Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan
2017-2022

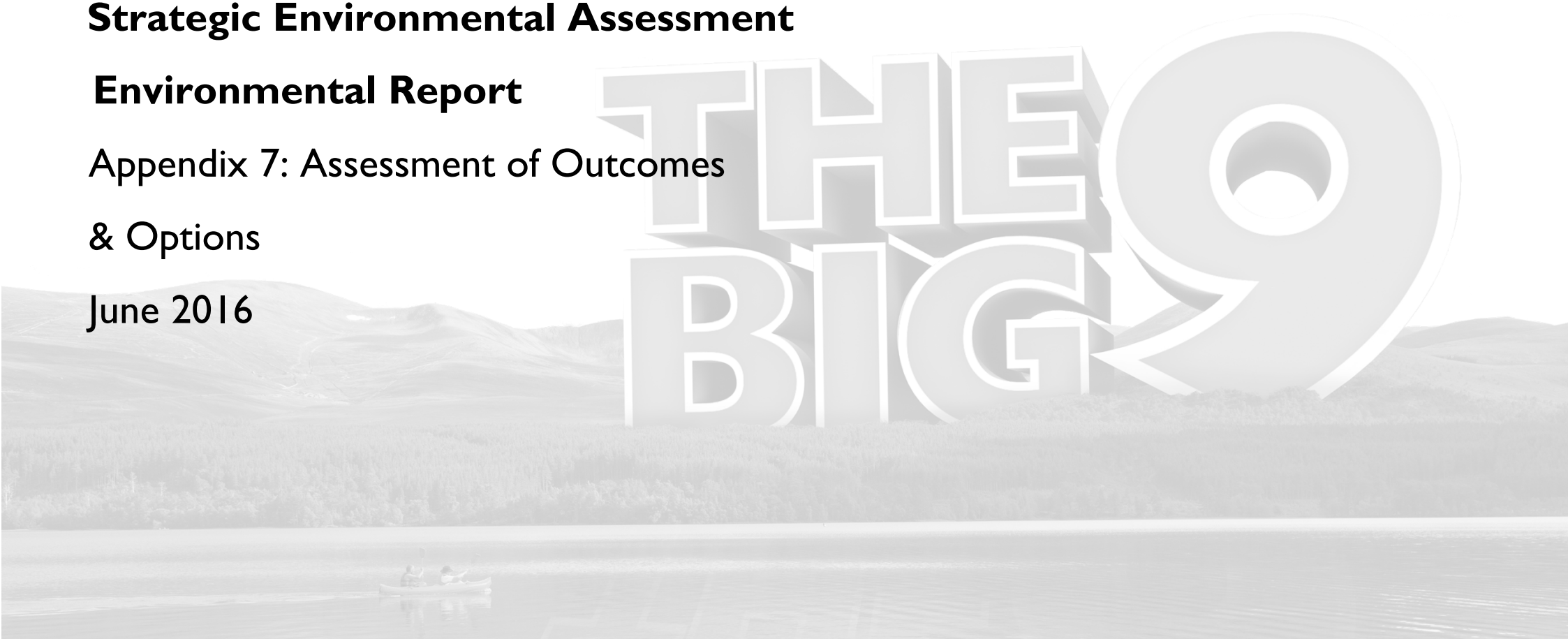
Strategic Environmental Assessment

Environmental Report

Appendix 7: Assessment of Outcomes

& Options

June 2016



Appendix 7: Assessment of Outcomes and Options

SEA Issue / Topic

Climatic Factors

SEA Objective(s):

1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

SEA Sub-Objectives

- Reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases with particular focus on emissions from buildings, transport, energy generation and industry (especially CO_2).
- Encourage energy conservation and higher energy efficiency.
- Encourage investment in cleaner technologies.
- Support investment in suitable renewable energy sources.
- Decouple increase in GDP and greenhouse gas emissions
- Encourage the appropriate local sourcing of materials, resources and food produce.

Significant Interrelationships

Air, water, soil, material assets, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016.

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to reducing GHG emissions is the link to nature and people thriving together. Such an approach requires the management of the National Park to take on principles that limit negative impacts on the environment and encourage positive change; these may have either direct or indirect positive benefits in meeting the SEA Objective. For example, promoting woodland expansion and the better management of moorland both play a strong role in the storage and sequestration of carbon.	I	P	+	+	+	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	For a local economy to be truly sustainable it needs prepare for likely environmental, social and macro-scale economic changes. The adoption of low carbon technologies and the investment can hold many financial benefits for companies and therefore if sustainability is	I	P	?	?	?	Policy 1.2 concentrates the majority of economic growth in the main settlements of Aviemore, Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore and the new settlement of An Camas Mòr. This will have the effect of limiting the number of additional journeys needed to be made by private motor-

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	to be a key facet of the economy, a reduction in GHG emissions should be a synergistic outcome. However, a sustainable economy may also mean a growing economy, which has rarely been achieved without generating additional energy needs or transportation requirements. The overall effect of the outcome is therefore uncertain, as it is greatly dependent on the scale and direction the National Park's economy takes.						vehicle as these locations already have a significant number of facilities within normal walking distances and also act as local public transport hubs. Furthermore, Policy 3.3 seeks to provide a high quality network of core paths which will also encourage walking and cycling. Policy 1.3, which supports the development of a low carbon economy, Policy 2.2 which seeks to secure the effective management of peat and carbon rich soils, Policy 2.4, which focuses on woodland expansion and enhancement and Policy 3.2, which seeks to ensure that facilities and infrastructure are deigned to manage the effects of visitor pressures on natural heritage and communities, also offer means of offsetting any negative effects arising from the outcome / option.
2. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	Through the promotion of landscape scale habitat management techniques such as woodland expansion and the better management of moorlands, the outcome may play a role in the storage and sequestration of GHGs.	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
3. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences		There are no predicted effects associated with this outcome.	I	P	☐	☐	☐	
Policy Options								
Economic Growth and Diversification	Policy 1.1: Preferred option	Economic growth is rarely achieved without generating additional energy needs or transportation requirements and as such it is likely to result in an increase in GHG emissions. However, given the option's aim that the economy be sustainable and expand the renewable energy sector and Policy 1.2's requirement that additional development accord with a strategy that concentrates growth on the main and most sustainable settlements, it is unlikely that this effect will be significant.	I	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 1: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.
	Policy 1.1: Reasonable alternative	Economic growth is rarely achieved without generating additional energy needs or transportation requirements and	I	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 1: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
		as such it is likely to result in an increase in GHG emissions. However, given the option's aim that the economy be sustainable and expand the renewable energy sector and Policy 1.2's requirement that additional development accord with a strategy that concentrates growth on the main and most sustainable settlements, it is unlikely that this effect will be significant.						
Sustainable Growth	Policy 1.2: Preferred option	The option focuses growth on the existing main settlements of Aviemore, Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore and the new community at An Camas Mòr which should reduce the need to travel to access work and services and encourage alternative means of transport. The option also supports the improvement of an integrated and sustainable walking and cycling network with better links to transport.	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Low Carbon Economy	Policy 1.3: Preferred option	The option, which encourages the use of renewable energy sources and promotes high standards of design and the efficient use of energy and materials in development, actively supports the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
	Policy 1.3: Reasonable alternative	The option, which encourages the use of renewable energy sources and promotes high standards of design and the efficient use of energy and materials in development, actively supports the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
Community Capacity	Policy 1.4: Preferred option	Building community capacity should enable communities to develop local renewable energy projects, like those that are underway in Braemar and Kingussie, thus helping reduce GHG emissions.	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Land use	Policy 2.1: Preferred option	The option requires the management of land to deliver multiple benefits, including environmental ones. Landscape scale habitat management techniques such as woodland enhancement and expansion and the sustainable management of moorland and peatland can play an important role in the storage and sequestration of carbon.	I	P	+	+	+	
Enhance resilience	Policy 2.2: Preferred option	Enhancing the health and connectivity of habitats and securing the effective management of peat and carbon rich soils can play an important role in the storage and sequestration of carbon.	I	P	+	+	+	
	Policy 2.2: Reasonable alternative	Enhancing the health and connectivity of habitats and securing the effective management of peat and carbon rich soils can play an important role in the storage and sequestration of carbon.	I	P	+	+	+	
Landscape	Policy 2.3: Preferred option	Enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements may also provide opportunities for the storage and sequestration of carbon.	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Habitat Quality	Policy 2.4: Preferred option	The option explicitly aims to deliver carbon sequestration as an ecosystem service. Specific mechanisms within the policy include woodland enhancement and expansion.	I	P	+	+	+	
Species	Policy 2.5: Preferred option	Positive effects may be gained from the enhancement and expansion of the woodland habitats associated with capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), since woodlands play an important role in the storage and sequestration of carbon.	I	P	+	+	+	
Wildlife Management	Policy 2.6: Preferred option	The sustainable management of deer and moorlands can result in both the expansion of woodland and the restoration of peatland, both of which can play an important role in the storage and sequestration of carbon. While not significantly different, the inclusion moorland management in this option delivers greater benefit than the business as usual scenario.	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	Policy 2.6: Reasonable alternative	The sustainable management of deer can result in both the expansion of woodland and the restoration of peatland, both of which can play an important role in the storage and sequestration of carbon.	I	P	+	+	+	
Cultural Heritage	Policy 2.7: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	
Design & Place	Policy 2.8: Preferred option	The option promotes a high standard of design, energy efficiency, sustainably sourced materials and construction in new development.	I	P	+	+	+	
Visitor Experience	Policy 3.1: Preferred option	The option's concern with providing a high quality visitor experience could lead to an increase in visitor numbers. Since visitors to the Cairngorms National Park overwhelmingly use private motor vehicles as their mode of transport to and around the National Park, there is likely to be an increase in associated GHG emissions.	I	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 1: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	Policy 3.1: Reasonable alternative	The option's concern with providing a high quality visitor experience could lead to an increase in visitor numbers. Since visitors to the Cairngorms National Park overwhelmingly use private motor vehicles as their mode of transport to and around the National Park, there is likely to be an increase in associated GHG emissions.	I	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 1: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.
Sustainable Tourism	Policy 3.2: Preferred approach	The option encourages the co-ordinated management of the Cairngorms National Park as a visitor destination. There may therefore be opportunities to develop a better and more integrated public transport network as well as additional walking and cycling routes. Since the policy does not explicitly state the means in which it will deliver, its overall effects are uncertain	I	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 1: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Access & Recreation	Policy 3.3: Preferred option	The provision of a high quality network of core paths and long distance routes as well as the promotion of the benefits of outdoor recreation should encourage walking and cycling. However, they may also result in an increase in visitor numbers. Since visitors to the Cairngorms National Park overwhelmingly use private motor vehicles as their mode of transport to and around the National Park, there is likely to be an increase in associated GHG emissions.	I	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 1: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.
Learning	Policy 3.4: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area	The Dalwhinnie and Laggan area is a relatively remote part of the National Park, perhaps second only to the eastern area from Tomintoul to Strathdon. Unlike that area however, it does have access to the rail network with stations in Dalwhinnie, Kingussie and Newtonmore. There is a chance that the option could lead to an increase in the area's population and encourage more visitors to the area, both of which would lead to an increase in car journeys. On the other hand, investment in broadband infrastructure could increase home working, thereby reduce the need of local people to travel while investment in renewable energy infrastructure could have broader environmental benefits. Overall, the effects of the option are uncertain as their magnitude will depend very much on the sort of projects that take shape.	I	P	?	?	?	

