




Sustainable Design Guide

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.

Albert Memorial Hall
Station Square
Ballater
Aberdeenshire AB35 5QB
Tel: 013397 53601
Fax: 013397 55334
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14 The Square
Grantown-on-Spey
Moray PH26 3HG
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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:

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Preface

The purpose of this Environmental Report is to assess the environmental impact of the Cairngorms National Park Sustainable Design Guide in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

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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 Sustainable Design Guide (SDG) for the Cairngorms National Park.

It explains:

- What the SEA is;
- Why it has been done;
- What effects the Sustainable Design Guide would be likely to 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 some supplementary planning guidance such as the Sustainable Design Guide (SDG). In this instance the SEA is a formal part of the SDG 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 made 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 SDG 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 SDG.
2. Predict how different ways of making the SDG could have different environmental effects.

3. Predict what the effects of the principles and guidance in the SDG would have on the environment.
4. Decide on ways of reducing any harmful effects of the SDG on the environment.
5. Publish the SDG and the SEA Environmental Report that explains what the SEA is and how it has been done and make them available for consultation so that people can comment on them. This is the stage the SDG is at just now.
6. Take note of the comments on the Environmental Report and make any changes to the SDG or SEA because of them.
7. Adopt and publish the SDG with an up to date Environmental Report of the SEA and write a formal statement of how the SEA was carried out with the SDG, and how it affected the SDG.
8. Keep measuring what effects the SDG 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 SDG should be seen within the hierarchy of other plans and their SEA's. The SDG is part of the 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 SDG

The four principles and associated guidance in the SDG have been assessed and the Environmental Report of the SEA prepared.

The principles of the SDG are considered likely to have positive effects on the environment. This might be expected given that the SDG sets out to deliver more sustainable development. The SDG works to provide additional guidance on local plan policy. Many of the policies in the local Plan area designed to protect and improve the quality of the environment so that few harmful effects on the environment could be caused by development. The aim of the SDG 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 National Park Plan.

The SDG does not set environmental policy, nor does it allocate sites for development. This is the role of the Local Plan. The SDG provides guidance on minimising environmental impacts from development. As such it would be expected to have a positive impact in terms of the SEA.

The local plan has policies to ensure development land allocations and development activities do not cause significant harm to the environment. The SDG has been specifically prepared to address environmental issues as a key part of its approach to making development more sustainable. It also addresses some social and economic aspects of sustainable development.

No significant negative environmental effects of the SDG were identified. Some principles will have a greater impact on certain environmental features. The key to the SDG 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 p17) and Appendix 4 (see p34) of the full Environmental Report. It is often difficult to predict exactly what effects a principle will have on the environment as the SDG does not control how future development is used. The uncertainties of the assessment are also explained in the Environmental Report (Appendix 4, p34). A summary of impacts is provided below:

Principle 1: Conserving and enhancing the character of the Cairngorms National Park

Positive effects will be felt on a number of environmental features as the SDG supports a positive approach to consideration of landscape and settlement character, by reinforcing the use of traditional and local materials and design.

Principle 2: Using resources efficiently

The SDG supports more sustainable resource use; therefore there are positive impacts on the environment in relation to energy (consumption and generation), water use and waste management.

Principle 3: Minimising the environmental impact of development

This principle directly addresses a number of environmental features as it deals with minimising environmental pollution associated with development processes, including noise and air pollution, and emissions from transport.

Principle 4: Enhancing the viability of the Cairngorms National Park communities

The SDG promotes good quality, well-planned built development; as such it has positive impacts on communities and human health. It addresses provision of affordable housing and the quality of the built environment – both of which are determinants of human health.

The differences Strategic Environment Assessment has made to the Sustainable Design Guide

Because the SDG has been written with environmental considerations in mind, it has avoided leading to harm to the environment from the start as a core principle of sustainable development. This means that no changes to the SDG 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 SDG and recording the predicted effects of it in a transparent way. In addition to this clear links to the local plan and national park plan SEA's have enabled environmental issues to be considered consistently throughout the planning hierarchy.

I. Introduction

I.1 Purpose of this Environmental Report

As part of the preparation of the Sustainable Design Guide (SDG), the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) is carrying out a Strategy 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, the 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 SDG;
- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the SDG 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 SDG are set out below (Table 1).

Table 1: Key Facts Relating to the Sustainable Design Guide

Responsible Authority	Cairngorms National Park Authority
Title of plan, policy or strategy (PPS)	Sustainable Design Guide (SDG)
What prompted the PPS	The requirement for the SDG is set out in Policy 16 of the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan
Subject covered by PPS	The SDG will provide guidance on achieving more sustainable buildings. It will contain guidance on the issues which need to be addressed in order to achieve more sustainable development, including location, construction, resource management (energy, water, waste), materials, traditional skills, and accessibility.
Period covered by PPS	The SDG will provide a framework for sustainable design (for the next five + years) in line with the aspirations of the Cairngorms National Park Plan.
Frequency of updates	The SDG will be reviewed on a regular five year cycle to link in with Development Plan review and preparation.
Area covered by PPS	The SDG will cover the entire Cairngorms National Park (3,800 sq km).
Purpose and / or objectives of PPS	<p>The purpose of the SDG is to provide guidance on the sustainable development principles set out in the Local Plan, primarily in relation to Policy 16 which provides the basis for the sustainable design of all new developments in the Park.</p> <p>The objective of the SDG is to achieve development which:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (a) is sensitively located, reflects existing development pattern and setting, and respects the natural and cultural landscape of the Cairngorms National Park; (b) reflects traditional materials and workmanship and takes on-board innovation, contemporary design, and the emergence of modern methods of construction; 2. maximises efficient use of natural resources; 3. minimises its negative impacts; and 4. is the foundation stone of sustainable Cairngorms National Park communities.

1.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment activities to date

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

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 SDG preparation and adoption.

