



Water Resources

SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT



Strategic Environmental Assessment
Consultation May 2010

Supplementary Planning Guidance - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Public Consultation

Monday 24 May to Friday 24 September 2010

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) sets out detailed advice to help people meet the requirements of the policies in the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan and the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) is presently developing a number of SPG documents. These will go out for a four month public consultation before publication – from Monday 24 May to Friday 24 September 2010.

This SEA Environmental Report is the result of an Strategic Environmental Assessment carried out on the supplementary planning guidance document of the same name, and it is also available for public consultation.

How to Comment

- A form is available on the following page. Comments *, which must include your name and address, should be returned to the CNPA by **Friday 24 September**, to the following address:

**FREEPOST (RSHS-BHKL-KXHS)
Cairngorms National Park Authority
Albert Memorial Hall, Station Square
Ballater AB35 5QB**

- You can download, or complete this form online, at www.cairngorms.co.uk/planning/localplan
- To discuss any aspect of the Supplementary Planning Guidance documents, or to arrange a meeting, please contact the CNPA's Ballater office.
- All SPG documents are available to view at the

CNPA offices in Ballater and Grantown-on-Spey (see addresses below) and at a number of council offices within the Park. Comment forms will also be available at all these locations.

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Station Square
Ballater
Aberdeenshire AB35 5QB
Tel: 013397 53601
Fax: 013397 55334
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14 The Square
Grantown-on-Spey
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Next Steps

The comments received about this report, and the accompanying SPG, will be considered by the CNPA. Once these have been reviewed, any appropriate changes will be made to the SPG which will then be prepared for formal approval at the end of 2010. At this point, an SEA post adoption statement will be produced, setting out the final details of the SEA assessment process

*Please note that all responses will be made public but will not be attributed to any named individual/organisation.

Data protection: These details will only be used for purposes associated with the Supplementary Planning Guidance consultation. You may request to see personal information held by the CNPA at any time.

For a large print version of this publication, please contact the Cairngorms National Park Authority on 01479 873535.

Cairngorms National Park Local Plan

Consultation on Supplementary Planning Guidance documents Monday 24 May – Friday 24 September 2010

Comments form

How to make a comment

- Please use a separate form for each of your comments.
- You must state which Supplementary Planning Guidance document, and which part of it, your comment relates to.
- You must indicate clearly your proposed changes, for example deletion of a proposal, deletion of a paragraph, amended wording, amendments to diagram/photograph.
- This form can be photocopied or further copies obtained from the CNPA offices.
- You can also complete the form online at www.cairngorms.co.uk/planning/localplan
- The deadline for submitting completed forms is **Friday 24 September 2010**.

1.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

2.

If you are appointing someone to act as your agent, please give their details.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

To which address should correspondence to be sent? Own

Agent



3. Which Supplementary Planning Guidance document does your comment relate to? You must include the document title, the page number and the paragraph number where relevant.

4. Please state clearly and fully your comment(s), continuing on additional sheets if necessary.

5. If you are suggesting a specific change to the Supplementary Planning Guidance, please explain clearly what this is.

6. Signature _____ Date _____

Please return completed forms, by **Friday 24 September 2010**, to:

FREEPOST (RSHS-BHKL-KXHS)
Cairngorms National Park Authority
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Preface

The purpose of this Environmental Report is to assess the environmental impact of the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) Water Resources supplementary planning guidance (SPG) in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. This PPS (plans, policies or strategies) is considered to fall within Section 5 (4) of the Act.

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Non-Technical Summary

Introduction

This is a non-technical summary of the Environmental Report of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Water Resources Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for the Cairngorms National Park.

It explains:

- What the SEA is;
- Why it has been done;
- What likely effects the Water Resources SPG could have on the environment.

This non-technical summary can be read on its own or as part of the full SEA Environmental Report.

Strategic Environmental Assessment, or SEA for short, is a way of making sure that environmental issues are carefully considered when a plan, policy or strategy (PPS) is made. This includes supplementary planning guidance such as this Water Resources SPG. In this instance the SEA is a formal part of the SPG preparation process and was determined to be required by a screening exercise carried out under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

The idea behind SEA is that by making sure that environmental features such as plants and animals, air quality, human health, landscape or historic remains are considered as the PPS is developed then it is less likely that the PPS will harm them. SEA helps to make sure that environmental considerations are taken into account by the PPS in two main ways.

Firstly, the SEA predicts what effects the PPS is likely to have on the environment and whether they are considered significant. Secondly, if the SEA does predict 'significant effects' the PPS must be changed to introduce measures that will make the effects less harmful or serious. The end result should be a PPS that is less likely to lead to significant harm to the environment.

The SEA process is also about giving the public the information used to predict the effects and explaining how they were predicted. When the Environmental Report of the SEA process is published the public have an opportunity to comment on the SEA.

Summary of the SEA process

The SEA process can be broken down into a series of steps that happen as the Water Resources SPG is being prepared. These can be summarised as:

1. Describe the condition of the environment at the moment and how it is changing or has changed in the past. Predict what the environment would be like in the future without the Water Resources SPG.
2. Predict how different ways of making the Water Resources SPG could have different environmental effects.
3. Predict what the effects of the principles and guidance in the Water Resources SPG would have on the environment.

4. Decide on ways of reducing any harmful effects of the Water Resources SPG on the environment.
5. Publish the Water Resources SPG and the SEA Environmental Report, which explains what the SEA is and how it has been prepared and make them available for consultation for people to comment on. This is the stage the Water Resources SPG is at just now.
6. Take note of the comments on the Environmental Report and make any changes to the Water Resources SPG or SEA because of them.
7. Adopt and publish the Water Resources SPG with an up to date Environmental Report of the SEA and write a formal statement of how the SEA was carried out with the SPG, and how it affected the Water Resources SPG.
8. Continue to measure what effects the Water Resources SPG actually has on the environment when it is used so that changes can be made in the future if they are needed and so that it is possible to predict effects more accurately in future.

The SEA of the Water Resources SPG should be seen within the hierarchy of other plans and their SEA's. The Water Resources SPG is part of the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan. An SEA was carried out as part of the Local Plan process. A separate SEA was carried out for the National Park Plan. All of these assessments influence each other to ensure that environmental effects of all related plans are known and addressed.

Summary of the likely significant effects of the Water Resources supplementary Planning Guidance

The four principles and associated guidance in the Water Resources SPG have been assessed and the SEA Environmental Report prepared.

The principles of the Water Resources SPG are considered likely to have positive effects on the environment. This might be expected given that the Water Resources SPG sets out to deliver more sustainable management of water resources in development. The SPG provides additional guidance and information on Local Plan policy 12 Water Resources. Many of the policies in the Local Plan are designed to protect and improve the quality of the environment, including the water environment so that few harmful effects could be caused by development. The aim of the SPG is to make development as sustainable as possible. In so doing it helps to deliver the aims of the Park and relevant objectives of the Cairngorms National Park Plan.

The Water Resources SPG does not set environmental policy, nor does it allocate sites for development. This is the role of the Local Plan. The Water Resources SPG provides guidance on minimising environmental impacts from development on any aspect of the water environment and water resource use - issues regarding the quality and quantity of water, flooding, connections to sewerage and to the sustainable management of water resources. As such it would be expected to have a positive impact in terms of the SEA.

The Local Plan policies ensure that development land allocations and development activities do not cause significant harm to the environment. The Water Resources SPG has been specifically prepared to address environmental issues as a key part of its approach to making development more sustainable.

No significant negative environmental effects of the Water Resources SPG were identified. Some principles will have a greater impact on certain environmental features. The key to the Water Resources SPG is that all the principles work together to ensure that environmental (and wider sustainability) issues are addressed by development. The principles should therefore not be considered in isolation from each other.

Any significant effects that have been predicted from the principles are explained in Section 5 (see p18) and Appendix 6 (see p36) of the full Environmental Report. A summary of impacts is provided below:

Principle 1: The water environment

The SPG highlights that the protection of water resources is a key objective of the Cairngorms National Park Plan. Habitat, water quality of rivers and wetlands are to be enhanced and restored, recognising there is an active need to manage our demands for water whilst balancing the needs of wildlife and the environment.

Principle 2: Use of resources

The SPG supports more sustainable water resource use; therefore there are positive impacts on the environment in relation to water quality and quantity in terms of treatment/abstraction and other engineering works, pollution associated with development processes and surface water management.

Principle 3: Minimising the impact of flooding

This principle directly addresses a number of factors related to reducing the risk of flood events by ensuring inappropriate development in inappropriate locations does not take place and that flood plain management and drainage requirements are put in place.

Principle 4: Connection to sewerage – safeguarding water quality

The SPG aims to protect and enhance the water environment and its status by limiting the impact of any development associated with it, including foul drainage impacts.

The differences SEA has made to the Water Resources SPG

Because the Water Resources SPG has been written with environmental considerations in mind, it has avoided harming the environment from the start as a core principle of sustainable development. This means that no changes to the Water Resources SPG have been made due to the SEA itself.