Summary and Conclusions:

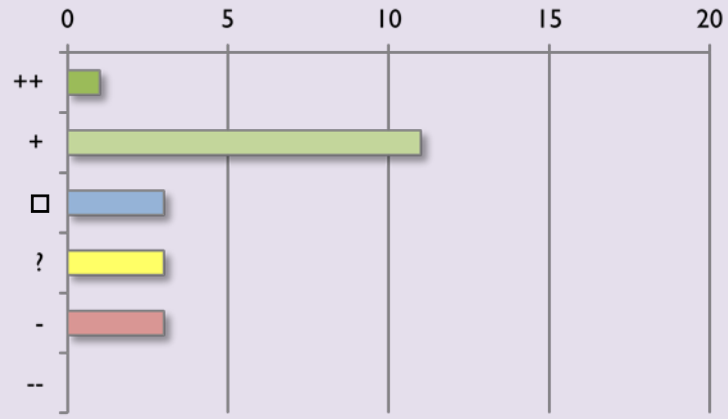
The scale of the effects is considered to be international, with the Plan's impact on GHG emissions contributing to wider climatic changes.

The main potential negative impacts of the Plan are those associated with the predicted growth of the economy, the population and the number of visitors to the National Park.

The assessment also recognises the ability of the CNPA and its partners to mitigate negative effects through the implementation of mitigation measures such as better public transport provision and improved cycling and walking networks. Indeed these measures are already built into the Plan's outcomes and policies.

Since the negative effects arise from different sources, cumulative, in-combination and synergistic effects are considered possible, but not to a great enough degree as to become significant.

Preferred options at glance:



As a counterpoint, most of the predicted effects are in fact positive, with the Plan's promotion of suitable renewable energy sources, protection of peatlands and expansion of woodlands offering strong means of reducing atmoshperic carbon dioxide and other green house gases.

Again, due to the multiple sources these effects come from, cumulative, in-combination and synergistic effects are considered possible but not significant.

SEA Issue / Topic

Climatic Factors

SEA Objective(s):

1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change

SEA Sub-Objectives

- Ensure that new development is appropriately located, having considered the potential effects of future climate conditions.
- Ensure infrastructure and buildings are designed to cope with future climate conditions.
- Encourage climate change adaptation through green infrastructure.
- Encourage existing infrastructure and buildings to adapt to cope with future climate conditions.

Significant Interrelationships

Water, soil, landscape and cultural heritage, biodiversity, fauna and flora, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016.

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to increasing resilience to climate change is the link to nature and people thriving together. Landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion and river restoration offer means of creating rich habitats that provide important ecosystem services with regard to climate change adaptation. Therefore it may be argued that the vision plays a direct role in meeting the SEA objective.	R	P	+	+	+	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	Through its aim to achieve a sustainable economy, the outcome is implicitly supports increasing resilience to the effects of climate change.	R	P	+	+	+	
2. A special place for people and	Landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques,	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced		such as woodland expansion and river restoration offer means of creating rich habitats that provide important ecosystem services with regard to climate change adaptation.						
3. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences		There are no predicted effects associated with this outcome.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Policy Options								
Economic Growth and Diversification	Policy 1.1: Preferred option	The option's aim to broaden the economic base of the National Park, and in particular its focus on the renewable energy sector should contribute towards increasing resilience to the effects of climate change.	R	P	+	+	+	
	Policy 1.1: Reasonable alternative	The option's aim to broaden the economic base of the National Park, and in particular its focus on the renewable energy sector should contribute towards	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
		increasing resilience to the effects of climate change.						
Sustainable Growth	Policy 1.2: Preferred option	Encouraging sustainable patterns of growth will help ensure development considers the potential effects of future climate conditions, deliver infrastructure and buildings are designed to cope with future climate conditions and encourage existing infrastructure and buildings to adapt to cope with future climate conditions.	R	P	+	+	+	
Low Carbon Economy	Policy 1.3: Preferred option	The option actively supports the SEA objective by promoting high standards of sustainable design and helping businesses and communities plan for a changing climate.	R	P	+	+	+	
	Policy 1.3: Reasonable alternative	The option actively supports the SEA objective by promoting high standards of sustainable design and helping businesses and communities plan for a changing climate.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Community Capacity	Policy 1.4: Preferred option	Building community capacity should enable communities to contribute towards projects that build resilience to the effects of climate change, such as the implementation of natural flood management techniques.	R	P	+	+	+	
Land use	Policy 2.1: Preferred option	The option requires the management of land to deliver multiple benefits, including environmental ones. Landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion, the sustainable management of moorland and peatland and river restoration can play an important role in building resilience to climate change.	R	P	+	+	+	
Enhance resilience	Policy 2.2: Preferred option	Landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion, the sustainable management of moorland and peatland and river restoration can play an important role in building resilience to climate change.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	Policy 2.2: Reasonable alternative	Landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion, the sustainable management of moorland and peatland and river restoration can play an important role in building resilience to climate change.	R	P	+	+	+	
Landscape	Policy 2.3: Preferred option	Enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements, such as woodland expansion or river restoration may help build resilience to the effects of the changing climate.	R	P	+	+	+	
Habitat Quality	Policy 2.4: Preferred option	The option explicitly aims to deliver flood management as an ecosystem service. Specific mechanisms within the policy include woodland enhancement and expansion (including riparian woodland) and wetland enhancement.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Species	Policy 2.5: Preferred option	Positive effects may be gained from the enhancement and expansion of the woodland habitats associated with capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), since woodlands play an important role in the storage and sequestration of carbon.	R	P	+	+	+	
Wildlife Management	Policy 2.6: Preferred option	The sustainable management of deer and moorlands can result in both the expansion of woodland and the restoration of peatland, both of which can play an important role in the storage of water and flood management. While not significantly different, the inclusion moorland management in this option delivers greater benefit than the business as usual scenario.	R	P	+	+	+	
	Policy 2.6: Reasonable alternative	The sustainable management of deer can result in both the expansion of woodland and the restoration of peatland, both of which can play an important role in the storage of water and flood management.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Cultural Heritage	Policy 2.7: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Design & Place	Policy 2.8: Preferred option	The option promotes a high standard of design, energy efficiency, sustainably sourced materials and construction in new development.	R	P	+	+	+	
Visitor Experience	Policy 3.1: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
	Policy 3.1: Business as usual	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Sustainable Tourism	Policy 3.2: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Access & Recreation	Policy 3.3: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Learning	Policy 3.4: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area		Investment in infrastructure should take account of climate change and provide a means for the local area to adapt to its implications.	L	P	+	+	+	

Summary and Conclusions:

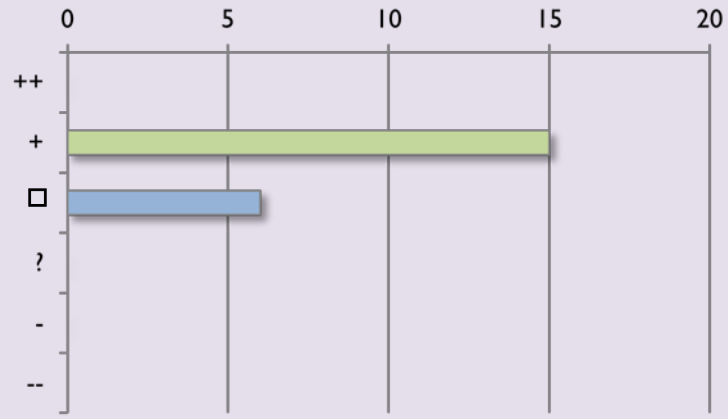
Potential effects are considered to be regional in scale on the basis that the implementation of adaptation measures mostly benefits the location they are developed in.

On the whole, the Plan should have a positive effect with regard to climate change adaptation, with the promotion of landscape scale habitat management, natural flood management, the sustainable use of resources and building techniques providing the opportunities to create a network of built and natural infrastructure that address the impacts of a changing climate.

Since the positive effects arise from different sources, cumulative, in-combination and synergistic effects are considered possible, but not to a great enough degree as to become significant.

The assessment concluded that there would be no predicted effects for a relatively high number of options; this largely reflects the fact that those elements of the Plan have no relevance to climate adaptation.

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Air

SEA Objective(s):

2 Protect and enhance air quality

SEA Sub-Objectives

- Reduce levels of the UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO_2, PM_{10}, SO_2).
- Reduce levels of ground-level ozone (O_3).
- Reduce the need for travel, through appropriate siting of new developments and provision of public infrastructure.
- Reduce negative effects of power generation, industry and transport on local air quality.
- Contribute towards reducing levels of stratospheric ozone depletions.
- Encourage appropriate cleaner technology for power generation, industry and transport.
- Reduce levels of acid deposition.
- Reduce levels of ammonia deposition.

Significant Interrelationships

Water, soil biodiversity, fauna and flora, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016.

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to protecting and enhancing air quality is the link to nature and people thriving together. For example, the protection and expansion of woodlands will have some indirect positive effects on air quality.	L	P	+	+	+	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	While the requirement for the economy to be sustainable should contribute towards improving air quality, the effect of the outcome is dependent on the extent to which economic growth contributes to its achievement. Air pollution in the National Park is largely caused by road traffic, therefore if economic growth results in increased vehicular movement then there may also be an increase in roadside pollutants. The effects of the outcome are therefore uncertain.	L	P	?	?	?	Policy 1.2 concentrates the majority of economic growth in the main settlements of Aviemore, Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore and the new settlement of An Camas Mòr. This will have the effect of limiting the number of additional journeys needed to be made by private motor-vehicle as these locations already have a significant number of facilities within normal walking distances and also act as local public transport hubs. Furthermore, Policy 3.3 seeks to provide a high quality network of core paths which will also encourage walking and cycling. Policy 2.2, which seeks to enhance the health and connectivity of habitats, Policy 2.4, which

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
							focuses on woodland expansion and enhancement and Policy 3.2, which seeks to ensure that facilities and infrastructure are deigned to manage the effects of visitor pressures on natural heritage and communities, also offer means of offsetting any negative effects arising from the outcome / option.
2. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the outcome with regard to protecting and enhancing air quality is the link to making the National Park a special place for people and nature. For example, the protection and expansion of woodlands will have some indirect positive effects on air quality.	L	P	+	+	+	
3. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences	There are no predicted effects associated with this outcome.	L	P	□	□	□	
Policy Options							

