

National Park Partnership Plan 2022 - 2027

Introduction

There has never been a more important time to look at the future management of the Cairngorms National Park. The recovery from Covid-19, combined with the climate emergency and nature crisis, means that we need to look for new ways to address key issues in the Cairngorms. There is an opportunity for the Cairngorms National Park to lead the way in reaching net zero carbon emissions as fairly as possible, using nature-based and sustainable approaches to tackle the climate emergency, and putting people at the heart of decision-making.

The National Park Aims

The Cairngorms is the UK's largest national park at 4,528 sq km (6% of Scotland's land mass) and is home to one-quarter of the UK's rare and endangered species. Around 18,000 people live in the Park across the areas of Aberdeenshire, Angus, Highland, Moray, Perth and Kinross, with two million visitors enjoying this special place every year.

In order to achieve this, the Park has four distinct aims as set out by Parliament:

- 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, greater weight is given to the first aim (as set out in Section 9.6 of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000). This helps ensure conservation of the natural and cultural heritage underpins the economic, social and recreation value of the Cairngorms National Park.

The Partnership Plan embeds this approach in the strategy for the Park that is approved by Ministers and sets the framework for all public bodies that work within the Cairngorms, from NatureScot and Local Authorities to Transport Scotland and HIE. It is also supported and delivered by a range of private and voluntary organisations as well.

What is a National Park Partnership Plan?

The National Park Partnership Plan sets out how all those with a responsibility for the Park will co-ordinate their work to tackle the most important issues. In particular, this plan:

- Sets out the vision and overarching strategy for managing the Park.
- Guides the work of all public bodies and other partners to deliver the aims of the Park.
- Provides the strategic context for the Local Development Plan.
- Sets out the regional land use framework and regional spatial strategy for the Park.
- Sets out the economic and sustainable tourism strategy for the Park.

The document is arranged in three sections: Nature, People and Place. In each section we set out long-term objectives up to 2045 (the year Scottish Government has committed to achieving net zero), followed by a set of policies and actions for the next five years. The Partnership Plan is in turn underpinned by a series of action plans, which are set out in Annex I.

We are aware that individuals reading the Partnership Plan will have different priorities; however, we would encourage you to read the plan as a whole to see how the four aims of the National Park will be delivered collectively. As an example:

To enable the target for peatland restoration to be met there will need to be a change to deer management in the Park. To enable the scale of peatland restoration to be delivered we will need to increase investment in skills and training of people to deliver this work, which in turn will be an opportunity for economic diversification within the Cairngorms economy. Finally, if we are going to have local contractors who undertake this work, we will need to have the right level of affordable housing that allows people to live and work in the area. In this way, all the long term objectives are interrelated.



Current National Park Partnership Plan achievements

Infographics of past 5 years to be added

The wider policy landscape

There has been significant changes in the policy landscape since the last Partnership Plan was published in 2017. A climate emergency and nature crisis have been declared, we have left the European Union and its policy framework, the Covid-19 pandemic and our collective need to recover from its impacts is at the forefront of policy discussion, and there is a desire to move to an economy that works for everyone, with citizen well-being at its heart.

Policies relevant to each of the long-term outcomes and objectives in this document are set out in the next section, but as a whole this is guided by the National Performance Framework and by the UN Sustainable Development Goals. These are set out in Annex 2.

Finally, there will be changes to policy over the coming year that will be taken account of as the plan is developed. This includes the outputs from the UN climate change conference COP26 and the UN biodiversity conference COP15, National Planning Framework 4, Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 and other national policy developments.

The Cairngorms National Park also has a significant role to play in delivering the policy ambitions of Scottish Government. This is focused on Scotland being a place to innovate, trial new ways of thinking, and show ambition to tackle the key challenges of our time. The Park has done this in the past on issues like windfarm or hilltrack policy, on increasing the percentage of affordable housing up to 45% in certain villages and towns, and pursuing ambitious projects like Heritage Horizons.

Heritage Horizons is part of our plan to tackle the climate emergency, protect and enhance biodiversity, and deliver meaningful improvements to people's health and well-being. The Cairngorms National Park Authority was successful in its £12.5 million bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Heritage Horizons Programme in July 2021, and the funding will support 22 projects across the Park over the next seven years. At the end of each of the three sections on Nature, People and Place, we set out how these projects link to the proposed long-term objectives of the Partnership Plan.

Striking the right balance

One of the key points around a management plan that takes a long-term view (in this case over 25 years and beyond) is the need to be honest and make clear that there will be trade-offs. The dial cannot be 'turned up' on everything. We will look for areas where we can deliver multiple benefits and mitigate impacts, but we will also be honest about areas where compromise will be required. For example, the climate is changing and this will affect the species and habitats that can survive in the Cairngorms National Park. If we have more trees there may be a reduction in moorland species. Equally, it might not be possible – or indeed desirable – to get all features on designated sites into favourable condition if our collective goal is long-term ecological restoration. There may be a need for controls on holiday rental properties to ensure housing is affordable for local people. These are all points of reasonable debate, but it is essential that we find the right path to ensure the National Park thrives for both nature and people in the future. This means having difficult conversations with people from all walks of life who care about the Park and making important decisions – backed up by the best available evidence – for the long term.

Our long-term vision

The Cairngorms National Park has a long-term vision. It is the intention to keep this vision for the next Partnership Plan period as it provides a good summary of what we are collectively trying to achieve.

The final plan that will be developed after the consultation will set out the path to 2045 and what we need to do over the next 5 years to start making progress towards that. It is critical that people feed into this consultation so that we can build that picture of the future, together.

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

Nature

The interaction between people and nature is central to addressing many of the challenges we face in the Park and in society more generally. There is a need to find solutions to the climate emergency that have nature at their centre and the Cairngorms National Park should be a rural exemplar of this approach. This means addressing the big land use and ecological issues in the Park over the next 25 years that will also continue to have significant positive effects for the next 200 years. The Nature section of this draft plan sets out the long term objectives for the Park, the policy framework and the actions to start delivering these over the next five years.

Outcome: A carbon negative and biodiversity rich National Park with better functioning, better connected and more resilient ecosystems.

