



**Cairngorms**  
National Park Authority

Ùghdarras Pàirc Nàiseanta a'  
Mhonaidh Ruaidh

# Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan: Evidence Report

Cairngorms National Park Authority

March 2026





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## Introduction

This is the Evidence Report for the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 3, prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended (CNPA003), the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (CNPA684) and the associated Local Development Planning Guidance (CNPA009), published by the Scottish Government.

The Evidence Report was approved by The Cairngorms National Park Authority board on 13 March 2026 (CNPA1446, CNPA1447 and CNPA1448). Following approval by the National Park Authority Board, the Evidence Report was submitted to the Scottish Ministers for its gatecheck review to assess the sufficiency of the evidence to prepare the next Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan

The Evidence Report reflects the initial stage of information and evidence gathering, shaped by early consultation and stakeholder engagement. The Evidence Report does not include site specific proposals or set out detailed planning policies and associated requirements. These will be developed during the subsequent Proposed Plan stage. Instead, the report outlines key considerations and actions to be addressed in the preparation of the Proposed Plan. The Park Authority has produced this Evidence Report on a topic basis, broadly seeking to follow the policy themes of National Planning Framework 4 (CNPA008). Where possible, the Park Authority has sought to gather the topic based information in a place based manner.

A necessary and proportionate approach has been taken when considering the evidence as the Evidence Report is not expected to be a compendium of all available information. The Park Authority consider the Evidence Report to provide a sufficient evidence base on which to prepare the next Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan. However, there are a very small number of disputes over the sufficiency of the evidence with stakeholders, and these are set out according to each topic.

The Park Authority has undertaken efforts to resolve disputes by responding to the parties concerned with further clarification and / or engagement where it was considered disputes could be addressed. Where considered appropriate and proportionate, amendments were made to the evidence base. Any disputes noted within the Evidence Report refer solely to those that remain unresolved.



The evidence and summary of engagement are arranged within twenty three topic based schedules. While these schedules have their own page numbering and referencing systems, they are part of the evidence report.

The Evidence Report also contains:

- A statement on the nature of planning in the Cairngorms National Park.
- A statement on the appropriateness of the Cairngorms National Park 2021 spatial strategy.
- A statement of compliance with legislative requirements.
- A summary of the main implications arising from the evidence base.
- A statement on the engagement carried out in preparing the Evidence Report.
- Statements of agreement and dispute and evidence gaps.
- A site assessment checklist<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> See Schedule 2: Site assessment methodology.



## The Cairngorms National Park

The Cairngorms National Park was designated in 2003 by the Scottish Parliament because it satisfied the conditions for a National Park as set out in the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 (CNPA004). The Cairngorms National Park is the UK's largest, with a total land area of some 4,528km<sup>2</sup>. Dominated by mountain plateau, it boasts extensive moorland, forest and straths and is home to around 25% of the UK's threatened bird, animal and plant species. According to Scotland's Census 2022 (CNPA439), approximately 17,500 people live in the Cairngorms National Park, and in 2023 it received around 2.15 million visitors (CNPA191).

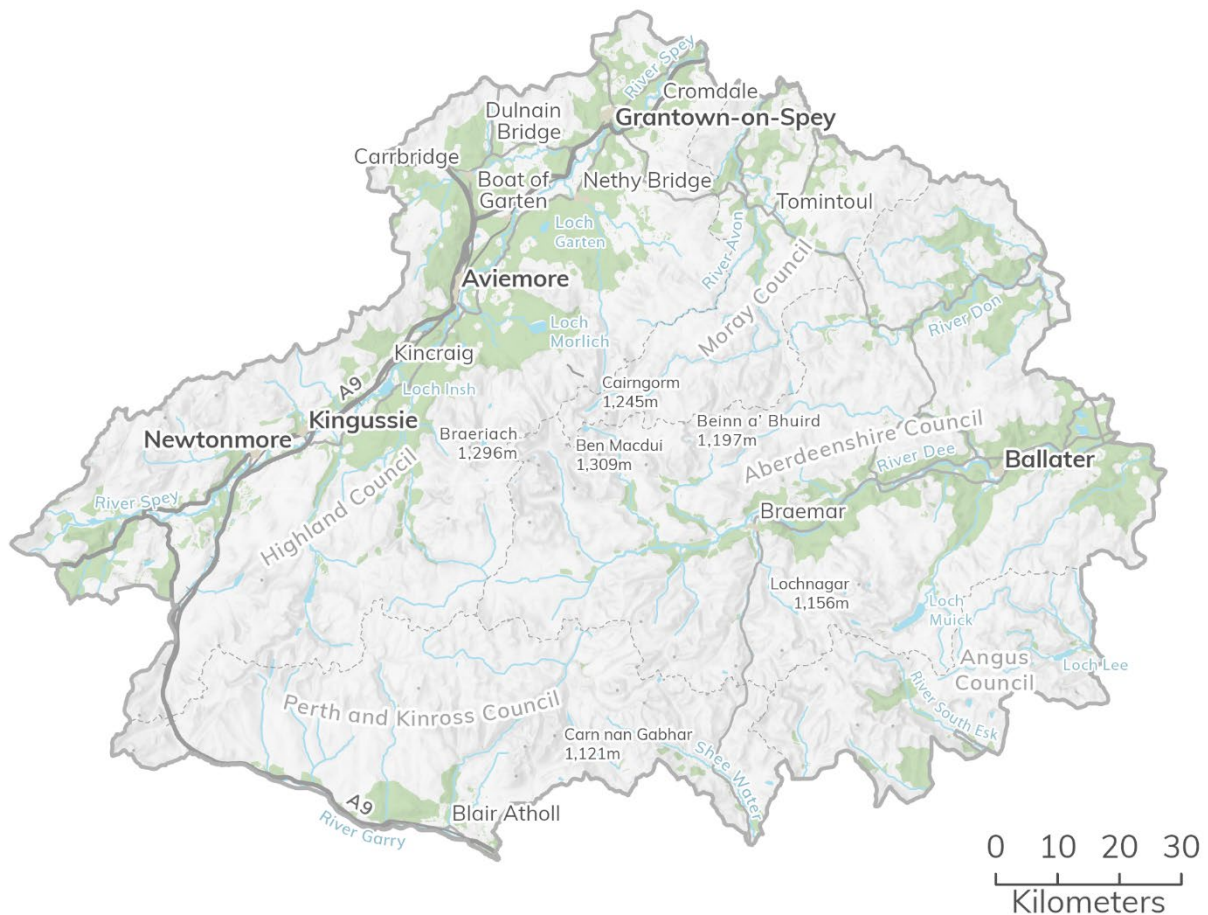


Figure 1 The Cairngorms National Park. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



## Planning in the Cairngorms National Park

Planning in the Cairngorms National Park is unique in Scotland, with the Park Authority and the five local authorities that cover its area – Aberdeenshire Council, Angus Council, Moray Council, Perth and Kinross Council and The Highland Council – all playing a key role in making the planning system work effectively (Figure 2).

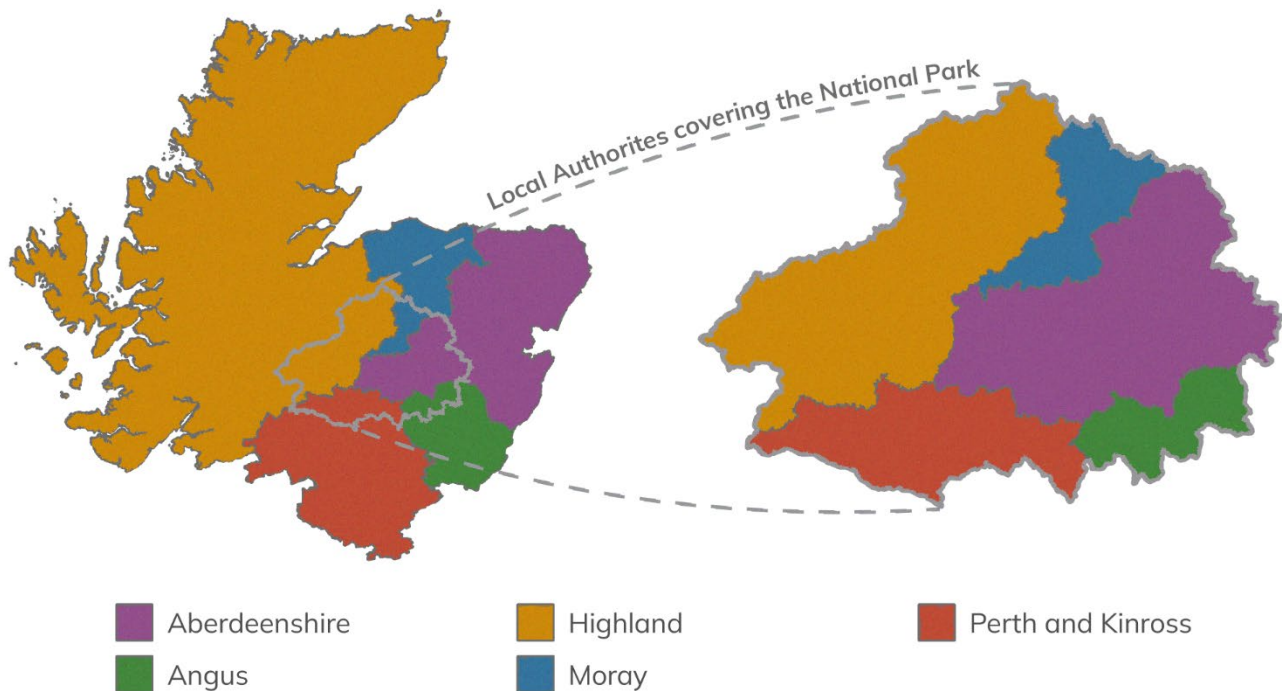


Figure 2 The local authorities covering the and exercising duties within the Cairngorms National Park Area. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.

The Park Authority is responsible for preparing the Local Development Plan for its area, which along with National Planning Framework 4 (CNPA008), represent the Statutory Development Plan for the National Park (Figure 3). Further strategic direction is provided by the National Park Partnership Plan, which as stipulated by Section 264A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1997 (CNPA003), is a special consideration for determination of planning decisions, including the preparation and implementation of the Local Development Plan for its area.

The Partnership Plan is the National Park Plan as provided for by Section 11 of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 (CNPA004) and sets vision and overarching strategy for managing the National Park, including how the National Park aims set out within Section 1 of the Act are to be met. Detailed information on the role of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 and the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan

(CNPA010) in the preparation of the local development plan is set out within Schedule 1: Plan outcomes.

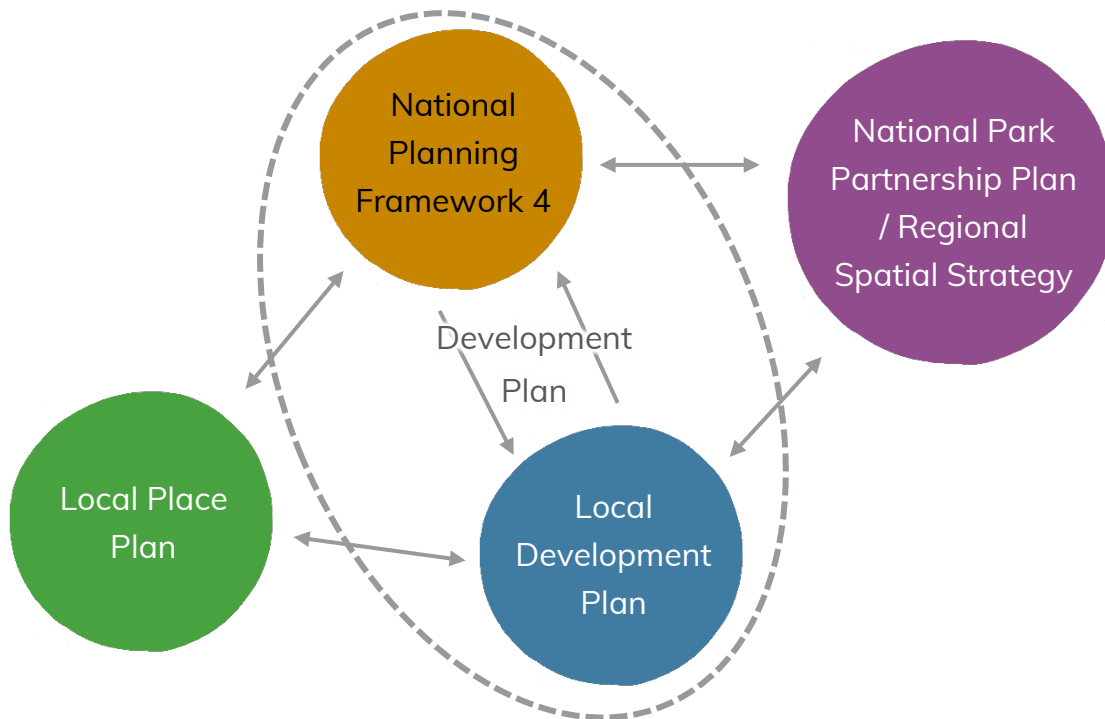


Figure 3 The Statutory Development Plan within the Cairngorms National Park.