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Economic Growth and Diversification	Policy 1.1: Preferred option	Economic growth is rarely achieved without generating additional energy needs or transportation requirements and as such it is likely to result in an increase in roadside emissions. However, given that all air quality objectives are currently being met within the National Park, that no AQMAs exist within its boundary, that the Policy aim's that the economy be sustainable and that Policy 2.1 requires that additional development accord with a strategy that concentrates growth on the main and most sustainable settlements, thereby reducing the need to travel by motor vehicle, it is unlikely that the effects of the policy will be significant.	L	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 1: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.
	Policy 1.1: Reasonable alternative	Economic growth is rarely achieved without generating additional energy needs or transportation requirements and as such it is likely to result in an increase in roadside emissions. However, given that all air quality objectives are currently being met within the National Park, that no AQMAs exist within its boundary, that the	L	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 1: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
		Policy aim's that the economy be sustainable and that Policy 2.1 requires that additional development accord with a strategy that concentrates growth on the main and most sustainable settlements, thereby reducing the need to travel by motor vehicle, it is unlikely that the effects of the policy will be significant.						
Sustainable Growth	Policy 1.2: Preferred option	The option focuses growth on the existing main settlements of Aviemore, Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore and the new community at An Camas Mòr which should reduce the need to travel to access work and services and encourage alternative means of transport. The policy also supports the improvement of an integrated and sustainable walking and cycling network with better links to transport.	L	P	+	+	+	
Low Carbon Economy	Policy 1.3: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	L	P	◻	◻	◻	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	Policy 1.3: Reasonable alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	L	P	◻	◻	◻	
Community Capacity	Policy 1.4: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	L	P	◻	◻	◻	
Land use	Policy 2.1: Reasonable alternative	The option requires the management of land to deliver multiple benefits, including environmental ones. Landscape scale habitat management techniques such as woodland enhancement and expansion and tree planting can play a role in reducing the effects of localised air pollution.	L	P	+	+	+	
Enhance resilience	Policy 2.2: Preferred option	Enhancing the health and connectivity of woodland habitats can play a role in reducing the effects of localised air pollution.	L	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	Policy 2.2: Reasonable alternative	Enhancing the health and connectivity of woodland habitats can play a role in reducing the effects of localised air pollution.	L	P	+	+	+	
Landscape	Policy 2.3: Preferred option	Enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements, such as woodland and tree planting, may also play a role in reducing the effects of localised air pollution.	L	P	+	+	+	
Habitat Quality	Policy 2.4: Preferred option	Woodland enhancement and expansion can play a role in reducing the effects of localised air pollution.	L	P	+	+	+	
Species	Policy 2.5: Preferred option	Positive effects may be gained from the enhancement and expansion of the woodland habitats associated with capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), since woodlands play an important role in reducing the effects of localised air pollution.	L	P	+	+	+	
Wildlife Management	Policy 2.6: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	L	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	Policy 2.6: Reasonable alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	L	P	◻	◻	◻	
Cultural Heritage	Policy 2.7: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	L	P	◻	◻	◻	
Design & Place	Policy 2.8: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	L	P	◻	◻	◻	
Visitor Experience	Policy 3.1: Preferred option	The option's concern with providing a high quality visitor experience could lead to an increase in visitor numbers. Since visitors to the Cairngorms National Park overwhelmingly use private motor vehicles as their mode of transport to and around the National Park, there is likely to be an increase in associated air pollution.	L	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 1: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	Policy 3.1: Reasonable alternative	The option's concern with providing a high quality visitor experience could lead to an increase in visitor numbers. Since visitors to the Cairngorms National Park overwhelmingly use private motor vehicles as their mode of transport to and around the National Park, there is likely to be an increase in associated air pollution.	L	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 1: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.
Sustainable Tourism	Policy 3.2: Preferred option	The option encourages the co-ordinated management of the Cairngorms National Park as a visitor destination. There may therefore be opportunities to develop a better and more integrated public transport network as well as additional walking and cycling routes. Since the policy does not explicitly state the means in which it will deliver, its overall effects are uncertain	L	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 1: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Access & Recreation	Policy 3.3: Preferred option	The provision of a high quality network of core paths and long distance routes as well as the promotion of the benefits of outdoor recreation should encourage walking and cycling. However, they may also result in an increase in visitor numbers. Since visitors to the Cairngorms National Park overwhelmingly use private motor vehicles as their mode of transport to and around the National Park, there is likely to be an increase in associated air pollution.	L	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Long Term Outcome 1: A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities.
Learning	Policy 3.4: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	L	P	◻	◻	◻	

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area	The Dalwhinnie and Laggan area is a relatively remote part of the National Park, perhaps second only to the eastern area from Tomintoul to Strathdon. Unlike that area however, it does have access to the rail network with stations in Dalwhinnie, Kingussie and Newtonmore. There is a chance that the option could lead to an increase in the area's population and encourage more visitors to the area, both of which would lead to an increase in car journeys and their associate air polutants. Overall, the effects of the option are uncertain as their magnitude will depend very much on the sort of projects that take shape.	L	P	?	?	?	

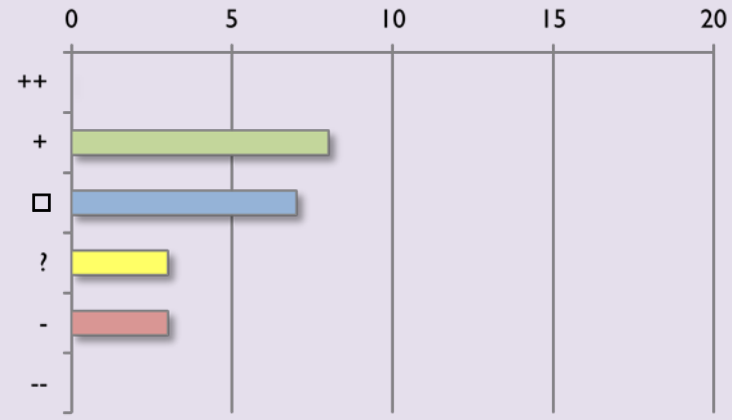
Summary and Conclusions:

Mapping of nitrate and particulate levels indicates that emissions from motor vehicles are greatest close to roads. The effects identified in this assessment are considered to be local in scale as they are unlikely to be problematic across the wider area.

The main potential negative impacts of the Plan on the air quality are those associated with the predicted growth of the economy, the population and the number of visitors to the National Park.

The effects are likely to vary across the National Park, with the greatest potential for negative effects arising in Badenoch and Strathspey, where the greatest level of growth is predicted to occur. Indeed policy decisions, notably the dualling of the A9 and the development of An Camas Mòr, are likely to result in cumulative and in-combination effects occurring.

Preferred options at glance:



It is not however considered that these effects will become significant since all air quality objectives are currently being within the National Park. Furthermore, the SEA on the A9 Dualling Strategy concludes that the effects of the road's upgrade will be to reduce ambient roadside carbon, NOx and particulate levels through resultant improved traffic flows.

The assessment also recognises the ability of the CNPA and its partners to mitigate many of the negative effects through the implementation of mitigation measures such as better public transport provision. Indeed these measures are already built into the Plan's outcomes and options.

SEA Issue / Topic

Water

SEA Objective(s):

3a Reduce flood risk

SEA Sub-Objectives

- Safeguard the functional floodplain.
- Encourage the restoration of a natural flood regime.
- Promote land uses and habitat changes that will help to decrease run-off, stabilise slopes, and attenuate flows.
- Ensure new development is not located in areas of high or medium flood risk.
- Ensure new development does not increase flood risk on site or elsewhere.
- Increase the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in both new and refurbished developments.
- Avoid loss of soils to non-permeable surfaces.
- Reduce reliance on flood mitigation and hard engineered solutions.
- Increase provision to manage stormwater.

Significant Interrelationships

Climatic factors, soil, biodiversity, fauna and flora, landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016.

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to reducing flood risk is the link to nature and people thriving together. Landscape scale habitat management and other natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion and river restoration offer means of creating rich habitats while also reducing flood risk. Therefore it may be argued that the vision plays a strong and direct role in meeting the SEA objective.	R	P	++	++	++	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	The fact that the outcome requires the economy to be sustainable means that any development that occurs in relation to it should not cause an increase in flood risk. However, the outcome does not itself actively contribute towards reducing flood risk and therefore, it is not considered that the outcome will contribute either positively or negatively to meeting the SEA objective.	R	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
2. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced		Landscape scale habitat management and other natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion and river restoration offer means of creating rich habitats while also reducing flood risk. Therefore it may be argued that the vision plays a direct role in meeting the SEA objective.	R	P	+	+	+	
3. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences		There are no predicted effects associated with this outcome.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Policy Options								
Economic Growth and Diversification	Policy 1.1: Preferred option	Owing to the nature of growth, there will inevitably be some loss of soils to non-permeable surfaces through the development of new buildings and facilities, particularly as there are few opportunities to develop for brownfield land within the National Park. However,	R	P	◻	◻	◻	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
		the LDP and national planning policy require that development does not increase flood risk. The small scale of the likely development means that the impact of the option on flood risk likely to be minimal.						
	Policy 1.1: Reasonable alternative	Owing to the nature of growth, there will inevitably be some loss soils to non-permeable surfaces through the development of new buildings and facilities, particularly as there are few opportunities to develop for brownfield land within the National Park. However, the LDP and national planning policy require that development does not increase flood risk. The small scale of the likely development means that the impact of the option on flood risk likely to be minimal.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Sustainable Growth	Policy 1.2: Preferred option	The option directs growth to the existing main settlements of Aviemore, Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Netwonmore and the new settlement of An Camas Mòr. Some of these settlements, and Ballater in particular, have recently experienced severe flood events. However, the LDP and national planning policy effectively prevent future development from increasing flood risk and therefore it is not considered that the policy is likely to have an effect on the SEA objective	R	P	□	□	□	
Low Carbon Economy	Policy 1.3: Preferred option	The promotion of high standards of design should include the creation of SuDS schemes.	R	P	+	+	+	
	Policy 1.3: Reasonable alternative	The promotion of high standards of design should include the creation of SuDS schemes.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Community Capacity	Policy 1.4: Preferred option	Building community capacity should enable communities to contribute towards projects that contribute towards reducing flood risk, such as the implementation of natural flood management techniques.	R	P	+	+	+	
Land use	Policy 2.1: Preferred option	The option requires the management of land to deliver multiple benefits, including environmental ones. Landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion, the sustainable management of moorland and peatland and river restoration can play an important role in reducing flood risk.	R	P	+	+	+	
Enhance resilience	Policy 2.2: Preferred option	Landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion, the sustainable management of moorland and peatland and river restoration can play an important role in reducing flood risk.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	Policy 2.2: Reasonable alternative	Landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion, the sustainable management of moorland and peatland and river restoration can play an important role in reducing flood risk.	R	P	+	+	+	
Landscape	Policy 2.3: Preferred option	Enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements, such as woodland expansion or river restoration may help reduce flood risk.	R	P	+	+	+	
Habitat Quality	Policy 2.4: Preferred option	The option explicitly aims to deliver flood management as an ecosystem service. Specific mechanisms within the policy include woodland enhancement and expansion (including riparian woodland) and wetland enhancement.	R	P	+	+	+	
Species	Policy 2.5: Preferred option	Positive effects may be gained from the enhancement and expansion of the woodland habitats associated with capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), since woodlands play an important role in the storage of water.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Wildlife Management	Policy 2.6: Preferred option	The sustainable management of deer and moorlands can result in both the expansion of woodland and the restoration of peatland, both of which can play an important role in the storage of water and flood management. While not significantly different, the inclusion moorland management in this option delivers greater benefit than the business as usual scenario.	R	P	+	+	+	
Wildlife Management	Policy 2.6: Reasonable alternative	The sustainable management of deer can result in both the expansion of woodland and the restoration of peatland, both of which can play an important role in the storage of water and flood management.	R	P	+	+	+	
Cultural Heritage	Policy 2.7: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Design & Place	Policy 2.8: Preferred option	The option promotes a high standard of design in the construction in new development. This should include the implementation of SuDS schemes.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Visitor Experience	Policy 3.1: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
	Policy 3.1: Reasonable alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
Sustainable Tourism	Policy 3.2: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
Access & Recreation	Policy 3.3: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
Learning	Policy 3.4: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area	Should investment result in physical development taking place then it is likely that there will be some soils lost to non-permeable surfaces, increasing surface water run-off. However, the LDP and national planning policy require that development does not increase flood risk. The small scale of the likely development means that the impact of the option on flood risk likely to be minimal.	L	P	☐	☐	☐	

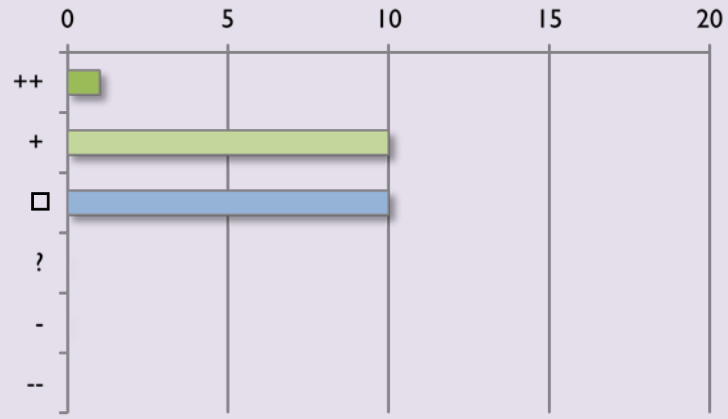
Summary and Conclusions:

The Cairngorms National Park encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers as well as many smaller ones. Actions taken in the upper part of these catchments may be felt downstream and therefore the scale of the identified effect is considered to be regional.