Nature – Long term objectives	Target / indicator (where applicable)	National policy context	Reason behind this objective
A1. Ensure the Cairngorms National Park reaches net zero by 2045 at the latest and contributes all it can to helping Scotland meet its net zero commitments.	Annual progress report on net zero for the Cairngorms National Park.	Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018–2032 – update Dec 2020	The climate crisis is the single biggest challenge that we face and it is critical that the Cairngorms National Park – as the largest protected area in the UK – is an exemplar in achieving net zero, a leader in nature-based solutions and helping Scotland as a whole achieve its targets.
A2. Increase the amount of woodland cover in the National Park to ensure bigger, more natural woodlands, expanding up to a natural treeline, providing connections across river catchments and around the central core of the mountains. The majority of this will be native woodland and will be allowed to regenerate naturally, without the need for planting or fencing.	A minimum of 35,000 ha of new woodland cover created by 2045.	Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018–2032 – update Dec 2020	<p>It is important to place this increase in context. When we achieve these ambitious targets, over three quarters (77%) of the Park would still be open habitat by 2045.</p> <p>The right tree in the right place increases the amount of carbon we can store, has biodiversity and landscape benefits, improves water quality and helps reduce the risk of flooding. This links directly to Scottish Government targets around net zero and biodiversity loss. There is significant income potential for land managers from timber production and from the developing carbon market. A move to more unfenced natural regeneration also has landscape, carbon and wildlife benefits.</p> <p>However, there will still be a need for some direct tree planting and fencing in the Park, especially in the early years where numbers of deer and other species are still above a level that allows for natural regeneration.</p>
A3. Restore and manage peatland within the National Park to reduce carbon emissions and improve biodiversity.	A minimum of 35,000 ha peatland restored by 2045.	Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018–2032 – update Dec 2020	Stops the loss of carbon, benefits biodiversity, improves water quality and helps alleviate flooding. Links to Scottish Government net-zero and biodiversity ambitions. Potentially significant income potential for land managers linked to the developing carbon market. CNP has around 90,000ha of degraded peat and 15% of the bare peat in Scotland.
A4. Reduce deer numbers across the National Park to enable woodland to expand, restored peatlands to recover, and wider biodiversity and landscape enhancement to take place.	<p>Red deer densities are five to eight per km² across the open deer range in the National Park by 2030.</p> <p>All sika and fallow deer (non-native species) will be contained within their current distribution in the National Park by 2030.</p> <p>Establish deer population in the woodlands of the National Park by 2025.</p>	Deer Working Group – Scottish Government Response	<p>Average red deer densities on the open range are currently 11.5 per km² across the National Park, but vary from four to 20 depending on location. To enable peatland and woodland work to proceed at the scale necessary to meet our targets, deer numbers will have to decrease in the south of the National Park in particular. This is a complex picture and we will need to look at densities, occupancy and impacts on current and desired habitats, as well as, impacts on estates and businesses.</p> <p>There is also a need to address roe, fallow and sika populations in the Park and to control woodland deer numbers.</p> <p>Both approaches are in line with findings of the Deer Working Group and Scottish Government’s response.</p>

Nature – Long term objectives	Target / indicator (where applicable)	National policy context	Reason behind this objective
A5. Reduce the intensity of game bird (pheasant, grouse, partridge etc) management within the Park. Encourage lower density grouse shooting, as well as the adoption of best practice management techniques and sustainable pheasant and partridge shooting / releases.	Average gamebird bags per unit area. Numbers of game birds released in the National Park.	Grouse Moor Management – Scottish Government Response	The Grouse Moor Management Review ('The Werrity Review', 2020), and Scottish Government's response to it, has indicated a move towards licencing grouse moors in the near future. This package of work will be the cornerstone of moorland management in the National Park. There are significant releases of non-native gamebirds in the National Park, but information is patchy. There is a need to get a better handle on the data around these releases, to look at the impacts on native wildlife and to ensure a better regulated system.
A6. Stop burning on deep peatlands (currently defined as greater than 50 cm depth) and licence burning on shallower peatlands to reduce carbon emissions and encourage natural regeneration. Reduce wildfire risk by ensuring wildfire action plans are in place.	No muirburn on peatland soils of over 50cm depth and burning on shallower peats regulated by licensing by 2023. Wildfire actions plans cover the whole National Park by 2024.	Grouse Moor Management – Scottish Government Response	Fires on deep peat can damage the peatland's ability to store carbon and very intensive burning regimes on shallower peat soils reduce habitat diversity. Wildfires release carbon, can damage or destroy sensitive and rare habitats, can kill species and pose a significant risk to people and property. We will look to have clear wildfire action plans in place by 2024 and agree a position on the role of prescription burning as part of these.
A7. Work with farms in the National Park to reduce their carbon footprint through improved management of grasslands and soil. Help join up habitats and ecosystems through increased woodland and scrub, restoring freshwater areas, and supporting a greater variety of species. Agree carbon and biodiversity management plans with farmers in the National Park to help guide activities.	Carbon and biodiversity plans are in place for farms across the National Park by 2028.	A Future Strategy for Scottish Agriculture Farmer-led Climate Change Groups Reports	A significant area of the National Park is farmed and, to achieve our net zero and biodiversity targets, we need to prioritise activity that reduces farming's carbon footprint, enhances species diversity and builds resilience through joining up habitats and ecosystems. Scottish Government has yet to set out its final approach to rural payments; however, it is committed to 'the transition to a low carbon future, delivering a sustainable, productive, and profitable agricultural sector.' There are also potential economic benefits to farmers through reduced input costs, for example using less fertiliser.
A8. 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. As part of this we will establish a Regional Land Use Partnership for the National Park which helps national and local government, communities, land owners and stakeholders work together to achieve net zero and find ways to optimise land use in a fair and inclusive way.	Establish a Regional Land Use Partnership for the National Park by 2023.	A Future Strategy for Scottish Agriculture Agricultural Transition in Scotland	Rural payments drive much of the farming activity in the Park. These payments are changing and can support farmers taking a coordinated approach to managing their land, delivering a range of public benefits (from carbon reduction to flood mitigation) in return for public support. As the agriculture support framework develops, consideration will be given to what support is best at a national level and what could be devolved to a regional approach. This ties in strongly with the developing Regional Land Use Partnership approach.
A9. 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.	75% of river systems are restored by 2045.	Water Framework Directive & River Basin Management Plans	Natural freshwater systems improve water quality, help protect against flooding and store excess water, as well as providing essential habitats for wildlife in their own right.
A10. 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 an ecological network across the National Park by 2025.	Land use Strategy for Scotland - getting the best from our land: strategy 2021 to 2026 The Environment Strategy for Scotland	Projects that work at a wider landscape scale deliver benefits over large areas and require new ways of working between multiple land managers, owners, agencies and anyone else with an interest in land. It is essential that woodland, moorland, farmland and other land uses in the National Park are managed in collaboration with one another to restore nature.

