

Cairngorms National Park Local Development  
Plan 2020

**Strategic Environmental Assessment  
Scoping Report September 2016**

Appendix 4: Glossary

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### Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)

If a local authority finds any places where the air quality objectives are not likely to be achieved, it must declare an Air Quality Management Area there. This area could be just one or two streets (National Records of Scotland, 2016), or it could be much bigger. Then the local authority will put together a plan to improve the air quality in this area.

### Alternatives

These are different ways of achieving the objectives of the plan. Alternatives are also referred to as options.

### Baseline

Data that describes issues and condition at the inception of the SEA. Serves as a starting point for measuring impacts, performance etc. and is an important reference for evaluations

### Biodiversity

The variety of life on Earth at all its levels, from genes to ecosystems, and the

ecological and evolutionary processes that sustain it.

### Biogenetic Reserve

Biogenetic Reserves are areas designated under the European network of 'living laboratories' representative of various types of natural environment found in Europe.

### Buildings at Risk

Buildings, usually of some historic or cultural importance, that are considered to be at risk or under threat and placed on the Buildings at Risk Register.

### Built Heritage

Built heritage represents the historical layers of our built environment in places made of brick, plaster, wood, metal and stone. Built heritage includes cathedrals and cemeteries, factories and fences, houses and hotels, museums and markets. It includes areas, precincts and streetscapes. It is the physical evidence of our cultural development.

### Carbon Sink

A natural resource that takes in and stores more carbon than it releases. Important examples are peat bogs, trees and woodlands.

### Catchment Area

An area of land bounded by watersheds draining into a river, basin, or reservoir. Also known as a catchment basin, drainage area or drainage basin.

### Climate Change

A long term change in the 'average weather' experienced by a given region. 'Average weather' includes features such as temperature, wind patterns and precipitation.

### Compensation

Providing for the equivalent of what has been lost. In biodiversity, compensation may be bigger or more than the actual original habitat due to the time delay, often years, for the compensation habitat to reach the size/quality of the original habitat.

**Conservation Areas**

Conservation areas are areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Planning authorities may designate areas that are of special architectural or historic interest as Conservation Areas

**Consultation Authorities**

Organisations with a particular status for involvement in the SEA under the Regulations. In Scotland these are the Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland).

**Contaminated Land**

Land that has been polluted or harmed in some way making it unfit for safe development and usage unless cleaned.

**Corbett**

Corbetts are Scottish mountains that are 2,500–3,000 ft (762.0–914.4 m) high with a relative height of 500ft (152.4 m).

**Core Path**

Core paths are paths, waterways or any other means of crossing land to facilitate, promote and manage the exercise of access rights under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, and are identified as such in access authority (either a Local or National Park Authority) core paths plans.

**Cultural Heritage**

Relates to both the physical artefacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present for the benefit of future generations. Includes Scheduled Monuments and other significant archaeological sites and landscapes, listed buildings, conservation areas, historic gardens and designed landscapes included in the published inventory and others of national and corporate importance which are likely to be included.

**Cultural Landscape**

A landscape that is taken to embrace any kind of human activity that can be related to landscape. It includes the contrived and sometimes pre-eminent expressions of

culture, like art or literature, in which the landscape may be depicted or described, as well as the prosaic and commonplace expressions, like the choice of building materials, which were perhaps not intended to create something valuable or special.

**Cumulative Effects**

The effects that result from changes caused by a project, plan, programme or policy in association with other past, present or reasonably foreseeable future plans and actions. Cumulative effects are specifically noted in the SEA Directive in order to emphasise the need for broad and comprehensive information regarding effects.

**Ecological Connectivity**

The natural link for species/genetic information to travel between habitats/populations to prevent/reverse the effects of habitats fragmentation and to allow species to adapt better to climate change.

**Ecological Footprint**

The ecological footprint is a measure of human demand on the Earth's ecosystems, the amount of natural capital used each year.

**Ecosystem services**

Ecosystem services are the products and services, such as oxygen production, water purification, carbon sequestration etc, which humans receive from functioning ecosystems. These services and products are provided by the natural environment when it is in good condition. For example, a peat bog in good condition can provide services of water purification, carbon sequestration and flood alleviation.

**Enhancement**

Measures envisaged to maximise the benefits of the positive actions of implementing the plan. Biodiversity enhancements are an improvement to a habitat/species population over and above what is already there. This could be through increasing/restoring habitats or increasing/improving opportunities for species.

**Environment**

Mostly used in an ecological sense to cover natural resources and the relationships between them. However, more broadly it is the surroundings or conditions in which all persons, animals, or plants live or operate.

**Environmental Assessment**

A tool for integrating environmental considerations into decision making by assessing the significant environmental effects. In the SEA Directive, an environmental assessment means “the preparation of an Environmental Report”, the carrying out of consultations, the taking into account of the Environmental Report and the results of the consultations in decision making and the provision of information on the decision”, in accordance with the Directive’s requirements.

**Environmental Report**

Document required by the SEA Directive as part of an environmental assessment, which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme.

