

Cairngorms National Park  
Partnership Plan 2017-2022

**Habitats Regulations Appraisal  
Screening Report**

Post-Mitigation Screening Matrix

June 2016

THE  
BIG 9



Table I HRA Post Mitigation Screening Matrix

Plan Element	Relevant Natura Sites	Qualifying Interest affected	Likely Significant Effect (LSE)	Straight forward mitigation Possible?	Minor Residual Effect (MRE)	Screened out as having no LSE alone following mitigation?	General Policy Statement or too general in nature	Project not proposed by this plan	Aspect protective of the natural environment	Aspect not lead to change or does not promote development	Aspect has no conceivable effect or would not otherwise undermine conservation objectives	Aspect can have no significant effect	Aspect too general to know when, how or which site could be effected	
														Long Term Outcomes
1. A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities							✓							
2. A special place for people and nature with natural and cultural heritage enhanced							✓							
3. People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences							✓							
Plan Policies														
Policy 1.1 Grow the economy of the Park by strengthening existing business sectors, supporting business start-ups and diversification, and increasing the number of workers employed in the Park through:													✓	
a. supporting the diversification of existing landbased businesses;													✓	
b. encouraging growth of business sectors that draw on the special qualities of the Park such as sustainable tourism and food and drink							✓							
c. broadening the economic base of the Park into sectors such as creative industries, renewable energy, and making stronger links with higher and further education													✓	
d. increased provision for business land where there is an identified need													✓	

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and demand; and to support the use of land for small business, particularly within settlements													
e. slowing outward migration of young people; to encourage their return; and the inward migration of workers to the Park to meet business and community needs									✓				
f. provision of a housing land supply that meets identified need and demand, supports migration of young people and workers to the Park, and maintains vibrant communities;													✓
g. securing ways to reduce the proportion of vacant and second homes to support community vibrancy and ensure the overall housing supply best meets local needs										✓			
Policy 1.2 Enable sustainable patterns of settlement growth, infrastructure and communications by:													✓
a) consolidating the role of the existing main settlements of Aviemore, Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore, as well as new community at An Camas Mòr, as the most sustainable places for future growth and the focus for housing land supply while maintaining the integrity of designated sites;											✓		
b) providing any additional flexibility in future land supply for housing at small sites around a wider range of settlements;													✓
c) supporting sensitively designed improvements to the A9 and other trunk roads and main railway line as an integral part of enhancing the connectivity								✓					

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of the Highlands;													
d) planning and improving integrated and sustainable local transport networks that allow for safe travel off-road and link with public transport;													✓
e) planning and supporting improvements to the information technology network;										✓			
f) planning and supporting improvements to the mobile communications network that improve access to new generation technology and minimise the need for visually intrusive infrastructure.													✓
Policy 1.3 Support development of a low carbon economy, with a particular focus on:							✓						
a) increasing renewable energy generation, especially biomass and hydro, that is compatible with conserving the special qualities of the National Park and maintaining the integrity of designated sites. Large-scale wind turbines are not compatible with the landscape character or special landscape qualities of the National Park. They are considered inappropriate within the National Park or where outside the Park they adversely affect its landscape character or special landscape qualities;										✓			
b) supporting businesses and communities to use less energy, reduce emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy and plan for a changing climate;										✓			
c) maximising the benefits to communities through direct use of locally generated energy or where sold to the grid, reinvesting income to support										✓			

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community development;													
d) promoting high standards of sustainable design and efficient use of energy and materials in construction										✓			
Policy 1.4 Support and build the capacity of communities to deliver their aspirations, with a particular focus on:							✓						
a) supporting communities to plan for their own futures, develop and implement projects, engage the support of partners and share good practice;							✓						
b) supporting innovative approaches to providing affordable housing to meet local needs;													✓
c) aligning community planning processes to simplify support to communities;							✓						
d) engaging communities effectively in the long term management of the National Park and in projects or programmes that affect them							✓						
Policy 2.1 The management and use of land should deliver multiple benefits – delivering the best possible combination of the National Park Partnership Plan’s long-term outcomes, always ensuring that the integrity of designated sites is maintained; and that the special qualities are conserved and, where possible, enhanced. This will be supported by:										✓			
a) a long-term planned approach by landbased businesses to delivering environmental, economic and social benefits;										✓			