The assessment has not predicted any effects for a large number of outcomes and options. This reflects the fact that many do not have a strong spatial element and therefore have little chance of impacting on flood risk, while other spatial options are so minor, or located in such locations, that an impact of any kind is highly unlikely.

Furthermore, policy interventions, such as those contained within local and national planning policy and Flood Risk Management Plans actively mitigate against generating additional flood risk.

Preferred options at glance:



Overall it is thought that the effects of the Plan are likely to be positive, with its promotion of forest expansion, natural flood management and peatland protection all offering means of slowing the flow of water and reducing flood risk. Due to the multiple sources of these interventions, it is considered that positive cumulative and in-combination are likely.

SEA Issue / Topic

Water

SEA Objective(s):

3b Maintain and improve the quality of water resources

SEA Sub-Objectives

- Ensure the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water is maintained or improved.
- Maintain and improve the ability of river catchments to store water.
- Conserve public water supply.
- Reduce demand for water and minimise unnecessary water use.
- Reduce diffuse pollution from urban and rural areas.
- Limit land use related pollution (particularly nitrates) on water resources.

Significant Interrelationships

Climatic factors, soil, biodiversity, fauna and flora, landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016.

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to maintaining and improving water quality is the link to nature and people thriving together. By taking this approach the NPPP must ensure that development and approaches to landscape management do not have a negative effect on the water quality of waterbodies within and flowing from the National Park.	N	P	+	+	+	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	The outcome's aim to deliver a sustainable economy means that the effect of development or economic activity on water quality should be taken into account. It is likely therefore that the outcome will help maintain the quality of the National Park's water resources.	N	P	+	+	+	
2. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage	The crucial aspect of the outcome with regard to maintaining and improving water quality is the link to making the National Park a special place for people and nature and the enhancement of natural heritage.	N	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
enhanced		By taking this approach the NPPP must ensure that development and approaches to landscape management do not have a negative effect on the water quality of waterbodies within and flowing from the National Park.						
3. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences		There are no predicted effects associated with this outcome.	N	P	◻	◻	◻	
Policy Options								
Economic Growth and Diversification	Policy 1.1: Preferred option	The construction of new buildings associated with economic uses will lead to increased pressure on water resources. It also has the potential to have an impact on water quality at certain locations, if not properly considered. Given the small scale at which development is likely to occur, the impact of the option is unlikely to be significant.	N	P	-	-	-	The LDP and national planning policy can be used to ensure that development does not have a negative effect on water quality. This can include effects that are likely to arise from construction and be temporary in nature.

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	Policy 1.1: Reasonable alternative	The construction of new buildings associated with economic uses will lead to increased pressure on water resources. It also has the potential to have an impact on water quality at certain locations, if not properly considered. Given the small scale at which development is likely to occur, the impact of the option is unlikely to be significant.	N	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Policy 1.1: Preferred Option.
Sustainable Growth	Policy 1.2: Preferred option	The option directs growth to the main settlements of Aviemore, Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore and the new settlement at An Camas Mòr. The level of growth, particularly in the Aviemore area, is likely to place pressure on the local water supply, with the Aviemore water treatment works only having capacity for a further 966 housing units.	N	P	-	-	-	The LDP and national planning policy can be used to ensure that development does not have a negative effect on water quality. This can include effects that are likely to arise from construction and be temporary in nature. Where insufficient capacity is identified within the network, money may be levied from the developer(s) to make sure upgrades occur before the effects of the development can be felt.
Low Carbon Economy	Policy 1.3: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	N	P	◻	◻	◻	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	Policy 1.3: Reasonable alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	N	P	◻	◻	◻	
Community Capacity	Policy 1.4: Preferred option	Building community capacity should enable communities to contribute towards projects, such as river restoration and riparian woodland enhancement and expansion, that improve the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.	N	P	+	+	+	
Land use	Policy 2.1: Preferred option	The option requires the management of land to deliver multiple benefits, including environmental ones. Landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion, the sustainable management of moorland and peatland and river restoration can play an important role in increasing the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.	N	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Enhance resilience	Policy 2.2: Preferred option	Landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion, the sustainable management of moorland and peatland and river restoration can play an important role in increasing the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.	N	P	+	+	+	
	Policy 2.2: Reasonable alternative	Landscape scale habitat management and natural flood management techniques, such as woodland expansion, the sustainable management of moorland and peatland and river restoration can play an important role in increasing the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.	N	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Landscape	Policy 2.3: Preferred option	Enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements, such as woodland expansion or river restoration can play an important role in increasing the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.	N	P	+	+	+	
Habitat Quality	Policy 2.4: Preferred option	The option explicitly aims to deliver environmentally beneficial ecosystem service. The enhancement and expansion of woodland and wetland habitats, including riparian woodland, can play an important role in increasing the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.	N	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Species	Policy 2.5: Preferred option	Many of the National Park's waterbodies are important habitats for freshwater pearl mussel (M*argaritifera margaritifera*). It is thought that the species' success is heavily influenced by water quality, therefore bringing them into better conservation status supports the SEA objective. Further positive effects may be gained from the enhancement and expansion of the woodland habitats associated with capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), since woodlands offer of means of limiting land relating pollution entering waterbodies.	N	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Wildlife Management	Policy 2.6: Preferred option	The sustainable management of deer and moorlands can result in both the expansion of woodland and the restoration of peatland, both of which can play an important role in increasing the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality. While not significantly different, the inclusion moorland management in this option delivers greater benefit than the business as usual scenario.	N	P	+	+	+	
	Policy 2.6: Reasonable alternative	The sustainable management of deer can result in both the expansion of woodland and the restoration of peatland, both of which can play an important role in increasing the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.	N	P	+	+	+	
Cultural Heritage	Policy 2.7: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	N	P	◻	◻	◻	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Design & Place	Policy 2.8: Preferred option	The option promotes a high standard of design in the construction in new development. This should include the implementation of SuDS schemes which should help increase the ability of river catchments to store water, reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.	N	P	+	+	+	
Visitor Experience	Policy 3.1: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	N	P	◻	◻	◻	
	Policy 3.1: Reasonable alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	N	P	◻	◻	◻	
Sustainable Tourism	Policy 3.2: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	N	P	◻	◻	◻	
Access & Recreation	Policy 3.3: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	N	P	◻	◻	◻	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Learning	Policy 3.4: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	N	P	☐	☐	☐	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area		Should investment result in physical development then it is possible that increased pressure will be placed on water resources. There is also the possibility of an impact on water quality at certain locations, if not properly considered. Given the small scale at which development is likely to occur, the impact of the outcome is unlikely to be significant.	L	P	☐	☐	☐	

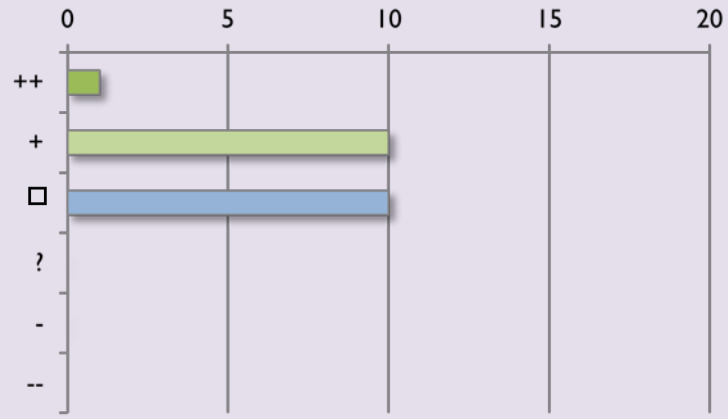
Summary and Conclusions:

The Cairngorms National Park encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers as well as many smaller ones. Actions taken in the upper part of these catchments may be felt downstream and therefore the scale of the identified effect is considered to be regional.

The assessment has not predicted any effects for a large number of outcomes and options. This reflects the fact that many objectives do not have a strong spatial element and therefore have little chance of impacting on water quality, while other spatial options are so minor, or located in such locations, that an impact of any kind is highly unlikely.

Negative effects are predicted against outcomes and options that deal with economic and housing development. These largely relate to the pressure they might place on water and waste treatment infrastructure, which in some areas does not have enough capacity to meet projected growth.

Preferred options at glance:



While negative effects on water quality are considered possible, they are not considered to offer a significant threat. In fact, the overall effect of the Plan on water quality is considered to be positive, with interventions such as woodland expansion, peatland restoration and natural flood management offering means of slowing and preventing the introduction of pollutants to waterbodies. As a result, it is considered that positive cumulative and in-combination are likely.

SEA Issue / Topic

Soil

SEA Objective(s):

4 Minimise contamination and safeguard and improve soil and peat quality.

SEA Sub-Objectives

- Maintain or improve the productive capacity of soils.
- Maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to sustainably produce high quality local and seasonal food.
- Avoid increased diffuse pollution, particularly SO_2 and NO_2 emissions and nitrate pollution from agriculture and other economic activities.
- Protect and enhance soil quantity (including non-chemical soil functions and processes such as permeability) and quantity, especially of carbon rich soils.
- Maintain, restore or improve the carbon storage capacity of peat and soils.
- Minimise carbon emissions from land use (e.g. muirburn).
- Avoid and reduce contamination of soils.
- Promote the regeneration and redevelopment of brownfield and contaminated land.
- Take account of soil function.
- Minimise soil erosion.
- Minimise soil sealing.
- Minimise soil compaction.

Significant Interrelationships

Climatic factors, water, material assents, biodiversity, fauna and flora, landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016.

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to soil quality is the link to nature and people thriving together. By taking this approach the NPPP must ensure that development and approaches to landscape management do not have a negative impact on soils, including those with a carbon rich content.	R	P	+	+	+	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	The outcome's aim to deliver a sustainable economy means that the effect of development or economic activity on soil quality should be taken into account. It is likely therefore that the outcome will help minimise contamination and contribute towards the safeguarding of the National Park's soil and peat resources.	R	P	+	+	+	
2. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	The crucial aspect of the outcome with regard to soil quality is the link to making the National Park a special place for people and nature and the enhancement of natural heritage. By taking this approach the NPPP must ensure that development	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
		and approaches to landscape management do not have a negative impact on soils, including those with a carbon rich content.						
3. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences		There are no predicted effects associated with this outcome.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Policy Options								
Economic Growth and Diversification	Policy 1.1: Preferred option	The construction of new buildings associated with economic uses will lead to increased pressure on water resources. It also has the potential to have an impact on water quality at certain locations, if not properly considered. Given the small scale at which development is likely to occur, the impact of the option is unlikely to be significant.	N	P	-	-	-	Policy 1.2 can play a part in minimising the loss of soil by directing development to the most sustainable locations and encouraging the coalescence of uses. Some of these locations are also home to areas of previously developed land, which can be used with no negative impact on soils. Overall, the LDP and national planning policy can be used to ensure that development makes efficient use of land and does not have a negative effect on soil quality.
	Policy 1.1: Reasonable	Owing to the nature of growth, there will inevitably be some loss and sealing of soil	R	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Policy 1.1: Preferred option.

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	alternative	through the development of new buildings and facilities. As there are few opportunities to develop for brownfield land within the National Park, much of this development is likely to occur on greenfield land. There is likely therefore to be the loss of some agricultural land as well as some associated soil sealing and compaction. The small scale of the likely development means that the impact of the policy on the SEA objective is unlikely to be significant.						