Nature – Long term objectives	Target / indicator (where applicable)	National policy context	Reason behind this objective
A11. Enhance ecosystems across the National Park by increasing the area of land managed principally for their restoration.	At least 50% of the National Park to be managed for ecosystem restoration by 2045.	Biodiversity Statement of Intent The Environment Strategy for Scotland	The natural environment of the Cairngorms National Park is internationally significant, much of it being protected through European designations. Restoring ecosystems in the National Park will improve the resilience of those areas and deliver greater public benefits in the long term. At present around 30% of the Park is being managed for ecosystem restoration.
A12. Develop a more complete understanding of the National Park's species, habitats and ecosystems, and help monitor progress over the long-term through a dedicated Cairngorms Nature Index.	Develop and roll out the Cairngorms Nature Index by 2023.	Biodiversity Statement of Intent Cairngorms Nature Index	A better understanding of species, habitats and ecosystems will allow for better, more targeted management of land within the National Park and will help deliver wider public benefits.
A13. Manage sites designated to increase the diversity of species present, improve habitats, store carbon and build resilience to climate change. These benefits will be delivered alongside current commitments to maintain and enhance designated features within the area.	Designated sites contribute to ecological network and ecosystem restoration.	Biodiversity Statement of Intent Edinburgh Declaration on post 2020 biodiversity framework	Our designated sites are intended to be the best examples of the rarest habitats and species in Scotland. As we face the twin challenges of the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis, their function and the way they are managed must also be focused on maximising the multiple benefits they can provide, including carbon storage and building resilience to climate change.
A14. Protect vulnerable species and ensure they get back on a sustainable footing, less reliant on targeted action and recovering within a network of habitats. Where necessary, reinforce existing populations and reintroduce lost species as part of a suite of measures to restore biodiversity in the National Park. Ensure species and habitat management adapts to a changing climate.	Species Recovery Curve.	Biodiversity Statement of Intent Edinburgh Declaration on post 2020 biodiversity framework National Species Reintroduction Forum	The number, variety and distribution of species will shift with the changing climate and with the changing landscapes of the National Park, including increased woodlands and restored peatlands. This will mean that different species may thrive in the future and that tough choices about species currently seen in the National Park may have to be taken. There is also a need to ensure that species that have been persecuted in the past are allowed to breed in the National Park across their range.
A15. Attract private investment into the National Park to fund nature's recovery and share the benefits between communities, land owners, workers and wider society. Private finance will be as important as public money in funding nature's recovery given the scale of the climate and biodiversity challenges we face.	The Cairngorms National Park attracts a minimum of £250m of green finance for carbon and biodiversity projects by 2045.	Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018–2032 – update Dec 2020	Private investment in carbon storage and management across the National Park, as well as to support positive management of habitats and their associated natural assets, could transform the rural economy of the Cairngorms. Private finance must deliver long-term benefits and these must be shared between communities, land owners, workers and wider society. It must also support a collective approach to managing the land, addressing a range of challenges alongside the climate emergency (a focus on carbon alone will not be sufficient to deliver multiple benefits).
A16. Work with farmers, estates and other land-based businesses to protect, manage and restore habitats and ecosystems across the National Park. Use 'nature-based solutions' to support a diverse economy that will be an exemplar for rural economies across the UK.	The number of land based businesses using nature-based solutions increases.	A Future Strategy for Scottish Agriculture Farmer-led Climate Change Groups Reports	Land-based businesses are a key part of the National Park and there is an opportunity to demonstrate how nature-based solutions can contribute to a thriving rural economy, whilst also delivering for nature and our climate.
A17. Ensure a wider range of people are involved in, benefit from and support activities that protect and enhance nature and tackle climate change in the National Park.	Conduct regular surveys on values and attitudes to nature restoration, land management and landscape change.	Biodiversity Statement of Intent	Without the involvement of a diverse range of people, the conservation and enhancement of nature in the National Park would not be possible. Tackling the climate emergency and nature crisis can only be done by taking people with us: local communities, workers in the rural economy, visitors and so on.

Nature policies 2022 – 2027

These are the policies that will help to deliver the long term objectives and outcomes over the next 5 years.

<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Focusing on nature-based solutions. b) Being a rural exemplar in achieving a just transition. c) Working with businesses, land managers, communities and visitors across the National Park.
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A long-term planned approach by land based businesses to delivering environmental, economic and social benefits. b) Support for land managers to plan and deliver environmental and social benefits underpinned by sound economic businesses. c) Applying a regionally targeted approach to rural payments to deliver the most appropriate range of public benefits to the National Park. d) Research to support management options.
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Collaborating on land use and flood management, including natural flood management, through river catchment management plans. b) Enhancing the health and connectivity of habitats. c) Expanding woodland on appropriate soils. 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. e) No fires permitted on deep peat and reducing burning on shallow peat soils through licensing. f) Reducing deer numbers across the National Park to facilitate woodland expansion, peatland restoration, biodiversity and landscape enhancement. g) Applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.
<p>Policy A4 Conserve and enhance the special landscape qualities with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Conserving and enhancing wildness qualities. b) Maintaining and promoting dark skies. c) Enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements. d) Enhancing opportunities to enjoy and experience the landscapes of the Park. e) Applying a presumption against new constructed tracks in open moorland.
<p>Policy A5 Conserve and enhance habitat quality and connectivity while ensuring the integrity of designated sites is maintained, with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support woodland creation and management, especially natural regeneration that delivers more natural and native woodland cover to create habitat connections between catchments and minimises need for fencing. b) Wetland conservation and enhancement. c) Protection and improvement of the water environment. d) Delivering a combination of ecosystem services including natural flood management, carbon sequestration and storage, timber and food production. e) Public greenspace and transport networks managed for biodiversity enhancement and habitat connectivity. f) Supporting off-site mitigation from development that contributes to ecological networks.
<p>Policy A6 Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important, with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Species whose conservation status is in decline or at risk. b) Tackling and reducing the impacts of invasive non-native species. c) Tackling and reducing wildlife crime. d) Engaging people on species that are important in the National Park. e) Promoting biological recording of species in the National Park. f) Undertaking appropriate work for species reintroductions or reinforcement as required.

Nature actions 2022 – 2027

These are the actions that will help to deliver the long term objectives and outcomes over the next 5 years

Objective	Nature actions 2022-2027	Partners
Objective A1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon audit and baseline established for the Cairngorms National Park in 2022. Annual reporting on progress in achieving net zero for the Cairngorms National Park. 	All
Objective A2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand woodland by a minimum of 7000 ha through delivery of Cairngorms National Park Forest Strategy and targeted grants schemes. Ensure all scales of woodland are considered and supported. Work with land managers to ensure existing woodlands are managed for a range of benefits including timber production, public access, biodiversity etc. 	Scottish Forestry, Landowners, NatureScot, CNPA
Objective A3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore a minimum of 6,500 ha of peatland. Increase contractor capacity and job opportunities through a peatland skills training programme. 	SDS, HIE, SE, CNPA, NatureScot, Private Contractor Businesses, landowners
Objective A4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Deer Management Groups (especially in the south of the National Park) on land management plans to reduce habitat impact and deliver wider public benefits. Develop better understanding of potential range for deer densities in the future once woodland is established. 	NatureScot, CNPA, DMG's, eNGO's
Objective A5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of grouse moor licencing and other elements of Grouse Review within the Cairngorms National Park. Establish baseline numbers of gamebirds released and impact on biodiversity. Investigate use of Cairngorms National Park Authority powers to regulate game bird releases and develop approach within the National Park. 	ScotGov, NatureScot, CNPA, Landowners, eNGO's, SLE
Objective A6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify accurate baseline for deep peat. Develop system for regulating no burn regime. Develop system for licencing muirburn on shallower peat. Investigate use of CNPA powers to regulate fire and develop approach within the Park. 	ScotGov, NatureScot, SLE, landowners, GWCT, eNGO's, SFRS
Objective A7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop nature-friendly farming projects (woodland, waders, species rich grassland) as part of the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan. 	NFUS, Farmer Liaison Group, SLE, NS, QMS, GWCT
Objective A7 & A8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and establish a Regional Land Use Framework and Partnership. Develop and support Estate Management Plans. 	CNPA, ScotGov, NFUS, NS, farmers, landowners, eNGO's, SLE, Scottish Forestry
Objective A9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Catchment Management Plans. 	Catchment Management Partnerships
Objective A10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cairngorms Nature Networks – a spatial mapping of potential and strategic areas for expanding, enhancing and increasing connectivity of habitats and species in the Park. 	Cairngorms Nature Partnership
Objective A11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise and deliver the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan. Work with Cairngorms Connect, East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership and others to expand the area of the National Park under ecosystem restoration. 	Cairngorms Nature Partnership, Cairngorms Connect, ECMP
Objective A12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Cairngorms Nature Index. Establish Cairngorms Nature Atlas / data portal. Monitor changes in Special Landscape Qualities. 	Cairngorms Nature Partnership
Objective A13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop approach to designations in the National Park to help deliver ecological restoration and net zero. NatureScot Conservation Advice Packages developed. 	NatureScot
Objective A14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Species Recovery Plans for priority species through the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan. Apply Scottish Government policy to facilitate species reintroduction. Reduce wildlife crime as an issue in the Park with a specific focus eliminating it as a constraint on raptor numbers and expansion in the National Park. 	Cairngorms Nature Partnership
Objective A15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trial a green finance project for peatland restoration in the National Park. Explore green finance opportunities at landscape scale and for a wider range of benefits. Identify a pipeline of projects within the National Park over the next five years. 	CNPA, Palladium Investment Group, ScotGov, landowners
Objectives A16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Objectives B3, B5 and associated actions 	
Objective A17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Objective B12 and associated actions 	

