opportunities created by the growth in green jobs can be filled by residents and under-represented groups.	There is an increasing number of apprenticeships within the National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
			An increasing number of people employed in green jobs, such as, peatland restoration, deer management etc.
B5 community assets/land	Increase the number of assets in community ownership or management, the number of social enterprises that generate a profit and the area of land where communities are involved in management decisions.	The numbers of assets in community ownership or management increases year on year from 2021.	OUT - evidence gathering.
B6 new approaches to citizen participation	Strengthen the structures that support participation in planning and decision making at a local level.	Trial and test new approaches to community participation and engagement in decision making by June 2023	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.

B7 community-led planning and development	Communities have up to date community action plans and are supported by a community-led local development funding programme, delivering the National Park Partnership Plan	All communities have Community Action Plan in place that is no more than 5 years old	OUT - process based.
		A new scheme is in place to deliver funding for communities, at least equivalent to LEADER programme.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
B8 Gaelic	Encourage greater use of Gaelic in the National Park.	Increased opportunities for individuals and communities to engage with Gaelic language and culture.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
B9 mental and physical health	Improve the mental and physical health and wellbeing of the people of the National Park through connection with nature and the outdoors.	There will be Green Health Referral programmes in place in all GP practices in the Park.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
B10 Park for all	There will be better opportunities for everyone to enjoy the National Park and the visitor profile will be more diverse, especially with regards to people who are disabled, from lower socio-	Visitors to the National Park will more closely resemble the overall demography of Scotland.	OUT - evidence gathering.

	economic backgrounds, LGBTQ+ and from minority and ethnic groups.	Resident and visitor values and attitudes to key issues in the Park are regularly evaluated.	OUT - evidence gathering.
B11 volunteering and outdoor learning	Increase the number of volunteer days spent caring for the National Park and ensure inclusive approach to volunteering recruitment.	At least 200 volunteer rangers in the National Park by 2030.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		Increase the number of National Park volunteer days every year.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Support and deliver opportunities for outdoor learning linked to the special qualities of the National Park	An increase in the number of John Muir Awards undertaken within the National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
C1 access to housing	Ensure that there is sufficient affordable housing stock to enable people to live and work within the National Park.	A maximum of 15% of all housing stock in the National Park will be second homes, vacant or short-term let properties by 2040.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.

C2 new housing	Deliver new housing in the National Park and ensure as much as possible is secured for key workers and/or to resolve affordability issues.	By 2030 75% of new housing is for social rental, mid-market rental or other affordable categories that provide affordability in perpetuity.	OUT - while there is potential for environmental effects on population, the action is too general to enable meaningful assessment.
C3 housing and community benefit	Work with communities to ensure that the majority of land allocated for development around villages and towns in the National Park is controlled by communities or public bodies to help manage long-term development needs.	The percentage of developable land in community or public body ownership is increasing.	OUT - evidence gathering.
C4 village and town centres	Ensure villages and town centres in the National Park are thriving places where people live, shop and meet.	The percentage of vacant commercial properties on high streets of the National Park reduces.	OUT - evidence gathering.
		An increasing number of rural 20minute neighbourhoods (or rural equivalent).	OUT - evidence gathering.
C5 visitor numbers and infrastructure	Work to stabilise visitor numbers in the peak season, focusing growth on quieter months and on those areas that have the infrastructure	Growth in visitor numbers is concentrated at off peak times of year and in areas with capacity.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		Length of visitor stay increases.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		Visitor satisfaction levels remain high.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.

	<p>and capacity to manage for additional visitors.</p> <p>Maximise the economic and community benefit of tourism by encouraging longer stays, while maintaining existing high levels of visitor satisfaction.</p>		
C6 a sustainable destination	Secure the National Park's reputation as an international exemplar in sustainable tourism and the management of protected areas.	The National Park continues to be accredited with the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas and the Glasgow Declaration (Climate Action in Tourism)	OUT - process based.
C7 transport to and around the Park	Promote a modal shift towards sustainable and active travel in the way visitors and commuters get to, and everyone moves around, the National Park.	20% of current journeys by visitors and residents within the National Park do not take place by car by 2030.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		Increase active travel and public transport usage within the Park	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		25% of visitors get to the National Park by public transport by 2045.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		E-bike and adapted bike hire and charging facilities will be available in all main settlements and major visitor hubs by 2030	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		Key public transport options will have capacity for people to bring bikes to the National Park by 2030.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.

C8 access network	Improve path, cycle and outdoor access networks to give outstanding opportunities to experience the natural and cultural heritage of the National Park to the widest range of people, while minimising disturbance to vulnerable species, habitats and sites.	Increase the number of km of safe and inclusive off-road or segregated on-road routes between communities by 2030.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		All core paths are in good condition and accessible to the widest possible range of users.	OUT - core paths are already in existence and well used by a wide range of users, no change.
C9 high quality visitor experience	Welcome visitors and provide a high-quality experience while managing their impacts through providing better infrastructure and high quality ranger services.	Number of public toilets within the National Park is maintained	OUT - evidence gathering.
		Increased public toilet facilities for people of all needs	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		Number of managed facilities for campervans increases.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		Visitor satisfaction levels remain high.	OUT - evidence gathering.
		Number of rangers employed within National Park is stable or increasing.	OUT - evidence gathering.
C10 cultural heritage	Safeguard and promote the Park's cultural heritage and provide opportunities for everyone to experience and learn about the National Park's outstanding historic environment, history and culture.	A Cairngorms cultural heritage network is established and flourishing.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
		An increasing number of community led cultural heritage projects delivered.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.

Table 6 – HRA screening of short term actions

Objective reference	Actions by 2027	Reason for screening in/out
A1 net zero	Carbon audit and baseline established for the Cairngorms National Park in 2022.	OUT - the actions are process based/evidence gathering and will not in themselves result in effects on European sites.
	Establish date for Cairngorms National Park to be net-zero and carbon negative by 2023.	
	Establish a Community Climate Action Hub for the National Park.	
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
A2 woodland	Expand woodland by a minimum of 7,000 ha through delivery of Cairngorms National Park Forest Strategy and targeted grants schemes.	OUT - while there is potential for connectivity with European sites from increasing woodland cover, this will be delivered as part of the existing Forest Strategy, which was subject to separate HRA. (The Forest Strategy assessed the entire National Park for potential for trees.)
	Ensure all scales of woodland are considered and supported including agro-forestry and that at least 2,500ha is achieved through natural regeneration without planting.	
	Work with land managers to ensure existing woodlands are managed for a range of benefits including timber production, public access, biodiversity etc.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Work to deliver improvements to deer management planning in forest plans.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
A3 peatland	Restore a minimum of 6,500 ha of peatland.	IN - potential for connectivity to peatland habitat European sites.

	Increase contractor and estate capacity while creating job opportunities through a peatland skills training programme.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop guidance on the integration of peatland restoration and woodland expansion in the National Park.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Explore protection options for peatland restoration from herbivores.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme.	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
A4 deer	Work in partnership with Deer Management Groups to produce strategic land use plans which explore a wide range of income streams (including from natural capital), reduce habitat impacts and deliver a wide range of public and private benefits.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Explore new models of public/private partnership for maintaining stalker employment in key areas in the Park to achieve overall deer policy objectives.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
A5 moorland management	Introduction of grouse moor licencing and other elements of Independent Grouse Moor Review within the Cairngorms National Park.	OUT - process based.
	Support knowledge exchange and sharing good practice from East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership to other parts of the National Park.	OUT - process based.
	Develop and support Estate Management Plans and Wildlife Estates Scotland accreditation.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.

A6 game bird management	Establish a baseline for the number of gamebirds released in the National Park and assess their impact on native biodiversity.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Depending on the evidence gathered, investigate the use of Park Authority powers to regulate gamebird releases and develop a regulatory approach if required.	OUT - process based.
A7 fire management	Conduct an audit to establish an accurate baseline for the extent of deep peat in the National Park.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Introduce and support a muirburn licencing regime in the National Park.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop Integrated wildfire management plan for the National Park, including strategic firebreaks.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop and agree a National Park approach on campfires and barbeques.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
A8 farming	Agree carbon and biodiversity management plans with farmers in the National Park to help guide activities.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop nature-friendly farming projects (woodland, waders, species rich grassland) as part of the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop and establish a Regional Land Use Framework and Partnership.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
A9 river restoration	Deliver Catchment Management Plans.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop and agree long-term approach to water management and abstraction to help alleviate flood and drought issues.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.