Table 2: Strategic Environmental Assessment activity relating to the Sustainable Design Guide

SEA activity / task	SDG activity / task	Timetable
Screening opinion sought from SEA Gateway	Commitment to prepare SDG contained in Draft Local Plan	Nov 2008
Preparation of Scoping Report	Identification and research of key issues / topics	Nov 2008 – June 2009
Consultation on Scoping Report 5 weeks		June – Aug 2009
Environmental assessment and preparation of the Environmental Report	Preparation of consultative draft SDG	Aug 2009 – April 2010
Consultation on Environmental Report 4 months	Consultation on draft SDG	May / June 2010
Analysis of consultation responses and revision of Environmental Report as required	Analysis of consultation responses and revision of SDG as required	October 2010
Preparation of Post-Adoption Statement	Preparation of finalised SDG	November 2010
Submission of Post-Adoption Statement	Submission of finalised SDG to CNPA board for adoption	December 2010 / January 2011

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 Sustainable Design Guide (SDG), which it is currently engaged in preparing. The requirement for the SDG is set out in the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan. Once adopted, the SDG 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 SDG;
- (b) predict what effect the SDG will have on the environment;
- (c) identify ways of reducing any harmful effects the SDG 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 2008 and June 2009 respectively. The views of the consultees have been taken into consideration in the preparation of this report.

The SEA of the Sustainable Design Guide should be seen in the context of SEA work previously undertaken by the CNPA for the Cairngorms National 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.

Development management functions within the National Park are 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 Park Authority has a power to 'call-in' applications to be decided by the Park Authority, where it considers 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 SDG will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The SDG is informed by the 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 Sustainable Design Guide

3.1 Outline and objectives of the Sustainable Design Guide (SDG)

The purpose of the SDG is to provide guidance on the sustainable development principles set out in the Local Plan, primarily in relation to Policy 16 which provides the basis for the sustainable design of all new developments in the Park.

The SDG will provide guidance on achieving more sustainable developments, and as such it will contain guidance on a wide range of issues which include: landscape, building orientation, construction and finishing materials; sustainable management of resources such as energy, water, and waste; traditional skills, craftsmanship and materials; and public open space, services and accessibility.

The objective of the SDG is to achieve development which:

1. (a) is sensitively located, reflects existing development pattern and setting, and respects the natural and cultural landscape of the Cairngorms National Park;
(b) reflects traditional materials and workmanship and takes on-board innovation, contemporary design, and the emergence of modern methods of construction;
2. maximises efficient use of natural resources;
3. minimises its negative impacts; and
4. is the foundation stone of sustainable Cairngorms National Park communities.

The list of topics covered in the Sustainable Design Guide is shown in Table 3 (see p13).

The SDG also sets out the requirement for Sustainable Design Statements to be submitted with future planning applications. It includes a checklist of issues to be addressed, mandatory standards which are to be achieved and templates for Sustainable Design Statements.

Table 3: Topics covered by the Sustainable Design Guide

Issue to be covered in Sustainable Design Statement
Conserving and enhancing the character of the Cairngorms National Park
Buildings and their settings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development layout, scale, proportion, materials, construction and finishing • Landscaping • Cultural heritage
Materials and traditional skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable materials
The natural environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural heritage • Enhancing wildlife
Using resources efficiently
Energy efficiency, generation and renewables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency • Renewable energy
Water use and wastewater; runoff and flooding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foul wastewater treatment • Flooding • Surface water runoff • Water conservation
Waste management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste and recycling
Minimising the environmental impact of development
Air, light and noise pollution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site management
Travel and transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Pedestrians and cyclists
Efficient use of development land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient use of land and existing buildings
Enhancing the viability of the Cairngorms National Park communities
Flexibility of design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design for flexibility • Private amenity space
Community facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility of community facilities

3.2 The Sustainable Design Guide's relationship with other plans and policies

There are a wide range of plans, policies and strategies (PPS) that are relevant to the Sustainable Design Guide and help to influence its content and direction. A full list of relevant PPS can be found in Appendix I (see p22). Appendix I also identifies the key issues of these PPS which are relevant to the SDG.

In summary, the SDG 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. The SDG provides further detailed guidance on particular aspects of this planning context in relation to sustainable design.

The Cairngorms National Park Plan was approved by the Minister on 15 March 2007. The 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 area. This includes local authority Development Plans, Core Path Plans, Forestry Strategies, Housing Plans, Waste Management Plans etc.

The Scottish Government's SPPs and the consolidated SPP (the third part of which is currently in draft form) 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 SDG have been assessed and against which future implementation of such plans will be monitored. Further details can be found in Appendix 2 (see p30).

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 National Park. Further details of this can be found in Appendix 3 (see p32). 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:

- 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;
- Potential harmful effects on landscape character or settlement character and the setting of towns or villages in the landscape.

The purpose of the SDG is to avoid and/or mitigate the above effects. The SEA of the Sustainable Design Guide 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 Environment Assessment objectives

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

The SDG Scoping Report identified a set of objectives against which to assess the environmental impacts of the SDG. These objectives reflected the findings of the previous SEA's together with the comments received from the Consultation Authorities in response to the SDG Screening Report. These objectives were further refined as a result of comments received on the Scoping Report. The final SEA objectives used to assess the SDG are listed in Table 4 (see p16).

Table 4: SEA Objectives

To conserve and enhance the diversity of species, habitats and ecosystems.	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.
To conserve and enhance the water environment.	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.
To maintain and enhance the distinctive landscape character of the Park, including the historic environment.	Maintain and enhance where appropriate existing landscape character including designed landscapes. Maintain and enhance where appropriate settlement character and the setting of towns and villages. Protect archaeological sites of interest. Re-use abandoned buildings. Maintain and enhance the opportunities for experiencing wildness in the Park. Minimise the damage or disturbance to key geodiversity interests.
To use material assets in a sustainable way.	Minimise the need for travel by private car. Promote and/or establish access networks, open space, new and safe access opportunities. Reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling.
To minimise contributions to climate change.	Maximise energy efficiency of new development. Increase sustainable energy generation. Encourage use of local timber products in construction. Climate-proof new development. Reduce air pollution.
To maintain or improve soil and peat quality and avoid creating or exacerbating pollution.	Conserve mineral resources. Conserve soil resources. Minimise soil and peat disturbance. Avoid development on prime agricultural land.
To maintain and where appropriate enhance the quality of the built environment.	Ensure quality in new building design. Promote use of sustainable construction materials.

	Maintain the character of settlements. Prevent loss of locally distinctive architecture.
To maintain a sustainable and healthy population.	Provide for housing needs of local communities. Ensure access to services for communities.

