

**consultative draft
Cairngorms National Park
Local Plan
SEA Environmental Report**

20 December 2005

Appendices

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Cairngorms National Park
Local Plan
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Appendix 1

**Checklist of relevant Plans/programmes
& environmental objectives**

Other relevant plans/programmes and relevant environmental objectives:			
		Relevant LP Policy	comments
Cairngorms National Park Plan (early draft objectives)			
Conserving and enhancing the Natural Heritage	Maintain and enhance the distinctive diversity of landscape character across the Park	General Policies & policy 4	
	Ensure development complements, and where possible enhances, the landscape character of the Park	General Policies & policy 4	
	Conserve and enhance the wild characteristics of areas within the Park	General Policies & policy 4	
	Raise awareness and understanding of the influences of natural processes, land management and culture on the landscape character	General Policies & policy 4	
	Conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats and species present throughout the Park through a landscape-scale approach to habitat networks	General Policies & Policies 1-4	
	Ensure all designated nature conservation sites are in good condition	General Policies & policy 1	
	Ensure that populations of species given special protection under the Habitat Regulations, the Wildlife and Countryside Act and the Nature Conservation Act are stable or, where appropriate, increasing	General Policies & policy 1-3	
Sustainable use of natural resources	All management and development in the Park should seek to make the most sustainable use of natural resources, including water and energy	General Policies and Policy 10	
	Prevent degradation and erosion of vulnerable montane and organic soils, including peat	Policy RM9	
	Maintain and enhance the existing high water quality environment in the Park	Policy 10	
	Adopt a catchment-scale approach to water management that integrates land-use, nature conservation and flood management	??	Links to RBMPs, integrated catchment management plans
	Encourage more sustainable patterns of water-use by households, industry, agriculture and business	General Policy 5, Policy 10	
	Promote sustainable flood management consistent with natural fluvial processes	Policy 10, 14	
	Maintain, and where possible enhance, the existing high level of air quality	Implicit through General policy 5	
	Retain dark night skies and minimise light and noise	Implicit	

	pollution	through GP5, policy 4.	
Integrated Land management	Reduce waste, energy use and pollution from all land management activities	GP 5	
	Maintain a productive and viable agricultural sector	Policy 26	
	Encourage the continued development of crofting	Policy 26	
	Maintain existing native woodland cover and expand to develop habitat networks that complement the landscape character of the Park	General Policies, Policy 3 & 4	
	Encourage a mix of tree species, ages and woodland structure to complement the landscape character of the Park	General Policies, Policy 3 & 4	
	Encourage a gradation of tree and scrub cover from valley floor to tree-line in targeted areas and the re-development of woodland types that have decline	General Policies, Policy 3 & 4	
	Encourage removal and minimisation of physical barriers that impede passage of fish and affect river flow	General Policies, Policies 1,2,3, 10	
Conserving and enhancing the cultural heritage	Conserve and enhance the resources of the archaeological, historic and built environment	General Policies, Policies 5-9	
	Support and promote the diverse cultural traditions of communities within the Park	General Policy 1	Cultural traditions contribute to special qualities
Economy and Employment	Create conditions conducive to business growth and investment that are consistent with the special qualities of the Park	Policies 28-36	
	Promote 'green business' opportunities	Policies 28-36	
	Encourage a population level and mix in the Park that meets the present and future needs of its communities and businesses	Policies 37-41	
Transport & Communications	Encourage and support improvements to public transport quality and accessibility to better meet demand and increase use	GP5, Policy 22	
	Ensure transport and communications infrastructure is managed and developed in ways consistent with the special qualities of the Park	GP5, Policy 22	
Housing	Increase the accessibility of rented and owned housing to meet the needs of communities throughout the Park	Policies 37-41, Housing Proposals in Local Plan	
	Improve the physical quality, energy efficiency and sustainable design of housing in all tenures throughout the Park	GP5, Sustainable Design Guide	
	Ensure there is effective land and investment for market and affordable housing to meet the economic and social needs of communities throughout the Park	Local Plan housing proposals	
Renewable Energy	Help achieve national targets for greater renewable	GP5, Policy	

	production through community and domestic-scale schemes	20 & 21	
Waste Management	Exceed national targets for better waste management through community and domestic-scale schemes	General Policy 5, Policy 19	
	Encourage provision of waste management infrastructure at domestic and commercial scale	General Policy 5, Policy 19	
Strengthening communities	Promote provision of local services that meet the needs of communities	Policies 28-41	
Outdoor Access & Recreation	Encourage responsible enjoyment of the Park so that its special qualities are understood and appreciated, and safeguarded now and for future generations to enjoy	General Policy 1, 5 & Policy 27	
	Protect the more fragile areas of the Park from pressures arising from outdoor access and recreation	General Policies, policies 1-10, 24.	
EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 79/409/EEC 1979	Requires Member States to sustain pollutions of naturally occurring wild birds by sustaining areas of habitats to maintain ecologically and scientifically sound levels.	GP1-3, 1-4	
EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora 92/42/EEC 1992	Requires Member States to sustain pollutions of naturally occurring flora & fauna by sustaining areas of habitats to maintain ecologically and scientifically sound levels.	GP1-3, 1-4	
Directive 2000/60/EC The Water Framework Directive	Requires Member States to achieve good ecological status of inland water bodies.	10-14	
Directive 1966/62/EC on ambient air quality and management	Establishes standards for air quality and sets limits for various pollutants.		To be addressed in the next draft.
Nature Conservation Bill (Scotland) 2004	Biodiversity, revision of SSSIs, crime prevention.	GP 1-3, 1-4	
Climate Change; the UK Programme	Aims to cut the UK's carbon emissions by 60% by 2050.		To be addressed in the next draft.
Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales & NI: Working Together for Clean Air.	Set out objectives for 8 main air pollutants to protect health.		To be addressed in the next draft.
Structure Plans	The Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Angus Council Structure Plan's set out the strategic framework for an authority area.	Intro 1.17	
Community Plans	The Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Angus Council Community Plan's, which set out how public services will be planned and delivered, through consultation and co-operation (among all public bodies, and with community bodies).	Intro 1.20	To be more fully addressed in the next draft.
River Spey Management Plan			
	3.1 Maintain the high water quality standards in the Spey and determine the ecological requirements and tolerance limits of freshwater	GP 1-3,	

	pearl mussel and sea lamprey	Policies 1-3, 10	
	3.6 Determine the extent of the problem of contaminated land within the Spey catchment and restore any such areas to beneficial use.	Policy 18 is relevant	
	4.1 Identify 'Flood Risk' areas in Local Authority Development Plans, with appropriate policies for controlling development and mitigating impact.	Policy 14 is relevant but updated flood risk information will be included in next draft of Local Plan	
	6.1 Conserve and enhance the Atlantic salmon, sea lamprey, freshwater pearl mussel and otter populations of the River Spey and its catchment.	GP 1-3, Policies 1-3	
	6.2 Conserve and enhance the fragmented and endangered water vole populations of the River Spey catchment based on an improved understanding of their distribution.	GP 1-3, Policies 1-3	
	6.3 Conserve and enhance the riverine bird populations of the River Spey and its catchment based on an improved understanding of their distribution.	GP 1-3, Policies 1-3	
	6.5 Conserve and enhance the specialist river shingle invertebrate populations of the River Spey catchment based on an improved understanding of their distribution.	GP 1-3, Policies 1-3	
	8.2 Consider the potential for floodplain or riparian woodlands to contribute towards flood control, river bank stabilisation and assist with water quality management.	GP 1-3 & 5, Policy 10, 14	
	8.3 Conserve and enhance scarce or threatened tree species associated with the river system.	GP 1-3, Policy 3	
	9.2 Improve the adequacy of private water supply and wastewater facilities to meet existing demand and comply with existing consent.	GP1 & 5, Policies 10-12	
	9.3 Prevent pollution from new developments at both construction and operational stages.	GP1-3 & 5, Policies 1-3 & 10	
	9.5 Prevent pollution or obstructions from significant structural works across the river or from ongoing maintenance and repair works nearby.	GP1-3 & 5, Policies 1-3 & 10	
	9.6 Mitigate the impact of higher numbers of visitors on both water supply and wastewater systems and also on the natural heritage and fisheries of the river system.	GP1-3 & 5, Policies 1-3 & 10	
	9.7 Safeguard the quality and quantity of water in the sub-catchments of private distillery supplies and consider any positive application of heated water.	Policy 10 & 11	
	10.1 Ensure that rights of access (to river banks and other water bodies) are exercised responsibly and any new strategy of access to rivers and lochs is fully integrated with all other relevant interests.	Policy 27, GP 1&2	
River Dee Catchment Management Plan	A revised draft is due to be published 2005/06 objectives likely to be similar to River Spey Plan		
Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan Project	The Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan Project (or LBAP) is a long-term initiative that seeks to initiate actions for biodiversity across the whole Cairngorms area and raise the awareness of protecting, enhancing and appreciating the biodiversity of the Park area.	3	
Local Housing Strategy	The Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Angus Council Local Housing Strategies (and Delivery Plans). The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 requires local authorities to undertake a comprehensive assessment of housing needs and conditions, and to produce strategies to tackle the housing problems in their areas. Communities Scotland	37-43	

	assess these local housing strategies (LHS) on behalf of Scottish Ministers.		
Local Transport Strategy	The Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Angus Council Local Transport Strategies set-out how to maintain and improve infrastructure.	Intro 1.20, 22	
Area Waste Plans	The Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Angus Council Area Waste Plans will set out a strategy for waste management, minimisation and recycling/composting.	Intro 1.20, 19	
Economic Development Strategies	The Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Angus Council economic development strategies, as well as those developed by the Local Enterprise Companies (Scottish Enterprise Grampian, Inverness Nairn Badenoch & Strathspey Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise Tayside).	29-36	
CNPA Sustainable Tourism Strategy	A strategy to lead and co-ordinate the sustainable development and management of tourism.	GP5, 29-30	
Scottish Planning Policy (SPPs)/ National Planning Policy Guideline (NPPG)			
SPP/NPPG	Expectations; are there policies in the Local Plan which cover the following:	Relevant L P Policy	comments
SPP 1 Planning system (2002)	Promote regeneration, full and appropriate use of land, buildings and infrastructure	GP5	
	Promote use of previously developed land and minimise greenfield development	GP5	
	Conserve important historic and cultural assets	5-9	
	Protect and enhance areas for recreation and natural heritage	1-3, 27, 28	
	Support better access by foot bicycle and public transport	22, 27	
	Encourage energy efficiency through layout and design of development	GP5, 20	
	Encourage prudent use of natural resources	GP5, RM9, 10-11, 15-17, 20-21, 26	
	Require good design	GP5	
	Encourage improvement of the physical environment	GP5, 34	
SPP2 Economic development (2002)	Identify supporting action eg for environmental improvement that can assist the delivery of economic development	GP4-5, 26, 28-36	
SPP 3 Planning for Housing (2003)	Re-use vacant or cleared land in urban areas.	GP5	
	Specify the standards and criteria against which the development of gap, garden or other infill sites will be judged.	This will be covered by the subsequent 'Sustainable Design Guide', but needs to be covered by the Local Plan in the interim.	
	Specify those areas where regeneration and environmental improvement is to be given priority.	GP5, 34	This issue is covered in more detail in the settlement

			statements for specific cases
	Define any areas of the countryside where isolated sporadic or small groups of houses in the countryside will be allowed; set out the criteria against which proposals for individual houses within these areas will be judged.	GP1-5, 37, 39	
	Provide for the conversion and re-use of buildings including redundant farm buildings.	40	
	Clearly define areas including green belts where new housing will not normally be allowed.	GP1-3	
	Protect valuable urban open space, particularly playing fields.	Settlement statements	
	Guide the design of new housing proposals, including where appropriate the preparation of planning briefs, particularly in relation to new settlements.	GP5, 37-39	This will be covered by the subsequent 'Sustainable Design Guide'
NPPG 4 Mineral Working (2001)	Define sites or areas of search, where mineral working would be favoured.	15-16	
	Define sites or areas where environmental considerations are likely to militate against mineral working.	GP1-3	
	Ameliorate significant environmental effects for proposed mineral developments.	15-16	
	Promote reclamation of sites to beneficial after-use.	15-16	
	Provide for regular monitoring and the preparation of environmental audits.		This issue has not been covered by policy and will be considered for inclusion in the next draft.
	Facilitate recycling and re-use of material in waste tips and construction wastes where environmentally acceptable.	GP5	
	Include criteria for testing planning applications in respect of pollution, nature conservation, landscape, cultural heritage and built up areas.		This will be covered by EIA regs. ~ but will be considered for next draft.
NPPG 5 Archaeology (1994)	Require the protection, preservation and, where appropriate, enhancement of all nationally important sites of archaeological interest and their settings; and also for other unscheduled remains and their settings identified as particularly worthy of preservation.	5	
	Require the protection and where appropriate the enhancement of landscapes of historic importance including historic gardens and designed landscapes, and their settings.	GP2, 4	
	Require the excavation and recording of sites where the primary aim of preservation has not been achieved.	5	
NPPG 6 Renewable Energy (2000)	Support Scottish Minister's commitment to renewable energy and provide positively for its development	21	
	Define broad areas of search suitable for wind and		There will be a presumption against large-scale

	other renewable energy developments or, where appropriate, specific sites.	commercial wind and hydro energy schemes within the National Park, but strong support for community and domestic schemes. Bio projects will be considered on their merits and impacts.	
	Safeguard, where appropriate, areas with potential for renewable energy.		
	Indicate whether there are areas or sites where, for overriding environmental reasons, proposals for renewable energy development would only be considered in exceptional circumstances.		
	Guide developers on the broad criteria they would be required to consider in any development proposal, including those falling outwith preferred areas.		
SPP 7 Flooding (2004)	Indicate where a degree of flood risk exists.	We are awaiting updated information on flood risk areas from SEPA, which will be added to the next draft.	
	Define areas where development is unlikely to be acceptable and areas where flood threat can be managed	GP2	
NPPG 8 Town Centres and Retailing (1998)	Promote the environmental improvement of town and other centres and retail and commercial leisure developments,	34	
	Provide criteria for testing new developments outwith the framework of preferred sites and indicate how such developments will be assessed including environmental and design criteria.	31	
NPPG 10 Waste Management (1996)	Encourage development which assists in the reduction, re-use and recovery of waste for example through the re-use of buildings wherever practicable	19 The CNPA is not a Waste Authority, this remit remains with the 4 constituent Local Authorities, who's plans and targets the CNPA will support.	
	Provide facilities as close as is reasonable to the source of waste production, taking into account the safeguarding of the natural and built environment.		
	Require provision of recycling facilities at new superstores and provide for other civic amenity sites		
	Provide guidance on appropriate locations for differing waste management facilities including special and clinical wastes and wastewater treatment plants.		
	Provide standards for landfill site restoration, aftercare and after-use and the proper landscaping of all waste sites.		
	Identify closed landfills, whether they require further treatment and specify appropriate after-uses.		
	Protect groundwater		
NPPG 11 Sport Physical Recreation and Open Space (1996)	Protect and enhance parks and open spaces and other land of recreational, amenity or wildlife value.	Settlement statements	
	Identify public access routes, referring to other publications if appropriate, state the statutory position and indicate where the network requires to be augmented.	27	These will be covered in detail by the Core Paths Plan
	Safeguard and improve public access to open space and to the countryside, especially Green Belts and promote new or replacement routes.		
	Promote planting of new woodlands for recreation, landscape and nature conservation benefits.	GP5, 3	

	Safeguard nature conservation and cultural heritage designations and the character of the landscape from effects of sporting or recreational developments including the effects of increased traffic in rural areas.	GP1-3 + 5, 1-4	
NPPG 12 Skiing (1997) [where relevant]	Set out criteria against which new ski and associated developments will be considered including environmental criteria	28, 29	
NPPG 13 Coastal planning (1997)	Not relevant		
NPPG 14 Natural heritage (1999)	Protection and, where appropriate, enhancement of internationally, nationally and locally designated areas and sites (including potential SPAs and SACs).	GP1-3, 1-2	
	Indicate the criteria against which a development affecting a natural heritage designation will be assessed.	GP1-3	
	Encourage the management and safeguard of features of the landscape of major importance for nature conservation or amenity, including field boundaries, woodlands, trees, lochs, ponds, watercourses and other wetlands	1-4	
	Include policies for the conservation and/or enhancement of landscape character, including, where appropriate, wild land character.	4, GP2	
	Make appropriate provision for Local Nature Reserves and the protection and enhancement of open space of natural heritage value.	GP1-3, 1-4	
	Identify opportunities to extend native woodland cover and to maintain and enhance wetlands.	1-4	
	Provide for the conservation of biodiversity and the protection and enhancement of the natural heritage outwith designated areas.	3	
	Invoke and apply the precautionary principle.	1-3 Implicit but not specifically mentioned, which can be addressed in the next draft	
	Identify appropriate opportunities to improve public access for the purposes of enjoying and learning about the natural heritage.		Not addressed in this draft, will be considered for the next.
SPP 15 Rural development (2005)	Identify opportunities for re-use/conversion of agricultural buildings and set out the criteria against which applications for residential and business re-use will be assessed.	40	
	Identify locations where tourism development could lead to environmental improvement and improve public enjoyment of the countryside.	29-30	
SPP 16 Opencast coal (2005)	Not relevant for Park area.	Not relevant	
SPP 17 Transport (2005)	Encourage people to make more journeys by walking, cycling, and public transport.	22, GP5 The CNPA is not the Transport Authority, but we will support the 4 constituent	

		Local Authorities in their transport programmes.	
NPPG 18 Historic environment (1999)	Define the historic environment and where appropriate, its landscape or townscape setting, in proposals maps.	5-9	
	Include policies for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the historic environment and its setting including listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments and historic gardens and designed landscapes.	5-9	
	Include reference to existing and proposed Article 4 Directions that relate to conservation areas.	Intro 1.32	Need to add to Policy 7.
	Outline criteria that will be applied to development proposals within conservation areas, within the curtilage of listed buildings and development affecting the setting of scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, historic gardens and designed landscapes.	5-9	
	Specify criteria that will be applied to proposals for alteration, extension, demolition or re-use of listed buildings and for unlisted buildings within conservation areas.	5-9	
	Identify priorities for enhancement programmes, including opportunities for regeneration or revitalisation. Indicate sites and areas for which development briefs, design guides, character appraisals and other relevant guidance have been prepared.		Not directly covered but can be by the next draft
NPPG 19 Telecomms (2001)	Specify development control criteria for radio telecommunications development including siting and design matters	25	
SPP 20 Role of Architecture + Design in Scotland (2005)		GP5	These will be addressed in detail by the forthcoming Sustainable Design Guide
A Policy Statement for Scotland Designing Places (2001)			
National Planning Framework Environmental Assessment Report (2004)			To be addressed in the next draft.
PLANNING ADVICE NOTES (PANs)			
PAN 33 Development on Contaminated Land (2000)	Identifying, assessing and developing on.	18	
PAN 37 Structure Planning (1996)	Purpose, functions, process, content.	Intro 1.15-1.21	
PAN 38 Housing Land (2003)		37-43	
PAN 39 Farm + Forestry Buildings (1993)	Control + notification, siting + design.		To be addressed in next draft.

