

## 6. SEA OBJECTIVES

### SEA objectives

- 6.1 The SEA objectives (Figure 6.1) are informed by the need to cover the range of issues outlined in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations (Annex 1 (f) of the Directive: biodiversity; population; human health; fauna; flora; soil; water; air; climatic factors; material assets; cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage; landscape; and the inter-relationship between those issues).
- 6.2 The SEA objectives are also informed by the key environmental resources, trends and issues that are relevant to the Cairngorms National Park, set out in Section 5.

Figure 6.1 SEA objectives

Cairngorms National Park SEA objectives	Relevant SEA environmental topics
1. To conserve and enhance the diversity of species;	flora, fauna, biodiversity, landscape, water; soil, material assets, human health
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats;	flora, fauna, biodiversity, landscape, water; soil, material assets, human health
3. To maintain and enhance the integrity of ecosystems;	flora, fauna, biodiversity, landscape, water; soil, material assets, human health
4. To protect, and where appropriate improve, water body status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area;	water; flora, fauna, landscape, biodiversity, soil, human health, material assets
5. To maintain catchment processes and hydrological systems;	water; flora, fauna, landscape, biodiversity, soil, human health, material assets
6. To maintain and enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park;	landscape, flora, fauna, biodiversity, soils, material assets, cultural heritage, human health
7. To ensure responsible access for all;	human health, population
8. To maintain and improve air quality;	air, climatic factors, water; human health, flora, fauna, biodiversity, soil
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way;	flora, fauna, biodiversity, landscape, water; air; soil, material assets, human health
10. To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment;	cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage, material assets, landscape
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population;	population, human health
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency;	air, climatic factors, material assets
13. To reduce waste and pollution;	air; water; soil, flora, fauna, biodiversity, human health
14. To maintain and enhance the quality of the built environment;	landscape, material assets, cultural heritage, human health, population, climatic factors

6.3 The 14 SEA objectives are a broad set of objectives that can be applied to assess the objectives of the Park Plan. To assess the plan's potential effect on these objectives, a set of more detailed and targeted criteria reflecting the key issues are required for each one.

6.4 These criteria are therefore used to determine the potential effects in relation to the SEA objectives, in the context of the environmental resources and issues relevant to the Cairngorms. The criteria are shown in Figure 6.2 below.

Figure 6.2 SEA criteria	
SEA objectives	SEA criteria
1. To conserve and enhance the diversity of species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent loss of priority species*</li> <li>• Increase creation and improve condition of priority species' habitats</li> <li>• Minimise disturbance to and avoid deterioration of priority species and their habitats</li> </ul> <p>* priority species are species that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• qualifying criteria of SPAs or SACs;</li> <li>• notified features on SSSIs;</li> <li>• listed in Annex I of the EC Habitats Directive;</li> <li>• listed as of community interest in Annexes II, IV and V of the Habitats directive;</li> <li>• species listed in schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended; or</li> <li>• listed in the UK BAP or Cairngorms LBAP.</li> </ul>
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent loss of priority habitats*</li> <li>• Increase creation and improve condition of priority habitats</li> <li>• Minimise disturbance to and avoid deterioration of priority habitats</li> <li>• Ensure designated sites are in favourable condition</li> <li>• Consider impacts of new species</li> </ul> <p>* priority habitats are habitats that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• qualifying criteria of SPAs or SACs;</li> <li>• notified features on SSSIs;</li> <li>• listed in Annex I of the EC Habitats Directive;</li> <li>• listed as of community interest in Annexes II, IV and V of the Habitats directive;</li> <li>• of naturally occurring wild birds, particularly those in Annex I of the EC Birds Directive and migratory species;</li> <li>• listed in the UK BAP or Cairngorms LBAP; or</li> <li>• native woodlands, including ancient woodland sites in the Ancient Woodland Inventory.</li> </ul>

## 6. SEA OBJECTIVES...cont

**Figure 6.2 SEA criteria...cont**

SEA objectives	SEA criteria
3. To maintain and enhance the integrity of ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent fragmentation of habitats</li> <li>• Ensure development does not create new barriers to native species movement</li> <li>• Promote habitat networks in accordance with strategic priorities outlined in the National Park Plan</li> </ul>
4. To protect, and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and improve water quality</li> <li>• Identify and avoid significant adverse downstream impacts</li> <li>• Ensure new development has appropriate SUDS</li> </ul>
5. To maintain catchment processes and hydrological systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage flood risks</li> <li>• Minimise pollution risks</li> <li>• Identify sphere of influence and downstream impacts</li> <li>• Avoid interference with natural fluvial processes</li> </ul>
6. To maintain and enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and enhance existing landscape character</li> <li>• Identify impacts on landscape character and experience</li> <li>• Avoid significant adverse impacts on landscape character</li> <li>• Ensure development is sited and designed to make a positive contribution to landscape character</li> <li>• Conserve geodiversity (geological and geomorphological features)</li> </ul>
7. To ensure responsible access for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent loss/fragmentation of access networks and open greenspace</li> <li>• Create appropriate new access opportunities</li> <li>• Promote responsible and safe access provision and use</li> </ul>
8. To maintain and improve air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise need for travel by private car</li> <li>• Minimise emissions from domestic and commercial premises</li> </ul>

Figure 6.2 SEA criteria...cont

SEA objectives	SEA criteria
9. To use natural resources/ material assets in a sustainable way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce consumption of fossil fuels</li> <li>• Encourage use of local products</li> <li>• Conserve mineral resources</li> <li>• Conserve soil resources</li> <li>• Optimise recycling and reusing</li> <li>• Sustainable use of water</li> </ul>
10. To conserve, and where appropriate enhance, the historic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect archaeological sites of interest</li> <li>• Protect designed landscapes</li> </ul>
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide for housing and service needs of local communities</li> <li>• Ensure access to services for communities</li> <li>• Encourage healthy lifestyles</li> </ul>
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise energy efficiency of existing infrastructure and new development</li> <li>• Minimise need for use of private cars</li> <li>• Increase sustainable energy production</li> </ul>
13. To reduce waste and pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase reuse and recycling of materials</li> <li>• Reduce production of waste</li> <li>• Adopt sustainable waste management practices</li> </ul>
14. To maintain and enhance the quality of the built environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure quality in new building design</li> <li>• Maintain the character of settlements</li> <li>• Prevent loss of locally distinctive architecture</li> </ul>

## 7. PARK PLAN STRATEGIC ALTERNATIVES

- 7.1 The Park Plan takes as its starting point the four aims of the Park:
- to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area;
  - to promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area;
  - to promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public;
  - to promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.
- 7.2 The purpose of the Plan is to set out how these aims will be achieved collectively. However, if there appears to the Park Authority to be a conflict between the first aim and any of the other aims, greater weight should be given to the first aim.
- 7.3 These aims therefore set out a clear framework within which the development of the Park Plan is taking place. This immediately starts to guide the choices when considering alternatives to the strategic objectives of the Plan.
- 7.4 The first two aims are explicitly seeking positive environmental effects, and the protection of the environment is implicit within the other two aims. This means that the Park Plan is seeking positive environmental effects, while promoting socio-economic development and use of the area in ways that are consistent with positive environmental management.
- 7.5 When developing the strategic objectives, many potential alternatives were discounted at an early stage, because either:
- They would not optimise the potential to achieve all four aims collectively; or
  - They would conflict directly with the first aim, to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage.
- 7.6 Those options that were discounted for these reasons have not formed part of this assessment, as they are not realistic options for inclusion in the plan. At this strategic level, and given the clear framework set by the aims of the Park, there are therefore relatively few strategic alternatives to the objectives included in the Draft Plan.
- 7.7 The issue of alternative options therefore applies more to the wording of the objectives, in seeking to take an integrated approach and deliver all four aims of the Park collectively.