	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
A10 ecological network	Develop Cairngorms Nature Networks – a spatial mapping of potential strategic areas for expanding, enhancing and increasing connectivity of habitats and species in the National Park.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Undertake a ‘call’ for new nature restoration sites in the Cairngorms that deliver ecological functionality and look to secure long term funding.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Review and develop approach to designations in the National Park to help deliver ecological restoration, contribute to ecological networks and net zero in line with new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.	OUT - process based.
	Develop NatureScot Conservation Advice Packages.	OUT - process based.
A11 ecological restoration	Work with partners to identify areas for ecological restoration as part of a revised Cairngorms Nature Action Plan, linked to the Cairngorms Nature Index.	OUT - process based.
	Work with Cairngorms Connect, East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership and others to expand the area of the National Park under ecosystem restoration.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop case studies demonstrating what success looks like, share knowledge and agree an appropriate monitoring framework.	OUT - evidence gathering.
A12 Cairngorms nature index	Establish Cairngorms Nature Index.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Establish Cairngorms Nature Atlas / data portal.	OUT - process based.
	Monitor changes in Special Landscape Qualities.	OUT - evidence gathering.

	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
A13 species	Deliver Species Recovery Plans for priority species through the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan.	OUT - process based.
	Deliver a work programme to support capercaillie conservation in the Cairngorms, based on best available evidence.	IN - potential for environmental effects on a specific species enables consideration.
	Facilitate beaver translocation in the Cairngorms National Park.	OUT - no beaver in the National Park to be translocated
	Reduce wildlife crime as an issue in the Park with a specific focus eliminating it as a constraint on raptor numbers and range occupancy in the National Park.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Deliver Cairngorms Raptor Project, in partnership with land managers and raptor study groups.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
A14 green investment	Trial a green finance project for peatland restoration in the National Park.	OUT - process based and will not in itself result in effects on European sites.
	Explore green finance opportunities at landscape scale and for a wider range of benefits including local community benefit.	OUT - process based.
	Identify a pipeline of projects within the National Park over the next five years.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Identify opportunities to strengthen role of communities and public authorities in land purchase decisions in the Park through the next Land Reform Bill.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
	Develop and implement Local Development Plan.	OUT - the LDP is subject to separate HRA.

B1 population	Develop green skills/ youth apprenticeship project to help grow a strong working age population.	OUT - process based.
	Grow the influence and level of youth participation in the Cairngorms Youth Action Team.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
B2 wellbeing economy	Develop Cairngorms Cornerstone Indicators for a wellbeing economy to track key social and economic data and trends.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Develop and implement a Wellbeing Economy Action Plan with targeted support and development measures for key sectors.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Support employers to gain accreditation for eg Disability Confident, Carer Positive and the Young Person's Guarantee.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
B3 real living wage	Undertake a Real Living Wage audit of employers in the National Park.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Promote best practice and provide regular reports.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
B4 skills and training	Support skills training programmes relevant to business needs and changes in land management within the National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop scholarships and a mentoring scheme for young people who want to study and be employed in the National Park.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.

	Develop targeted skills initiatives to support social enterprises.	OUT - process based.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
B5 community assets/land	Identify opportunities for community land ownership through a refreshed set of community action plans / local place plans.	OUT - process based.
	Promote Scottish Land Commission Guidance and monitor compliance.	OUT - process based.
	Develop targeted skills initiatives to support social enterprises.	OUT - process based.
	Support communities to acquire and manage assets / land through enhanced funding and training support.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
B6 new approaches to citizen participation	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
B7 community- led planning and development	Refreshed programme of support for community action planning and local place plans.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop and administer new community-led development funding stream	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
B8 Gaelic	All public bodies implement their Gaelic language plans in full.	OUT - no change to existing requirements.

	Develop suite of support tools for Gaelic, in collaboration with local businesses and community /cultural groups.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
B9 mental and physical health	Review, update and deliver the Active Cairngorms Action Plan.	OUT - process based.
	Extend the health walks programme to every community in the National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Increase number of opportunities for green volunteering.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Make greater use of green health directories to support self-led green health activities.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
B10 Park for all	Work with the Cairngorms Equalities Advisory Panel to address systemic issues to enable a Park for All.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Review, update and deliver the Active Cairngorms Action Plan, Infrastructure Plans and Tourism Action Plan.	OUT - the plans should be subject to separate HRA of their detailed content and the action is too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Grow the role, remit and influence of the Cairngorms Youth Action Team.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop targeted support programmes to overcome specific barriers to enjoying the National Park including looking at business and infrastructure capacity.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Conduct regular surveys of residents and visitors values and attitudes to key issues in the Park.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Refresh the Park for All campaign to address barriers to participation from groups / sectors that are under-represented in the National Park.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.

	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
B11 volunteering and outdoor learning	Review, update and deliver the Active Cairngorms Action Plan.	OUT - the plans should be subject to separate HRA of their detailed content and the action is too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop and expand volunteer and junior ranger and John Muir Award programmes.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Support communities in maintaining and improving their local environment (path network, litter collection, open spaces, species and habitat etc).	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
C1 access to housing	Introduce short-term let control areas and short-term let licensing to increase the supply of mid-market properties available for local residents and workers.	OUT - implemented and managed by relevant Local Authority, who should carry out their own screening for HRA.
	Secure investment in the private rented sector to provide long-term housing for workers and local people.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Develop partnership approaches led by local businesses and community-led initiatives to address accommodation needs for workers and local people.	OUT - process based.
C2 new housing	Deliver at least 200 new affordable and mid-market rent homes through local authority Strategic Housing Investment Plans and affordable housing delivery programmes.	OUT - while there is potential for environmental effects on population, the action is too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Use the next Local Development Plan to identify further locations where more than 25% affordable housing is required and bring up to 75% affordable overall.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment and the future LDP will be subject to separate HRA of the allocation sites.

	Support communities to deliver community-led housing solutions, including by making the most of powers to buy land and taking a more pro-active role in management where appropriate.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
C3 housing and community benefit	Review options and funding for public sector purchase of allocated development land.	OUT - evidence gathering.
	Support communities to use all possible options to access land for the development they need.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
C4 village and town centres	Review mechanisms available to public sector to encourage regeneration of town and village centres.	OUT - process based.
	Promote business and community led collaborative projects to promote local expenditure and supply chains.	OUT - process based.
	Develop rural approach to the 20 minute neighbourhoods concept in the Park.	OUT - process based.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
C5 visitor numbers and infrastructure	Review, update and deliver Cairngorms Tourism Action Plan to promote areas where with geographic and/or seasonal capacity in a sustainable manner.	OUT - the plan should be subject to separate HRA of the detailed content and the action is too general to enable meaningful assessment
	Develop Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Plan to provide higher quality infrastructure at key visitor hotspots and for key sectors (eg camping and motor homes).	OUT - the plan should be subject to separate HRA of the detailed content and the action is too general to enable meaningful assessment

	Collect and share high quality data on visitor numbers, behaviour, perceptions and aspirations.	OUT - evidence gathering.
C6 a sustainable destination	Submit Tourism Action Plan to Europarc by 2023 and secure accreditation.	OUT - process based.
	Maintain our status with the Glasgow Declaration (Climate Action in Tourism).	OUT - process based.
C7 transport to and around the Park	Work to ensure bike capacity as part of the Highland Mainline development	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Support Sustrans led work on promoting and developing Lochs and Glens Way (formerly National Cycle Network 7) and National Cycle Network 195.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Promote low-cost initiatives to access the National Park by public transport	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Promote innovative approaches based on 'mobility as a service', demand responsive transport initiatives, improved connectivity of bus routes, and e-scooters, electric car schemes, car share schemes, etc.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
C8 access network	Develop and implement new Cairngorms Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Plan.	OUT - the plan should be subject to separate HRA of the detailed content and the action is too general to enable meaningful assessment
	Review Active Cairngorms Action Plan.	OUT - process based.
	Complete extension of Deeside Way to Braemar.	OUT - existing planning permission is in place for this, the proposal has been through HRA as part of the planning process. (see https://www.eplanningcnpa.co.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=PFVV83SI0CH00&activeTab=summary for the planning permission and associated documents)