PAN 40 Development Control (2001)	Process and procedures.	Intro 1.29-1.32	
PAN 41 Development Plan Departures (1997)	Best practice and procedures.	Intro 1.17	
PAN 42 Archaeology (1994)	Records, new finds, legislation.	5	
PAN 43 Golf Courses (1994)		GP5, 28	Not directly Addressed.
PAN 44 Fitting New Housing Development into the Landscape (1994)	Best practice.	GP5, 37, 39	This will be detailed by the Sustainable Design Guide
PAN 45 Renewable Energy (2002)	Consideration for all types, implications for rural communities.	21	
PAN 46 Crime Prevention (1994)	Planning issues, liaison, best practice.		To be addressed in next draft.
PAN 49 Local Planning (1996)	Role, preparation, context, public interests, content.	Intro	
PAN 50 Controlling the Environmental Effects of Mineral Workings (1996-8)	Environmental issues, communities, planning conditions. Annex A: noise; Annex B: dust; Annex C: traffic; Annex D: blasting.	15-16	
PAN 51 Environmental Protection (1997)	Sustainable development, pollution, legislation, SEPA.	GP5	
PAN 52 Small Towns (1997)	Pressures, planning approach, co-ordination.	GP4, 34	
PAN 56 Noise (1999)			Not addressed
PAN 58 EIA (1999)	Procedure and format.		To be addressed in next draft.
PAN 59 Improving Town Centres (1999)		34	
PAN 60 Natural Heritage (2000)		GP1-3, 1-4, 10	
PAN 61 SUDS (2001)		13	
PAN 62 Radio Telecoms (2001)		25	
PAN 63 Waste Management (2002)		19	
PAN 64 Reclamation of Surface Mineral Workings (2002)		16	
PAN 65 Open Space (2003)	Protecting + enhancing existing, providing new.	Settlement statements	
PAN 66 Trunk Road Applications [best practice handling of] (2003)		Addressed by the 4 constituent Local Authorities, as they are the Transport Authorities.	
PAN 67 Housing		37-43	These will be

Quality (2003)			detailed by the Sustainable Design Guide
PAN 68 Design Statements (2003)	Effective use of.		
PAN 69 Planning and Building Standards Advice on Flooding (2004)		14	
PAN 70 Electronic Planning Service Delivery (2004)		This document is viewable and comment-able on our website.	
PAN 71 Conservation Area Management (2004)		7	
PAN 72 Housing in the Countryside (2005)	Supercedes + reinforces many of the key themes + issues in PAN 36, emphasis on design + quality.	39	This will be detailed by the Sustainable Design Guide
PAN 73 Rural Diversification (2005)	Initiatives and best practice.	26, 35	
PAN 74 Affordable Housing (2005)	How planning can increase the supply of.	37	
PAN 75 Transport		22	
PAN 76 New Residential Streets	Design for better quality.		This will be detailed by the Sustainable Design Guide

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Appendix 2

**Policy & Proposal
Assessment Records**

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Assessment of Policies

SEA Policy Assessment Matrix														
SEA OBJECTIVES														
POLICY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
General Policy 1	+	+	+	+	=/+	+	+	\	=/+	+	=	\	\	++
General Policy 2	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	\	0	++	=	\	\	+
General Policy 3	++	++	+	+	+	=	\	\	\	+	\	\	\	\
General Policy 4	+/=	+/=	+/=	\	\	+/=	\	+	\	=	+	+	\	+/-=
General Policy 5	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	+/?	+	+	+	++	+/?	+
policy 1	+	+	+	+	=	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\
policy 2	+	+	+	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\
policy 3	++	++	++	+	\	+	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\
policy 3a (RM9)	\	\	\	+	+	\	\	\	+	\	\	\	+	\
policy 4	=	=	=	\	\	++	\	\	\	+	?	\	\	\
policy 5	\	\	\	\	\	+	\	\	\	++	\	\	\	\
policy 6 & 6a	\	\	\	\	\	+	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	++
policy 7	\	\	\	\	\	=	\	\	\	+	\	\	\	++
policy 8	\	\	\	\	\	?	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	++
policy 9	\	\	\	\	\	?/+	?/+	\	\	?/+	\	\	\	?/+
policy 10	+	+	+	++	++	\	\	\	+	\	\	\	\	\
policy 11	\	\	\	=	=	\	\	\	+	\	+	\	\	\
policy 12	\	\	\	?	?	\	\	\	\	\	+	\	\	\
policy 13	+	+	+	++	++	\	\	\	+	\	\	\	\	\
policy 14	+	+	+	+	+	=	\	\	+	\	\	\	\	\
policy 15	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	+	\	\	\	\	\
policy 16	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	+	\	\	\	\	\
policy 17	=/+	=/+	=/+	=/+	=/+	=/+	\	=/+	=/+	=/+	\	\	\	\
policy 18	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	+	\	\	\	+	\
policy 19	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	+	\
policy 20	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	+	\	\
policy 20a	=	=	=	=	=	+	\	\	\	=	\	\	\	\
policy 21	\	\	\	\	+	+	\	\	\	\	\	+	\	\
policy 22	\	\	\	\	\	\	+	\	\	\	+	\	\	\
policy 23	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	+/?	\	\	\
policy 24	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	\	\	+	\	\	\	\
policy 25	=	=	=	=	=	=	\	\	\	=	\	\	\	=
policy 26	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	\	+	=	=	\	\	\
policy 27	\	\	\	\	\	\	+	\	\	\	\	\	\	\
policy 28	=	=	=	\	\	?/-	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\
policy 29	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	=/+	\	\	\
policy 30	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	=	\	\	\
policy 31	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	+	\	\	\
policy 32	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	=	\	\	+
policy 33	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\
policy 34	\	\	\	\	\	\	+	\	\	\	\	\	\	+
policy 35	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	=	\	\	\
policy 36	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	+
policy 37	=	=	=	=	=	=/+	=	=/+	\	=	++	=	=	=
policy 38	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=/+	=/?	=	+	=	=	=/+
policy 39	=	=	=	=	=	+	=	=	\	=	+	=	=	+
policy 40	=	=	=	=	=	=/+	=	=	=/+	=	=/+	=	=	=/+
policy 41	=	=	=	=	=	=/+	=	=	=/?	=	=/+	=	=	=/+

SEA Policy Assessment Matrix

SEA OBJECTIVES

POLICY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
policy 42	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	\	\	=
policy 43	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	\	=	=/+	=	=	=
proposal 1	\	\	\	\	\	+	\	\	\	+	\	\	\	\
proposal 2	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	\	?
Scoring Codes														
++	Strongly positive effect													
+	Positive effect													
=	Neutral or no effect													
\	Not applicable													
-	Negative effect													
--	Strongly negative effect													
?	uncertain effects													

Policy/Proposal		
General Policy 1		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
General Policy 1 is intended to allow for appropriate development on land that does not have or affect a national or international designation or other important features. It sets out conditions where any negative effects on the National Park would be permitted.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
General Policy 1 reflects the aims of the National Park and combined with the other General Policies is intended to provide a simplified approach to the principle of development within the Cairngorms National Park. The approach is considered to reduce the need to provide separate policies for each designation or special feature that should be protected from any detrimental effects of development in the Park.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	+	The policy aims to protect species but will allow the loss or harm if the development is of national importance or of importance to the aims of the park.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	+	The policy aims to protect habitats but will allow the loss or harm if the development is of national importance or of importance to the aims of the park.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	+	Same reasons as above. Although not explicit in protection, the Parks ecosystems are part of its special qualities.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	+	The water environment is encompassed by the Park's special qualities.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	=/+	The policy could provide implicit support where catchment processes and hydrological systems are linked to the special qualities or aims of the Park.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of	+	The policy is linked to the aims of the Park and the special qualities, of which landscape is part of.

the Park		
7. To ensure responsible access for all	+	The policy is linked to the aims of the Park and the special qualities, of which access and recreation are part of.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	The policy could be linked to air quality issues through the Park aims and special qualities, but the policy is not closely linked to this objective.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	=/+	The policy is about conserving the all the special qualities of the Park, many of which are linked to natural resources.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	+	The policy will protect important historical environment features.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	=	The policy is generally supportive of development for the park's needs, as long as it does not harm the Park's special qualities.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	The policy is not closely linked to this objective
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	The policy is not closely linked to this objective
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	++	The policy is linked to the aims of the Park and the special qualities, of which the built environment is part of. The policy provides specific consideration of listed buildings, conservation areas and features of local historic or cultural interest.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy provides a level of protection for parts of the Park that do not hold or affect other nationally important features. It is considered likely to have a significant positive effect on the quality of the built environment.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>The policy should remain unchanged.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
General Policy 2		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>General Policy 2 applies to areas that have or affect nationally important features or designations, as well as to identified locally important features. It should protect these interests from detrimental effects in most circumstances and requires that no alternatives are possible.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>General Policy 2 reflects the aims of the National Park and combined with the other General Policies is intended to provide a simplified approach to the principle of development within the Cairngorms National Park. The approach is considered to reduce the need to provide separate policies for each designation or special feature that should be protected from any detrimental effects of development in the Park.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	++	The policy provides a strong level of protection for nationally important species and designations. It requires mitigation of any negative impacts.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	++	The policy provides a strong level of protection for nationally important habitats and designations. It requires mitigation of any negative impacts.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	+	The policy protects nationally important species and habitats. It requires mitigation of any negative impacts.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	+	The policy provides protection for water bodies that are of national importance.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	+	The policy provides protection for water bodies that are of national importance.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	+	The policy provides strong protection for areas that are designated (NSAs, and to some extent the CNP)

7. To ensure responsible access for all	+	The policy provides strong protection for amenity open space, recreation areas, amenity woodland, rights of way, core paths and other paths networks.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	0	The policy is not directly related to the objective but does provide protection for some natural resources so that only in exception cases could they be lost to development.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	++	The policy provides a strong level of protection for a range of archaeological sites and features of the historic environment, including requirements for mitigation of adverse effects.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	=	The policy could allow housing for the Park's communities in some areas, and does not exclude it from General Policy 1 areas.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	+	The policy provides strong protection for listed buildings and for sites recorded in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy provides a strong level of protection for a range of nationally and locally important features in the CNP. The policy goes further than National Guidance suggests is required, by asking that it be demonstrated that there is no alternative to the development (eg location, size, timescale etc). It also asks for mitigation to ensure that features or interest of equal importance to any lost to a development are provided.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>The policy did not originally have the statement requiring mitigation/compensation with features of equal value and was consider to have an only slightly positive effect on objectives 1 & 2. It was modified as a result of the SEA.</p> <p>No further changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
General Policy 3		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
General Policy 3 applies to areas that have or affect internationally important features or designations, as well as to identified nationally important features or infrastructure or land that it is often unsafe to develop. The policy applies to Natura sites and species.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
General Policy 3 reflects the aims of the National Park and combined with the other General Policies is intended to provide a simplified approach to the principle of development within the Cairngorms National Park. The approach is considered to reduce the need to provide separate policies for each designation or special feature that should be protected from any detrimental effects of development in the Park. General Policy three offers the highest level of protection.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	++	The policy offers a very high level of protection for European sites and species.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	++	The policy offers a very high level of protection for European sites and habitats.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	+	The policy offers a high level of protection to habitats and species related to European sites, species and habitats.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	+	The policy offers a high level of protection for water bodies linked to European sites and species.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	+	Same as above. The policy also protects the functional flood plain from development.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	=	Protection of Natura sites will help to protect some special features of the landscape, but the policy is not intended to protect landscape character.

7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	+	The policy reflects the high level of protection given to scheduled ancient monuments.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy has a fairly narrow target, and appears to achieve its intention to provide strong protection for a range of very important features.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
General Policy 4		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy is intended to focus new development towards existing and defined settlements in order to maximise benefits in terms of providing access to services and reducing need to travel.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
The policy was considered as an appropriate method for minimising pressure on the special qualities of the National Park, many of which are linked to the countryside and people's perceptions of the landscape. The policy should focus development to zoned areas in or close to settlements.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	+/=	The policy directs development towards areas that should be least sensitive and it should therefore help to conserve the special qualities of the Park.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	+/=	Same as above.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	+/=	Same as above
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	The policy does not contribute to this objective.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	The policy does not contribute to this objective.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	+/=	The policy tries to direct development towards location with the greatest capacity in landscape terms, or, where the negative effects have been identified and appropriate mitigation has been planned for.
7. To ensure	n/a	The policy does not contribute to this objective.

responsible access for all		
8. To maintain and improve air quality	+	The policy directs development towards serviced areas and should therefore minimise need to travel by private car.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	The policy is focussing loss of natural resources around settlements in order to minimise need to travel.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	=	The policy may minimise effects on the historic environment across the Park while focussing them around settlements.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The policy is focussing development around existing towns and hence helping to provide access to existing services.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	+	The policy should minimise need to travel by private car, and encourages shared use of infrastructure facilities.
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	The policy does not contribute to this objective.
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	+/-/=	The policy focuses development to existing settlements, which may have negative or positive effects on the existing character, depending on the layout and design.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is intended to focus development to sites that are identified in existing settlements, principally in order to minimise need to travel and increase proximity to existing services. The policy does appear to do this, although it does not appear to support any of the SEA objectives very strongly. This is partly because the same policy tests will apply to development proposals within or outside of settlement boundaries.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes to the policy are considered necessary due to the assessment against SEA objectives.</p> <p>As a planning policy, the General Policy 4 may not be sufficiently clear, and may require revision to highlight the importance of development in proposed areas prior to inclusion in the next draft plan.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
General Policy 5		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>General Policy 5 is intended to highlight the principle of sustainable development and ensure that development proposals take into account the effects of their proposal in order to minimise its impacts on current and future generation's ability to live and work in the Park. It is intended to ensure that all development within the Cairngorms National Park is as sustainable as possible.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>General Policy 5 provides a checklist of principles of sustainable development that will be used to help assess planning applications. It is intended that this policy will be supported by a "Sustainable Design Guide" that will incorporate and explain the factors that have been listed in the Policy. It is likely that the Sustainable Design Guide will incorporate a scoring method from the range of considerations, and that development proposals will require to achieve a rising standard of "sustainable design" in order to gain planning permission.</p> <p>Clearly, the Sustainable Design Guide will require to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment as a constituent part of the Local Plan.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	+	The policy requires developments to have negligible impacts of the natural & cultural heritage of the Park as well as being mitigated.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	+	The policy requires developments to have negligible impacts of the natural & cultural heritage of the Park as well as being mitigated.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	+	The policy requires developments to have negligible impacts of the natural & cultural heritage of the Park as well as being mitigated.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	+	The policy requires developments to have negligible impacts of the natural & cultural heritage of the Park as well as being mitigated.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	+	The policy requires developments to have negligible impacts of the natural & cultural heritage of the Park as well as being mitigated.