However, the SEA has helped provide a systematic method for assessing environmental factors that are important to the Water Resources SPG and recording the predicted effects of it in a transparent way. In addition to this, clear links to the Local Plan and Cairngorms National Park Plan SEAs have enabled environmental issues to be considered consistently throughout the planning hierarchy.

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Environmental Report

As part of the preparation of the Water Resources Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), the Cairngorms National Park Authority is carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is a systematic method for considering the likely environmental effects of certain plans, policies and strategies (PPS). SEA aims to:

- Integrate environmental factors into PPS preparation and decision-making;
- Improve PPS and enhance environmental protection;
- Increase public participation in decision-making; and
- Facilitate openness and transparency of decision-making.

SEA is a requirement of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The key SEA stages are:

- Screening: determining whether the PPS is likely to have significant environmental effects and whether an SEA is required;
- Scoping: deciding on the scope and level of detail of the Environmental Report, and the consultation period for the report – this is done in consultation with Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, and Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland);
- Environmental Report: publishing an Environmental Report on the PPS and its environmental effects, and consulting on that report;
- Adoption: providing information on the adopted PPS, how consultation comments have been taken into account and methods for considering the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the PPS;
- Monitoring: monitoring significant environmental effects in such a way so as to also enable the Responsible Authority to identify any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and undertake appropriate remedial action.

The purpose of this Environmental Report is to:

- Provide information on the Water Resources SPG;
- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Water Resources SPG and its reasonable alternatives;
- Provide an early and effective opportunity for the Consultation Authorities and the public to offer views on any aspect of this Environmental Report.

1.2 Key facts

The key facts relating to the Water Resources SPG are set out in Table 1, below.

Table 1: Key facts relating to the SPG

Responsible Authority	Cairngorms National Park Authority
Title of PPS (Plans, Policies or Strategies)	Water Resources Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)
What prompted the PPS	The requirement for the SPG is set out as per Reporters Recommendations for Policy 12 'Water Resources' of the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan Inquiry (May – June 2009).
Subject covered by PPS	To aid the interpretation of Local Plan policy 12 Water Resources, this sets out the guidance, issues and criteria that must be considered for all developments related to any aspect of the water environment - regarding the use of water resources - quality and quantity of water, flooding and connections to sewerage.
Period covered by PPS	2010 onwards
Frequency of updates	The SPG will be reviewed on a regular five year cycle to link in with Development Plan review and preparation.
Area covered by PPS	3816 sq kms – This is the area covered by the Local Plan, and this guidance accompanies the Local Plan.
Purpose and / or objectives of PPS	<p>The Water Resources SPG is being prepared to accompany the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan; and is part of the suite of local plan policies that address the sustainable use of resources.</p> <p>It sets out to provide more detailed guidance in order to help applicants comply with policy 12 in the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan. This sets out the issues that must be considered for all developments related to any aspect of the water environment - issues regarding the quality and quantity of the water environment, sustainable flood management, connections to sewerage and to the sustainable management of water resources.</p>

1.3 SEA activities to date

The consideration of environmental issues has been integral to the preparation of the Water Resources SPG. This is explicitly reflected in the SEA activities throughout the preparation of the SPG.

Table 2 below indicates those SEA activities which have been undertaken to date and those activities which will be undertaken in the next stages of the SPG preparation and adoption.

Table 2: SEA activity relating to the Water Resources Supplementary Planning Guidance

SEA activity / task	SPG activity / task	Timetable
Screening opinion sought from SEA Gateway	Commitment to prepare Water Resources SPG contained in Draft Local Plan	January 2010
Preparation of Scoping Report	Identification and research of key issues / topics	February 2010
Consultation on Scoping Report 5 weeks		March – April 2010
Environmental assessment and preparation of the Environmental Report	Preparation of consultative draft SPG	May – June 2010
Consultation on Environmental Report 6 weeks	Consultation on draft Water Resources SPG	May 2010 – Sept 2010
Analysis of consultation responses and revision of Environmental Report as required	Analysis of consultation responses and revision of Water Resources SPG as required	Sept 2010- Oct 2010
Preparation of Post-Adoption Statement	Preparation of finalised Water Resources SPG	Nov 2010
Submission of Post-Adoption Statement	Submission of finalised SPG to CNPA Board for adoption	Dec 2010

2. Background to this report

2.1 The Strategic Environmental Assessment context

The Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) is carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Water Resources SPG, which it is currently preparing. The requirement for the SPG is set out in the Reporters' Recommendations following the public local inquiry into the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan, which was held in May/June 2009. Once adopted, the Water Resources SPG will be a material consideration for the CNPA and the four local authorities with responsibility for determining planning applications within the Park.

This report is an Environmental Report in terms of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The purpose of this report is to:

- (a) describe the current condition of the environment and predict what the environment would be like in the future without the Water Resources SPG;
- (b) predict what effect the Water Resources SPG will have on the environment;
- (c) identify ways of reducing any harmful effects the Water Resources SPG may have;
- (d) explain what the SEA is and how it has been carried out; and
- (e) to set out how comments on the SEA can be submitted to the CNPA.

The Environmental Report follows the initial screening and scoping consultations issued to the consultation authorities in January and February 2010 respectively. The views of the consultees have been taken into consideration in the preparation of this report.

The SEA of the Water Resources SPG should be seen in the context of SEA work previously undertaken by the CNPA for the Park Plan and the Local Plan.

2.2 The Cairngorms National Park context

The Cairngorms National Park currently extends to 3,800 sq km and covers parts of four local authority areas (Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Angus). The Park is centred on the Cairngorm mountains and extends to Grantown-on-Spey, Strathdon, Ballater, the heads of the Angus Glens, Dalwhinnie and Laggan.

The Cairngorms National Park was established in September 2003, on the basis of:

- the outstanding national importance of its natural and cultural heritage;
- the area's distinctive character and coherent identity; and
- the special management needs of the area.

The general purpose of the Cairngorms National Park Authority, as set out in the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000, is to ensure that the National Park aims are collectively achieved in a co-ordinated way. The Park Authority is therefore an enabling organisation that must work with and through other bodies to bring added value to the management of the Park, to achieve the four aims.

The aims of the National Park are:

- to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage;
- to promote sustainable use of the natural resources;
- 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.

The Cairngorms National Park Authority must ensure that the four aims are achieved collectively. However, if there appears to be a conflict between the first aim and the other aims, greater weight must be given to the first aim (Section 9(6) of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000).

The CNPA is not a full planning authority, but shares planning powers in the Park with the four constituent local authorities. The Park Authority is responsible for preparing a Local Plan and supplementary planning guidance for the Park, but only operates the development management function on applications that are considered to be of significance to the aims of the National Park.

The Development Management function within the National Park is shared by the Park Authority and the four constituent local authorities. Planning applications are made to the local authorities in the first instance, and the CNPA has the power to 'call-in' applications, to be determined by the Park Authority, where it is considered that they have some significance to the aims of the National Park. In practice, this has meant that to date the Park Authority has called-in around 16 per cent of the planning applications within the Cairngorms National Park for determination.

As supplementary planning guidance, the Water Resources SPG will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The SPG is informed by the finalised Local Plan for the Cairngorms National Park which replaces the four local plans which existed previously. The Local Plan takes its strategic context from the Cairngorms National Park Plan.

3. The Water Resources Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)

3.1 Outline and objectives of the Water Resources SPG

The purpose of the Water Resources SPG is to provide guidance on the sustainable development principles set out in the Local Plan, primarily in relation to Policy 13 which provides the basis for the sustainable use of all water resources associated with all new development in the Park.

The SPG will provide guidance and advice on achieving more sustainable use of water resources in new developments and reducing the impact of development on the water environment. As such it will contain information on a wide range of issues which include: the minimisation of water abstraction, treatment and other engineering works, water pollution sources, surface and foul water drainage; sustainable management of water resources; connection to sewerage to safeguard water status and requirements for sustainable flood risk management.

The objectives of the Water Resources SPG are to:

1. Inform developers of the issues that must be considered for all developments that have an effect on any aspect of the water environment and water resource use – issues regarding the quality and quantity of water, flooding, connections to sewerage and to the sustainable management of water resources;
2. Highlight criteria to identify the type of developments which will be permitted, providing guidance for the protection of water resources, minimise water abstraction and treatment and other engineering works, and how to limit and reduce pollution inputs. Natural heritage, private water supplies and other regulatory requirements will also be detailed;
3. Promote sustainable flood risk management by identifying types of flooding; provide guidance which aims to prevent new development if it is at significant risk and provide essential information to applicants for the preparation of Flood Risk Assessment and drainage arrangements as required;
4. Provide expected development requirements for waste water treatment in order to improve and maintain a good quality water environment.