4.4 Likely evolution of the environment without the Sustainable Design Guide

The Directive requires the likely evolution of the environment without the PPS 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 development planning in the Park. The Local Plan sets out the requirement for the SDG, recognising the lack of detailed policy in this area. In the absence of the SDG it is likely that the issue of sustainable design and sustainable place making would continue to be undertaken on an ad hoc basis and would therefore fail to achieve significant improvement in the sustainability of the built environment of the Park.

5. Summary of assessment findings

5.1 Assessment of Sustainable Design Guide Principles

The SDG contains four principles and associated guidance. Environmental issues were considered throughout the development of the principles contained within the SDG. 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 SDG are specifically intended to provide support to Local Plan (particularly Policy 18 Design Standards for Development) and Park Plan policies which aim to provide robust protection to a wide range of environmental interests which are also reflected in the SEA objectives.

Table 5 below presents a summary of the predicted significant environmental effects of the principles contained in the SDG. The full assessment results can be found in Appendix 4 (see p34).

Table 5: Summary of assessment findings

Principle 1: Conserving and enhancing the character of the Cairngorms National Park	
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>Future development in the Park should be sensitively located, reflect existing development pattern and setting, and respect the natural and cultural heritage of the Park. It should reflect traditional materials and workmanship and take on board innovation, contemporary design and the emergence of modern methods of construction.</p>	<p>Assessment summary:</p> <p>Generally a strongly positive or positive impact on the SEA criteria.</p>
Principle 2: Using resources efficiently	
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>Future development in the Park should maximise the efficient use of natural resources.</p>	<p>Assessment summary:</p> <p>Generally a strongly positive or positive impact on the SEA criteria.</p>
Principle 3: Minimising the environmental impact of development	
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>Future development in the Park should minimise its negative environmental impacts.</p>	<p>Assessment summary:</p> <p>Generally a positive or neutral impact on the SEA criteria.</p>
Principle 4: Enhancing the viability of Cairngorms National Park communities	
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>Future development in the Park should be designed so as to continue to provide the foundation stone of viable and diverse communities.</p>	<p>Assessment summary:</p> <p>A strongly positive or neutral impact on the SEA criteria.</p>

The aim of the SDG 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 SDG. This is borne out by the results of the environmental assessment of the draft SDG which indicates that all the principles are overall likely to have a 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 (see p20).

All four principles of the SDG 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 SDG will have 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 p34).

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 SDG should be seen within this wider context of supplementary topic-based guidance. Following the SEA process from 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.

Table 6: Summary of environmental impacts

	SEA Objectives							
SDG 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 and where appropriate enhance the quality of the built environment	8. To maintain a sustainable and healthy population
Principle 1: Conserving and enhancing the character of the Cairngorms National Park	+	=	++	=	+	=	++	+
Principle 2: Using resources efficiently	=	++	=	+	++	=	+	=
Principle 3: Minimising the environmental impact of development	=	=	=	+	=	+	=	+
Principle 4: Enhancing the viability of Cairngorms National Park communities	=	=	=	++	=	=	+	++

+ Positive impact ++ Strongly positive impact = Neutral impact

6. Monitoring

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

Monitoring of the effects of the implementation of these various plans, programmes and strategies (including the SDG) will be undertaken and will influence the shape of future plans and policies for the Park.

Appendix I: Relationship with other plans

International / European PPS	Key issues addressed
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 1966/62/EC on ambient air quality and management	Establishes standards for air quality and sets limits for various pollutants.

National PPS	Issues relevance to SDG
Nature Conservation Act (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.
Draft 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.
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 wastewater drainage in settlements	SEPA’s position on provision of strategic foul drainage.
Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales & NI: Working Together for Clean Air	Sets out objectives for eight main air pollutants to protect health.

Zero Waste Scotland	Sets policy and targets on waste management.
National Waste Plan (2003)	Sets out action for moving towards more sustainable waste management practices

SPP / NPPG / PAN	Issues relevant to SDG
Consolidated SPP (2010)	Sets out the purpose of planning, and summarises all key planning issues to be considered.
NPPG 5 Archaeology (1994)	Excavation and recording of sites.
PAN 42 Archaeology	National advice to support SPP
PAN 45 renewable energy technologies	National advice to support SPP
PAN 61 Planning and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems	National advice to support SPP
PAN 71 Conservation Area Management	National advice to support SPP
PAN79 Water and Drainage	National advice to support SPP
SHEP - Scottish Historic Environment Policy	Overarching policy for the historic environment

Local PPS	Relevance to SDG
Structure Plans	The Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Angus Council Structure Plan's set out the strategic framework for the Cairngorms National Park.
Community Plans	The Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Angus Council Community Plans, 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, wastewater 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.

Local Housing Strategy	The Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Angus Council Local Housing Strategies (and Delivery Plans). The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 requires local authorities to undertake a comprehensive assessment of housing needs and conditions, and to produce strategies to tackle the housing problems in their areas.
Local Transport Strategy	The Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Angus Council Local Transport Strategies set out how to maintain and improve infrastructure.
Area Waste Plans	The Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Angus Council Area Waste Plans set out a strategy for waste management, minimisation and recycling/composting.
Economic Development Strategies	Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Angus Council economic development strategies, and those developed by the Local Enterprise Companies (Scottish Enterprise Grampian, Inverness Nairn Badenoch & Strathspey Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise Tayside).

Cairngorms National Park Plan Strategic Objectives		Relevant SDG checklist question or principle
Landscape, Built and Historic Environment	a) Maintain and enhance the distinctive landscapes across the Park	Checklist questions 1,2,3
	c) Ensure development complements and enhances the landscape character of the Park	Checklist questions 1,2,3
	d) New development in settlements and surrounding areas and the management of public spaces should complement and enhance the character, pattern and local identity of the built and historic environment	Checklist questions 1,2,3

	e) Understand and conserve the archaeological record, historic landscapes and historic built environment	Checklist question 3
	f) Raise awareness and understanding of the influences of natural processes, land management and culture on the landscape character.	Principle 1
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.	Checklist questions 5,6
	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.	Checklist question 2
	i) Develop awareness and understanding of the interactions of land-uses, tourism, outdoor access and nature conservation amongst all interests.	Principles 1,2,3,4
Geodiversity	c) Prevent degradation and erosion of soils, particularly vulnerable montane and organic soils	Checklist question 17
Culture and Traditions	a) develop a sound knowledge and understanding of the cultural traditions associated with the Park's places and communities	Principle 1