## 8. ASSESSMENT OF PARK PLAN OBJECTIVES

### How environmental issues were considered in developing the Park Plan's objectives

- 8.1 The objectives of the Park Plan are a direct response to a number of the environmental issues facing the National Park and the need to deliver the four aims of the Park.
- 8.2 The special qualities of the National Park are closely linked to the natural and cultural heritage of the area and so many of the plan's objectives are specifically intended to provide robust protection to a wide range of environmental interests that are also reflected in the SEA objectives.
- 8.3 In particular, the aims which give the starting point for the Park Plan include 'conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage' and 'promote sustainable use of natural resources'. It is therefore not surprising that many objectives of the Plan explicitly seek positive environmental effects, and are in fact similar to the SEA objectives.
- 8.4 Further, the integrated nature of the Park Plan means that objectives for sectors which could have negative environmental effects have been developed to be explicitly consistent with the environmental objectives of the Plan. At the very least, all objectives have been framed in such a way to prevent damage to the special qualities of the Park (principally its natural and cultural environment), or where possible, to actively enhance those qualities.

### The significant environmental effects of the Plan's objectives

- 8.5 The following section describes the predicted environmental effects of objectives in the Park Plan. Figure 8.1 summarises the predicted effects of all the Draft Park Plan objectives and shades those objectives that are considered likely to have significant environmental effects. The full assessment records of each plan objective are available in Annex 2.

### Judgements of the significance of environmental effects

- 8.6 The judgements over whether predicted effects are significant or not are important to understanding the SEA process. It became apparent during the assessment that a large number of objectives may have some effect on the environment, but at this strategic level of plan, significance is difficult to judge.
- 8.7 In many cases, the significance of each objective on the environment will depend on how, when and where it is implemented. However, the purpose of the Park Plan is to set the strategic direction. In this context therefore, it is necessary to identify whether an objective is likely to have a significant effect. This does not preclude – indeed it prompts the need for – further assessment of implementation plans and strategies, when effects may be clearer.
- 8.8 Judgements of significance in the context of this Plan have therefore considered whether the plan objective gives strong and explicit support to the SEA objectives, or is likely to work actively against the SEA objectives.
- 8.9 Those plan objectives scored with either a strongly positive (++) or strongly negative (--) effect against one or more SEA objectives are considered to be likely to have a significant effect. It is these plan objectives that are shaded in Figure 8.1 overleaf.
- 8.10 Smaller positive or negative effects are an important consideration in developing the Plan, which seeks to maximise environmental enhancement. However, they have been considered as unlikely to be significant in the assessment.

## 8. ASSESSMENT OF PARK PLAN OBJECTIVES...cont

Fig. 8.1 SEA assessment summary														
Park Plan objectives	SEA objectives													
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
5.2.1 a	=	=	+	/	/	++	/	/	/	+	/	/	/	+
5.2.1 b	/	/	/	/	/	++	/	/	/	+	/	/	/	+
5.2.1 c	/	/	/	/	/	++	=	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.2.1 d	/	/	+	/	+	+	+	/	+	+	/	/	/	/
5. Montane a	++	++	++	+	+	++	=	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5. Montane b	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5. Montane c	+	+	+	/	/	++	+	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.2.2 a	++	++	++	+	+	+	/	/	/	=	/	/	/	/
5.2.2 b	++	++	+	+	+	+	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.2.2 c	++	++	+	+	/	+	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.2.2 d	++	++	+	+	=	=	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.2.2 e	++	++	++	++	+	+	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.2.2 f	+	+	+	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.2.2 g	++	++	++	++	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.2.2 h	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	/	+	/	/	/	/	/
5.2.2 i	+	+	+	+	+	+	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.2.2 j	/	/	/	/	/	+	/	/	+	/	/	/	/	/
5.3 a	+	+	+	+	+	+	/	+	++	/	/	++	+	/
5.3.1 a	++	++	++	+	+	+	=	/	++	/	/	/	/	/
5.3.2 a	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	/	/	/	+	/	/	/
5.3.2 b	++	++	++	+	+	+	+	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.3.2 c	+	+	+	+	++	/	/	/	++	/	/	+	/	/
5.3.2 d	+	+	+	++	++	+	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.3.3 a	+	+	+	+	/	/	/	++	+	/	/	/	/	/
5.3.3 b	/	/	/	/	/	+	/	+	+	/	/	/	/	/
5.4 a	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	=	+	/	/	?	/
5.4 b	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	/	/	++	/	/	/	/
5.4 c	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	/	/	+	/	/	/	/
5.4 d	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.4 e	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	+	+	/	/	+	/	/
5.4 f	+	+	/	+	+	/	/	+	+	/	/	+	++	/
5.4.1 a	+	++	++	++	+	+	/	/	+	+	/	/	/	/
5.4.1 b	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	/	/	?	/	/	?	/
5.4.1 c	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	/	/	?	?	/	/	/
5.4.1 d	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	/	/	?	+	/	/	/
5.4.2 a	++	++	++	=	+	++	=	/	/	?	/	/	/	/
5.4.2 b	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	/	/	+	/	/	/	/
5.4.2 c	++	++	++	+	+	++	=	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.4.2 d	++	++	++	=	=	++	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.4.2 e	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	/	+	?	/	/	/	/
5.4.2 f	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.4.3 a	++	++	++	+	+	++	++	/	/	+	/	/	/	/
5.4.3 b	+	+	+	+	+	+	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.4.3 c	+	++	++	++	++	++	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.4.4 a	++	++	++	+	+	+	=	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.4.4 b	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
5.4.4 c	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	/	/	/	/	/	/	/