This unique territorial and legislative arrangement has a significant impact on the form and content of the Evidence Report for the Cairngorms National Park. Of particular importance is the way in which statutory responsibilities are exercised, with the key factor being that unlike other planning services<sup>2</sup>, the Park Authority's planning service does not sit within a unitary authority. This means that many duties integral to preparing a local development plan do not sit within the Park Authority but are exercised by the five local authorities covering its area. The result of this arrangement is that in preparing the Evidence Report, the Park Authority must draw upon a wide range of plans, programmes and strategies that cover its area and can only present such information according to the priorities and timescales of the different local authorities.

These considerations are set out according to each schedule, however it is worth highlighting some key ones here:

- The Park Authority is not a local authority and does not have a single local outcome improvement plan covering its area, instead there are five. This means a vision cannot be derived from them for the local development plan and that strategic

<sup>2</sup> With the exception of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority.



direction comes instead from the National Park Partnership Plan. See Schedule 1: Plan outcomes for further information.

- The Park Authority is not a housing authority and therefore does not prepare a housing need and demand assessment, housing strategy, strategic housing investment plan or housing land audit. These are prepared by the local authorities and are prepared according to different methodologies, timescales and contain different priorities. The local development plan must have regard for all of these and to reconcile them to deliver a local housing land requirement and consistent set of outcomes. See Schedule 13: Housing for further information.
- The Park Authority does not have any duties under the Heat Networks (Scotland) Act 2021 (CNPA1199) and therefore does not prepare a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy. Like the housing responsibilities, these are prepared by the local authorities covering the National Park area. See Schedule 15: Heating and cooling for further information.
- The Park Authority may prepare an open space strategy, however, it does not own any land or assets, for example play parks, whose management may be influenced by such a strategy. Therefore, these are the responsibility of the local authorities covering the National Park area, who prepare strategies for their whole areas. The Park Authority is a stakeholder within this process, but timescales are set by the priorities of each local authority. Note that open space strategies are not required at the Evidence Report stage, but the Evidence Report does contain an audit of open space within the National Park's settlements, and a play sufficiency assessment has been carried out (CNPA280). See Schedule 17: Play, recreation and sport for further information.

As the geographies of many other agencies and organisations align with local authority geographies, the Evidence Report must also align with the plans, programmes and strategies of a number of regional bodies, notably including three NHS boards, three regional transport partnerships, two economic development agencies.

The matter of geography also has an impact on the collection and presentation of statistical data about the National Park. Unlike local authorities, the National Park Authority is a non-standard geography and many standardised datasets are not prepared according to its geography. As a result, data included in supporting reports (such as those from local authorities) is often unavailable for the National Park. Therefore, for the Evidence Report, this information must be specially collated by



aggregating smaller geographies<sup>3</sup>. It is therefore presented in full, rather than summarised from other documents.

The National Park's geography does not nest within the geographies of other organisations and entities, such as the key agencies (for example NHS boards and regional transport partnerships). Therefore, the amount of engagement that has been undertaken with key agencies is multiplied by the number of additional organisations. See Table 5 (page 51) for details.

The consequences of these matters on the Evidence Report are:

- For many topic areas, and particularly those covering demographics and infrastructure provision, the Evidence Report contains significantly more information than local authority evidence reports.
- The amount of material, such as emails, demonstrating engagement with key agencies is substantial, although efforts have been made to provide only a summary within the Evidence Report itself.
- Because local authorities and other partners work to different timescales and priorities, there is no perfect moment to submit the Evidence Report for gatecheck. It cannot align with every partner duty (such as housing strategies). The Evidence Report therefore reflects the most up to date position at the time of publication, while recognising that some duties may be delivered afterwards. Waiting for every duty to conclude would create an endless cycle of evidence gathering and prevent the Park Authority from progressing preparation of the local development plan.

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<sup>3</sup> For further information, see Statistical areas used in the analysis of the Cairngorms National Park (CNPA337).



## Appropriateness of Local Development Plan 2021

### spatial strategy

The Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016) was adopted in March 2021. The Local Development Plan 2021 focuses on built development and is one of a range of plans and strategies that helps us manage the development and use of land to deliver the four statutory aims of Scottish National Parks.

An analysis of the implementation of the Local Development Plan 2021 is set out within Schedule 2: Policy monitoring, covering both policy and the spatial strategy. This was informed by a wide range of engagement, including direct engagement with local authorities, developers, landowners and other planning practitioners and online engagement with the public at large.

In summary, the Local Development Plan 2021's spatial strategy is considered appropriate. It has been retained by the National Park Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027 (CNPA010), which acts as the regional spatial strategy for the National Park, and is rooted in the delivery of the National Park's four aims (CNPA004). This is in alignment with Section 264A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (CNPA003), which states that 'special attention shall be paid to the desirability of exercising the power consistently with the National Park Plan'. By focusing development in locations which have the greatest level of services, it also supports National Planning Framework 4's (CNPA008) infrastructure first principles.

### Legislative requirements

The Evidence Report has been split into 23 topic based schedules that summarise the evidence necessary to prepare the next Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan. The topics are grouped to broadly reflect the policy areas within National Planning Framework 4 (CNPA008). This section provides a summary of where the Evidence Report meets the primary policy and legislative framework set out by the planning system in the National Park, namely:

- National Planning Framework 4 (CNPA008).
- Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (CNPA003), as amended.
- The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (CNPA684).
- The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 (CNPA004), as to be amended by the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill (CNPA634).



Detailed information on how the requirements are met are set out within the topic base schedules.

## National Planning Framework 4

Table 1 provides an overview of where the requirements of National Planning Framework 4 (CNPA008) are met within the Evidence Report. Detail on these requirements and how they have been met is set out under each of the topic-based schedules.

Table 1 Where National Planning Framework 4 policy requirements are met within the Evidence Report.

National Planning Framework 4 Policy	National Planning Framework 4 requirement (abridged)	Evidence Report schedule
<b>Sustainable Places</b>		
1. Tackling the climate and nature crises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local development plans must address the global climate emergency and nature crisis by ensuring the spatial strategy will reduce emissions and adapt to current and future risks of climate change by promoting nature recovery and restoration in the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1: Plan outcomes</li> <li>4: Climate change</li> <li>6: Natural heritage</li> <li>9: Energy</li> <li>11: Sustainable transport</li> <li>12: Living locally and 20 minute neighbourhoods</li> <li>15: Heating and cooling</li> <li>16: Blue and green infrastructure</li> <li>18: Health and safety</li> <li>19: Flood risk and water management</li> </ul>



National Planning Framework 4 Policy	National Planning Framework 4 requirement (abridged)	Evidence Report schedule
2. Climate mitigation and adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The local development plan spatial strategy should be designed to reduce, minimise or avoid greenhouse gas emissions.</li><li>• The strategy should be informed by an understanding of the impacts of the proposals on greenhouse gas emissions.</li><li>• Local development plans should support adaptation to the current and future impacts of climate change by taking into account climate risks, guiding development away from vulnerable areas, and enabling places to adapt to those risks.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1: Plan outcomes</li><li>• 4: Climate change</li><li>• 5: Natural heritage</li><li>• 9: Energy</li><li>• 11: Sustainable transport</li><li>• 12: Living locally and 20 minute neighbourhoods</li><li>• 15: Heating and cooling</li><li>• 16: Blue and green infrastructure</li><li>• 18: Health and safety</li><li>• 19: Flood risk and water management</li></ul>
3. Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local development plans should protect, conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity in line with the mitigation hierarchy.</li><li>• They should also promote nature recovery and nature restoration across the development plan area, including by: facilitating the creation of nature networks and strengthening connections between them to support improved ecological connectivity; restoring degraded habitats or creating new habitats; and incorporating</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5: Natural heritage</li><li>• 16: Blue and green infrastructure</li><li>• 19: Flood risk and water management</li></ul>



National Planning Framework 4 Policy	National Planning Framework 4 requirement (abridged)	Evidence Report schedule
	measures to increase biodiversity, including populations of priority species.	
4. Natural places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local development plans will identify and protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally important natural assets.</li> <li>The spatial strategy should safeguard them and take into account the objectives and level of their protected status in allocating land for development.</li> <li>Spatial strategies should also better connect nature rich areas by establishing and growing nature networks to help protect and restore the biodiversity, ecosystems and natural processes in their area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5: Natural heritage</li> <li>6: Landscape</li> <li>16: Blue and green infrastructure</li> <li>19: Flood risk and water management</li> </ul>
5. Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local development plans should protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally valued soils, including land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5: Natural heritage</li> <li>8: Land use, soil and resources</li> <li>16: Blue and green infrastructure</li> </ul>
6. Forestry, woodland and trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local development plans should identify and protect existing woodland and the potential for its enhancement or expansion to avoid habitat fragmentation and improve ecological connectivity, helping to support and expand nature networks.</li> <li>The spatial strategy should identify and set out proposals for forestry, woodlands and trees in the area, including their development, protection and enhancement, resilience to climate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5: Natural heritage</li> <li>8: Land use, soil and resources</li> <li>16: Blue and green infrastructure</li> <li>17: Play, recreation and sport</li> </ul>



National Planning Framework 4 Policy	National Planning Framework 4 requirement (abridged)	Evidence Report schedule
	<p>change, and the expansion of a range of types to provide multiple benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This will be supported and informed by an up to date Forestry and Woodland Strategy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19: Flood risk and water management</li> </ul>
7. Historic assets and places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local development plans, including through their spatial strategies, should support the sustainable management of the historic environment.</li> <li>They should identify, protect and enhance valued historic assets and places.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7: Historic and cultural heritage</li> <li>8: Land use, soil and resources</li> </ul>
8. Green belts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local development plans should consider using green belts, to support their spatial strategy as a settlement management tool to restrict development around towns and cities.</li> <li>Green belts should be identified or reviewed as part of the preparation of Local development plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5: Natural heritage</li> </ul>
9. Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local development plans should set out opportunities for the sustainable reuse of brownfield land including vacant and derelict land and empty buildings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7: Historic and cultural heritage</li> <li>8: Land use, soil and resources</li> <li>16: Blue and green infrastructure</li> </ul>
10. Coastal development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local development plan spatial strategies should consider how to adapt coastlines to the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>Spatial strategies should reflect the diversity of coastal areas and opportunities to use nature based</li> </ul>	<p>The Cairngorms National Park does not have a coastline. There are therefore no requirements arising from this policy.</p>



National Planning Framework 4 Policy	National Planning Framework 4 requirement (abridged)	Evidence Report schedule
	<p>solutions to improve the resilience of coastal communities and assets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local development plan spatial strategies should identify areas of developed and undeveloped coast and should align with national, sectoral and regional marine plans.</li></ul>	
11. Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local development plans should seek to realise their area's full potential for electricity and heat from renewable, low carbon and zero emission sources by identifying a range of opportunities for energy development.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>9: Energy</li><li>15: Heating and cooling</li></ul>
12. Zero waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local development plans should identify appropriate locations for new waste management infrastructure to support the circular economy and meet identified needs in a way that moves waste as high up the waste hierarchy as possible.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>10: Zero waste</li></ul>
13. Sustainable transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local development plans should prioritise locations for future development that can be accessed by sustainable modes.</li><li>The spatial strategy should reflect the sustainable travel hierarchy and sustainable investment hierarchy by making best use of existing infrastructure and services.</li><li>Local development plans should promote a place-based approach to consider how to reduce car-dominance.</li><li>Plans should be informed by an appropriate and effective transport appraisal undertaken in line with relevant transport appraisal guidance.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>11: Sustainable transport</li><li>12: Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods</li></ul>



National Planning Framework 4 Policy	National Planning Framework 4 requirement (abridged)	Evidence Report schedule
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans should be informed by evidence of the area's transport infrastructure capacity, and an appraisal of the spatial strategy on the transport network.</li> <li>Where there is likely to be an impact on the trunk road or rail network, early engagement with Transport Scotland is required.</li> </ul>	
<b>Liveable Places</b>		
14.Design, quality and place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local development plans should be place based and created in line with the Place Principle. The spatial strategy should be underpinned by the six qualities of successful places.</li> <li>Local development plans should provide clear expectations for design, quality and place taking account of the local context, characteristics and connectivity of the area. They should also identify where more detailed design guidance is expected, for example, by way of design frameworks, briefs, masterplans and design codes.</li> <li>Planning authorities should use the Place Standard Tool in the preparation of local development plans and design guidance to engage with communities and other stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<p>Information on design, quality and place is provided within all schedules, particularly through information gathered through the community action planning process, town (CNPA078) and village (CNPA488) centre health checks, local living mapping (CNPA503) and play sufficiency assessment (CNPA280).</p> <p>The Place Standard Tool has been used extensively in the engagement of preparation of the evidence report. A</p>