Heritage Horizons Projects

Objectives Link	Heritage Horizons Projects	Outline
Objective A1, A2	Woodland expansion	Increase woodland cover in the Cairngorms National Park between 2023 and 2028.
Objective A1, A3	Peatland restoration	Restore peatland in the Park between 2023 and 2028.
Objective A1, A4	Deer management	Develop Strategic Land Use Plans with Deer Management Groups to deliver climate, nature and economy.

Objectives Link	Heritage Horizons Projects	Outline
Objective A1, A7	Cairngorms Future Farming	Demonstrate that carbon zero (or even carbon negative) farming is possible, practical and profitable in the Cairngorms.
Objective A1, A7, A8	Regional Land Use Partnership and Land Rights and Responsibilities	An international showcase for inclusive and equitable land management that tests new models and collaborations for people to engage with nature.
Objective A1, A9	Climate Resilient Catchments	Increase climate change resilience to reduce flood risk and ensure that rivers continue to deliver for the people and wildlife that depend upon them.
Objective A1, A15	Green Investment Plan	Plan, pilot and deliver a blend of private and public finance to contribute to net zero and biodiversity targets.
Objective A1, A17	Landscape and communities project	Discuss, celebrate and promote the National Park's landscapes, its value to people and options for change.

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People

The development of a well-being economy – where society and nature live in harmony, where people enjoy a fair distribution of resources and live in healthy and resilient communities – is central to ensuring that we have a National Park that works for everyone. It is crucial that the Cairngorms National Park continues to be a place where people can live and work and that young people have opportunities to stay and thrive.

There will be significant changes to the economy over the coming decade and we need to ensure that people have the skills that are needed for these changes. The communities of the National Park continue to play a central role, and we are committed to supporting their aspirations and delivering on their key priorities as part of this Partnership Plan. The People section of this draft plan sets out the long-term objectives for the National Park, the policy framework and the actions to start delivering these over the next five years.

Outcome: A well-being economy that works for all the people of the Cairngorms.

People – Long-term objectives	Target / indicator (where applicable)	National policy context	Reason behind this objective
B1. Work to ensure the resident population of the National Park stabilises and reflects a diversity of backgrounds, enabling our communities to flourish.	The overall population stabilises between 2020 and 2045.	A Scotland for the future: opportunities and challenges of Scotland's changing population - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)	A stable population that maintains a strong working age component (see B2) and is equal, diverse and inclusive will support thriving and sustainable communities and a successful local economy.
B2. Work to stabilise or increase the proportion of young and working age people in the National Park relative to the total population.	The proportion of young people and working age people in the National Park stabilises or increases between 2020 and 2045.	A Scotland for the future: opportunities and challenges of Scotland's changing population - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) skills-action-plan-for-rural-scotland-summary-report.pdf (skillsdevelopmenttrust.gov.uk)	Young people are a key part of a sustainable population but require access to education, training, development, employment and housing in order to remain in (or indeed migrate to) the National Park. The need to ensure a strong working age population is also key to the delivery of many of the objectives set out in this NPPP.
B3. Develop a well-being economy that encourages diversification, attracts sustainable inward investment and builds on the existing strengths of the Cairngorms. Economic activity in the National Park is based on its special qualities; we will prioritise opportunities that provide year-round employment and well-being for communities across the National Park, as well as those that promote a circular economy, helping reduce waste and our wider impact on the environment.	There will be a change in the percentage breakdown of different economic sectors within the National Park. Develop Cairngorms Cornerstone Indicators for a well-being economy. An increase in employee-owned or managed businesses in the National Park.	Growing the economy - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) Circular economy Zero Waste Scotland	The development of a well-being economy is key for the Cairngorms. There is a need to move to an economic model that benefits people and nature, aiming for a more equitable distribution of wealth, health and well-being; promoting local expenditure and investment whilst protecting the planet's resources for future generations and other species. There is also need for good quality jobs in the National Park that are less seasonal in nature. Overall this means building on existing strengths but looking for opportunities to help change the economy for the benefit of the people who live and work in the National Park.
B4. Increase the number of Living Wage employers in the National Park.	The Park will have the highest proportion of Living Wage employers in rural Scotland by 2030.	Home Scottish Business Pledge	The Living Wage is an indicator of quality of life, allowing people to access housing and other essential services. It is the only UK wage rate that is voluntarily paid by over 7,000 UK businesses who believe their staff deserve a wage which meets every day needs – like the weekly shop, or a surprise trip to the dentist.

People – Long-term objectives	Target / indicator (where applicable)	National policy context	Reason behind this objective
B5. Significantly increase skills and training opportunities for people in the National Park – with a particular emphasis on the land use sector – to ensure opportunities created by the growth in green jobs can be filled by local people.	There are an increasing number of apprenticeships within the National Park. An increasing number of people living in the National Park pass through skills training programmes for nature-based solutions.	Just transition Commission skills-action-plan-for-rural-scotland-summary-report.pdf (skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk) Nature-based jobs and skills Action Plan 2021-2022 NatureScot	The nature of many jobs will change in the National Park over the coming years as a low carbon economy is created. This means that there are opportunities for new jobs, but also that some traditional jobs in land use may need to adapt or change. There will also be a need to ensure that there are training opportunities to enter into expanding areas of traditional work like deer management, as well as, the support to retrain and reinvest in as part of a 'just transition' (a shift to a greener economy where the benefits are shared as widely as possible).
B6. Increase the area of land in the National Park that is in community ownership, or where the community is directly involved in its management.	All major estates in the National Park involve communities in developing their long term plans by 2025, in line with Scottish Land Commission guidance. Increase the area of land in the National Park directly owned and managed by communities by 2030.	Community Empowerment Land Rights and Responsibility Statement	Increased community ownership and involvement in management of land will improve the delivery of public benefits to communities, supporting their health, well-being and the wider economy. This has been shown in places across Scotland where the community has become more involved in the management of land in which they live.
B7. Empower individuals to make decisions about their local community through citizens' assemblies and juries. Support community councils to become stronger local democratic bodies that plan for their local areas and allocate resources.	Citizens' assemblies and juries are established.	Community Empowerment	Citizens' assemblies and juries will help empower local communities, build participation, and get them more directly involved in making decisions that affect their local area. This will include decisions on the delivery of services provided by the public sector.
B8. Support communities across the National Park to access funding for their community-led local development priorities and encourage community-led activities that help achieve priorities identified in the Partnership Plan.	Community-led local development funding equivalent to at least 2014 (EU-based) programme levels is made available for distribution through a National Park-based governance mechanism.	Rural Economy and Communities Policies (in development)	We will maintain the Cairngorms Local Action Group's excellent record of supporting community groups to realise their own local ambitions, while contributing at a community level to the collective priorities of the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan.
B9. Increase the number of assets in community ownership and support the development of social enterprises that generate a profit within the National Park.	The numbers of assets in community ownership or management triples from 2021. The percentage of community organisations' income from social enterprises increases.	Cities and regions: Community wealth building - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)	A foundation of a sustainable and resilient community is to have an asset that can be used and valued by the community. Where a social enterprise generates profit, other projects and services for the community can be supported.
B10. Encourage greater use of Gaelic in the National Park.	More businesses using Gaelic in their promotional material.	SG Gaelic Language Plan	Gaelic is part of the cultural and natural heritage of the National Park and has a vibrant part to play in its future. There is a need to support the continued use of Gaelic and maintain it is an active language and culture within the communities of the National Park.
B11. Help improve the mental and physical health of the people of the National Park.	The physical activity levels of the 25% least active National Park residents will have increased by 2030. Mental health Indicator TBD.	Scotland's Public Health Priorities Mental Health Strategy	As we all know, healthier individuals have an improved quality of life, and this in turn helps reduce the demands on our already stretched public health system. Preventative action at an early stage can have an impact on long-term public health outcomes, but we need a systemic change to how we address these issues. Through Heritage Horizons we believe the National Park can provide a rural exemplar in this area. There is also a need to ensure consistent public health messages, for example around issues like Lyme disease.