Fig. 8.1 SEA assessment summary...cont

Park Plan objectives	SEA objectives													
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
5.4.4 d	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.4.4 e	?	?	?	/	/	?	=	/	/	?	/	/	/	/
5.4.5 a	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.4.5 b	++	++	++	++	++	/	=	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.5.1 a	/	/	/	/	/	+	/	/	/	+	/	/	/	+
5.5.1 b	/	/	/	/	/	+	/	/	/	++	/	/	/	++
5.5.1 c	/	/	/	/	/	+	/	/	/	+	/	/	/	+
5.5.1 d	/	/	/	/	/	+	/	/	/	++	/	/	/	++
5.5.2 a	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
5.5.2 b	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
6.2 a	=	=	=	=	=	=	/	/	/	=	+	/	/	=
6.2 b	=	=	=	=	=	=	/	/	/	=	+	/	/	=
6.2 c	+	+	+	+	+	+	/	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
6.2 d	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	+	/	/	/
6.2 e	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	+	/	/	/
6.2 f	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	+	/	/	/
6.2 g	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	+	/	/	/
6.3 a	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
6.3 b	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	/	/	?	/	/	/	/
6.3 c	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
6.3 d	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	/	/	?	/	/	/	/
6.4 a	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	/	+	++	+
6.4 b	=	=	=	=	=	=	+	/	/	=	/	/	/	=
6.4 c	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
6.4 d	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
6.4 e	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
6.5 a	/	/	/	/	/	/	+	+	+	/	+	/	/	/
6.5 b	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	/	/	?	+
6.5 c	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
6.6 a	?	?	?	?	?	?	/	?	?	?	++	?	?	?
6.6 b	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	+	/	/	/
6.6 c	/	/	/	+	+	+	/	+	+	/	+	++	++	+
6.6 d	+	+	+	+	=	+	/	=	=	+	+	=	=	+
6.7 a	/	/	/	/	/	=	/	/	+	/	/	+	+	/
6.7 b	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	+	+	/	/	+	+	/
6.7 c	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
6.8 a	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	++	/	/	/	++	/
6.8 b	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	++	/	/	/	++	/
6.8 c	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	+	/	/	/	+	/
6.8 d	/	/	/	/	/	+	+	/	/	/	/	/	+	/
6.9 a	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
6.9 b	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	+	/	/	/
6.9 c	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
7.2 a	=	=	=	=	/	=	++	=	=	/	+	/	/	/
7.2 b	+	+	+	+	/	+	++	/	/	+	+	/	/	/

Continued over ▶



## 8. ASSESSMENT OF PARK PLAN OBJECTIVES...cont

**Fig. 8.1 SEA assessment summary...cont**

Park Plan objectives	SEA objectives													
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7.2 c	=	=	=	?	?	=	+	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
7.2 d	/	/	/	/	/	/	+	/	/	/	+	/	/	/
7.2 e	=	=	=	=	/	=	++	/	/	=	/	/	/	/
7.2 f	+	+	+	+	=	+	+	/	=	+	/	/	/	/
7.3 a	=	=	=	=	=	=	++	/	=	=	/	/	/	/
7.3 b	=	=	=	=	=	=	++	/	=	=	/	/	/	/
7.3 c	+	+	+	=	=	=	+	+	=	+	/	/	/	/
7.3 d	+	+	+	+	/	=	++	/	/	+	+	/	/	/
7.3 e	/	/	/	/	/	/	+	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
7.3 f	=	=	=	=	=	=	+	=	=	=	=	/	/	/
7.4 a	+	+	+	+	+	+	/	+	+	+	/	+	+	/
7.4 b	/	/	/	/	/	/	+	/	/	/	+	/	/	/
7.4 c	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
7.4 d	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
7.4 e	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
7.4 f	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	=	=	+	=	=	=	=
7.4 g	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
<b>Cumulative Score*</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>

\*Cumulative score calculated on basis of 2 points for each ++ and 1 point for each + score

### Scoring Codes

++ Strongly positive effect    + Positive effect    = Neutral or no effect  
 - Negative effect    --Strongly negative effect    ? uncertain effects    / Not applicable

### Commentary on likely significant effects

- 8.11 Overall, there are no negative effects identified. As noted above, this is largely due to the aims which give the starting point for the Park Plan, and the way in which an integrated approach has been taken to developing the Plan.
- 8.12 In many cases the mitigation built into objectives during the drafting of the Plan has resulted in a neutral score, where there

might otherwise have been a potential negative impact. There remain some objectives where the likely effects are simply too uncertain to record as positive, neutral or negative, and these have been recorded as such.

- 8.13 A commentary on each Park Plan objective that has been identified as having a likely significant effect on the environment (those shaded in Figure 8.1) follows.

**Objective 5.2.1 a) Maintain and enhance the distinctive diversity of landscape character across the Park;**

This objective explicitly seeks to maintain and enhance the landscape character of the Park and therefore will have a significant positive effect on SEA objective 6 (landscape). It is also likely to have a positive effect on the historic landscape and some habitats, through landscape management.

**Objective 5.2.1 b) Ensure development complements and, where possible enhances the landscape character of the Park;**

This objective seeks to protect and enhance the landscape through development, giving a lead for the Local Plan. It will therefore have a significant positive effect on SEA objective 6 (landscape).

**Objective 5.2.1 c) Conserve and enhance the wild characteristics of areas within the Park;**

This objective seeks to conserve and enhance a key component of the landscape character of the Park – the wildness that people associate with many areas. It will therefore have a significant positive effect on SEA objective 6 (landscape).

**Objective Box 5.1 a) Improve long-term sustainability and restore the full range of montane habitats, through managing pressures from grazing, other land management and development;**

This objective explicitly seeks enhancement of the montane habitats, one of the unique special qualities of the Park. It therefore has a significant positive effect on SEA objectives 1, 2, 3 and 6.

**Objective Box 5.1 b) Demonstrate the highest standards in managing the impacts of recreation on montane habitats, soils and natural processes through sensitive path repairs, targeted advice and encouragement of the long walk-in;**

This objective seeks to protect the montane habitats, one of the special qualities of the Park,

from recreation pressures. It therefore has a significant positive effect on SEA objectives 1, 2 and 3. It also has a positive effect on encouraging responsible access (SEA objective 7).

**Objective Box 5.1 c) Retain and enhance the sense of wildness in the montane area through restoration of high altitude vehicle tracks, removal of redundant infrastructure and managing the impacts of motorised access, organised events, aircraft noise and commercial infrastructure;**

This objective explicitly seeks to protect and enhance the sense of wildness from development, access and other infrastructure pressures. It therefore has a significant positive effect on conserving a key component of the landscape experience (SEA objective 6). It also has a positive impact on the habitats and species of the montane area and encouraging responsible access.

**Objective 5.2.2 a) Conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats and species present throughout the Park through a landscape scale approach to habitat networks;**

This objective explicitly seeks to conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats and species through networks and therefore has a significant positive effect on SEA objectives 1, 2 and 3. It also has a positive effect on the water environment and landscape (SEA objectives 4, 5, and 6) through more co-ordinated management.

**Objective 5.2.2 b) Ensure all designated nature conservation sites are in good condition;**

This objective explicitly seeks to ensure that designated sites, and therefore priority species are in good condition. It therefore has a strongly positive effect on SEA objectives 1 and 2. It also has a positive effect on other natural environment objectives (3, 4, 5 and 6).