	Increase promotion of Speyside Way and provide options for cycling.	OUT - already a well promoted and well used route by a range of users including cyclists, no change.
	Consider all potential mechanisms to reduce disturbance on key species and recreational impacts on high ground.	OUT - process based.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.
C9 high quality visitor experience	Develop and implement new Cairngorms Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Plan and Active Cairngorms Action Plan and Tourism Action Plan.	OUT - the plans should be subject to separate HRA of their detailed content and the action is too general to enable meaningful assessment
	Support the implementation of the Cairngorm Mountain masterplan.	OUT - HIE are responsible for implementation (and HRA) of their strategic plans, with individual proposals that arise from the masterplan going through the planning system being subject to separate HRA.
	Support a coordinated family of ranger services across the National Park.	OUT - too general to enable meaningful assessment.
	Map accessible facilities, so people can identify in advance of their journeys available accessibility support.	OUT - evidence gathering.
C10 cultural heritage	Develop a Cairngorms cultural heritage network, building on the success of the Badenoch: The Storylands project, Tomintoul and Glenlivet Landscape Partnership and Cateran Eco-museum.	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Provide grant funding for community heritage projects that contribute to a cultural heritage network	OUT - too general / process based to enable meaningful assessment.
	Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 programme	OUT - Cairngorms 2030 projects contribute to but are not part of the NPPP, being independently funded and run discreet projects subject to separate environmental assessment including HRA.

Table 7a – HRA for A3 long term target and short term action for peatland restoration

<p>NPPP objective A3, long term target: a minimum of 38,000 ha peatland under restoration management by 2045, short term action: restore a minimum of 6,500 ha of peatland.</p>	
<p>Peatland SACs:</p> <p>Note: although the peatland SACs overlap with other European sites, following the NatureScot Natura guidance (https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-05/Guidance%20-%20Natura%20Casework%20Guidance%20-%20How%20to%20consider%20plans%20and%20projects%20affecting%20Special%20Areas%20of%20Conservation%20%28SACs%29%20and%20Special%20Protection%20Areas%20%28SPAs%29.pdf), there should not be any effects on other European sites that would compromise their conservation objectives as a result of the peatland restoration (as it is restoring a habitat that already exists, rather than expanding it or creating a new habitat, which could have effects on other European sites through changes to their habitats/those relied upon by their qualifying interests), so other European sites are not considered further. In addition, peatland restoration projects are subject to individual HRA of the detailed proposals by NatureScot as part of the planning process, which is an additional safeguard.</p>	<p>Ballochbuie: blanket bog, bog woodland, Caledonian forest, dry heaths, otter, wet heathland with cross-leaved heath. (The site overlaps with Ballochbuie Special Protection Area.)</p> <p>Beinn a Ghlo: blanket bog, base-rich fens, alpine and subalpine heaths, high-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage, plants in crevices on base-rich rocks, dry heaths, hard-water springs depositing lime, dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone, montane acid grasslands, plants in crevices on acid rocks, acidic scree, species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas, round mouthed whorl snail, Geyer's whorl snail. (The site overlaps with the River Tay SAC and Beinn a Ghlo SPA.)</p> <p>Ben Alder and Aonach Beag: blanket bog, alpine and subalpine heaths, high-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage, plants in crevices on base-rich rocks, dry heaths, tall herb communities, wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, montane acid grasslands, plants in crevices on acid rocks, acidic scree, mountain willow scrub. (The site overlaps with Ben Alder SPA.)</p> <p>Caenlochan: blanket bog, base rich fens, alpine and subalpine heaths, high-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage, grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, base rich scree, plants in crevices on base rich rocks, dry heaths, tall herb communities, montane acid grasslands, plants in crevices on acid rocks, acidic scree, species rich grassland with mat grass in upland areas, mountain willow scrub. (The site overlaps with Caenlochan SPA.)</p> <p>Cairngorms: blanket bog, acid peat stained lakes and ponds, acidic scree, alpine and subalpine heaths, blanket bog, bog woodland, Caledonian forest, clear water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, dry grassland and scrublands on chalk or limestone, dry heaths, hard water springs depositing lime, high</p>

	<p>altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage, juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands, montane acid grasslands, montane willow scrub, plants in crevices on acid rocks, plants in crevices on base rocks, species rich grassland with mat grass in upland areas, tall herb communities, very wet mires often identified by an unstable quaking surface, wet heathland with cross leaved heath, plus green shield moss (<i>Buxbaumia viridis</i>), otter. (The site overlaps with Cairngorms SPA and Abernethy Forest SPA.)</p> <p>Creag Meagaidh: blanket bog, alpine and subalpine heaths, plants in crevices on base rich rocks, dry heaths, tall herb communities, wet heathland with cross leaved heath, clear water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, montane acid grasslands, plants in crevices on acid rocks, acidic scree, mountain willow scrub. (The site overlaps with Creag Meagaidh SPA.)</p> <p>Drumochter Hills: blanket bog, acidic scree, alpine and subalpine heaths, dry heaths, montane acid grasslands, mountain willow scrub, plants in crevices on acid rocks, species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas, tall herb communities, wet heathland with cross-leaved heath. (The site overlaps with Drumochter Hills SPA.)</p> <p>Glen Tanar: blanket bog, Caledonian forest, dry heaths, wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, otter. (The site overlaps with Glen Tanar SPA.)</p> <p>Ladder Hills: blanket bog, dry heaths, alpine and subalpine heaths. (The site overlaps with the River Spey SAC.)</p> <p>Monadhliath: blanket bog. (The site overlaps with the River Spey SAC.)</p>
<p>Conservation objectives for the peatland SACs:</p>	<p>Due to their collective length, the conservation objectives for the above SACs are provided in Table 7b.</p>
<p>Is the plan or project directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European site for nature conservation?</p>	<p>No - while the restoration would be beneficial to one of the qualifying interests, it is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the sites.</p>

<p>Is the plan or project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to have a significant effect on the European site?</p>	<p>YES, likely significant effects: Although the peatland restoration would have beneficial effects on the blanket bog qualifying interests of the SACs, all but one of the SACs are also designated for other qualifying interests.</p> <p>While there is very little detail on where restoration would take place or what would be involved, there could be likely significant effects on the non-peatland qualifying interests for example through access with machinery to and from the restoration area causing damage and sediment release, noise and lighting from machinery and human activity causing disturbance, and/or works timed inappropriately so causing increased disturbance or damage.</p>
<p>Can it be ascertained that there will not be an adverse effect on site integrity?</p>	<p>The likely significant effects identified above could be minimised through the use of appropriate site specific mitigation measures, such as (but not limited to) careful planning and timing of works to avoid damage or disturbance of other qualifying interests, use of Construction Method Statements including pollution prevention and control measures, as well as HRA of individual proposals to ensure the conservation objectives are not compromised. (Peatland restoration projects are subject to individual HRA of the detailed proposals by NatureScot as part of the planning process, which is an additional safeguard.)</p> <p>Provided appropriate site specific mitigation is put in place at the individual project level, then it can be concluded that there would not be an adverse effect on site integrity for any of the peatland SACs.</p>

Table 7b – conservation objectives blanket bog SACs

Ballochbuie
To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:
Distribution of the habitat within site
Structure and function of the habitat
Processes supporting the habitat
Distribution of typical species of the habitat
Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Extent of the habitat on site
To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (otter) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:
Distribution of the species within site
Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
No significant disturbance of the species
Population of the species as a viable component of the site
Beinn a Ghlo
Conservation objective 2. To ensure that the integrity of Beinn a' Ghlo SAC is restored by meeting objectives 2a, 2b and 2c for each qualifying feature.