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Sustainable Growth	Policy 1.2: Preferred option	The option directs growth the main settlements of Aviemore, Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore, and the new settlement at An Camas Mòr. While allocated sites in these settlements offers the ability to demand densities of development that maximise the use of land and limit the loss of soil, most sites are on greenfield land. Furthermore, An Camas Mòr is an entirely new settlement on an entirely greenfield site and over the long term there is likely to be the loss of a considerable area of soil. It is important to note however that the mapping of agricultural soils indicates there are no areas of prime agricultural land in these areas, while mapping of carbon rich soils indicate that there are no areas of peat. The overall effect of the policy is therefore likely to be minor in scale.	R	P	-	-	-	See mitigation for Policy 1.1: Preferred option.

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Low Carbon Economy	Policy 1.3: Preferred option	The option promotes high standards of sustainable design and the efficient use of energy and materials in construction. The protection of high quality and carbon rich soils should therefore form part of this consideration.	R	P	+	+	+	
	Policy 1.3: Reasonable alternative	The option promotes high standards of sustainable design and the efficient use of energy and materials in construction. The protection of high quality and carbon rich soils should therefore form part of this consideration.	R	P	+	+	+	
Community Capacity	Policy 1.4: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Land use	Policy 2.1: Preferred option	The management of land for multiple benefits should help safeguard the National Park's soils. For example, limiting the use of muirburn as a form of vegetation management may reduce both soil erosion and soil sealing.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Enhance resilience	Policy 2.2: Preferred option	Landscape scale habitat management techniques such as woodland expansion and moor and peatland restoration and natural flood management techniques should deliver multiple benefits with regard to the protection and improvement soil and peat quality.	R	P	++	++	++	
	Policy 2.2: Reasonable alternative	Landscape scale habitat management techniques such as woodland expansion and moor and peatland restoration should deliver multiple benefits with regard to the protection and improvement soil and peat quality.	R	P	++	++	++	
Landscape	Policy 2.3: Preferred option	Enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements, such as woodland expansion may help safeguard soils by minimising soil erosion.	R	P	+	+	+	
Habitat Quality	Policy 2.4: Preferred option	The option explicitly aims to deliver ecosystem services, of which soils offer a rich variety. Of particularly importance are the services offered by carbon rich soils which act as a store for both carbon and groundwater.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Species	Policy 2.5: Preferred option	Positive effects may be gained from the enhancement and expansion of the woodland habitats associated with capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), since woodland may help safeguard soils by minimising soil erosion.	R	P	+	+	+	
Wildlife Management	Policy 2.6: Preferred option	The sustainable management of deer and moorlands can result in both the expansion of woodland and the restoration of peatland, the latter offering a safeguard against erosion, the latter an important soil type in its own right. While not significantly different, the inclusion moorland management in this option delivers greater benefit than the business as usual scenario.	R	P	+	+	+	
	Policy 2.6: Reasonable alternative	The sustainable management of deer can result in both the expansion of woodland and the restoration of peatland, the latter offering a safeguard against erosion, the latter an important soil type in its own right.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Cultural Heritage	Policy 2.7: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Design & Place	Policy 2.8: Preferred option	The option promotes high standards of sustainable design and the efficient use of energy and materials in construction. The protection of high quality and carbon rich soils should therefore form part of this consideration.	R	P	+	+	+	
Visitor Experience	Policy 3.1: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
	Policy 3.1: Reasonable alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Sustainable Tourism	Policy 3.2: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Access & Recreation	Policy 3.3: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
Learning	Policy 3.4: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area		If investment results in physical development taking place then there is the potential for the loss and sealing of soil through the creation of new buildings and facilities. As there are few opportunities to develop for brownfield land within the area, much of this development is likely to occur on greenfield land. There is the possibility therefore that some agricultural land will be lost. The small scale of the likely development means that the impact of the policy on the SEA objective is unlikely to be significant.	L	P	☐	☐	☐	

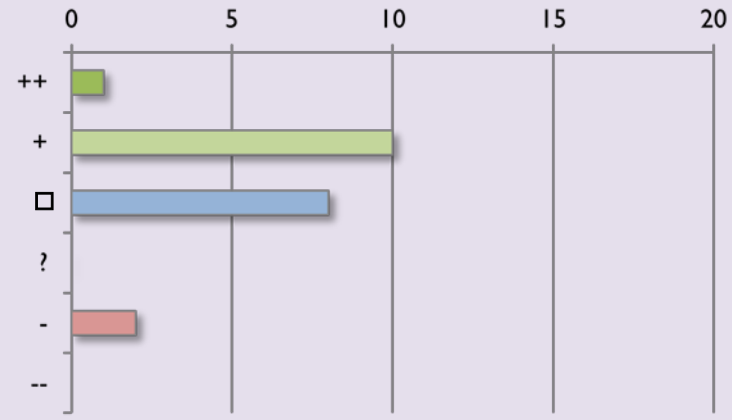
Summary and Conclusions:

The effect of land use and land management decisions on soils may range from local to international in scale depending on the soils affected and the scale of the effects. While important soils, such as those with a high carbon content, have been identified within the National Park, the Plan's proposals are unlikely to impact upon them significantly. The effects identified in this assessment are therefore considered to be regional in scale.

Negative effects associated with economic and housing development have been identified. These are not however considered to be significant, owing to the limited nature of the development that is likely to take place.

Overall, the effects of the Plan are likely to be positive, with interventions such as woodland expansion, peatland restoration and sustainable moorland management offering means of preventing reducing soil erosion.

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Material Assets

SEA Objective(s):

5 Encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets.

SEA Sub-Objective

- Promote decoupling of resource use from economic prosperity.
- Encourage sustainable use of natural resources e.g. water, timber, aggregates.
- Minimise the use of finite resources and promote higher resource efficiency and the use of secondary and recycled materials.
- Promote the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Value, conserve and enhance geodiversity.

Significant Interrelationships

Climatic factors, air, water, soil, biodiversity, fauna and flora, landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016.

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	While not explicitly stated, the crucial aspect of the Vision with regard to the sustainable use of material assets is the link to nature and people thriving together. By taking this approach the NPPP must ensure that development and approaches to landscape management take a sustainable approach to such assets and that the resources within the National Park are not exploited without heed for other environmental and social concerns.	R	P	+	+	+	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	The outcome's aim to deliver a sustainable economy means that the sustainable use of material assets should be paramount. It is likely therefore that the outcome will result in the sustainable use and reuse of material assets and help promote the decoupling of resource use from economic prosperity.	R	P	+	+	+	
2. A special place for people and nature with	The crucial aspect of the outcome with regard to the sustainable use of material assets is the link to making the National	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
natural and cultural heritage enhanced		Park a special place for people and nature. By taking this approach the NPPP must ensure that development and approaches to landscape management take a sustainable approach to such assets and that the resources within the National Park are not exploited without heed for other environmental and social concerns.						
3. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences		There are no predicted effects associated with this outcome.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
Policy Options								
Economic Growth and Diversification	Policy 1.1: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	
	Policy 1.1: Reasonable alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Sustainable Growth	Policy 1.2: Preferred option	The option offers some positive effects through its support for improvements to the information technology mobile communications networks, the A9 and other trunk roads, and the railway line.	R	P	+	+	+	
Low Carbon Economy	Policy 1.3: Preferred option	The option actively supports the SEA objective through its support for development of appropriately located and scaled renewable energy developments and promotes high standards of sustainable design and efficient use of energy and materials in constriction.	R	P	++	++	++	
	Policy 1.3: Reasonable alternative	The option actively supports the SEA objective through its support for development of appropriately located and scaled renewable energy developments and promotes high standards of sustainable design and efficient use of energy and materials in constriction.	R	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Community Capacity	Policy 1.4: Preferred option	Building community capacity should enable communities to develop local renewable energy projects, like those that are underway in Braemar and Kingussie, thus sustainably harnessing local material assets.	R	P	+	+	+	
Land use	Policy 2.1: Preferred option	The option's aim that land be managed to deliver multiple benefits, while always ensuring that the special qualities of the National Park are conserved or enhanced should encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets.	R	P	++	++	++	
Enhance resilience	Policy 2.2: Preferred option	Enhancing the resilience of habitats should encourage the sustainable use of natural resources e.g. water, timber, aggregates.	R	P	+	+	+	
	Policy 2.2: Reasonable alternative	Enhancing the resilience of habitats should encourage the sustainable use of natural resources e.g. water, timber, aggregates.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Landscape	Policy 2.3: Preferred option	The geodiversity of the National Park's landscape is responsible for a wide variety of its special qualities. The option's focus on conserving and enhancing these special qualities therefore supports the SEA objective's aim to value, conserve and enhance geodiversity.	R	P	++	++	++	
Habitat Quality	Policy 2.4: Preferred option	The option's aim to deliver a combination of ecosystem services should encourage the sustainable use of material assets.	R	P	+	+	+	
Species	Policy 2.5: Preferred option	Positive effects may be gained from the enhancement and expansion of the woodland habitats associated with capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), since achieving a better conservation status will require the sustainable use of the National Park's woodland resource.	R	P	+	+	+	
Wildlife Management	Policy 2.6: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	Policy 2.6: Reasonable alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Cultural Heritage	Policy 2.7: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Design & Place	Policy 2.8: Preferred option	The option supports the SEA objective through its support for development of appropriately located and scaled renewable energy developments and promotes high standards of sustainable design and efficient use of energy and materials in constriction.	R	P	++	++	++	
Visitor Experience	Policy 3.1: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
	Policy 3.1: Reasonable alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Sustainable Tourism	Policy 3.2: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Access & Recreation	Policy 3.3: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Learning	Policy 3.4: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area		Investment in the Spatial Priority Area should encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets, particularly within the local area.	L	P	+	+	+	

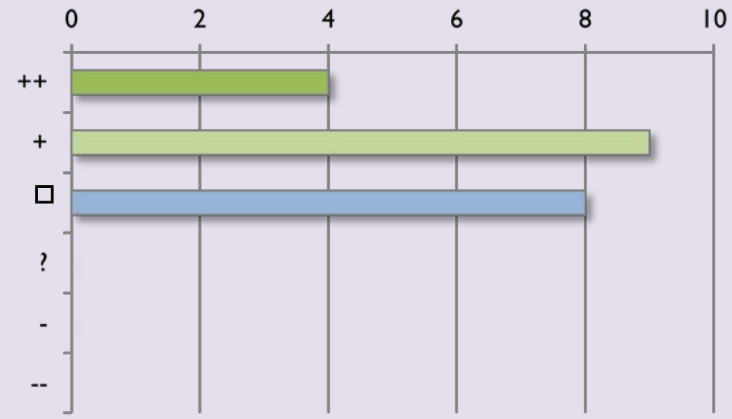
Summary and Conclusions:

Owing to the limited nature of the identified effects, the scale of the Plan's impact on material assets is considered to be regional.

The overall effects of the Plan are considered to be positive, with policy options supporting the development of appropriately located and scaled renewable energy developments, high standards of sustainable design, the efficient use of energy and materials in constriction and sustainable land management practices.

Many outcomes and options carry no resource implications and this is reflected in the relatively high number of assessments that predict no effects.

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora

SEA Objective(s):

6a Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity, distinctive wild species and habitats

SEA Sub-Objective

- Protect the integrity of European sites, proposed European sites and listed Ramsar sites, and to conserve or, where not at a favourable conservation status, enhance their interest features.
- Avoid damage or fragmentation of designated sites, habitats and protected species and encourage their enhancement and connection.
- Conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity.
- Avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases.
- Conserve, enhance and create appropriate wildlife habitats and wider biodiversity within and outwith settlements.
- Encourage innovative methods of producing biodiversity gain for both new and existing developments.
- Reduce the ecological footprint of the Cairngorms National Park.
- Enable people to access and appreciate the Cairngorms National Park's natural heritage.