## 8. ASSESSMENT OF PARK PLAN OBJECTIVES...cont

### **Objective 5.2.2 c) Engage all sectors in implementing international, national and local biodiversity targets;**

This objective seeks to deliver effective implementation of the biodiversity targets relevant in the Park. It is a vital means by which the conservation of species and habitats can be achieved. It therefore has a strongly positive effect on SEA objectives 1 and 2. It also has a positive effect on SEA objectives 3, 4 and 6.

### **Objective 5.2.2 d) 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;**

This objective explicitly seeks to ensure that those species classified as priority species, are conserved and enhanced. It therefore has a strongly positive effect on SEA objectives 1 and 3. It also has a positive effect on ecosystems and the water environment.

### **Objective 5.2.2 e) Promote access to appropriate policy and funding mechanisms to support nature conservation;**

This objective recognises that support mechanisms, including advice, are required to encourage land managers, businesses and communities to be actively involved in nature conservation. It therefore has a significant positive effect on the management of the natural heritage, and SEA objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4. It also has a positive effect on the water environment through management.

### **Objective 5.2.2 g) Promote appropriate reintroductions of species and reinstatements of habitats, with consideration of the likely impacts on existing species, habitats and ecosystems;**

This objective actively promotes enhanced diversity of habitats and species through appropriate reintroductions and reinstatements, while recognising that potentially negative effects should be mitigated or avoided. It therefore has a significant positive effect on SEA objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4.

### **Objective 5.3 a) All management and development in the Park should seek to make the most sustainable use of natural resources, including water and energy;**

This objective gives explicit support to sustainable and efficient resource use, and is likely to have a significant positive effect on sustainability and energy efficiency across sectors in the Park, supporting SEA objectives 9 and 12. It is also likely to have a positive effect on the state of the natural resources, including biodiversity and landscape.

### **Objective 5.3.1 a) Prevent degradation and erosion of vulnerable montane and organic soils including peat;**

This objective specifically targets the protection of soils, which underpin the natural heritage qualities of the Park. It is therefore likely to have a significant positive effect on the biodiversity and ecosystems, and the sustainable use of resources, supporting SEA objectives 1, 2, 3 and 9.

### **Objective 5.3.2 a) Maintain and enhance the existing high water quality environment in the Park;**

This objective gives explicit support to enhancing the quality of the water environment and is therefore likely to have a significant positive effect on water quality, catchment processes and associated biodiversity and ecosystems, supporting SEA objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. It is also likely to have a positive effect on landscape surrounding water bodies and water-based recreation and access.

**Objective 5.3.2 b) Adopt a catchment-scale approach to water management that integrates land use, nature conservation and flood management;**

This objective recognises the interactions of the water environment with surrounding natural heritage and land use. By adopting a catchment scale approach to integration, it is likely to have a significant positive effect to biodiversity, ecosystems, catchment processes and the quality of the water environment, supporting SEA objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. It is also likely to have a positive effect on landscape and water-based outdoor access through more integrated management.

**Objective 5.3.2 c) Encourage more sustainable patterns of water use by households, industry, agriculture and business;**

This objective recognises that managing the demand for water can have as much, if not greater, environmental impact than managing its supply. By seeking more sustainable use across sectors, it is likely to have a significant positive effect on hydrological systems and the sustainable use of resources, supporting SEA objectives 5 and 9.

**Objective 5.3.2 d) Promote sustainable flood management consistent with natural fluvial processes;**

This objective gives strong support to natural river systems and flood management using floodplains and other sustainable solutions. It is therefore likely to have a significant positive effect on hydrological systems, supporting SEA objectives 4 and 5. Through good management of river systems, it is also likely to have a positive effect on biodiversity and landscape.

**Objective 5.3.3 a) Maintain, and where possible enhance, the existing high level of air quality;**

This objective explicitly seeks to have a significant positive effect on air quality, whether that is maintaining the current high level, or where appropriate, enhancing it, supporting SEA objective 8.

**Objective 5.4 b) Integrate support for all land and water management activities to deliver public benefits that conserve and enhance the special qualities of the Park;**

This objective seeks to secure positive benefits from land and water management, targeted specifically at the special qualities of the Park. It is therefore likely to have a significant positive effect on the biodiversity, ecosystems, water environment and cultural heritage, including the promotion of responsible access. (SEA objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10).

**Objective 5.4 f) Reduce waste, energy use and pollution from all land management activities;**

This objective explicitly seeks to minimise waste and pollution, giving strong support to SEA objective 13.

**Objective 5.4.1 a) Manage agricultural production to be consistent with, and enhance, the special qualities of the Park;**

This objective gives a strong direction that the agricultural sector should not damage, but should seek to enhance, the special qualities of the Park. It is therefore likely to have a significant positive effect on the habitats, ecosystems and water environment of the Park, supporting SEA objectives 2, 3 and 4.

**Objective 5.4.2 a) Maintain existing native woodland cover and expand to develop habitat networks that complement the landscape character of the Park;**

This objective seeks expansion of one of the particularly valuable and characteristic habitats of the Park, which supports a distinctive range of species. It is therefore likely to have a strongly positive effect on biodiversity, ecosystems and landscape, supporting SEA objectives 1, 2, 3 and 6.

## 8. ASSESSMENT OF PARK PLAN OBJECTIVES...cont

**Objective 5.4.2 c) Encourage a mix of tree species, ages and woodland structure to complement the landscape character of the Park;**

This objective, by encouraging a mix of species, age and structure is likely to have a significant positive effect on biodiversity, ecosystems and the landscape character, supporting SEA objectives 1, 2, 3 and 6.

**Objective 5.4.2 d) 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 declined;**

This objective, through extension of scrub cover and regeneration of broadleaved woodland in particular, is likely to have a significant positive effect on biodiversity, ecosystems and the landscape, supporting SEA objectives 1, 2, 3 and 6.

**Objective 5.4.3 a) Maintain extensive moorlands as a high value and sustainable resource for nature conservation, sport, agriculture, landscape and recreation;**

This objective, through carefully planned grazing and muirburn regimes and active moorland management is likely to have a significant positive effect on the biodiversity and ecosystems of moorlands, together with the landscape and outdoor access values of moorlands, supporting SEA objectives 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7.

**Objective 5.4.3 c) Manage the interaction of moorlands with surrounding land-uses to maintain the integrity of the moorland landscape, ecosystems and hydrology;**

This objective, through explicitly recognising the interactions of moorlands with natural processes and surrounding land uses is likely to have a significant positive effect on the management of ecosystems, habitat networks, hydrology and landscape, supporting SEA objectives 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

**Objective 5.4.4 a) Manage deer populations at densities consistent with the special natural heritage qualities of the Park, particularly native woodland, montane and moorland habitats;**

This objective gives strong direction that deer management must be consistent with the natural heritage, thereby reducing damage, and seeking enhancement where possible. It is therefore likely to have a significant positive effect on biodiversity and ecosystems, supporting SEA objectives 1, 2 and 3.