**European Sites**

For the purpose of the SEA, European sites comprise Special Areas for Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Ramsar sites and Biogenetic Reserves.

**Flood**

The temporary inundation of land not normally covered by water.

**Flood Prevention**

Works, including man-made walls, channels, embankments and flood storage areas that are designed to protect an area from flooding or to reduce its effects.

**Flood Risk**

A combination of the probability of a flood and of the potential for adverse consequences associated with a flood for human health, the natural and historic environment and economic activity.

**Geoconservation**

Geoconservation involves recognising, protecting and managing sites and landscapes identified as important for their rocks, fossils, minerals, or other geological or geomorphological features of interest.

**Geodiversity**

Geodiversity is the variety of rocks, minerals, fossils, landforms, sediments and soils, together with the natural processes which form and alter them.

**Geological Conservation Review (GCR) Sites**

The GCR identifies those sites of national and international importance that show the scientific elements of the Earth heritage of Britain. These sites display sediments, rocks, fossils, and features of the landscape that make a special contribution to our understanding and appreciation of Earth science and the geological history of Britain.

**Geomorphology**

The branch of geology that is concerned with the structure, origin, and development of the topographical features of the earth's surface.

**Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)**

An Assessment of the potential effects of PPS on one or more International sites, both within the Responsible Authority's

boundary and any sites that could be affected outside the boundary. The assessment looks at whether a PPS is likely to have a significant effect on an International site, alone or in combination. If so, an Appropriate Assessment is carried out to see whether the PPS would have an adverse effect on site integrity. If it is found that the PPS is likely to have a significant negative impact on any of the sites, the plan will need to be amended accordingly.

**Historic Environment**

The historic environment includes ancient monuments, archaeological sites and landscapes, historic buildings, townscapes, parks, gardens and designated landscapes and features, both statutory and non-statutory. It also includes the location of historic features in the landscape and the patterns of past use.

**Historic Landscape**

A landscape which displays a myriad of features that are the result of the activities of the people who used and shaped the land to serve their needs in the past: they reflect

the beliefs, attitudes, traditions and values of those people.

**Household**

A household is defined as:

- one person living alone, or
- a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room or dining area.

**Household Waste**

Waste from a domestic property, caravan, residential home or from premises forming part of a university, school or other educational establishment.

**Indicator**

A means by which change in a system or to an objective can be measured.

**International Sites**

See European Sites.

**Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland**

The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland is a listing of gardens

and designed landscapes of national artistic and/or historical significance.

### **The Inventory of Historic Battlefields**

The Inventory of Historic Battlefields is a heritage register listing nationally significant battlefields.

### **Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)**

JSA is an unemployment benefit that can be claimed by those looking for work. It can be used as an indicator for employment rates.

### **Landfill**

The permanent disposal of waste into the ground, by the filling of man-made voids or similar features, or the construction of landforms above ground level (land-raising).

### **Landscape Character**

The distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements that occur within a particular landscape and how these are perceived. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landforms, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement.

### **Landscape Character Areas**

Single unique areas that are the discrete geographical expression of a particular landscape type.

### **Local Authority**

In Scotland, a Unitary Authority with the responsibility for responsible for all local government functions within its area.

### **Listed Buildings**

A building or structure of special archaeological or historic interest. Listed buildings are graded A, B or C, with Grade A being the highest. Listing can include the interior and exterior of a building an any building or permanent structure. Historic Scotland is responsible for designating listed buildings in Scotland.

### **Local Development Plan**

The Local Development Plan is a statutory plan which sets out policies and specific proposals for the development and use of land in the county for approximately 5 years and provides strategic direction for the next 20. Local Development Plans were introduced in 2004 following the

introduction of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006.

### **Mitigation**

Measures to avoid, reduce or offset significant adverse effects.

### **Monitoring**

Activities undertaken after the decision is made to adopt the plan or programme to examine its implementation. For example, monitoring to examine whether the significant environmental effects occur as predicted or to establish whether mitigation and enhancement measures are implemented and are working.

### **Muirburn**

Prescribed burning used to improve spring grazing for sheep and deer, but is deployed mainly on driven grouse moors as rotational strip burning ('strip muirburn') of heather moorland to maintain a mosaic of young and old heather to provide forage and cover respectively for red grouse.

### **Munro**

A Munro is a mountain in Scotland with a height over 3,000ft (914.4 m).

### **National Designations**

For the purpose of the SEA, National Designations comprise areas statutorily designated by the UK government i.e. National Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

### **National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP)**

The Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP) 2017-2022 will be the management plan for the Cairngorms National Park as required under section 11 of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000.

### **National Nature Reserves (NNR)**

NNRs are statutory nature reserves designed under Part III of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

### **National Scenic Area (NSA)**

NSAs were designated in 1980/1981 in recognition of their outstanding scenery. Along with Scotland's two National Parks, they represent our nation's finest landscapes

### **Natura 2000**

Under the EU Habitats Directive, SPAs and SACs are together intended to form a European-wide network of protected areas designed to maintain or restore the distribution and abundance of species and habitats of EU interest. Many areas qualify for both SPA and SAC designation and as a matter of Government policy Ramsar Convention sites are afforded the same level of protection

### **Objective**

A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends.