Dry heath, montane acid grasslands, dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone, species-rich grasslands with mat-grass in upland areas, base-rich fens, hard water springs depositing lime, blanket bog, high altitude plant communities associated with water seepage, acidic scree, plants in crevices on acid rocks, plants in crevices on base rocks:

2a. Maintain the extent and distribution of the habitat within the site

Dry heath, dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone, hard water springs depositing lime:

2b. Restore the structure, function and supporting processes of the habitat

Dry heath, hard water springs depositing lime:

2c. Restore, the distribution and viability of typical species of the habitat

Alpine and subalpine heaths:

2a. Maintain the extent and distribution of habitat within the site

Alpine and subalpine heaths, montane acid grasslands, species-rich grasslands with mat-grass in upland areas, base-rich fens, blanket bog, high altitude plant communities associated with water seepage, acidic scree, plants in crevices on acid rocks, plants in crevices on base rocks:

2b. Maintain the structure, function and supporting processes of the habitat

Alpine and subalpine heaths, dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone, species-rich grasslands with mat-grass in upland areas, base-rich fens, blanket bog, high altitude plant communities associated with water seepage, acidic scree, plants in crevices on acid rocks, plants in crevices on base rocks:

2c. Maintain the distribution and viability of typical species of the habitat

Geyer's whorl snail, round mouthed whorl snail:

2a. Maintain the population of the species as a viable component of the site

2b. Maintain the distribution of the species throughout the site

2c. Maintain the habitats supporting the species within the site and availability of food

Conservation objective 1. To ensure that the qualifying features of Beinn a' Ghlo SAC are in favourable condition and make an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status.

Ben Alder and Aonach Beag

Conservation objective 2. To ensure that the integrity of Ben Alder and Aonach Beag SAC is restored by meeting objectives 2a, 2b and 2c for each qualifying feature.

<i>Wet heathland with cross leaved heath, dry heaths, alpine and subalpine heaths, montane acid grasslands, alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands, tall herb communities, blanket bog, high altitude plant communities associated with water seepage, acidic scree, plants in crevices on acid rocks, plants in crevices on base rich rocks:</i>
2a. Maintain the extent and distribution of the habitat within the site
<i>Mountain willow scrub:</i>
2a. Restore the extent and distribution of the Mountain willow scrub within the site
<i>Wet heathland with cross leaved heath, mountain willow scrub, alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands, blanket bog, high altitude plant communities associated with water seepage:</i>
2b. Restore the structure, function and supporting processes of the habitat
<i>Wet heathland with cross leaved heath, mountain willow scrub, blanket bog:</i>
2c. Restore the distribution and viability of typical species of the habitat
<i>Dry heaths, alpine and subalpine heaths, montane acid grasslands, tall herb communities, acidic scree, plants in crevices on acid rocks, plants in crevices on base rich rocks:</i>
2b. Maintain the structure, function and supporting processes of the habitat
<i>Dry heaths, alpine and subalpine heaths, montane acid grasslands, alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands, tall herb communities, high altitude plant communities associated with water seepage, acidic scree, plants in crevices on acid rocks, plants in crevices on base rich rocks:</i>
2c. Maintain the distribution and viability of typical species of the habitat
Conservation objective 1. To ensure that the qualifying features of Ben Alder and Aonach Beag SAC are in favourable condition and make an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status.
Caenlochan
To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:
Distribution of the habitat within site
Structure and function of the habitat

Processes supporting the habitat
Distribution of typical species of the habitat
Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Extent of the habitat on site
Cairngorms
To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:
Distribution of the habitat within site
Structure and function of the habitat
Processes supporting the habitat
Distribution of typical species of the habitat
Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Extent of the habitat on site
To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (otter, green shield moss) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:
Distribution of the species within site
Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
No significant disturbance of the species
Population of the species as a viable component of the site

Creag Meagaidh
Conservation objective 2. To ensure that the integrity of Creag Meagaidh SAC is restored by meeting objectives 2a, 2b and 2c for each qualifying feature.
<i>Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, dry heath, alpine and subalpine heaths, montane acid grasslands, tall herb communities, blanket bog, acidic scree, plants in crevices on acid rocks, plants in crevices on base rich rocks:</i>
2a. Maintain the extent and distribution of the habitat within the site
<i>Mountain willow scrub:</i>
2a. Restore the extent and distribution of the habitat within the site
<i>Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, alpine and subalpine heaths, montane acid grasslands, tall herb communities, acidic scree, plants in crevices on acid rocks, plants in crevices on base rich rocks::</i>
2b. Maintain the structure, function and supporting processes of the habitat
<i>Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, dry heath, alpine and subalpine heaths, montane acid grasslands, tall herb communities, blanket bog, acidic scree, plants in crevices on acid rocks, plants in crevices on base rich rocks::</i>
2c. Maintain the distribution and viability of typical species of the habitat
<i>Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, dry heath, mountain willow scrub, blanket bog:</i>
2b. Restore the structure, function and supporting processes of the habitat
<i>Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, mountain willow scrub:</i>
2c. Restore the distribution and viability of typical species of the habitat
Conservation objective 1. To ensure that the qualifying features of Creag Meagaidh SAC are in favourable condition and make an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status
Drumochter Hills
To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:
Distribution of the habitat within site

Structure and function of the habitat
Processes supporting the habitat
Distribution of typical species of the habitat
Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Extent of the habitat on site
Glen Tanar
To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:
Distribution of the habitat within site
Structure and function of the habitat
Processes supporting the habitat
Distribution of typical species of the habitat
Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Extent of the habitat on site
To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (otter) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:
Distribution of the species within site
Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
No significant disturbance of the species

Population of the species as a viable component of the site
Ladder Hills
Conservation objective 2. To ensure that the integrity of Ladder Hills SAC is restored by meeting objectives 2a, 2b and 2c for each qualifying feature.
<i>Dry heaths, alpine and subalpine heaths, blanket bog:</i>
2a. Maintain the extent and distribution of the habitat within the site
<i>Dry heaths, blanket bog:</i>
2b. Restore the structure, function and supporting processes of the habitat
<i>Alpine and subalpine heaths:</i>
2b. Maintain the structure, function and supporting processes of the habitat
<i>Dry heaths, blanket bog:</i>
2c. Restore the distribution and viability of typical species of the habitat
<i>Alpine and subalpine heaths:</i>
2c. Maintain the distribution and viability of typical species of the habitat
Conservation objective 1. To ensure that the qualifying features of Ladder Hills SAC are in favourable condition and make an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status.
Monadliath
Conservation objective 2. To ensure that the integrity of Monadliath SAC is restored by meeting objectives 2a, 2b and 2c
2a. Maintain the extent and distribution of blanket bog within the site
2b. Restore the structure, function and supporting processes of the habitat
2c. Restore the distribution and viability of typical species of the habitat
Conservation objective 1. To ensure that the qualifying feature of Monadliath SAC is in favourable condition and makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status

Table 8 – HRA for A5 moorland management long term target for raptors

<p>NPPP objective A5, long term target: measurable and sustained increase in both home range, occupation and breeding success of golden eagle, hen harrier, merlin and peregrine across the National Park</p>	
<p>SPAs with golden eagle, hen harrier, merlin and/or peregrine as a qualifying interest:</p> <p>Note: although the raptor SPAs overlap with other European sites, following the NatureScot Natura guidance (https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-05/Guidance%20-%20Natura%20Casework%20Guidance%20-%20How%20to%20consider%20plans%20and%20projects%20affecting%20Special%20Areas%20of%20Conservation%20%28SACs%29%20and%20Special%20Protection%20Areas%20%28SPAs%29.pdf), there should not be any effects on the qualifying interests of other European sites that would compromise their conservation objectives as a result of the increase in the home range, occupation and breeding success of the raptors (as the measure relates to reducing wildlife crime against raptors, rather than management of habitat used by them or other qualifying interests, and while there could be a theoretical risk of predation on some qualifying interests by an increase in raptors, it is very unlikely to be at a detectable level given prey preferences and the variety of prey available). Therefore other European sites are not considered further.</p>	<p>Caenlochan: breeding golden eagle, dotterel. (The site overlaps with Caenlochan SAC, River Dee SAC and Cairngorms Massif SPA.)</p> <p>Cairngorms: breeding golden eagle, merlin, peregrine falcon, osprey, Scottish crossbill, dotterel, capercaillie. (The site overlaps with Cairngorms SAC, River Dee SAC, River Spey SAC and Cairngorms Massif SPA.)</p> <p>Cairngorms Massif: breeding golden eagle. (The site overlaps with the Ballochbuie, Beinn a' Ghlo, Caenlochan, Cairngorms, Coyles of Muick, Glen Tanar, River Dee, River South Esk, River Spey and River Tay SACs, and the Abernethy Forest, Ballochbuie, Caenlochan, Cairngorms, Forest of Clunie, Glen Tanar and Lochnagar SPAs.)</p> <p>Drumochter Hills: breeding merlin, dotterel. (The site overlaps with the Drumochter Hills SAC and River Spey SAC.)</p> <p>Forest of Clunie: hen harrier, merlin, short eared owl, osprey (The site overlaps with the River Tay SAC.)</p> <p>Glen Tanar: breeding hen harrier, Scottish crossbill, capercaillie. (The site overlaps with the Glen Tanar SAC, River Dee SAC and Cairngorms Massif SPA.)</p> <p>River Spey - Insh Marshes: breeding hen harrier, wigeon, whooper swan, osprey, spotted crane, wood sandpiper. (The site overlaps with the Insh Marshes SAC and River Spey SAC.)</p>
<p>Conservation objectives for the SPAs with golden eagle, hen harrier, merlin and/or peregrine as a qualifying interest:</p>	<p>The conservation objectives for the SPAs identified in bold above are the same for each SPA:</p>