**Objective 5.4.5 b) Encourage removal and minimisation of physical barriers that impede passage of fish and affect river flow;**

This objective seeks to minimise artificial barriers in natural river flows, so it is likely to have a significant positive effect on river fisheries and the water environment, supporting SEA objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

**Objective 5.5.1 b) Conserve and enhance the resources of the archaeological, historic and built environment;**

This objective gives explicit support to the physical heritage of the Park. It is therefore likely to have a significant positive effect on the historic and built environment, supporting SEA objectives 10 and 14.

**Objective 5.5.1 d) New development and management of public space in settlements should complement and enhance the character, pattern and local identity of the built and historic environment;**

This objective gives a clear direction for the Local Plan and planning policies to ensure that new development does not detract from, and where possible enhances the character of settlements and public space. It is therefore likely to have a significant positive effect on the built and historic environment, supporting SEA objectives 10 and 14.

**Objective 6.4 a) Maintain a high quality environment by encouraging sound environmental management and support for nature conservation by all those involved in tourism in the Park;**

This objective seeks explicitly to ensure that tourism does not damage, but positively enhances the natural heritage qualities of the Park. It is therefore likely to have a significant positive effect on the natural heritage, landscape and historic environment, in addition to encouraging sustainable business practice and responsible outdoor access. (SEA objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 13).

**Objective 6.6 a) Increase the accessibility of rented and owned housing to meet the needs of communities throughout the Park;**

This objective seeks to ensure access to housing, and is likely to have significant positive impact on human well-being (SEA objective 11). The effects on other environmental qualities and SEA objectives are uncertain. These effects will depend on how and where housing access is increased. A more complete assessment of the effects of housing allocations will be provided in the SEA Environmental Report of the Local Plan.

**Objective 6.6 c) Improve the physical quality, energy efficiency and sustainable design of housing in all tenures throughout the Park;**

This objective explicitly seeks improvements in the environmental performance of housing through energy efficiency and sustainable design. It is therefore likely to have a significant positive effect on the use of natural resources and energy, supporting SEA objectives 9 and 12.

**Objective 6.8 a) Exceed national targets for better waste management through community and domestic scale schemes;**

This objective seeks high performance on waste management and is therefore likely to have a significant positive effect on the use of resources and waste and pollution, supporting SEA objectives 9 and 13.

**Objective 6.8 b) Increase awareness of the benefits of effective waste management through reducing, re-using and recycling;**

This objective, through raising awareness, is likely to have a significant positive effect on the sustainable use of resources and minimising waste and pollution, supporting SEA objectives 9 and 13.

**Objective 7.2 a) Encourage people of all ages and abilities to enjoy and experience the outdoor environment;**

This objective supports a positive approach to responsible outdoor access, supporting SEA objective 7.

**Objective 7.2 b) Encourage responsible enjoyment of the Park so that its special qualities are understood and appreciated, and safeguarded now and for future generations;**

This objective explicitly seeks to ensure that outdoor access is responsible, and safeguards the special qualities of the Park. It is therefore likely to have a significant positive effect on responsible outdoor access (SEA objective 7), as well as supporting the natural heritage qualities of the Park.

**Objective 7.2 e) Encourage responsible management of outdoor access and develop a common understanding of the needs of managers and users;**

This objective seeks to promote responsible access through management and those providing access opportunities, supporting SEA objective 7.

**Objective 7.3 a) Develop and maintain a wide range of opportunities for visitors to experience and enjoy the special qualities, distinctiveness and natural and cultural heritage of the Park;**

This objective strongly supports responsible outdoor access through understanding of the special qualities of the Park, supporting SEA objective 7.

## 8. ASSESSMENT OF PARK PLAN OBJECTIVES...cont

**Objective 7.3 b) Ensure that visitors to the Cairngorms are aware of the range of opportunities, places to visit and things to do throughout the Park, and appreciate and respect its special qualities;**

This objective explicitly supports responsible outdoor access (SEA objective 7) through reference to the special qualities, including natural heritage, of the Park.

**Objective 7.3 d) Ensure that visitor information is targeted at specific audiences and encourages resource protection, responsible access, visitor safety and the health benefits of regular outdoor exercise;**

This objective recognises the need for visitors to be aware of resource protection and responsible access issues, supporting SEA objective 7.

### **Cumulative and synergistic effects**

8.14 In addition to the significant effects of individual plan objectives identified above, the assessment should consider the cumulative effects of the plan's objectives on each SEA objective. Where several plan objectives have a small, but not individually significant effect on one of the SEA objectives, they may cumulatively add up to a significant effect. The method used in the summary Figure 8.1 applies a point score to each positive (+) and strongly positive (++) result so that the cumulative effects can be identified.

8.15 From this analysis, all SEA objectives show a degree of positive score when their results are aggregated. The strongest cumulative positive effects are recorded against SEA objectives 1, 2, and 3 – conserving and enhancing species, habitats and ecosystems.

8.16 Synergistic effects are those that result from the interaction of the plan's different objectives – some may work against each other, or reinforce each other. The intention when drafting the plan was explicitly to ensure that synergistic effects are all positive – to take an integrated approach that means objectives for economic and social sectors do not undermine environmental objectives but are at least consistent with them. The assessment, which does not identify any likely negative effects, suggests that the synergistic effects of the plan will indeed be at least neutral, or in some cases positive.

### **Proposed mitigation and modification**

#### ***Objectives already modified as a result of assessment***

8.17 The assessment process highlighted opportunities to strengthen the following objectives to enhance their positive environmental effects. Changes have already been made during the drafting process, prior to the publication of the Draft Park Plan.

**Objective 5.3 a) All management and development in the Park should seek to make the most sustainable use of natural resources, including water and energy;**

This objective was added following assessment in order to give clear and explicit direction for all sectors to make more sustainable use of resources and energy, thereby seeking more positive environmental effects.

**Objective 5.4.1 d) Make available land for those who wish to farm, particularly new-entrants;**

This objective primarily seeks to encourage land to be made available for new farming entrants. Following assessment, a caveat was added to state that the locations should be consistent with good management of the natural and cultural heritage, to ensure that any new farming enterprises should not damage the special environmental qualities of the Park.

**Objective 7.2 a) Encourage people of all ages and abilities to enjoy and experience the outdoor environment;**

This objective primarily seeks to provide access and associated infrastructure to enable people to enjoy the Park. As well as meeting access needs, the caveat that outdoor access infrastructure should be appropriate to the landscape and natural heritage setting was added to this objective as a result of assessment.