National Planning Framework 4 Policy	National Planning Framework 4 requirement (abridged)	Evidence Report schedule
		summary of this is set out within the Statement of engagement (see page 50).
15. Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local development plans should support local living, including 20 minute neighbourhoods within settlements, through the spatial strategy, associated site briefs and masterplans.</li><li>Communities and businesses will have an important role to play in informing this, helping to strengthen local living through their engagement with the planning system.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>12: Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods</li></ul>
16. Quality homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local development plans are expected to identify a Local Housing Land Requirement for the area they cover.</li><li>In rural and island areas, authorities are encouraged to set out tailored approaches to housing</li><li>Diverse needs and delivery models should be taken into account across all areas, as well as allocating land to ensure provision of accommodation for Gypsy / Travellers and Travelling Showpeople where need is identified.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>13: Housing</li></ul>
17. Rural homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local development plans should be informed by an understanding of population change over time, locally specific needs and market circumstances in rural and island areas.</li><li>Local development plans should set out tailored approaches to rural housing and where relevant include proposals for future population growth.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>13: Housing</li><li>14: Education</li><li>18: Health and safety</li></ul>



National Planning Framework 4 Policy	National Planning Framework 4 requirement (abridged)	Evidence Report schedule
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scottish Government’s 6 fold Urban Rural Classification 2020 should be used to identify remote rural areas.</li> <li>• Plans should reflect locally appropriate delivery approaches.</li> <li>• Previously inhabited areas that are suitable for resettlement should be identified in the spatial strategy</li> </ul>	
18. Infrastructure first	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local development plans and delivery programmes should be based on an integrated infrastructure first approach. Plans should be informed by evidence on infrastructure capacity, condition, needs and deliverability within the plan area, including cross boundary infrastructure.</li> <li>• Plans should set out the infrastructure requirements to deliver the spatial strategy, informed by the evidence base, identifying the infrastructure priorities, and where, how, when and by whom they will be delivered.</li> <li>• Plans should indicate the type, level (or method of calculation) and location of the financial or in kind contributions, and the types of development from which they will be required.</li> <li>• Plans should align with relevant national, regional and local infrastructure plans and policies and take account of the Scottish Government infrastructure investment hierarchy and sustainable travel and investment hierarchies in developing the spatial strategy. Consistent early engagement and collaboration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9: Energy</li> <li>• 10: Zero waste</li> <li>• 11: Sustainable transport</li> <li>• 14: Education</li> <li>• 15: Heating and cooling</li> <li>• 16: Blue and green infrastructure</li> <li>• 17: Play recreation and sport</li> <li>• 18: Health and safety</li> <li>• 19: Flood risk and water management</li> <li>• 20: Digital infrastructure</li> </ul>



National Planning Framework 4 Policy	National Planning Framework 4 requirement (abridged)	Evidence Report schedule
	between relevant stakeholders will better inform decisions on land use and investment.	
19.Heat and cooling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local development plans should take into account the area's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy.</li><li>The spatial strategy should take into account areas of heat network potential and any designated Heat Network Zones.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>15: Heating and cooling</li></ul>
20.Blue and green infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local development plans should be informed by relevant, up to date audits and / or strategies, covering the multiple functions and benefits of blue and green infrastructure.</li><li>The spatial strategy should identify and protect blue and green infrastructure assets and networks; enhance and expand existing provision including new blue and / or green infrastructure.</li><li>Local development plans should encourage the permanent or temporary use of unused or under-used land as green infrastructure.</li><li>Local development plans should safeguard access rights and core paths, including active travel routes, and encourage new and enhanced opportunities for access linked to wider networks.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>5: Natural heritage</li><li>6: Landscape</li><li>16: Blue and green infrastructure</li><li>17: Play, recreation and sport</li><li>18: Health and safety</li><li>19: Flood risk and water management</li><li>23: Tourism</li></ul>
21.Play, recreation and sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local development plans should identify sites for sports, play and outdoor recreation for people of all ages. This should be based on an understanding of the needs and demand in the community and informed</li></ul>	17: Play, recreation and sport



National Planning Framework 4 Policy	National Planning Framework 4 requirement (abridged)	Evidence Report schedule
	by the planning authority's Play Sufficiency Assessment and Open Space Strategy.	
22. Flood risk and water management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local development plans should strengthen community resilience to the current and future impacts of climate change, by avoiding development in areas at flood risk as a first principle.</li> <li>Plans should take into account the probability of flooding from all sources and make use of relevant flood risk and river basin management plans for the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19: Flood risk and water management</li> </ul>
23. Health and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local development plan spatial strategies should seek to tackle health inequalities particularly in places which are experiencing the most disadvantage.</li> <li>They should identify the health and social care services and infrastructure needed in the area, including potential for co-location of complementary services, in partnership with Health Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships.</li> <li>Local development plans should create healthier places for example through opportunities for exercise, healthier lifestyles, land for community food growing and allotments, and awareness of locations of concern for suicide.</li> <li>Spatial strategies should maintain appropriate distances between sites with hazardous substances and areas where the public are likely to be present</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17: Play, recreation and sport</li> <li>18: Health and safety</li> </ul>



National Planning Framework 4 Policy	National Planning Framework 4 requirement (abridged)	Evidence Report schedule
	and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest.	
24. Digital infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local development plans should support the delivery of digital infrastructure, including fixed line and mobile connectivity, particularly in areas with gaps in connectivity and barriers to digital access.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20: Digital infrastructure</li> </ul>
<b>Productive Places</b>		
25. Community wealth building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local development plans should be aligned with any strategy for community wealth building for the area.</li> <li>Spatial strategies should address community wealth building priorities; identify community assets; set out opportunities to tackle economic disadvantage and inequality; and seek to provide benefits for local communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21: Economic development</li> </ul>
26. Business and industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local development should allocate sufficient land for business and industry, taking into account business and industry land audits.</li> <li>This allocation should take account of local economic strategies and support broader objectives of delivering a low carbon and net zero economic recovery, and a fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21: Economic development</li> </ul>
27. City, town, local and commercial centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local development plans should support sustainable futures for city, town and local centres.</li> <li>They should, where relevant, also support proposals for improving the sustainability of existing commercial centres where appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11: Sustainable transport</li> <li>12: Living locally and 20 minute neighbourhoods</li> <li>13: Housing</li> </ul>



National Planning Framework 4 Policy	National Planning Framework 4 requirement (abridged)	Evidence Report schedule
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local development plans should identify a network of centres that reflect the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods and the town centre vision.</li> <li>Local development plans should be informed by evidence on where clustering of non retail uses may be adversely impacting on the wellbeing of communities.</li> <li>They should also consider, and if appropriate, identify any areas where drive-through facilities may be acceptable where they would not negatively impact on the principles of local living or sustainable travel.</li> <li>Local development plans should provide a proportion of their Local Housing Land Requirements in city and town centres and be proactive in identifying opportunities to support residential development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18: Health and safety</li> <li>22: Town centres and retail</li> </ul>
28.Retail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local development plans should consider where there may be a need for further retail provision.</li> <li>Local development plans should identify areas where proposals for healthy food and drink outlets can be supported.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12: Living locally and Schedule x: 20 minute neighbourhoods</li> <li>18: Health and safety</li> <li>22: Town centres and retail</li> </ul>
29.Rural development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local development plans should identify the characteristics of rural areas within the plan area, including the existing pattern of development, pressures, environmental assets,</li> </ul>	The whole of the Cairngorms National Park is identified as accessible or



National Planning Framework 4 Policy	National Planning Framework 4 requirement (abridged)	Evidence Report schedule
	<p>community priorities and economic needs of each area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The spatial strategy should set out an appropriate approach to development in rural areas which reflects the identified characteristics.</li> <li>• The Scottish Government's 6 fold Urban Rural Classification 2020 should be used to identify remote rural areas.</li> <li>• Spatial strategies should support the sustainability and prosperity of rural communities and economies.</li> <li>• Previously inhabited areas which are suitable for resettlement should be identified in the spatial strategy.</li> </ul>	<p>remote rural according to the Scottish Government's 6 fold Urban Rural Classification 2022. Therefore, all topic areas identify the characteristics of rural areas. However, the following schedules cover specific implications (e.g. fragile rural areas):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12: Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods</li> <li>• 13: Housing</li> <li>• 21: Economic development</li> <li>• 22: Town centres and retail</li> </ul>
30.Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local development plans should support the recovery, growth and long-term resilience of the tourism sector.</li> <li>• The spatial strategy should identify suitable locations which reflect opportunities for tourism development by taking full account of the needs of communities, visitors, the industry and the environment.</li> <li>• Relevant national and local sector driven tourism strategies should also be taken into account.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23: Tourism</li> </ul>



National Planning Framework 4 Policy	National Planning Framework 4 requirement (abridged)	Evidence Report schedule
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The spatial strategy should identify areas of pressure where existing tourism provision is having adverse impacts on the environment or the quality of life and health and wellbeing of local communities, and where further development is not appropriate.</li></ul>	
31. Culture and creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local development plans should recognise and support opportunities for jobs and investment in the creative sector, culture, heritage and the arts.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>7: Historic and cultural heritage</li><li>22: Town centres and retail</li></ul>
32. Aquaculture	Local development plans should guide new aquaculture development in line with National and Regional Marine Planning, and will minimise adverse environmental impacts, including cumulative impacts, that arise from other existing and planned aquaculture developments in the area while also reflecting industry needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>19: Flood risk and water management</li></ul>
33. Minerals	Local development plans should support a landbank of construction aggregates of at least 10 years at all times in the relevant market areas, whilst promoting sustainable resource management, safeguarding important workable mineral resources, which are of economic or conservation value, and take steps to ensure these are not sterilised by other types of development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>8: Land use, soil and resources</li></ul>



## Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

Table 2 provides an overview of where the requirements and matters identified in the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended (CNPA003), are met within the Evidence Report.

Table 2 Where the matters set out within Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended are met within the Evidence Report.

Section of Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Requirements and matters of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Evidence Report schedule
Section 3G	A planning authority is to prepare and publish an open space strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 17: Play, recreation and sport</li></ul> <p>However, Section 3G(6) states that a national park authority is not a planning authority for the purposes of this section.</p>
Section 3ZA(1)	The purpose of planning is to manage the development and use of land in the long-term public interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1: Plan outcomes</li></ul>
Section 3ZA(2)	Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), anything which contributes to sustainable development, or achieves the national outcomes (within the meaning of Part 1 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015), is to be considered as being in the long-term public interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1: Plan outcomes</li></ul>
Section 4ZB(2)	In exercising their functions of preparing, revising or amending a local development plan, a planning authority must have	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1: Plan outcomes</li></ul>



Section of Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Requirements and matters of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Evidence Report schedule
	regard to their adopted regional spatial strategy.	
Section 15(1A)	The local development plan must also include targets for meeting the housing needs of people living in the part of the district to which it relates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13: Housing</li> </ul>
Section 15(2A)	A local development plan is to include a statement of the planning authority's policies and proposals as to the provision of public conveniences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19: Flood risk and water management</li> </ul>
Section 15(2B)	A local development plan is to include a statement of the planning authority's policies and proposals as to the provision of water refill locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19: Flood risk and water management</li> </ul>
Section 15(3)	Where a local development plan contains policies or proposals for, or views as to, the occurrence of development on land owned by the planning authority, there is to be appended to the plan a schedule, in such form as may be prescribed, which identifies the land, states that it is so owned and refers to the policies, proposals or views in question.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8: Land use, soil and resources</li> </ul>
Section 15(5)(a)	the principal physical, cultural, economic, social, built heritage and environmental characteristics of the district,	<p>All schedules cover these matters, with the exception of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1: Plan outcomes, which is concerned with matters of legislation and policy.</li> </ul>