The list of topics to be covered in the SPG is shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Topics covered by the Water Resources SPG

Issue to be covered in Water Resources SPG
The Water Environment - Context
<p>Policy context, planning and environmental protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Framework Directive, Water Environment and Water Services Act and The Water Environment (CAR) Regulations • River Basin Management Plans • Other legislation, planning policy and additional guidance • Roles and Responsibilities
Use of resources
<p>Water quality and quantity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable water resource management • Water treatment/abstraction/impoundment and other engineering works • Hydropower schemes • Water quality – ecological status • Natural heritage (Habitats Directive) • Provision of services – surface water and foul water • Safeguarding water supplies and wastewater treatment • Water resources – conservation and recycling

Minimising the impact of flooding
Sustainable flood risk management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and flooding • Surface Drainage, (SUDS) and culverts
Connection to sewerage – safeguarding water quality
Sustainable Drainage Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foul wastewater treatment • SEPA Position Statement 06-08 Waste water drainage in settlements

3.2 The Water Resources Supplementary Planning Guidance and its relationship with other plans and policies

There are a wide range of plans, policies and strategies (PPS) that are relevant to the SPG and help to influence its content and direction. A full list of relevant PPS can be found in Appendix I. The Appendix also identifies the key issues of these PPS which are relevant to the SPG.

In summary the SPG has a relationship with other PPS in the following categories:

- International and European;
- National;
- National planning guidance (Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Notes);
- Local statutory plans (for example, the Parks constituent local authorities); and
- Cairngorms National Park specific.

The Cairngorms National Park Local Plan, together with the Cairngorms National Park Plan, set the planning policy context for the Park. This SPG provides further detailed guidance on particular aspects of this planning context in relation to sustainable use of water resources.

The Cairngorms National Park Plan was approved by the Minister on 15 March 2007. The finalised Local Plan is likely to be adopted by the end of 2010. Both the Park Plan and the Local Plan have been subject to SEA.

Other statutory local PPS include those prepared by or on behalf of the constituent local authorities and other public bodies which are active in the Park. This includes local authority Development Plans, Core Path Plans, Forestry Strategies, Housing Plans, Waste Management Plans and so on.

The Scottish Government's consolidated SPP (2010) and any remaining SPP's set the national planning context which is interpreted by local development plans.

National and international PPS may also set the context for how the planning system should interpret various policies set at European and International levels. European Directives are the most common example of this type of PPS.

4. Environmental perspectives and Strategic Environmental Assessment objectives

4.1 The State of the Park Report

SEA requires the collation of environmental baseline information. A State of the Park Report has been prepared by the CNPA. This report, which has been used in previous SEA work, draws together existing information on the Park's resources, as a baseline to inform development and assessment of Park plans and policies. The report covers:

- natural resources
- cultural resources
- visitor resources
- economic and social resources

In each section the report identifies as far as possible:

- current extent of the resource
- relative importance of the resource
- current state of the resource
- key trends affecting the resource
- limitations on existing data and future research needs

The report provides the environmental baseline data against which the potential impacts of the Water Resources SPG have been assessed and against which future implementation of such plans will be monitored. Further details can be found in Appendix 2 (see p26).

4.2 Existing environmental issues in the Cairngorms National Park

The State of the Park Report identified a number of current trends and key issues in relation to environmental resources in the Cairngorms. Further details of this can be found in Appendix 3 (see p28). These informed the SEA of the Park Plan and the Local Plan.

SEA guidance identifies the need to ensure that issues addressed in assessments are appropriate to the level and scale of the PPS, and to ensure that assessments lower down the PPS hierarchy do not duplicate assessments which have already been carried out higher up the PPS hierarchy. The SEA of the Local Plan identified a number of potentially negative effects of the Local Plan proposals, ie:

- Loss, damage or disturbance to important species or habitats and ecosystems;
- Damage to the water environment including streams, rivers, lochs, ground water, wetland habitats, floodplains;

The purpose of the Water Resources SPG and the policy which it relates are to avoid and / or mitigate the above effects. The SEA of the SPG has therefore sought to ensure that these issues have been adequately addressed. Issues such as the strategic location of development, previously assessed at the Local Plan level, have not been re-assessed in this SEA.

4.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment objectives

The policy context for the Water Resources SPG is set by plans and policies higher up the planning hierarchy; principally the Cairngorms National Park Plan and the Cairngorms National Park Finalised Local Plan. Both of these plans were subject to SEA.

The Water Resources SPG Scoping Report identified a set of objectives against which to assess the environmental impacts of the SPG. These objectives reflected the findings of the previous SEA's together with the comments received from the Consultation Authorities in response to the Water Resources SPG Scoping Report. The final SEA objectives used to assess the Water Resources SPG are listed in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Strategic Environmental Assessment objectives

Biodiversity, fauna and flora	1. To conserve and enhance the diversity of species, habitats and ecosystems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does this prevent loss of priority species and habitats (see Local Plan SEA, p30)? • Does this prevent disturbance to priority species and their habitats? • Does this provide barriers to non-native species movement and habitat fragmentation? • Does it prevent continued spread and introduction of non-native species? • Does it protect designated areas? • Does it protect species?
Water	2. To conserve and enhance the water environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does it take into account climate change impacts? • Does it enhance water quality and quantity? • Does it maintain hydrology and habitats? • Does it promote river basin management? • Does it promote SUDS? • Does it avoid pressures and impacts on ecological status? • Does it prevent water pollution? • Does it promote waste

		<p>water management?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does it promote floodplain management? • Does it prevent morphological impacts from engineering and other works? • Does it prevent impacts from abstraction/treatment? • Does it have impacts on protected species or areas, flood risk?
Material assets	3. To use material assets in a sustainable way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does it minimise need for abstraction/treatment of water? • Does it minimise need for and risk to infrastructure? • Does it encourage sound land use activities? • Does it not increase risk of flooding? • Does it promote good water quantity and quality?
Climatic factors	4. To minimise contributions to the causes of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does it maximise sustainable use of water resources? • Does it increase water efficiency? • Does it improve water quality? • Does it climate-proof new development? • Does it reduce pollution? • Does it protect carbon sinks?
Soil	5. Maintain or improve soil and peat quality and avoid exacerbating pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does it conserve mineral resources? • Does it conserve soil resources? • Does it minimise soil and peat erosion and disturbance?

Population and human health	6. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does it provide clean drinking water supplies and foul drainage provision? • Does it provide a high quality water supply for economic and recreational use?
Landscape	7. To maintain and enhance the distinctive landscape character of the Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does it maintain the existing landscape character? • Does it enhance the water environment including riparian zones?

4.4 Likely evolution of the environment without the Water Resources Supplementary Planning Guidance - alternatives

The Directive requires the likely evolution of the environment without the PPS (plan, policy or strategy) to be considered. The trends identified in the State of the Park Report are expected to continue in the absence of new policy or actions to address them. The underlying purpose of the National Park designation is to integrate the management of different sectors and areas within the Park in order to take a co-ordinated approach to addressing these issues and delivering the Park aims.

The Local Plan is the main tool for influencing planning in the Park. The Local Plan sets out the requirement for the SPG, recognising the lack of detailed guidance to accompany the policy itself. In the absence of the Water Resources SPG it may be more likely developers would be less clear what was expected for any development and as such development may be permitted which had an adverse impact on water quantity or quality – this could lead to significant negative effects.

Alternatives/options considered

Although alternatives to the Water Resources SPG are limited- two alternatives have been considered. Alternatives are outlined here in order to set the context for this report.

Option 1 – do nothing: This is not developing the Water Resources SPG. This is however not an option, as the absence of the Water Resources SPG may mean it is more likely that development would be permitted which had an adverse impact on water quantity or quality - a significant negative effect.

Option 2 – do optimum: Under this option, we would develop a Water Resources SPG. This would include the opportunity to provide guidance, issues and criteria that must be considered for all developments related to any aspect of the water environment.

5. Summary of assessment findings

5.1 Assessment of Supplementary Planning Guidance principles

The SPG contains four principles and associated guidance. Environmental issues were considered throughout the development of the principles contained within the SPG. The principles are a direct response to the environmental issues which the Cairngorms National Park faces, the aims of the Cairngorms National Park Plan and the planning policy established by the Local Plan. The principles support the wider aims of sustainable development within the Park.

The special qualities of the Park are closely linked to the natural and cultural heritage of the area. The principles contained in the SPG are specifically intended to provide support to Local Plan Policy 12 Water Resources and Park Plan policies which aim to provide robust protection to a wide range of water environmental interests which are also reflected in the SEA objectives.

Table 5 presents a summary of the predicted significant environmental effects of the principles contained in the Water Resources SPG. The full assessment results can be found in Appendix 4.

Table 5: Summary of assessment findings

Principle 1: The water environment	
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>The protection of water resources is a key objective of the Water Resources SPG. Habitat, water quality of rivers and wetlands are to be enhanced and restored, recognising there is an active need to manage our demands for water whilst balancing the needs of wildlife and the environment.</p>	<p>Assessment summary:</p> <p>Generally a strongly positive or positive impact on the SEA criteria.</p>
Principle 2: use of resources	
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Water Resources SPG supports more sustainable water resource use; in relation to water quality and quantity in terms of treatment/abstraction and other engineering works, pollution associated with development processes and surface water management.</p>	<p>Assessment summary:</p> <p>Generally a positive impact on the SEA criteria.</p>

Principle 3: minimising the impact of flooding	
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>This directly addresses a number of factors related to reducing the risk of flood events by ensuring inappropriate development in inappropriate locations does not take place and that sustainable flood plain management and drainage requirements are put in place.</p>	<p>Assessment summary:</p> <p>Generally a positive impact on the SEA criteria.</p>
Principle 4: connection to sewerage – safeguarding water quality	
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>The Water Resources SPG aims to protect and enhance the water environment and its status by limiting the impact of any development associated with it, including foul drainage impacts.</p>	<p>Assessment summary:</p> <p>Generally a positive impact on the SEA criteria.</p>

The aim of the Water Resources SPG is to have a positive effect on a number of environmental (and wider sustainability) issues. This has been at the forefront of considerations during the development of the SPG. This is borne out by the results of the environmental assessment of the draft SPG which indicates that all the principles are overall likely to have a strongly positive impact on environmental issues.

Some principles are shown overall to have a stronger positive impact on the SEA objectives than others. Whilst significant positive impacts are not recorded for all SEA objectives no principle results in a significant or indeed a minor negative environmental impact. Rather the impact may be regarded as neutral. This is shown in Table 6, p20.

All four principles of the SPG have been designed to work together hence not all individual principles will have a significant positive impact on all SEA objectives, but taken as a whole the SPG will have strong positive impacts, to some extent, on all SEA objectives.

Assessment sheets for each principle outline and describe the predicted effects in more detail. These can be found in Appendix 4 (see p30).

Local Plan policies support all the SEA objectives, as demonstrated in the Local Plan SEA. Further supplementary planning guidance will provide more detailed support to SEA objectives in due course. The SPG should be seen within this wider context of supplementary topic-based guidance. Following the SEA process from the Cairngorms National Park Plan, through the Local Plan and down to topic based supplementary planning guidance ensures that all SEA objectives are addressed within the overall land-use planning activity for the Park.

5.2 Cumulative and synergistic effects

No significant cumulative or synergistic effects of the principles are considered likely. The principles are all aimed at ensuring development promoted through Local Plan policy is pursued in a sustainable fashion. In addition to this, the protective policies in the Local Plan also apply and would avoid, minimise or mitigate the negative effects. The Local Plan states, within the protective policies and supporting text that the cumulative effects of proposals will be taken into account when determining planning applications.

5.3 Proposed mitigation

No mitigation is considered necessary.

Table 6: Summary of environmental impacts

	SEA Objectives						
SPG Principles	1. To conserve and enhance the diversity of species, habitats and ecosystems	2. To conserve and enhance the water environment	3. To maintain and enhance the distinctive landscape character of the Park, including the historic environment	4. To use material assets in a sustainable way	5. To minimise contributions to climate change	6. To maintain or improve soil and peat quality and avoid creating or exacerbating pollution	7. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population
Principle 1: The Water Environment	+	++	+	++	++	+	+
Principle 2: Use of Resources	+	++	+	+	+	+	+
Principle 3: Minimising the impact of flooding	++	+	+/-	+	+	+	+
Principle 4: Connection to sewerage – Safeguarding water quality	+	++	=	=	+	+	+
	+	++				=	
	Positive impact		Strongly positive impact		Neutral impact		

6. Monitoring

The SEA of the SPG sits within the hierarchy of plans and SEA's as identified above in particular the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan. In addition to this it also sits within the monitoring framework for the National Park Plan and other associated plans and strategies and guidance prepared for the National Park.

Monitoring of the effects of the implementation of these various plans, programmes and strategies (including this SPG) will be undertaken and will influence the shape of future plans and policies for the Park. No significant negative effects are expected to arise from this SPG, however this and any unforeseen effects will be reviewed as required.

7. Next steps

The Water Resources SPG and this Environmental Report will be available for public consultation.

Once the consultation period has ended, the next steps and estimated timescale will be:

- Assess comments and make any necessary amendments to the SPG;
- Prepare the finalised SPG;
- Update the Environmental Report to reflect any comments, as required;
- Prepare a post adoption statement setting out how the SEA process has informed the SPG, the reasons for decisions made and the framework for future assessment in line with the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan and Park Plan monitoring schemes;
- Adopt and publish the SPG.

Appendix I: Relationship with other plans

International / European PPS	Key issues addressed
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change	The treaty is aimed at reducing emissions of greenhouse gases in order to combat global warming
Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks (EC Directive 2007/60/EC)	Aims to reduce and manage the risks floods posed to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.
EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 79/409/EEC 1979	Requires Member States to sustain populations of naturally occurring wild birds by sustaining areas of habitats to maintain ecologically and scientifically sound levels.
EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora 92/42/EEC 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.
Directive 2000/60/EC The Water Framework Directive	Requires Member States to achieve good ecological status of inland water bodies.
Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste-water treatment.	Establishes standards for water quality and sets limits for various pollutants.
The Drinking Water Directive (DWD), Council Directive 98/83/EC	Sets quality standards for drinking water quality at the tap

National PPS	Issues relevance to SPG
Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act	Flooding and Land Use
Nature Conservation Bill (Scotland) 2004	Biodiversity.
UK Climate Change Programme (2006)	Reduction of carbon emissions.
Changing our Ways – Scotland's Climate Change Programme (2006)	National interpretation of global climate change challenge.
River Basin Management Plan for Scotland Draft Local Area Management Plans	Describes impact of human activity on surface waters and groundwaters, identifies water bodies at risk and measures for improvement.

The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005	Implementing the WFD
Water Environment and Water Services Act (WEWS) 2003	Introduced legal duties to ensure compliance with the WFD aims and objectives, as well as a requirement to promote sustainable use of water resources and sustainable flood management.
Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005	Regulates discharges.
Scottish Water Strategic Asset Capacity and Development Plan	Sets out service and investment intentions.
SEPA Policy 55 – Provision of waste water drainage in settlements	SEPA's position on provision of strategic foul drainage.
Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2000, SSI 2000/323	Addresses pollution matters ranging between environmental hazards and human health

SPP / NPPG / PAN	Issues relevant to SPG
Scottish Planning Policy (February 2010 consolidated document)	Sets out the purpose of planning and overarching role of planning authorities. Includes subject policies including Natural Heritage, Flood Risk
PAN51 Planning, Environmental Protection and Regulation	National advice to support SPP
PAN 61 Planning and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems	National advice to support SPP
PAN79 Water and Drainage	National advice to support SPP

Local PPS	Relevance to SPG
Structure Plans	The Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire (NEST) and Angus Council Structure Plan's set out the strategic framework for the CNPA area.
Community Plans	The Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Angus Council Community Plan's, set out how public services will be planned and delivered, through consultation and co-operation (among all public bodies, and with community bodies).

River Spey Management Plan and River Dee Catchment Management Plan.	Water quality and quantity, flood risk, conserving and enhancing biodiversity, pollution prevention, waste water treatment, private water supplies.
Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan Project	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.

Cairngorms National Park Plan Strategic Objectives		Relevance to SPG
Biodiversity	e) Ensure that populations of species given special protection under the Habitat Regulations, the Wildlife and Countryside Act, the Nature Conservation Act and European Directives are stable or, where appropriate, increasing.	Natural Heritage section
	g) Identify, prioritise and take action to address non-native species that pose a threat to the natural heritage and land management of the Park.	
Sustainable Use of Resources	a) All management and development in the Park should seek to make the most sustainable use of natural resources, including water and energy	Sustainable Water Resource Management section
Water	a) Maintain or where necessary enhance the existing high water quality and physical condition of waterbodies in the Park	Sustainable Water Resource Management section
	c) Encourage more sustainable patterns of domestic, industrial, agricultural and recreational water use	Sustainable Water Resource Management section

	d) Promote sustainable flood management consistent with natural fluvial processes	Sustainable Flood Risk Management section
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Cairngorms National Park Local Plan policy	Relevance to SPG
1: Natura 2000 Sites 2: National Natural Heritage Designation 3: Other Important Natural and Earth Heritage Sites and Interests 4: Protected Species 5: Biodiversity	Natural heritage section
SPG Natural Heritage provides additional background information	Natural Heritage section
15. Energy Generation	Renewable Energy SPG and hydropower section
16: Designs Standards for Development	Use of Resources section
12: Water Resources Sustainable Drainage Design Guide for Housing in the Countryside (Highland Housing Alliance) provides additional background information.	Various sections - foul waste water treatment, flooding, surface water runoff, water conservation.