Significant Interrelationships

Climatic factors, air, water, soil, material assets, landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 22nd February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016.

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	The vision's objective to ensure that nature thrives within the National Park positively contributes to all aspects of the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	Given the reliance of the National Park's economy on the quality of its environment, it's implicit within the outcome that the valuing, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity will be an important aspect of achieving its aims.	I	P	+	+	+	
2. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	The outcome's interest in creating a special place for nature and enhancing natural heritage positively contributes to all aspects of the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
3. People enjoying the Park	The importance of the National Park's environment to visitor and learning	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
through outstanding visitor and learning experiences		experiences means that the outcome actively contributes to meeting the SEA objective.						
Policy Options								
Economic Growth and Diversification	Policy 1.1: Preferred option	The construction of new buildings to facilitate economic development could have some negative effects on biodiversity. However, it's stated within the policy that growth and diversification should draw on the National Park's special qualities, of which its rich biodiversity is one. It is implicit within the policy therefore that the valuing, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity will be an important aspect of achieving its aims. Overall, the nature of the effect will be dependent on the scale, location and nature of development and therefore the policy's effects are uncertain.	I	P	?	?	?	Combined, Policies 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 offer a strong means of protecting and enhancing the National Park's biodiversity, which would help mitigate negative effects associated with disturbance. Furthermore, Policy 3.3 aims to ensure that the access and recreation objectives are not pursued without heed for conservation objectives. With regard to Capercaillie, the CNPA is in the process of developing a Capercaillie Framework, which will: ➢ Bring together existing knowledge on the state of Capercaillie across the Cairngorms National Park, the combined knowledge of the pressures they face, particularly with regard to recreation and housing development; and the suite of management

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
								measures currently being deployed, using spatial mapped data where possible; ➢ inform future decisions about co-ordinated deployment of management measures for Capercaillie conservation; ➢ identify what else we may need to do, where we may need further investment or resources and highlight the future agenda for management action. The CNPA has published a report on Phase 1 of the Framework (2015). This takes the form of a map-based framework that helps to co-ordinate the management of the National Park with the aim of safeguarding and expanding the Capercaillie population across the area.
	Policy 1.1: Reasonable alternative	The construction of new buildings to facilitate economic development could have some negative effects on biodiversity. However, it's stated within the policy that growth and diversification should draw on the National Park's special qualities, of which its rich biodiversity is one. It is implicit within the policy therefore that	I	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Policy 1.1: Preferred option.

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
		the valuing, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity will be an important aspect of achieving its aims. Overall, the nature of the effect will be dependent on the scale, location and nature of development and therefore the policy's effects are uncertain.						

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Sustainable Growth	Policy 1.2: Preferred option	The option focuses growth on the main settlements of Aviemore, Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore and the new settlement at an An Camas Mòr. Many of these settlements are surrounded by important habitats, for example Anagach Woods near Grantown-on-Spey and Glenmore and Rothiemurchus forests near An Camas Mòr. Despite having a criteria that states that the integrity of designated sites should be maintained, it is likely that negative effects may be derived from the recreational use of these woodlands by residents of the settlements. This could be particularly serious for sensitive species such as cappercaillie. Furthermore, all of these settlements are within close proximity to either the River Spey or the River Dee, both of which are designated as SACs and both of which are important habitats for freshwater pearl mussel.	I	P	--	--	--	See mitigation for Policy 1.1: Preferred option.

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
		The growth of these settlements could lead to an increase in pressure on local water sources as well as lead to an increase in water pollution from surface water run-off. Given the importance of these sites, habitats and species, this policy has the potential for some significant negative effects.						
Low Carbon Economy	Policy 1.3: Preferred option	The development of renewable energy facilities such as hydroelectric schemes have the potential to have an impact on ecosystems, however the nature of this effect will be dependent on the location and scale of the development. High standards of design should however take biodiversity into consideration and where possible seek the enhancement of habitats. Overall, the effects of the option are uncertain.	I	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Policy 1.1: Preferred option.

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	Policy 1.3: Reasonable alternative	The development of renewable energy facilities such as hydroelectric schemes have the potential to have an impact on ecosystems, however the nature of this effect will be dependent on the location and scale of the development. High standards of design should however take biodiversity into consideration and where possible seek the enhancement of habitats. Overall, the effects of the option are uncertain.	I	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Policy 1.1: Preferred option.
Community Capacity	Policy 1.4: Preferred option	Empowering communities to deliver plan their own futures and develop and implement project should aid the delivery of projects that help deliver the SEA objective, for example river restoration or community woodland management.	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Land use	Policy 2.1: Preferred option	The management of land to deliver multiple benefits should help deliver significant gains for biodiversity, for example through the implementation of landscape scale habitat management techniques such as woodland expansion and peatland restoration.	I	P	++	++	++	
Enhance resilience	Policy 2.2: Preferred option	The option actively supports the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
	Policy 2.2: Reasonable alternative	The option actively supports the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
Landscape	Policy 2.3: Preferred option	The option states that enhancements to the special qualities of the National Park should also deliver habitat improvements.	I	P	+	+	+	
Habitat Quality	Policy 2.4: Preferred option	Landscape scale habitat management, such as woodland expansion ad wetland enhancement may have significant positive effects on the National Park's biodiversity.	I	P	++	++	++	Amend criterion c) to explicitly refer to 'natural flood management'.

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Species	Policy 2.5: Preferred approach	The option actively supports the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
Wildlife Management	Policy 2.6: Preferred option	The option actively supports the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
	Policy 2.6: Reasonable alternative	The option actively supports the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
Cultural Heritage	Policy 2.7: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	
Design & Place	Policy 2.8: Preferred option	Biodiversity enhancements may play a strong role in delivering high quality design and creating a distinctive sense of place in new developments and existing settlements.	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Visitor Experience	Policy 3.1: Preferred option	Providing high quality co-ordinated information setting visitor experiences in the context of the National Park and enhancing the network of ranger services should help people to access and appreciate the Cairngorms National Park's natural heritage.	I	P	+	+	+	
Visitor Experience	Policy 3.1: Reasonable alternative	Providing high quality co-ordinated information setting visitor experiences in the context of the National Park and supporting the network of ranger services should help people to access and appreciate the Cairngorms National Park's natural heritage.	I	P	+	+	+	
Sustainable Tourism	Policy 3.2: Preferred option	The co-ordinated promotion and management of the National Park as a visitor destination should help people access and appreciate the Cairngorms National Park's natural heritage.	I	P	+	+	+	

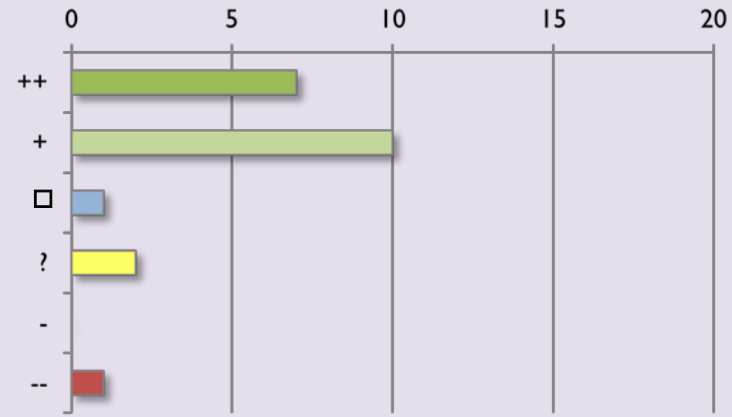
Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Access & Recreation	Policy 3.3: Preferred option	The option aims to ensure that access and recreation do not negatively impact on biodiversity by safeguarding sensitive environments and maintaining the integrity of designates sites.	I	P	+	+	+	
Learning	Policy 3.4: Preferred option	The option will enable people to access and appreciate the Cairngorms National Park's natural heritage.	I	P	+	+	+	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area		Given the reliance of the area's economy on the quality of its environment it will be important that investment within the Spatial Priority Area values, conserves and enhances local biodiversity.	L	P	+	+	+	

Summary and Conclusions:

Around 50% of the National Park is protected by some form of Natura designation. The identified effects are therefore considered to be international in scale.

The National Park is protected by a range of national and international designation and is therefore highly sensitive to land use and land management changes. The objective is the only one to return a potentially significant negative effect, which is associated with the growth of settlements, particularly those in Badenoch and Strathspey. Many of these settlements are located near areas protected by Natura sites, for example Anagach Woods near Grantown-on-Spey and Glenmore and Rothiemurchus forests near An Camas Mòr. In these areas, disturbance of species such as cappercaillie are likely through increased recreational activities.

Preferred options at glance:



Furthermore, many settlements are within close proximity to either the River Spey or the River Dee, both of which are designated as SACs and both of which are important habitats for freshwater pearl mussel.

It should be noted that the predicted significance of all effects is based on a no-mitigation scenario. Mitigation exists in the form of Plan policies and, in the case of cappercaillie, the Cappercaillie Framework (2015). However careful monitoring will be required to ensure that significant negative effects do not occur. See **Table 9** (p. 50) for summary.

In most areas the effects of the Plan are considered to be positive, with the promotion of landscape scale habitat management, and in particular woodland expansion, offering significantly positive effects.

SEA Issue / Topic

Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora

SEA Objective(s):

6b Maintain and improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits

SEA Sub-Objectives

- Maintain or improve the capacity of woodland to sequester and store carbon.
- Enhance the ecological functioning of woodland at a landscape scale.
- Avoid the loss of ancient woodland and veteran trees.
- Protect and enhance the environmental services woodland provide (e.g. flood alleviation and pollution mitigation).
- Protect and promote the recreational, cultural, landscape and economic value of woodland.

Significant Interrelationships

Climatic factors, air, water, soil, material assents, landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 22nd February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016.