People – Long-term objectives	Target / indicator (where applicable)	National policy context	Reason behind this objective
B12. The visitor profile to the National Park will be more diverse, with a greater proportion of visitors from disabled groups, lower socio-economic backgrounds and minority and ethnic groups. Targeted support will be provided to programmes and projects that reduce inequalities for residents and visitors alike and help to make the Cairngorms 'a Park for All'.	<p>The breakdown of visitors from Scotland to the National Park will more closely resemble the overall demography of Scotland.</p> <p>Increased participation from under-represented groups</p>	Scotland Outlook 2030 – Responsible Tourism for a Sustainable Future Inclusive Tourism	Anyone, no matter who they are, their beliefs, or their needs should be able to visit and enjoy the National Park. There is also a need to provide targeted support across the National Park to ensure that programmes and projects contribute to reducing inequalities for residents and visitors alike.
B13. Engage with people across the National Park through formal and informal education, increase the number of volunteer days spent caring for the National Park, and ensure that young people have a significant role in helping to manage the National Park.	<p>At least 200 volunteer rangers in the National Park by 2030.</p> <p>Increase the number of National Park volunteer days every year up to and including 2045.</p> <p>An increase in the number of John Muir Awards undertaken within the National Park.</p>	Volunteering for All: national framework	Volunteering delivers tangible benefits to the management of the National Park, as well as to the physical and mental well-being of those participating in volunteering. It also provides excellent training opportunities and experience for future employment. There are currently around 36 volunteer rangers in the National park.

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People policies 2022 – 2027

These are the policies that will help to deliver the long term objectives and outcomes over the next 5 years.

<p>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, and maintaining the number of workers employed in the National Park through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Maintaining the population of the National Park and maintaining or growing the proportion of the working age population. b) Supporting the diversification of existing land-based businesses. c) Encouraging growth of business sectors that draw on the special qualities of the National Park, such as sustainable tourism and food and drink. d) Support business start-ups and diversification that delivers circular economy benefits. e) Promote the Living Wage for the Cairngorms National Park. 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. g) Increased provision for business land where there is an identified need and demand; and to support the use of land for small business, particularly within settlements. h) Slowing outward migration of young people; to encourage their return; and the inward migration of workers to the National Park to meet business and community needs. i) Provision of a housing land supply that supports young people and workers and maintains vibrant communities. j) Reducing the proportion of vacant and second homes to support community vibrancy by ensuring that new housing development best meets local needs. k) Maximising the proportion of new housing development that is affordable in perpetuity and 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 availability of housing for residents and workers.
<p>Policy B2 Support and build the capacity of communities to deliver their aspirations, with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Supporting communities to plan for their own futures, develop and implement projects, engage the support of partners and share good practice. b) Supporting innovative approaches to providing affordable housing to meet local needs. c) Supporting communities and landowners to work collaboratively on management of land for shared benefits. d) Aligning community planning processes to simplify support to communities. e) Engaging communities effectively in the long-term management of the National Park and in projects or programmes that affect them. f) Supporting community and public sector control of land for development.
<p>Policy B3 Provide high-quality opportunities for access and recreation whilst limiting negative impact on wildlife and communities, with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensuring a high-quality functional network of active travel, core paths and long-distance routes. b) Promoting the health benefits of outdoor recreation and GP-led green health referrals. c) Identifying areas where particular management measures are needed in relation to delivering a high-quality visitor experience whilst safeguarding sensitive environments. d) Promoting responsible behaviour in enjoying and managing access.
<p>Policy B4 Provide opportunities for inspiration, learning and understanding through engaging with people, with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Equalities groups, and specifically young people. b) Opportunities to support the delivery of the Curriculum for Excellence and education beyond school. c) Promoting and enhancing volunteering opportunities. d) Promoting a sense of shared ownership and responsibility towards Scotland's National Parks and rural environment. e) Promoting knowledge exchange and sharing development experience between rural areas nationally and internationally. f) The Gaelic language
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Equal access & opportunities that are affordable for all.

People actions 2022 -2027

These are the actions that will help to deliver the long term objectives and outcomes over the next 5 years

Objective	People actions 2022-2027	Partners
Objective B1 & B2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement Local Development Plan. 	CNPA, LA's, landowners, developers
Objective B3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a Well-Being Economy Action Plan that includes support for business start-up and diversification into circular economy opportunities. Develop further the evidence base to underpin the importance of the natural environment to the local economy. 	CNPA, WEALL, CBP, SDS, ZWS, Growbiz, LAs, HIE, eNGO's
Objective B4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a Living Wage audit, promote best practice and regular reports. 	CBP, LAs, CNPA
Objective B5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support skills training programmes relevant to business needs and changes in land management within the National Park. Develop scholarships and a mentoring scheme for young people who want to study and continue to live or be employed in the National Park. 	SDS, LAs, Growbiz, CBP
Objective B6, B7, B8 & B9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities through a refreshed set of Community Action Plans / Local Place Plans. Develop appropriate advice and guidance to help guide discussions between communities and land managers. Align support mechanisms for communities investigating ownership or influence over land. Develop targeted skills initiatives to support social enterprises. Support community access to locally administered funding, replacing previous EU-sourced LEADER and structural funds at a level at least equivalent to the 2014 – 2020 programme. 	HIE, SE, SLC, Scottish Land Fund, FLS, SDS, VABS, CNPA, Cairngorms Trust, Community Development Trusts
Objective B10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public bodies implement Gaelic language plans. Develop suite of support tools in collaboration with local businesses and cultural organisations. 	Public bodies, CBP, Businesses
Objective B11, C3 & C4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review, update and deliver the Active Cairngorms Action Plan. Extend the health walks programme to every community and increase participation through targeted support to community organisations working with the least active. Support an Active Schools programme, encouraging active travel to schools throughout the National Park. 	NHS, Paths for All NGO's, LA's, NGO's Sustrans
Objective B12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand work with equality groups in cities and towns around the National Park to increase visitors from those groups. Refresh the 'Park for All' campaign to address barriers to participation from groups / sectors that find it challenging to enjoy the National Park. 	CNPA Equalities Forum, Backbone, FLS, NS, VS, Ranger Services, Cairngorms Youth Action Team
Objective B1, B2 B12 & B13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the Cairngorms Equalities Advisory Panel to address systemic issues in the National Park to enable a Park for All. Help to grow the role, remit and influence of the Cairngorms Youth Action Team. 	CNPA Equalities Advisory Panel, Backbone, FLS, NS, VS, Ranger Services, Cairngorms Youth Action Team
Objective B13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and expand CNP Volunteer Rangers, expanding their support to include all communities. Develop and expand the Cairngorms Junior Ranger Programme. Support communities in maintaining and improving their local environment (path network, litter collection, open spaces, species and habitat etc). 	CNPA, Europarc, Ranger Services, Volunteer Cairngorms