	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of the species within site Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species Population of the species as a viable component of the site
<p>Is the plan or project directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European site for nature conservation?</p>	<p>No - while the increased range, occupation and breeding success of the named raptors would be beneficial to those qualifying interests, it is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the sites.</p>
<p>Is the plan or project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to have a significant effect on the European site?</p>	<p>NO likely significant effects on any of the qualifying interests of the SPAs:</p> <p>Following the NatureScot Natura guidance, although there is a connection because the areas that have the named raptors are also classified as SPAs for other qualifying interests, it is obvious that the conservation objectives for the sites qualifying interests will not be undermined despite the connection. This is because the measure relates to reducing wildlife crime against raptors, rather than management of habitat used by them or other qualifying interests, and while there could be a theoretical risk of predation on some other qualifying interests as a result an increase in raptors, it is very unlikely to be at a detectable level given prey preferences and the variety of prey available.</p> <p>Therefore, following the NatureScot Natura guidance, as there will be no likely significant effects on the qualifying interests of any of the SPAs that would compromise the conservation objectives, there is no need for further assessment.</p>

Table 9 – HRA for N9 river restoration long term target

<p>NPPP objective N9, long term target: 70% of rivers in good ecological condition by 2045 ie where ecological structure, function and productivity do not deviate significantly from a near natural system condition</p>	
<p>Riverine SACs:</p> <p>Note: although the three riverine SACs overlap with other European sites, following the NatureScot Natura guidance (https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-05/Guidance%20-%20Natura%20Casework%20Guidance%20-%20How%20to%20consider%20plans%20and%20projects%20affecting%20Special%20Areas%20of%20Conservation%20%28SACs%29%20and%20Special%20Protection%20Areas%20%28SPAs%29.pdf), restoration to near natural structure, function and productivity should not have effects on the qualifying interests of other European sites that would compromise their conservation objectives. Therefore no other European sites are considered.</p>	<p>River South Esk: freshwater pearl mussel, Atlantic salmon (The SAC overlaps with the Cairngorms Massif SPA and Montrose Basin SPA.)</p> <p>River Dee: freshwater pearl mussel, Atlantic salmon, otter (The SAC overlaps with the following sites: Cairngorms SAC and SPA, Ballochbuie SAC and SPA, Muir of Dinnet SAC, SPA and Ramsar site, Glen Tanar SAC and SPA, Morven and Mullachdubh SAC, Cairngorms Massif SPA, and Caenlochan SPA.)</p> <p>River Spey: otter, freshwater pearl mussel, sea lamprey, Atlantic salmon (The SAC overlaps with the following sites, not all of which are within the National Park but which have connectivity via the river: Abernethy Forest SPA, Anagach Woods SPA, Cairngorm Massif SPA, Cairngorms Special Area of Conservation SAC, Cairngorms SPA, Craigmore Wood SPA, Creag Meagaidh SAC, Creag nan Gamhainn SAC, Drumochter Hills SAC, Drumochter Hills SPA, Kinveachy Forest SAC, Kinveachy Forest SPA, Ladder Hills SAC, Lower River Spey – Spey Bay SAC, Monadhliath SAC, Moray and Nairn Coast SPA, River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA, River Spey – Insh Marshes Ramsar site.)</p> <p>River Tay: Atlantic salmon, clear water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, river lamprey, brook lamprey, sea lamprey, otter (The SAC overlaps with the following sites, not all of which are within the National Park but which have connectivity via the river: Cairngorms Massif SPA, Forest of Clunie SPA, Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA, Rannoch Lochs SPA, Keltneyburn SAC, Blackwood of Rannoch SAC, Rannoch Moor SAC, Beinn a' Ghlo SAC Caenlochan SAC, Shingle Islands SAC, Dunkeld and Blairgowrie Lochs SAC, Rannoch Moor Ramsar site.)</p>

<p>Conservation objectives, River South Esk SAC:</p>	<p>Conservation objective 2. To ensure that the integrity of the River South Esk SAC is restored by meeting objectives 2a, 2b, 2c for each qualifying feature (and 2d for freshwater pearl mussel)</p> <p><i>Freshwater pearl mussel:</i></p> <p>2a. Restore the population of freshwater pearl mussel as a viable component of the site</p> <p>2b. Restore the distribution of freshwater pearl mussel throughout the site</p> <p>2c. Restore the habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel within the site and availability of food</p> <p>2d. Restore the distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species and their supporting habitats</p> <p><i>Atlantic salmon:</i></p> <p>2a. Restore the population of Atlantic salmon, including range of genetic types, as a viable component of the site</p> <p>2b. Restore the distribution of Atlantic salmon throughout the site</p> <p>2c. Restore the habitats supporting Atlantic salmon within the site and availability of food</p> <p>Conservation objective 1. To ensure that the qualifying features of the River South Esk SAC are in favourable condition and make an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status</p>
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<p>Conservation objectives, River Dee SAC:</p>	<p>Conservation objective 2. To ensure that the integrity of the River Dee SAC is restored by meeting objectives 2a, 2b, 2c for each qualifying feature (and 2d for freshwater pearl mussel)</p> <p>2a. Restore the population of freshwater pearl mussel as a viable component of the site</p> <p>2b. Restore the distribution of freshwater pearl mussel throughout the site</p> <p>2c. Restore the habitats supporting the freshwater pearl mussel within the site and availability of food</p> <p>2d. Maintain the distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species and their supporting habitats</p> <p>2a. Maintain the population of Atlantic salmon, including range of genetic types, as a viable component of the site</p> <p>2b. Maintain the distribution of Atlantic salmon throughout the site</p> <p>2c. Maintain the habitats supporting Atlantic salmon within the site and availability of food</p> <p>2a. Maintain the population of otter, as a viable component of the site</p> <p>2b. Maintain the distribution of otter throughout the site</p> <p>2c. Maintain the habitats supporting otter within the site and availability of food</p> <p>Conservation objective 1. To ensure that the qualifying features of the River Dee SAC are in favourable condition and make an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status</p>
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<p>Conservation objectives, River Spey SAC:</p>	<p>Conservation Objective 2. To ensure that the integrity of the River Spey SAC is restored by meeting objectives 2a, 2b, 2c for each qualifying feature (and 2d for freshwater pearl mussel):</p> <p>2b. Restore the distribution of freshwater pearl mussel throughout the site</p> <p>2c. Restore the habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel within the site and availability of food</p> <p>2d. Restore the distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species and their supporting habitats</p> <p>2a. Restore the population of freshwater pearl mussel as a viable component of the site</p> <p>2b. Maintain the distribution of sea lamprey throughout the site</p> <p>2c. Maintain the habitats supporting sea lamprey within the site and availability of food</p> <p>2a. Maintain the population of sea lamprey as a viable component of the site</p> <p>2b. Restore the distribution of Atlantic salmon throughout the site</p> <p>2c. Restore the habitats supporting Atlantic salmon within the site and availability of food</p> <p>2a. Restore the population of Atlantic salmon, including range of genetic types, as a viable component of the site</p> <p>2b. Maintain the distribution of otter throughout the site</p> <p>2c. Maintain the habitats supporting otter within the site and availability of food</p> <p>2a. Maintain the population of otter as a viable component of the site</p> <p>Conservation Objective 1. To ensure that the qualifying features of the River Spey SAC are in favourable condition and make an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status.</p>
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<p>Conservation objectives, River Tay SAC:</p>	<p>Conservation Objective 2. To ensure that the integrity of River Tay SAC is maintained by meeting objectives 2a, 2b and 2c 2b. Maintain the structure, function and supporting processes of clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels 2c. Restore the habitats supporting Atlantic salmon within the site and availability of food 2a. Maintain the distribution and viability of typical species of clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels Conservation objective 1: To ensure that the qualifying feature (clear water lakes etc) of the River Tay SAC is in favourable condition and makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status. Conservation Objective 2. To ensure that the integrity of the River Tay is maintained by meeting objectives 2a, 2b and 2c for each qualifying feature. 2b. Maintain the distribution of the lamprey species throughout the site 2c. Maintain the habitats supporting the lamprey species' within the site, and availability of food 2a. Maintain the population of the lamprey species' as viable components of the site 2b. Maintain the distribution of Atlantic salmon throughout the site 2c. Maintain the habitats supporting Atlantic salmon within the site and availability of food 2a. Maintain the population of Atlantic salmon, including range of genetic types, as a viable component of the site 2b. Maintain the distribution of otter throughout the site 2c. Maintain the habitats supporting otter within the site and availability of food 2a. Maintain the population of otter as viable components of the site Conservation objective 1: To ensure that the qualifying (species) features of River Tay SAC are in favourable condition and make an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status.</p>
<p>Is the plan or project directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European site for nature conservation?</p>	<p>No - while the restoration would be beneficial, it is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the sites.</p>