Appendix 2: Environmental baseline

Resource	Key facts
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% of UK's threatened species present • 12.5% of Scotland's semi-natural woodland cover • Habitat types present include: montane; dwarf shrub heath; conifer woodland; broadleaved and mixed woodland; acid grassland; fen, marsh and swamp; standing water; rivers and streams. • UK Biodiversity Action Plan species include: upland oak and birch woodland; bog woodland (largest extent in Scotland); juniper; capercaillie; black grouse; Scottish crossbill. • Habitats listed under Annex I of EU Habitats Directive include: dry heaths; alpine and boreal heaths; sub-arctic willow scrub; siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands, Nardus grasslands; calcareous flushes • Close proximity of lowground, woodland, water, upland and montane habitats
Designated Nature Conservation Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 39% of Park designated for natural heritage • 19 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) • 12 Special Protection Areas (SPA) • 46 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) – some of which are of geological importance • 3 Ramsar Sites • 6 National Nature Reserves
Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 SSSIs with soils of international importance • 12 SSSIs with soils of national importance • High proportion of undisturbed soils (only 2% cultivated) • Podzols form 50% of soil cover including internationally significant alpine podzols on the plateau • Peat forms 13% of soil cover
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2001 Census: 16,024 people • Population density 0.04 people/Ha (lower than Scottish average) • 25.8% of population over 60 (higher than Scottish average) • Average health index in top 25% of Scotland (based on deprivation indices)
Historic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 designated Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes • 60 Scheduled Ancient Monuments • 424 listed buildings • 3 Conservation Areas • 4778 records in National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) • Large number of historic landscapes • Potential for survival of many unknown remains in upland areas
Earth Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 National Scenic Areas

Landforms and Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites – of which some are part or all SSSI • Granite massif and plateau • Internationally important landform record • Coherent identity of landscape across park from landform and landcover. • Extensive areas where the special quality of wildness can be experienced. • Landscapes of a distinctive character that are an integral part of the outstanding national importance and value of the Park. • Land-use cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42% dwarf shrub heath • 28% montane habitats • 11% coniferous woodland • 2% broadleaved/mixed woodland • 3% improved grassland • 0.4% built areas
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,362km of running water habitat • 81% of streams classified as excellent (A1) or good (A2) (SEPA 2003) • 20 sq km standing waters • Catchments of 6 major rivers
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively low atmospheric pollution
Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual precipitation over 2250mm on summits and under 900mm in straths • Average annual snow cover 200 days on summits and 50 days on low-ground • Prevailing winds from south-west
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public right of responsible access • 49 Munros including 5 summits over 4000 feet • 3 ski centres • National Cycle Network Route 7 • 1 Long Distance Route (Speyside Way) • 179 Rights of Way • around 40 promoted path networks
Energy & Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant energy generation within the Park
Built Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Conservation Areas • Distinctive local vernacular architecture

Appendix 3: Key trends and issues in the Cairngorms

Resource	Key trends	Key issues
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some continued habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration • Vegetation limited by grazing pressure • Continued spread and introductions of non-native species • Increase in native woodland cover 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem integrity and connectivity • Impact of non-native species • Impact of climate change • impact of recreation • Impact of development • Incomplete data
Designated Nature Conservation Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing account of external impacts to sites (Nature Conservation Act 2004) • Recent expansion of Natura 2000 designations • Review of NNR designations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management practices • Long-term security of management objectives • integration with wider land-use
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications for community dynamics – growth/shrinkage • Implications for development patterns • Implications for human resources, • Socio-Economic value of water ie employment, recreation uses
Historic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land-use change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of new development • Extension of forest cover • Impact of visitors
Landforms & Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in woodland cover • Decline in heather moorland cover • Increase in research on landscape • Decrease in area with wildland attributes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of development • Recreation pressure and impacts of tracks and footpaths • Connectivity of land cover • Impact of transport infrastructure • Impact of renewable energy developments, energy transmission and telecommunications

		infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptions of 'wildness' • Impact of forest design and management
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil erosion on higher slopes and plateaux 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of recreation • Lack of information on soil use and development • Trampling and grazing by herbivores
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acidification (atmospheric) • Decline in native fish stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diffuse pollution from agricultural ground • River modification • Catchment processes and flood management • Availability for consumption • Impact of recreation • Impact of water abstraction • Land drainage impacts
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change – increasing temperature and precipitation expected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atmospheric pollution • Flood management
Access & Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing range of outdoor recreation activities • New public right of responsible access • More managed path networks • Increased level of upland path provision and repair • Diversification of ski centres into summer activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development increasing or reducing access opportunities • impact of access on habitats and species • landscape impact of access infrastructure • Accessibility of environment for all
Energy and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing demand for renewable (particularly windfarm) sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impact of transmission pylons and windfarm developments • Use of non-renewable energy sources
Built Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abandonment or conversion of farm steadings • Significant demand for new housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decay of listed buildings • Impact of development on settlement character

Appendix 4: Summary comments from Consultation Authorities

NB No screening undertaken straight to scoping stage. This PPS (plans, policies or strategies) is considered to fall within Section 5 (4) of the Act.

Summary scoping comments from Consultation Authorities - screening

Consultation authority	Likelihood of significant environmental effects
Historic Scotland	n/a
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	n/a
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)	n/a
Overall view on likelihood of significant environmental effects	n/a

Summary scoping comments from Consultation Authorities – Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

Issue	Comment
General Comments	SNH is content with the scope and level of detail proposed for the Environmental Report. We note that your consultation period is 6-12 weeks.
Detailed comments	We are content with the proposed scope of the environmental report, and the approach of grouping some of the SEA criteria.
	Refer to the Habitats Directive in the first row on the water environment, climate change in table 1 or SPG.
	Water is also important for various economic and recreational uses relevant to the population and human health, for example salmon fishing and whisky distilleries.
	The implications of climate change for the Park's water environment

	should perhaps be included here, along with the types of "precaution" that could be included in the SPG.
	It would be helpful if any assessments could be summarised in the final document so that it is clear what assessments have been made.
	It could be mentioned that SEA ought to consider 'reasonable' alternatives, and this is not picked up in the scoping report. This could be (a) alternatives to producing this SPG, and (b) alternative policies within the SPG.
	Put in full title for the Birds and Habitats Directives. These are "Council Directive 79/409/EEC (b) on the conservation of wild birds" (the Birds Directive) and the "Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora" (Habitats Directive).
	Under Biodiversity, flora and fauna – other key considerations could be – Protection of designated areas; Protected species.
	We recommend the addition of 'non' as in 'barriers to non-native species movement and habitat fragmentation'.
	"priority habitats and species" then refers to LBAP. We recommend that the same definition is used as in the Local Plan SEA (page 30).
	The impacts of riparian engineering can be more than just morphological, for example, they can have impacts on protected species or flood risk.
	Maintaining hydrology, where this is important, could be added to the key considerations.
	Mention how the SPG takes climate change into consideration, especially in terms of SEA Objective 1.
	Objective should be 'To minimise contributions to the causes of climate change'. Another key consideration under this could be 'protect carbon sinks'.
	When mitigation is identified in the SEA, it would be helpful if included in the SPG itself.
	Scoring should not be limited to 'single' scores (for example, '+' or '-') but could depend on uncertainties and options be a combination.

	We are content with the proposed methodology for monitoring the environmental effects.
	Under 'Population' it may be better to consider issues that have an impact on water resources, rather than a social theme.
	A key issue in terms of water management might be land drainage including moorland drainage.

Summary scoping comments from Consultation Authorities – Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

Issue	Comment
General Comments	The proposals outlined in the Scoping Report are acceptable to us, with the exception of some minor issues.
Detailed Comments	
Scoping in/out of SEA objectives	We are satisfied with the proposed scoping of SEA receptors.
Baseline information	We are aware that you prepared a State of the Park Report for the CNPA area for other SEA work and a summary of it is provided in Appendix 1. The summary is very short so there is little specific comment we can make on this aspect apart from ensuring that the information is up-to-date.
Relationship with other Plans, Policies and Strategies (PPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have identified the most relevant related PPS but we would encourage you to consider a full range of possible international, national and local PPS related to the water environment. Including climate change.
Methodology for assessing environmental effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are satisfied with the proposed SEA Objectives The proposed recording template looks useful. We welcome the inclusion of 'key consideration' to help understand how the assessments have been made. In relation to the water SEA Objective we would expect key considerations to include reduction in local water quality, direct physical impacts and protection of the functional flood plain.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set out assumptions that are made during the assessment and difficulties and limitations encountered. • All aspects of the Guidance which could have significant effects should be addressed. • We would encourage you to use the assessment as a way to improve the environmental performance of individual aspects of the final option. Proposals for enhancement would also be supported. • We welcome the proposal to also include a summary matrix to help consider accumulative effects. 	
<p>Mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We remind you that if the assessment of the Guidance results in negative effects then the clearest form of mitigation is to modify that aspect of the guidance. We would like the Environment Report to make clear how carrying out SEA informed the Guidance which is being consulted upon at the same time. • Where mitigation proposed does not relate to modifications to the Guidance itself then it should be clear how the mitigation will be achieved and by whom. 	
<p>Alternatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No information is provided on the consideration of alternatives. • Any reasonable alternatives identified during the preparation of the guidance should be assessed as part of the SEA process and the findings of the assessment should inform the choice of the preferred option. This should be documented in the Environment Report. 	
<p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are satisfied with the proposal for a 3 month consultation period for the Environment Report. 	

Summary scoping comments from Consultation Authorities – Historic Scotland

Issue	Comment
Scope of assessment and level of detail	Note that the historic environment has been scoped out of the assessment and are content with this and level of detail proposed.
Consultation period for the Environmental Report	Content with the 3 month period proposed for consultation on the Environmental Report.

Appendix 5: Alternatives/options considered

Although alternatives to the Water Resources SPG are limited- two alternatives have been considered. Alternatives are outlined here in order to set the context for this report.

Option 1 – do nothing: This is not developing the Water Resources SPG. This is however not an option, in the absence of the Water Resources SPG it may be more likely that development would be permitted which had an adverse impact on water quantity or quality - a significant negative effect.

Option 2 – do optimum: Under this option, we would develop a Water Resources SPG. This would include the opportunity to provide guidance, issues and criteria that must be considered for all developments related to any aspect of the water environment - regarding the use of water resources -quality and quantity of water, flooding and connections to sewerage. The SPG will include proposals for ongoing monitoring and feedback, as well as detailed legislative, policy and regulatory background to the key organisations responsible for the water environment.

Scoping in/out of Strategic Environmental Assessment issues

SEA Issue	Scoped in, scoped out (if scoped out, why)	Comments
Biodiversity, flora, fauna	Yes	
Population and Human health	Yes	
Soil	Yes	
Water	Yes	
Climatic factors	Yes	Air Quality impacts are unlikely to arise.
Material assets	Yes	
Cultural Heritage	No – Policy is unlikely to have negative impacts on this issue	
Landscape	Yes	

Appendix 6: Full assessment results

+ Positive impact ++ Strongly positive impact = Neutral impact

<p>SPG Principle 1: The Water Environment</p> <p>The protection of water resources is a key objective of the SPG, habitat and water quality of rivers and wetlands be enhanced and restored, recognising there is an active need to manage our demands for water whilst balancing the needs of wildlife and the env.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Biodiversity, fauna and flora</p> <hr/> <p>SEA objective: To conserve & enhance the diversity of species, habitats and ecosystems.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid loss of priority species and habitats. • Avoid disturbance to priority species and their habitats. • Avoid barriers to native species movement and habitat fragmentation. • Avoid introduction and continued spread of non-native species. <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on biodiversity, fauna and flora as it aims to ensure that the impact on the ecology of the water environment is assessed and opportunities for enhancement are identified as part of the development proposal.</p>	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p>
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SPG guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring:

The SEA objective is explicitly addressed in the Natural Heritage section. This highlights the need to understand the existing natural environment and to seek out opportunities for enhancing the environment including wetland restoration, riparian strips and the assessment of important habitats and species.

This principle works in conjunction with following Local Plan policies which aim to ensure the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity; 2: Natura 2000 sites; 3: National Natural Heritage Designations; 4: Other Important Natural and Earth Heritage Sites and Interests; 5: Protected Species; 6: Biodiversity.

The SPG on Natural Heritage provides further background information on implementing this principle.

<p>SPG Principle 1: The Water Environment</p> <p>The protection of water resources is a key objective of the SPG, habitat and water quality of rivers and wetlands be enhanced and restored, recognising there is an active need to manage our demands for water whilst balancing the needs of wildlife and the env.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Water</p> <p>SEA objective: To conserve and enhance the water environment.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid reductions in water quality and quantity • Ensure use of SUDS • Ensure connection to public sewerage when available • Avoid development on floodplains; • Avoid physical modifications to the water environment • Enhance water quality and quantity; • River basin management; • Avoid pressures and impacts on ecological status; • Water pollution; • Waste water management; • Floodplain management; • Morphological impacts from engineering and other works; • Impacts from abstraction/treatment; • Private water abstractions <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a strong positive impact on the water environment. Strong positive impacts may result from promotion of sensitive location of development, avoidance of significant water quality and quantity impacts and overall the consideration of all impacts on the water environment by prospective developers.</p> <p>Impact on SEA objective ++</p>
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	<p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with throughout and is the main focus of the SPG.</p>
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<p>SPG Principle 1: The Water Environment</p> <p>The protection of water resources is a key objective of the SPG, habitat and water quality of rivers and wetlands be enhanced and restored, recognising there is an active need to manage our demands for water whilst balancing the needs of wildlife and the env.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Landscape</p> <p>SEA objective: To maintain and enhance the distinctive landscape character of the Park, including the historic environment.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance where appropriate existing landscape character including designed landscapes. • Maintain and enhance the opportunities for experiencing wildness in the Park. • Minimise the damage or disturbance to key geodiversity interests. <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on landscape as it aims to ensure that the water environment is protected and enhanced, this may have potential knock on benefits including the use of natural flood defences in lieu of man-made alternatives, reduction in water body adaption and other interventions. The SPG will seek to ensure consideration of landscape at an early stage in the development process.</p> <p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p>
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	<p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is referred to throughout the guidance, including seeking to encourage riparian zones, natural flood risk management practices and avoiding unnecessary engineering works.</p> <p>This principle works in conjunction with following Local Plan policies which aim to protect and where appropriate enhance the landscape character and the historic environment: 7: Landscape.</p> <p>The SPG's on Natural Heritage and the CNPA Landscape Framework provide further background information on implementing this principle.</p>
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<p>SPG Principle 1: The Water Environment</p> <p>The protection of water resources is a key objective of the SPG, habitat and water quality of rivers and wetlands be enhanced and restored, recognising there is an active need to manage our demands for water whilst balancing the needs of wildlife and the envy.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Material assets</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 398 582 1758"> <tr> <td data-bbox="236 667 582 1758"> <p>SEA objective: To use material assets in a sustainable way.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise need for abstraction/treatment of water; • Not increase risk of flooding; • Promote good water quantity and quality; • need for and risk to infrastructure; </td> <td data-bbox="236 398 582 667"> <p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>++</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>Commentary:</p> <p>This principle is likely to have a strongly positive impact on material assets. Strong positive impacts may result from encouraging the location of development in sensitive locations, promoting sustainable use of water and requiring developers to consider the water environment sensitively.</p> <p>This SEA objective is explicitly dealt with in Principle 2: Use of Resources efficiently and Principle 3: Minimising the impact of flooding.</p> <p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring:</p> <p>The purpose of the SPG is to ensure that all four principles work together and that all issues are addressed at an early stage in the development process.</p>	<p>SEA objective: To use material assets in a sustainable way.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise need for abstraction/treatment of water; • Not increase risk of flooding; • Promote good water quantity and quality; • need for and risk to infrastructure; 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>++</p>
<p>SEA objective: To use material assets in a sustainable way.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise need for abstraction/treatment of water; • Not increase risk of flooding; • Promote good water quantity and quality; • need for and risk to infrastructure; 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>++</p>		