6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	++	The policy requires developments to have negligible impacts of the natural & cultural heritage of the Park as well as being mitigated. It deals with development fitting in with the existing landscape and settlement character.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	+	The policy requires developments to have negligible impacts of the natural & cultural heritage of the Park as well as being mitigated.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	+/?	The policy does not deal with domestic or commercial emissions or travel by private car.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	+	The policy requires developments to have negligible impacts of the natural & cultural heritage of the Park as well as being mitigated. The policy deals with recycling and encourages use of brownfield sites (although there are relatively few within the National Park)
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	+	The policy requires developments to have negligible impacts of the natural & cultural heritage of the Park as well as being mitigated.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The policy requires development to demonstrate that it will contribute to long term economic and social development. It is implicit that development should be long lasting and provide for needs of future as well as current generations.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	++	The policy should improve the sustainable energy efficiency of new development.
13. To reduce waste and pollution	+/?	Developments are required to demonstrate waste-minimisation measures to contribute towards recycling.
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	+	The policy specifically mentions the need to contribute to the character and quality of the built environment.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy provides a strong general level of support for the SEA Objectives, but could provide more detailed advice/support for many of the criteria that are relevant to the Local Plan. However, given that it is intended that much of the policy should be replaced by a Sustainable Design Guide which would be a better way of illustrating best practice and desired standards, the policy is considered to convey an adequate range of considerations.</p> <p>The exception to this would be a potential gap in coverage under the emissions of both residential and commercial developments.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>The policy should be reworded in the next draft to highlight the relationship with the Sustainable Design Guide once that guidance has been prepared.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 1: Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites are protected by General Policy 3, but Policy 1 conveys the legal requirements of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c) Regulations 1994.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No options or alternatives considered necessary.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	+	Policy provides strong protection for Natura sites and applies the Natura Regulations.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	+	Policy provides strong protection for Natura sites and applies the Natura Regulations.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	+	Policy provides strong protection for Natura sites and applies the Natura Regulations.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	+	Policy provides strong protection for Natura sites and applies the Natura Regulations. Some waterbodies are Natura Sites.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	=	Policy provides strong protection for Natura sites and applies the Natura Regulations. Catchment process and hydrological systems are linked to some Natura sites.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	

8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy provides strong support for the protection of Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites by applying the Natura Regulations that both protect interests and provide a framework for decision-making. However, the Natura Regulations would apply without the policy, so the policy itself is unlikely to have any significant effects.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 2: Protected Species		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The purpose of policy 2 is to ensure that legal protection and procedures required when a development may affect a protected species are reflected in the Local Plan.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
The policy simply transposes legal requirements into planning policy so that potential developers are aware of the conditions that apply to protected species. There are no clear alternative mechanisms.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	+	The policy gives strong protection for protected species but does not promote protected species
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	+	The policy gives strong protection for protected species' habitats but does not promote protected species.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	+	The policy gives strong protection for protected species' habitats & habitat networks where loss would be harmful to the protected species but does not promote protected species.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	The policy does not influence this objective.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	The policy does not influence this objective.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	The policy does not influence this objective.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	The policy does not influence this objective.
8. To maintain and	n/a	The policy does not influence this objective.

improve air quality		
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	The policy does not influence this objective.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	The policy does not influence this objective.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	The policy does not influence this objective.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	The policy does not influence this objective.
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	The policy does not influence this objective.
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	The policy does not influence this objective.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy protects some species from harm or disturbance and therefore supports objectives 1-3. However, it does not actively promote any improvement in their conditions.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>The policy simply translates legal protection for some species into a planning policy.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 3: Biodiversity		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The policy is intended to promote biodiversity through both encouraging development that will enhance habitats or species in the Biodiversity Action Plans, and ensuring that development that would have an adverse effect on them have no alternatives, and that adverse impacts are compensated with appropriate measures of equal nature conservation value to those that would be lost.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>This policy adopts a strong position in support of biodiversity. It is unusual for development plan policies to require developers to demonstrate that there are no alternatives. The requirement that interests that are lost are compensated with interests of equal nature conservation value is also a more strict condition than is often applied to habitats or species that are not protected. This approach appears consistent with the importance of the natural heritage of the Cairngorms National Park.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	++	The policy both supports development that would have benefits for habitats and species as well as ensuring that development has as few impacts as possible on species and habitats identified in Biodiversity Action Plans.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	++	The policy both supports development that would have benefits for habitats and species as well as ensuring that development has as few impacts as possible on species and habitats identified in Biodiversity Action Plans.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	++	The policy both supports development that would have benefits for habitats and species as well as ensuring that development has as few impacts as possible on species and habitats identified in Biodiversity Action Plans.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	+	The policy supports this objective implicitly where waterbody status is linked to habitats and species in biodiversity action plans.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the	+	The policy contributes to the landscape character of the Park by conserving and enhancing habitats.

distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park		
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy provides a high level of protection for habitats that are identified in biodiversity action plans. The policy should have the effect of minimising habitat loss and through ensuring mitigation and compensation to provide equally important features.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>The policy should remain unchanged.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 3a (RM9): Soil Conservation and Management		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
Policy RM9 is intended to promote best practice in soil management and conservation in development.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
This policy is attempting to introduce a consideration of soil management into planning decisions where it is often not considered. Soil conservation issues are often not explicitly considered in planning decisions, and this policy should allow for a more systematic approach.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	The policy may have some secondary positive effects through helping to minimise loss of soil habitats.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	The policy may have some secondary positive effects through helping to minimise loss of soil habitats.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	The policy may have some secondary positive effects on ecosystems through helping to minimise loss of soil habitats.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	+	The policy should minimise risks of run-off, pollution.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	+	The policy should minimise risks of run-off, pollution.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access	n/a	

for all		
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	+	The policy should minimise loss of and disturbance to the soil resource in the longer term.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	+	The policy may lead to reductions in waste soil from developments.
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is likely to have some small – scale positive effects on the conservation of soil and potential reduction in production of waste.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 4: Landscape		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The proposal is intended to protect the special landscape qualities of the National Park, whether they are directly in terms of its physical character or through people's perceptions and understanding of what they see. The policy also intends that the Planning Authorities will ensure that consented development makes a positive contribution to the special landscape character of the Park.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>The policy combines a range of landscape-related characteristics that reflect the special qualities of the National Park. No other options were considered.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	=	The policy may have secondary benefits in helping to conserve some habitats of important species that contribute to landscape character.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	=	The policy may have secondary benefits in helping to conserve some priority habitats that contribute to landscape character.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	=	The policy may have secondary benefits in helping to conserve some habitat networks that contribute to landscape character.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	++	The policy provides protection for landscapes and should ensure positive effects from development.

7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	+	The policy provides protection for the historical and cultural aspects of the Park's special landscape qualities.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	?	As the policy does not permit development that would have an adverse impact on the special landscape qualities of the park, it is possible that development proposals that would provide housing or services would not be permitted,
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy should have a positive effect on landscape character within the National Park through protection and enhancement of character.</p> <p>It is also possible that the policy would restrict development that would be otherwise desirable. There may be circumstances where positive effects in other areas would be considered to outweigh any negative landscape effects as long as the effects were mitigated.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>The policy should be modified for the next draft local plan to provide a sense of scale in the adverse impacts so that for example, very small adverse effects might be acceptable, or nationally important developments will carry greater weight in decisions.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 5: Archaeology		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy is intended to protect scheduled ancient monuments and any other nationally important archaeological site from adverse effects due to development. It also explains how development proposals on other archaeological sites and their settings will be assessed, and where developers may be required to survey for archaeological remains.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No alternative for this policy were considered to be required.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	+	The policy will help to protect archaeological elements of the landscape.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and	n/a	

improve air quality		
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	++	<p>The preservation of Scheduled Ancient Monuments or other nationally important archaeological features provides strong support for the objective. Nationally important designed landscapes are protected through General policy 2.</p> <p>The protection given to other archaeological remains will depend on the available information and an archaeologist's opinion of the importance of the site.</p>
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy provides very positive support for archaeological remains, particularly those of national importance. The policy provides broad support for other archaeological remains by requiring an archaeological assessment to be carried out.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 6 & Policy 6A: Listed Buildings and Demolition of Listed Buildings		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policies are intended to support the preservation of listed buildings.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No other options considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	+	The policies make a small contribution to maintaining landscape character through preservation of listed buildings.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural	n/a	

resources/material assets in a sustainable way		
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	++	The policies provide specific protection to listed buildings that are often both locally distinctive and contribute to the settlement character.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policies provide strong positive support for objective 14 and some support for objective 6.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 7: Conservation Areas		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy is intended to conserve the special character of Conservation Areas in the National Park.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No other options considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	=	The policy may provide some support to this objective where conservation areas are and important part of the landscape character.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural	n/a	

resources/material assets in a sustainable way		
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	+	The policy provides some implicit support to this objective where conservation areas encompass historical features that contribute to the character of the area.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	++	The policy provides strong support by both preventing loss of locally distinctive architecture, and maintaining character of settlement within conservation areas.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy provide strong support for SEA objective 14.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 8: Locally distinctive and vernacular architecture		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy is intended to support the conservation and retention of locally distinctive and vernacular architecture within the Park that are not protected by listed building status or in Conservation Area.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No options considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	?	The policy may provide some support for landscape character through conserving locally distinctive architecture.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	

9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	++	The policy provides strong support for the preservation of locally distinctive architecture.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy provides strong support for the preservation of locally distinctive architecture.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 9: Local Cultural heritage Features		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy is intended to give formal weight to features of local cultural heritage value in planning decisions. Its purpose is to help conserve the cultural heritage of the National Park.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No options considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	?/+	The policy could relate to features that are important in the landscape or to people's perceptions of it.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	?/+	The policy could relate to access opportunities
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural	n/a	

resources/material assets in a sustainable way		
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	?/+	The policy may relate to archaeological or historic features.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	?/+	The policy may relate to buildings or settlement character
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy may provide secondary support/protection to a number of SEA objectives.</p> <p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 10: Protection of the Water Environment		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
Policy 10 is intended to reflect the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and ensure that development do not have adverse effect on the water environment.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No options considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	+	The policy should help protect species using the water environment, including Natura species.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	+	The policy should help protect water habitats, including Natura habitats.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	+	The policy should help protect water habitats, including Natura habitats.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	++	The policy provides explicit protection for waterbodies.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	++	The policy provides strong implicit support for this objective.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural	+	The policy implies that sustainable use of water

resources/material assets in a sustainable way		resources will be necessary.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy provides strong support for the water environment and therefore supports a numbers of SEA objectives strongly. In particular, objectives 4 & 5 are encompassed by the policy.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 11: Water Supplies		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy is intended to ensure that developments connect to public water supplies wherever possible, and that private supplies do not lead to a loss in quality or quantity for other users. It also requires water minimisation measures to be incorporated and refers to the Sustainable Design Guide that will provide advice.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No significant alternative approaches were considered to this policy.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	=	The policy relates to the water environment, but potential adverse effects of water supply should be dealt with by policy 10.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	=	The policy relates to the water environment, but potential adverse effects of water supply should be dealt with by policy 10.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and	n/a	

improve air quality		
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	+	The policy refers to water minimisation measures that should be applied so provides some support for this objective.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The policy allows for supply of water to developments as long as it will not have detrimental affects on others' supplies.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy promotes a sustainable water use framework that allows for development whilst not compromising others' water supplies.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 12: Foul Water Drainage		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The purpose of the policy is to both ensure that developments are connect to sewerage systems that meet appropriate standards and to reduce the development constraints that occur where public sewerage systems are at capacity but have little prospect of upgrading to allow development.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>The accepted approach to development in areas serviced by the public sewerage system is that it must be connected to the public system rather than to a private of intermediary supply. In parts of the CNP this has lead to a block on development without timescales for increased capacity, and a severe limiting of effective land supply.</p> <p>The policy attempts to create a situation where alternative solutions to waste water treatment can be agreed with both Scottish Water and SEPA in order to allow development to occur with appropriate treatment of waste water but not necessarily connected to the public treatment system.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	?	The policy should not lead to any reduction in water quality as treatment would occur to agreed appropriate standards. However, the long term effects of an unknown number of alternative sewerage systems would be difficult to predict.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	?	The policy has potential for an increase in risk of pollution with increased numbers of private facilities in the longer term. However, it is unlikely that it would have any significant adverse effects.
6. To maintain &	n/a	

enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park		
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The policy should contribute towards providing housing for the population of the National Park.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is considered unlikely to have significant negative environmental effects. However, if adopted, the policy and any private sewage systems would require monitoring to discover any unforeseen effects on the water environment.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary but monitoring of the policy's effects would be required.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 13: Surface Water Drainage		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy is intended to ensure that all new development that produces surface water discharges has appropriate SUDS incorporated and follows SUDS best practice.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No other options considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	+	Appropriate SUDS can create habitats that may be used by priority species.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	+	Appropriate SUDS can create valuable habitats.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	+	Appropriate SUDS can contribute to habitat networks.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	++	Appropriate SUDS will minimise flood and pollution risks.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	++	Appropriate SUDS will minimise flood and pollution risks.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	

9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	+	SUDS are a sustainable use of water.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is likely to have strongly positive and positive environmental effects, particularly in relation to the water environment.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 14: Flood Risk and Management		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The Policy is intended to apply the standards set out in SPP7, Planning and Flooding in order to minimise risk of development being flooded or increasing flood risks elsewhere.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No options considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	+	Policy minimises likelihood of development related disturbance to floodplains.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	+	Policy minimises likelihood of development related disturbance to floodplains.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	+	Policy minimises likelihood of development related disturbance to floodplains.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	+	Policy minimises likelihood of development related disturbance to floodplains.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	+	Policy minimises likelihood of development related disturbance to floodplains.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	=	Floodplains are an integral part of the National Parks landscape and the policy minimises likelihood of development related disturbance to them.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural	+	The policy directs development to land that will not flood

resources/material assets in a sustainable way		and discourages development proposals of land that will flood.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is provides general support for a range of SEA objectives.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 15: Safeguarding Mineral Resources		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy is intended to conserve workable mineral reserves from sterilisation by development, or, to allow opportunities for their working if there are no alternatives to the development on that site.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No other options considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and	n/a	

improve air quality		
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	+	The policy reflects principles of sustainable development in so far as it discourages the loss of a natural resource unless there are no alternatives and opportunities to work the reserves are provided.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy provides some support for objective 9. It is not considered to be relevant to other objectives as other policies consider what would be the effects of either development or mineral workings.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 16: Mineral Extraction and Processing		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The policy states under what conditions mineral extraction, processing or recycling will be permitted. It does not deal with the potential effects of mineral working as these can be considered through other policies.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>A decision was made to insist that minerals-related developments are only consented where they are for a market within the National Park area. This part of the policy reflects an intention to minimise the number and scale of mineral operations in the National Park to service the needs of the National Park and to minimise the potential negative effects of minerals development on the special qualities of the National Park.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	

7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	+	The policy supports development for local use and local markets.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy provides support for SEA objective 9 as it encourages a sustainable use of natural resources.</p> <p>Clearly, mineral working and related development can have a range of environmental effects, however, these are considered through other policies of the Local Plan.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 17: Commercial Peat Extraction		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy is intended to prevent the development of new commercial peat extraction development in the National Park.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No options considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	=/+	Peatlands are a unique and threatened habitat that support a range of priority species. The policy protects all peatlands (apart from the site of existing commercial extraction) from commercial peat extraction.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	=/+	Peatlands are a unique and threatened habitat that support a range of priority species. The policy protects all peatlands (apart from the site of existing commercial extraction) from commercial peat extraction.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	=/+	Peatlands are a unique and threatened habitat that support a range of priority species. The policy protects all peatlands (apart from the site of existing commercial extraction) from commercial peat extraction.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	=/+	Peatlands have complex hydrological regimes that control surface water run-off and store water. The policy protects all peatlands (apart from the site of existing commercial extraction) from commercial peat extraction.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	=/+	Peatlands have complex hydrological regimes that control surface water run-off and store water. The policy protects all peatlands (apart from the site of existing commercial extraction) from commercial peat extraction.
6. To maintain & enhance the	=/+	Peatlands are an important element of the physical and cultural landscapes of the National Park.

distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park		The policy protects all peatlands (apart from the site of existing commercial extraction) from commercial peat extraction.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	=/+	Peatlands are a carbon store and their destruction releases Carbon as the greenhouse gas CO2 into the atmosphere. The policy protects all peatlands (apart from the site of existing commercial extraction) from commercial peat extraction.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	=/+	The policy minimises loss of peatlands.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	=/+	Peatlands often contain archaeological remains that could be destroyed or disturbed by commercial peat extraction.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy provides broad support to a wide range of SEA objectives because peatlands are an important resource for a variety of reasons. However, there are a wide range of other pressures on peatlands that are not related to development, so the policy cannot be said to be likely to have any significant positive environmental effects.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 18: Contaminated Land		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy sets out how the Local Plan intends to deal with development proposals on land that is known to be contaminated or suspected to be contaminated.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No alternatives considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural	+	The improvement of soil conditions and removal of

resources/material assets in a sustainable way		contaminants is of benefit to the Park.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	+	Policy could lead to recycling of soil/land.
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is considered likely to have some small scale positive effects where any contaminated land is found and treated.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 19: Waste Management		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy sets out how waste management facilities will be considered within the National Park.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
The National Park Authority plays only a minor role in waste management. At the time of preparation of the consultative draft Local Plan, the local authorities have been investigating longer term strategic waste management solutions. The next draft of the Local Plan is expected to reflect these strategic options..		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access	n/a	

for all		
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	+	The policy provides support for sustainable waste management solutions
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy links to the local authorities area waste plans. In the future these plans will require to be subject to SEA.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>The next draft of the Local Plan will be able to support the strategic waste management options for the area.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 20: Energy Efficiency and Saving		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy intended to ensure that development proposals incorporate energy saving measures. It also refers to advice that will be contained in the Sustainable Design Guide.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
The policy reinforces part of General Policy 5. It is likely that the policy will be removed or altered for the next draft plan do minimise duplication.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	

9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	+	The policy supports sustainable energy efficiency in new developments.
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy provide strong support for sustainable energy efficiency</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p> <p>(The policy duplicates measures outlined in general policy 2 and is likely to be removed for the next draft Local Plan)</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 20A: Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy is intended to minimise the landscape and visual impacts of energy and telecommunications lines.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No alternatives were considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	=	The policy has potential to adversely affect priority species and their habitats. However, the policy would only apply where priority species would not be adversely affected as the general policies and policies 2 & 3 would apply.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	=	The policy has potential to adversely affect priority species and their habitats. However, the policy would only apply where priority habitats would not be adversely affected as the general policies and policies 2 & 3 would apply.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	=	The policy has potential to adversely affect priority species and their habitats. However, the policy would only apply where priority habitats would not be adversely affected as the general policies and policies 2 & 3 would apply.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	=	The policy has potential to adversely affect priority species and their habitats. However, the policy would only apply where priority habitats would not be adversely affected as the general policies and policies 2 & 3 would apply.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	=	The policy has potential to adversely affect priority species and their habitats. However, the policy would only apply where priority habitats would not be adversely affected as the general policies and policies 2 & 3 would apply.
6. To maintain & enhance the	+	The policy would minimise the visibility of new cabling for power and telecoms lines.

distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park		
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	=	The policy has potential to adversely affect archaeological sites. However, the policy would only apply where it would adversely affect archaeological sites or their settings as the general policies and policy 5 would apply.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy has is likely to have benefits for the landscape.</p> <p>The policy also has potential to have negative effects on the ecology and cultural heritage of the Park, but these would not be permitted due to other policies.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 21: Energy from Renewables		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The policy intends to support small scale domestic or community renewable energy developments in the Park while not permitting large scale wind or hydro power developments. The policy will be linked to the CNPA Interim Planning Policy No 1, Renewable Energy that will become supplementary planning guidance. The supplementary planning guidance will require to be subject to SEA.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No options considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	+	The policy prevents the potential catchment interference of large scale hydro schemes.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	+	The policy prevents the potential landscape and visual effects of large scale wind and hydro scheme developments.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	

8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	+	The policy supports renewable energy production for the Park's demands.
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy ensures that the potential effects of large scale renewable energy developments are not realised within the National Park. It also supports the development of small scale renewable energy development to service the Park's needs.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 22: Integrated Transport Network		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The policy acknowledges that the National Park is between four local authorities that are responsible for transport and that the Park Authority has a role to play in helping to co-ordinate information about public transport across the Park. It is intended to ensure that all transport requirements are considered in development proposals.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>The policy reflects the position of the National Park Authority as the Local Plan provider and occasional Development Control authority over four different Local Authority Areas. The Park Authority must consult local authorities about roads and public transport issues associated with development at the time of application.</p> <p>The next draft of the Local Plan may provide more specific advice from the individual local authorities.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and	n/a	

cultural character of the Park		
7. To ensure responsible access for all	+	The policy highlights the importance of footpaths and links to path networks.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The policy ensures implies that access to services will be considered in planning decisions.
1. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
2. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy links planning decisions on development proposals to transport issues. It does not provide strong support for any of the SEA objectives and does not imply that any significant adverse effects will arise from it.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 23: Roadside Facilities on the A9		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy states that the Park will support the development of roadside facilities on the A9 where it demonstrated that there will be no adverse impacts on the services and businesses of nearby towns and villages.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No significant alternatives considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	

9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
1. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
2. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+/?	The policy requires demonstration that proposals will not adversely affect local businesses and services.
3. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
4. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
5. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is considered unlikely to have any significant environmental effects.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 24: Upland Vehicle Tracks		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy states a presumption against the development of new or upgraded or extended vehicle hill tracks and sets out conditions where they may be considered acceptable. It also links to an SNH Good Practice Guide.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
The policy replaces the Cairngorms National Park Authority's draft Interim Planning Policy No 3, Vehicle Hill Tracks.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	+	The policy is intended to conserve species and habitats.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	+	The policy is intended to conserve species and habitats.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	+	The policy is intended to conserve species and habitats.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	+	The policy is intended to conserve species and habitats.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	+	The policy is intended to conserve species and habitats.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	+	The policy should minimise landscape and visual impacts of new tracks.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	+	The policy should mean that track are designed with all potential users in mind.
8. To maintain and	n/a	

improve air quality		
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	+	The policy implicitly notes that the effects of track development on cultural heritage features must be considered and that they should be protected.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy provides support for the natural and cultural heritage of the Park.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 25: Telecommunications		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy sets out conditions for the development of telecommunications infrastructure.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
The policy replaces the Cairngorms National Park Authority's draft Interim Planning Policy no 2, Radio Telecommunications. It highlights some of the potential impacts of telecommunications developments that are dealt with in other policies of the Local Plan		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	=	Policy provides support and applies with other policies in plan
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	=	Policy provides support and applies with other policies in plan
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	=	Policy provides support and applies with other policies in plan
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	=	Policy provides support and applies with other policies in plan
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	=	Policy provides support and applies with other policies in plan
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	=	Policy provides support and applies with other policies in plan
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	

9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	=	Policy provides support and applies with other policies in plan
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	=	Policy provides support and applies with other policies in plan
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is for a specific type of development and is considered unlikely to result in any significant negative environmental effects, particularly as will be used in conjunction with other Local Plan policies.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 26: Development on Farming and Crofting Land		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy intends to support development-related diversification and improvements in the viability of farm and croft units. It links development through conditions and agreements to secure long term agricultural management of the unit. Development proposals would still have to comply with other Local Plan policies.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
The policy has been linked to agricultural management of the unit as a means of supporting continued management.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	=	The policy is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on the SEA objective.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	=	The policy is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on the SEA objective.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	=	The policy is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on the SEA objective.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	=	The policy is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on the SEA objective.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	=	The policy is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on the SEA objective.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	=	The policy is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on the SEA objective.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	=	The policy is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on the SEA objective.

8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	+	The policy promotes continued appropriate management of land.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	=	The policy is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on the SEA objective.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	=	The policy is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on the SEA objective.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is considered unlikely to have any significant environmental effects. It may have a positive effect in terms of helping to ensure sustainable management of land, but it is thought unlikely that this would affect large areas of land.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 27: Access Rights		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy is intended to maintain the public's right of responsible access to land or water that was created through the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No alternatives were considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access for all	+	The policy strongly supports this objective and insists that where a significant loss in access rights were to occur, appropriate alternative or improved access solutions must be provided.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	

9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy provides strong support to SEA objective 7 by maintaining access rights.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 28: Large Outdoor Recreation Centres		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The policy is intended to provide clarity on development associated with large outdoor recreation centres such as the three ski centres within the Park. It seeks to promote sustainable business development and sustainable design in all development proposals. It also specifically restricts the development of new ski tows to the existing ski areas and will not permit extension of the ski areas.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No clear alternative options were considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	=	Although development at any location may impact species, other policies in the Plan would minimise significant harm and ensure appropriate mitigation.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	=	Although development at any location may impact habitats, other policies in the Plan would minimise significant harm and ensure appropriate mitigation.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	=	Although development at any location may impact habitats, other policies in the Plan would minimise significant harm and ensure appropriate mitigation.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	?/-	Although the policy allows for development, other policies in the plan would apply to minimise landscape and visual effects of development. Additionally, the policy only allows for ski tow development within existing areas, which may reduce the direct visual impact of new ski tows,
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	

8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is considered unlikely to have any significant negative environmental effects as it would be applied with other policies in the Local Plan that protect environmental interests.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 29: Tourism Development		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy is intended to support the development of sustainable tourism and to ensure that the Park's main employment sector remains strong. The policy is also intended to minimise loss of tourist facilities, and to seek compensate/mitigate for any losses that are permitted.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No significant alternatives were considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	

9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	=/+	The policy supports the tourism industry that provide the major employment sector within the National Park and therefore supports access to services.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is considered unlikely to have any significant effects.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 30: Tourist Accommodation		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy sets out the conditions under which development of tourism-related accommodation will be permitted. It covers camp sites, caravan parks, chalets and time share, hotels and B&Bs, self catering accommodation and the need to provide accommodation for staff.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No alternatives were considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and	n/a	

improve air quality		
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	=	The policy ensures that large tourism developments provide accommodation for staff to live in. This should help prevent the development of large tourism developments leading to increasing housing shortages within the National Park.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is considered unlikely to any significant environmental effects.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 31: Proposals for Retail/Commercial Development		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The policy is intended to focus retail and commercial development within existing settlements and to preserve the viability of existing settlements' high streets or business areas. It is intended to provide some flexibility for the use of business premises while discouraging loss of businesses, particularly within vulnerable small communities. The policy allows for retail and business development outside of settlements where it can be shown that a particular rural location is required for the business operations.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No significant alternatives were considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access	n/a	

for all		
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The policy promotes the role of existing settlements as service providers and therefore promoted development of businesses closest to population centres.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is considered unlikely to have any significant environmental effects. It implicitly supports easy access to services because it encourages development and retention of retail and commercial development within settlements.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 32: Proposals for Retail/Commercial Development in Aviemore		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy supports development of retail or commercial facilities in Aviemore where they conform with the Aviemore Development Master Plan. The policy also states that retail impact assessments may be required with proposals to demonstrate that a development will not have adverse impacts on businesses in Aviemore or other towns and villages in the area.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No alternative were considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and	n/a	

improve air quality		
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	=	The policy supports development within Aviemore that will not have adverse effects on the ability of other areas to provide services.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	+	The Aviemore development masterplan is intended to enhance the quality of the built environment of Aviemore.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>No significant environmental effects are predicted.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 33: Proposals for Large scale Retail/ Commercial Development		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy states that proposals for retail or commercial development over 1000 square metres in size will require a retail and transport impact assessment to accompany their applications.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No significant alternatives were considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	

9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>No significant environmental effects are considered likely to arise from this policy.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 34: Improving the Town Centre Environment		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy is intended to ensure that new retail or commercial development or alterations make a positive contribution the town centre environment by improving accessibility for all and helping to create an attractive and appropriate townscape.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No alternatives were considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access for all	+	The policy promotes access for all to retail and commercial developments.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	

9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	+	The policy promotes the development and improvement of townscapes and the quality of the built environment.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The proposal is considered likely to have some minor positive effects on accessibility of services and the quality of the built environment.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 35: Proposals for Business and Economic Development		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The policy supports the development of businesses in zoned business areas and on the sites of existing businesses in settlements. It also resists the loss of business units to other uses. The policy supports the development of businesses outwith settlement where a specific operation relative to a particular site is required, or the business will be a small workshop unit adjacent to an existing rural business.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No significant alternatives were considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	

8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	=	The policy encourages businesses to be located within settlements and therefore contributes to providing access to services.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>No significant environmental effects are considered likely to arise from the policy.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 36: Proposals for Business & Economic Development in Aviemore		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy states that proposals for business and economic development in Aviemore will be supported where they conform with the Aviemore development Masterplan.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No alternatives were considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and	n/a	

improve air quality		
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	+	The Aviemore development masterplan is intended to enhance the quality of Aviemore's built environment.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>No significant environmental effects are considered likely to arise from this policy.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 37: Proposals for Affordable Housing		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy is intended to support the development of affordable housing at suitable locations within the Park.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No significant alternatives were considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	=/+	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective. Also, policy 4, Landscape requires all development to make a positive contribution to the special landscape qualities of the Park.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	=/+	The policy supports development of affordable housing in settlements and in rural areas where there is a proven

		need. It therefore minimises need to use cars.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	++	The proposal specifically supports the development targeted at the population living and working in the National Park.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
13. To reduce waste and pollution	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is consider to provide strong positive support for providing housing for local needs and SEA objective 11.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal

Policy 38: Proposals for housing within defined settlements

Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.

The policy supports housing development in zoned housing areas or at other sites within settlements and provides for an element of affordable housing. The policy also notes that housing development proposals must enhance the structure and character of existing settlements.

Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.

An alternative addition to the policy is to add a requirement that applicants must prove the house is for inadequately housed people, and that the house is for people living and working within the Park. The exact criteria are:

- d) Applicants must comply with one of criteria i)-iv) and criteria v) below.**
- i) Existing residents of the National Park (over the age of 18), who have permanently resided in the area for at least the last 3 years and who now need new accommodation.**
 - ii) A head of household who is or whose partner is in or is taking up full-time permanent employment in a business within the National Park.**
 - iii) Elderly or disabled persons requiring sheltered or otherwise more suitable accommodation who already live permanently within the National Park.**
 - iv) Persons having to leave tied accommodation within the National Park.**
 - v) In all cases above the applicant must prove that they are currently un-housed or inadequately housed.**
- A standard form will be developed for this criteria justification.**

Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.

Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.

National Park area		
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	=/+	The policy encourages housing development within existing settlements and therefore minimises need to travel by car.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	=/?	The policy encourages housing development within existing settlements and therefore minimises
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The policy promote the provision of housing for local needs.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
13. To reduce waste and pollution	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	=/+	The policy states that new housing should contribute to the structure and character of existing settlements.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is considered unlikely to have any significant negative environmental effects and provides some support for SEA objective 11 by attempting to provide housing for the population of the National Park.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 39: Proposals for Housing Outwith Defined Settlements		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The policy is intended to support the development of houses outwith settlements for permanent occupation and to ensure that new housing complements the existing pattern and character of settlement in that locality. It is intended to minimise the number of houses built outwith settlements to reduce the cumulative landscape and visual effects of new houses in the countryside. It is also intended to make land for housing more affordable to those living and working in the National Park by reducing the ability of those who want to build second homes to do so in the rural areas of the National Park.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>The policy adopts an alternative approach to housing in the countryside when compared to current policies that do not normally restrict house building to residents and workers.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	+	The policy states that housing development should complement existing pattern and character of development.

7. To ensure responsible access for all	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	=	The policy allows for housing in areas that may be far from services and may therefore require travel by car, but the policy also limits the likely numbers of houses by the work and side4ncy criteria.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The policy is directed towards the housing needs of the Park's population.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
13. To reduce waste and pollution	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	+	The policy states that housing development should complement existing pattern and character of development.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is considered likely to have a direct positive effect in terms of helping to provide housing for the park's population, and is considered unlikely to have any significant negative environmental effect because of the provisions of other policies in the Local Plan. The policy may have some small positive effects on landscape character and the quality of the built environment as the policy and others in the Local Plan require that all development makes a positive contribution to landscape and the built environment.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 40: Conversions of Existing non-residential Buildings		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The policy is intended to allow for the conversion of existing non-residential buildings where they are redundant or inadequate for their original use and have no clearly related economic use. The policy is also intended to ensure the where the buildings have a clear vernacular architecture and contribute to the special qualities of the National Park, that those characteristics are maintained through the development.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>There were no significant alternative options considered to this policy approach.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	=/+	<p>Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.</p> <p>The policy states that the development must maintain the style and character of the original building unless its existing structure is considered to have a negative effect.</p>
7. To ensure	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent

responsible access for all		significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	=	The policy is considered unlikely to encourage significantly greater use of private cars.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	=/+	The policy supports reuse of redundant buildings.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	=/+	The policy supports reuse of redundant buildings, including for housing, and specifically allows for greater numbers of affordable residential units.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
13. To reduce waste and pollution	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	=/+	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective. The policy states that the development must maintain the style and character of the original building unless its existing structure is considered to have a negative effect.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is considered unlikely to have any significant environmental effects. The policy may have minor positive effects in terms of the landscape character, quality of built environment and provision of housing for the Park's population.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 41: Extensions and Alterations to Existing Residential Buildings		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy is intended to allow for the extension and alteration of existing buildings where the development will maintain the style and character of the original building (where appropriate), and where the building's footprint will not increase by more than 50%.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No alternatives considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	=/+	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective. The policy states that the development must maintain the style and character of the original building unless its existing structure is considered to have a negative effect.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.

8. To maintain and improve air quality	=	The policy is considered unlikely to encourage significantly greater use of private cars.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	=/?	The policy supports the extension of existing residential buildings, which may encourage better use of existing properties rather than need to build to new properties.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	=/+	The policy should help the local population modify their homes to changing requirements.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
13. To reduce waste and pollution	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	=/+	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective. The policy states that the development must maintain the style and character of the original building unless its existing structure is considered to have a negative effect.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is considered unlikely to have any significant environmental effects.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 42: Proposals for Residential Caravans		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy is intended to ensure that new housing in the national park is provided by permanent structures and that only in cases of temporary need will a 6 month temporary permission be considered.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No significant alternatives were considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective. The policy also limits the duration which new residential caravan would be permitted for and so limits the duration of any potential effects.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective. The policy also limits the duration which new residential caravan would be permitted for and so limits the duration of any potential effects.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective. The policy also limits the duration which new residential caravan would be permitted for and so limits the duration of any potential effects.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	=	The policy limits the duration which new residential caravans would be permitted for and so limits the duration of any potential negative effects on landscape character.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective. The policy also limits the duration which new residential

		caravan would be permitted for and so limits the duration of any potential effects.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	=	The policy limits the duration which new residential caravans would be permitted for and so limits the duration of any potential negative effects on landscape character.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective. The policy also limits the duration which new residential caravan would be permitted for and so limits the duration of any potential effects.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective. The policy also limits the duration which new residential caravan would be permitted for and so limits the duration of any potential effects.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective. The policy also limits the duration which new residential caravan would be permitted for and so limits the duration of any potential effects.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective. The policy also limits the duration which new residential caravan would be permitted for and so limits the duration of any potential effects.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective. The policy also limits the duration which new residential caravan would be permitted for and so limits the duration of any potential effects.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	=	The policy limits the duration which new residential caravans would be permitted for and so limits the duration of any potential negative effects on settlement character.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is considered unlikely to have any significant environmental effects.</p>		

Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.

No changes are considered necessary.