**Objective 7.4 a) Encourage learning about sustainable development in ways that are related to people's everyday lives and focus on the special character and distinctive identity of the Park, and the management required to conserve and enhance it;**

In addition to learning about the management necessary, reference to the use of resources and energy was added to this objective as a result of assessment, to strengthen the objective and increase the likely positive environmental effects.

*Objectives where further modification is being considered as a result of assessment*

8.18. Assessment has highlighted opportunities to strengthen the following objectives, in order to enhance their positive environmental effects. Options for modification will be considered and, informed by any comments received during the consultation, changes will be incorporated in the finalised Park Plan.

**Objective 5.3.1 a) Prevent degradation and erosion of vulnerable montane and organic soils, including peat;**

Consider whether modification or an additional, more specific, objective relating to agricultural soil management would strengthen the positive environmental effects on the soil resource.

**Objective 5.3.2 c) Encourage more sustainable patterns of water use by households, industry, agriculture and business;**

Consider whether reference to wastewater treatment practices would strengthen the environmental effects of this objective, and where in the planning hierarchy this would be most appropriately addressed.

**Objective 5.3.2 d) Promote sustainable flood management consistent with natural fluvial processes;**

Consider whether greater clarity in the wording of this objective would emphasise a presumption against hard engineering solutions to flood management and give more explicit support to the use of natural flood plains and other management solutions, thereby strengthening the positive environmental effects.

**Objectives 5.4.2 Forestry;**

Consider whether a further objective, or modification to an existing objective, is required to address the potential impacts of forestry on the historic environment and cultural heritage features, part of the special qualities and environment of the Park.



## 8. ASSESSMENT OF PARK PLAN OBJECTIVES...cont

### **Objective 5.4.5 b) Encourage removal and minimisation of physical barriers that impede passage of fish and affect river flow;**

Consider whether broader reference to river engineering works including fisheries management could strengthen the environmental effects of this objective.

### **Objective 6.5 b) Ensure transport and communications infrastructure is managed and developed in ways consistent with the special qualities of the Park;**

Consider whether more specific reference to minor upgrading works and the need for appropriate design and assessment methods for upgrading works would strengthen this objective and thereby its positive environmental effects.

### **Objective 6.7 a) Help achieve national targets for greater renewable production through community and domestic scale schemes;**

Consider if more explicit statement of policy against large-scale commercial wind farms within the Park, and in the surrounding landscape, together with reference to implementation through the Local Plan would strengthen this objective and its environmental effects.

### **Uncertainties and risks**

8.19 The assessment has identified a number of objectives for which the likely environmental effects are uncertain. There are a number of reasons for uncertainty.

8.20 Some objectives relate to the provision of greater information or education. In these cases, the objectives may have an influence on the environmental resources of the Park, through improved understanding or management, therefore some effect is likely. However, in cases where the objective relates to education and information provision, there remains great uncertainty over when, where and how that information or knowledge may be put into practice. While the intention of these objectives is to inform good practice, assessment at this strategic level cannot assume particular effects.

8.21 Some objectives are simply pitched at too high a strategic level for a meaningful assessment of effects to be made. This is consistent with the purpose of the Park Plan and means that SEA should be carried out on more detailed implementation plans as and when these are developed.

8.22 The risk of the effects being other than that predicted in the assessment lies principally in the fact that implementation of the objectives may vary across time and space. It is the intention of the Park Authority that many of the objectives will be expanded upon in more detailed implementation plans, and through the work programmes being developed for each Priority for Action. Therefore the future assessment of the resulting plans and strategies will be a key part of managing this risk.

## 9. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARK PLAN AND SEA

### Timetable

- 9.1 The Draft Park Plan, together with this Environmental Report, is open to public consultation until 30 June 2006.
- 9.2 On completion of the consultation, the Park Authority will work to finalise the Park Plan for the end of 2006. This will include:
- Revising and completing the long-term strategy set out in the vision and strategic objectives, informed by the consultation and SEA;
  - Developing agreed five year action programmes for each Priority for Action, informed by the consultation;
  - Applying SEA to any changes in the strategic objectives to inform completion of the Plan and to any development of the action programmes which require assessment beyond the objectives;
  - Preparing an updated Environmental Report to accompany the completed Park Plan;
  - Preparing a Post-Adoption Statement setting out how the SEA process has informed the final Park Plan, reasons for the decisions made and framework for future associated assessments.

### Links to other plans and future assessments

- 9.3 As described in Section 4, the Park Plan provides the strategic context and lead for a number of other plans in the Park. The assessment, described in Section 8, highlights limitations to the Park Plan SEA, given the strategic nature of its objectives, and therefore the certainty that can be attached to likely effects.

- 9.4 This means that future SEA assessment of the plans and strategies that flow from the Park Plan and its priorities for action is a key part of assessing and monitoring the environmental effects of policies in the National Park.

### *The final Park Plan*

- 9.5 The work programmes under each Priority for Action identified in the plan will be developed through the consultation period for the final Park Plan. These identify priorities within the broad range of objectives set out in the plan, and will set out action programmes to tackle these.
- 9.6 The Environmental Report accompanying the final Park Plan will identify how the likely environmental effects of these programmes will be assessed. It is unlikely that a useful assessment of all the programmes can be carried out as part of the Park Plan development – as this will remain at the strategic level and reflect the objectives already assessed. It may be more appropriate to assess the likely environmental effects of some actions that will flow from these programmes when the resulting, more detailed, plans and strategies are developed (for example the Core Paths Plan). In other cases it may be appropriate to assess the work programmes within the Park Plan assessment. The Environmental Report accompanying the final Park Plan will assess the areas for which a useful assessment can be made, and will signpost the future assessment of other areas.

## 9. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARK PLAN AND SEA...cont

- 9.7 The Environmental Report accompanying the final Park Plan will therefore consider whether any changes and developments to the action programmes require assessment at that stage. If not, it will signpost the future assessment that will be required.

### *Other plans and strategies*

- 9.8 The Local Plan is one of the principal means by which many of the Park Plan objectives will be pursued, through planning and development control. The Local Plan, which has recently completed the second stage of consultation, is accompanied by an SEA, which assesses the likely significant effects of the planning policies and settlement proposals.
- 9.9 Other plans that will be prepared for the Park in the near future, including the Core Paths Plan, will also be accompanied by an SEA. These assessments will focus on the levels below the objectives of the Park Plan and assess the likely effects of more detailed policies and proposals.

### **Proposals for monitoring the environmental effects**

- 9.10 A framework for monitoring the environmental effects of the Park Plan will be developed in parallel with the wider development of monitoring for the whole Plan. It is proposed to develop a set of health indicators, together with more detailed performance monitoring, for the Plan. This process will be informed by the consultation on the Draft Park Plan and this Environmental Report.

### *SEA indicators and targets*

- 9.11 It is proposed to develop the SEA objectives and criteria set out in Section 6 into indicators and targets that can be used to monitor the environmental performance of the Park Plan against SEA objectives. These are not yet complete, and are expected to be further developed during consultation on the Draft Park Plan.
- 9.12 The initial proposal for SEA indicators and targets is shown in Figure 9.1 opposite.