### **Options**

See Alternatives.

### **Placemaking**

A design process aimed at creating integrated communities that are based upon high quality, distinct, accessible areas, which will help, generate strong a sense of community enabling healthy lifestyles.

### **Planned Towns**

A town that was carefully planned from its inception and is typically constructed in a previously undeveloped area.

### **Plans, Policies and Strategies**

Part of Stage A of the SEA process, the 'scoping' stage, requires a thorough review of relevant plans, policies and strategies (PPSs) to be completed. This review is used to inform the SEA process, to ensure the plan is informed by up to date information and is also based on sound evidence.

### **Potentially Vulnerable Area (PVA)**

Potentially vulnerable areas are areas identified by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in accordance with section 13 of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 where SEPA considers that significant flood risk exists or is likely to occur.

### **Prime Quality Agricultural Land**

Prime Quality Agricultural Land is land identified as being of Class 1, 2 or 3.1 in the land capability classification for agriculture

as developed by the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute.

### **Protected Areas**

Protected areas represent the very best of Scotland's landscapes, plants and animals, rocks, fossils and landforms. They take the form of local, national and international designations, including National Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites.

### **Quantitative Reasoning**

Quantitative reasoning is the application of mathematical concepts and skills to solve real-world problems.

### **Ramsar Site**

Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention. The designation recognises the fundamental ecological functions of these areas as well as their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value.

### **Responsible Authority**

Under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, the authority by which

or on whose behalf the plan is prepared, or its successor.

### **Scheduled Monuments**

A Scheduled Monument is a monument of national importance that the Scottish Ministers have given legal protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. There are over 200 classes of monuments from prehistoric standing stones and burial mounds, through the many types of medieval site (e.g. castles, mnastaries, abandoned farmsteads and villages) to more the recent result of human activity, such as collieries and wartime pillboxes.

### **Scoping Report**

The Scoping Report summarises the findings of Stage A of the SEA process and outlines such matters as identifying other relevant plans, policies and programmes, baseline information, environmental issues (problems and opportunities).

### **Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)**

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across all of Scotland in a consistent way. It allows effective targeting of policies and funding where the aim is to wholly or partly tackle or take account of area concentrations of multiple deprivation.

### **Secondary Effects**

This concept recognises that achieving economic growth has to be done in such a way that does not harm the environment or squander the natural resources we depend on, whilst at the same time distributing the wealth this creates equally to improve quality of life now and in the future.

### **Significant Environmental Effects**

There is no statutory definition of significance. However, for the purposes of this assessment a significant effect has been defined as an effect that, either in isolation or in combination with others, should, in the opinion of the assessor, be taken into account in the decision-making process.



**Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**

Designated under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, SSSIs are those areas of land and water that SNH considers to best represent Scotland's natural heritage - its diversity of plants, animals and habitats, rocks and landforms, or a combinations of such natural features

**Soil Sealing**

The covering of the soil surface with impervious materials as a result of urban development and infrastructure construction. Sealed areas are lost to uses such as agriculture or forestry while the ecological soil functions are severely impaired or even prevented (e.g. soil working as a buffer and filter system or as a carbon sink). In addition, surrounding soils may be influenced by change in water flow patterns or the fragmentation of habitats.

**Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)**

SACs are strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive.

**Special Protection Areas**

SPAs are strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Birds Directive.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment**

Strategic Environmental Assessment is a systematic method for considering the likely environmental effects of certain PPS. It is required under the SEA Directive.

**Sustainable Development**

This concept recognises that achieving economic growth has to be done in such a way that does not harm the environment or squander the natural resources we depend on, whilst at the same time distributing the wealth this creates equally to improve quality of life now and in the future.

**Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)**

An approach to managing rainfall and run off in developments, with a view to replicating natural drainage. SuDS also aim to reduce pollution, control flooding and often provide environmental enhancements.

**Synergistic Effects**

A type of cumulative effect where two or more impacts combine to produce a complex interaction where the effect may be larger or smaller than component impacts. Synergistic effects are specifically noted in the SEA Directive in order to emphasise the need for broad and comprehensive information regarding the effects.

**SEA Directive**

Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

**Waste**

Waste is any material or object that is no longer wanted and requires disposal. If a material or object is re-usable, it is still classed as waste if it has first been discarded.

**Waste Hierarchy**

A framework for securing a sustainable approach to waste management. The Revised Waste Framework Directive 2010 outlines a new hierarchy which should act

as a 'priority order' in waste prevention, legislation and policy. The amended hierarchy is Prevention; then Preparing for reuse; Recycling; Other recovery including energy recovery; and finally Disposal.

**Wellbeing**

A holistic, subjective state which is present when a range of feelings, among them energy, confidence, openness, enjoyment, happiness, calm and caring, are combined and balanced.

**Wild Land**

Large areas whose largely semi-natural landscapes show minimal signs of human influence. These areas can be mountains and moorland, stretches of undeveloped coast or large areas of peat bog.