Policy/Proposal		
Policy 43: Gypsy/Traveller sites		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The policy sets out conditions for the allocation of Traveller sites within the National Park.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
No alternatives considered.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	=	The policy is considered unlikely to result in any significant increase in private car use.
9. To use natural resources/material	n/a	

assets in a sustainable way		
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	=/+	The policy would help provide sites for travelling people where a need in the area had been identified.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
13. To reduce waste and pollution	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	=	Other policies in the Local Plan should prevent significant environmental effects arising with this objective.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The policy is considered unlikely to have any significant environmental effects.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are considered necessary.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Proposal 1: Permitted Development Rights in the National Park		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>Proposal 1 is that the CNPA will investigate whether the National Park can gain and Article 4 direction that removes certain permitted development rights. The intention is that greater scrutiny of development that affects the special features of the National Park would reduce the possibility of inappropriate development, particularly in the remoter and most scenic areas of the Park.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>Some permitted development rights are removed from National Scenic Areas, and the National Park is a national designation based on a special and coherent character, that might benefit from similar measures.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	+	If permitted development rights were removed, the proposal is likely to increase the scrutiny and possibly lead to refusal or modification of a range of development proposals that can affect landscape character and people's perceptions of the landscape.
7. To ensure	n/a	

responsible access for all		
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	n/a	
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	+	If permitted development rights were removed, the proposal is likely to increase the scrutiny and possibly lead to refusal or modification of a range of development proposals that can affect the historic environment and people's perceptions of it and the landscape.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	n/a	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The proposal is to investigate the removal of some PDRs and if removed, it may have some small benefits (that may be locally significant) for the landscape character and historic environment of the National Park.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>The proposal requires further investigation before a more comprehensive assessment can be completed.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
Proposal 2: New Conservation Areas within the National Park		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The Proposal is to consult the communities of Tomintoul, Kingussie and Newtonmore.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	n/a	
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	n/a	
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	n/a	
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	n/a	
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	n/a	
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	n/a	
7. To ensure responsible access for all	n/a	
8. To maintain and improve air quality	n/a	
9. To use natural	n/a	

resources/material assets in a sustainable way		
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	n/a	
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	n/a	
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	n/a	
13. To reduce waste and pollution	n/a	
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	?	
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The proposal may result in greater care for the character of the identified settlements</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p>		

Assessment of Proposals

Policy/Proposal		
1a Aviemore Housing Proposals		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The proposals for Aviemore reflect the patterns of development that have occurred over the past years as well as the consented development that is ongoing. Land to the north of Aviemore is currently being developed for housing (approx 200 units), with a 50% affordable element. Sites at High Burnside and by Aviemore Highland Resort have outline planning permission for more than 200 units in total.</p> <p>The proposals for Aviemore are intended to consolidate the existing settlement and to protect areas within the town that are important community spaces or of importance because of their ecological and recreation value.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>There are no entirely new proposals for Aviemore within the consultative draft Local Plan. The previous Badenoch & Strathspey Local Plan allocated land for approximately 850 houses (considered then to be an 18 year supply). Of the 850 units allocated, nearly 400 units have outline or full planning permission but have not yet been built, and approximately 150 units are on areas where either planning permission has been refused, or planning permission is currently being sought.</p> <p>The consultative draft Local Plan has allocated all sites that have planning permission. It has not allocated a site at Milton Wood where planning permission was refused on the basis of objections from the local community about the ecological and recreational value of the site.</p> <p>A second site that is allocated in the adopted Local Plan lies within the Dalfaber area and has a current application for around 100 units. This site now has large areas of birch woodland and scrub which are of moderate ecological value but have clearly become a widely used recreational resource in the area. Both consultation for the draft Local Plan and the planning application for the site have raised a large number of objections from the Local Community.</p> <p>It has been decided not to allocate the site in the consultative draft Local Plan due to the community opposition to the site. However, the planning application for the site may be approved, in which case the site will become part of the next draft of the Local Plan, or, the National Park Authority may decide that land should be required for housing on the basis of up to date population and housing projection estimates expected by the start of 2006.</p> <p>The consultative draft Local Plan has not allocated the proposed new settlement at Cambusmore on the east side of the river Spey opposite Aviemore. However, the site remains a consideration in the Local Plan process and may be incorporated in subsequent drafts once The National Park Authority has up to date population and household projections. The Cambusmore site has its own assessment sheet.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA	Summary	Reasoning for score

Objectives	score	
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	0/-	Of the proposed housing sites, only site H2 is considered to have high ecological value because of its species. The site comprises birch and juniper woodland with an understorey of native species. The site currently has outline planning permission for 75 houses. .None of the other proposed housing sites are considered to be of high ecological value
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	-	Of the proposed housing sites, only site H2 is considered to have high ecological value because of its species. The site comprises birch and juniper woodland with an understorey of native species. The site currently has outline planning permission for 75 houses. .None of the other proposed housing sites are considered to be of high ecological value
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	-	The loss of habitats on site H2 will lead to a fragmentation of the otherwise largely contiguous habitats west of the A9 at Aviemore.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	0	It is considered unlikely that any of the housing proposals would lead to a reduction in water body status. All the proposals would require appropriate SUDS to conform with policy, and foul water would require to be treated to appropriate standards.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	0	It is not considered that any of the proposals would interfere with natural fluvial processes.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	--	<p>The proposed housing allocations will have a significant effect on the landscape character of the Aviemore area.</p> <p>Site H2 (with outline planning consent and a reserved matters application active) will involve development on the western side of the A9 and on slopes above the main area of Aviemore. This development will be detached from the main settlement both physically and visually, and will encroach on the semi-natural character of the land west of the A9.</p> <p>Site H3 (with outline planning consent and a reserved matters application active) is within the main Aviemore area and is screened from the A9 by existing planning and woodland. It is not considered that this site will have a significant landscape impact.</p>
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0/-	Only the development of site H2 is considered likely to result in a significant loss in informal access opportunities.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	The housing proposals are all located as part of Aviemore, and therefore near to local services. This should minimise need to travel by car.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	?/0/-	Sites have been used for farming, forestry and rough grazing. Site H2 was formerly a caravan park.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the	-/?	Site H2 is part of a former crofting township that was located to the north of Aviemore.

historic environment		
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The proposals will contribute to housing for the local population.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	0/?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan (Policy 37 of plan is relevant).
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>Proposal site H2 (with outline planning consent and a reserved matters application active) is considered likely to have a negative effect on the continuity and integrity of habitats in the area. It will also have a significant effect on the landscape through extending Aviemore onto wooded slopes above Aviemore on the western side of the A9.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>Detailed planning consent for H2 should ensure that the development minimises loss of existing woodland and attempt to maintain a rural character to the development to emphasise the separation of the site from the main urban area of Aviemore. The development should use the topography of the site to contain the development and should minimise lighting as well as increasing planting to screen the development from the A9. Historical stone field boundaries should be retained in the development.</p>		

Policy/Proposal

1b Aviemore Business, Tourism, Community & Environmental Proposals

Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.

The proposals for Aviemore reflect the patterns of development that have occurred over the past years as well as the consented development that is ongoing. Land to the north of Aviemore is currently being developed for housing (approx 200 units), with a 50% affordable element. Sites at High Burnside and by Aviemore Highland Resort have outline planning permission for more than 200 units in total.

The proposals for Aviemore are intended to consolidate the existing settlement and to protect areas within the town that are important community spaces or of importance because of their ecological and recreation value.

Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.

Aviemore has grown substantially over the last 10 years, with new housing development in particular having extended the town northwards.

Only one new area has been proposed for business use, a northern extension to Dalfaber Industrial Estate, B4. Otherwise, all the proposals and zoned areas are for existing uses.

Milton Wood, site E1 was previously zoned for housing but has been zoned as a protected 'environmental' area in this consultative draft Local Plan because of its ecological as well as recreational value.

Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.

Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	+/-	As far as possible, the environmental zonings have protected important habitats with potential for a range of locally important species. Site B2 will lead to a loss of an area (approx 1.7 Ha) of semi-natural ancient woodland on fluvial deposits at Granish.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	+/-	As far as possible, the environmental zonings have protected important habitats. Site B2 will lead to a loss of an area (approx 1.7 Ha) of semi-natural ancient woodland on fluvial deposits at Granish.
3. To maintain &	+/-	The development of site B2 would lead to a

enhance the integrity of ecosystems		fragmentation of the birch woodland of semi-natural and ancient origin in the area, although this is not considered likely to create a significant barrier to native species movement.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	0	The development of B2 is considered unlikely to result in deterioration in water body status. All developments must have appropriate SUDS to comply with policies in the Plan.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	0	None of the proposed developments are considered likely to result in increased flood or pollution risks and are not considered likely to interfere with natural fluvial processes.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	0/-	The development of B2 would extent the Dalfaber Industrial Estate to the north of Aviemore and would replace a wooded undulating landscape with business development.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	+	The development of B2 would lead to a loss of informal access opportunities between the railway lines. However, other community and environmental zonings in the area should maintain opportunities for access.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0/+	Site B2 is located next to the existing Industrial Estate and close to main transport networks, including the main rail link north and south.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	?/-	The land of site B2 has been used for rough grazing and as an informal recreational resource.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	?/-	The development of site B2 is considered unlikely to result in any significant impacts on the sites or settings of any known archaeological or historic features. However, archaeological sites have been recorded in the National Monument Records of Scotland within 100m of the northern and eastern boundaries of the site.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	0	The proposals should maintain land for business and tourism activities that support jobs. Current levels of community facilities are supported through the plan.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	0/?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan (Policy 37 of plan is relevant).
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The development of B2 would lead to the loss of an area of that is identified through the ancient woodland inventory. It is considered that this loss, although small in terms of the total area of such woodland, represents a minor significant effect in terms of loss of habitat, species and the overall integrity of ecosystems.</p>		

Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.

Site B2 could be removed from the local plan in order to avoid the loss of part of an ancient woodland inventory site.

Policy/Proposal		
1c Cambusmore proposed new community		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>Both the Badenoch & Strathspey Local Plan (adopted 1997, projected time span 1993-2002) and Highland Structure Plan 2001 proposed a new settlement for a site known as Cambusmore, east of the river Spey at Aviemore. This proposal was introduced as a way of providing long term housing land for Badenoch and Strathspey for a period where significant population growth and house building was expected.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>The National Park Authority does not yet know how many houses will require to be built within the National Park over the Plan period or following 5 years. It does understand that neither house building nor population growth occurred at the rates that had been estimated over the period 2003 to the present. It is therefore not currently possible to identify whether the land at Cambusmore will be required or over what timescale it would be required.</p> <p>The boundary of the Cambusmore site has been identified in the consultative draft Local Plan to indicate that it is a possible future development that will be considered before production of the finalised draft Local Plan.</p> <p>The proposal is considered through the Strategic Environmental Assessment on the basis of past proposals for information and to highlight potential environmental effects of this possible option. If the site is proposed through the finalised draft local plan, it will require more detailed consideration.</p> <p>It is likely that a firm development proposal of this scale would require an Environmental Impact Assessment in order to more accurately predict the potential effects of the development.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	-	The Cambusmore site has a range of habitats and species. It holds at least one protected species and is likely to have others that are locally important. The site is known to have held Capercaillie in the past although they have not thought to use the site any more.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	--	The site is a mixture of coniferous and broad leaved woodland with areas of grassland and heath. Approximately 25Ha of the Cambusmore site is recorded as long established woodland of plantation origin in the Ancient Woodland Inventory.
3. To maintain & enhance the	-	The loss of habitats at Cambusmore is likely to lead to fragmentation of habitats, but it is considered likely that

integrity of ecosystems		<p>a masterplan for the site would attempt to maintain a network of habitats through the site.</p> <p>It is not known whether the waste discharge from a potential additional 700 homes would have secondary effects on the river Spey.</p>
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	?	<p>The Cambusmore site would require appropriate SUDS and would require waste water treatment facilities to work to an appropriate standard.</p> <p>However, it is not known whether the waste discharge from a potential additional 700 homes would have secondary effects on the river Spey.</p>
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	?	<p>It is considered unlikely that the development of Cambusmore would lead to a significant increase in flood risk as appropriate siting of development and SUDS would minimise flood risks.</p> <p>There are always risks of pollution during construction of large developments – however these risks would be identified through the EIA for the development.</p> <p>The development of the site may have indirect effects on natural fluvial processes and hydrological regimes in other areas. As a water supply for c700 homes would need to be identified.</p>
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	-	<p>The development of Cambusmore would change the character of the Spey valley at this location and the site is within the Cairngorm Mountains NSA.</p> <p>A Landscape Capacity for housing development study for the National Park Authority identified parts of the Cambusmore site as having capacity for housing development. It recommended a closer and more intimate link with Aviemore than was envisaged in the original Cambusmore site boundary.</p>
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0	<p>Cambusmore offers access for a few local residents and interest groups at present. It is not considered that the development would significantly reduce opportunities for access within the local area, and is more likely to require the provision of additional safe access routes for recreation.</p>
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0/?	<p>Depending on the links to Aviemore of Cambusmore, its development could minimise the need to travel by private car through its location close to services and jobs in Aviemore.</p>
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	?	<p>Some farmland and forestry would be lost to development. However, Cambusmore could provide an opportunity to demonstrate best practice in use of local materials and conservation of local resources.</p>
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0/?	<p>From current evidence, it is not thought that the development of Cambusmore would lead significant effects on the sites or settings of any known historic sites of features.</p> <p>However, archaeological evidence from nearby (palisaded enclosure NW of Dell Farm, pottery find towards northern edge of Cambusmore site) shows that people have lived in this part of the Spey Valley since prehistoric times. It is possible that other important</p>

		remains exist on the site.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	?	Because of the potential size of Cambusmore (c700 houses), and the lack of up to date information on the future housing requirements in the area, it is not possible to predict whether Cambusmore would provide for the housing needs of local communities. However, that has always been considered its purpose.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	+/?	Cambusmore has always been considered an opportunity to demonstrate and use sustainable design and construction. Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	+/?	Cambusmore could be designed to minimise waste production and to adopt sustainable waste management regimes during operation as well as construction. Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	+/?	The development of the Cambusmore site would be likely to ensure quality in new building design, and could potentially improve the character of the Aviemore area. Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan

Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.

The Cambusmore site has been identified in the Local Plan for information and is not being proposed at this stage. If it is included in the next draft Local Plan it would be assessed in more detail.

Based on the assessment of the area defined by the Badenoch and Strathspey Local Plan for the Cambusmore site, it is considered likely that the development of Cambusmore would have significant detrimental effects in terms of loss of habitats and could have other significant detrimental effects on species and in terms of landscape. However, it is not possible to accurately assess the site until more information is available.

Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.

A large scale development on the site is likely to require an EIA in order to accurately predict potential impacts.

Policy/Proposal		
2. Boat of Garten		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The proposed allocations for Boat of Garten are intended to provide land for housing and community uses over the plan period.</p> <p>3 potential areas are allocated for housing: H1 is an extension of the Church Drive and Muirton Place development, with 1.88Ha; H2 is at the western entrance to the village but may be removed from the next draft of the Plan for environmental reasons, it covers 1.53Ha; H3 is on the periphery of the woods and covers 1.18Ha. This makes a total of 4.59Ha for housing.</p> <p>All of the allocations for other uses are either already in that use or similar uses.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>Boat of Garten is surrounded by large areas of forest (much of which is Ancient Woodland Inventory) and is further constrained by the golf course/railway/flood-plane to the east; to the north is open farmland/moorland/woodland who's develop-ability is limited. This effectively limits where new housing can be located, and future sites will be constrained.</p> <p>The current outline planning application for 103 houses in the woods south of Boat of Garten is not supported by the National Park Authority as it is considered that the development would result in the loss of an area of woodland that is recorded in the ancient woodland inventory, provides a habitat used by Capercaillie from the wider SPA network in the area, and would result have significant landscape impacts on the Boat of Garten area. If this application is approved by Highland Council or the Scottish Ministers, most of the allocations in this Plan will either be removed or will be zoned as long-term future sites.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	-	Allocation H1 is on the site of improved grassland. Allocation H2 is grazed lowland heath, which borders an area of very important habitat (species rich lowland-heath and marsh/lochan) and as such should not be developed. H3 is a site of disturbed wood and grassland with no priority species or habitat; development of this site will however encroach into the greater woodland area.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	-	The improved grassland and wooded areas will be lost, from H1 and H3, but the development of H2 could impact on a very important area of adjacent habitat.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	-	As above; the integrity of the woodland could be affected by H3, but H2 could have a significant impact on adjacent ecosystems.
4. To protect and	0	The proposals are unlikely to lead to any detrimental

where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area		effects on waterbodies.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	0	The continued integrity of catchment processes & hydrological systems are unlikely to be significantly affected by the allocations; this will be addressed by the SUDS design.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	-	None of the sites have been identified as having the capacity to absorb new housing development. Site H1 is adjoining the edge of the settlement, but could be very visible across the adjacent flat heathland. H2 would effectively form a new western gateway to the village is likely to have a significant effect (the existing west gateway is already very weak). H3 would be the least visible site generally but would impact upon the woodland setting/backdrop of the village.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	-	There will be a significant loss of informal access as the H3 woodland site is heavily used for public amenity, and a net loss to the path network within Boat of Garten.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	The housing sites are located in or on the edge of a settlement with services and access to a bus service.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	-	The sites are currently used for grazing, amenity and forestry on the edge of a settlement.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	The proposed zonings do not alter the sites or settings of any known historic sites or landscapes.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The proposals will help to support a population in Boat of Garten.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	0	Any development on H1 or H2 would have to be very carefully designed to reflect the high visibility of the site and the formation of a new village 'edge'. Policies in the Local plan should ensure this.

Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.

All the proposals for new uses of land at Boat of Garten are on land that is considered provide locally important habitats. The loss of H2 in particular would lead to a direct loss of and area of species rich lowland heath and is considered to represent a minor but significant effect in terms of loss of habitat.

The sites C1, 2 & 5 and site H3 encroach on mixed woodland and Scots Pine plantation that provide habitat for a wide range of species. It is considered that the development of these sites would also have minor significant negative effects in terms of habitat and species loss and disruption. It is not considered that the development of these sites would have significant effects on integrity of the wider habitat network and associated species in the area.

Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.

The wooded plot in H3 should be carefully developed to make the minimum impact on the woodland, through careful positioning and tree retention & re-planting; the development of H1 must pay careful attention to the design of a new (highly visible) settlement edge. Allocation H2 should be removed.