<p>Is the plan or project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to have a significant effect on the European site?</p>	<p>YES, likely significant effects: While there is very little detail on where restoration would take place or what would be involved, there could be likely significant effects on the qualifying interests for example through access with machinery to and from the restoration area causing damage to habitats and/or pollution through sediment release, noise and/or lighting from machinery and human activity causing disturbance to species, and/or works timed inappropriately so causing disturbance or increased damage/pollution. Without careful consideration of the implication of the restoration proposed at a site specific level, there is also potential for restoration to favour one qualifying interest over others.</p>
<p>Can it be ascertained that there will not be an adverse effect on site integrity?</p>	<p>The likely significant effects identified above could be minimised through the use of appropriate site specific mitigation measures, such as (but not limited to) careful planning and timing of works to avoid damage or disturbance of other qualifying interests, use of Construction Method Statements including pollution prevention and control measures, as well as HRA of individual proposals to ensure that the conservation objectives would not be undermined.</p> <p>Provided appropriate site specific mitigation is put in place at the individual project level, then it can be concluded that there would not be an adverse effect on site integrity for any of the riverine SACs.</p>

Table 10 – HRA for A13 capercaillie conservation

<p>Objective A13: short term action – deliver a work programme to support capercaillie conservation in the Cairngorms, based on best available evidence</p> <p>(Currently this is the NatureScot Scientific Advisory Committee capercaillie advice, which has been used for the assessment. The key recommendations of the February 2022 capercaillie advice are: 1. Predator control. 2. Diversionary feeding of predators. 3. Creation of refuges through permanent or seasonal closure of paths and tracks. 4. Fence marking/removal.)</p>	
<p>Qualifying interests of capercaillie SPA:</p> <p>Note: following the NatureScot Natura guidance (https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-05/Guidance%20-%20Natura%20Casework%20Guidance%20-%20How%20to%20consider%20plans%20and%20projects%20affecting%20Special%20Areas%20of%20Conservation%20%28SACs%29%20and%20Special%20Protection%20Areas%20%28SPAs%29.pdf), there should not be any effects on other European sites that would compromise their conservation objectives as a result of the implementation of the February 2022 capercaillie advice (as the measures are likely to contribute towards achievement of the conservation objectives and would not undermine them), so no other European sites are considered.</p>	<p>Anagach Woods: breeding capercaillie (The site overlaps with River Spey SAC.)</p> <p>Craigmore Wood: breeding capercaillie (The site overlaps with River Spey SAC.)</p> <p>Kinveachy Forest: breeding capercaillie (and Scottish crossbill) (The site overlaps with Kinveachy Forest SAC and River Spey SAC.)</p> <p>Abernethy Forest: breeding: capercaillie (and osprey, Scottish crossbill) (The site overlaps with Cairngorms SAC, River Spey SAC and Cairngorms Massif SPA.)</p> <p>Cairngorms: breeding capercaillie, (and dotterel, golden eagle, merlin, osprey, peregrine, Scottish crossbill) (The site overlaps with Cairngorms SAC, River Dee SAC, River Spey SAC and Cairngorms Massif SPA.)</p> <p>Ballochbuie: breeding capercaillie (and Scottish crossbill) (The site overlaps with Ballochbuie SAC and River Dee SAC.)</p> <p>Glen Tanar: breeding capercaillie (and osprey, hen harrier, Scottish crossbill) (The site overlaps with Glen Tanar SAC, River Dee SAC and Cairngorms Massif SPA.)</p>
<p>Conservation objectives for capercaillie SPAs:</p>	<p>The conservation objectives for the SPAs identified in bold above are the same for each SPA:</p> <p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the</p>

	<p>site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term: Population of the species as a viable component of the site Distribution of the species within site Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species</p>
<p>Is the plan or project directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European site for nature conservation?</p>	<p>Yes - without intervention, Scottish capercaillie population will continue to decline into potential extinction. Therefore, implementation of the February 2022 capercaillie advice is required to achieve the conservation objectives, with works being directly necessary to achieve the objectives for capercaillie.</p> <p>Therefore, capercaillie do not require to be considered further in this HRA. However the other qualifying interests do require to be considered further for Kinveachy, Abernethy, Cairngorms, Ballochbuie and Glen Tanar SPAs.</p>
<p>Is the plan or project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to have a significant effect on the European site?</p>	<p>YES likely significant effects on some of the qualifying interests of the Kinveachy, Abernethy, Cairngorms, Ballochbuie and Glen Tanar SPAs:</p> <p>The habitat preferences of dotterel are markedly different to those of capercaillie, so they do not occupy the same areas where measures will be implemented, so the measures are unlikely to have an effect on dotterel. They are therefore not considered further.</p> <p>For the remaining qualifying interests (hen harrier, golden eagle, merlin, osprey, peregrine, Scottish crossbill):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The end result of measure 4 is unlikely to have any effects on the remaining qualifying interests due to them either being small enough to

	<p>fly through the gaps in deer fencing (eg Scottish crossbill), being unlikely to be flying in/out of closed canopy at deer fence height (eg osprey) and/or being more manoeuvrable than capercaillie and so being able to take avoiding action when encountering deer fencing (eg hen harrier, golden eagle, merlin, osprey, peregrine, Scottish crossbill). However the works to remove or mark fencing could have likely significant effects from an increase in human activity causing disturbance during fence marking and removal if carried out during the breeding season close to nest sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The end result of measures 1-3 may have a minor beneficial effect on the remaining qualifying interests, by reducing predation and/or disturbance for the remaining qualifying interests. However the implementation of measures 1-2 may have likely significant effects on the qualifying interests from an increase in human activity causing disturbance during predator control and diversionary feeding if carried out during the breeding season close to nest sites. The implementation of measure 3 may also have unintended consequences and so likely significant effects by moving where people recreate away from capercaillie areas into areas used by other qualifying interests.
<p>Can it be ascertained that there will not be an adverse effect on site integrity?</p>	<p>The likely significant effects identified above could be minimised through the use of appropriate site specific mitigation measures, such as (but not limited to) careful planning and timing of works to avoid causing disturbance of qualifying interests during the breeding season, breeding bird surveys to identify sensitive areas to be avoided during works to implement the measures, as well as site specific HRA of individual proposals to ensure that the conservation objectives would not be undermined.</p> <p>Provided appropriate site specific mitigation is put in place at the individual project level, then it can be concluded that there would not be an adverse effect on site integrity for any of the capercaillie SPAs.</p>