Heritage Horizons Projects

Objectives Link	Heritage Horizons Projects	Outline
Objective A1, B1, B2 & B11	Outreach and engagement programme	Park-wide inclusive participatory programme of workshops to create a shared vision for the Cairngorms in 2030.
Objective B2	Climate learning and education	Empowering and inspiring our young people to deliver net zero and biodiversity targets.
Objective B3	Well-being economy	Develop an economic model that benefits people and nature whilst protecting the planet's resources for future generations.
Objectives A1, B6 & B9	Climate conscious communities	Empowering people to take responsibility for change and see the benefits flow to their communities.
Objective B7	Citizen assemblies / juries	Create a forum to explore and develop ground up projects to contribute to net zero targets and a well-being economy.
Objectives B6, B7, B8 & B9	Community Managed Grant Scheme	Giving communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that matter to them
Objective B11	Public health and the outdoors	Develop NHS cross sectoral partnership focused on preventative green health referrals and access to the outdoors
Objective B11	Dementia Activity Resource Centre	Demonstrating the benefits of outdoor dementia care and designing world-class therapeutic green health interventions.

Place

Since its inception in 2003, the Cairngorms National Park has been most successful when a broad range of people come together to find the right solutions for their specific area. Over the next few years, there are a number of significant challenges around housing, transport and tourism that we need to address collectively. Finding the right solutions to make a significant difference for our residents and visitors will not be easy, particularly as we must do so with nature and climate at the heart of everything we do.

The work that has taken place already – such as increasing affordable housing provision to 45% in certain towns – is a step in the right direction; however, we now need more radical solutions if we are to truly deliver the desired objectives and outcomes. The Place section of this draft plan sets out the long-term objectives for the National Park, the policy framework and the actions to start delivering these over the next five years.

Outcome: A place that people want to live in, work in and visit that works for all.

Place – Long-term objective	Target / indicator (where applicable)	National policy context	Reason behind this objective
C1. Work to stabilise the growth in the number of people who visit the Cairngorms National Park during the peak season, while ensuring their enjoyment of the National Park and time spent here increases. The focus for any growth should be on the off-peak season and on those areas that have capacity to manage extra visitors.	Overall tourism numbers and visitor days during peak season stabilise at around the current levels. Visitor satisfaction remains high and stable. Increase in off-peak visitor days.	Scotland Outlook 2030 – Responsible Tourism for a Sustainable Future	Visitors to the National Park have increased from 1.3m to 2.1m since the National Park was established and there is increasing pressure on infrastructure and services during peak periods, as well as on the availability of housing for people working in the National Park. Visitors will remain an essential part of the economy but the benefits need to be realised more widely and pressures eased, with more focus on the off-peak season.
C2. Secure the National Park's place as an international exemplar in sustainable tourism and the management of protected areas.	The Cairngorms continues to hold the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas.	Sustainable Tourism - EUROPARC Federation	The Sustainable Tourism Charter is a positive indicator that the management of the National Park is being undertaken in a sustainable way, in line with international standards of best practice.
C3. Encourage a transformative change in the way people get to and move around the National Park.	50% of journeys by visitors and residents within the National Park do not take place by car by 2030. 25% of visitors get to the National Park by public transport by 2045. E-bike hire and charging facilities will be available in all main settlements and major visitor hubs by 2030. People will be able to bring their own bikes to the National Park on all public transport by 2030.	national-transport-strategy.pdf	How people get to and move around the Cairngorms is going to be one of the biggest changes in the National Park over the coming years. There is a need to improve public transport to cater for residents and visitors, and to move to a hub and spokes model (where one central 'hub' location caters for lots of smaller 'spokes') for key visitor destinations. There will be less use of private cars in future and a need to look at site-specific solutions for key areas of the National Park such as Glenmore.
C4. Improve path, cycle and access networks to be the best in Scotland.	All communities are linked by safe off-road or segregated on-road routes suitable for all users by 2030. All core paths are in good condition	national-transport-strategy.pdf	The National Park already has some of the best path networks in Scotland. This will further enhance them and provide safe alternatives to the private car for local travel for both residents and visitors. This will contribute directly to improved public health outcomes. There is a need to ensure that the pedestrian environment in town and villages is safe and accessible.
C5. Work closely with partners across the National Park to manage the impact of visitors and provide a high-quality experience. Ensure public infrastructure is of a high standard, able to cope with demand at key destinations, and consider how to best utilise areas of the Park with capacity for increased visitor numbers.	Reports on the number of public toilets, changing places toilets and campervan facilities within the National Park. Broadband and mobile connectivity in the National Park.	Scotland Outlook 2030 – Responsible Tourism for a Sustainable Future	Good management for visitors increases capacity while reducing the impact of their visit. This in turn helps maintain the special qualities people come to enjoy within the National Park, including our local communities. There is also a need to ensure that the way we manage for visitors is linked in with the work on nature especially around disturbance issues.
C6. Provide outstanding opportunities to experience the natural and cultural heritage of the National Park via our promoted path network, while minimising disturbance to vulnerable species, habitats and sites.	Key path condition and usage.	Let's get Scotland Walking - The National Walking Strategy	The walking and cycling routes within the National Park allow visitors and residents alike to enjoy the Cairngorms' special qualities without having an adverse impacts upon them.