Section of Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Requirements and matters of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Evidence Report schedule
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2: Policy monitoring, which is concerned with the implementation of the Cairngorms National Local Development Plan 2021.</li> <li>• 3: Site assessment methodology, which is concerned with technical matters.</li> </ul>
Section 15(5)(b)	the principal purposes for which the land is used,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8: Land use, soil and resources</li> </ul>
Section 15(5)(c)	the size, composition, health and distribution of the population of the district,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12: Living locally and 20 minute neighbourhoods</li> <li>• 13: Housing</li> <li>• 14: Education</li> <li>• 17: Play, recreation and sport</li> <li>• 18: Health and safety</li> <li>• 21: Economic development</li> </ul>
Section 15(5)(ca)	the housing needs of the population of the area, including, in particular, the needs of persons undertaking further and higher education, older people and disabled people,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13: Housing</li> </ul>
Section 15(5)(cb)	the availability of land in the district for housing, including for older people and disabled people,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13: Housing</li> </ul>
Section 15(5)(cc)	the desirability of allocating land for the purposes of resettlement,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13: Housing</li> </ul>
Section 15(5)(cd)	the health needs of the population of the district and the likely effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18: Health and safety</li> </ul>



Section of Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Requirements and matters of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Evidence Report schedule
	of development and use of land on those health needs,	
Section 15(5)(ce)	the education needs of the population of the district and the likely effects of development and use of land on those education needs,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14: Education</li> </ul>
Section 15(5)(cf)	the extent to which there are rural areas within the district in relation to which there has been a substantial decline in population,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13: Housing</li> </ul>
Section 15(5)(cg)	the capacity of education services in the district,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14: Education</li> </ul>
Section 15(5)(ch)	the desirability of maintaining an appropriate number and range of cultural venues and facilities (including in particular, but not limited to, live music venues) in the district,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7: Historic and cultural heritage</li> <li>• 22: Town centres and retail</li> </ul>
Section 15(5)(d)	the infrastructure of the district (including communications, transport and drainage systems, systems for the supply of water and energy, and health care and education facilities),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9: Energy</li> <li>• 10: Zero waste</li> <li>• 11: Sustainable transport</li> <li>• 12: Living locally and 20 minute neighbourhoods</li> <li>• 14: Education</li> <li>• 15: Heating and cooling</li> <li>• 17: Play, recreation and sport</li> <li>• 18: Health and safety</li> <li>• 19: Flood risk and water management</li> <li>• 20: Digital infrastructure</li> </ul>
Section 15(5)(e)	how that infrastructure is used,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9: Energy</li> <li>• 10: Zero waste</li> </ul>



Section of Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Requirements and matters of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Evidence Report schedule
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11: Sustainable transport</li> <li>• 14: Education</li> <li>• 15: Heating and cooling</li> <li>• 17: Play, recreation and sport</li> <li>• 18: Health and safety</li> <li>• 19: Flood risk and water management</li> <li>• 20: Digital infrastructure</li> </ul>
Section 15(5)(f)	any change which the planning authority think may occur in relation to any of the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (eb).	<p>All schedules cover these matters, with the exception of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1: Plan outcomes, which is concerned with matters of legislation and policy.</li> <li>• 2: Policy monitoring, which is concerned with the implementation of the Cairngorms National Local Development Plan 2021.</li> <li>• 3: Site assessment methodology, which is concerned with technical matters.</li> </ul>
Section 15(5A)	in subsection (5)(d), references to systems for the supply of energy include in particular land available for the development and use of facilities for renewable sources of energy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9: Energy</li> </ul>
Section 16(1)	(a) A planning authority are, as soon as practicable after the	The Evidence Report is part of the duty of preparing a local development plan. The



Section of Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Requirements and matters of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Evidence Report schedule
	<p>coming into force of section 2 of the Planning Act and thereafter –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. whenever required to do so by the Scottish Ministers, or</li><li>ii. subject to sub-paragraph (i), at intervals of no more than 10 years,</li></ul> <p>to prepare local development plans for all parts of their district, and</p> <p>(b) to keep under review the plans so prepared.</p>	<p>element of review is covered in the following schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1: Policy monitoring</li></ul>
Section 16(2)(a)	<p>to take into account—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>iii. the National Planning Framework and</li><li>iv. any local outcomes improvement plan (within the meaning of section 6 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015) for the part of their district to which the local development plan relates,</li><li>v. any registered local place plan (see schedule 19) that is for the part of their district to which the local development plan relates,</li></ul>	<p>All schedules cover this matter, with particular focus within the following schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1: Plan outcomes</li></ul>
Section 16(2)(aa)	<p>to have regard to the desirability of preserving disused railway infrastructure for the purpose of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 11: Sustainable transport</li><li>• 23: Tourism</li></ul>



Section of Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Requirements and matters of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Evidence Report schedule
	ensuring its availability for possible future public transport requirements,	
Section 16(2)(ab)	to have regard to the list published under section 16E of persons seeking to acquire land in the authority's area for self-build housing,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13: Housing</li> </ul>
Section 16(2)(b)	are to have regard to such information and considerations as may be prescribed,	All schedules cover this matter.
Section 16(2)(c)	may have regard to such other information and considerations as appear to them to be relevant.	All schedules cover this matter.
Section 16A(1)	A planning authority must make such arrangements as they consider appropriate to promote and facilitate participation by children and young people (meaning for the purpose of this section a person aged 25 or under) in the preparation of the local development plan.	This matter has been covered throughout the Evidence Report. A summary of the engagement undertaken by the Park Authority in the preparation of the Evidence report is set out on page 44.
Section 16A(2)	Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), planning authorities must first consider discharging their duty under subsection (1) by means of contact with schools, youth councils and youth parliament representatives within their district.	This matter has been covered throughout the Evidence Report. A summary of the engagement undertaken by the Park Authority in the preparation of the Evidence report is set out on page 44.
Section 16A(3)	A planning authority must—	This matter has been covered throughout the



Section of Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Requirements and matters of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Evidence Report schedule
	a) publish information about its arrangements under subsection (1), and b) keep the information published up to date.	Evidence Report. A summary of the engagement undertaken by the Park Authority in the preparation of the Evidence report is set out on page 44.
Section 16B(1)	Before preparing a local development plan, a planning authority are to prepare an evidence report.	This document and its schedules is the Evidence Report.
Section 16B(2)(a)	In preparing the evidence report the planning authority are to seek the views of, and have regard to any views expressed by the key agencies.	This matter has been covered throughout the Evidence Report. A summary of the engagement undertaken by the Park Authority in the preparation of the Evidence report is set out on page 44.
Section 16B(2)(b)	In preparing the evidence report the planning authority are to seek the views of, and have regard to any views expressed by children and young people, in particular school pupils, youth councillors and youth parliament representatives.	This matter has been covered throughout the Evidence Report. A summary of the engagement undertaken by the Park Authority in the preparation of the Evidence report is set out on page 44.
Section 16B(2)(c)	In preparing the evidence report the planning authority are to seek the views of, and have regard to any views expressed by such other persons as may be prescribed.	This matter has been covered throughout the Evidence Report. A summary of the engagement undertaken by the Park Authority in the preparation of the Evidence report is set out on page 44.



Section of Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Requirements and matters of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Evidence Report schedule
Section 16B(2)(d)	In preparing the evidence report the planning authority are to seek the views of, and have regard to any views expressed by the public at large.	This matter has been covered throughout the Evidence Report. A summary of the engagement undertaken by the Park Authority in the preparation of the Evidence report is set out on page 44.
Section 16B(3)(a)	The evidence report is to set out the planning authority's view on the matters listed in section 15(5) for land in the part of the authority's district to which the local development plan will relate,	All schedules cover these matters, with the exception of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1: Plan outcomes, which is concerned with matters of legislation and policy.</li><li>• 2: Policy monitoring, which is concerned with the implementation of the Cairngorms National Local Development Plan 2021.</li><li>• 3: Site assessment methodology, which is concerned with technical matters.</li></ul>
Section 16B(3)(b)	The evidence report is to set out— <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. a summary of the action taken by the planning authority to support and promote the construction and adaptation of housing to meet the housing needs of older people and disabled people in the authority's area,</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 13: Housing</li></ul>



Section of Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Requirements and matters of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Evidence Report schedule
	ii. an analysis of the extent to which the action has helped to meet those needs,	
Section 16B(3)(c)	The evidence report is to set out— i. a summary of the action taken by the planning authority to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in the authority's area, ii. an analysis of the extent to which the action has helped to meet those needs,	• 13: Housing
Section 16B(3)(d)	The evidence report is to set out— i. how the planning authority have invited local communities in their district to prepare local place plans in accordance with schedule 19, ii. the assistance provided to local communities to assist them to prepare local place plans,	A summary of the engagement undertaken by the Park Authority in the preparation of the Evidence report, including the invitation to prepare local place plans, is set out on page 44.
Section 16B(3)(e)	include such other matters as are prescribed.	All schedules potentially cover this matter.
Section 16B(4)(a)	evidence report is also to include a statement on the steps taken by the planning authority in preparing the report to seek the views of the public at large,	A summary of the engagement undertaken by the Park Authority in the preparation of the Evidence report, including the invitation to prepare local



Section of Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Requirements and matters of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Evidence Report schedule
	including in particular the views of— i. disabled persons, ii. Gypsies and Travellers, and iii. children and young people,	place plans, is set out on page 44.
Section 16B(4)(b)	The evidence report is also to include a statement on the steps taken by the planning authority in preparing the report to seek the views of community councils,	A summary of the engagement undertaken by the Park Authority in the preparation of the Evidence report, including the invitation to prepare local place plans, is set out on page 44.
Section 16B(4)(c)	The evidence report is also to include a statement on the extent to which the views expressed under paragraphs (a) and (b) have been taken into account in the report.	Each schedule contains information on how the views of those engaged have been taken into account.  A summary of the engagement undertaken by the Park Authority in the preparation of the Evidence report, including the invitation to prepare local place plans, is set out on page 44.
Section 16B(5)	Before submitting a proposed evidence report under subsection (7), the planning authority must approve the proposed evidence report.	The Evidence Report was approved by the Park Authority Board on 13 March 2026 (CNPA1146, CNPA1447 and CNPA1448).



Section of Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Requirements and matters of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Evidence Report schedule
Section 16B(7)	The planning authority are to submit the evidence report to the Scottish Ministers.	The Evidence Report will be submitted to Scottish Ministers following its approval by the Park Authority Board.
Section 16C(5)	A planning authority must have regard to any guidance issued to them under this section.	A summary of the engagement undertaken by the Park Authority in the preparation of the Evidence report is set out on page 44.
Section 16D(1)	A planning authority must assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in its area for children in preparing an evidence report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 17: Play, recreation and sport</li></ul>
Section 16E(1)	A planning authority are to prepare and maintain a list of persons who have registered interest with the authority with the intention of acquiring land in the authority's area for self-build housing.	A summary of the engagement undertaken by the Park Authority in the preparation of the Evidence report, including the self build list, is set out on page 44.
Section 16(2)	A planning authority are to publish the list in such manner as the authority consider appropriate (as for example by means of the internet).	A summary of the engagement undertaken by the Park Authority in the preparation of the Evidence report, including the self build list, is set out on page 44.
Section 20B(1)	A development plan scheme is to be prepared by each planning authority.	The most recent development plan scheme for the Cairngorms National Park was agreed by the Park Authority Board on 28



Section of Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Requirements and matters of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997	Evidence Report schedule
		November 2025 (CNPA1214).
Section 20B(4A)	In preparing the development plan scheme the planning authority are to seek the views of, and have regard to any views expressed by the public at large as to the content of the participation statement.]	A summary of the engagement undertaken by the Park Authority in the preparation of the Evidence report, including the development plan scheme, is set out on page 44.
Section 264A	In the exercise, with respect to any land in a National Park, of any power under the planning Acts, special attention shall be paid to the desirability of exercising the power consistently with the National Park Plan as adopted under section 12(7)(a) of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 (asp 10).	All schedules cover this matter, with particular focus within the following section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1: Plan outcomes</li></ul>



## The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023

Table 5 provides an overview of where the information and considerations required by the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (CNPA684), are met within the Evidence Report.

Table 3 Where the information and considerations required by the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 are met within the Evidence Report.