<p>SPG Principle 1: The Water Environment</p> <p>The protection of water resources is a key objective of the SPG, habitat and water quality of rivers and wetlands be enhanced and restored, recognising there is an active need to manage our demands for water whilst balancing the needs of wildlife and the env.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Climatic factors</p> <p>SEA objective: To minimise contributions to climate change.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise sustainable use of water resources. • Increase water efficiency • Improve water quality • Climate-proof new development • Reduce air pollution <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on climatic factors as it aims to ensure that any development adopts a sustainable approach to water resource management.</p> <p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is implicitly addressed throughout the SPG.</p> <p>This principle works in conjunction with following Local Plan policies which aim to reduce emissions which contribute to climate change and to address the challenges presented by the impacts of climate change: 16: Design Standards for Development; 17: Reducing Carbon Emissions in Development; 31: Waste Management; 29: Integrated and Sustainable Transport Network; 27: Conversion and Re-use of Existing Traditional and Vernacular Buildings; 26: Retail Development; 34: Outdoor Access.</p> <p>The SPG on Reducing Carbon Emissions provides additional background information.</p> <p>Impact on SEA objective ++</p>
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<p>SPG Principle 1: The Water Environment</p> <p>The protection of water of resources is a key objective of the SPG, habitat and water quality of rivers and wetlands be enhanced and restored, recognising there is an active need to manage our demands for water whilst balancing the needs of wildlife and the env.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Soil</p> <p>SEA objective: To maintain or improve soil and peat quality and avoid erosion and disturbance.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve mineral resources • Conserve soil resources • Minimise soil and peat erosion and disturbance <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on the soil environment. Minor positive impacts may result from the promotion of construction techniques which may minimise soil movement. Positive impacts may occur where natural approaches reduce flood risk and potential for erosion and disturbance. Allocation of development sites is dealt with in the Local Plan.</p> <p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: This SEA objective is explicitly dealt with in Principle 2: Use of Resources and Principle 3: Minimising the impact of flooding.</p>	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>+</p>
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<p>SPG Principle 1: The Water Environment</p> <p>The protection of water resources is a key objective of the SPG, habitat and water quality of rivers and wetlands be enhanced and restored, recognising there is an active need to manage our demands for water whilst balancing the needs of wildlife and the env.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Population and human health</p> <p>SEA objective: To maintain a sustainable and healthy population.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for clean drinking water supplies and foul drainage provision, <p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: right;">+</p> <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on population and human health through the promotion of sustainable foul drainage requirements and safeguarding drinking water supplies.</p> <p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: This SEA objective is explicitly reflected in Principle 2: Private Water Supplies and Principle 4: Connection to Sewerage.</p>
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<p>SPG Principle 2: Use of Resources</p> <p>More sustainable water resource use; in relation to water quality and quantity.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Biodiversity, fauna and flora</p>	<p>SEA objective: To conserve and enhance the diversity of species, habitats and ecosystems.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid loss of priority species and habitats. • Avoid disturbance to priority species and their habitats. • Avoid barriers to native species movement and habitat fragmentation. • Avoid introduction and spread of non-native species. 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p>
	<p>Commentary:</p> <p>This principle is likely to have a positive impact on biodiversity, fauna and flora. Minor positive impacts may result from the promotion of sustainable water resource management practices requiring developers to prevent deterioration in water status and where possible enhance it.</p>	<p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring:</p> <p>The SEA objective is explicitly addressed in the Natural Heritage section. These highlight the need to understand the existing natural environment and to seek out opportunities for enhancing the environment.</p> <p>This principle works in conjunction with following Local Plan policies which aim to ensure the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity; 1: Natura 2000 sites; 2: National Natural Heritage Designations; 3: Other Important Natural and Earth Heritage Sites and Interests; 4: Protected Species; 5: Biodiversity.</p> <p>The SPG on Natural Heritage provides further background information on implementing this principle.</p>	

<p>SPG Principle 2: Use of Resources More sustainable water resource use; in relation to water quality and quantity.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Water</p> <p>SEA objective: To conserve and enhance the water environment.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid reductions in water quality and quantity • Ensure use of SUDS • Ensure connection to public sewerage when available • Avoid development on floodplains • Avoid physical modifications to the water environment <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a strong positive impact on the water environment as it promotes the sustainable treatment and management of foul waste water, flooding and surface water runoff. It also promotes water conservation.</p> <p>Key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with throughout the SPG.</p> <p>This principle works in conjunction with following Local Plan policies which aim to conserve and enhance the water environment: 12: Water Resources</p> <p>The Sustainable Drainage Design Guide for Housing in the Countryside (Highland Housing Alliance) provides further background information on implementing this principle.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Impact on SEA objective ++</p>
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<p>SPG Principle 2: Use of Resources More sustainable water resource use; in relation to water quality and quantity.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Landscape</p>	<p>SEA objective: To maintain and enhance the distinctive landscape character of the Park, including the historic environment.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance where appropriate existing landscape character including designed landscapes. • Maintain and enhance the opportunities for experiencing wildness in the Park. • Minimise the damage or disturbance to key geodiversity interests. 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>+/-</p>
	<p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on landscape as it aims to ensure that the special qualities of the Park are protected and enhanced. This principle particularly seeks to ensure consideration of landscape at an early stage in the development process.</p>	<p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with throughout the SPG.</p> <p>The purpose of the SPG is to ensure that all four principles work together and that all issues are addressed at an early stage in the development process.</p>	

<p>SPG Principle 2: Use of Resources More sustainable water resource use; in relation to water quality and quantity.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Material assets</p>	<p>SEA objective: To use material assets in a sustainable way.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise need for abstraction/treatment of water; • Not increase risk of flooding; • Promote good water quantity and quality; • Need for and risk to infrastructure; 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p>
	<p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on material assets. Positive impacts may result from encouraging the location of development in sensitive locations, promoting sustainable use of water and requiring developers to consider the water environment sensitively.</p> <p>This SEA objective is explicitly dealt with in Principle 2: Use of Resources efficiently and Principle 3: Minimising the impact of flooding.</p>	<p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The purpose of the SPG is to ensure that all four principles work together and that all issues are addressed at an early stage in the development process.</p>	

<p>SPG Principle 2: Use of Resources More sustainable water resource use; in relation to water quality and quantity.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Climatic factors</p>	<p>SEA objective: To minimise contributions to climate change.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise sustainable use of water resources. • Increase water efficiency • Improve water quality • Climate-proof new development • Reduce air pollution 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p>
	<p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on air and climatic factors as it aims to ensure that any development adopts a sustainable approach to water resource management.</p>	<p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is implicitly addressed throughout the SPG.</p> <p>This principle works in conjunction with following Local Plan policies which aim to reduce emissions which contribute to climate change and to address the challenges presented by the impacts of climate change: 16: Design Standards for Development; 17: Reducing Carbon Emissions in Development.</p> <p>The SPG on Reducing Carbon Emissions will provide additional background information.</p>	

<p>SPG Principle 2: Use of Resources More sustainable water resource use; in relation to water quality and quantity.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Soil</p>	<p>SEA objective: To maintain or improve soil and peat quality and avoid erosion and disturbance.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve mineral resources • Conserve soil resources • Minimise soil and peat erosion and disturbance 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p>
	<p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on the soil environment. Minor positive impacts may result from the promotion of construction techniques which may minimise soil movement. Positive Impacts may occur where natural approaches reduce flood risk and potential for erosion and disturbance.</p>	<p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: This SEA objective is explicitly dealt with in Principle 2: Use of Resources and Principle 3: Minimising the impact of flooding.</p>	

<p>SPG Principle 2: Use of Resources More sustainable water resource use; in relation to water quality and quantity.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Population and human health</p> <p>SEA objective: To maintain a sustainable and healthy population.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for clean drinking water supplies and foul drainage provision, <p>Impact on SEA objective +</p> <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on population and human health through the promotion of sustainable foul drainage requirements and safeguarding drinking water supplies.</p> <p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: This SEA objective is explicitly reflected in Principle 2: Private Water Supplies and Principle 4: Connection to Sewerage.</p>
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<p>SPG Principle 3: Minimising the impact of flooding Reducing the risk of flood events by ensuring inappropriate development in inappropriate locations does not take place and that appropriate sustainable flood plain management and drainage requirements are put in place.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Biodiversity, fauna and flora</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="311 405 686 1758"> <tr> <td data-bbox="311 672 686 1758"> <p>SEA objective: To conserve and enhance the diversity of species, habitats and ecosystems.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid loss of priority species and habitats. • Avoid disturbance to priority species and their habitats. • Avoid barriers to native species movement and habitat fragmentation. • Avoid introduction and spread of non-native species. </td> <td data-bbox="311 405 686 672"> <p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on biodiversity, fauna and flora as it aims to ensure that the development should minimise the risk of flooding, encourage sustainable flood management practices and that natural heritage impact is assessed and opportunities for enhancement are identified as part of the development proposal.</p>	<p>SEA objective: To conserve and enhance the diversity of species, habitats and ecosystems.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid loss of priority species and habitats. • Avoid disturbance to priority species and their habitats. • Avoid barriers to native species movement and habitat fragmentation. • Avoid introduction and spread of non-native species. 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p>
<p>SEA objective: To conserve and enhance the diversity of species, habitats and ecosystems.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid loss of priority species and habitats. • Avoid disturbance to priority species and their habitats. • Avoid barriers to native species movement and habitat fragmentation. • Avoid introduction and spread of non-native species. 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p>		

<p>SPG Principle 3: Minimising the impact of flooding Reducing the risk of flood events by ensuring inappropriate development in inappropriate locations does not take place and that appropriate flood plain management and drainage requirements are put in place.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Water</p> <p>SEA objective: To conserve and enhance the water environment.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid reductions in water quality and quantity • Ensure use of SUDS • Ensure connection to public sewerage when available • Avoid physical modifications to the water environment <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on the water environment as it promotes the sustainable flooding and surface water runoff practices.</p> <p>Key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with throughout the SPG.</p> <p>The Sustainable Drainage Design Guide for Housing in the Countryside (Highland Housing Alliance) provides further background information on implementing this principle.</p>
	<p>Impact on SEA objective ++</p>

<p>SPG Principle 3: Minimising the impact of flooding Reducing the risk of flood events by ensuring inappropriate development in inappropriate locations does not take place and that appropriate sustainable flood plain management and drainage requirements are put in place.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Landscape</p> <p>SEA objective: To maintain and enhance the distinctive landscape character of the Park, including the historic environment.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance where appropriate existing landscape character including designed landscapes. • Maintain and enhance the opportunities for experiencing wildness in the Park. • Minimise the damage or disturbance to key geodiversity interests. <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on landscape. Minor positive and / or negative impacts may arise from the location of water abstraction/treatment facilities and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems depending on their design. Any potential negative impacts would be highlighted in the Guidance and appropriate mitigation put in place.</p> <p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with throughout the SPG.</p> <p>The purpose of the SPG is to ensure that all four principles work together and that all issues are addressed at an early stage in the development process.</p>
	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p>