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	The vision's objective to ensure that nature and people thrive together within the National Park positively contributes to all aspects of the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	Agriculture and forestry account for around 4% if the National Park's jobs. The sustainable management of woodlands is therefore of importance to the economic health of the area. It is likely therefore that the sustainable growth of the economy is likely to compliment overall aim of the SEA objective.	I	P	+	+	+	
2. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	The outcome's interest in creating a special place for nature and enhancing natural heritage positively contributes to all aspects of the SEA objective.	I	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
3. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences		The importance of the National Park's environment, which includes its woodlands, to visitor and learning experiences means that the outcome actively contributes to meeting the SEA objective.	I	P	+	+	+	
Policy Options								
Economic Growth and Diversification	Policy 1.1: Preferred option	Supporting the diversification of existing landbased businesses should encourage the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits.	I	P	+	+	+	
	Policy 1.1: Reasonable alternative	Supporting the diversification of existing landbased businesses should encourage the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits.	I	P	+	+	+	
Sustainable Growth	Policy 1.2: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	I	P	□	□	□	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Low Carbon Economy	Policy 1.3: Preferred option	Promoting high standards of sustainable design and the efficient use of materials supports the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits.	I	P	+	+	+	
	Policy 1.3: Reasonable alternative	Promoting high standards of sustainable design and the efficient use of materials supports the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits.	I	P	+	+	+	
Community Capacity	Policy 1.4: Preferred option	Supporting and building community capacity should help communities deliver projects such as woodland expansion or community woodland management.	I	P	+	+	+	
Land use	Policy 2.1: Preferred option	The management and use of land to deliver multiple benefits includes the sustainable management of woodland	I	P	++	++	++	
Enhance resilience	Policy 2.2: Preferred option	The option actively supports the enhancement of the ecological functioning of woodland at a landscape scale, the protection of ancient woodland and veteran trees and the enhancement of environmental services.	I	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	Policy 2.2: Reasonable alternative	The option actively supports the enhancement of the ecological functioning of woodland at a landscape scale, the protection of ancient woodland and veteran trees and the enhancement of environmental services.	I	P	++	++	++	
Landscape	Policy 2.3: Preferred approach	Trees, woods and forests contribute significantly to the National Park's special qualities. Therefore, the option may help Maintain and improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits.	I	P	+	+	+	
Habitat Quality	Policy 2.4: Preferred option	The option is explicit in its aim to enhance and expand woodland, especially montane, farm and riparian woodlands.	I	P	++	++	++	
Species	Policy 2.5: Preferred option	Positive effects may be gained from the enhancement and expansion of the woodland habitats associated with important species such as capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*).	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Wildlife Management	Policy 2.6: Preferred option	Supporting collaboration across ownership boundaries should help deliver a more sustainable approach to woodland management. The better management of deer is also likely to benefit the health of woodlands, while the better management of moorlands may help promote the expansion of montane woodlands.	I	P	+	+	+	
	Policy 2.6: Reasonable alternative	Supporting collaboration across ownership boundaries should help deliver a more sustainable approach to woodland management. The better management of deer is also likely to benefit the health of woodlands.	I	P	+	+	+	
Cultural Heritage	Policy 2.7: Preferred option	Woodlands are part of the National Park's historic and cultural heritage. By promoting opportunities to enjoy and celebrate the cultural heritage of the Park, the option should help promote the recreational, cultural and landscape value of woodlands.	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Design & Place	Policy 2.8: Preferred option	Trees and woodlands contribute significantly to the sense of place of many of the National Park's settlements. The option aims to support the retention and enhancement of local character, which should therefore include tress and woodlands.	I	P	+	+	+	
Visitor Experience	Policy 3.1: Preferred option	Providing high quality co-ordinated information setting visitor experiences in the context of the National Park and enhancing the network of ranger services should help promote the recreational, cultural, landscape and economic value of woodland.	I	P	+	+	+	
	Policy 3.1: Reasonable alternative	Providing high quality co-ordinated information setting visitor experiences in the context of the National Park and supporting the network of ranger services should help promote the recreational, cultural, landscape and economic value of woodland.	I	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Sustainable Tourism	Policy 3.2: Preferred option	The co-ordinated promotion and management of the National Park as a visitor destination and ensuring that facilities and infrastructure are designed to manage the effects of visitor pressures on the natural heritage communities should help promote the recreational, cultural, landscape and economic value of woodland.	I	P	+	+	+	
Access & Recreation	Policy 3.3: Preferred option	The option supports the protection and promotion of the recreational, cultural, landscape and economic value of woodland.	I	P	+	+	+	
Learning	Policy 3.4: Preferred option	Providing opportunities for inspiration, learning and understanding should help promote the recreational, cultural, landscape and economic value of woodland.	I	P	+	+	+	

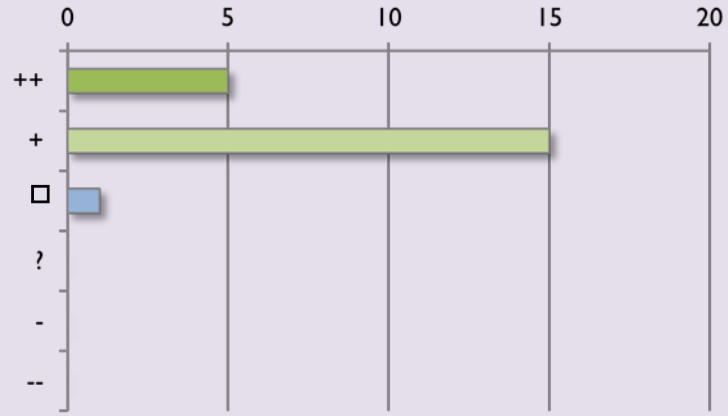
Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area	Woodlands are an important feature of the local economy, both as recreational and commercial assets. Investment in the Spatial Priority Area should therefore encourage the sustainable management of woodlands for these multiple benefits.	L	P	+	+	+	

Summary and Conclusions:

The National Park is home to large areas of woodland, much of which is identified as being semi-natural and / or ancient. This woodland act as important habitats and support a wealth of species. Consequently, many are protected by Natura designations. The identified effects are therefore considered to be international in scale.

The effects of the Plan are largely positive, with interventions such landscape scale habitat management offering strong means of supporting and enhancing the National Park's woodlands. Furthermore, the policy of woodland expansion aims to create new habitats and improve connectivity between existing ones.

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Landscape and Cultural Heritage

SEA Objective(s):

7 Protect and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the National Park's landscape and cultural and historic heritage

SEA Sub-Objectives

- Protect and enhance the National Park's special landscape qualities.
- Work towards creating landscapes that are ecologically functional.
- Minimise the loss of wildness.
- Reduce light pollution.
- Value, protect and enhance the historic and cultural environment and its assets.
- To promote high quality design based on a comprehensive understanding of landscape character and distinctiveness.
- Protect and enhance townscape and respect the existing pattern, form and setting of settlements.

Significant Interrelationships

Climatic factors, material assents, biodiversity, fauna and flora, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 22nd February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016.

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	The vision's objective to ensure that nature and people thrive together, encompassing both the natural and social aspects of landscape and cultural heritage, positively contributes to meeting all aspects of the SEA objective.	N	P	++	++	++	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	Given the reliance of the National Park's economy on the quality of its environment, it's implicit within the outcome that the protecting and enhancing the character, diversity and special qualities of its landscape and cultural and historic heritage will be an important aspect of achieving its aims.	N	P	+	+	+	
2. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	All aspects of the outcome actively and positively contribute to all aspects of the SEA objective.	N	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
3. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences		The importance of the National Park's environment, which includes its landscape, historic and cultural heritage, to visitor and learning experiences means that the outcome actively contributes to meeting the SEA objective.	N	P	+	+	+	
Policy Options								
Economic Growth and Diversification	Policy 1.1: Preferred option	The option's demand that the diversified economy draw upon the National Park's special qualities means that its landscape and cultural and historic heritage should be protected and valued, protected and enhanced. The option's aim to reduce the proportion of vacant and second homes will support community vibrancy, on which many cultural activities, including the use of minority languages, rely.	N	P	++	++	++	
	Policy 1.1: Reasonable alternative	The option's demand that the diversified economy draw upon the National Park's special qualities means that its landscape and cultural and historic heritage should be protected and valued, protected and	N	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
		enhanced.						
Sustainable Growth	Policy 1.2: Preferred option	Focusing growth on the existing main settlements of Aviemore, Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonnmore and the new settlement of An Camas Mòr concentrates the landscape impact of significant development in a small number of locations that are able to accommodate the scale proposed. Negative impacts can therefore be avoided at locations less able to accommodate development within the landscape.	N	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Low Carbon Economy	Policy 1.3: Preferred option	The development of renewable energy projects such as hydroelectric schemes and wind turbines can have a negative impact on landscape quality. The nature of the effect will however be dependent on the scale and location of development and therefore the overall effects of the policy are uncertain. It is however unlikely that the effects would ever be significant, as the option states that large scale wind turbines are not compatible with the landscape character of the National Park.	N	P	?	?	?	Policy 2.3 seeks to ensure that the management of the National Park results in the conservation and enhancement of the National Park's special qualities.
	Policy 1.3: Reasonable alternative	The development of renewable energy projects such as hydroelectric schemes and wind turbines can have a negative impact on landscape quality. The nature of the effect will however be dependent on the scale and location of development and therefore the overall effects of the policy are uncertain. It is however unlikely that the effects would ever be significant, as the option states that large scale commercial wind turbines are not compatible with the special qualities of the National Park.	N	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Policy 1.3: Preferred option.

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Community Capacity	Policy 1.4: Preferred option	Supporting and building the capacity of communities should enable communities to pursue project that contribute towards protecting and enhancing the National Park's special landscape qualities, creating landscapes that are ecologically functional, reducing light pollution, promoting high quality design, protecting and enhancing townscape and respecting the existing pattern, form and setting of settlements.	N	P	++	++	++	
Land use	Policy 2.1: Preferred option	The management and use of land to deliver multiple benefits should include the protection and enhancement of the special qualities of the National Park.	N	P	+	+	+	
Enhance resilience	Policy 2.2: Preferred option	Landscape scale habitat management techniques, such as woodland expansion, and other forms of habitat enhancement can have significant positive effects on landscape quality.	N	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	Policy 2.2: Reasonable alternative	Landscape scale habitat management techniques, such as woodland expansion, and other forms of habitat enhancement can have significant positive effects on landscape quality.	N	P	++	++	++	
Landscape	Policy 2.3: Preferred option	All aspects of the option actively and positively contribute to all aspects of the SEA objective.	N	P	++	++	++	
Habitat Quality	Policy 2.4: Preferred option	Landscape scale habitat management techniques, such as woodland expansion, and other forms of habitat enhancement can have significant positive effects on landscape quality.	N	P	++	++	++	
Species	Policy 2.5: Preferred option	The enhancement and expansion of habitats to support the National Park's important species is likely to have a positive effect on the character, diversity and special qualities of the area's landscape.	N	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Wildlife Management	Policy 2.6: Preferred option	Deer management may offer synergistic landscape benefits as reduced deer numbers enables the expansion and enhancement of woodlands, particularly montane woodlands, which contribute to the special qualities of the National Park. Better management of moorlands may also contribute in areas where muir-burn has been used inappropriately.	N	P	+	+	+	
	Policy 2.6: Reasonable alternative	Deer management may offer synergistic landscape benefits as reduced deer numbers enables the expansion and enhancement of woodlands, particularly montane woodlands, which contribute to the special qualities of the National Park.	N	P	+	+	+	
Cultural Heritage	Policy 2.7: Preferred option	The option actively and positively contributes to the protection and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the National Park's cultural and historic heritage.	N	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Design & Place	Policy 2.8: Preferred option	The option contributes towards promoting high quality design based on a comprehensive understanding of landscape character and distinctiveness, protecting and enhancing townscapes and respecting the existing pattern, form and setting of settlements.	N	P	++	++	++	
Visitor Experience	Policy 3.1: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	N	P	□	□	□	
	Policy 3.1: Reasonable alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	N	P	□	□	□	
Sustainable Tourism	Policy 3.2: Preferred option	Ensuring that facilities and infrastructure are designed to manage the effects of visitor pressures on the natural heritage should help protect the character, diversity and special qualities of its landscape and cultural and historic heritage.	N	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Access & Recreation	Policy 3.3: Preferred option	Improving recreational opportunities may have both positive and negative impacts on landscape quality. Improving and rationalising certain visitor destination may produce positive benefits as ad-hoc developments are redesigned. However, in sensitive areas, expansions to existing facilities, or the creation of new access arrangements may result in negative effects. The effect of the option is highly dependent on the nature, design and location of forthcoming proposals and therefore, the overall effects of the outcome are uncertain.	N	P	?	?	?	See mitigation for Policy 1.3: Preferred option.
Learning	Policy 3.4: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	N	P	☐	☐	☐	

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area	Given the reliance of the area's economy on the quality of its environment, it will be important that investment helps protect and enhance the character diversity and special qualities of its landscape and cultural and historic heritage.	L	P	+	+	+	

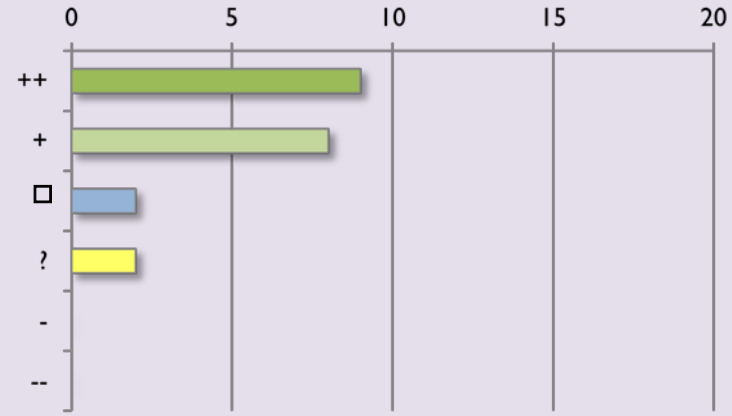
Summary and Conclusions:

The Cairngorms National Park is the UK's largest protected landscape and has a character that is well recognised for its special qualities. Any potential effects on landscape quality or the cultural and historic environment are therefore considered to be national in scale.