Section of The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023	Information and considerations required by The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023	Evidence Report schedule
Regulation 8(1)	A local development plan is to contain a map or maps (to be known as 'the Proposals Map') describing the policies and proposals set out in the local development plan, so far as practicable to illustrate such policies or proposals spatially.	This is a requirement for the Proposed Plan, however the following Schedule considers the matter as far as the principle use of land is concerned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8: Land use, soil and resources</li> </ul>
Regulation 8(2)	Where a local development plan is prepared by a National Park authority, the schedule of land ownership is also to include land owned by a local authority.	This is a requirement for the Proposed Plan, however the following Schedule covers the evidence that will inform it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8: Land use, soil and resources</li> </ul>
Regulation 9(2)(a)	any regional spatial strategy prepared under section 4ZA of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for the local development plan area or	The Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan, which acts as the regional spatial strategy for the National Park, is covered



Section of The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023	Information and considerations required by The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023	Evidence Report schedule
	an area adjoining the local development plan area,	by schedules, with particular focus on the overarching implications set out within the following schedule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1: Plan outcomes</li></ul>
Regulation 9(2)(b)	any local development plan prepared for a different purpose for the local development plan area,	There are no other local development plans for the Cairngorms National Park local development plan area.
Regulation 9(2)(c)	any local development plan prepared for an area adjoining the local development plan area,	All schedules cover the relevant cross boundary issues, with the following schedules having particular focus due to overlapping responsibilities between the Park Authority and local authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5: Natural heritage</li><li>• 8: Land use, soil and resources</li><li>• 11: Sustainable transport</li><li>• 13: Housing</li><li>• 14: Education</li><li>• 17: Play, recreation and sport</li></ul>



Section of The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023	Information and considerations required by The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023	Evidence Report schedule
Regulation 9(2)(d)	where the local development plan area adjoins land in England, any document which forms part of the development plan for the area in which that land is situated,	The Cairngorms National Park does not adjoin England.
Regulation 9(2)(e)(i)	the national waste management plan,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10: Zero waste</li></ul>
Regulation 9(2)(e)(ii)	the national marine plan,	The Cairngorms National Park does not have a coastline, therefore no information or considerations have been drawn from the national marine plan.
Regulation 9(2)(e)(iii)	any regional marine plan,	The Cairngorms National Park does not have a coastline, therefore no information or considerations have been drawn from any regional marine plan.
Regulation 9(2)(e)(iv)	any river basin management plan,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 19: Flood risk and water management</li></ul>
Regulation 9(2)(e)(v)	any flood risk management plan,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 19: Flood risk and water management</li></ul>
Regulation 9(2)(e)(vi)	any local flood risk management plan,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 19: Flood risk and water management</li></ul>
Regulation 9(2)(e)(vii)	any regional transport strategy,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 11: Sustainable transport</li></ul>



Section of The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023	Information and considerations required by The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023	Evidence Report schedule
Regulation 9(2)(e)(viii)	any local transport strategy,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11: Sustainable transport</li> </ul>
Section 9(2)(e)(xi)	any local housing strategy,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13: Housing</li> </ul>
Regulation 9(2)(e)(x)	any open space strategy published under section 3G of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17: Play, recreation and sport</li> </ul>
Regulation 9(2)(f)	the objectives of preventing major accidents and limiting the consequences of such accidents for human health and the environment,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18: Health and safety</li> </ul>
Regulation 9(2)(g)	<p>the need in the long term—</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. to maintain appropriate safety distances between residential areas, buildings and areas of public use, recreational areas and, as far as possible, major transport routes and—               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>aa) establishments covered by the Directive,</li> <li>bb) major accident hazard pipelines,</li> </ol> </li> <li>ii. to protect areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest in the vicinity of establishments or major accident hazard pipelines, where appropriate through appropriate safety distances or other relevant measures,</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18: Health and safety</li> </ul>



Section of The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023	Information and considerations required by The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023	Evidence Report schedule
	<p>iii. in the case of existing establishments, to take additional technical measures in accordance with regulation 5 of the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015 so as not to increase the risks to human health and the environment.</p> <p>h) the resources available or likely to be available for the carrying out of the policies and proposals set out in the local development plan.</p>	

### **National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000**

Table 4 provides an overview of where the information and considerations required by the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 (CNPA004), are met within the Evidence Report. As outlined in Schedule 1: Plan outcomes, the Act will be amended by the Natural Environment Scotland (Scotland) Bill (CNPA634) once enacted. This will occur during the preparation of the local development plan. The wording in Table 4 therefore reflects these amendments.



Table 4 Where the requirements set out within National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 are met within the Evidence Report.

Section of The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000	Requirements of The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000	Evidence Report schedule
Section 1(a)	The National Park aim to: a) To conserve and enhance the area's natural and cultural heritage. b) To promote sustainable management and use of the area's natural resources. c) To promote public understanding and enjoyment of the area's natural and cultural heritage. d) To promote sustainable economic, social and cultural development of the area's communities.	Covered in all schedules.
Section 14	The Scottish Ministers, a National Park authority, a local authority and any other public body or office-holder must, in exercising functions so far as affecting a National Park, facilitate the implementation of the National Park Plan as adopted under section 12(7)(a).	The implications arising from the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan is covered by schedules, with particular focus on the overarching implications set out within the following schedule: • 1: Plan outcomes



## Summary of key implications for the Proposed Plan

This section provides a summary of the main implications for the Proposed Plan arising from the evidence in the topic-based schedules. This overview is structured according to National Planning Framework 4's (CNPA008) themes of Sustainable Places, Liveable Places and Productive Places. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of all considerations and implications – the implications are set out in full within each of the topic-based schedules.

### Overarching topics

The Proposed Plan needs to be prepared in accordance with:

- The four aims of the National Park as set out in The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 (CNPA004), as to be amended by the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill (CNPA634).
- Section 9(6) of the 2000 Act, which states that while the aims are to be pursued collectively, if there is conflict between the first aim and any of the others, greater weight is given to the first aim.
- The spatial strategy and principles of National Planning Framework 4 (CNPA008).

In accordance with Section 14 of The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000, as to be amended by the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill, public bodies and office holders, including Scottish Ministers, the National Park Authority, local authorities and key agencies, have a duty to facilitate the implementation of the National Park Partnership Plan. Therefore, the Proposed Plan should:

- Align with the National Park Partnership Plan (CNPA010) and adopt its vision and three overarching outcomes for nature, people, and place.
- Align with the National Park Partnership Plan's spatial strategy, which supports the infrastructure first approach.

The Proposed Plan should take account of the priorities and actions of any:

- Published community action plans. There are currently eighteen community action plans within the National Park.
- Registered local place plans. There are currently no registered local place plans in the National Park.

### Sustainable places

The Cairngorms National Park is a Category V protected landscape with over half of its area covered by statutory protected sites. The Proposed Plan should:



- Safeguard the habitats and species protected by international designations, including Ramsar sites, from the potentially adverse effects of development, through the site assessment, Habitats Regulations Appraisal and Strategic Environment Assessment process.
- Safeguard national, regional and local designations from the potentially adverse effects of development through the site assessment and Strategic Environment Assessment process.
- Make the most efficient use of development land to ensure that development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Not only is this to ensure that protected sites are safeguarded, but it also aims to ensure that development land is available in the future to meet long term needs.
- Support the delivery of the next Cairngorms Nature Action Plan.
- Contribute to establishing and supporting the delivery of nature networks according to the approach set out in the supporting document 'Identifying a Cairngorms Nature Network' (CNPA330), to help protect and restore the biodiversity, ecosystems and natural processes of the National Park.
- Protect and enhance the Special Landscape Qualities of the National Park from which it derives its landscape designation.
- Reduce, minimise and avoid greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the climate change mitigation hierarchy (i.e. to first avoid, then minimise, restore, and offset.).

There are no significant constraints to energy, waste or transport infrastructure within the National Park, which supports the delivery of spatial strategy, indicative housing land requirement and the infrastructure first approach. To ensure that the Proposed Plan is prepared in accordance with infrastructure first principles the Park Authority should:

- Engage SSEN Transmission and SSEN Distribution on the delivery of energy infrastructure that enables development.
- Undertake a transport appraisal, to be prepared in line with the Transport Scotland's Development Planning Transport Appraisal Guidance (CNPA120). The transport appraisal will inform the spatial strategy and siting of development in line with infrastructure first principles.
- Work with Transport Scotland, the regional transport partnerships, and the local authority transport teams in the preparation of the transport appraisal.

## **Liveable places**

The Park Authority is not a housing authority, therefore housing need within the National Park is determined from a range of sources, including the housing need and



demand assessments of the five local authorities covering the National Park, namely Aberdeenshire, Angus, Highland, Moray, and Perth and Kinross Councils. The Proposed Plan should identify sufficient deliverable land to meet an indicative ten year local housing land requirement of 889 new homes in accordance with the spatial strategy as set out in the Partnership Plan (CNPA010). This figure:

- Is higher than National Planning Framework 4's required minimum all tenure housing land requirement of 850 new homes (CNPA008).
- Has been benchmarked against past delivery rates and is considered to be realistic and achievable.
- Has been benchmarked against the effective housing land supply as set out within the housing land audits of the local authorities covering the National Park. This demonstrates that there is capacity for 797 new homes between April 2024 and March 2039. A proportion of this will be carried forward into the Proposed Plan, with the exact amount dependent on the outcome of the site assessment process.
- Has been considered in relation to the capacity and condition of infrastructure within the National Park and is considered to be deliverable in line with infrastructure first principles.

The Proposed Plan should also:

- Have regard to the local housing strategies of the local authorities covering the National Park.
- Ensure that both current and future needs can be met by making an efficient use of land to maximise the amount of affordable housing delivered on allocated sites.
- Facilitate the implementation of the overall Partnership Plan (CNPA010) target that 75% of new housing is for social rental, mid market rental or other affordable categories. This will also support the Partnership Plan's aim to support and stabilise the National Park's working population.
- Be prepared in conjunction with a delivery programme to establish a deliverable housing land pipeline.

There are no significant constraints to the education, healthcare, water or digital infrastructure serving the residents of the National Park, which supports the delivery of spatial strategy, indicative housing land requirement and the infrastructure first approach. To ensure that the Proposed Plan is prepared in accordance with infrastructure first principles, the Park Authority will continue to work in partnership with the local authorities, NHS boards, local health and social care partnerships, Scottish Water and Scottish Environment Protection Agency, to determine the level of developer contributions, if any, to be levied for this infrastructure and the triggers for determining when developer contributions are needed.



At present, the Park Authority anticipates that developer contributions may be required if development is proposed within the catchments of the following schools:

- Abernethy Primary School (in Nethy Bridge)
- Carrbridge Primary School
- Newtonmore Primary School
- Alford Academy.

At present, the Park Authority anticipates that developer contributions may be required if development is proposed within the catchments of:

- Aboyne Health Centre (of which Tarland Surgery is a part)
- Ballater Health Clinic
- Braemar Health Clinic
- Gergask Medical Practice (in Laggan)
- Rinnes Medical Group (which has surgeries in Dufftown and Tomintoul)
- Strathdon Medical Centre.

At present, the Park Authority anticipates that infrastructure improvements may be required if proposed development is to be serviced by water treatment works at:

- Aviemore
- Tomnavoulin
- Blairnamarrow
- Killiecrankie.

And / or wastewater treatment works at:

- |                    |                   |                      |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| • Ballater         | • Dalnavert Upper | • Lynchat            |
| • Balnault Cotts   | • Dalwhinnie      | • Braes of Glenlivet |
| • Braemar          | • Dulnain Bridge  | • Tomnavoulin        |
| • Dinnet           | • Glenmore        | • Blair Atholl       |
| • Fergach Cottages | • Grantown        | • Killiecrankie      |
| • Aviemore         | • Insh            | • Pitagowan.         |
| • Dalnavert Lower  | • Laggan Bridge   |                      |

The Proposed Plan should strengthen resilience to flood risk by promoting avoidance as a first principle and reducing the vulnerability of existing and future development to flooding, in particular taking into account development within Potentially Vulnerable Areas, namely:

- Aviemore
- Ballater



- Blair Atholl
- Dalwhinnie
- Kinguissie
- Nethy Bridge
- Newtonmore.

This will be informed by the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (CNPA097) and taken into account in the assessment of sites. To ensure that current and future needs are met, the constraints posed by flood risk in these settlements leads to the need to make an efficient use of land.

The Proposed Plan should also:

- Support development that promotes walkability within new or existing places in line with the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods, drawing on evidence from the Park Authority's local living mapping (CNPA503).
- Locate allocations for new homes where they are consistent with the principles of local living, including, where relevant, 20 minute neighbourhoods.
- Identify fragile rural areas in the spatial strategy in accordance with the supporting document on identifying fragile rural areas (CNPA596).
- Identify sites, for play and outdoor recreation for people of all ages, where evidenced to be necessary. This should take account of any open space strategies published by the constituent local authorities as well as the Cairngorms National Park Authority's Play Sufficiency Assessment (CNPA280).

## **Productive places**

The Proposed Plan should:

- Identify and allocate land for economic development, giving consideration to the location of any new economic allocations in relation to communities, access to services and all forms of travel and transport services.
- Safeguard the locations of important community assets; reflect the community wealth building priorities for the Plan area set out by the local authorities community wealth building strategies and plans; and take account of areas of economic disadvantage and inequality.
- Conduct a review of town centre boundaries to better reflect the National Planning Framework 4 (CNPA008) definition of a town centre use, and to ensure that the centre includes shops, community services and leisure and cultural facilities which are accessible by the local population.
- Reflect the town centre (CNPA078) and village centre health checks (CNPA488) findings including:



- Appraising vacant and derelict land and buildings for allocation for various uses, including residential development to support the local need for housing.
- Support electric vehicle charging infrastructure and active travel infrastructure in centres.
- Support the extension of the Strathspey railway to Grantown-on-Spey.
- Safeguard village services and amenities.
- Preserve town and village cultural and historic assets.
- Consider the need for additional neighbourhood retail facilities to support 20 minute neighbourhoods, particularly in relation to any significant new residential allocations that are proposed.
- Support the viability of existing tourist infrastructure and identify land for new sustainable tourism development that supports the visitor economy while also protecting local communities from potentially adverse effects.
- Support sustainable tourism development that also manages tourism pressures on the natural environment and promotes responsible access where relevant.