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b) support for land managers to plan and deliver environmental and social benefits underpinned by sound economic businesses;											✓		
c) research to support an ecosystems approach to management											✓		
Policy 2.2 Enhance the resilience of habitats, species and land use to climate change with a particular focus on:							✓						
a) collaborating on land use and flood management, including natural flood management, through river catchment management plans;				✓		✓					✓		
b) enhancing the health and connectivity of habitats;									✓				
c) securing effective management of peat and carbon-rich soils.									✓				
Policy 2.3 Conserve and enhance the special landscape qualities with a particular focus on:							✓						
a) conserving and enhancing wildness qualities;							✓						
b) maintaining and promoting dark skies;											✓		
c) enhancements that also deliver habitat improvements;									✓				
d) enhancing opportunities to enjoy and experience the landscapes of the Park.							✓						
Policy 2.4 Conserve and enhance habitat quality and connectivity, with a particular focus on:									✓				

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a) woodland enhancement and expansion, especially montane, farm and riparian woodlands;									✓				
b) wetland enhancement;									✓				
c) delivering a combination of ecosystem services including natural flood management, carbon sequestration and storage, timber and food production.													✓
Policy 2.5 Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National park is most important, with a particular focus on:									✓				
a) species whose conservation status is in decline or at risk;									✓				
b) tackling and reducing the impacts of invasive non-native species;									✓				
c) engaging people on species that are important in the National Park							✓						
Policy 2.6 Support collaboration across ownership boundaries and between interests to reduce conflicts in species and wildlife management including:							✓						
a) deer and moorland management;							✓						
b) wildlife crime;							✓						
c) species reintroductions.							✓						
Policy 2.7 Conserve and enhance the cultural heritage that helps to create the sense of place and identity of communities within the Park by:							✓						

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a) protecting archaeological sites and their settings and promoting understanding of their significance;										✓			
b) ensuring appropriate advice and investigation for archaeology is used to inform proposals for land use change;											✓		
c) protecting and enhancing the built heritage and designed landscapes;										✓			
d) promoting opportunities to enjoy and celebrate the cultural heritage of the Park.							✓						
Policy 2.8 Enhance the design and sense of place in new development and existing settlements, in particular:							✓						
a) enabling new development which contributes positively to the sense of place;													✓
b) promoting a high standard of sustainable design, energy efficiency, sustainably sourced materials and construction in new development;											✓		
c) supporting the retention and enhancement of local character;											✓		
d) facilitating the rehabilitation of redundant rural buildings and recycling of resources;													✓
e) ensuring road upgrades and improvements respond to local landscape character.													✓
Policy 3.1 Provide a welcoming and high quality National Park experience for all by:							✓						



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a) delivering a visitor/customer experience that spans organisational boundaries;											✓		
b) providing high quality co-ordinated information setting visitor experiences in the context of the National Park;											✓		
c) enhancing the provision of ranger services to deliver visitor welcome and resource protection;							✓						
d) building on the National Park brand and the promise it delivers.											✓		
Policy 3.2 Promote sustainable tourism management with a particular focus on:							✓						
a) co-ordinated promotion and management of the Cairngorms National Park as a visitor destination;							✓						
b) ensuring high quality facilities and infrastructure are designed to manage the effects of visitor pressures on the natural heritage and communities.								✓					
c) implementing and reviewing the strategy and action plan for sustainable tourism in the Cairngorms National Park.							✓						
Policy 3.3 Provide high quality opportunities for access and recreation, with a particular focus on:													✓
a) ensuring a high quality functional network of core paths and long distance routes;													✓
b) promoting the health benefits of outdoor recreation, including through the Active Cairngorms outdoor access strategy;													✓

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c) identifying areas where particular management measures are needed in relation to delivering a high quality visitor experience, safeguarding sensitive environments and maintaining the integrity of designated sites;									✓				
d) promoting responsible behaviour in enjoying and managing access.											✓		
Policy 3.4 Provide opportunities for inspiration, learning and understanding through engaging with people, with a particular focus on:													✓
a) young people and other under-represented groups;													✓
b) opportunities to deliver the curriculum for excellence;													✓
c) promoting a sense of shared ownership and responsibility towards Scotland's National Parks and rural environment.											✓		