Policy/Proposal		
3. Carr Bridge		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>4 potential housing sites have been proposed in and around Carr-Bridge, H1 is 12.8Ha, and coming to 16.13Ha in total. Allocations H1-3 and E2 are part of a large site which was zoned within the existing local plan, and which now has outline permission. All of the allocations for other uses are either already in that use or similar uses. Notable within the settlement is the Landmark Centre, a large tourism facility which incorporates a large area of pine forest as its natural setting.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>Carr-Bridge is located either side of the River Dulnain, and is surrounded by large areas of forest (much of which is Ancient Woodland Inventory) and constrained to the north by the golf course. The H1-3 site has outline permission for 127 houses, the scale of which precludes the need for significant new allocations; the small H4 site is also the subject of a current planning application.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	-/+	H2 and the northern quarter of H1 are on fields of improved grassland; the remainder of H1 is a mature pine plantation of high species value which may be lost. Site E2 is currently within the H1-3 site with outline permission, but is not shown for development; we have zoned this area for environmental protection as it is Scots pine bog woodland.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	+/-	Same as above; the E2 bog woodland is a priority habitat, the type being listed in the EC Habitats Directive Annexe 1. The improved grassland and H1 wooded areas will be lost.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	+/-	The H1 proposal will significantly alter the integrity of the ecosystems in the area, but this will be partly balanced by protecting E2.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	0	The proposals are unlikely to lead to any detrimental effects on waterbodies; as 3 above.
5. To maintain	0	The H1-3 proposal may significantly alter the integrity of

catchment processes & hydrological systems.		the hydrological systems in the area, but this will be partly balanced by protecting E2. The continued integrity will be addressed by the SUDS design.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	-	The field in the northern quarter of site H1 has been identified as having some capacity to absorb housing development; otherwise a large part of Carr-Bridge's woodland setting will be lost. The scale of the H1-3 development will potentially be overwhelming to the existing character of the village.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	-	Housing site H1 is currently used for informal recreation so there may be a substantial loss to the local paths network.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	The housing sites are located in or on the edge of a settlement with some services and access to a bus and rail service.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	-	The sites are currently used for grazing and forestry on the edge of a settlement.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	The proposed zonings do not alter the sites or settings of any known historic sites or landscapes.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The proposals will help support a population in Carr-Bridge.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan (Policy 37 of plan is relevant)
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The housing proposals for sites H1-3, which have existing outline planning permission, will make a significant impact on the ecology, landscape and amenity of Carr-Bridge, particularly H1 which is mostly mature Scots pine woodland. Otherwise there are no other significant impacts on the settlement of Carr-Bridge.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>The determination of the detailed planning application for the H1-3 & E2 site will be an opportunity to mitigate against the impacts listed above. The most ecologically valuable areas and specimens should be protected, and there should be a continuity of the mature wooded habitat of E2 into the surrounding countryside. The existing network of paths should be retained and expanded for all users.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
4. Cromdale & Balmenach		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The proposals for Cromdale aim to provide scope for additional housing in the area and to protect areas of ground that are valued by the community or important to the National Park's heritage.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
Most of the sites zoned reflect the current zoning within the Badenoch & Strathspey Local Plan. Site E1, including the site of the old sawmill has been suggested as an area that should be protected from development.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	0	No priority species or their habitats have been identified in or adjacent to any areas zoned for development.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	0/+	Site E1 will protect an area that has been recorded in the ancient woodland inventory. Otherwise, no important habitats have been identified on zoned sites.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	0/+	Same as above. Also, none of the zoned sites are considered likely to restrict native species movement in the area.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	0	The proposals are considered unlikely to lead to any negative effects on waterbody status.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	0	None of the proposals are considered likely to increase flood risks or increase pollution risks.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character	0/+	The sites proposed for housing development have been identified as having capacity to absorb housing in landscape terms. The study identified other sites and suggested that a comprehensive masterplan for Cromdale could encourage development that would

of the Park		enhance the appearance of the village.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0	It is not considered that the proposals will lead to any significant loss of informal or formal access opportunities.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0/+	The housing proposals are situated within an existing settlement by a trunk road with public bus routes.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	0/?	The proposals for development are on semi improved grassland and heath that is grazed. They are considered to be of relatively low agricultural value
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	There are no known archaeological or other historic environment features that would be affected by the proposals.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The proposals for Cromdale should allow for housing to help maintain a sustainable population.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	0/+	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan (Policy 37 of plan is relevant).
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The proposals for Cromdale and Balmenach are considered unlikely to have any significant negative environmental effects.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are required.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
5. Dalwhinnie		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>Dalwhinnie has seen very little new development over the past 10 years.</p> <p>4.08 Ha on 7 different small plots has been allocated for potential housing sites in this draft plan, some of which is possible future housing land. A proportion of these allocations may be designated specifically for 'affordable' or local needs housing only. H3/5/7 are currently zoned in the existing local plan; H4 and H7 have planning permission.</p> <p>All the other types of allocations are on sites of existing or similar use.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>Newtonmore is physically constrained by the railway line to the west, the Distillery to the north, the River Spey to the west and forest to the south. The structure of the settlement between these boundaries is open and dispersed, leaving plenty of scope for infill developments.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	0	Allocations for housing are on existing improved grassland which is generally grazed. There are no rare, threatened, or priority species known in these areas.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	0	There are no rare, threatened, or priority habitats known in these areas.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	0	There are no large area of land allocated for development, no significant loss of habitat or barriers to wildlife.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	0	All sites would require appropriate SUDS and are within areas served by public sewer systems (although there is currently no capacity), or comparable infrastructure. They would not result in deterioration of waterbody status.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	0	The proposed allocations are not considered likely to interfere with natural fluvial processes or change flood risk or pollution risk.
6. To maintain & enhance the	0	All the small sites are designed to consolidate the dispersed character of Dalwhinnie, although H6 is rather

distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park		linear in nature. The LCS suggested the northern part of E1 as a suitable housing site.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0	All sites are used for grazing/agriculture so there would be no significant change to informal access routes, and a positive contribution via the formation of new formal routes to access in the area.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	All sites are located within the existing settlement structure and so are reasonably close to existing services and public transport links, minimising the need to travel by car.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	0/-	All new sites are located on agricultural land.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	There are no known archaeological or other historic environment features that would be affected by the proposals.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	0	The proposals aim to support the current and future housing needs of the local population.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	0	All development should support this objective to comply with the general and topic policies in the Local Plan.
13. To reduce waste and pollution	0	All development should support this objective to comply with the general and topic policies in the Local Plan.
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	0	All development should support this objective to comply with the general and topic policies in the Local Plan.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>Proposals are unlikely to create any particularly positive or negative effects.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No change to proposals, on the basis of this SEA assessment.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
6. Dulnain Bridge and Skye of Curr		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>2 potential housing sites have been proposed in and around Dulnain Bridge, H1 is 1.5Ha and H2 is 1.3Ha; H2 already has outline planning permission for 10 houses. All of the allocations for other uses are either already in that use or similar uses. Notable within the settlement is the Heather Centre, a large tourism facility which incorporates a large area of pine forest as its natural setting.</p> <p>Skye of Curr is a long linear settlement who's form and pattern is indicative of a crofting township; infill sites may be available but any proposals should reflect the existing house positions and scale/spacing/density. Proposals should also be for single-house developments.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>Dulnain Bridge is located either side of the River Dulnain, and is surrounded by large areas of forest (much of which is Ancient Woodland Inventory). Both allocated sites are zoned within the existing local plan, but the areas have been reduced as they encroached upon the ancient woodland sites.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	0/-	There is a loss of some mature pine woodland in the south-east section of H1; the remainder of H1 and all of H2 are on improved grassland.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	0/-	The improved grassland and H1 wooded areas will be lost.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	0/-	The H1 proposal will slightly alter the integrity of the ecosystems in the area, and provide a barrier to movement.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	0	The proposals are unlikely to lead to any detrimental effects on waterbodies.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	0	The continued integrity of catchment processes & hydrological systems will not be adversely affected by the allocations, and will be addressed by the SUDS design.
6. To maintain &	+	Site H1 has been identified as having some capacity to

enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park		absorb housing development; H2 has no identified constraints and may contribute to the character of the village.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0/-	There may be a loss of some informal access but both areas are mainly used for grazing.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	The housing sites are located in or on the edge of a settlement with some services and access to a bus service.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	-	The sites are currently used for grazing and forestry on the edge of a settlement.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	The proposed zonings do not alter the sites or settings of any known historic sites or landscapes. Skye of Curr is a linear crafting township where infill may be possible; development proposals need to reflect the existing settlement pattern.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The proposals will help support a population in Dulnain Bridge.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan (Policy 37 of plan is relevant)
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>There are no significant predicted negative environmental effects.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes are required.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
7. Grantown on Spey		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>2 potential areas are allocated for housing: H1 has 7 individual plot areas which cover 11.83Ha (this does not include the 'green-breaks' between them); H2 has 2 plots which cover 2.57Ha, making a total of 14.4Ha for housing. All of these sites were zoned within the existing local plan. A number of other sites that are allocated in the current Badenoch & Strathspey Local Plan have been omitted from this Plan as they were on ecologically more sensitive areas.</p> <p>All of the allocations for other uses are either already in that use or similar uses. Notable within the settlement is the considerable existing area for business, on two industrial estates.</p> <p>The Speybridge group is included within the Grantown settlement, but has its own settlement boundary, within which there is no specific zoning.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>Grantown is surrounded by large areas of forest (much of which is Ancient Woodland Inventory) and is further constrained by the old railway line embankment to the north and west, and the golf course to the east. This effectively limits where new housing can be located, and future sites will be severely restricted in size. Both allocated sites are zoned within the existing local plan, but the areas have been significantly reduced as they encroached upon environmentally sensitive areas.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	-	<p>Most of the proposed allocations of H1 are on improved grassland and have been identified in order to attempt to avoid an area of unimproved grassland, wetland and semi-natural woodland located around site E1. At the time of assessment, doubts about the extent of the area that should be protected (E1) have emerged, and a need for further survey of the site has been identified. It is thought that the area intended to be protected by E1 extends to a larger area than currently proposed. The H1 proposals are currently considered likely to lead to a significant potential loss in habitat and species.</p> <p>Proposal sites H2 are species-rich grassland that are also a locally valuable wader habitat. Mature Aspen on the site are known to have a recently discovered aspen bracket fungus.</p>
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	-	<p>Most of the proposed allocations of H1 are on improved grassland and have been identified in order to attempt to avoid an are of unimproved grassland, wetland and</p>

		<p>semi-natural woodland located around site E1. At the time of assessment, doubts about the extent of the area that should be protected (E1) have emerged, and a need for further survey of the site has been identified. It is thought that the area intended to be covered by E1 extends further to the north east than currently proposed. The H1 proposals are currently considered likely to lead to a significant potential loss in habitat and species.</p> <p>Proposal sites H2 are species-rich grassland that are also a locally valuable wader habitat. Mature Aspen on the site are known to have a recently discovered aspen bracket fungus.</p>
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	-	The loss of the H1 wooded plot will slightly alter the integrity of the ecosystems in the area, but this will be partly balanced by the 'wildlife corridors which will separate the individual plots.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	0	The proposals are considered unlikely to lead to any significant detrimental effects on waterbodies.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	0/-	The continued integrity of catchment processes & hydrological systems may be adversely affected by the allocations as both areas of allocation are boggy and susceptible to flooding; this will be addressed by the SUDS design.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	+	Sites H1 and H2 have been identified as having some capacity to absorb housing development in the landscape capacity study.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0/+	There may be a loss of some informal access but there will be a significant increase of formalised paths.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	The housing sites are located in or on the edge of a settlement with services and access to a bus service.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	-	The sites are currently used for grazing (and some woodland) on the edge of a settlement.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	The proposed zonings do not alter the sites or settings of any known historic sites or landscapes. The H1 sites are on a linear field pattern system, which should be mirrored by the breaks between housing blocks and housing layouts.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The proposals will help to support a population in Grantown.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality	0	The potentially large area of new housing must be carefully planned and designed to respect and contribute

of the built environment	to the quality of Grantown's built environment.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>In their current form, the H1 proposals are considered likely to have a significant adverse effect in terms of loss of a network of habitats and associated species. The site E1 was intended to protect this network, but more detailed survey of the site will be required to identify the extent of the most sensitive and uncommon habitats and species.</p> <p>The two H2 sites are located on species rich grassland that are of value to breeding waders and also have mature aspen and a recently discovered aspen bracket fungus. The loss of these areas would reduce the available habitat for breeding waders in the area and could lead to loss on the site of an infrequent and potentially rare aspen bracket fungus.</p>	
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>The H1 proposals were intended to avoid the valuable habitats on the site, and site E1 was intended to protect them. Further survey of the site is required in order to identify the areas more accurately, and it this will be carried out during the preparation of the next draft of the Local Plan. The proposals for H2 highlight that further survey work will be required. This will be used to asses the value of the sites for breeding waders and the sensitivity of the aspen and associated bracket fungus.</p>	

Policy/Proposal		
8. Kincaig		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>Kincaig has seen very little development over the past 10 years, despite significant housing allocations in the existing local plan, however at the time of this assessment a scheme of 26 houses was being developed for private sale. Housing site H1 also has planning permissions for further development.</p> <p>10Ha on 6 different plots has been allocated for potential housing sites in this draft plan, half of which is possible future housing land. A proportion of these allocations may be designated specifically for 'affordable' or local needs housing only.</p> <p>All of the other types of allocations are on sites where that proposed use is existing or similar.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>Kincaig is physically constrained by Loch Insh and the River Spey to the east, and the A9 trunk road and B9152 to the west. To the north and south the existing settlement is bounded by semi-natural and ancient woodland inventory sites.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	0/-	<p>Allocations for housing are on existing improved grassland which is used for grazing.</p> <p>The southern half of site H4 (and the neighbouring associated C2 allocation) contains a wetland area that would be of limited development value, but could be appropriately managed through agreement and sensitive development and SUDs of the northern half of H4.</p> <p>A small section of site H5 is covered by a site recorded in the semi-natural ancient woodland inventory.</p>
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	0/-	<p>Allocations for housing are on existing improved grassland which is used for grazing.</p> <p>The southern half of site H4 (and the neighbouring associated C2 allocation) contains a wetland area that would be of limited development value, but could be appropriately managed through agreement and sensitive development and SUDs of the northern half of H4.</p> <p>A small section of site H5 is covered by a site recorded in the semi-natural ancient woodland inventory.</p>

3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	0/-	The current development taking place at Kincaig, combined with site H4, is likely to lead to a loss in integrity of the wetland area.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	0/-	There will be an impact on the wetland area on the site E3/H4. All sites would require appropriate SUDS and are within areas served by public sewer systems.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	-	There will be an impact on the wetland area on the site E3/H4.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	--	No sites have a clear capacity to absorb housing in the landscape in Kincaig. Sites H2 & H3, between the B9152 and A9 roads are zoned for long-term housing but would have the greatest immediate impact on the landscape character, and disrupt views towards the Monadhliath Mountains. Sites H4 and H5 , in combination with the current development taking place, will extend the urban area of Kincaig to the north, significantly changing the character of the settlement..
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0	All sites are used for grazing so there would be no significant change to informal access routes, and a positive contribution via the formation of new formal routes to access in the area.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	All sites are located close to existing services and public transport links, minimising the need to travel by car.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	0/-	All new sites are located on agricultural land, apart from H5 which is partly wooded.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	There are no known archaeological or other historic environment features that would be affected by the proposals.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	0	The proposals aim to support the current and future housing needs of the local population.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	0	All development should support this objective to comply with the general and topic policies in the Local Plan.
13. To reduce waste and pollution	0	All development should support this objective to comply with the general and topic policies in the Local Plan.
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	0	All development should support this objective to comply with the general and topic policies in the Local Plan.

Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.

The proposals for Kincaig are considered to have potential to lead to a loss or disturbance to a locally valuable wetland area that could be managed to maintain and enhance its value.

All the proposals will contribute to changes to the settlement character of Kincaig, but sites H2 and H3 between the B9152 and A9 roads would have a significant effect on the character of Kincaig, its landscape setting and visual amenity.

Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.

Site H4/C2 would be required to incorporate the area of wetland, and a SUDS scheme to support it at the time of application.

Sites H2 and H3 could be removed. However, a search for future housing sites attached to the existing settlement could only identify sites within areas of the surrounding ancient woodland inventory sites.

Policy/Proposal		
9 Kingussie		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The proposals for Kingussie are intended to support Kingussie's position as the main centre of Badenoch. The proposals for housing land are intended to provide scope for the growth of Kingussie to maintain a population capable of supporting Kingussie's services.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>The proposals for Kingussie are dominated by housing land proposals to the north east of the town (14.5Ha). These allocations have been taken forward from the Badenoch & Strathspey Local Plan. There are few alternative sites for housing land around Kingussie. It is constrained by both the river Spey flood plain to the south and in some areas by the steep valley slopes.</p> <p>The consultative draft Local Plan has not continued to propose areas of housing land to the west of the town that border an area identified in the ancient woodland inventory. The land in this location is on relatively steep slopes and has semi-natural mixed woodland that provides a rich ecological resource as well as an attractive backdrop to this part of Kingussie.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	0	The proposed allocations for development are considered unlikely to affect any priority species. The improved grassland fields used by sites H1-H4 and FH1 & FH2 are not considered likely to be important for breeding waders as their location close to the town means they are likely to be subject to frequent disturbance. Fields closer to and on the floodplain are considered to be important for breeding waders.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	0	The proposed allocations for development are considered unlikely to affect any priority habitats. The improved grassland fields used by sites H1-H4 and FH1 & FH2 are not considered likely to be important for breeding waders as their location close to the town means they are likely to be subject to frequent disturbance. Fields closer to and on the floodplain are considered to be important for breeding waders
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	0	The proposed allocations are unlikely to lead a significant fragmentation of habitats or create barriers to native species movement.
4. To protect and where appropriate	0	The proposals are considered unlikely to lead to a significant change in water quality. Development would

improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area		only be permitted with appropriate waste water treatment facilities provided.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	0	The proposals are unlikely to lead to increased flood or pollution risks. There are some concerns over water infrastructure capacity from Loch Einich.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	0	The proposed allocations have been located in areas that have been identified as having the greatest capacity to absorb housing development.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0	The proposals are considered unlikely to lead to a significant reduction in access opportunities.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	The housing sites are located on the edge of Kingussie.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	0/?	The housing proposal sites are on improved grassland.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	There are no known archaeological or other historic environment features that would be affected by the proposals.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The proposal for housing land may contribute to the housing needs of local communities.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	+/?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan (Policy 37 of plan is relevant)
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The proposals for Kingussie are considered unlikely to have any significant environmental effects.</p> <p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes.</p>		

Policy/Proposal

10. Laggan Bridge, Gergask and Balgowan

Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.