	b) Support and promote the diverse cultural traditions of communities within the Park	Principle 1
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	Principle 2
Energy	a) Contribute to national targets for greater renewable production through increasing community, business and domestic-scale renewable energy schemes.	Checklist question 7
	b) Help communities, businesses and households to obtain the information, expertise and support they need to reduce energy consumption and increase renewable generation.	Principle 2
Water	a) Maintain or where necessary enhance the existing high water quality and physical condition of waterbodies in the Park	Checklist questions 9, 10, 11
	c) Encourage more sustainable patterns of domestic, industrial, agricultural and recreational water use	Checklist question 12
	d) Promote sustainable flood management consistent with natural fluvial processes	Checklist question 10
Air	a) Maintain, and where possible enhance, the existing high level of air quality.	Checklist question 14

	b) Retain dark night skies and minimise light and noise pollution	Checklist question 14
Integrated Land Management	e) Develop local supply chains and markets for local produce	Principle 1
Forest and Woodland Management	d) Increase the value of timber and other local forest product, strengthen supply chains and develop new markets.	Principle 1
Sustainable Communities	a) Encourage a population level and mix in the Park that meets the current and future needs of its communities and businesses.	Principle 4
	b) Make proactive provision to focus settlement growth in the main settlements and plan for growth to meet community needs in other settlements.	Principles 1, 4
	c) Promote provision of local services that meet the needs of communities through Community Planning and other community development initiatives.	Checklist question 20
Economy and Employment	f) Raise the profile and excellence of local produce and services	Principle 1
Housing	c) Improve the physical quality, energy efficiency and sustainable design of housing in all tenures throughout the Park.	Principles 1,2 ,3, 4

Transport and Communications	a) Encourage and support improvements to public transport quality and accessibility to better meet demand and increase use.	Checklist question 15
	d) improve access to and encourage use of information technology, so creating opportunities for businesses and individuals to stay in, or locate to the Park	Checklist question 18
Waste Management	a) Minimise waste and encourage better waste management through community and domestic-scale recycling facilities	Checklist question 13

Cairngorms National Park Local Plan policy	SDG Checklist question
16: Design Standards for Development	1. Development layout, scale, proportion, materials, construction and finishing
6: Landscape SPG Landscape Character provides additional background information	2. Landscaping
7: Gardens and Designed Landscapes 8: Archaeology 9: Listed Buildings 11: The Local and Wider Cultural Heritage of the Park	3. Cultural heritage
16: Designs Standards for Development	4. Materials
1: Natura 2000 Sites 2: National Natural Heritage Designation 3: Other Important Natural and Earth Heritage Sites and Interests 4: Protected Species 5: Biodiversity SPG Natural Heritage provides additional background information.	5. Natural heritage

SPG Natural Heritage provides additional background information	6. Enhancing wildlife
16: Design Standards for Development	7. Energy efficiency
17: Reducing Carbon Emissions in Development SPG Reducing Carbon Emissions provides additional background information.	8. Renewable energy
12: Water Resources Sustainable Drainage Design Guide for Housing in the Countryside (Highland Housing Alliance) provides additional background information.	9. Foul wastewater treatment
12: Water Resources	10. Flooding
12: Water Resources	11. Surface water runoff
12: Water Resources	12. Water conservation
16: Design Standards for Development 31: Waste Management	13. Waste and recycling
31: Waste Management	14. Site management
29: Integrated and Sustainable Transport Network	15. Transport
29: Integrated and Sustainable Transport Network	16. Pedestrians and cyclists
27: Conversion and Re-use of Existing Traditional and Vernacular Buildings	17. Efficient use of land and existing buildings
16: Design Standards for Development 27: Conversion and Re-use of Existing Traditional and Vernacular Buildings 29: Integrated and Sustainable Transport Network	18. Design for flexibility
26: Retail Development 29: Integrated and Sustainable Transport Network 34: Outdoor Access	20. Accessibility of community facilities

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 – 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 Landforms and Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 National Scenic Areas • 30 Geological Conservation Review sites – some of which 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 and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant energy generation within the Park
Built Environmen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Conservation Areas • Distinctive local vernacular architecture

Appendix 3: Key trends and issues in the Cairngorms National Park

Resource	Key trends	Key issues
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some continued habitat loss, fragmentation & deterioration • Vegetation limited by grazing pressure • Continued introductions and spread 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"> • Ageing population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications for community dynamics • Implications for development patterns • Implications for human resources
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 and 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 wild land attributes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of development • Recreation pressure and impacts of tracks and footpaths • Impact • Connectivity of land cover • Impact of transport infrastructure • Impact of renewable energy developments, energy transmission and telecommunications infrastructure • 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
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 and 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: Full assessment results

<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>+</p>
<p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on biodiversity, fauna and flora as it aims to ensure that the existing natural environment is assessed and opportunities for enhancement are identified as part of the development proposal.</p>		
<p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is explicitly reflected in Section 2.1(c) of the SDG.</p> <p>It is addressed in Checklist Questions (5) Natural Heritage and (6) Enhancing wildlife. These highlight the need to understand the existing natural environment and to seek out opportunities for enhancing the environment including through the use native species in any landscaping and planting schemes.</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>SDG Principle 1: Conserving and enhancing the character of the Cairngorms National Park</p> <p>Future development in the Park should be sensitively located, reflect existing development pattern and setting, and respect the natural and cultural heritage of the Park</p> <p>It should reflect traditional materials and workmanship and take on board innovation, contemporary design and the emergence of modern methods of construction.</p>		