## Statement of engagement

Extensive engagement has informed the evidence base for the next Cairngorms Local Development Plan. This has primarily been carried out through the Park Authority's online engagement portal (CNPA1200)<sup>4</sup>:

- <https://cairngormsldp.commonplace.is/>

This engagement was advertised through a number of avenues, including the Park Authority's social media accounts and the Park Authority's Cairn Magazine.

The Park Authority has worked with a range of partners to deliver the engagement, including the local authority's covering its area, the University of Edinburgh, Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey and Marr Area Partnership. Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey and Marr Area Partnership are specifically funded by the Park Authority to undertake community engagement and in particular the preparation of community action plans and local place plans.

A wide range of stakeholders were invited to contribute to the preparation of the evidence report, including the key agencies listed in the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (CNPA684) and Local Development Planning guidance (CNPA009), the groups specified in the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (CNPA003), developers, landowners, local authorities, housing associations, infrastructure providers and public transport providers. This invitation was sent out via social media, email and direct face to face engagement. Summaries of the substantive contributions and information on how they were considered in the preparation of the Evidence Report are set out within each Schedule.

This engagement statement sets out how the views of the groups specified in the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (CNPA003) have been sought and taken into account, namely:

- Key agencies
- Children and young people
- Disabled people
- Gypsy and Travellers

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<sup>4</sup> Note – the Commonplace engagement portal (CNPA1200) has now been retired and will no longer be updated. All engagement information has been moved to an new engagement platform on the Park Authority's website (CNPA1370): <https://cairngorms.co.uk/taking-part/consultations/the-next-local-development-plan>



- Community Councils
- The public at large.

The statement also contains information on the Park Authority’s approach to local place plans, the self build register and the requirements set out within the Participation Statement.

## Key agencies

Regulation 25 (CNPA684) sets out those agencies referred to as ‘key agencies’, while Scottish Government’s Local Development Planning Guidance (CNPA009) also lists organisations that have the same level of involvement in the development planning process. The views of all relevant key agencies were sought on the entire content of the Evidence Report. Table 5 lists these organisations alongside a summary of where they chose to contribute to the Evidence Report. There are no outstanding disputes with key agencies.

Table 5 Where key agencies contributed to the Evidence Report.

Key agency	Schedule contributed to	Outstanding disputes
Historic Environment Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1: Plan outcomes</li> <li>• 5: Natural heritage</li> <li>• 6: Landscape</li> <li>• 7: Historic and cultural heritage</li> <li>• 8: Land use, soil and resources</li> <li>• 9: Energy</li> <li>• 10: Zero waste</li> <li>• 11: Sustainable transport</li> <li>• 14: Education</li> <li>• 15: Heating and cooling</li> <li>• 16: Blue and green infrastructure</li> <li>• 18: Health and safety</li> <li>• 19: Flood risk and water management</li> <li>• 20: Digital infrastructure</li> <li>• 21: Economic development</li> <li>• 23: Tourism</li> </ul>	No outstanding disputes.
NatureScot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1: Plan outcomes</li> <li>• 5: Natural heritage</li> <li>• 6: Landscape</li> <li>• 8: Land use, soil and resources</li> </ul>	No outstanding disputes.



Key agency	Schedule contributed to	Outstanding disputes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9: Energy</li> <li>• 10: Zero waste</li> <li>• 11: Sustainable transport</li> <li>• 14: Education</li> <li>• 15: Heating and cooling</li> <li>• 16: Blue and green infrastructure</li> <li>• 18: Health and safety</li> <li>• 19: Flood risk and water management</li> <li>• 20: Digital infrastructure</li> <li>• 21: Economic development</li> <li>• 23: Tourism</li> </ul>	
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1: Plan outcomes</li> <li>• 3: Site assessment methodology</li> <li>• 4: Climate change</li> <li>• 5: Natural heritage</li> <li>• 6: Landscape</li> <li>• 7: Historic and cultural heritage</li> <li>• 8: Land use, soil and resources</li> <li>• 9: Energy</li> <li>• 10: Zero waste</li> <li>• 11: Sustainable transport</li> <li>• 12: Living locally and 20 minute neighbourhoods</li> <li>• 13: Housing</li> <li>• 14: Education</li> <li>• 15: Heating and cooling</li> <li>• 16: Blue and green infrastructure</li> <li>• 17: Play recreation and sport</li> <li>• 19: Flood risk and water management</li> <li>• 21: Economic development</li> <li>• 22: Town centres and retail</li> </ul>	No outstanding disputes.
Scottish Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19: Flood risk and water management</li> </ul>	No outstanding disputes.
Scottish Enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21: Economic development</li> </ul>	No outstanding disputes.
Highland and Island Enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9: Energy</li> <li>• 10: Zero waste</li> <li>• 21: Economic development</li> </ul>	No outstanding disputes.



Key agency	Schedule contributed to	Outstanding disputes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23: Tourism</li> </ul>	
HITRANS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11: Sustainable transport</li> <li>• 12: Living locally and 20 minute neighbourhoods</li> </ul>	No outstanding disputes.
NESTRANS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11: Sustainable transport</li> <li>• 12: Living locally and 20 minute neighbourhoods</li> </ul>	No outstanding disputes.
TACTRAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11: Sustainable transport</li> <li>• 12: Living locally and 20 minute neighbourhoods</li> </ul>	No outstanding disputes.
The Crofting Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8: Land use, soil and resources</li> </ul>	No outstanding disputes.
NHS Grampian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1: Plan outcomes</li> <li>• 18: Health and safety</li> </ul>	No outstanding disputes.
NHS Highland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18: Health and safety</li> </ul>	No outstanding disputes.
NHS Tayside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18: Health and safety</li> </ul>	No outstanding disputes.
Transport Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3: Site assessment methodology</li> <li>• 11: Sustainable transport</li> </ul>	No outstanding disputes.
Scottish Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2: Policy monitoring</li> <li>• 3: Site assessment methodology</li> <li>• 4: Climate change</li> <li>• 5: Natural Heritage</li> <li>• 12: Living locally and 20 minute neighbourhoods</li> <li>• 13: Housing</li> <li>• 16: Blue and green infrastructure</li> <li>• 17: Play recreation and sport</li> <li>• 19: Flood risk and water management</li> <li>• 22: Town centres and retail</li> </ul>	No outstanding disputes.
Marine Scotland	The Cairngorms National Park does not have a coastline and therefore Marine Scotland have not contributed to the Evidence Report. Scottish Environment Protection Agency have been the lead agency on matters related to the water environment.	No outstanding disputes.



## Children and young people

Multiple avenues have been sought to engage with children and young people across the National Park. This has included drawing on information collected by local authorities to inform their play sufficiency assessments, engagement through the community action planning process and direct engagement using the place standard tool. Table 6 provides a summary of the engagement undertaken to inform the Evidence Report

Table 6 Summary of engagement with children and young people.

Engagement type	Leading organisation	Ages engaged with	Output
Play sufficiency	Aberdeenshire Council	5 – 15	Participation Statement with Issues and Actions from the youth engagement for the Aberdeenshire Play Sufficiency Assessment 2024 (CNPA672)
Play sufficiency	Highland Council	3 – 18	Highland Council Play Park Strategy and Action Plan 2023 – 33 (CNPA1106)
Play sufficiency	Moray Council	2 – 14	Moray Play Sufficiency Assessment 2023 (CNPA674)
Play sufficiency	Perth and Kinross Council	4 – 15	The Big Place Conversation 2023 Highland ward summary (CNPA1153) and Blair Atholl and Struan Community Council summary (CPNA1154)
Community Action Plan engagement	Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey and Marr Area Partnership	5 – 18	Cairngorms community action plans: school engagement summary 2025 (CNPA1422)
Place Standard Tool	Cairngorms National Park Authority	11 – 12	Grantown Grammar School Place Standard Tool Engagement 2024 (CNPA058)
Place Standard Tool	Cairngorms National Park Authority	11 – 12	Kingussie High School S1 Geography Students Place Standard Tool Engagement 2024 (CNPA682)
Place Standard Tool	Cairngorms National Park Authority	13 – 14	Kingussie High School S3 Geography Students Place Standard Tool Engagement 2024 (CNPA683)



Engagement type	Leading organisation	Ages engaged with	Output
Place Standard Tool	Cairngorms National Park Authority	15 – 17	Kingussie High School Higher Criminology Students Place Standard Tool Engagement 2024 (CNPA681)
Place Standard Tool	Cairngorms National Park Authority	16 – 25	Cairngorms Youth Action Team Place Standard Tool Engagement 2024 (CNPA027)
Place Standard Tool	Cairngorms National Park Authority	12 – 17	Cairngorms Local development plan place standard tool engagement with Kingussie High School Youth Forum 2025 (CNPA833)
Place Standard Tool	Cairngorms National Park Authority	12 – 14	Cairngorms Local development plan place standard tool engagement with Aviemore Neurodiversity Support Youth Group 2025 (CNPA835)
Place Standard Tool	Cairngorms National Park Authority	11 – 15	Local development plan place standard tool engagement with the Cairngorms National Park Junior Rangers 2025 (CNPA834)
Youth club engagement	Highland Council	11 – 15	Highland Council Place Planning engagement – Aviemore and Granttown-on-Spey 2025 (CNPA836)
Planning Power	Cairngorms National Park Authority	16 - 25	Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan engagement – gamification approach (CNPA1104)

## Disabled people

### Equality and Fairer Scotland Impact Assessment

In preparing the Equality and Fairer Scotland Impact Assessment, feedback was sought from the Cairngorms Equalities Advisory Panel. The Panel's role is to provide informed, evidence based feedback, guidance and advice to support the Park Authority to:

- Ensure statutory public sector equality duties are delivered in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 (CNPA504) (and other relevant equality legislation).
- Embed equality and inclusion in the Park Authority's strategies and corporate processes.



- Critically assess and appropriately mitigate the impact of Park Authority decisions on equality groups through robust equality impact assessment procedures.
- Ensure best practice in equality and inclusion approaches to the Park Authority's work.
- Promote the equality and inclusion work of the Park Authority and partners within the National Park.

Feedback received influenced the content of the Impact Assessment and the Park Authority's approach to engaging with people with protected characteristics, including disabled people. See page 74 for further information on how the Park Authority has met the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

### **Online engagement**

Equality information was collected as part of the online engagement on the evidence base. Across all engagement activities, responses were received from 13 individuals who chose to disclose that were currently living with a physical or mental health condition.

### **Direct engagement**

The Park Authority held a number of direct engagement events that sought to gain the views of disabled people.

The following reports record the outcome of engagement undertaken using the place standard tool:

- Badenoch and Strathspey Access forum (CNPA598)  
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Local-Development-Plan-Evidence-Report/Supporting-Documents/CNPA598-Badenoch-and-Strathspey-Access-Forum-Place-Standard-Tool-Engagement-2025.pdf>
- Cairngorms Local development plan place standard tool engagement with Aviemore Neurodiversity Support Youth Group 2025 (CNPA835)  
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Local-Development-Plan-Evidence-Report/Supporting-Documents/CNPA835-Cairngorms-Local-development-plan-place-standard-tool-engagement-with-Aviemore-Neurodiversity-Support-Youth-Group-2025.pdf>

The Park Authority also undertook an innovative method of engaging with the public using a method of gamification. One of the core aims of this method was to engage with



hard to reach groups, including disabled people. Equalities data collected at the event records that 17 out of 36 participants chose to disclose that they had a disability. The report on the exercise provides a record of the outputs from this exercise (CNPA1104). Further information on this approach to engagement is presented on page 65.

## **Gypsies and Travellers**

In October 2023, the Park Authority commissioned Conyach Advocacy and Engagement to conduct an engagement project with Gypsy / Travellers living and working in the National Park area. The specific aims of the engagement were to:

- Develop meaningful processes to gather the views of Gypsy / Traveller communities who live and work in the Cairngorm National Park on issues relevant to the Local Development Plan.
- Where possible gather quantitative data related to Gypsy / Traveller communities, particularly where there are data gaps around transitory populations and less visible Gypsy / Traveller families in the area.
- Co-produce with Gypsy / Travellers a meaningful collation of their data for the evidence report, that will build sustainable engagement within the Local Development Plan lifecycle and empower communities to play a more active role.
- Explore deep mapping with Gypsy / Traveller communities to find the right balance between conserving and enhancing the cultural heritage of the National Park, delivering accommodation, and supporting a sustainable thriving economy.