The Laggan area, including Laggan Bridge and Gergask, Balgowan, Cat Lodge and Strathmashie has dispersed settlement of historic farms and crofts with small groups of properties.

The proposals for Laggan Bridge and Gergask are intended to consolidate the settlement's status as the community's focal point with the local shop, health centre and community hall all located there.

Balgowan is a historic crofting community, set attractively above the main road and with a clear local character. The settlement boundary around Balgowan is intended to permit infill development that reflects the historical character of development in order to maintain its special qualities.

Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.

Only one proposal, H1 is for a new use of land. Otherwise, the zoned areas in Gergask and Laggan Bridge are to retain existing uses as community and amenity land.

The Local Plan has not zoned significant areas of land specific uses in the wider area as the character of settlement and activity is dispersed over the area. Instead, the policies of the Local Plan will be used to assess proposals for development in the area.

Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.

Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	0	The proposals are considered unlikely to affect any priority species
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	0	The proposals will not affect any priority habitats
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	0	The proposals are considered unlikely to have any significant effects on native species movement
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	0	The proposals are considered unlikely to have any significant adverse effects on water quality and developments would require appropriate SUDs to comply with Local Plan policies.

5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	0	Gergask is located on the edge of the river Spey's floodplain. Proposal H1 is located on sloping ground above the floodplain and much of Gergask, and is not considered likely to increase flood risks in the area or interfere with natural fluvial processes.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	-	There are no sites around Gergask and laggan brideg where housing development would not lead to a significant change in the landscape. Housing site proposal H1 is located west of the Gergask Burn that forms a strong edge to the existing settlement. However, residential building has already occurred to the north of the road here, and in the western end of H1.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0	The proposals will not significantly alter opportunities for formal or informal access.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	The proposals would not lead to any significant changes in air quality.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	0	Site H1 is improved grassland.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	There are no known archaeological or other historic environment features that would be affected by the proposals.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	0/+	The proposals provide for some additional housing
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	+/?/-	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan (Policy 37 of plan is relevant) The development of proposal site H1 is likely to lead to changes in the character of Gergask. The settlement boundary around Balgowan is intended to support the existing character of the settlement.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The proposals for the Laggan area are considered likely to have negative effects on the landscape character at the western edge of Gergask.</p>		

Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.

Proposal H1 is considered likely to result in changes to the landscape character and urban character of Gergask.

Two options are available for the site:

- 1) site H1 is removed from the next draft of the Local Plan; or
- 2) the development of the site is designed to minimise landscape impacts through siting of houses and boundary treatment.

Policy/Proposal		
11. Nethy Bridge		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>Only proposed allocations for housing development at Nethy Bridge are likely to change the current use of land.</p> <p>3 potential areas are allocated for housing: H1 is a 0.47Ha site between 2 existing groups of housing; H2 and H3 are part of the same development site (as is B1, which is zoned for light business, and will be considered as part of H2&H3 for the purposes of this assessment). H2 covers 4.83Ha and H3 1.73Ha, making a total of 7.03Ha for Nethy Bridge. B1 covers 0.76Ha. The site incorporating H2, H3 & B1 currently has outline planning permission (pending the signing of a Section 75 Agreement). All of these sites were zoned within the existing local plan, from which many others have been deleted from this Plan as they were on environmentally sensitive areas or were outside our defined settlement boundary.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>Nethy Bridge is surrounded by large areas of forest (much of which is Ancient Woodland Inventory) and is further constrained by the golf course to the north and open farmland to the west. This effectively limits where new housing can be located, and future sites will be expanding the boundary of Nethy Bridge in linear directions instead of consolidating it. All allocated sites are zoned within the existing local plan, but the areas have been significantly reduced as they encroached upon environmentally sensitive areas or did not consolidate the village structure as we have defined it.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	-	Allocation H1 is on the site of improved grassland. Allocations H2, H3 & B1 cover an extensive area of pine plantation which is Ancient Woodland Inventory.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	--	The improved grassland and wooded areas will be lost, the latter representing a significant loss of habitat.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	--	The loss of the H2, H3 & B1 wooded plot will significantly alter the integrity of the ecosystems in the area, but this will be partly balanced by the 'wildlife corridors' which will separate the individual plots.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	0	The proposals are unlikely to lead to any detrimental effects on waterbodies.
5. To maintain	0/-	The continued integrity of catchment processes &

catchment processes & hydrological systems.		hydrological systems are unlikely to be significantly affected by the allocations; this will be addressed by the SUDS design.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	--	Site H1 has been identified as having some capacity to absorb housing development in the landscape capacity study. Sites H2, H3 & B1 will cause a significant loss of woodland which provides the backdrop and setting to Nethy Bridge.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	-	There will be a significant loss of informal access as the H2, H3 & B1 woodland site is heavily used for public amenity, and a net loss to the path network within Nethy Bridge.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	The housing sites are located in or on the edge of a settlement with services and access to a bus service.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	-	The sites are currently used for grazing, amenity and forestry on the edge of a settlement.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	The proposed zonings do not alter the sites or settings of any known historic sites or landscapes.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The proposals will help to support a population in Nethy Bridge.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	0	The potentially large area of new housing must be carefully planned and designed to respect and contribute to the quality of Nethy Bridge's built environment. Mature trees should be retained wherever possible to maintain the wooded character of the village.

Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.

Sites H2, H3 & B1 have outline planning permission (pending the signing of a section 75 agreement) for 40 houses and a business unit. These sites are located on a site recorded in the ancient woodland inventory and a habitat with potential to support the Capercaillie population using the network of SPAs in the area. The loss of these sites to development is therefore considered to be a significant effect in terms of loss of habitat and reduction in potential habitat for a species protected by Natura sites. The proposals provide some mitigation against loss of continuity of habitats by providing corridors of woodland between settlements.

The proposal sites H2, H3 & B1 are also considered likely to have significant effects on the local landscape and settlement character of Nethy Bridge.

Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.

As the sites that are considered likely to have significant adverse effects on the ecology and character of the area already have outline planning permission, mitigation of effects could only occur when a detailed planning application is made. It will be important that effects on the woodland are minimised through careful positioning of house plots, tree retention and re-planting.

Policy/Proposal		
12. Newtonmore		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>Newtonmore has seen very little development over the past 10 years, despite significant housing allocations in the existing local plan.</p> <p>10Ha on 7 different plots has been allocated for potential housing sites in this draft plan, some of which is possible future housing land. A proportion of these allocations may be designated specifically for 'affordable' or local needs housing only. All of these housing sites are currently zoned in the existing local plan, although the new Local Plan will not be zoning as much as the existing currently does.</p> <p>All the other allocations are on sites of existing use, apart from B2 which is a small extension of an existing business site, and shall be considered as part of site H1 for this assessment.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>Newtonmore is physically constrained by the steep hillsides to the north, the River Spey floodplain and railway-line embankment to the south-east, and effectively 'stopped' by the Highland Folk Museum to the north-east. This leaves the flat fields to the south-west as the only significant building sites for the future.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	0	Allocations for housing (H1 and H2) are on existing improved grassland which is heavily grazed. There are no rare, threatened, or priority species known in these areas.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	0	There are no rare, threatened, or priority habitats known in these areas.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	0/-	There is a large area of land allocated for development, however wildlife corridors are being created between blocks of housing/business.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	0	All sites would require appropriate SUDS and are within areas served by public sewer systems (although there is currently no capacity), or comparable infrastructure. They would not result in deterioration of waterbody status.
5. To maintain catchment processes &	0/-	All allocations are effectively on the River Spey floodplain but are not thought to be at risk from regular flooding. Proposals in the two H2 sites closest to the

hydrological systems.		<p>railway are thought not to be vulnerable to more regular flooding, partly because the railway embankment prevents flood plain operation. However, these areas, and the existing sites C2 and B1 may be susceptible to flooding via an underpass of the railway embankment.</p> <p>In spite of this, it is not thought that developing these sites would result in a significant change to the function of the flood plain as it is already modified by the railway line and the existing development at the industrial estate and station.</p>
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	--	No sites have a clear capacity to absorb housing in the landscape in Newtonmore. The development of all the proposed sites will have a significant effect on the character of the town and landscape. Development of sites H1 and H2 would significantly alter the well defined settlement edge, and particularly the setting of the raised wooded area with villas.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0	All sites are used for grazing/agriculture so there would be no significant change to informal access routes, and a positive contribution via the formation of new formal routes to access in the area.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	All sites are located close to existing services and public transport links, minimising the need to travel by car.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	0/-/?	All new sites are located on agricultural land.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	There are no known archaeological or other historic environment features that would be affected by the proposals.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	0	The proposals aim to support the current and future housing needs of the local population.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	0	All development should support this objective to comply with the general and topic policies in the Local Plan.
13. To reduce waste and pollution	0	All development should support this objective to comply with the general and topic policies in the Local Plan.
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	-	There will be a possible negative impact on the raised wooded area of housing which is a distinctive part of the Newtonmore townscape.
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>Development of the allocated sites H1, H2 and B2 will result in a significant change to the landscape and settlement character of the south-western edge of Newtonmore.</p>		

Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.

Clear boundary treatment and planting should be designed for the new SE and SW outer-edge of these allocations, to create a defined settlement edge which also sits well within the landscape. The setting of the raised wooded housing area should be given special consideration.

Policy/Proposal		
13. Rothiemurchus & Glenmore		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The proposals for Rothiemurchus and Glenmore, based around Inverdrue and Coylumbridge, are intended to consolidate opportunities for local affordable housing, business development and community spaces.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>Most of the zoned areas within the plan are for existing uses for sites that already have planning permission. The new proposals are for sites C2 and H2.</p> <p>C2 has been allocated for community use to allow a new church hall to be built in the Grounds of St John's Scottish Episcopal Church.</p> <p>Site H2 (1.4Ha) was originally suggested by the local community as a potential alternative location for an affordable housing development planned for a site opposite Dellmhor. The original site is now the subject of planning application (marked LA1 on the local plan map).</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	-	<p>Only one proposal site, H2, is considered to have priority species or habitats. H2 is the site of a former sawmill but has been abandoned for a number of years and now has a woodland cover of regenerating scots pine, birch and juniper (a UK priority species) with a heather and blueberry understorey. The habitat is likely to support a number of locally and nationally important species.</p> <p>Site H2 is located on the edge of the North Rothiemurchus woods SSSI, which also forms part of the Cairngorms SPA and SAC. The site also forms part of a mosaic of habitats in the area including acid grassland, open heath and a range of other woodland habitats which may be used by priority or protected species from the other designated areas.</p>
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	-	<p>H2 is the site of a former sawmill but has been abandoned for a number of years and now has a woodland cover of regenerating scots pine, birch and juniper with a heather and blueberry understorey.</p> <p>Site H2 is a biologically diverse habitat that is located on the edge of the North Rothiemurchus woods SSSI, which also forms part of the Cairngorms SPA and SAC.</p>

		The site also forms part of a mosaic of habitats in the area including acid grassland, open heath and a range of other woodland habitats. The loss of the site would reduce the collective value of the habitats
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	-	The loss of H2 would lead to a some fragmentation of habitats in the area.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	0	It is considered unlikely that any of the proposals for Inverdrue and Coylumbridge area would lead to a reduction in water quality or have significant downstream impacts.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	0	None of the proposals are considered likely to increase pollution risks or flood risks. None of the proposals interfere significantly with natural fluvial processes.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	-	No sites in the Inverdrue are have been identified as having capacity to absorb development. The development of site H2 would result in a significant change in the local landscape character by introducing housing into an area of semi-natural habitat. Proposals in Inverdrue are for developments that make use of local timber products and architectural styles in order to minimise changes in character. The sites proposed for Coylumbridge have been identified as having capacity for housing development.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0/-	Only the development of site H2 would lead to a significant change in the informal access opportunities. The area has one track and links into a network of paths and tracks around Rothiemurchus.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	It is considered unlikely that the development of any proposal sites would lead to significant changes in air quality, although H2 is located off the the main public transport route.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	0/-	Only the development of site H2 is likely to result in a significant change of use of land. As a naturally regenerating woodland area, its value is principally as an ecological and recreational resource. The site could be used for farming or forestry.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	There are no known archaeological or other historic environment features that would be affected by the proposals.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	0/+	The proposals, particularly H2, could provide housing for local needs.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan

14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan (Policy 37 of plan is relevant)
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>Of the proposals that do not already have planning permission, only H2 is likely to result in significant negative effects on the environment. The site provides a habitat and range of species that make it valuable, and its location close to designated areas means that it has potential to be used by the protected species from those areas. Development of the site would also have a significant impact on local landscape character.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>Site H2 was proposed as an alternative site for affordable housing planned for site LA1. The development of site LA1 would also have a significant local landscape impact, but it is situated on more recently disturbed ground including reseeded grassland that is of lower ecological value than site H2.</p> <p>Site H2 should be deleted from the next draft of the Local Plan, and if affordable housing remains a requirement for the area, then the application site LA1 should be zoned for housing.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
14. Glenlivet		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The proposals for the settlements of Glenlivet are designed to consolidate development in the villages.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
The population of the area is dispersed over farms and scattered houses in the countryside, and no clear requirement for housing land or land for businesses has been identified. It is likely that development proposals in the area will often be on areas not included in the settlement boundaries so will be assessed against the Local Plan's policies.		
Other than the drawing of settlement boundaries around the four main villages of the area, two amenity play areas have been identified to be protected from development.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	0	The Local Plan's proposals are unlikely to affect this objective.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	0	The Local Plan's proposals are unlikely to affect this objective.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	0	The Local Plan's proposals are unlikely to affect this objective.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	0	The Local Plan's proposals are unlikely to affect this objective.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	0	The Local Plan's proposals are unlikely to affect this objective.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive	0	The Local Plan's proposals are unlikely to affect this objective.

landscape and cultural character of the Park		
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0	The Local Plan's proposals are unlikely to affect this objective.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	The Local Plan's proposals are unlikely to affect this objective.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	0	The Local Plan's proposals are unlikely to affect this objective.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	The Local Plan's proposals are unlikely to affect this objective.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	0/-/?	It is not clear whether the Local Plan will affect this objective through not zoning sites for housing.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan (Policy 37 of plan is relevant).
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The Local Plan makes no significant proposals for Glenlivet. It is not clear whether the Local Plan will contribute to a loss of population in the future through an absence of firm housing land proposals.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>Detailed assessment of local housing needs may identify a clearer need for housing land.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
15. Tomintoul		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The proposals for Tomintoul are intended to support Tomintoul's position as the main centre of southern Moray. The proposals for housing land are intended to provide scope for the growth of Tomintoul to maintain a population capable of supporting Tomintoul's services. Tomintoul has experienced regular incremental growth of housing over the past 10 years, but little economic growth outwith tourism.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>The proposals for Tomintoul are designed to reinforce the planned-village structure of the existing layout, which is an elongated regular grid. 4 sites for housing (2 short and 2 long-term) are allocated in this draft plan, consolidated gaps in the village structure: H1 has 1.06Ha; H2 has 0.52Ha; H3 has 1.27Ha; and H4 has 0.67Ha, making 3.52Ha in total. Allocations H1&2 are already partly developed/have planning permissions for individual sites.</p> <p>All other allocations are on sites of existing or similar useage, except for T1 and T2; these are alternative locations for a new campsite, who's impact would be similar to those below for housing.</p> <p>The village sits exposed on a plateau, and any development must take account of this open position in the landscape, and within the regular grid of the townscape.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	0	The proposed allocations for development are considered unlikely to affect any priority species. The allocated sites for H1-H4 are on improved grassland which are generally used for grazing.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	0	The proposed allocations for development are considered unlikely to affect any priority habitats. The improved grassland fields used by sites H1-H4 have relatively low habitat value.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	0	The proposed allocations are unlikely to lead to a significant fragmentation of habitats or create barriers to native species movement.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms	0	The proposals are considered unlikely to lead to a significant change in water quality. Development would only be permitted with appropriate waste water treatment facilities provided.

National Park area		
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	0	The proposals are unlikely to lead to increased flood or pollution risks.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	0/+	The proposed allocations H2 and H3 have been located in areas that have been identified as having the greatest capacity to absorb housing development.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0	The proposals are considered unlikely to lead to a significant reduction in access opportunities.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	The housing sites are located on the edge of Tomintoul.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	0	The housing proposal sites are on improved grassland with a resultant loss of lower quality agricultural land.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	There are no known archaeological or other historic environment features that would be affected by the proposals.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The proposal for housing land may contribute to the housing needs of local communities.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	0/?	Allocations are on the edge of the village, close to existing local services. Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan.
13. To reduce waste and pollution	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	+	The proposals for housing development will consolidate and maintain the planned-village structure. Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan (Policy 37 of plan is relevant).
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The proposals for Tomintoul are considered unlikely to have any significant environmental effects.</p> <p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
16. Dinnet		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The proposals for Dinnet are designed to allow Dinnet to grow in the future. 3.72Ha of land has been suggested for housing development over the 15 years after the Local Plan is adopted.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>With the exception of the housing proposals for Dinnet, all the remaining allocations and proposals retain existing uses of sites. The decision to propose housing development is based on a desire to maintain a thriving community in Dinnet and to support the continued availability of affordable housing in the area. The chosen site for the proposals appears to offer the best combination of safe road access from the B9138, screening from the A93 and proximity to waste water treatment facilities. To the north of the A93, opportunities are constrained by the Muir of Dinnet NNR, SSSI and a tributary section of the river Dee SAC.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	0/-	The only change in use of an area proposed within the Local Plan would be the loss of 3.72 Ha of mixed woodland to a housing development over a 15 year period. This woodland is a combination of mature plantation and self seeded woodland that is likely to support a range of plant and animal species characteristic of the Cairngorms area. However, the woodland loss would be only a fragment of the habitat present in the local area, and is not known to be a particularly fine example.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	0/-	Same as above
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	0/-	Same as above. The proposed gradual loss of the woodland habitat in the area is unlikely to lead to significant change in the ecosystems around Dinnet.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the	0	There are no areas zoned for any use that are likely to result in any changes in waterbody status.