<p>SDG Principle 1: Conserving and enhancing the character of the Cairngorms National Park</p> <p>Future development in the Park should be sensitively located, reflect existing development pattern and setting, and respect the natural and cultural heritage of the Park</p> <p>It should reflect traditional materials and workmanship and take on board innovation, contemporary design and the emergence of modern methods of construction.</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>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>=</p>	<p>Commentary:</p> <p>This principle is likely to have a neutral impact on the water environment. Minor positive impacts may result from promotion of sensitive location of development and consideration of the natural heritage of the Park.</p>
<p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring:</p> <p>The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with in the SDG by Principle 2: Using resources efficiently.</p> <p>The purpose of the Sustainable Design Checklist and requirement for the Sustainable Design Statement 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>SDG Principle 1: Conserving and enhancing the character of the Cairngorms National Park</p> <p>Future development in the Park should be sensitively located, reflect existing development pattern and setting, and respect the natural and cultural heritage of the Park. It should reflect traditional materials and workmanship and take on board innovation, contemporary design and the emergence of modern methods of construction.</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 where appropriate settlement character and the setting of towns and villages. • Protect archaeological sites of interest. • Re-use abandoned buildings. • 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 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>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is explicitly reflected in Section 2.1(a) of the SDG. It is addressed in Checklist Questions 2 Landscaping and 3 Cultural Heritage. These highlight the need to ensure that an appropriate landscape scheme is prepared and that existing features on the site are identified and considered. 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: 6: Landscape; 7: Gardens and Designed Landscapes; 8: Archaeology; 9: Listed Buildings; 11: The Local and Wider Cultural Heritage of the Park. The SPG's on Natural Heritage and Landscape provide further background information on implementing this principle.</p>
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<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 the need for travel by private car. • Promote and/or establish access networks, open space, new and safe access opportunities. • Reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling. 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>=</p>
<p>SDG Principle 1: Conserving and enhancing the character of the Cairngorms National Park</p> <p>Future development in the Park should be sensitively located, reflect existing development pattern and setting, and respect the natural and cultural heritage of the Park</p> <p>It should reflect traditional materials and workmanship and take on board innovation, contemporary design and the emergence of modern methods of construction.</p>		
<p>Commentary:</p> <p>This principle is likely to have a neutral impact on material assets. Minor positive impacts may result encouraging the location of development in accessible locations, promoting links from new development to the wider countryside and to other communities.</p> <p>This SEA objective is explicitly dealt with in Principle 2: Using resources efficiently, Principle 3: Minimising the environmental impact of development, and Principle 4: Enhancing the viability of Cairngorms National Park Communities.</p> <p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring:</p> <p>The purpose of the Sustainable Design Checklist and requirement for the Sustainable Design Statement 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 criteria: Air and climatic factors</p>	<p>SEA objective: To minimise contributions to climate change.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise energy efficiency of new development • Increase sustainable energy generation • Encourage use of local timber products in construction • 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 buildings are orientation to take advantage of solar gain and shelter, it stresses the importance of using sustainable materials, and adopting a sustainable approach to waste management, it requires energy efficient design and reduced carbon footprints, and it also encourages climate-proofing of all new development. waste management,</p> <p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is implicitly addressed throughout the SDG. It is explicitly reflected in Section 2.1(a), 2.1(b), 2.2(a), 2.2(c), 2.3(b) and 2.4(c). It is addressed in Checklist Questions: 4. Materials; 7. Energy efficiency; 8. Renewable energy; 13. Waste and recycling; 14. Site management; 15. Transport; 16. Pedestrians and cyclists; 17. Efficient use of land and existing buildings; 20. Accessibility of community facilities. 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. The SPG on Reducing Carbon Emissions provides additional background information.</p>
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SDG Principle 1: Conserving and enhancing the character of the Cairngorms National Park

Future development in the Park should be sensitively located, reflect existing development pattern and setting, and respect the natural and cultural heritage of the Park

It should reflect traditional materials and workmanship and take on board innovation, contemporary design and the emergence of modern methods of construction.

<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 • Avoid development on prime agricultural land 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>=</p>
<p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a neutral impact on the soil environment. Minor positive impacts may result from the promotion of construction techniques which minimise soil movement. Allocation of development sites is dealt with in the Local Plan.</p> <p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: This SEA objective is explicitly dealt with in Principle 3: Minimising the environmental impact of development.</p> <p>The purpose of the Sustainable Design Checklist and requirement for the Sustainable Design Statement is to ensure that all four principles work together and that all issues are addressed at an early stage in the development process.</p>		

SDG Principle 1: Conserving and enhancing the character of the Cairngorms National Park

Future development in the Park should be sensitively located, reflect existing development pattern and setting, and respect the natural and cultural heritage of the Park

It should reflect traditional materials and workmanship and take on board innovation, contemporary design and the emergence of modern methods of construction.

<p>SEA criteria: Cultural heritage</p>	<p>SEA objective: To maintain and where appropriate enhance the quality of the built environment.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure quality in new building design • Promote use of sustainable construction materials • Maintain the character of settlements • Prevent loss of locally distinctive architecture 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>++</p>
<p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on cultural heritage as it aims to ensure that this is considered at an early stage in the development process and that opportunities for enhancement are identified where appropriate.</p> <p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is explicitly addressed in Section 2.1(a) and 2.1(b).</p> <p>It is addressed in Checklist Questions: 1. Development layout, scale, proportion, materials, construction and finishing; 3. Cultural heritage; 4. Materials</p> <p>This principle works in conjunction with following Local Plan policies which aim to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the Park: 16: Design Standards for Development; 7: Gardens and Designed Landscapes; 8: Archaeology; 9: Listed Buildings; 11: The Local and Wider Cultural Heritage of the Park.</p>		

SDG Principle 1: Conserving and enhancing the character of the Cairngorms National Park

Future development in the Park should be sensitively located, reflect existing development pattern and setting, and respect the natural and cultural heritage of the Park

It should reflect traditional materials and workmanship and take on board innovation, contemporary design and the emergence of modern methods of construction.

<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 housing needs of local communities • Ensure access to services for communities 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">+</p>
<p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on population and human health through the promotion of sustainable and natural construction materials, reduction of toxic chemicals and finishes, and the construction of warm homes. This should help to improve local housing conditions which have a direct impact on the health and well-being of those living in the houses, or working in other buildings.</p>	
<p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: This SEA objective is explicitly reflected in Principle 4: Enhancing the viability of Cairngorms National Park communities.</p> <p>The purpose of the Sustainable Design Checklist and requirement for the Sustainable Design Statement 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>SDG Principle 1: Conserving and enhancing the character of the Cairngorms National Park</p> <p>Future development in the Park should be sensitively located, reflect existing development pattern and setting, and respect the natural and cultural heritage of the Park</p> <p>It should reflect traditional materials and workmanship and take on board innovation, contemporary design and the emergence of modern methods of construction.</p>	