In total 76 Gypsy / Travellers were engaged in the project, which is significantly higher than the population estimated by Scotland's Census 2022 (which was seven). The outputs from the engagement are published within an engagement report (CNPA028):

- <https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Local-Development-Plan-Evidence-Report/Supporting-Documents/CNPA028-Cairngorms-National-Park-Gypsy-Traveller-Community-Engagement-2024.pdf>

Implications arising from the engagement are summarised within the Evidence Report's topic based schedules.

## **Community councils**

There are 25 community councils and associations operating within the National Park and multiple avenues have been sought to engage with them, including online and direct engagement.



## Online engagement

Community councils were invited to provide feedback on the form and content evidence base through the Park Authority's engagement portal. This engagement was open to the public at large, and is therefore summarised on page 61.

Table 7 provides a summary of which community councils chose to contribute, on which topics their contributions were made, and if there are any outstanding disputes. Details of any outstanding disputes are provided within the relevant topic based schedule.

Table 7 Summary of community council engagement on the evidence base.

Evidence Report schedule	Community Council	Outstanding disputes with Community Council(s)
1: Plan outcomes	Killiecrankie, Fincastle and Tummel Community Council	No outstanding disputes.
2: Policy monitoring	No contributions received.	No outstanding disputes.
3: Site assessment methodology	No contributions received.	No outstanding disputes.
4: Climate change	No contributions received.	No outstanding disputes.
5: Natural heritage	No contributions received.	No outstanding disputes.
6: Landscape	No contributions received.	No outstanding disputes.
7: Historic and cultural heritage	No contributions received.	No outstanding disputes.
8: Land use, soil and resources	Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council	Yes
9: Energy	No contributions received.	No outstanding disputes.
10: Zero waste	No contributions received.	No outstanding disputes.
11: Sustainable transport	No contributions received.	No outstanding disputes.
12: Living locally and 20 minute neighbourhoods	Dalnain Bridge Community Council	No outstanding disputes.
13: Housing	Newtonmore and Vicinity Community Council	Yes
14: Education	No contributions received.	No outstanding disputes.
15: Heating and cooling	Dalwhinnie Community Council	Yes
16: Blue and Green infrastructure	No contributions received.	No outstanding disputes.



Evidence Report schedule	Community Council	Outstanding disputes with Community Council(s)
17: Play, recreation and sport	No contributions received.	No outstanding disputes.
18: Health and safety	No contributions received.	No outstanding disputes.
19: Flood risk and water management	No contributions received.	No outstanding disputes.
20: Digital infrastructure	Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council	No outstanding disputes.
21: Economic development	No contributions received.	No outstanding disputes.
22: Town centres and retail	No contributions received.	No outstanding disputes.
23: Tourism	Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council	Yes

## Cairngorms Community Gathering

On 30 April 2025 the Park Authority hosted a gathering of community organisations at the Victoria and Albert Halls in Ballater. This was a networking event for community representatives from all across the Cairngorms National Park to share successes, challenges and projects in a productive and helpful way, and to ensure the community perspective is at the heart of the Park Authority's work.

Alongside other Park Authority projects, attendees were presented with information about the preparation of the local development plan. The aim was to ensure that attendees were aware of the work being undertaken to prepare the Evidence Report and to provide information on when and how they could be involved in the preparation process.

The following community councils and associations attended and were engaged with:

- Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council
- Ballater and Crathie Community Council
- Blair Atholl and Struan Community Council
- Braemar Community Council
- Carrbridge Community Council
- Donside Community Council
- Laggan Community Council
- Kingussie and Vicinity Community Council
- Kirkmichael and Tomintoul Community Association
- Newtonmore and Vicinity Community Council



In addition, the following community organisations attended and were engaged with:

- Aviemore and Glenmore Community Trust
- Badenoch and Strathspey Community ConnXions
- Ballater Climate Action Now
- Ballater Community Trust
- Ballater Royal Horticultural Society
- Braemar Community Limited (Braemar Castle)
- Braemar Tourism Group
- Caberfeidh Horizons, Kingussie
- Carrbridge Ahead
- Grantown Initiative
- Highlands and Islands Climate Hub
- Killdrummy, Lumsden and Towie (KLT) Development Group
- Kingussie Community Development Company
- Marr Area Partnership
- Newtonmore Community Woodland and Development Trust
- SCOTO – Scottish Community Tourism Network
- Strathdon Community Development Trust
- Strathspey Railway Charitable Trust
- Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust
- Victoria and Albert Halls Ballater Trust
- Voluntary Action in Badenoch and Strathspey

The following organisations were also in attendance:

- Cairngorms Trust
- Crathie Opportunity Holidays
- Highland Council
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- Scottish Land Commission

## **Community action plan engagement**

Communities within the National Park have been in the process of updating their community action plans. This involves a survey and public engagement events. The Park Authority supports this process by funding Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey and Marr Area Partnership to facilitate the creation of the plans.

The Park Authority is committed to supporting the delivery of community action plans through the local development plan. The Park Authority has therefore been present at engagement events to engage with community councils and the public at large on the



preparation of the action plans and local development plan. As the events were primarily targeted at the public at large, further information about this engagement is presented on page 63.

## Community Council meetings

Community Councils were offered the opportunity for National Park Authority planners to attend their meetings to discuss the preparation of the Local Development Plan. A summary of meetings attended is provided in Table 8.

Table 8 Community Council meetings attended by Park Authority planners to discuss the preparation of the Local Development Plan.

Community Council	Date of meeting
Grantown and Vicinity	19 September 2023
Kingussie	13 November 2023
Aviemore and Vicinity	14 November 2024
Laggan	2 December 2024
Boat of Garten	12 May 2025
Ballater and Crathie	8 September 2025

## The public at large

The public at large have been engaged through a number of means, both directly and online.

## Online engagement

### Local Development Plan interactive map engagement

Early public engagement using an interactive map was undertaken through the Park Authority's engagement platform. This was carried out from 9 August 2023 and ran for two months until the 9 October 2023. This interactive map was used to encourage the provision of views from communities and people on two main aspects:

- Views were invited on issues facing places within the National Park.
- Views were invited as to what participants think the Local Development Plan can do to address these issues.

The platform was structured using a spatial element (allowing contributors to reference their comments spatially on a map of the Cairngorms National Park using 'pins'), and through a survey questionnaire format. This allowed capture of a variety of data including a persons' relationship to the National Park (for example, resident or visitor), location and ages of contributors. Using the survey format also allowed for contributors



to provide more detailed commentary on issues of importance or concern, and how these could be addressed through the Local Development Plan.

The outcome of the engagement is published in Cairngorms Local Development Plan Interactive Map Engagement Report (CNPA026):

- <https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Local-Development-Plan-Evidence-Report/Supporting-Documents/CNPA026-Local-Development-Plan-interactive-map-engagement-report-2024.pdf>

### **Engagement on the evidence base**

Online engagement on the evidence base was carried out via the Park Authority's online engagement platform from 10 June 2024 to 31 October 2025. Topic papers for each schedule within the Evidence Report were engaged on for a minimum period of six weeks each, with members of the public and other stakeholders asked to provide their views on the sufficiency of the information. Contributions were then used to amend the topic papers, which were turned into the Evidence Report's schedules. While efforts have been made to address the contributions received, this process has resulted in some outstanding disputes. Information on how contributions were taken account is summarised under each schedule. A record of contributions received is published in the supporting document, Evidence Report engagement responses (CNPA1340):

- <https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Local-Development-Plan-Evidence-Report/Supporting-Documents/CNPA1340-Evidence-Report-engagement-responses.pdf>

### **Resident and worker survey 2024 – 2025**

The Park Authority commissioned M·E·L Research to conduct a survey with those living and working in the National Park in 2024 – 2025. This survey is intended to establish a baseline, to be repeated every two years, of local sentiment and experience among those living and working in the National Park. The results are used to inform a range of Park Authority workstreams, including the preparation of the local development plan.

The research was conducted by M·E·L Research's using an online interviewing approach. The survey was set up using M·E·L Research's online survey platform. Links to the survey were distributed by the Park Authority via its website, social media, local newspapers, posters in local towns and villages, and in communications such as Cairn magazine.



All responses once received were checked to ensure their validity, and to remove any duplicate responses. All participants had the option to take enter a prize draw to win a £100 local shopping voucher. The survey was open from 17 July 2024 until 31 January 2025.

In total, 1,294 responses were received from residents living within the National Park (either as their primary residence, or one of two or more residences, excluding holiday homes), and 63 were received from those who live outside of the National Park.

Responses among residents were weighted by age, using three age bands: 16 – 34, 36 – 64, and 65+, against the age profile of the National Park, using data from the 2022 census.

Some results have been benchmarked against external data sources. These are:

- Scottish Household Survey 2023
- Annual Population Survey, July-September 2024
- Community Life Survey, 2023 – 2024
- YouGov public opinion research conducted between July and January 2025

The results are published in the Resident and worker Survey 2024 – 2025 summary report (CNPA538):

- <https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Resident-survey-report-Summary-report-v7.pdf>

## **Cairngorms National Park visitor survey**

The National Park Authority is committed to undertaking a programme of visitor surveys, carried out every five years. The surveys are intended to establish a baseline of visitor sentiment and experience across the National Park throughout a given year and enable the identification of trends over time. The results are used to inform a range of Park Authority workstreams, including the preparation of the local development plan. Information from the surveys is summarised within Schedule 23: Tourism and Schedule 11: Sustainable transport.

## **Community action plan engagement**

A summary of the engagement events held during the preparation of the Evidence Report is presented in Table 9. The priorities and actions of community action plans that may be taken into account in the preparation of the Proposed Plan are summarised under the relevant schedules.



Table 9 Community Action Plan engagement events undertaken 2023 – 2025.

Community Action Plan	Date of engagement events	Output
Aviemore	22 and 23 March 2024	Aviemore, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030 (CNPA063)
Blair Atholl	1 June 2023	Blair Atholl Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030 (CNPA064)
Boat of Garten	7 and 8 March 2025	Boat of Garten Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030 (CNPA374)
Dalwhinnie	15 June 2023	Dalwhinnie Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030 (CNPA125)
Dalnain Bridge	6 and 7 December 2024	Dalnain Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030 (CNPA331)
Grantown-on-Spey	4 and 5 April 2025	Grantown-on-Spey Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030 (CNPA065)
Kincraig	15 May 2024	Kincraig and locality Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030 (CNPA127)
Kingussie	29 and 30 November 2024	Kingussie Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030 (CNPA066)
Nethy Bridge	30 November 2023	Nethy Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030 (CNPA131)
Strathdon	9 November 2024	Strathdon Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030 (CNPA133)

## Cairngorms roadshows

As part of its Cairngorms 2030 project, a series of roadshow events have been held to engage with the public on the work being undertaken by the Park Authority, including the local development plan. These have been held at different times during the plan preparation process, with differing objectives for each. Table 10 provides a summary of these events.



Table 10 Summary of Cairngorms roadshow events.

Roadshow event	Date	Key aims and outputs
Kingussie Roadshow	29 October 2024	To engage with members of the community on the preparation of the next local development plan and to collect place based information about places within the National Park. The outputs are published in the 'Kingussie community roadshow event Local development plan engagement report 2025' (CNPA599).
Strathdon Roadshow	24 September 2025	The key aim was to engage with members of the public about the ongoing work on the next local development plan. Conversations were had about a range of topics, including housing, rural depopulation, local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods, and potential land for development. Several conversations were also had about the Lonach Hotel and what could be done to bring it into a productive community use. Examples included re-opening it as a hotel and affordable housing.
Aviemore Roadshow	11 December 2025	The key aim was to engage with members of the public about the ongoing work on the next local development plan. Conversations were had about a range of topics, including housing, local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods, and potential land for development.

## Planning Power game

The Park Authority partnered with the University of Edinburgh to design and deliver an innovative approach to public engagement following the principles of gamification. The game, called Planning Power, is designed for facilitating face to face public consultations. It aims to foster an effective and open discussion among all the participants by requiring them, through game play, to agree on a shortlist of goals from a larger selection and debate and select a set of policies by taking it in turns to chair the discussion and choose a policy to meet the group's chosen goals. Specifically, the game is designed to enable discussion and receive open feedback on the importance of each of the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4 policies to those living and working in the National Park and their opinions on the relevance of these policies to the objectives of the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027.



Two sessions trialling the new approach were conducted in Aviemore on 20 February 2025. A total of 36 participants took part and seven games were played.

