



Good practice - design and landscape issues

Good design is a partnership between well-informed clients and customers, architects and designers, and skilled builders and contractors.

It's important to achieve the highest quality of design possible in the Cairngorms National Park. This means committing to good quality at every stage of the design process, from start to completion.

Well-designed developments support good placemaking, can actively help to enhance the environment and biodiversity, manage exposure to air, noise and light pollution and reduce overall emissions. In contrast, other new developments may increase the emission of pollutants that are harmful to human health and impact on the quality of life.

Delivering good design

In the Cairngorms National Park, the Local Development Plan requires that all development, not just the expensive or iconic, delivers high standards of design and contributes to the sense of place.

The distinctive character and identity of the Cairngorms National Park's natural and built heritage and settlements contribute to the qualities that make it special. The contribution that built development makes to our sense of place and quality of life is important to those who live, work and visit the National Park. Good design is key to achieving development fit for a National Park.

The Local Development Plan is supported by non-statutory guidance, which provides [additional information on the production of design statements and considerations to take account of when planning new development.](#)

Landscape and special landscape qualities



The unique landscape of the National Park and its special landscape qualities should always be considered when designing new developments in the National Park. There are several tools to help with this.

Cairngorms landscape toolkit

The Cairngorms landscape toolkit is a resource to help developers and professionals, and anyone with an interest in learning more about the landscapes of the National Park.

Our landscapes are important, and development should fit with and enhance them.

In the landscape toolkit you'll find:

- Baseline landscape character information in the landscape areas section.
- The sensitivity of landscape character to some forms of development, and development-specific guidance in the landscape sensitivity section.
- Descriptions and maps of the characteristics and qualities in the special landscape qualities section.

Explore the landscape toolkit here.

- [Landscape Character Areas](#)
- [Special Landscape Qualities](#)
- [Guidance for landscape change](#)

Guidance on assessing effects

Guidance has been produced to assist developers to assess the effects of their development on the special landscape qualities of the National Park. [Find out more here.](#)