<p>SDG Principle 2: Using resources efficiently</p> <p>Future development in the Park should maximise the efficient use of natural resources.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Biodiversity, fauna and flora</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="220 400 596 1756"> <tr> <td data-bbox="220 667 596 1756"> <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="220 400 596 667"> <p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>=</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a neutral impact on biodiversity, fauna and flora. Minor positive impacts may result from the promotion of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and retention of natural floodplains which may provide for habitat enhancement.</p> <p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with by Principle 1: Conserving and enhancing the character of the Cairngorms National Park.</p> <p>The purpose of the Sustainable Design Checklist and requirement for the Sustainable Design Statement 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 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>=</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>=</p>		

<p>SDG Principle 2: Using resources efficiently</p> <p>Future development in the Park should maximise the efficient use of natural resources.</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:</p> <p>This principle is likely to have a positive impact on the water environment as it promotes the sustainable treatment and management of foul wastewater, flooding and surface water runoff. It also promotes water conservation.</p> <p>Key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring:</p> <p>The SEA objective is explicitly addressed in Section 2.2(b).</p> <p>It is addressed in Checklist Questions: 9. Foul wastewater treatment; 10. Flooding; 11. Surface water runoff; 12. Water conservation.</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>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>++</p>
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<p>SDG Principle 2: Using resources efficiently</p> <p>Future development in the Park should maximise the efficient use of natural resources.</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 where appropriate settlement character and the setting of towns and villages. • Protect archaeological sites of interest. • Re-use abandoned buildings. • Maintain and enhance the opportunities for experiencing wildness in the Park. • Minimise the damage or disturbance to key geodiversity interests. <p>Commentary:</p> <p>This principle is likely to have a neutral impact on landscape. Minor positive and / or negative impacts may arise from the location of renewable energy systems, water treatment facilities and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems depending on their design. Any potential negative impacts would be highlighted in the Sustainable Design Statement and appropriate mitigation put in place.</p> <p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring:</p> <p>The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with by Principle 1: Conserving and enhancing the character of the Cairngorms National Park.</p> <p>The purpose of the Sustainable Design Checklist and requirement for the Sustainable Design Statement is to ensure that all four principles work together and that all issues are addressed at an early stage in the development process.</p>
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<p>SDG Principle 2: Using resources efficiently</p> <p>Future development in the Park should maximise the efficient use of natural resources.</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 the need for travel by private car. • Promote and/or establish access networks, open space, new and safe access opportunities. • Reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling. <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on material assets as it promotes the sustainable management of waste. It also encourages the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems which may also provide opportunities for open space and access opportunities.</p>	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="font-size: 2em;">+</p>
<p>Key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is explicitly addressed in Section 2.2(b), 2.2(c).</p> <p>It is addressed in Checklist Questions 11. Surface water runoff; 13. Waste and recycling.</p> <p>This principle works in conjunction with following Local Plan policies which aim to ensure that material assets are utilised in a sustainable way: 12: Water Resources, 16: Design Standards for Development; 31: Waste Management; 27: conversions to existing traditional and vernacular buildings</p> <p>This principle also works in conjunction with Principle 3: Minimising the environmental impact of development, and Principle 4: Enhancing the viability of Cairngorms National Park Communities.</p>	

<p>SDG Principle 2: Using resources efficiently</p> <p>Future development in the Park should maximise the efficient use of natural resources.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Air and climatic factors</p> <p>SEA objective: To minimise contributions to climate change.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise energy efficiency of new development • Increase sustainable energy generation • Encourage use of local timber products in construction • Climate-proof new development <p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>++</p> <p>Commentary:</p> <p>This principle is likely to have a positive impact on air and climatic factors as it aims to ensure that energy efficiency is built into development proposals. It stresses the importance of building orientation and using sustainable materials including certified and sustainable local timber. It also encourages the local generation of energy using low and zero carbon technologies.</p> <p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring:</p> <p>The SEA objective is explicitly reflected in Section 2.2(a).</p> <p>It is addressed in Checklist Questions: 4. Materials; 7. Energy efficiency; 8. Renewable energy.</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: I 6: Design Standards for Development; I 7: Reducing Carbon Emissions in Development.</p> <p>The SPG on Reducing Carbon Emissions provides additional background information.</p>
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<p>SDG Principle 2: Using resources efficiently</p> <p>Future development in the Park should maximise the efficient use of natural resources.</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 • Avoid development on prime agricultural land 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>=</p>
	<p>Commentary:</p> <p>This principle is likely to have a neutral impact on the soil environment.</p>	<p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring:</p> <p>The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with by Principle 3: Minimising the environmental impact of development.</p> <p>The purpose of the Sustainable Design Checklist and requirement for the Sustainable Design Statement 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>SDG Principle 2: Using resources efficiently</p> <p>Future development in the Park should maximise the efficient use of natural resources.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Cultural heritage</p>	<p>SEA objective: To maintain and where appropriate enhance the quality of the built environment.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure quality in new building design • Promote use of sustainable construction materials • Maintain the character of settlements • Prevent loss of locally distinctive architecture 	<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 cultural heritage as it aims to promote a higher quality of built development.</p>	<p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring:</p> <p>The SEA objective is reflected in Sections 2.2(a), 2.2(b) and 2.2(c).</p> <p>It is addressed in Checklist Questions: 3: Cultural heritage; 4: Materials; 17 Efficient use of land and existing buildings.</p> <p>This principle works in conjunction with following Local Plan policies which aim to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the Park: 7: Gardens and Designed Landscapes; 8: Archaeology; 9: Listed Buildings; 11: The Local and Wider Cultural Heritage of the Park; 16: Design Standards for Development; 27 Conversion and Re-use of existing traditional and vernacular buildings.</p>	