Annex VII: Consultee comments on draft Environmental Report

Responder	Consultee comment	CNPA comment
NatureScot	In our view many of the policies, actions, and/or objectives will bring about positive effects on the environment, and it may be useful to include a sentence or two within the background section to highlight this fact.	Page 6 of the draft Environmental Report recognised this (albeit less specifically) by stating "Due to the NPPP being a high level document, So while actions arising from many of the policies/objectives might give rise to some environmental effects," The text has been updated to make this clearer.
NatureScot	We note that the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has informed the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) and vice versa, however, we would recommend that the Environmental Report (ER) makes clear that both assessments are separate and distinct from each other, and to note which legislation is relevant for each.	This is a good point and changes have been made to make this clearer.
NatureScot	To help understand the assessments of the elements of the plan that have been screened in, it would be useful to include a summary of the conclusions for each of the assessments in tables AIV, AV and AVI.	A summary description was/is provided in the text on pages 2 (non-technical summary) and section 3.a on pages 5/6.
NatureScot	Page 6-7 of Section 3. Environmental Assessment; a. Assessment carried out – the last sentence in this paragraph notes that ‘Many of the effects would be managed through...SEA of other plans, programmes or strategies (such as the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan) which would contain more detail that would enable assessment at that time.’ However, the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan was screened out of SEA for reasons that it was covered in the SEA for the previous Cairngorms Partnership Plan 2017-2022. Therefore, any policies, actions or objectives that have been screened out of SEA from this draft Partnership Plan 2022-2027, we recommend that they be screened in for SEA. Further details of the relevant policies, actions and/or objectives are noted in the tables 1 and 2 below.	This was an unfortunate error as it had been believed that the CNAP had been subject to SEA due to it containing more detailed and specific information. The environmental assessment has been revised as a result of this.

<p>NatureScot</p>	<p>Page 99 – Sub-Objective – 6a - Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation? – We support the inclusion of this sub-objective. In addition to measuring through the implementation of the LDP, we recommend also measuring through implementation of forestry grants and schemes.</p>	<p>The suggestion to measure through the implementation of forestry grants and schemes is noted, however from compiling baseline information on this, it is known that there are issues with interpreting this data due to significant lags in claims being submitted (in some cases many years after tree planting occurred). Therefore, while it is suitable for use as a general baseline in the infographics, it would not be appropriate to use it for more specific reporting.</p>
<p>NatureScot</p>	<p>There are a number of policies, actions and/or objectives that we feel should have been screened in or we have questions with, and these are noted in the tables 1 and 2 below. We do feel that a light touch narrative for the assessment of the policies, actions, and/or objectives to be screened in should be sufficient to address any environmental effects. We recommend the ER clearly demonstrates the thought process of the assessment and includes any mitigation measures required for implementing the plan at project level. We note there is a lot of cross over with policies, actions and objectives within the plan, therefore, there may be some repetition in our comments.</p>	<p>The environmental report presents an objective assessment for each of objectives, targets and actions within the NPPP in the tables of Annex II.</p>

<p>NatureScot</p>	<p>p38 A2, Expand woodland by a minimum of 7000 ha through delivery of Cairngorms National Park Forest Strategy and targeted grants schemes.</p> <p>We note that this action has been screened out due to being considered in the SEA for the Cairngorms National Park Forest Strategy. We provided comments to both of your Scoping Report (24 November 2017) and your Environmental Report (16 March 2018) for the Forest Strategy in relation to adverse impacts on protected areas, the wider biodiversity supporting/supported by them, and the potential effects on other species and habitats, other than capercaillie and wading birds. However, we are unable to find the final SEA to establish if these comments were taken into consideration and we would welcome confirmation of this. With regards to the Forest Strategy, it refers to 5000 ha of woodland expansion for the 5 years of the previous plan which is different to what is proposed in this action. Taking this into consideration, our view is that there is potential for a range of effects, including on, for example, peatlands, geodiversity, Cairngorms Nature Action Plan (CNAP) habitats and plants, landscape, and we advise that this action is screened in and reassessed.</p>	<p>Consultee comments are taken into consideration for all SEA consultations.</p> <p>The SEA of the Forest Strategy assessed the environmental effects of expanding woodland across the National Park, while not specifying any particular locations. Therefore, although the NPPP sets a target that has changed, the 'location' (ie the National Park) that was previously assessed under the Forest Strategy SEA has not. (If the Forest Strategy had not been subject to SEA, the NPPP assessment would be unable to carry out a meaningful assessment as the objective/target has insufficient detail to enable identification of the type, scale, duration or location of potential effects.)</p>
<p>NatureScot</p>	<p>p40, A7 Develop Nature Friendly Farming projects (woodland, waders, species rich grass) as part of the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan.</p> <p>This short term action has been screened out citing that it has been assessed as part of the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan (CNAP) SEA. However, the CNAP was actually screened out of SEA stating that it was included in the SEA for the previous Partnership Plan 2017-2022. There could be environmental effects and we recommend that the action is screened in and assessed as part of the new Partnership Plan 2022-2027.</p>	<p>This was an unfortunate error as it had been believed that the CNAP had been subject to SEA due to it containing more detailed and specific information. The environmental assessment has been revised as a result of this.</p>

NatureScot	<p>p41, A10 Cairngorms Nature Networks – a spatial mapping of potential and strategic areas for expanding, enhancing and increasing connectivity of habitats and species in the Park.</p> <p>We are not clear if this action is to produce maps only or if this is linked to long-term objective A10, on page 54 – Establish an ecological network across the National Park by 2025. It may need to be screened in and considered in combination with long-term objective A10.</p>	<p>The purpose of this short term action (now N10) is confirmed to be to produce maps.</p>
NatureScot	<p>p41 A11 Revise and deliver the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan. The current CNAP was screened out of SEA stating that it was included in the SEA for the previous Partnership Plan 2017-2022. There could be environmental effects as a result of the delivery of the revised Nature Action Plan, and we recommend that this action is screened in and assessed as part of the new Partnership Plan 2022-2027.</p>	<p>This was an unfortunate error as it had been believed that the CNAP had been subject to SEA due to it containing more detailed and specific information. The environmental assessment has been revised as a result of this.</p>
NatureScot	<p>p42, A14 Deliver Species Recovery Plans for priority species through the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan.</p> <p>This short term action has been screened out citing that it has been assessed as part of the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan (CNAP) SEA. However, the CNAP was actually screened out of SEA stating that it was included in the SEA for the previous Partnership Plan 2017-2022. There could be environmental effects and we recommend that this action is screened in and assessed as part of the new Partnership Plan 2022-2027.</p>	<p>This was an unfortunate error as it had been believed that the CNAP had been subject to SEA due to it containing more detailed and specific information. The environmental assessment has been revised as a result of this.</p>

NatureScot	p48, C4 ...and increase promotion of the Speyside Way. There could be environmental effects, including potential impacts on capercaillie, and we recommend that this action is screened in.	The NPPP seeks to stabilise visitor numbers (now long term objective PL5). The Speyside Way is already well used and promoted throughout the year. Increasing its promotion is unlikely to significantly increase the numbers of people using the Speyside Way as a result of the short term action now under PL8 to such an extent that there would be significant change in activity levels over what currently occurs, nor that they would undertake different patterns or types of activities to existing users.
NatureScot	p48, C4 ... and creation of new visitor infrastructure improvements. There could be environmental effects, including potential impacts on capercaillie, and we recommend that this action is screened in.	While actions arising from the objective might give rise to some environmental effects, it is not possible to identify what those potential effects are, where they might occur, their scale and/or their significance.
NatureScot	p48, C5 Implement Cairngorm Mountain Masterplan. There are likely to be environmental effects through the implementation of this masterplan, and it's not clear if this masterplan has previously been subject to environmental assessment. We, therefore, recommend that this action is screened in.	HIE have told CNPA that the masterplan as it is a document that sets "out an overall vision and 10 key strategies" rather than specific detail that would enable assessment of effects with the NPPP. As HIE are a public body, they are responsible for carrying out environmental assessment of their plans and strategies, as well as implementing them. The wording of the short term action (now under PL9) has been amended to make it clear that CNPA have a supporting role.