Figure 9.1 Proposed SEA indicators and targets

SEA objectives	Indicators	Targets
1. To conserve and enhance the diversity of species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss of priority species or associated habitats</li> <li>• creation of habitats for priority species</li> <li>• management of habitats for priority species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no loss of priority species</li> <li>• no loss of priority species' habitats</li> <li>• increase areas of habitat managed for priority species</li> </ul>
2. To conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss of priority habitats</li> <li>• creation of priority habitats</li> <li>• management of priority habitats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no loss of priority habitats</li> <li>• increase creation of priority habitats</li> <li>• increase management for priority habitats</li> </ul>
3. To maintain and enhance the integrity of ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continuity of priority habitats</li> <li>• maintenance or creation of priority habitats to create networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no fragmentation of priority habitats</li> <li>• increase maintenance or creation of priority habitats to create habitat networks</li> </ul>
4. To protect and where appropriate improve, waterbody status within or related to the Cairngorms National Park area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• water quality</li> <li>• ecological status of water bodies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no deterioration in waterbody status</li> </ul>
5. To maintain catchment processes and hydrological systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• development permitted on the functional floodplain or other wetland</li> <li>• functioning wetland areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no development permitted on functional floodplain or wetland areas</li> <li>• no loss of areas managed as functioning wetlands</li> </ul>
6. To maintain and enhance the distinctive landscape and cultural character of the Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• changes to landscape character</li> <li>• developments that complement landscape character</li> <li>• loss/disturbance to geological/geomorphological features</li> <li>• sense of wildness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all developments that are consented and are considered to make a positive contribution to landscape character</li> <li>• no loss/disturbance to geological/geomorphological features</li> <li>• increase or decrease in development in remote areas</li> </ul>

Continued over ▶

## 9. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARK PLAN AND SEA...cont

Figure 9.1 Proposed SEA indicators and targets ...cont

SEA objectives	Indicators	Targets
7. To ensure responsible access for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increase or decrease in provision of access routes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>maintenance or enhancement of existing access provision</li> <li>no loss of access to open greenspace</li> </ul>
8. To maintain and improve air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>pollution emissions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>decrease emissions</li> </ul>
9. To use natural resources/material assets in a sustainable way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>developments heated without fossil fuels</li> <li>use of local timber products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all development heated without fossil fuels</li> <li>preference for using local timber products</li> </ul>
10. To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>condition of the site or setting of an archaeological site of interest</li> <li>condition of the site or setting of a designed landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no developments having significant adverse effects on site or setting of archaeological site of importance to the National Park</li> <li>no developments having significant adverse effects on site or setting of designed landscape of importance to the National Park</li> </ul>
11. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>effective housing land for local housing need</li> <li>provision of effective housing land close to services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>local housing need demand met by supply of land and consents for development over plan period</li> <li>all housing land provided within easy reach of service or with additional services</li> </ul>
12. To improve sustainable energy efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>developments heated without fossil fuels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all development heated without fossil fuels</li> </ul>
13. To reduce waste and pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>total waste arisings</li> <li>percentage of waste recycled or reused</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reduce waste arisings</li> <li>all waste recycled or reused</li> </ul>
14. To maintain and enhance the quality of the built environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>changes in settlement character</li> <li>loss of locally distinctive architecture through development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>maintenance and enhancement of settlement character</li> <li>ensure retention of locally distinctive architecture in development</li> </ul>

## ANNEX I

### Checklist of relevant plans/programmes and environmental objectives

Relevant plans/programmes and relevant environmental objectives:			
Relevant policy	Relevant objectives/purpose	Relevant Park Plan sections	Comments
<b>INTERNATIONAL POLICY</b>			
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 1971		5.2; 5.4	
<b>EUROPEAN UNION POLICY</b>			
Directive 79/409/EC; The Conservation of Wild Birds 1979	Requires Member States to sustain populations of naturally occurring wild birds by sustaining areas of habitats to maintain ecologically and scientifically sound levels.	5.2; 5.4; 7.2	
Directive 92/42/EC; The Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora 1992	Requires Member States to sustain populations of naturally occurring flora and fauna by sustaining areas of habitats to maintain ecologically and scientifically sound levels.	5.2; 5.4; 7.2	
Directive 2000/60/EC; The Water Framework Directive	Requires Member States to achieve good ecological status of inland water bodies. Sets framework for integrated catchment management requiring river basin management plans.	5.2; 5.3; 5.4; 7.2	
Directive 1966/62/EC; Ambient Air Quality and Management	Establishes standards for air quality and sets limits for various pollutants.	5.3; 6.5	
EU Common Agricultural Policy	Sets policy for agricultural support with increased emphasis on rural development support.	5.4	
<b>NATIONAL POLICY</b>			
A Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture	Draws together strategy for production and support including agri-environment support.	5.4	
Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 2002	Requires environmental impact assessment of bringing land into cultivation.	5.2; 5.4	
Scottish Forestry Strategy	Sets strategic priorities for forestry including management, planting and environmental stewardship.	5.4	

Continued over ▶

NATIONAL POLICY...cont			
Relevant policy	Relevant objectives/purpose	Relevant Park Plan sections	Comments
River Basin Management Plans	Required by the Water Framework Directive. A Scotland River Basin Management Plan will be developed, to include several sub management areas.	5.2; 5.3; 5.4	The Park extends across the boundary of management areas.
Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	Establishes right of responsible access to land and water.	7.3	
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Requires certain species to be protected.	5.2; 5.4	
Nature Conservation Bill (Scotland) 2004	Biodiversity, revision of SSSIs, crime prevention.	5.2; 5.4	
Climate Change; the UK Programme	Aims to cut the UK's carbon emissions by 60% by 2050.	5.3; 6.5	
Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales & NI: Working Together for Clean Air.	Set out objectives for 8 main air pollutants to protect health.	5.3; 6.5	
UK Biodiversity Action Plan	Identifies UK priority species and habitats where action to conserve is required.	5.2; 5.4	
Scottish Biodiversity Strategy	Identifies Scottish biodiversity priorities and lead partners for taking action.	5.2; 5.4	
REGIONAL/LOCAL POLICY			
Structure Plans	The Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Angus Council Structure Plans set out the strategic framework for an authority area.	5.5.1; 6.2; 6.5; 6.6; 6.9	
Community Plans	The Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Angus Council Community Plans, which set out how public services will be planned and delivered, through consultation and co-operation (among all public bodies, and with community bodies).	6.3; 6.9	