Place – Long-term objective	Target / indicator (where applicable)	National policy context	Reason behind this objective
C7. Provide opportunities for everyone to experience it and learn about the National Park’s outstanding historic environment, history and culture, with the Cairngorms being celebrated for its cultural heritage.	Number of cultural heritage projects promoted in visitor marketing.	Our Place in Time About Us Historic Environment Scotland Culture Strategy for Scotland	The historic environment, history and culture of the National Park is a foundation of its communities and economy that is not always shared or valued sufficiently. There is also a key link between the culture and the natural environment with people having such a significant role in the landscapes of the National Park. There are opportunities to develop the cultural heritage assets of the Park as part of a move to a well-being economy.
C8. Ensure that there is sufficient housing stock to enable people to live and work within the National Park. Ensure the private rented sector provides appropriate security of tenure for people working in 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.	Housing to 2040 (www.gov.scot)	Access to affordable housing for people who live and work in the area has been an acute issue since the establishment of the National Park. The housing market in the Cairngorms requires urgent change to support local, essential housing for workers and young people. This cannot be addressed through house-building alone. There is a need to reduce the loss of existing properties to second homes and holiday lets. There is also a need to support specific housing for the ageing residential population of the National Park.
C9. Help resolve key worker and affordability issues with new housing in the National Park.	75% of new housing built is for social rental and / or mid-market rental and is directly linked to meeting the needs of local employers by 2030.	Housing to 2040 (www.gov.scot)	In order to provide access to housing for key workers and those on low incomes, new housing will need to be delivered for these groups in ways that have not been achieved before. There is a need to increase considerably the amount of housing that is affordable to those living and working in the National Park. There is also a need to identify housing specifically for holiday lets rather than as part of general housing allocations.
C10. 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.	Housing to 2040 (www.gov.scot)	Control of land is key to the delivery of developments that bring real public benefit to communities at the time and place they are needed.
C11. Take action to ensure villages and town centres in the National Park are thriving places where people live, shop and meet.	The percentage of vacant properties on high streets of the National Park reduces.	A New Future for Scotlands Town Centres (www.gov.scot)	Numerous opportunities and challenges have faced the town and village centres of the National Park for many years as shopping habits have changed. New businesses and activities will need to be supported to ensure these spaces continue to provide services and value to communities.

Place policies 2022 – 2027

These are the policies that will help to deliver the long term objectives and outcomes over the next 5 years.

<p>Policy C1 Enable sustainable patterns of settlement development, infrastructure and communications while maintaining the integrity of designated sites by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Consolidating the role of the strategic settlements identified in the current and future Local Development Plans as the most sustainable places for future growth and the focus for housing land supply. b) Providing any additional flexibility in future land supply for housing at small sites around a wider range of settlements. c) Supporting sensitively-designed improvements to the A9 and other trunk roads and the main railway line as an integral part of enhancing the connectivity of the Highlands. d) Planning and improving integrated and sustainable local transport networks that allow for safe travel off-road and link with public transport. e) Planning and improving integrated public transport that meets the needs of residents and visitors to the National Park. f) Planning and supporting improvements to the information technology network. 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. <p>See Policy B1 i), j) & k) - housing</p>
<p>Policy C2 Support development of a low carbon economy, with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increasing renewable energy generation, especially biomass and hydro, that is compatible with conserving the special qualities of the National Park and maintaining the integrity of designated sites. Large-scale wind turbines are not compatible with the landscape character or special landscape qualities of the National Park. They are inappropriate within the National Park or in areas outside the National Park where they adversely affect its landscape character or special landscape qualities. 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. 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. d) Promoting high standards of sustainable design and efficient use of energy and materials in construction. e) Electrifying public transport, and increase cycle carrying capacity in trains, buses, and taxis. f) Installing electric car and bike-charging facilities as well as disabled access toilets and changing places at visitor hubs when investing in upgrades or refurbishment.
<p>Policy C3 Enhance the design and sense of place in new development and existing settlements, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Enabling new development which contributes positively to the sense of place. b) Promoting a high standard of sustainable design, energy efficiency, sustainably sourced materials and construction in new development. c) Supporting the retention and enhancement of local character. d) Facilitating the rehabilitation of redundant rural buildings and recycling of resources. e) Ensuring road upgrades and improvements respond to local landscape character. f) Promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.
<p>Policy C4 Develop plans to help manage visitor pressure in key areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensuring high quality facilities and infrastructure are designed to manage the effects of visitor pressures on the natural heritage and communities. b) Enhancing the provision of ranger services to deliver visitor welcome and promote responsible access. c) Implementing a no open fires or bbq's outside private garden ground between April and October. d) Reducing waste in remote places. e) Ensuring appropriate transport management to facilitate and enhance the visitor experience.
<p>Policy C5 Promote sustainable tourism management, with a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Co-ordinated approach to responsible tourism and management of the Cairngorms National Park as a visitor destination. b) Delivering a visitor / customer experience that spans organisational boundaries. c) Providing high-quality co-ordinated information setting visitor experiences in the context of the National Park. d) Building on and promoting the National Park brand and the promise it delivers.
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Protecting archaeological sites and their settings and promoting understanding of their significance. b) Ensuring appropriate advice and investigation for archaeology is used to inform proposals for land use change. c) Protecting and enhancing the built heritage and designed landscapes. d) Promoting opportunities to enjoy and celebrate the cultural heritage of the National Park, including its arts, sports and community heritage.

Place actions 2022 – 2027

These are the actions that will help to deliver the long term objectives and outcomes over the next 5 years

Objective	Actions 2022-2027	Partners
Objective C1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review, update and deliver Cairngorms Tourism Action Plan with increased emphasis on sustainable and active travel, longer dwell times, looking at capacity across the National Park and marketing to promote responsible enjoyment of the Cairngorms. Collect and share high quality data on visitor use, behaviour perceptions and aspirations. 	Cairngorms Tourism Partnership
Objective C2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the National Park's status as holder of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas. 	CNPA, Europarc, CBP
Objective A1, C3, C4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish programme for e-bike hire and charging facilities in all main settlements and major visitor hubs. Pilot park and ride and park and bike projects at key visitor hubs. Review bus contracts to deliver improved services for workers, communities and visitors, including capacity for bikes. 	CNPA, LAs, Sustrans, Hitrans, Nestrans, Transport Scotland, Local Authorities
Objective C4, C5 & C6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement new Cairngorms Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Plan. Complete Deeside Way extension to Braemar and increase promotion of Speyside Way. Promote sustainable maintenance of paths infrastructure and creation of new visitor infrastructure improvements. Develop and implement Managing for Visitor Plans for key areas of the National Park. 	CNPA, LAs, Sustrans, SE, Landowners Managing for Visitor Group
Objective C5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete provision of superfast broadband across the National Park, including delivery of R100 programme ultrafast broadband for main settlements. Implement Cairngorm Mountain Masterplan. 	CNPA, Landowners, NatureScot SG, HIE, Las HIE, CMSL, CNPA, NatureScot, Highland Council, Local Community
Objective C7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care for and promote a cultural heritage network, building on the work of the Badenoch: The Storylands project, Tomintoul and Glenlivet Landscape Partnership and Catearan Ecomuseum. Provide seed funding for community heritage projects that contribute to a cultural heritage network. 	CBP, VS, CNPA, LAs, Community Development Trusts, Highlife Highland
Objective C8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Secure investment in the private rented sector to provide long-term housing for workers and local people. Develop partnership approaches led by local businesses to address accommodation needs for workers. 	LA's, CNPA SLE, HIE, CBP
Objective C9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver at least 200 new affordable and mid-market rent homes through local authority Strategic Housing Investment Plans and affordable housing delivery programmes. Use the next Local Development Programme to identify further locations where more than 25% affordable housing is required. Continue to 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. 	LA's, housing providers, CNPA, SG, CHT, RHS, Community Development Trusts
Objective C10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review options and funding for public sector purchase of allocated development land. Support communities to use existing options to control land for development they need. 	LA's, SG, SLC, CNPA SLC, CNPA, CLS
Objective C11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review mechanisms available to public sector to encourage regeneration of town and village centres. Introduce measures to reduce vacant properties caused by unrealistic rent expectations. 	LA's, SG, CNPA, FSB, CBP.

Heritage Horizons Projects

Objectives Link	Heritage Horizons Actions	Outline
Objective A1, C3 & C4	E-bike network	Develop an integrated e-bike network that results in a significant reduction in personal car use for people moving around the Park.
Objective A1, C3 & C4	Active Travel in Badenoch and Strathspey	Create the infrastructure required to connect communities and provide an alternative to car use for short daily journeys for residents and visitors.
Objective A1, C3 & C4	Sustainable Travel: Deeside, Angus and Highland Perthshire	Assess options for reducing car use by providing sustainable public transport options for residents and visitors in Deeside, Angus and Highland Perthshire areas of the Park.
Objective A1, C3 & C5	Glenmore Transport Plan	Develop new sustainable visitor transport model for Aviemore – Glenmore – Cairngorm area.
Objective C7	Community Arts and Culture programme	Connect people with their traditional culture to develop community, belonging and sustainability.

Capital investment strategy

There is a need for sustained investment in the capital infrastructure of the National Park to aid the transition to a net zero economy and to ensure that the National Park is able to manage the two million visitors that come each year sustainably. This section sets out the high level strategic approach to capital investment; a more detailed capital investment plan will be developed for the final National Park Partnership Plan next year.

We have identified five guiding principles for capital investment in the National Park:

- Green – infrastructure will contribute to delivering net zero and strengthening the natural and social capital of the National Park.
- Cairngorms – infrastructure will focus on the needs of the National Park and will contribute to the long-term outcomes as set out in the Partnership Plan.
- Employment – infrastructure will maximise local employment and support the development of a well-being economy.
- Long-term – infrastructure investment will be focused on long-term solutions to key issues around visitor management, transport, flood management etc.
- Inclusion & Diversity – infrastructure that will help to ensure that it is a Park for All.

Regional Land Use Framework

In the 2019 Programme for Government, the Scottish Government committed to establishing Regional Land Use Partnerships (RLUP) in 2021, with an expectation that the partnerships will prepare Regional Land Use Frameworks (RLUF) by 2023. The 2020 Programme for Government recommitted to making use of these partnerships in 2021.

The proposal for Regional Land Use Partnerships was first set out in Scotland's Land Use Strategy in 2016, and the Climate Change Act in 2019 brought renewed ambition to the proposal. Land use and land use change is recognised as key to delivering Scotland and the UK's climate change targets for 2030 and 2045, and Regional Land Use Partnerships are seen as pivotal to driving and delivering on this ambition, making a just transition to a net zero economy.

To meet the Programme for Government commitment to have RLUPs emerging by the end of 2021, Ministers decided to pilot RLUPs in five regions across Scotland. The Cairngorms National Park was selected as one of the pilot areas.

The aim of the RLUP pilots is to test the practicalities of different ways to establish RLUPs. They will test governance options and partnership working on a regional scale to help understand how to:

- Establish a partnership structure able to deliver a collaborative approach to land use change decision-making involving national and local government, land owners and managers, communities and stakeholders.
- Outline in a Framework (RLUF) how to use a natural capital approach to identify and agree upon current and potential land use changes across the region that support the delivery of Scottish Government's climate change targets, and other environmental objectives such as improving biodiversity.
- Facilitate and signpost public and private funding opportunities for land owners.

It is proposed that the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan is the high level Regional Land Use Framework for the National Park. This is then supported through further detail in plans, such as the [Cairngorms Forestry Strategy](#) that sets out maps for woodland expansion etc.

The Partnership Plan is the statutory management plan for the National Park that is approved by Scottish Ministers and is the responsibility of all public bodies to deliver.

It is proposed that the final plan will have a series of supporting documents that will collectively form the framework for the area. The Park Authority will also work with stakeholders over the next year to scope and establish what the Regional Land Use Partnership looks like. The shape of this is dependent on the link between the partnership, framework and funding mechanisms as the governance needed for a partnership that is accountable for decision making around funding and a partnership that oversees a plan is quite significantly different.

Regional Spatial Strategy

The National Park Partnership Plan will be the Regional Spatial Strategy for the Cairngorms National Park that is required by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. As such, the draft National Park Partnership Plan is the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the National Park, and it sets out the long-term spatial strategy in terms of strategic development, in the context of the wider range of priorities identified to deliver the aims of the National Park in a collective and coordinated way.

The diagram below summarises the strategic developments that are required in the National Park in the future to contribute to the long-term vision for the National Park and the delivery of the long-term outcomes and objectives of the National Park Partnership Plan in each of the Nature, People and Place themes. Given that the Cairngorms National Park is a relatively remote rural place, with mostly small communities but high visitor numbers, there are relatively few individual and discrete strategic developments identified. However, there are a number of strategic development areas and priorities that are identified where multiple small but interconnected developments will support transformational change for people, for nature and for place that is significant at a national level.

Strategic diagram with:

1. Net zero transport infrastructure improvements (Paths and safe cycle routes, road and rail enhancements).
2. Digital improvements.
3. Communities - delivery of housing for permanent occupation by residents and workers to support the well-being economy.
4. Land management focussed on carbon sequestration including peatland restoration developments.
5. Visitor infrastructure improvements to deliver high quality experiences, support nature recovery and deliver economic opportunity.

Research strategy

The work across the National Park needs to be underpinned by high-quality research that is specific to the management needs of the National Park. The Park Authority will look to produce a high-level research strategy for the National Park, setting out the key needs within six months of the adoption of the Partnership Plan. This will also be underpinned by the Knowledge Exchange and Research Project that is part of the Heritage Horizons programme.

Conclusion and consultation

The consultation will last from 23 September 2021 – 17 December 2021. The information gathered during this 12 week period will be considered and a public consultation report will be prepared. The final plan will be developed and submitted to the Park Authority's board in April 2022. Following agreement by the CNPA Board it will then be submitted to Scottish Ministers for final agreement.

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Annex 1 - Hierarchy of plans

The National Park Partnership Plan is the high-level management plan for the National Park and is the Economic Strategy, Sustainable Tourism Strategy, Regional Spatial Strategy and the Regional Land Use Framework. It is supported by a number of action plans that will help to deliver the objectives of the plan and the National Park aims.



Annex 2 – National Performance Framework & UN Sustainable Development Goals

To Be Added

Annex 3 – Glossary

Well-being Economy - This means building an economy that is inclusive and that promotes sustainability, prosperity and resilience, where businesses can thrive and innovate, and that supports all of our communities across Scotland to access opportunities that deliver local growth and well-being.

Affordable Housing - Broadly defined as housing at a reasonable quality that is affordable to people on modest incomes. It may take the form of social rented accommodation, private rented accommodation owned and/or managed by a private sector landlord to approved management and maintenance standards with equivalent registered social landlords rents, shared ownership, shared equity, discounted low-cost housing for sale including plots for self-build, and low-cost housing without subsidy

Just Transition - the need for Government to take action to reduce emissions in a way which is fair and leaves no-one behind

More to be added

Annex 4 - Organisation Names and Abbreviations

CNPA – Cairngorms National Park Authority

CBP – Cairngorms Business Partnership

More to be added