<p>SDG Principle 2: Using resources efficiently</p> <p>Future development in the Park should maximise the efficient use of natural resources.</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 housing needs of local communities • Ensure access to services for communities <p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>=</p> <p>Commentary:</p> <p>This principle is likely to have a neutral impact on population and human health. Minor positive impacts may result from the promotion of sustainable approaches to wastewater treatment and waste and recycling.</p> <p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring:</p> <p>The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with by Principle 4: Enhancing the viability of Cairngorms National Park communities.</p> <p>The purpose of the Sustainable Design Checklist and requirement for the Sustainable Design Statement is to ensure that all four principles work together and that all issues are addressed at an early stage in the development process.</p>
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<p>SDG Principle 3: Minimising the environmental impact of development</p> <p>Future development in the Park should minimise its negative environmental 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 neutral impact on biodiversity, fauna and flora. Minor positive impacts may result from the requirement to address air, light and noise pollution from developments.</p> <p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with by Principle 1: Conserving and enhancing the character of the Cairngorms National Park.</p> <p>The purpose of the Sustainable Design Checklist and requirement for the Sustainable Design Statement is to ensure that all four principles work together and that all issues are addressed at an early stage in the development process.</p>
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<p>SDG Principle 3: Minimising the environmental impact of development</p> <p>Future development in the Park should minimise its negative environmental 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 neutral impact although some minor positive impacts may result from the requirement to address construction site management issues.</p> <p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with by Principle 2: Using resources efficiently.</p> <p>The purpose of the Sustainable Design Checklist and requirement for the Sustainable Design Statement 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>SDG Principle 3: Minimising the environmental impact of development</p> <p>Future development in the Park should minimise its negative environmental 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 where appropriate settlement character and the setting of towns and villages. • Protect archaeological sites of interest. • Re-use abandoned buildings. • 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. Some minor positive impacts may result from the promotion of efficient use of land and re-use of derelict and redundant buildings.</p> <p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is reflected in Section 2.3(c).</p> <p>It is addressed in Checklist Question: 17 Efficient use of land and existing buildings.</p> <p>This principle works in conjunction with following Local Plan policy which aims to encourage the re-use of derelict buildings; 27 Conversion and Re-use of existing traditional and vernacular buildings.</p>
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<p>SDG Principle 3: Minimising the environmental impact of development</p> <p>Future development in the Park should minimise its negative environmental impacts</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Material assets</p>	<p>SEA objective: To use material assets in a sustainable way.</p> <p>Key considerations: Minimise the need for travel by private car. Promote and/or establish access networks, open space, new and safe access opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling. 	<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, resulting from the requirement to address development site management issues, and the need to consider travel and transport.</p>	<p>Key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is reflected in Section 2.3(a) and 2.3(b).</p> <p>It is addressed in Checklist Question: 14 Site management, 15: transport, 16 Pedestrians and cyclists and 17 Efficient use of land and existing buildings.</p> <p>This principle works in conjunction with following Local Plan policies which aims to encourage the sustainable use of materials assets; 27 Conversion and Re-use of existing traditional and vernacular buildings, 29 Integrated and Sustainable Transport Network; 31 Waste Management</p>	

<p>SDG Principle 3: Minimising the environmental impact of development</p> <p>Future development in the Park should minimise its negative environmental impacts</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Air and climatic factors</p> <p>SEA objective: To minimise contributions to climate change.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise energy efficiency of new development • Increase sustainable energy generation • Encourage use of local timber products in construction • Climate-proof new development • Reduce air pollution <p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>=</p> <p>Commentary:</p> <p>This principle is likely to have a neutral impact on air and climatic factors. Some minor positive impacts may result from promotion of more sustainable construction activity including managing transport of materials to development site.</p> <p>Key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring:</p> <p>The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with by Principle 2: Using resources efficiently.</p> <p>The purpose of the Sustainable Design Checklist and requirement for the Sustainable Design Statement is to ensure that all four principles work together and that all issues are addressed at an early stage in the development process.</p>
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<p>SDG Principle 3: Minimising the environmental impact of development</p> <p>Future development in the Park should minimise its negative environmental 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 • Avoid development on prime agricultural land 	<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 as a result of site management activity and the requirement to minimise the impacts of construction activity.</p>	<p>Key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring:</p> <p>The SEA objective is reflected in Section 2.3(c).</p> <p>It is addressed in Checklist Question 17. Efficient use of land and existing buildings.</p> <p>This principle works in conjunction with the following Local Plan policy which aims to make efficient use of existing land and buildings: 27 Conversion and Re-use of existing traditional and vernacular buildings.</p>	

<p>SDG Principle 3: Minimising the environmental impact of development</p> <p>Future development in the Park should minimise its negative environmental impacts</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Cultural heritage</p> <p>SEA objective: To maintain and where appropriate enhance the quality of the built environment.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure quality in new building design • Promote use of sustainable construction materials • Maintain the character of settlements • Prevent loss of locally distinctive architecture <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a neutral impact on cultural heritage. Minor positive impacts may result from the re-use of existing traditional and vernacular buildings.</p> <p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is reflected in Section 2.3(c).</p> <p>It is addressed in Checklist Question 17. Efficient use of land and existing buildings.</p> <p>This principle works in conjunction with the following Local Plan policy which aims to make efficient use of existing land and buildings: 27 Conversion and Re-use of existing traditional and vernacular buildings.</p>	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>=</p>
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<p>SDG Principle 3: Minimising the environmental impact of development</p> <p>Future development in the Park should minimise its negative environmental impacts</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 housing needs of local communities • Ensure access to services for communities <p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on human health as a result of better site management activity aimed at minimising environmental pollution. It also aims to ensure that development is located where community services are accessible.</p> <p>Key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is reflected in Section 2.3(a) and 2.3(b).</p> <p>It is addressed in Checklist Questions 14. Site management, 15 Transport, 16 Pedestrians and cyclists, 20 Accessibility of community facilities.</p> <p>This principle works in conjunction with the following Local Plan policy which aims to enable communities to thrive: 31 Waste Management, 29 Integrated and Sustainable Transport Network, 26 Retail Development 34 Outdoor Access.</p>
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<p>SDG Principle 4: Enhancing the viability of Cairngorms National Park Communities</p> <p>Future development in the Park should be designed so as to continue to provide the foundation stone of viable and diverse communities.</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>=</p> <p>Commentary:</p> <p>This principle is likely to have a neutral impact on biodiversity, fauna and flora. Minor positive impacts may result from incorporation of amenity space.</p> <p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring:</p> <p>The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with by Principle 1: Conserving and enhancing the character of the Cairngorms National Park.</p> <p>The purpose of the Sustainable Design Checklist and requirement for the Sustainable Design Statement is to ensure that all four principles work together and that all issues are addressed at an early stage in the development process.</p>
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<p>SEA criteria: Water</p>	<p>SEA objective: To conserve & 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>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>=</p>
<p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a neutral impact on the water environment.</p> <p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with by Principle 1: Conserving and enhancing the character of the Cairngorms National Park.</p> <p>The purpose of the Sustainable Design Checklist and requirement for the Sustainable Design Statement is to ensure that all four principles work together and that all issues are addressed at an early stage in the development process.</p>		

SDG Principle 4: Enhancing the viability of Cairngorms National Park Communities

Future development in the Park should be designed so as to continue to provide the foundation stone of viable and diverse communities.