REGIONAL/LOCAL POLICY...cont			
Relevant policy	Relevant objectives/purpose	Relevant Park Plan sections	Comments
Spey Catchment Management Plan	3.1 Maintain the high water quality standards in the Spey and determine the ecological requirements and tolerance limits of fresh water pearl mussel and sea lamprey.	5.2.2; 5.3.2; 5.4; 6.8	
	3.6 Determine the extent of the problem of contaminated land within the Spey catchment and restore any such areas to beneficial use.	5.2.2; 5.3.2; 6.8	
	6.1 Conserve and enhance the Atlantic salmon, sea lamprey, freshwater pearl mussel and otter populations of the River Spey and its catchment.	5.2.2; 5.4.5	
	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.	5.2.2	
	6.3 Conserve and enhance the riverine bird populations of the River Spey and its catchment based on an improved understanding of their distribution.	5.2.2	
	6.5 Conserve and enhance the specialist river shingle invertebrate populations of the River Spey catchment based on an improved understanding of their distribution.	5.2.2	
	8.2 Consider the potential for floodplain or riparian woodlands to contribute towards flood control, river bank stabilisation and assist with water quality management.	5.2.2; 5.4	
	8.3 Conserve and enhance scarce or threatened tree species associated with the river system.	5.2.2	
	9.2 Improve the adequacy of private water supply and wastewater facilities to meet existing demand and comply with existing consent.	5.3.2; 6.6; 6.8	

Continued over ▶



REGIONAL/LOCAL POLICY...cont			
Relevant policy	Relevant objectives/purpose	Relevant Park Plan sections	Comments
Spey Catchment Management Plan...cont	9.5 Prevent pollution or obstructions from significant structural works across the river or from ongoing maintenance and repair works nearby.	5.3.2; 5.4.5	
	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.	5.2.2; 5.3.2; 7.2	
	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.	5.2.2; 5.3.2	
	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.	7.2; 7.3	
River Dee Catchment Management Plan	A revised draft is due to be published; 2005/06 objectives likely to be similar to River Spey Catchment Management 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.	5.2; 5.4; 7.3; 7.4	
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 assess these local housing strategies (LHS) on behalf of Scottish Ministers.	6.6	

REGIONAL/LOCAL POLICY...cont			
Relevant policy	Relevant objectives/purpose	Relevant Park Plan sections	Comments
Local Transport Strategy	The Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Angus Council Local Transport Strategies set out how to maintain and improve infrastructure.	6.5	
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.	6.8	
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 and Strathspey Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise Tayside).	6.2	
Scottish Planning Policy (SPPs)/ National Planning Policy Guideline (NPPG)			
SPP1	Conserve important historic and cultural assets.	5.2.1; 5.5.1	
	Protect and enhance areas for recreation and natural heritage.	5.2; 7.3	
	Support better access by foot bicycle and public transport.	6.5; 7.2	
	Encourage energy efficiency through layout and design of development.	5.3; 6.6	
	Encourage prudent use of natural resources	5.3	
	Require good design.	6.6	
	Encourage improvement of the physical environment.	5.2; 5.5.1	
SPP2 Economic development (2002)	Identify supporting action eg for environmental improvement that can assist the delivery of economic development.	6.2; 6.4	
SPP3 Planning for Housing (2003)	Guide the design of new housing proposals, including where appropriate the preparation of planning briefs, particularly in relation to new settlements.	5.5.1; 6.6	Addressed in detail through the Local Plan.

Continued over ▶

Scottish Planning Policy (SPPs)/ National Planning Policy Guideline (NPPG)...cont			
Relevant policy	Relevant objectives/purpose	Relevant Park Plan sections	Comments
NPPG 4 Mineral Working (2001)	Ameliorate significant environmental effects for proposed mineral developments.	5.2; 5.3	
	Facilitate recycling and re-use of material in waste tips and construction wastes where environmentally acceptable.	6.8	
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.	5.2; 5.5	Addressed in detail through the Local Plan.
	Require the protection and where appropriate the enhancement of landscapes of historic importance including historic gardens and designed landscapes, and their settings.	5.2; 5.5	Addressed in detail through the Local Plan.
NPPG 6 Renewable Energy (2000)	Support Scottish Minister's commitment to renewable energy and provide positively for its development.	6.7	
	Define broad areas of search suitable for wind and other renewable energy developments or, where appropriate, specific sites.	6.7	
	Indicate whether there are areas or sites where, for overriding environmental reasons, proposals for renewable energy development would only be considered in exceptional circumstances.	6.7	
NPPG 8 Town Centres and Retailing (1998)	Promote the environmental improvement of town and other centres and retail and commercial leisure developments.	5.5.1	Addressed in detail through the Local Plan.
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.	6.8	
	Protect groundwater:	6.8	

Scottish Planning Policy (SPPs)/ National Planning Policy Guideline (NPPG)...cont			
Relevant Policy	Relevant Objectives/Purpose	Relevant Park Plan Sections	Comments
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.	5.2; 5.5; 7.2	
	Identify public access routes, referring to other publications if appropriate, state the statutory position and indicate where the network requires to be augmented.	6.5; 7.2; 7.3	To be addressed in forthcoming Core Paths Plans
	Safeguard and improve public access to open space and to the countryside, especially Green Belts and promote new or replacement routes.	6.5; 7.2; 7.3	
	Promote planting of new woodlands for recreation, landscape and nature conservation benefits.	5.2; 5.4; 7.2	
	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.	5.2; 6.4; 7.2; 7.3	
NPPG 14 Natural Heritage (1999)	Protection and, where appropriate, enhancement of internationally, nationally and locally designated areas and sites (including potential SPAs and SACs).	5.2	
	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.	5.2	
	Include policies for the conservation and/or enhancement of landscape character, including, where appropriate, wild land character.	5.2	
	Identify opportunities to extend native woodland cover and to maintain and enhance wetlands.	5.4	
	Provide for the conservation of biodiversity and the protection and enhancement of the natural heritage outside designated areas.	5.2; 5.4	

Continued over ▶

Scottish Planning Policy (SPPs)/ National Planning Policy Guideline (NPPG)...cont			
Relevant policy	Relevant objectives/purpose	Relevant Park Plan sections	Comments
NPPG 14 Natural Heritage (1999)...cont	Identify appropriate opportunities to improve public access for the purposes of enjoying and learning about the natural heritage.	7.2; 7.4	
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.	5.4; 6.2; 6.4	Addressed in detail through the Local Plan.
SPP 17 Transport (2005)	Encourage people to make more journeys by walking, cycling, and public transport.	6.5; 7.2; 7.3	
NPPG 18 Historic Environment (1999)	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.	5.2; 5.5	
NPPG 19 Telecomms (2001)	Specify development control criteria for radio telecommunications development including siting and design matters.	5.2	Addressed in detail through the Local Plan.
National Planning Framework Environmental Assessment Report (2004)	Spatial strategy for Scotland promoting economic diversification and environmental stewardship.	6	



**Contact Details:**

14 The Square Grantown-on-Spey

Moray PH26 3HG Tel: 01479 873535 Fax: 01479 873527

Email: [nationalparkplan@cairngorms.co.uk](mailto:nationalparkplan@cairngorms.co.uk) [www.cairngorms.co.uk](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk)

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