Participants were invited through a recruitment process carried out by the Park Authority. The approach to recruitment was led by target audiences identified in the Participation Statement (CNPA1214). The recruitment focused on reaching members of less heard groups who may not be engaged in other strands of the Local Development Plan engagement. The aim was to bring together a mix of people who have and have not engaged with the Park Authority in the past. The priority stakeholders identified were:

- People under 40
- Working parents
- People with disabilities, including long term health conditions
- LGBTQ+ people
- Gypsy / Travellers
- People living in income poverty
- People from minority ethnic communities
- Young people (16 – 25)
- Local businesses
- Landowners and land managers.

The outputs of the engagement are published in Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan engagement: gamification approach (CNPA1104):

- <https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Local-Development-Plan-Evidence-Report/External-documents/CNPA1104-University-of-Edinburgh-report-Cairngorms-National-Park-Local-Development-Plan-engagement-gamification-approach.pdf>

The game was also played by staff working on Cairngorms 2030 projects on 18 June 2025. The purpose of the engagement was to ensure that an understanding of the development plan system was embedded within the Park Authority and to gain the views of professionals working within environmental fields and social fields. This knowledge may then be built on during the proposed plan stage of the preparation process, and aid delivery following the local development plan's adoption. The outputs of the engagement are published in Local Development Plan engagement – Planning Power with Cairngorms 2030 (CNPA1105):



- <https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Local-Development-Plan-Evidence-Report/External-documents/CNPA1105-C2030-Planning-power-report-Final.pdf>

## Other public events

The Park Authority has undertaken a programme of public event attendance. The purpose of this is to engage the public in the work undertaken by the Authority, including the preparation of the local development plan. A key aim of all events was to ensure that the public at large were aware of the preparation of the local development plan, what work was currently being undertaken, and how they could get involved in its preparation. Table 11 provides a summary of these events.

Table 11 Summary of public events.

Event	Date	Key aims and outputs
Grantown Show	10 August 2023	To engage with the public at large, and in particular farmers, crofters and landowners on the preparation of the local development plan.
Lonach Gathering	26 August 2023	To engage with the public at large, including farm farmers, crofters, landowners, business owners and visitors, on the preparation of the local development plan.
Ballater Winter Festival	25 November 2023	To engage with the public at large, including business owners and visitors, on the preparation of the local development plan.
Newtonmore Highland Games	3 August 2024	To engage with the public at large, including farm farmers, crofters, landowners, business owners and visitors, on the preparation of the local development plan.
Grantown Show	9 August 2024	To engage with the public at large, and in particular farmers, crofters and landowners on the preparation of the local development plan.
Greentown Show	6 September 2025	To engage with the public at large, including business owners, and in particular those working within the construction, environmental and agricultural sectors, on the preparation of the local development plan.



## Local place plans

The invitation to prepare a local place plan was sent out and launched with the publication of the 2023 Development Plan Scheme (CNPA341), which was adopted by the Park Authority Board in June 2023:

- <https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Local-Development-Plan-Evidence-Report/Supporting-Documents/CNPA341-Development-Plan-Scheme-2023.pdf>

This included the creation of a webpage on the Park Authority's website (CNPA342), which continues to provide information how to prepare local place plans:

- <https://cairngorms.co.uk/our-work/local-place-plans>

The invitation was advertised through the Park Authority's social media platforms, namely Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X. It was also published in the July 2023 edition of Cairn Magazine (CNPA663), which is the Park Authority's newsletter, and is sent to every residential address within the National Park.

A core element of the support provided to communities comes through the Park Authority's funding of Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey and Marr Area Partnerships. These organisations are already supporting communities prepare their community action plans and are also available to those wishing to prepare local place plans.

The Park authority has a duty to maintain a register of all validated local place plans. To date, no local place plans have been created within the Cairngorms National Park.

## Self build register

The self build register (CNPA343) was launched via the Park Authority's website in March 2024 and the public were invited to register via the Park Authority's social media platforms, namely Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X:

- <https://cairngorms.co.uk/living-and-working/planning/self-build-housing>

Further information on how the register has been used to inform the preparation of the Evidence Report is presented within Schedule 13: Housing.

The self build list is published here (CNPA813):



- <https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Self-build-register-1-Oct-25.xlsx>

## Conformity with Participation Statement

The Participation Statement was first published in the Development Plan Scheme 2023 (CNPA341). Community Councils and associations were provided with the opportunity to comment and provide feedback (CNPA1390), although no comments were received. Development Plan Scheme was reviewed annually, with the latest version approved by the National Park Board in November 2025 (CNPA1214). Table 12 provides a summary of how the actions of the participation statement have been achieved to date.

Table 12 Actions within the Participation Statement for the evidence report stage of the local development plan preparation process.

Engagement commitment	How it was achieved
Publish Development Plan Scheme (and Participation Statement) online and share via website and social media.	Development Plan Scheme published annually. See documents CNPA341, CNPA562 and CNPA1214 for further information.
Issue invitation to do Local Place Plans as part of Development Plan Scheme and promote via website, social media and Cairn newsletter.	Invitation sent in June 2023. See page 68 for further information.
Early online engagement via online consultation platform, supported by website, social media and Cairn newsletter promotion	Online map based engagement undertaken in 2023. See page 61 for further information.
Direct engagement with Community Councils and other statutory community groups.	Direct engagement undertaken according to a number of means. See page 57 for further information.
Engagement through Community Action Planning Meetings	Engagement undertaken between 2023 and 2025. See page 63 for further information.
Social media advertising campaign targeting specific demographics, for example young people and the working age population, linking to online consultation platform.	Engagement undertaken between 2023 and 2025, however analytical data is only available from October 2024. A range of social media platforms were used to ensure that a wide range of demographic groups were reached.



Engagement commitment	How it was achieved
	<p>Analytical data suggests that a variety of age ranges were informed about the evidence report engagement. As with most of the Park Authority's content, engaging with lower age ranges is an ongoing task. Gender demographics were relatively balanced, with no significant difference.</p> <p>A summary of social media analytical information is contained within CNPA1096.</p>
Stakeholder events targeted at under-represented groups	Engagement with under represented groups e.g. children and young people, disabled people and gypsy and travellers undertaken by a variety of means. These are outlined in the statement of engagement, see page 50.
Work collaboratively with Local Authorities on their engagement work on Open Space and Play Sufficiency Assessments.	Engagement undertaken at different stages during preparation of evidence report. See page 54 for further information.
Engagement with children and young people through Cairngorms Youth Action Team, student councils in National Park secondary schools and youth clubs, sports clubs, and other youth groups.	Engagement undertaken at different stages during preparation of evidence report with a range of different groups. See page 54 for further information.
Informal sessions with Park Authority Board members.	Engagement undertaken at different stages during preparation of evidence report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• September 2023 (Evidence Report)</li><li>• December 2023 (early engagement)</li><li>• January 2024 (town centres and retail)</li><li>• February 2024 (housing)</li><li>• January 2025 (housing)</li></ul>



Engagement commitment	How it was achieved
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• November 2025 (Evidence Report)</li></ul>
Engage Key Agencies on Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report	Engagement undertaken between August and September 2025. See page 74 for further information.
Engage with Key Agencies on final the content of Evidence Report.	Key agencies have been asked to confirm that they are content with any changes made to the Evidence Report following engagement with them. This is outlined within the relevant schedules.



## Statements of dispute and evidence gaps

The Park Authority is satisfied that it has carried out sufficient evidence gathering and engagement in producing the Evidence Report in order to be able to prepare the Proposed Plan. The Evidence Report's topic based schedules provide further information regarding the sufficiency of the information gathered. However, there are areas of dispute and some gaps remain in the evidence. This is unavoidable given the scope of information required to produce local development plans and the availability of all of this information at any point in time or the capacity of stakeholders to respond. The majority of the disputes are minor in nature. These areas of dispute and gaps in the evidence are set out in the topic based schedules. A full record of the responses received during engagement is provided in the following:

- Evidence Report engagement responses (CNPA1340):  
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Local-Development-Plan-Evidence-Report/Supporting-Documents/CNPA1340-Evidence-Report-engagement-responses.pdf>

Only responses that substantively relate to the sufficiency of evidence have been summarised in the schedules. Responses that contain no substantive content are only recorded within the 'Evidence Report engagement responses report' (CNPA1340). A summary is provided in Table 13.

Table 13 Summary of disputes and the main evidence gaps.

Evidence Report schedule	Dispute identified?	Evidence gap identified?
1: Plan outcomes	Yes	No evidence gaps identified.
2: Policy monitoring	Yes	No evidence gaps identified.
3: Site assessment methodology	No	No evidence gaps identified.
4: Climate change	Yes	No evidence gaps identified.
5: Natural heritage	Yes	No evidence gaps identified.
6: Landscape	Yes	No evidence gaps identified.
7: Historic and cultural heritage	Yes	No evidence gaps identified.
8: Land use, soil and resources	Yes	Information on the mineral and aggregate extraction rates within the National Park due to commercial sensitivity.
9: Energy	No	No evidence gaps identified.



Evidence Report schedule	Dispute identified?	Evidence gap identified?
10: Zero waste	No	No evidence gaps identified.
11: Sustainable transport	Yes	The following gaps, which will be addressed through the transport appraisal process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road capacity and condition</li> <li>• Information from public transport providers</li> <li>• Information on time spent travelling to work</li> <li>• Travel to school / place of study data</li> <li>• Scottish Household survey data</li> <li>• Local authority data</li> </ul>
12: Living locally and 20 minute neighbourhoods	No	No evidence gaps identified.
13: Housing	Yes	No evidence gaps identified.
14: Education	No	Information of condition of education assets in Aberdeenshire, Angus and Highland Council areas.
15: Heating and cooling	Yes	No evidence gaps identified.
16: Blue and Green infrastructure	No	No evidence gaps identified.
17: Play, recreation and sport	Yes	Open space strategies for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeenshire Council</li> <li>• Angus Council</li> <li>• Highland Council</li> <li>• Moray council</li> <li>• Perth and Kinross Council</li> </ul>
18: Health and safety	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on the capacity of Ballater Health Clinic.</li> <li>• Information of condition of NHS assets in Aberdeenshire, Highland and Moray Council areas.</li> </ul>
19: Flood risk and water management	Yes	No evidence gaps identified.
20: Digital infrastructure	No	No evidence gaps identified.
21: Economic development	Yes	No evidence gaps identified.
22: Town centres and retail	Yes	No evidence gaps identified.
23: Tourism	Yes	No evidence gaps identified.



## Impact assessments

A number of different assessments must be undertaken to support the preparation of the next Local Development Plan. These assessments are an integral part of the plan making process and should inform and be informed by the plan as it is prepared. This section sets out how these impact assessments have or will be carried out.

### Equality impact assessment and fairer Scotland assessment

The Equality Act 2010 (section 149) (CNPA504) places a duty (known as the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)) on public authorities to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic (age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation) and those who do not.

The Fairer Scotland Duty, set out in Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, places a legal responsibility on particular public bodies in Scotland to actively consider how they can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions. The aim of the duty is to help make better policy decisions and deliver fairer outcomes.

As per the duties within the 2010 Act, an Equality Impact and Fairer Scotland Assessment (CNPA336) was undertaken in advance of work commencing on the Evidence Report and helped inform the engagement process. The assessment may be viewed here:

- <https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Local-Development-Plan-Evidence-Report/Supporting-Documents/CNPA336-Local-Development-Plan-3-Equality-Impact-Assessment-and-Fairer-Scotland-Assessment-2023.pdf>

### Strategic environmental assessment

Strategic environmental assessment is a statutory requirement that aims to ensure the environment is a primary consideration in the preparation of qualifying public plans, programmes and strategies. The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 (CNPA946) requires those preparing qualifying plans, including the Local Development Plan, to undertake a strategic environmental assessment.



A Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report for the Local Development Plan (CNPA211) was undertaken and engaged on concurrently with preparation of the evidence report. This can be viewed here:

- <https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Local-Development-Plan-Evidence-Report/Supporting-Documents/CNPA211-Local-Development-Plan-Scoping-Report-August-2025.pdf>

Engagement with the Consultation Authorities, namely Historic Environment Scotland (CNPA338), NatureScot (CNPA339) and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (CNPA340), took place between July and September 2025. The outcome of this engagement will inform the preparation of the Environment Report on the Proposed Plan.

### **Habitats regulations appraisal**

Those preparing a local development plan also have to undertake a Habitats Regulations Appraisal in accordance with The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (CNPA226), if the plan is capable of having an adverse effect on a European site(s), either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. As set out in Schedule 5: Natural heritage, the Park Authority is committed to preparing a habitats regulations appraisal as part of the preparation of the Proposed Plan. NatureScot have been consulted on this matter and are satisfied with the sufficiency of the approach (see Schedule 5: Natural heritage).