Cairngorms National Park area		
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	0	Proposed zoning is not thought likely to interfere with natural fluvial process or change flood risks or pollution risks.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	0/-	The proposed new housing sites will lead to limited change in the local landscape. However, the area would be screened from many areas by surrounding woodland, and is unlikely to be visually prominent. Part of the area zoned for housing has been identified as having the greatest capacity for housing development in the Dinnet area.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0	The development of the housing sites would lead to the loss of some informal access opportunities, but would also create additional formal opportunities.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	The proposed housing sites are close to the main public transport link in the area.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	?	Approx 75% of the proposed housing allocation is currently mature plantation woodland, with the remainder being self-sown pine and birch woodland. The proposed loss would not compromise the continued use of surrounding areas.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	The proposed zonings do not alter the sites or settings of any known historic sites or landscapes.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The proposed housing sites would support both the current population and some growth of the population in the area.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The proposals for Dinnet will lead to relatively few changes in the local area. Only the proposed housing sites will lead to significant changes in use or loss of land to development. The proposals would involve the retention of as many trees as possible, but will lead to a loss of habitat and likely displacement of some species in the local area. The loss of these areas of habitat is not considered significant in the context of the local area where each habitat is abundant.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No change to proposals.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
17. Donside		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
The proposals for Donside are relatively limited and are designed to consolidate existing settlement within the area.		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
The only firm proposals in the area are for a tourist related development at Poldhullie, west of the Doune of Invernochty (previously proposed in the Aberdeenshire Local Plan), and for the retention of business use at the garage site at Roughpark. Otherwise, Roughpark, Poldhullie and Corgarff all have areas that could be suitable for infill housing development.		
Without a clear picture of the housing needs for the area, no specific housing proposals have been considered. The area's dispersed character means that appropriately sited and designed proposals could be located in a wide range of locations outside of the settlements as long as they comply with the policies within the Local Plan.		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	0	No significant effects are considered likely to arise from the proposals.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	0	The proposals for a tourist development at Poldhullie are on an area of improved grassland and commercial spruce forestry plantation.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	0	The proposals will not significantly effect ecosystems of species movement.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	0	The proposals are considered unlikely to have any significant adverse impacts on waterbody status.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	0	The proposals are considered unlikely to have any significant adverse impacts on waterbody status.
6. To maintain &	0/-	Tourist development proposal T1 at Poldhullie is located

enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park		on a site that has been identified as having the greatest capacity locally to absorb housing development. Although the proposals are not for housing development, the site is visually contained by the forest backdrop and is unlikely to create a significant negative change in landscape character.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0	The proposals are considered unlikely to significantly reduce informal or formal access opportunities in the area. Proposal T1 may create additional opportunities for recreation.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	The proposals are unlikely to lead to any significant reduction in air quality. The proposals are at the end of a public bus route.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	0/-	Proposal T1 is located on improved pasture and commercial forestry, both locally abundant.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0/-	Proposal T1 is located beside the Doune of Invernocht, a scheduled ancient monument of national importance. Proposal T1 must be designed to avoid significant negative changes to the setting of the Doune, and this has been noted in the Local Plan.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	0/-/?	The proposals do not specifically incorporate provision of housing land – although infill opportunities within the settlements could contribute to housing for the local population. It is possible that an absence of firm housing land sites could contribute to a loss of population.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan (Policy 37 of plan is relevant)
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The proposals for Donside are considered unlikely to have any significant adverse environmental effects.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No modification or mitigation is suggested. Detailed assessment of local housing needs may identify a clearer need for housing land.</p>		

Policy/Proposal

18a. Braemar Housing Allocations

Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.

5 potential housing sites totalling have been proposed in and around Braemar, ranging in size from 0.12Ha to 1.77Ha and coming to 4.63Ha in total. The main aim of the allocations is to provide opportunities for the development of affordable and local needs housing in Braemar. The two largest housing allocations at H1 and H2 have been proposed through the recent Aberdeenshire Local Plan ALP and site H1 has outline planning consent with an approved site layout and number of plots.

Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.

Braemar is located within the Deeside and Lochnagar NSA, and is bordered by the river Dee SAC, including the river Clunie, as well as Morrone Birkwood SSSI to the south and a range of ancient and semi-natural woodland inventory sites to the west, south and east. Many areas of land within Braemar that might have scope for housing or other development are historically used for car parking for the Braemar Gathering and have a local economic and cultural association.

Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.

Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	0/-	(Approximately half of housing site H1 is on a site of ancient woodland of semi-natural origin) Site H2 and H4 are on improved grassland. Site H5 is semi-improved acid grassland, and site H3 is a built up area of old farm steadings and currently has a planning application for conversion to housing.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	0/-	Same as above
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	0	The proposals are unlikely to significantly alter the integrity of ecosystems in the area.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	0	The proposal are unlikely to lead to any detrimental effects on waterbodies.
5. To maintain catchment	0	No significant effects are predicted from any sites, although housing site H1 is though to sit on a damp are

processes & hydrological systems.		of ground that will be affected by the consented development.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	-	Housing site H2 is around 1.7 Ha in size and runs from and old river terrace at the edge of the current down down to the flood plain. The upper part of this area has been identified as having capacity to absorb new housing development as it would be on the same level as the existing settlement area. The lower part of the site on the flood plain would change the character of the area by introducing development into the wide flat floodplain.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0/-	Housing sites H4 and H5 are currently used for informal recreation on a regular basis. Site H2 is on grazed farmland and is unlikely to lead to a significant loss in access opportunities.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	The housing sites are located in or on the edge of a settlement with some services and access to a bus service.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	?	A site used for farming (mainly livestock) will be lost to housing.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	The proposed zonings do not alter the sites or settings of any known historic sites or landscapes.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The proposals will help support a population in Braemar.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan (Policy 37 of plan is relevant)
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The development of housing site H2 running to the flood plain is likely to lead a significant local change in the landscape and settlement character at the northern edge of Braemar, within the National Scenic Area.</p> <p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>The effects on landscape and settlement character around site H2 could be avoided by reducing the footprint of ground available for development to the level of the upper river terrace in the vicinity. However, this would dramatically reduce the number of housing units that could be built on the site and so alternative locations would need to be sought. The most appropriate mitigation is likely to be the agreement of a layout and extensive planting scheme that strengthens the edge of the settlement in that locality when an planning application is made.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
18b. Braemar Business, Tourism, Community & Environmental Allocations		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The proposals for business sites in Braemar are designed to offer additional space for workshop facilities for local trades and businesses.</p> <p>The tourism proposal is T1 is for an extension to the caravan park to the south of Braemar. It is envisaged that a significant area would be available for tents, partly to provide formal camping space in Braemar and partly to ease pressure from car camping beside the river Clunie to the south of Braemar and the golf course.</p> <p>The community sites C1 and C2 have been zoned to protect these areas from any development that would remove valuable local resources. Proposal site C3 has been identified by the local community as a potential site for a new medical centre.</p> <p>The environmental zoning protects some areas of open space and woodland within the village as these contribute to the character of Braemar.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>Only sites T1, B2, and C3 are proposed for new uses, on the edge of the village as there are few sites within the village. There are no clear alternatives for any of the zoned sites. The caravan site extension has been located to use existing facilities, the community medical centre site has been negotiated with a local landowner following a failure to purchase a different site within housing site H1. Business site B2 has been suggested beside a new water treatment works.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	0/-	No known rare or locally important species have been identified on the proposed sites. It is not considered that the development of the proposed sites would be likely to have detrimental effects on any priority species in surrounding areas.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	0/-	The proposals do not affect any known priority habitats, but site C3 is located on a damp flush area. That is ecologically more diverse than areas of more improved grassland lower on the flood plain.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	0/-	It is not considered that any of the proposals would create significant barriers to species movement or disrupt habitat networks.
4. To protect and	0/-/?	The proposals are unlikely to have detrimental effects on

where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area		waterbody status as they would require an appropriate assessment if any effects on the SAC were thought likely. The T1 proposal may help contribute to an improvement in waterbody status if it helps to reduce the numbers of people “car camping” south of Braemar.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	0	Proposals are unlikely to result in significant increase in additional flood or pollution risks. Proposals will not significantly alter existing natural fluvial processes
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	0/-	Assuming that the proposals for C3, B2, and T1 incorporate appropriate boundary treatment planting schemes, it is considered unlikely that any significant landscape impacts will arise.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0	The proposals are unlikely to lead to a significant change in formal or informal access opportunities
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	The proposals are unlikely to lead to a significant reduction in air quality.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	0	Most proposed allocation are an sites within the existing settlement. Sites T1 B2 & C3 will lead to a loss of some poor improved pasture and rough grazing.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	There are no known archaeological or other historic environment features that would be affected by the proposals.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	0/+	Provision of sites for businesses may encourage retention of population and provision of site for community health centre may support health of local population.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	0	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan (Policy 37 of plan is relevant)
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>There are no significant environmental effects predicted from the proposals.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>Site t1 for the caravan park extension may require an appropriate assessment to consider potential impacts on the river Dee SAC. The advice of SNH would be sought in the event of a planning application.</p>		

Policy/Proposal		
19a. Ballater: Housing Allocations		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>Ballater has grown significantly over the past ten years and most of the new housing has been for sale in the open market. A significant proportion of the new housing has been bought as second homes and there is a strong feeling within the Ballater community that these developments have not contributed sufficiently to the needs of the local community.</p> <p>0.84 Ha on three sites has been allocated for housing in the draft plan and 2.5-3 Ha has been suggested as possible future housing land. The three sites allocated for use during the Local Plan period have been suggested as for development as 'affordable' or local needs housing only, and would contribute around 20 units within the existing settlement of Ballater. In the longer term, it is likely that further housing land will be required, particularly for local needs and in the low cost rent sectors. The 2.5Ha of future housing land allocated is designed to provide future options for Ballater.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>Ballater is physically constrained by the river Dee to the east and south, by the golf course to the west and Craigendarroch to the north. The only significant areas of land that could be used for housing in the future lie to the north east of the existing town, in the region of the future housing FH1 allocation.</p> <p>Site H1 has historically been considered to allow for expansion of the business park close by. However, the existing business park site is not full, and is considered locally to be too expensive for lost local businesses to use. Additionally, the site is in Aberdeenshire Council's ownership and may offer a suitable site for affordable housing.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	0	Allocations for housing are on either existing improved grassland within the settlement of arable farmland on its margins. There are no rare, threatened, or priority species known in these areas.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	0	There are no rare, threatened, or priority habitats known in these areas.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	0	All the allocations are on heavily managed habitats within or on the edge of the settlement. The removal of those habitats on the allocated areas would modify large areas or create significant barriers to native species movement.
4. To protect and	0	The proposals would all require appropriate SUDS and

where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area		are within areas served by public sewage systems. They would not result in deterioration of waterbody status
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	-/?	All allocations are effectively on the river Dee floodplain, but are either within the existing settlement or surrounded on three sides. One site (H3) is thought to flood regularly as a historic river channel and would be likely to require land raising to support development. Further investigation of the suitability of the site and potential effects of development on surrounding areas is required.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	0/-	Allocations for housing within Ballater would not significantly alter landscape character. The future housing allocation FH1 would result in a change in landscape character and the visual appearance of Ballater but is located on ground considered to have the greatest capacity to absorb development around Ballater.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0	The loss of urban green spaces to site H1, H2 & H3 would lead to a small loss of informal access opportunities. However, of these sites, only H3 is thought to have regular use for recreation. The future housing site FH1 would be developed with additional formal and informal access routes and areas provided and would make a positive contribution to access in the area.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	All housing sites are located as close to existing services and public transport links as possible, minimising need to travel by private car.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	0/-	Site FH1 would lead to the loss of approx 2.5 Ha of agricultural land on the valley floor.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	There are no known archaeological or other historic environment features that would be affected by the proposals.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The proposals aim specifically to deliver housing for the local population's needs.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan (Policy 37 of plan is relevant)

Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.

The housing proposals for Ballater are considered unlikely to have any significant environmental effects on the Ballater area. Housing site H3 needs further investigation of possible flooding issues.

Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.

Housing site H3 needs further investigation of possible flooding issues.

Policy/Proposal		
19b. Ballater: Business, Tourism, Community & Environmental allocations.		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>The allocations and zoning for uses other than housing are designed to provide sites for business and tourist uses. The zonings for community uses are designed to ensure that the community have adequate spaces for recreation and enjoyment, while the character of the village, as well as locally valuable habitats and networks, are maintained through the protection of areas under the environmental zoning.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>The allocated sites are mostly for existing uses, with few changes suggested. One notable exception is the old Ballater School, site C1, for which there are now plans for the local community development company to manage as a community resource. The other clear changes in use are the proposals for community and environmental space associated with the future housing site FH1. The development of FH1 would require additional community space and informal recreation space.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	0/+	The environmental zoning in Ballater protects an area on woodland on a Ancient Woodland Inventory site. The environmental zoning also protects a range of green spaces and corridors within the town.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	0/+	Same as above.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	0/+	Same as above
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	0	There are no areas zoned for any use that are likely to result in any changes in waterbody status.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	0	Proposed zoning is not thought likely to interfere with natural fluvial process or change flood risks or pollution risks.

6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	0/+	Proposed zoning will not lead to any changes in landscape character and protection of areas of woodland and green corridors may help to maintain existing landscape character.
7. To ensure responsible access for all	+	The proposed allocations should preserve access and recreation opportunities. Future allocations are likely to improve access and recreation opportunities.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	None of the proposed allocations are likely to result in changes to air quality.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	0	The proposed allocations do not change the use of material assets, but do protect some areas from development.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	The proposed zonings do not alter the sites or settings of any known historic sites or landscapes.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	0	The proposed zonings protect community recreation spaces that can help sustain a healthy population, but will not in themselves make the population healthy.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
13. To reduce waste and pollution	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan.

Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.

The proposals support the protection of environmental assets within Ballater and are considered unlikely to result in any significant negative or positive environmental effects.

Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.

No changes to proposals.

Policy/Proposal		
20 Angus Glens - Clova settlement zone.		
Purpose of policy/proposals: what the policies/proposals are supposed to achieve and how.		
<p>In the 4 Angus Glens (Esk, Clova/Doll, Prosen and Isla) there is only one settlement boundary and no specific allocations. The boundary is around the Clova Hotel cluster as this is the most likely (and preferred) area for development. Otherwise the Glens are covered by the general policies.</p>		
Identify policy/proposal options including consideration of alternatives where relevant: detail of what policy options or spatial options were considered in developing the policy/proposals, what alternatives (if any were possible) were considered and decisions taken so far.		
<p>The proposal for the Clova Hotel area is intended to consolidate the largest mixed grouping of development (within the Park area of the Glens), within the existing built structure, but without any specific zoning within the boundary.</p>		
Prediction of individual policy /settlement proposal direct and indirect effects: detailed assessment of individual policies and settlement policies against each SEA objective and justification/ reasoning behind predictions. This stage will draw direct, indirect, cumulative & synergistic effects.		
Draft SEA Objectives	Summary score	Reasoning for score
1. To conserve & enhance the diversity of species	0	The proposed allocations for development are considered unlikely to affect any priority species. The allocated zone is either already developed or improved grassland.
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	0	The proposed allocations for development are considered unlikely to affect any priority habitats. The improved grassland fields have relatively low habitat value.
3. To maintain & enhance the integrity of ecosystems	0	The proposed allocations are unlikely to lead to a significant fragmentation of habitats or create barriers to native species movement.
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	0	The proposals are considered unlikely to lead to a significant change in water quality. Development would only be permitted with appropriate waste water treatment facilities provided.
5. To maintain catchment processes & hydrological systems.	0	The proposals are unlikely to lead to increased flood or pollution risks.
6. To maintain & enhance the distinctive landscape and	0	The proposed zone has been located in an existing area of development; no areas in the Angus Glens were identified as having the capacity to absorb housing developments.

cultural character of the Park		
7. To ensure responsible access for all	0	The proposals are considered unlikely to lead to a significant reduction in access opportunities.
8. To maintain and improve air quality	0	The allocated zone consolidates an existing development cluster.
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	0	The zoned area is on improved grassland with a resultant potential loss of lower quality agricultural land.
10. To conserve & where appropriate enhance the historic environment	0	The zoned area includes a number of listed buildings and structures, all of which (and their settings) must be protected from unsympathetic development.
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	+	The proposal for housing land may contribute to the housing, economic and social needs of local communities.
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	?	The allocated zone consolidates the village, close to existing local services. Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan.
13. To reduce waste and pollution	?	Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan
14. To maintain & enhance the quality of the built environment	+	The proposed zone will consolidate the existing village structure. Development should support this objective to comply with policies in the Local Plan (Policy 37 of plan is relevant).
<p>Summary of policy/proposal effects: a critique of the policy/proposals based on the detailed assessment.</p> <p>The proposals for Angus Glens are considered unlikely to have any significant environmental effects.</p>		
<p>Options for mitigation or modification: if the policy/proposal is likely to have significant negative environmental impacts, possible amendments to avoid or mitigate the impacts will be outlined here.</p> <p>No changes.</p>		