<p>SPG Principle 3: Minimising the impact of flooding Reducing the risk of flood events by ensuring inappropriate development in inappropriate locations does not take place and that appropriate sustainable flood plain management and drainage requirements are put in place.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Material assets</p> <p>SEA objective: To use material assets in a sustainable way.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise need for abstraction/treatment of water. • Not increase risk of flooding. • Promote good water quantity and quality <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on material assets. Positive impacts may result from encouraging the location of development in sensitive locations, promoting sustainable use of water and requiring developers to consider the water environment sensitively.</p> <p>This SEA objective is explicitly dealt with in Principle 2: Use of Resources efficiently and Principle 3: Minimising the impact of flooding.</p> <p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The purpose of the SPG is to ensure that all four principles work together and that all issues are addressed at an early stage in the development process.</p>	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p>
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<p>SPG Principle 3: Minimising the impact of flooding Reducing the risk of flood events by ensuring inappropriate development in inappropriate locations does not take place and that appropriate sustainable flood plain management and drainage requirements are put in place.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Climatic factors</p> <p>SEA objective: To minimise contributions to climate change.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise sustainable use of water resources. • Increase water efficiency • Improve water quality • Climate-proof new development • Reduce air pollution <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on air and climatic factors as it aims to ensure that any development adopts a sustainable approach to water resource management.</p> <p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is implicitly addressed throughout the SPG.</p> <p>This principle works in conjunction with following Local Plan policies which aim to reduce emissions which contribute to climate change and to address the challenges presented by the impacts of climate change: 16: Design Standards for Development; 17: Reducing Carbon Emissions in Development.</p> <p>The SPG on Reducing Carbon Emissions provides additional background information.</p>
	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p>

<p>SPG Principle 3: Minimising the impact of flooding Reducing the risk of flood events by ensuring inappropriate development in inappropriate locations does not take place and that appropriate development in management and drainage requirements are put in place.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Soil</p> <p>SEA objective: To maintain or improve soil and peat quality and avoid creating or exacerbating pollution.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve mineral resources • Conserve soil resources • Minimise soil and peat disturbance <p>Impact on SEA objective +</p> <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on the soil environment. Minor positive impacts may result from the promotion of construction techniques which may minimise soil movement. Positive Impacts may occur where natural approaches reduce flood risk and potential for erosion and disturbance. Allocation of development sites is dealt with in the Local Plan.</p> <p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: This SEA objective is explicitly dealt with in Principle 2: Use of Resources and Principle 3: Minimising the impact of flooding.</p>
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<p>SPG Principle 3: Minimising the impact of flooding Reducing the risk of flood events by ensuring inappropriate development in inappropriate locations does not take place and that appropriate sustainable flood plain management and drainage requirements are put in place.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Population and human health</p> <p>SEA objective: To maintain a sustainable and healthy population.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for clean drinking water supplies and foul drainage provision, <p>Impact on SEA objective +</p> <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on population and human health through the promotion of sustainable surface drainage requirements and flood plain management techniques reducing the likelihood of placing people and property at risk from flooding.</p> <p>Key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is reflected in the SPG particularly in Section 3 and its contents on planning and flooding.</p>
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<p>SPG Principle 4: Connection to sewerage – Safeguarding water quality</p> <p>Protect and enhance the water environment and its status by limiting the impact of any development associated with it, including foul drainage impacts.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Biodiversity, fauna and flora</p> <p>SEA objective: To conserve and enhance the diversity of species, habitats and ecosystems.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid loss of priority species and habitats. • Avoid disturbance to priority species and their habitats. • Avoid barriers to native species movement and habitat fragmentation. • Avoid introduction and spread of non-native species. <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on biodiversity, fauna and flora. Minor positive impacts may result from incorporation of sustainable treatment plants and other foul water disposal impacts on water quality.</p> <p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on the water environment as it promotes the sustainable treatment and management of foul waste water protecting water quality and status.</p>
	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p>

<p>SPG Principle 4: Connection to sewerage – Safeguarding water quality</p> <p>Protect and enhance the water environment and its status by limiting the impact of any development associated with it, including foul drainage impacts.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Water</p> <p>SEA objective: To conserve and enhance the water environment.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid reductions in water quality and quantity • Ensure use of SUDS • Ensure connection to public sewerage when available • Avoid development on floodplains • Avoid physical modifications to the water environment <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a significant positive impact on the water environment. Positive impacts may result from incorporation of sustainable treatment plants and other foul water disposal impacts on water quality.</p> <p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on the water environment as it promotes the sustainable treatment and management of foul waste water protecting water quality and status.</p> <p>Impact on SEA objective ++</p>
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<p>SPG Principle 4: Connection to sewerage – Safeguarding water quality</p> <p>Protect and enhance the water environment and its status by limiting the impact of any development associated with it, including foul drainage impacts.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Landscape</p> <p>SEA objective: To maintain and enhance the distinctive landscape character of the Park, including the historic environment.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance where appropriate existing landscape character including designed landscapes. • Maintain and enhance the opportunities for experiencing wildness in the Park. • Minimise the damage or disturbance to key geodiversity interests. <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a neutral impact on landscape. Minor positive and / or negative impacts may arise from the location of water abstraction/treatment facilities and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems depending on their design. Any potential negative impacts would be highlighted in the Guidance and appropriate mitigation put in place.</p> <p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with throughout the SPG.</p> <p>The purpose of the SPG is to ensure that all four principles work together and that all issues are addressed at an early stage in the development process.</p>
	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>=</p>

<p>SEA criteria: Material assets</p>	<p>SEA objective: To use material assets in a sustainable way.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise need for abstraction/treatment of water. • Not increase risk of flooding. • Promote good water quantity and quality 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>=</p>
<p>Commentary: Minor positive and / or negative impacts may arise from the location of water abstraction/treatment facilities and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems depending on their design. Any potential negative impacts would be highlighted in the Guidance and appropriate mitigation put in place.</p> <p>This SEA objective is explicitly dealt with in Principle 2: Use of Resources efficiently</p> <p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is implicitly addressed throughout the SPG.</p>		

SPG Principle 4: Connection to sewerage – Safeguarding water quality
 Protect and enhance the water environment and its status by limiting the impact of any development associated with it, including foul drainage impacts.

<p>SPG Principle 4: Connection to sewerage – Safeguarding water quality Protect and enhance the water environment and its status by limiting the impact of any development associated with it, including foul drainage impacts.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Climatic factors</p> <p>SEA objective: To minimise contributions to climate change.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise sustainable use of water resources. • Increase water efficiency • Improve water quality • Climate-proof new development • Reduce air pollution <p>Impact on SEA objective +</p> <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on air and climatic factors as it aims to ensure that any development adopts a sustainable approach to water resource management.</p> <p>Guidance, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is implicitly addressed throughout the SPG.</p> <p>This principle works in conjunction with following Local Plan policies which aim to reduce emissions which contribute to climate change and to address the challenges presented by the impacts of climate change: 16: Design Standards for Development; 17: Reducing Carbon Emissions in Development.</p> <p>The SPG on Reducing Carbon Emissions provides additional background information.</p>
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<p>SPG Principle 4: Connection to sewerage – Safeguarding water quality Protect and enhance the water environment and its status by limiting the impact of any development associated with it, including foul drainage impacts.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Soil</p> <p>SEA objective: To maintain or improve soil and peat quality and avoid creating or exacerbating pollution.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve mineral resources • Conserve soil resources • Minimise soil and peat disturbance <p>Impact on SEA objective +</p> <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on the soil environment. Minor positive impacts may result from the promotion of construction techniques which may prevent soil contamination.</p> <p>Key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: This SEA objective is explicitly dealt with in Principle 2: Use of Resources and Principle 3: Minimising the impact of flooding.</p>
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<p>SPG Principle 4: Connection to sewerage – Safeguarding water quality Protect and enhance the water environment and its status by limiting the impact of any development associated with it, including foul drainage impacts.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Population and human health</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="226 400 461 1758"> <tr> <td data-bbox="226 667 461 1758"> <p>SEA objective: To maintain a sustainable and healthy population. Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for clean drinking water supplies and foul drainage provision, </td> <td data-bbox="226 400 461 667"> <p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on population and human health through the promotion of sustainable foul drainage requirements and safeguarding drinking water supplies.</p> <p>Guidance, Key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is reflected in the private water supplies and connections to sewerage sections</p>	<p>SEA objective: To maintain a sustainable and healthy population. Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for clean drinking water supplies and foul drainage provision, 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p>
<p>SEA objective: To maintain a sustainable and healthy population. Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for clean drinking water supplies and foul drainage provision, 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p>		