<p>SDG Principle 4: Enhancing the viability of Cairngorms National Park Communities</p> <p>Future development in the Park should be designed so as to continue to provide the foundation stone of viable and diverse communities.</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 where appropriate settlement character and the setting of towns and villages. • Protect archaeological sites of interest. • Re-use abandoned buildings. • 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.</p> <p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with by Principle 1: Conserving and enhancing the character of the Cairngorms National Park.</p> <p>The purpose of the Sustainable Design Checklist and requirement for the Sustainable Design Statement is to ensure that all four principles work together and that all issues are addressed at an early stage in the development process.</p>
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<p>SDG Principle 4: Enhancing the viability of Cairngorms National Park Communities</p> <p>Future development in the Park should be designed so as to continue to provide the foundation stone of viable and diverse communities.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Material assets</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="279 398 593 1756"> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 663 593 1756"> <p>SEA objective: To use material assets in a sustainable way.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the need for travel by private car. • Promote and/or establish access networks, open space, new and safe access opportunities. • Reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling. </td> <td data-bbox="279 398 593 663"> <p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>++</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on materials assets in relation to ensuring accessibility of community facilities and open space, provision of waste management and recycling facilities and promotion of alternatives to the private car.</p> <p>The SEA objective is explicitly reflected in Section 2.2(c), 2.3(b), 2.3(c), 2.4(a), 2.4(b) of the SDG, and Checklist Questions 4, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20. These highlight the need to ensure that the use of material assets is promoted in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>Key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring:</p> <p>The SEA objective is reflected in Section 2.4(b).</p> <p>It is addressed in Checklist Questions 13 Waste management 15 Transport, 16 Pedestrians and cyclists, 19 Private amenity space 20 Accessibility of community facilities and 21 Affordable Housing</p> <p>This principle works in conjunction with the following Local Plan policies which aim to enable materials assets to be used in sustainable ways: 31 Waste Management, 29 Integrated and Sustainable Transport Network, 26 Retail Development 34 Outdoor Access.</p>	<p>SEA objective: To use material assets in a sustainable way.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the need for travel by private car. • Promote and/or establish access networks, open space, new and safe access opportunities. • Reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling. 	<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 the need for travel by private car. • Promote and/or establish access networks, open space, new and safe access opportunities. • Reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling. 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>++</p>		

<p>SEA criteria: Air and climatic factors</p>	<p>SEA objective: To minimise contributions to climate change.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise energy efficiency of new development • Increase sustainable energy generation • Encourage use of local timber products in construction • Climate-proof new development • Reduce air pollution 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>=</p>
<p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a neutral impact on air and climatic factors.</p> <p>Key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with by Principle 2: Using resources efficiently.</p> <p>The purpose of the Sustainable Design Checklist and requirement for the Sustainable Design Statement is to ensure that all four principles work together and that all issues are addressed at an early stage in the development process.</p>		

SDG Principle 4: Enhancing the viability of Cairngorms National Park Communities

Future development in the Park should be designed so as to continue to provide the foundation stone of viable and diverse communities.

<p>SDG Principle 4: Enhancing the viability of Cairngorms National Park Communities</p> <p>Future development in the Park should be designed so as to continue to provide the foundation stone of viable and diverse communities.</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 • Avoid development on prime agricultural land <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a neutral impact on the soil environment.</p> <p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is explicitly dealt with by Principle 3: Minimising the environmental impact of development.</p> <p>The purpose of the Sustainable Design Checklist and requirement for the Sustainable Design Statement is to ensure that all four principles work together and that all issues are addressed at an early stage in the development process.</p>
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<p>SDG Principle 4: Enhancing the viability of Cairngorms National Park Communities</p> <p>Future development in the Park should be designed so as to continue to provide the foundation stone of viable and diverse communities.</p>	<p>SEA criteria: Cultural heritage</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="225 394 571 1760"> <tr> <td data-bbox="225 667 571 1760"> <p>SEA objective: To maintain and where appropriate enhance the quality of the built environment.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure quality in new building design • Promote use of sustainable construction materials • Maintain the character of settlements • Prevent loss of locally distinctive architecture </td> <td data-bbox="225 394 571 667"> <p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>Commentary:</p> <p>This principle is likely to have a positive impact on cultural heritage as it aims to ensure that future flexibility of development is considered at an early stage in the development process and that developments are of a quality to ensure longevity in the face of climate change.</p> <p>Checklist questions, key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring:</p> <p>The SEA objective is explicitly addressed in Section 2.4(a) and 2.1(b).</p> <p>It is addressed in Checklist Questions: 18 Design for flexibility.</p> <p>This principle works in conjunction with following Local Plan policies which aim to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the Park: 16: Design Standards for Development; 27 Conversion and Re-use of Existing Traditional and Vernacular Buildings 29 Integrated and Sustainable Transport network.</p>	<p>SEA objective: To maintain and where appropriate enhance the quality of the built environment.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure quality in new building design • Promote use of sustainable construction materials • Maintain the character of settlements • Prevent loss of locally distinctive architecture 	<p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p>
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<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 housing needs of local communities • Ensure access to services for communities <p>Impact on SEA objective</p> <p>++</p>	<p>SDG Principle 4: Enhancing the viability of Cairngorms National Park Communities</p> <p>Future development in the Park should be designed so as to continue to provide the foundation stone of viable and diverse communities.</p> <p>Commentary: This principle is likely to have a positive impact on population and human health as it aims to ensure that communities have access to the services and facilities that they require.</p> <p>Key factors for success, mitigation and monitoring: The SEA objective is explicitly addressed in Section 2.4(a) and 2.4(b).</p> <p>It is addressed in Checklist Questions: 18 Design for flexibility, 19 Private amenity space 20 Accessibility of community facilities 21 Affordable Housing.</p> <p>This principle works in conjunction with following Local Plan policies which aim at enabling communities to meet their needs : 16: Design Standards for Development; 19 Contributions to Affordable Housing 26 Retail Development 27 Conversion and Re-use of Existing Traditional and Vernacular Buildings 29 Integrated and Sustainable Transport network 34 Outdoor Access.</p>
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