NatureScot	<p>p51 A2 A minimum of 35,000 ha of new woodland cover created by 2045.</p> <p>This long term objective has been screened out citing that it has been assessed as part of the Forest Strategy SEA. The Forest Strategy refers to 5000 ha of woodland expansion for the 5 years of the previous plan. This is different to what is proposed in this objective and we recommend that it is screened in and reassessed.</p>	<p>The SEA of the Forest Strategy assessed the environmental effects of expanding woodland across the National Park, while not specifying any particular locations. Therefore, although the NPPP sets a target that has changed, the 'location' (ie the National Park) that was previously assessed under the Forest Strategy SEA has not. (If the Forest Strategy had not been subject to SEA, the NPPP assessment would be unable to carry out a meaningful assessment as the objective/target has insufficient detail to enable identification of the type, scale, duration or location of potential effects.)</p>
NatureScot	<p>p53, A7 Carbon and biodiversity plans are in place for farms across the National Park by 2028.</p> <p>It is unclear who is developing the Carbon and Biodiversity Plans and who and when the environmental assessment will be conducted once they are developed. It would be useful to make this clear in the assessment.</p>	<p>The target states that the plans would be in place and action states they would be agreed in the short term (by 2028), rather than being implemented. Therefore this aspect is too general to know when, how or which environmental interests could be affected, if any, through implementation of the plans in the long term. This is because it is unclear what carbon and biodiversity plans will consist of (a simple audit to a full on programme of works), who will be responsible for creating and/or implementing them, there is no location or detail on which to base an assessment of potential effects eg where and what proportion of farmland the measures that might arise from such plans could affect. This means it is not possible to assess this target or short term action (now under N8) as it is too vague.</p>

<p>NatureScot</p>	<p>p54, A9 75% of river systems are restored by 2045. There are likely to be environmental effects as a result of this objective, including on protected areas along the river systems in CNP, and we therefore, recommend that it is screened in.</p>	<p>The wording of the objective / target / action (now under N9) has been amended and now enables assessment.</p>
<p>NatureScot</p>	<p>p54, A10 Establish an ecological network across the National Park by 2025. There could be environmental effects as a result of this objective, including on protected areas, and we therefore, recommend that it is screened in.</p>	<p>This aspect too general to know when, how or which environmental interests could be affected, if any, as it is unclear what an ecological network would consist of, who will be responsible for creating and implementing it, and there is no location or detail on which to base an assessment of potential effects. This means it is not possible to assess this objective and target (now under N10) as it is too vague.</p>
<p>NatureScot</p>	<p>p54, A11 At least 50% of the National Park to be managed for ecosystem restoration by 2045. There could be environmental effects as a result of this objective, including on protected areas, and we therefore, recommend that it is screened in.</p>	<p>This aspect (now target under N11) is too general to know when, how or which environmental interests could be affected, as it is unclear what an ecological network would consist of, or who will be responsible for creating and implementing it, and there is no location or detail on which to base an assessment of potential effects. This means it is not possible to assess this objective/target as it is too vague.</p>

<p>NatureScot</p>	<p>p60, C4 All communities are linked by safe off-road or segregated on-road routes suitable for all users by 2030. There could be environmental effects including on protected areas, and we recommend that this objective is screened in. We would welcome some narrative to show how and when this objective will be considered.</p>	<p>This target has been amended so that it does not require linkages between all communities. However there is still no definition of what is meant by a "community", nor is there any detail on what routes might be considered, so there is no location or detail on which to base an assessment of potential effects. This means it is not possible to assess this target as it is too vague.</p>
<p>HES</p>	<p>We have reviewed the Draft Environmental Report prepared in support of the National Park Partnership Plan 2022-2027 (NPPP) and note that limited environmental assessment has been undertaken of the objectives, policy approaches and actions included. While we note that this is because the NPPP is a high-level document and there is insufficient information to undertake a detailed assessment, there is nevertheless some opportunity for an assessment to indicate where environmental effects are likely to occur. In particular, we note that the NPPP sets out a Regional Land Use Framework / Regional Spatial Strategy for the area and we would expect some consideration of environmental effects associated with the delivery of this. More broadly, we consider that a number of the policy approaches and actions included in the NPPP are likely to give rise to positive effects on the historic environment.</p>	<p>The NPPP is the RSS, therefore the assessment of the NPPP is assessment of the RSS.</p> <p>The Regional Land Use Framework (now identified in the target and short term action for N8) will be a separate document to the NPPP. No content is proposed in the NPPP, therefore it is not possible to assess the potential for environmental effects of the Framework, as it does not yet exist. (The Framework will however be subject to separate assessment of the more detailed contents once ready.)</p>

HES	<p>Annex 1: Plans, Programmes and Strategies Relevant to the NPPP</p> <p>We are broadly content that the relevant legislation, policy and guidance have been identified for the cultural heritage topic area. It should, however, be noted that the Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (HESPS, 2016) has been replaced by the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS, 2019). Accordingly, the Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes prepared by HES provide further detail in support of the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS, 2019) and Scottish Planning Policy (SPP, 2014) and the emerging National Planning Framework 4.</p>	This has been updated in the revised assessment.
HES	<p>SEA Topic Papers (August 2021)</p> <p>We welcome the baseline analysis undertaken for the cultural heritage topic area and presented within Topic Paper 7: Landscape and Cultural Heritage. In this paper, we note that attention is paid to the range and quality of cultural heritage assets located in the Cairngorms area. This includes analysis of the natural, built, archaeological and linguistic heritage of the area. There is, however, scope for the additional consideration of where non-designated heritage assets also contribute to the area's cultural heritage. It should also be noted that the National Record of the Historic Environment is now kept by Historic Environment Scotland.</p>	This has been updated in the infographic document.

<p>HES</p>	<p>Assessment We note that the Cairngorms NPPP 2022-2027 is a high level document that sets the broad framework for other plans, programmes and strategies to follow. These include the Cairngorms Local Development Plan and the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan which are, in themselves, subject to strategic environmental assessment. While there is insufficient information to undertake a detailed environmental assessment of the objectives and policies included within the NPPP, we nevertheless consider that there is some opportunity for an assessment to indicate where environmental effects are likely to occur.</p>	<p>An objective assessment has been made of all the policies and objectives/targets. However because of the non-specific nature of the majority of the policies, objectives and targets, it is not possible to characterise what effects might occur or where/identify the area(s) likely to be affected, nor the magnitude and spatial extent of effects.</p>
<p>HES</p>	<p>We note that the NPPP 2022-2027 includes the Regional Land Use Framework (RLUF) and the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the Cairngorms, for example. Further to this, Policy A2 requires that land is managed and used to deliver the Regional Land Use Framework. Given that the Regional Land Use Framework (RLUF)/Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) sets a spatial framework for the development and use of land, we disagree with the conclusion in Table A1 that there is insufficient information to determine the likelihood for environmental effects. We would consider that the Environmental Report should have included an assessment of effects caused by the implementation of and actions associated with Policy A2.</p>	<p>The NPPP is the RSS, therefore the assessment of the NPPP is assessment of the RSS.</p> <p>The Regional Land Use Framework (now identified in the target and short term action for N8) will be a separate document to the NPPP. No content is proposed in the NPPP, therefore it is not possible to assess the potential for environmental effects of the Framework, as it does not yet exist. (The Framework will however be subject to separate assessment of the more detailed contents once ready.)</p>

<p>HES</p>	<p>More broadly, we consider that a number of the policy approaches and actions included in the NPPP are likely to give rise to some positive effects on cultural heritage assets. These include policies A4, B4, C1, C2, C3, C6, C7 which encourage the conservation and enhancement of the National Park’s special qualities including its cultural heritage assets and the Gaelic Language. Actions associated with policy C11 are also likely to have positive effects on cultural heritage through a reduction in building vacancies.</p>	<p>The assessment of the policies identified has been subject to review. However they are still found to be too general to enable meaningful assessment (for example because they contain insufficient detail to enable identification of the type, scale, duration or location of potential effects) and/or are process based and in themselves would not result in environmental effects.</p>
<p>HES</p>	<p>We note that the actions for the delivery of objective A3 which involve the restoration of peatland have been subject to environmental assessment at Table AIV. Here, we disagree with the finding at Objective 7b that there would be no effect on the historic and cultural environment caused by the restoration of peatland. This is because peatlands preserve unique archaeological remains and are considered to be living historical landscapes. Peatland restoration works, including measures to reprofile and remove or block both historic and modern drainage systems, can result in changes to, and loss of, cultural heritage assets. Equally, the restoration of degraded peatland can help to preserve important paleo-environmental evidence and improve preservation conditions for some archaeological remains. We therefore consider that there would be an uncertain level of effect on cultural heritage caused by the restoration of peatlands in the Cairngorms and that mitigation should be provided for these works as appropriate.</p>	<p>This is a good point, well explained. The relevant table has been updated accordingly.</p>