Overall, the Plan's landscape credentials are very high, with a large number of assessments predicting positive effects; combined these are likely to be significant.

Uncertainty is however identified around the improvement of infrastructure associated with recreation, with the creation of additional tracks for sporting practices being of particular concern. The effects of such developments are likely to be highly dependent on their nature, design and location. The Plan does however contain policies that are able to prevent development occurring where it might have a negative impact.

Assessments at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Population and Human Health

SEA Objective(s):

8a Promote opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities.

SEA Sub Objective

- Maintain the recreational value of the Cairngorms National Park.
- Promote and maintain opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and lead healthy lifestyles.
- Encourage walking or cycling as an alternative means of transportation.
- Empower people to experience, learn about and share the Cairngorms National Park's historic, cultural and natural heritage.
- Promote the improvement and maintenance of social and physical environments / facilities that provide opportunities to enhance health and wellbeing.

Significant Interrelationships

Landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 22nd February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016.

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	The vision explicitly supports the enjoyment of the National Park and therefore actively promotes opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities.	R	P	++	++	++	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	The importance of outdoor recreation, with its health and wellbeing benefits, to the National Park's economy means that outcome will support the aims of the SEA objective	R	P	+	+	+	
2. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	The outcome's interest in making the National Park a special place for people and enhancing cultural heritage actively promotes opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities.	R	P	++	++	++	
3. People enjoying the Park	The outcome actively supports the delivery of the SEA objective.	R	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
through outstanding visitor and learning experiences								
Policy Options								
Economic Growth and Diversification	Policy 1.1: Preferred option	The option's requirement that a diversified economy draw upon the National Park's special qualities means that it should help promote opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities.	R	P	+	+	+	
	Policy 1.1: Reasonable alternative	The option's requirement that a diversified economy draw upon the National Park's special qualities means that it should help promote opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Sustainable Growth	Policy 1.2: Preferred option	The co-location of housing and economic growth within the existing settlements of Aviemore, Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore will help reduce the reliance on private motor vehicles and encourage walking and cycling.	R	P	+	+	+	
Low Carbon Economy	Policy 1.3: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
	Policy 1.3: Reasonable alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Community Capacity	Policy 1.4: Preferred option	Building the capacity of communities to deliver their aspirations will enable communities to pursue the improvement and maintenance of social and physical environments / facilities that provide opportunities to enhance health and wellbeing.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Land use	Policy 2.1: Preferred option	The management and use of land for multiple benefits includes the use of land as a recreational resource. The option will therefore contribute towards maximising the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities.	R	P	+	+	+	
Enhance resilience	Policy 2.2: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
	Policy 2.2: Reasonable alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Landscape	Policy 2.3: Preferred option	The option aims to enhance opportunities to enjoy and experience the landscapes of the National Park, empowering people to experience, learn about and share it's historic, cultural and natural heritage.	R	P	+	+	+	
Habitat Quality	Policy 2.4: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Species	Policy 2.5: Preferred option	The option aims to engage people on species that are important to the National Park, empowering people to experience, learn about and share it's historic, cultural and natural heritage.	R	P	+	+	+	
Wildlife Management	Policy 2.6: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
	Policy 2.6: Reasonable alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	□	□	□	
Cultural Heritage	Policy 2.7: Preferred option	By The option empowers people to experience, learn about and share the Cairngorms National Park's historic and cultural heritage.	R	P	+	+	+	

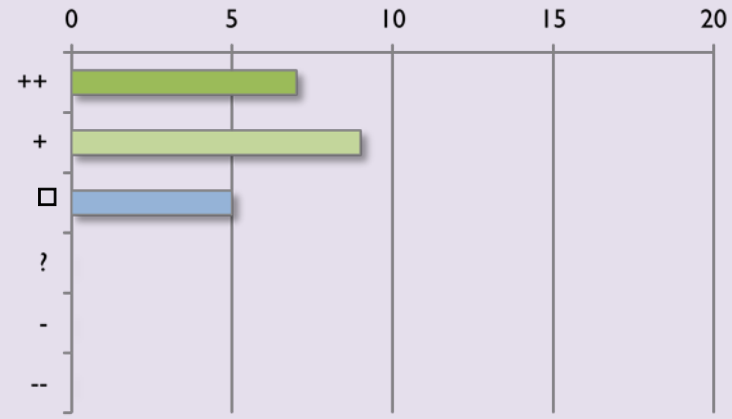
Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Design & Place	Policy 2.8: Preferred option	The option's aims to enable new development that contributes positively to a sense of place and to retain and enhance local character should create spaces that are legible, inclusive and pleasurable to be in, thus promoting opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities, such as walking and cycling.	R	P	++	++	++	
Visitor Experience	Policy 3.1: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
	Policy 3.1: Reasonable alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Sustainable Tourism	Policy 3.2: Preferred option	The option's overall aim to promote sustainable tourism un the National Park, should help promote opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities.	R	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Access & Recreation	Policy 3.3: Preferred option	The option will help maintain the recreational value of the Cairngorms National Park and promote and maintain opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and lead healthy lifestyles.	R	P	++	++	++	
Learning	Policy 3.4: Preferred option	The option will help empower people to experience, learn about and share the Cairngorms National Park's historic, cultural and natural heritage.	R	P	++	++	++	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area		The importance of outdoor recreation, with its health and wellbeing benefits, to the area's economy means that Spatial Priority Area should support the aims of the SEA objective.	L	P	+	+	+	

Summary and Conclusions:

Overall, the Plan offers strong recreational benefits, increasing opportunities physical recreation and enhancing health and wellbeing. Combined, these effects are likely to be significant, particularly when considering the population and housing growth projected and, in the case of An Camas Mòr, permitted in the local area.

Preferred options at glance:



SEA Issue / Topic

Population and Human Health

SEA Objective(s):

8b Support vibrant, safe and healthy communities.

SEA Sub-Objectives

- Ensure the population and household growth is accommodated in appropriate locations.
- Ensure a suitable affordable housing stock is available to meet needs.
- Promote the design of settlements that improve social fabric by removing barriers and creating opportunities for positive interactions.
- Promote the inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups.
- Redress imbalances of inequality, deprivation and exclusion.
- Provide easy access to high quality facilities and services.
- Ensure that adequate healthcare premises are provided throughout the National Park.
- Reduce burden of ill-health in the population.
- Reduce the causes of accidents.
- Ensure the quality of the built environment complements the high quality natural environment.

Significant Interrelationships

Climatic factors, air, water, soil, material assents, biodiversity, fauna and flora, landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

Assessor(s):

Dan Harris

Date of Assessment:

16th February 2016, 17th February 2016, 18th February 2016, 22nd February 2016, 19th April 2016, 20th April 2016.

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Vision: An Outstanding National Park, enjoyed by everyone, where nature and people thrive together	The vision's explicit objectives to support the enjoyment of the National Park by everyone, where nature and people thrive together actively contributes towards supporting vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	R	P	++	++	++	
Long Term Outcomes							
1. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities	The outcome actively supports the SEA objective's aims to support vibrant, safe and healthy communities and redress imbalances of inequality, deprivation and exclusion.	R	P	++	++	++	
2. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced	The outcome's interest in making the National Park a special place for people and enhancing cultural heritage actively contributes towards supporting vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	R	P	++	++	++	
3. People enjoying the Park	While not a direct intervention, the outcome's interest in outstanding visitor	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
through outstanding visitor and learning experiences		and learning experiences means that it should have some synergistic positive effects on the Sea objective.						
Policy Options								
Economic Growth and Diversification	Policy 1.1: Preferred option	The option actively supports the SEA objective's aims to support vibrant, safe and healthy communities and redress imbalances of inequality, deprivation and exclusion.	R	P	++	++	++	
	Policy 1.1: Reasonable alternative	The option actively supports the SEA objective's aims to support vibrant, safe and healthy communities and redress imbalances of inequality, deprivation and exclusion.	R	P	++	++	++	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Sustainable Growth	Policy 1.2: Preferred option	The option's aim to meet the majority housing need in the main settlements of Aviemore, Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore and the new settlement at An Camas Mòr but also to ensure that there is a flexible land supply in the smaller settlements should help deliver the SEA objective's aims to ensure the population and household growth is accommodated in appropriate locations and to ensure a suitable affordable housing stock is available to meet needs, thus supporting vibrant, safe and healthy communities. The concentration of growth in these locations will also help provide easy access to the National Park's main facilities and services.	R	P	++	++	++	
Low Carbon Economy	Policy 1.3: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	☐	☐	☐	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
	Policy 1.3: Reasonable alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Community Capacity	Policy 1.4: Preferred option	Supporting and building the capacity of communities to deliver their aspirations will actively support the maintenance and creation of vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	R	P	++	++	++	
Land use	Policy 2.1: Preferred option	The option's aim to support a long-term planned approach by land-based businesses to deliver environmental, economic and social benefits should help support vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	R	P	+	+	+	
Enhance resilience	Policy 2.2: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
	Policy 2.2: Reasonable alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Landscape	Policy 2.3: Preferred option	Enhancing opportunities to enjoy and experience the landscapes of the National Park can help promote inclusion and redress imbalances of inequality, deprivation and exclusion.	R	P	+	+	+	
Habitat Quality	Policy 2.4: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Species	Policy 2.5: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Wildlife Management	Policy 2.6: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
	Policy 2.6: Reasonable alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Cultural Heritage	Policy 2.7: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
Design & Place	Policy 2.8: Preferred option	The option will help promote the design of settlements that improve social fabric by removing barriers and creating opportunities for positive interactions and ensure the quality of the built environment complements the high quality natural environment.	R	P	++	++	++	
Visitor Experience	Policy 3.1: Preferred option	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	
	Policy 3.1: Reasonable alternative	There are no predicted effects associated with this option.	R	P	◻	◻	◻	

Outcome / Option		Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
					Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Sustainable Tourism	Policy 3.2: Preferred option	Ensuring visitor facilities and infrastructure are designed to manage the effects of visitor pressure on the natural heritage and communities of the National Park should support vibrant, safe and healthy communities.	R	P	+	+	+	
Access & Recreation	Policy 3.3: Preferred option	Providing high quality opportunities for access and recreation through ensuring a high quality network of core paths and promoting the health benefits of outdoor recreation should help provide easy access to facilities and services, redress imbalances of inequality, deprivation and exclusion promote the inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups and reduce burden of ill-health in the population.	R	P	++	++	++	
Learning	Policy 3.4: Preferred option	The option should help promote the inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups and redress imbalances of inequality, deprivation and exclusion.	R	P	+	+	+	

Outcome / Option	Nature of Effect	Scale	Permanence	Significance			Mitigation and Enhancement
				Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
Dalwhinnie and Laggan Spatial Priority Area	The purpose of the Spatial Priority Area actively supports the SEA objective's aims to support vibrant, safe and healthy communities and redress imbalances of inequality, deprivation and exclusion.	L	P	++	++	++	

Summary and Conclusions:
Overall, the Plan offers strong benefits for increasing inclusion and positive social interactions. Combined, these effects are likely to be significant, particularly when considering the population and housing growth projected and, in the case of An Camas Mòr, permitted in the local area.

Preferred options at glance: