Cairngorms
NATIONAL PARK
Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh

PLANNING

Cairngorms National Park Local
Development Plan 2020

# Strategic Environmental Assessment
# Environmental Report January 2019

## Report

# Cover Note

## PART 1

**To:** SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

or

SEA Gateway
2 H (South)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

## PART 2

An SEA Environmental Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled:

The Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2020

The Responsible Authority is:

The Cairngorms National Park Authority

## PART 3

**Please tick the appropriate box**

☑ The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. ***or***

☐ The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. ***or***

☐ The PPS does not require an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, as this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 5 week timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

**PART 4**

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**Job Title**

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**PART 5**

**Signature** (electronic signature is acceptable)

**Date** 24/01/2019

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## List of Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| 2000 Act | National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 |
| 2005 Act | Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 |
| ABD | Aberdeenshire |
| AQMA | Air Quality Management Area |
| BARR | Buildings at Risk Register |
| BGS | British Geological Society |
| CA | Consultation Authority |
| CNAP | Cairngorms Nature Action Plan |
| CNP | Cairngorms National Park |
| CNPA | Cairngorms National Park Authority |
| EC | European Commission |
| EEC | European Economic Community |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| EU | European Union |
| FWPM | Freshwater Pearl Mussel |
| GCR | Geological Conservation Review |
| GP | General Practitioner |
| Ha | Hectares |
| HES | Historic Environment Scotland |
| JSA | Job Seekers Allowance |
| LDP | Local Development Plan |
| MW | Megawatts |
| $NH_3$ | Ammonia |
| NMVOC | Non-methane volatile organic compound |
| NNR | National Nature Reserve |
| $NO_2$ | Nitrogen dioxide |
| $NO_x$ | Nitrogen oxides |
| NPF | National Planning Framework |
| NPPP | National Park Partnership Plan |
| NRS | National Records of Scotland |
| NSA | National Scenic Area |
| $O_3$ | Ground-level ozone |
| ODPM | Office of the Deputy Prime Minister |
| PKC | Perth and Kinross Council |
| $PM_{2.5}$ | Particulate matter with particles with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less |
| $PM_{10}$ | Particulate matter with particles with a diameter of 10 micrometres or less |
| PPS | Plans, Programmes and Strategies |
| pSPA | Potential Special Protection Area |
| PVA | Potentially Vulnerable Area |
| RCAHMS | Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland |

| | |
|---|---|
| RSPB | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds |
| SAC | Special Area of Conservation |
| SEA | Strategic Environmental Assessment |
| SEPA | Scottish Environment Protection Agency |
| SIMD | Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivations |
| SM | Scheduled Monument |
| SNH | Scottish Natural Heritage |
| $SO_2$ | Sulphur dioxide |
| SPA | Special Protection Area |
| SPP | Scottish Planning Policy |
| SSSI | Site of Special Scientific Interest |
| SW | Scottish Water |
| SWWI | Strathspey Wetlands and Waders Initiative |
| TTWA | Travel To Work Area |
| WFD | Water Framework Directive |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| UKBAP | United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan |
| UK GAP | United Kingdom Geodiversity Action Plan |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Education |

A glossary of terms may be found in **Appendix 8** (p. 340).

# Non-Technical Summary

## Introduction

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan (LDP) is a statutory requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. SEA is a systematic process developed to ensure that potential environmental impacts of Plans, Programmes and Strategies (PPS) (both positive and negative) are assessed and considered during the course of their preparation.

This section presents a non-technical summary of the SEA Environmental Report of the Propose Plan. The Environmental Report contains the findings of the environmental assessment, which establishes the likely significant (positive and negative) environmental effects of implementing a plan.

## Summary of the LDP Process

The LDP is the spatial planning document that will set out the National Park's policies and proposals for the use and development of land across the Cairngorms National Park over the 5 to 10 years from its adoption. It will mainly be concerned with the use of land and will guide future development to the most appropriate locations.

The LDP will provide clear guidance on what development will or will not be allowed and where, and it will address a wide range of policy issues, including housing, shopping, business, industry, transport, recreation, and built and natural heritage.

## Summary of the SEA Process

SEA aims to:

- integrate environmental factors into LDP preparation and decision making;
- improve LDP and enhance environmental protection;
- increase public participation in decision making; and
- facilitate openness and transparency of decision making.

The SEA process is divided into five main stages which are:

- Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope;
- Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects;
- Stage C: Preparing the Environmental Report.
- Stage D: Consulting on the draft LDP and its Environmental Report; and
- Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the LDP.

The Environmental Report sets out the findings of Stages C and D. To assist this process of the work has been categorised into 8 topic areas designed to provide a wide and detailed coverage of the environmental issues across National Park. These topics are:

- Topic 1: Climatic Factors
- Topic 2: Air
- Topic 3: Water
- Topic 4: Soil
- Topic 5: Material Asset

- Topic 6: Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora
- Topic 7: Landscape and Cultural Heritage
- Topic 8: Population and Human Health

## Summary of SEA Objectives

Proposed SEA Objectives have been developed as a result of the review of PPS (**Policy Context**, p. 11) and baseline information (**Baseline**, p. 12). Identifying objectives is an important part of the SEA process as these will be used as the primary tool for testing the emerging LDP to ensure it will not result in any significant environmental effects. This process is referred to as the assessment stage (Stage B). At the Scoping Stage of the SEA, it is only necessary to publish 'proposed' SEA Objectives to allow the Consultation Authorities to offer feedback during the consultation of the Scoping Report.

The SEA Objectives have been separated into 'main' and 'sub' objectives. It is important that the assessment process is proportional, practical and manageable. Consequently, the assessment process will utilise the 'main' SEA Objectives, but take account of the SEA Sub-Objectives. This distinction is important to ensure the assessment work is practical and achievable. The proposed SEA Objectives for the SEA of the Cairngorms National Park LDP are shown in **Table 4** (p. 21).

## Summary of the Assessment

Generally, the Policies scored well in the assessment (**Table 6** and **Table 8**). Only one likely significant adverse effects was identified, which was a site based issue and appropriate mitigation identified.

Some minor adverse effects were predicted, these mostly being linked to the settlement strategy and economic growth, and the land-take associated with these. These effects have not resulted in the need to make significant changes to the Plan's proposals at this stage. Mitigation measures have been identified that address potential negative effects (**Table 11**).

Table 1 Summary of SEA's conclusions.

| Long Term Significance | Count | % |
|---|---|---|
| ++ | 51 | 7.7% |
| + | 116 | 17.6% |
| □ | 427 | 64.8% |
| ? | 46 | 7.0% |
| - | 18 | 2.7% |
| -- | 1 | 0.2% |

## Summary of Next Steps

The SEA Environmental Report will be consulted on for a period of 10 weeks between 25th January 2019 and 4th April 2019. The development of the final LDP for examination will take place in summer 2019. Following consultation on the Environmental Report, the CNPA will consider any comments received and will amend the SEA work where appropriate. This will take place in May / June 2019.

Future stages of the SEA process will take place alongside the development of the LDP. Details of the LDP process can be

found in the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan - Development Plan Scheme, which is updated on an annual basis and is available on the CNPA's website:

www.cairngorms.co.uk

The SEA is an ongoing process and will need to be updated at regular intervals throughout the work. For further information contact:

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## Introduction

> "*The objective of this Directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.*"
>
> Directive 2001/42/EC

### What is a Strategic Environmental Assessment?[1]

As part of the preparation of the Cairngorms Local Development Plan (LDP), the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) is required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is a systematic method for considering the likely environmental effects of certain Plans, Programmes or Strategies (PPS). SEA aims to:

- integrate environmental factors into PPS preparation and decision making;
- improve PPS and enhance environmental protection;
- increase public participation in decision making; and
- facilitate openness and transparency of decision making.

The SEA process is divided into five main stages which are:

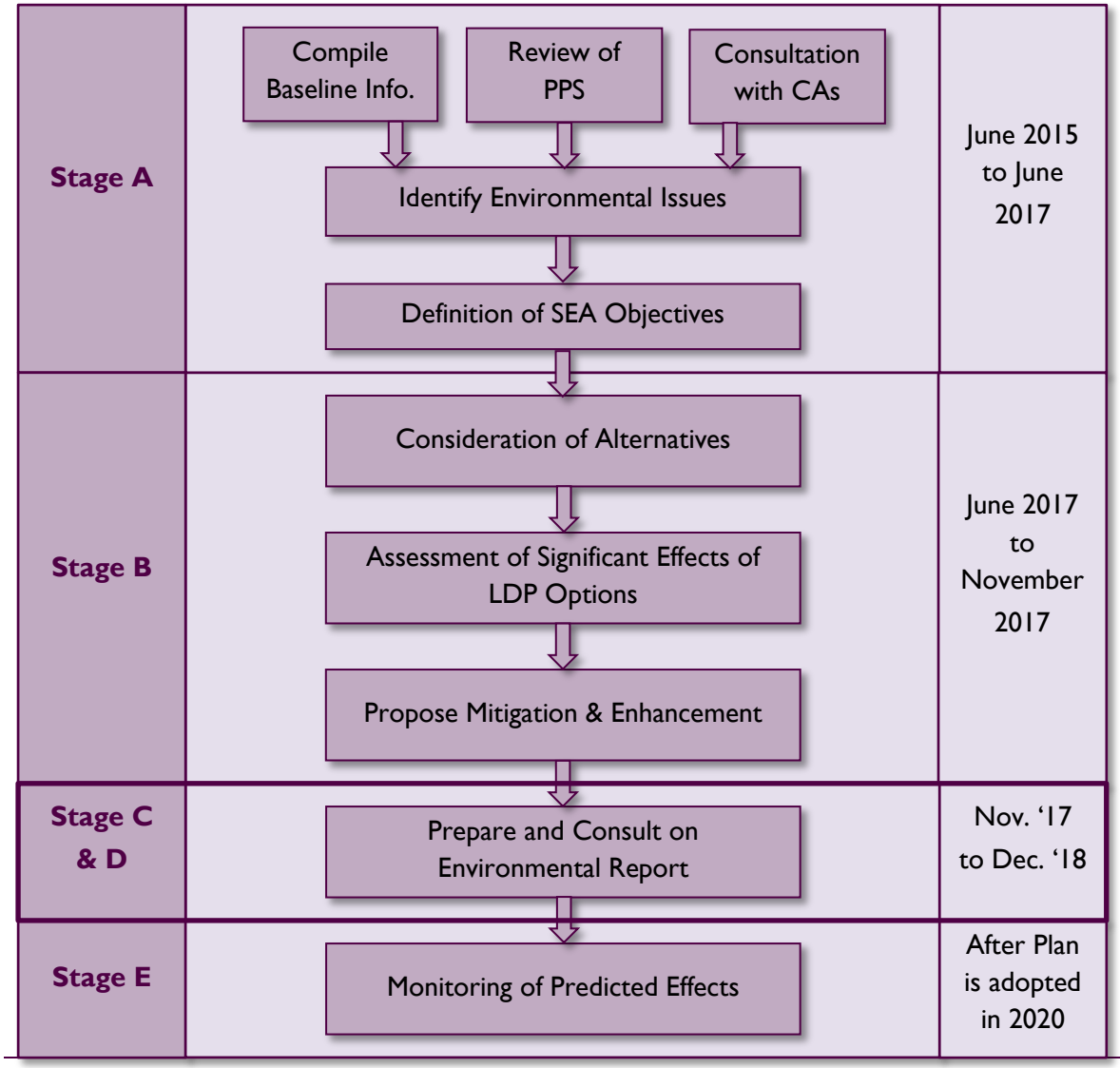
- Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope;
- Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects;
- Stage C: Preparing the Environmental Report.
- Stage D: Consulting on the draft LDP and its Environmental Report; and
- Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the LDP.

**Figure 1** provides details of the actions required during these stages as well as the indicative timetable for their completion alongside the production of the LDP.

It is also necessary for the CNPA to undertake a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) in accordance with the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 (as amended). The HRA will be reported separately during the LDP process.

[1] A glossary of terms used in this report is provided in Appendix 8.

Figure 1 Stages of the SEA of the Cairngorms National Park LDP and its indicative timetable; current stage is outlined in bold.




## What is an Environmental Report?

> "*The assessment establishes the likely significant (positive and negative) environmental effects of implementing a plan. The effects of a plan and any potential reasonable alternatives should be considered at this stage, along with viable mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or offset adverse effects.*"
>
> SEA Guidance
> (Scottish Government, 2013)

This is the 'Environmental Report' for the SEA of the Cairngorms National Park LDP. It represents **Stages C and D** of the SEA process (see **Figure 1**). The Environmental Report contains the findings of the environmental assessment, which establishes the likely significant (positive and negative) environmental effects of implementing a plan.

## The Cairngorms National Park

The Cairngorms National Park was designated in 2003 by the Scottish Parliament because it satisfied the conditions for a National Park as set out in the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000.

The National Park is the UK's largest, with a total land area of some 4,528km$^2$. Dominated by mountain plateau, it bastes extensive moorland, forest and straths and is home to around 25% of the UK's threatened bird, animal and plant species. Approximately 18,000 people live in the National Park and it welcomes around 1.4 million visitors each year.

The general purpose of the National Park Authority (NPA), as set out in the 2000 Act, is to ensure that the National Park aims are collectively achieved in a co-ordinated way. The CNPA is therefore an enabling organisation that must work with and through other bodies to bring added value to the management of the National Park, to achieve the four aims.

**The aims of the National Park are:**

- to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area;
- to promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area;
- to promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public;
- to promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.

If it appears to the authority that there is conflict between the first aim and the others, the first aim must be given greater weight.

## Planning in the Cairngorms National Park

Planning in the Cairngorms National Park is unique. It involves the CNPA working alongside the five local authorities which operate in the Park – Aberdeenshire, Angus, Highland, Moray and Perth & Kinross. The LDP together with any Supplementary Guidance sets the detailed policies and proposals for the whole of the National Park. It is the document against which all planning applications will be judged.

Planning applications are submitted to the relevant local authority in the normal manner. The local authority ensures all the necessary information is supplied and registers receipt of the application. The CNPA is informed by the local authority and then decides whether to call-in the application. Only applications which are of general significance to the aims of the Park are called in and determined by the CNPA. The local authority determines those applications not called-in. The Local Development Plan applies to all planning applications, regardless of whether they are called-in or not.

## The Local Development Plan

The CNPA is required to prepare an LDP for the Cairngorms National Park under the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. This is the second LDP for the Cairngorms National Park, the first and current LDP having been adopted on 27th March 2015. The Act requires the LDP to set out where most new development will happen and include policies that will guide decision making on planning applications. It also requires that the LDP be updated every five years, therefore once adopted, this LDP will update and replace the current one.

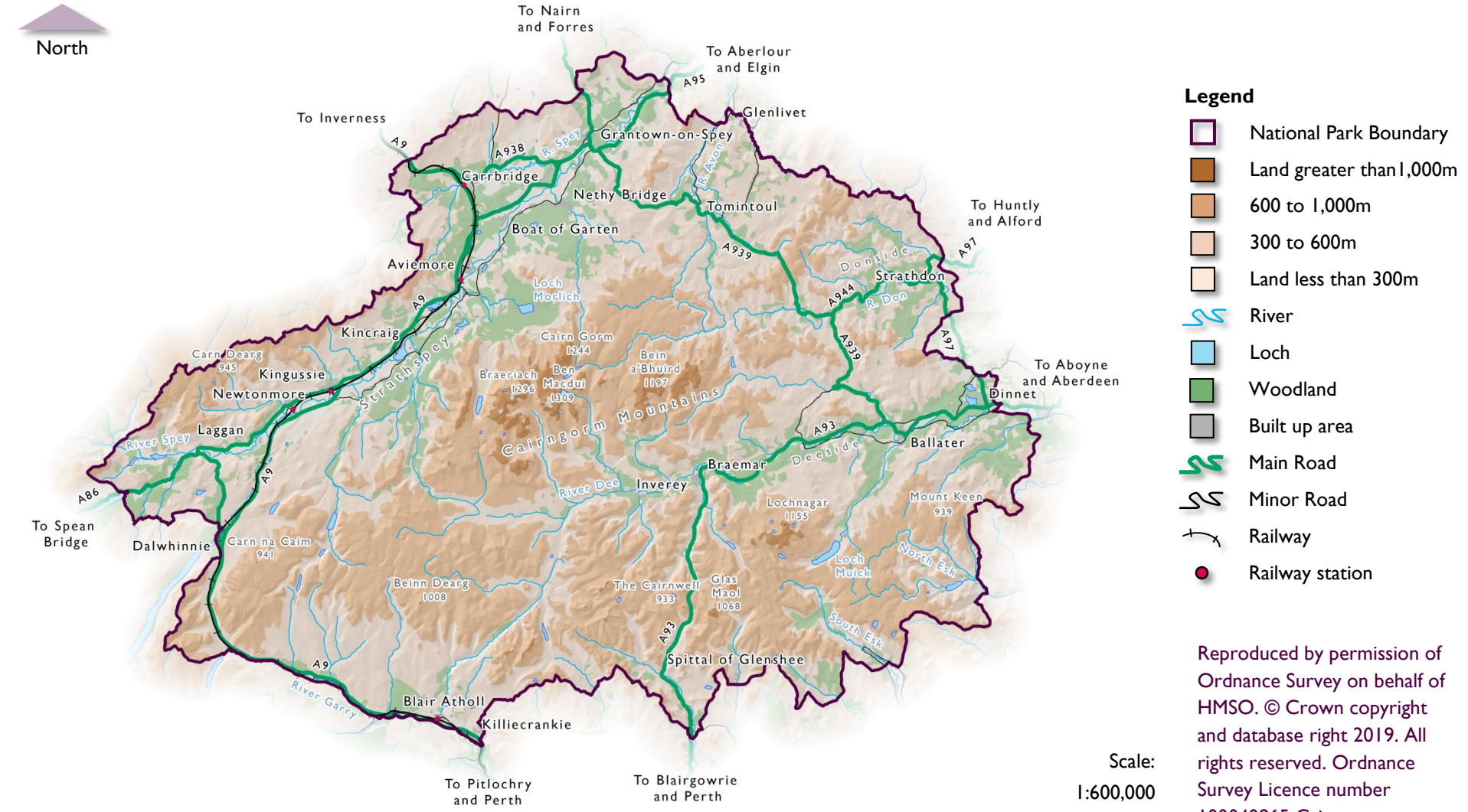
The LDP falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. It has potential to generate significant environmental effects and so a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is being undertaken.

The key facts relating to the proposed LDP are set out in **Table 2**.

Table 2 Key Facts about the LDP.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Responsible Authority** | Cairngorms National Park Authority |
| **Title of PPS** | Local Development Plan |
| **Purpose of PPS** | The Local Development Plan (LDP) is a land use planning document that will set out the National Park's policies and proposals for the use and development of land across the Cairngorms National Park over at least the next 10 years. It will mainly be concerned with the use of land and will guide future development to the most appropriate locations.<br><br>The LDP will provide clear guidance on what development will or will not be allowed and where, and it will address a wide range of policy issues, including housing, shopping, business, industry, transport, recreation, and built and natural heritage. |
| **What prompted the PPS?** | Planning Authorities are required to prepare a LDP under Section 2 of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006.<br><br>Planning Authorities must from time to time review their NPPs and, if thought fit, prepare an amended Plan. The review, which must take place at least every 5 years, should focus on what has to change rather than invite the re-opening of settled issues.<br><br>Therefore, a review of the current LDP 2015 must now take place if the reviewed LDP is to be adopted within the set timescale. |
| **Subject** (e.g. Planning, transport etc.) | The LDP is concerned with spatial planning and due to its strategic nature will have influence over a wide range of subjects, including:<br><br>➢ Housing development;<br>➢ Economic development;<br>➢ Infrastructure development;<br>➢ Natural Heritage;<br>➢ Historic and cultural heritage;<br>➢ Transport;<br>➢ Waste management; |

| | |
|---|---|
| | ➢ Energy;<br>➢ Resources;<br>➢ Leisure and recreation;<br>➢ Tourism. |
| **Summary of the nature / content of PPS** | Taking its strategic direction from the National Park Partnership Plan 2017-2922, the LDP will set out the planning policies for the whole of the Cairngorms national Park.<br><br>These policies will guide development by identifying sites for specific uses as well as setting out policies coverings such issues as affordable housing, economic development and nature conservation. |
| **Period Covered by PPS** | 2020-2029. |
| **Frequency of Updates** | Document reviewed every 5 years. |
| **Area covered by PPS** | 4,528 $km^2$ |
| **Map included?** | A map of the Cairngorms National Park is provided on page 10. |
| **Are there any proposed PPS objectives** | Full PPS objectives are not yet fully developed, however Main Issues have been identified and preferred and alternative options have been created. |
| **Copy of attached objectives** | None to attach. |




Scale:
1:600,000



Figure 2 Area covered by the PPS.

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## Policy Context

> "*A plan or programme may be influenced in various ways by other plans or programmes, or by external environmental protection objectives such as those laid down in policies or legislation. These relationships enable the Responsible Authority to take advantage of potential synergies and to deal with any inconsistencies and constraints.*"
>
> A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive (ODPM, 2005)

The LDP must have appropriate regard to a wide range of national and international laws, policy and strategy. A review of Plans, Programmes and Strategies (PPS) has therefore been conducted in accordance with the Scottish Government's SEA Guidance (2013) and the ODPM Guidance on SEA (2005). This is an important part of the SEA process as it ensures the work is consistent with up to date policy, is informed by robust information and also helps in the process of identifying environmental issues, which are discussed further under the Baseline section of this report (p. 12).

### Review Findings

A preliminary review of all the PPSs considered is presented in **Appendix 1**. The PPSs are categorised according to their international, national and local scales and are accompanied by information on their purpose, relationship with the LDP and the SEA Issue they relate to.

The SEA Environmental Report will need to consider the PPSs that are active at the time of writing and therefore this aspect of the SEA process will be kept under continual review.

## Baseline

> "*Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring environmental effects and helps to identify environmental problems and alternative ways of dealing with them.*"
>
> A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive (ODPM, 2005)

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that information should be provided on the "relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme" and "the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected". This section aims to describe the environmental context within which the LDP operates and the constraints and targets that this context imposes on the LDP.

Baseline information serves two purposes, it helps to identify the issues on which the SEA should focus, and provides a benchmark against which the performance of the Plan (and the accuracy of any predictions) can be assessed. As well as showing the current situation the baseline data shows where possible the situation in the past and projections for the future, in order to indicate trends. It is important to recognise that where information on trends is available, the extrapolation of trends into the future can change in response to changes in legislation or other interventions.

An environmental baseline for the Cairngorms National Park is presented in **Appendix 2** of this report. The baseline is presented using a topic based approach, which reflects the Issues set out within Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act:

- Topic 1: Climatic Factors (p. 125);
- Topic 2: Air (p. 134);
- Topic 3: Water (p. 138);
- Topic 4: Soil (p. 155);
- Topic 5: Material Assets (p. 166);
- Topic 6: Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora (p. 185);
- Topic 7: Landscape and Cultural Heritage ( p. 259); and
- Topic 8: Population and Human Health (p. 288).

While it is recognised that all topics will inter-relate to some degree, it is beyond the scope of this assessment to describe them all in full detail. However, the report does highlight important inter-relationship where they exist and describes their effects under the most relevant topic.

A summary of the baseline may be found in **Table 3**.

## Summary of the Environmental Baseline and Main Issues

Table 3 Summary of baseline information and main issues; see Appendix 2 for full details.

| SEA Topic | Summary of environmental baseline |
|---|---|
| **Climatic Factors**<br><br>Pages 125 - 133 | ➢ Historic trends show an increase in minimum and maximum temperatures and rainfall and a reduction in the number of days of frost.<br>➢ Climate change projections offer a central estimate of a:<br>➢ 2.4°C increase in mean annual temperature,<br>➢ 2.7°C increase in mean summer temperature,<br>➢ 2.1°C increase in mean winter temperature,<br>➢ 0.07% increase in mean annual precipitation, but with a<br>➢ 13.5% decrease in mean summer precipitation, and a<br>➢ 2% decrease in mean winter precipitation.<br>➢ Per capita carbon emissions in the form of $CO_2$ are estimated to have decreased from 10.3 tonnes in 2006 to 7.7 tonnes to 2014. |
| **Air**<br><br>Pages 134 - 137 | ➢ Air quality is relatively high within the National Park.<br>➢ No Air Quality Management Areas within National Park.<br>➢ Most air pollution associated with transport, with emissions of $PM_{10}$ and $NO_2$ highest along the National Park's main roads, with the A9 being the greatest contributor. |
| **Water**<br><br>Pages 138 - 154 | ➢ Water quality is relatively high within the National Park.<br>➢ In 2017 the overall status of waterbodies within and overlapping the Cairngorms National Park was:<br>➢ 7.8% High,<br>➢ 60.1% Good,<br>➢ 18.3% Moderate,<br>➢ 11.1% Poor, and |

| SEA Topic | Summary of environmental baseline |
|---|---|
| | ➢ 2.6% Bad.<br>➢ 2014 saw:<br>➢ 4.6% of waterbodies improve in overall status,<br>➢ 92.8% remain the same, and<br>➢ 2.6% degraded in overall status.<br>➢ Data from the Spey and Dee indicates a general trend for higher annual maximum instantaneous peak flows.<br>➢ There is insufficient capacity in the water and sewage treatment works that serve the National Park to meet the projected level of housing growth for the Plan period.<br>➢ Flood risk: there are nine Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) within the National Park. The estimated total average annual cost of damage in these areas is £1,071,000. |
| **Soil**<br>Pages 155 - 165 | ➢ The Cairngorms National Park does not contain any mapped areas of Prime Agricultural Land.<br>➢ Around 1,700km$^2$ of peat soils within the National Park.<br>➢ Soil erosion represents a risk to soils with high organic content (such as peat) over large areas of the National Park. |
| **Material Assets**<br>Pages 166 - 184 | ➢ 39 GCR sites within or overlapping the National Park boundary. Combined they cover an area of around 592 km$^2$.<br>➢ CNPA has permitted around 4.2MW of renewable energy since 2010 although data gaps remain in the exact level of energy generated in the National Park.<br>➢ Household waste produced is reducing, while the recycling rate is increasing.<br>➢ In 2015, the Cairngorms National Park:<br>➢ Produced 10,080 tonnes of household waste,<br>➢ Recycled 4,608 tonnes of household waste (45.8%).<br>➢ Transport infrastructure, while good along the National Park's main corridors, is poor elsewhere in the National Park, resulting in long drive times and high levels of deprivation in SIMD domains relating to access.<br>➢ Rail use is on the increase, although the reliance on private transport remains high.<br>➢ The National Park's internet infrastructure is currently being upgraded, although plans are yet to be confirmed for a |

| SEA Topic | Summary of environmental baseline |
|---|---|
| | third of the exchanges servicing the area. |
| **Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora**<br>Pages 185 - 258 | ➢ Cairngorms National Park is home to 25% of the UK's rare animal, insect, lichen, fungi and insect species.<br>➢ There are around 1,200 species considered to be important for nature conservation within the National Park.<br>➢ National Park contains 11 National Nature Reserves (NNRs), covering an area of around 513 $km^2$.<br>➢ National Park contains 59 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), covering an area of around 1,128 $km^2$. Of these:<br>  ➢ 40 are Biological SSSIs, covering around 449 $km^2$.<br>  ➢ 9 are Geological SSSIs, covering an area of around 9 $km^2$.<br>  ➢ 10 are Mixed SSSI's, covering an area of around 671 $km^2$.<br>➢ Of the 50 SSSIs with biological notifiable interests, 28 have at least one notifiable interest that is in unfavourable condition.<br>➢ 5 SSSIs, namely Aldclune and Invervack Meadows, Blair Atholl Meadow, Craigendarroch, Creag Dhubh and Garbh Choire, have no notifiable interests in favourable condition.<br>➢ National Park contains 39 sites within the Natura 2000 Network. Of these:<br>  ➢ 23 are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), covering around 1,083 $km^2$.<br>  ➢ 16 are Special Protection Areas (SPAs), covering an area of around 2,536 $km^2$.<br>➢ 16 SACs have at least one qualifying feature that is in unfavourable condition.<br>➢ 4 SACs, namely Monadhliath, River South Esk, Kinveachy Forest and The Maim, have no qualifying features in favourable condition.<br>➢ 33 Annex I (Habitats Directive) habitats occur in the National Park.<br>➢ 10 Annex II (Habitats Directive) species are native to, and normally resident in, the National Park.<br>➢ 9 SPAs have at least one qualifying feature that is in unfavourable condition.<br>➢ 3 SPAs, namely Craigmore Wood, Creag Meagaidh and Muir of Dinnet have no qualifying features in favourable condition.<br>➢ 35 Annex I (Birds Directive) species can be found within the Cairngorms National Park. |

| SEA Topic | Summary of environmental baseline |
|---|---|
| | ➢ National Park contains 3 Ramsar Sites, covering an area of around 15 $km^2$.<br>➢ National Park contains one Biogenetic Reserve at Muir of Dinnet.<br>➢ National Park contains 2 Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Reserves at Loch Garten and Insh Marshes.<br>➢ National Park contains the most extensive tracts of Caledonian forest in Britain.<br>➢ Native tree species comprise around 79% of the National Park's woodlands, representing a quarter of the entire Scottish native woodland resource.<br>➢ Aspen dominated woodland is unique to the Cairngorms National Park, the stands are small and total less than 350ha concentrated in Strathspey and Deeside.<br>➢ Around 340 $km^2$ of the National Park's woodlands are identified as being ancient according to SNH's Ancient Woodland Inventory.<br>➢ Around 160 $km^2$ of this has also been identified as being semi-natural.<br>➢ Some of the UK's best ancient floodplain woodlands are located in the Cairngorms National Park.<br>➢ Caledonian Pinewood is at threat from habitat loss lack of regeneration, limited deadwood and poor structural diversity.<br>➢ Approximately 1,120ha of new native woodland was created between 2013 and 2017.<br>➢ Conifer plantations make up 50% of the woodland resource and are of limited value for biodiversity.<br>➢ Lack of regeneration, poor structural diversity and grazing pressure has reduced the biodiversity value of upland oak.<br>➢ Capercaillie populations in Scotland have declined significantly from an estimated 20,000 birds in 1970 to around 1,285 at the most recent national winter survey in 2009/10.<br>➢ The National Park holds a significant proportion of the national Capercaillie population – at least 75% of the national number of lekking males, with the majority in Strathspey.<br>➢ The Strathspey capercaillie population is crucial to the long-term survival of the species in the UK.<br>➢ The National Park is one of the last strongholds for red squirrel and Scottish Wildcat in the UK.<br>➢ The National Park is one of the most important sites for breeding waders due to the combination of wetlands, wet grassland and low-intensity mixed farming. |

| SEA Topic | Summary of environmental baseline |
|---|---|
| | ➢ Wetlands have historically been drained for agriculture, suffered water shortages as a result of over abstraction and impoundment and been subject to pollution pressure from diffuse and point sources. The remaining wetlands are now often small and fragmented.<br>➢ Wet grasslands are under threat from over-grazing and poaching by livestock, cutting for hay at critical wader breeding times and drainage to create productive agricultural land.<br>➢ Rivers, lochs and the species they support have been affected by large scale impoundments which have a hydrological impact and also affect sediment dynamics, create barriers to fish passage, diffuse and point source pollution and invasive species<br>➢ The freshwater pearl mussel is declining dramatically throughout its range. Mussel populations have been affected by multiple issues, including wildlife crime, habitat degradation and declining water quality.<br>➢ The Cairngorms Mountains support a rich arctic montane flora.<br>➢ Montane and moorland habitat under threat from climate change, trampling, erosion and disturbance.<br>➢ Upland heathland under threat from drainage issues.<br>➢ Blanket bog under threat from erosion, which is likely to be a significant cause of carbon emissions.<br>➢ Montane scrub is under threat from overgrazing and burning.<br>➢ Small fragmented areas of lowland and upland hay meadows, which are locally important for biodiversity and include many species of orchid and waxcap fungi, still exist in places. |
| **Landscape and Cultural Heritage**<br><br>Pages 259 - 287 | ➢ At 4,528 square kilometres, and comprising 6% of Scotland's land area, the Cairngorms National Park is the UK's largest protected landscape.<br>➢ National Park contains 3 National Scenic Areas (NSA), with two, namely the Cairngorm Mountains NSA and Deeside and Lochnagar NSA, located entirely within the National Park's boundary.<br>➢ Combined, the two main NSAs cover an area of around 1,072 $km^2$, which equates to just under 25% of the National Park's land area.<br>➢ Around 2,100 $km^2$ (46%) of the Cairngorms National Park has been identified as Wild Land Areas. |

| SEA Topic | Summary of environmental baseline |
|---|---|
| | ➢ There are 106 Scheduled Monuments recorded within the National Park.<br>➢ 'The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland' lists 10 gardens and designed landscapes within the National Park.<br>➢ There are 2 Inventory Battlefields within the National Park.<br>➢ There are 5 historic planned towns within the National Park.<br>➢ There are 6 Conservation Areas within the National Park.<br>➢ There are around 753 Listed buildings or structures within the National Park, with:<br>  ➢ 56 in Category A,<br>  ➢ 341 in Category B, and<br>  ➢ 356 in Category C.<br>➢ There are 17 buildings on the Buildings at Risk Register within the National Park.<br>➢ There are around 370 Gaelic and 5,400 Scots speakers living in the National Park. |
| **Population and Human Health**<br><br>Pages 288 - 333 | ➢ In 2017, the estimated population of the National Park was 18,605, with 9,214 males and 9,391 females.<br>➢ The National Park has a relatively high proportion of people within the 10 to 29 and 55 to 74 age cohorts compared to other rural areas.<br>➢ National Park has a working age population of approximately 11,355 people (51.9% of total population), with 5,065 males and 5,155 females.<br>➢ Those of pensionable age numbered 4,119 (23.8% of total population) with 1,378 males and 1796 females.<br>➢ Since 2001, the National Park has experienced a significant net increase in its resident population, rising by approximately 2,272 persons (a growth of 13.9%).<br>➢ Greatest rate of population growth occurred in Aviemore, which increased by around 1,200 people since 2001.<br>➢ Population projections for the National Park estimate that between 2016 and 2041, the population is projected to drop from 19,006 to 18,332 (an increase of around 4%).<br>➢ Over the projection period: |

| SEA Topic | Summary of environmental baseline |
|---|---|
| | ➢ Number of children aged under 16 are projected to decrease by 20% from 2,933 to 2,362.<br>➢ The working age population is projected to decrease by 8% from 11,612 to 10,710.<br>➢ People of pensionable age are projected to rise by 18% from 4,461 to 5,260.<br>➢ People over the number of people aged 75 are projected to rise by 81% from 1,794 to 3,242.<br>➢ Household projections suggest that households are set to increase from 8,615 in 2016 to 9,178 in 2041, an increase of 7%.<br>➢ The average household size is projected to fall from 2.14 people in 2016 to 1.93 people in 2041.<br>➢ Around 76.8% of the 16+ Census population had NVQ1 level and above (Scotland 73.2%), and around 30.8% had NVQ4 and above (Scotland 26.1%).<br>➢ Around 95% of people classed as being economically active were in employment in 2011, which is slightly higher than the Scottish level of 91.9%.<br>➢ Of the economically inactive in 2011, who numbered 5,377 (around 33.9% of the 16+ population), 75.1% were inactive due to retirement.<br>➢ The level of full time (72.8%) and part time (27.2%) employee jobs (excludes self-employed, government, trainees and HM Forces) is generally consistent with Scotland as a whole.<br>➢ Unemployment levels are low, with only 225 people claiming Job Seekers Allowance in Q 4 of 2012.<br>➢ Gross median wage is relatively low in the National Park, but gross household income is above the Scottish median.<br>➢ Estimated life expectancy of the National Park is 79 for males and 82.3 for females.<br>➢ Low levels of people with long term health problems or disabilities and high levels of people with good health within the National Park.<br>➢ Low levels of overall deprivation within the National Park, with 3 data zones being in the 20% least deprived in Scotland.<br>➢ Extensive public footpath network, including 1,073km of Core Path. |

# Environmental Assessment

## SEA Objectives

> "*The review of relevant environmental objectives can be used to construct a framework of objectives against which a plan can be assessed. This can identify whether a plan supports wider environmental objectives or whether there are any environmental gaps.*"
>
> SEA Guidance
> (Scottish Government, 2013)

This section of the Scoping Report sets out the CNPA's proposed approach to assessment of the LDP.

Proposed SEA Objectives have been developed as a result of the review of PPS (**Policy Context**, p. 11) and baseline information (**Baseline**, p. 12) as well as the responses to the consultation on the Scoping Report (**Appendix 4**, p.340). Identifying objectives is an important part of the SEA process as these will be used as the primary tool for testing the emerging LDP to ensure it will not result in any significant environmental effects.

The proposed SEA Objectives are thematically based and are designed to cover the environmental assets that the Plan could potentially affect. It is important to recognise that environmental effects are rarely confined to a single a single issue, therefore it has been highlighted where significant inter-relationships occur. The SEA Objectives proposed here therefore represent the scope of the assessment that will be undertaken to identify potential environmental effects of the Cairngorms National Park LDP.

It is important that the assessment process is proportional, practical and manageable. Consequently, the assessment process will utilise the 'main' SEA Objectives, but take account of the SEA Sub-Objectives. This distinction is important to ensure the assessment work is practical and achievable. It should also be noted that not all SEA Sub-Objectives will not be relevant to every aspect of the Plan. Therefore, in the interest of proportionality, where they are not relevant, they will not be considered as part of the assessment process.

The Objectives and their relationship with the SEA Issues identified for the National Park are outlined in **Table 4**, along with any associated sub objectives. The main objectives have been tested for their compatibility with one another, the findings of which can be found in the section on the **Compatibility of Objectives** (p. 28). The framework in which they will be utilised is set out on page 30.

Table 4 Proposed SEA Objectives.

| SEA Topic | No. | SEA Objective | SEA Sub-Objectives | Inter-relationships |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Climatic Factors | 1a | Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | ➢ Reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases with particular focus on emissions from buildings, transport, energy generation and industry (especially $CO_2$).<br>➢ Encourage energy conservation and higher energy efficiency.<br>➢ Encourage investment in cleaner technologies.<br>➢ Support investment in suitable renewable energy sources.<br>➢ Decouple increase in GDP and greenhouse gas emissions.<br>➢ Encourage the appropriate local sourcing of materials, resources and food produce. | ➢ Air<br>➢ Water<br>➢ Soil<br>➢ Material Assets<br>➢ Population and Human health |
| | 1b | Increase resilience to the effects of climate change | ➢ Ensure that new development is appropriately located, having considered the potential effects of future climate conditions.<br>➢ Ensure infrastructure and buildings are designed to cope with future climate conditions.<br>➢ Encourage climate change adaptation through green infrastructure.<br>➢ Encourage existing infrastructure and buildings to adapt to cope with future climate conditions. | ➢ Water<br>➢ Soil<br>➢ Landscape and Cultural Heritage<br>➢ Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora<br>➢ Population and Human health |

| SEA Topic | No. | SEA Objective | SEA Sub-Objectives | Inter-relationships |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Air | 2 | Protect and enhance air quality | ➢ Reduce levels of the UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. $NO_2$, $PM_{10}$, $SO_2$).<br>➢ Reduce levels of ground-level ozone ($O_3$).<br>➢ Reduce the need for travel, through appropriate siting of new developments and provision of public infrastructure.<br>➢ Reduce negative effects of power generation, industry and transport on local air quality.<br>➢ Contribute towards reducing levels of stratospheric ozone depletions.<br>➢ Encourage appropriate cleaner technology for power generation, industry and transport.<br>➢ Reduce levels of acid deposition.<br>➢ Reduce levels of ammonia deposition. | ➢ Water<br>➢ Soil<br>➢ Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora<br>➢ Population and Human health |
| Water | 3a | Reduce flood risk | ➢ Safeguard the functional floodplain.<br>➢ Encourage the restoration of a natural flood regime.<br>➢ Promote land uses and habitat changes that will help to decrease run-off, stabilise slopes, and attenuate flows.<br>➢ Ensure new development is not located in areas of high or medium flood risk.<br>➢ Ensure new development does not increase flood risk on site or elsewhere.<br>➢ Increase the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in both new and refurbished developments.<br>➢ Avoid loss of soils to non-permeable surfaces.<br>➢ Reduce reliance on flood mitigation and hard engineered solutions. | ➢ Climatic factors<br>➢ Soil<br>➢ Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora<br>➢ Landscape and Cultural Heritage<br>➢ Population and Human health |

| SEA Topic | No. | SEA Objective | SEA Sub-Objectives | Inter-relationships |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | ➢ Increase provision to manage stormwater. | |
| | 3b | Maintain and improve the quality of water resources | ➢ Ensure the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water is maintained or improved.<br>➢ Maintain and improve the ability of river catchments to store water.<br>➢ Conserve public water supply.<br>➢ Reduce demand for water and minimise unnecessary water use.<br>➢ Reduce diffuse pollution from urban and rural areas.<br>➢ Limit land use related pollution (particularly nitrates) on water resources. | ➢ Climatic factors<br>➢ Soil<br>➢ Material Assets<br>➢ Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora<br>➢ Population and Human health |

| SEA Topic | No. | SEA Objective | SEA Sub-Objectives | Inter-relationships |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Soil | 4 | Minimise contamination and safeguard and improve soil and peat quality. | ➢ Maintain or improve the productive capacity of soils.<br>➢ Maintain or improve the ability of farmland in the Park to sustainably produce high quality local and seasonal food.<br>➢ Avoid increased diffuse pollution, particularly $SO_2$ and $NO_2$ emissions and nitrate pollution from agriculture and other economic activities.<br>➢ Protect and enhance soil quantity (including non-chemical soil functions and processes such as permeability) and quantity, especially of carbon rich soils.<br>➢ Maintain, restore or improve the carbon storage capacity of peat and soils.<br>➢ Minimise carbon emissions from land use (e.g. muirburn).<br>➢ Avoid and reduce contamination of soils.<br>➢ Promote the regeneration and redevelopment of brownfield and contaminated land.<br>➢ Take account of soil function.<br>➢ Minimise soil erosion.<br>➢ Minimise soil sealing.<br>➢ Minimise soil compaction. | ➢ Climatic factors<br>➢ Water<br>➢ Material Assets<br>➢ Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora<br>➢ Landscape and Cultural Heritage<br>➢ Population and Human health |

| SEA Topic | No. | SEA Objective | SEA Sub-Objectives | Inter-relationships |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Material Assets | 5 | Encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets | ➢ Promote decoupling of resource use from economic prosperity.<br>➢ Encourage sustainable use of natural resources e.g. water, timber, aggregates.<br>➢ Minimise the use of finite resources and promote higher resource efficiency and the use of secondary and recycled materials.<br>➢ Promote the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle.<br>➢ Value, conserve and enhance geodiversity. | ➢ Climatic factors<br>➢ Air<br>➢ Water<br>➢ Soil<br>➢ Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora<br>➢ Landscape and Cultural Heritage<br>➢ Population and Human Health |
| Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora | 6a | Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity, distinctive native species and habitats | ➢ 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 qualifying features.<br>➢ Avoid damage or fragmentation of designated sites, habitats and protected species and encourage their enhancement and connection.<br>➢ Conserve and enhance the viability and diversity of distinctive species and habitats and their connectivity.<br>➢ Avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases.<br>➢ Conserve, enhance and create appropriate natural habitats and wider biodiversity within and outwith settlements.<br>➢ Encourage innovative methods of producing biodiversity gain for both new and existing developments.<br>➢ Reduce the ecological footprint of the Cairngorms National Park. | ➢ Climatic factors<br>➢ Air<br>➢ Water<br>➢ Soil<br>➢ Material Assets<br>➢ Landscape and Cultural Heritage<br>➢ Population and Human Health |

| SEA Topic | No. | SEA Objective | SEA Sub-Objectives | Inter-relationships |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | ➢ Enable people to access and appreciate the Cairngorms National Park's natural heritage more. | |
| | 6b | Maintain and improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits | ➢ Maintain or improve the capacity of woodland to sequester and store carbon.<br>➢ Enhance the ecological functioning of woodland at a landscape scale.<br>➢ Avoid the loss of ancient woodland and veteran trees.<br>➢ Protect and enhance the ecosystem services woodland provide (e.g. flood alleviation and pollution mitigation).<br>➢ Protect and promote the recreational, cultural, landscape and economic value of woodland. | ➢ Climatic factors<br>➢ Air<br>➢ Water<br>➢ Soil<br>➢ Material Assets<br>➢ Landscape and Cultural Heritage<br>➢ Population and Human Health |
| **Landscape and Cultural Heritage** | 7 | Protect and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the National Park's landscape and cultural heritage | ➢ Protect and enhance the National Park's special landscape qualities**.**<br>➢ Work towards creating landscapes that are ecologically functional.<br>➢ Minimise the loss of wild land.<br>➢ Reduce light pollution.<br>➢ Value, protect and enhance the historic and cultural environment and its assets.<br>➢ To promote high quality design based on a comprehensive understanding of landscape character and distinctiveness.<br>➢ Protect and enhance townscape and respect the existing pattern, form and setting of settlements. | ➢ Climatic Factors<br>➢ Material Assets<br>➢ Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora<br>➢ Population and Human health |

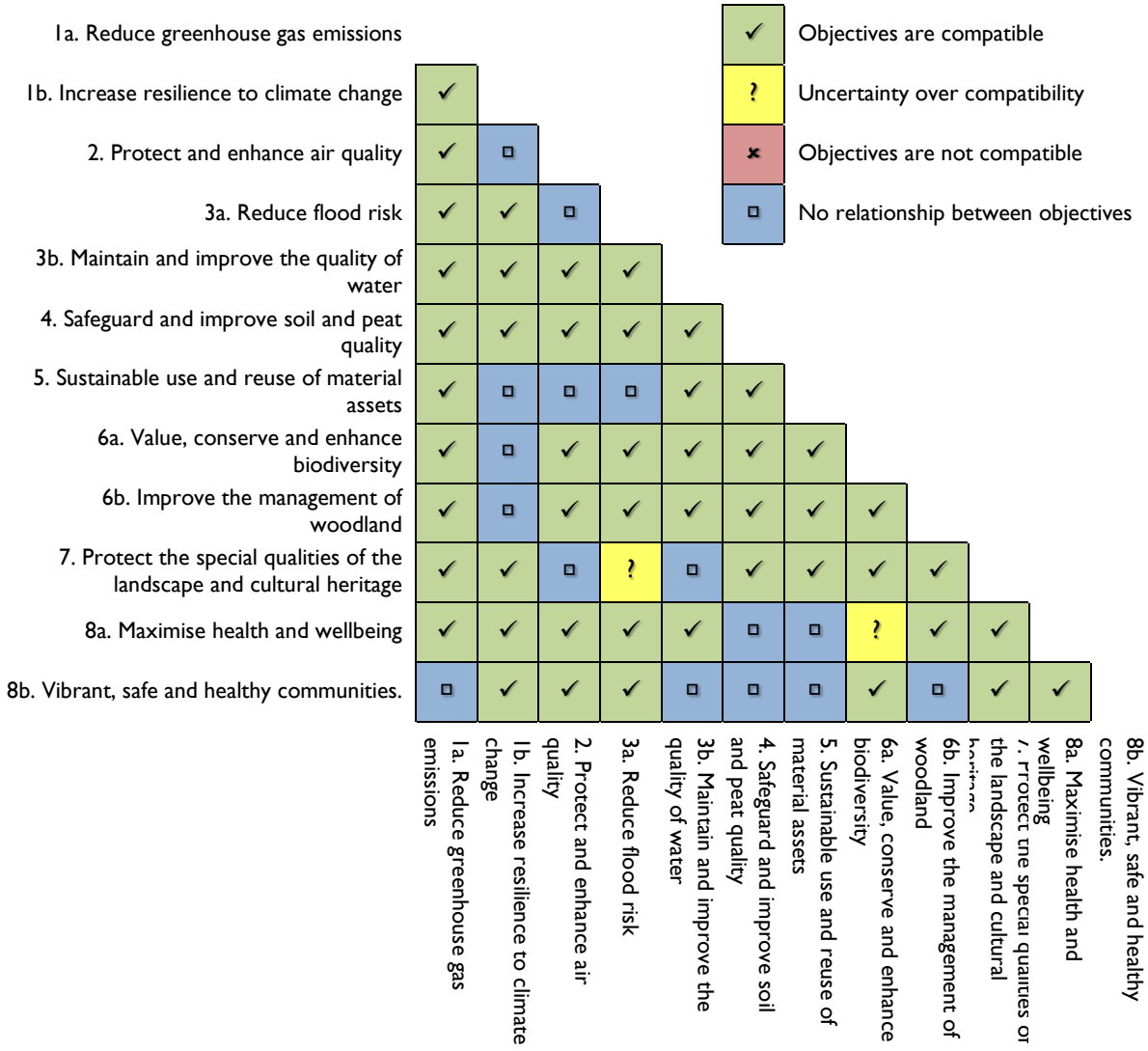
| SEA Topic | No. | SEA Objective | SEA Sub-Objectives | Inter-relationships |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population and Human Health | 8a | Promote opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities. | ➢ Maintain the recreational value of the Cairngorms National Park.<br>➢ Promote and maintain opportunities for people to enjoy physical recreation and lead healthy lifestyles.<br>➢ Encourage walking or cycling as an alternative means of transportation.<br>➢ Empower people to experience, learn about and share the Cairngorms National Park's historic, cultural and natural heritage.<br>➢ Promote the improvement and maintenance of social and physical environments / facilities that provide opportunities to enhance health and wellbeing. | ➢ Landscape and Cultural Heritage<br>➢ Population and Human Health |
| | 8b | Support vibrant, safe and healthy communities. | ➢ Ensure the population and household growth is accommodated in appropriate locations.<br>➢ Ensure a suitable affordable housing stock is available to meet needs.<br>➢ Promote the design of settlements that improve social fabric by removing barriers and creating opportunities for positive interactions.<br>➢ Promote the inclusion of disadvantaged and minority groups.<br>➢ Redress imbalances of inequality, deprivation and exclusion.<br>➢ Provide easy access to high quality facilities and services.<br>➢ Ensure that adequate healthcare premises are provided throughout the National Park.<br>➢ Reduce burden of ill-health in the population.<br>➢ Reduce the causes of accidents.<br>➢ Ensure the quality of the built environment complements the high quality natural environment. | ➢ Climatic factors<br>➢ Air<br>➢ Water<br>➢ Soil<br>➢ Material Assets<br>➢ Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora<br>➢ Landscape and Cultural Heritage<br>➢ Population and Human Health |

## Compatibility of SEA Objectives

> "*It may be useful to test the internal compatibility of the SEA objectives... There may be tensions between objectives that cannot be resolved: the compatibility assessment will clarify these so that subsequent decisions are well based, and mitigation or alternatives can be considered.*"
>
> A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive (ODPM, 2005)

The SEA Objectives identified in **Table 4** have been tested for compatibility in accordance with the guidance as set out by the ODPM. A matrix approach has been used which is consistent with this guidance. The results of the compatibility assessment are summarised in **Figure 3**. Only the 'main' objectives have been considered as part of the compatibility test, since the sub-objectives effectively feed into these.

Figure 3 Compatibility assessment of SEA objectives (abridged).



As can be seen from **Figure 3**, a large number of the SEA objectives are either compatible with each other, or there is no relationship between them. Where there is no relationship between objectives this means they can be achieved simultaneously without conflict. However, there is uncertainty between the compatibility of some objectives, for example the objectives 3a and 7. This uncertainty will be considered in greater detail within the assessments.

## Likely changes to the environment in the absence of a Plan

> "*It is important to be aware that baselines will change over time under 'no plan or programme' and 'business as usual' alternatives, as well as under new plans or programmes.*"
>
> A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive (ODPM, 2005)

In forecasting the 'business as usual', or 'without the plan' scenario it is first necessary to determine what that means. In the case of the LDP, the absence of a Plan is taken to mean the continued implementation of the CNPA's overarching Plans such as the NPPP 2017 and current Local Development Plan (LDP) 2015 as well as the international and national PPS listed in **Appendix 1** (p. 101).

The Environmental effects of this interpretation are forecast in the context of the SEA Objectives (**Table 4**). The SEA Objectives have been chosen as a context for this exercise because:

- They provide the context against which the likely effects of the Plan have been assessed; and
- They provide the proposed framework for SEA monitoring.

Table 5 Likely environmental changes in the absence of a Plan.

| SEA Objective | Business as Usual Scenario |
|---|---|
| 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | In the absence of the Plan, statutory plans such as the National Park Plan (NPPP) 2017 will provide strategic context for decisions on development and help direct it to the most appropriate locations and promote sustainable development. The NPPP also provides the policy basis which all daughter PPS should follow, therefore its existence ensures that issues such as climate change are not missed at a lower level. However, the NPPP does not identify specific settlements and therefore the absence of an LDP could lead to an increase in speculative development resulting in greater levels of car use.<br>National guidance such as Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which as the aim of turning Scotland into "A low carbon place – reducing our carbon emissions and adapting to climate" will also be material. SPPP requires that decision makers support climate change mitigation and adaptation including taking account of flood risk. National Planning Framework (NPF) 3 would also play a role as it aims to facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy, particularly by supporting diversification of the energy sector.<br>However, it is important to note that both SPPP and SPF require LDP's to deliver their objectives and therefore, in its absence, the ability of the CNPA to reduce climate change emissions is more limited. |
| 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change | The NPPP has a number of measures that help mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. These include targets to expand woodland and restore peatland.<br>National guidance such as Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which as the aim of turning Scotland into "A low carbon place – reducing our carbon emissions and adapting to climate" will also be material. SPPP requires that decision makers support climate change mitigation and adaptation including taking account of flood risk. National Planning Framework (NPF) 3 would also play a role as it aims to facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy, particularly by supporting diversification of the energy sector.<br>However, it is important to note that both SPPP and SPF require LDP's to deliver their objectives and therefore, in its absence, the ability of the CNPA to encourage develop climate change adaptation is more limited. |
| 2a Protect and enhance air quality | With a growing population, increasing visitor numbers and high levels of private motor vehicle use, there is likely to be a minor negative impact on air quality over the Plan period. The NPPP provides strategic direction |

| SEA Objective | Business as Usual Scenario |
|---|---|
| | for the location of development and also aims is to integrate sustainable patterns of development and travel. However, it requires the LDP to provide the policy basis for decisions on development to be to be made and therefore in its absence it is likely that development would be harder to direct to locations that limit air pollution. |
| 3a Reduce flood risk | NPPP may act as a means of coordinating the delivery of natural flood management measures, particularly when they are implemented as part of broader landscape scale habitat management priorities, such woodland expansion or peatland restoration.<br>National policy in the form of SPP and NPF would also play a role, with the NPF in particular supporting a catchment-scale approach to sustainable flood risk management. Furthermore, SPP states that the planning system should prevent development which would have a significant probability of being affected by flooding or would increase the probability of flooding elsewhere.<br>Therefore, while it is likely that flood risk would still be a key consideration in the development process, it would be harder to deliver more strategic benefits, that coordinating actions between different land ownership interests. It is likely therefore, that in the absence of a LDP, that opportunities for reducing flood risk could be missed. |
| 3b Maintain and improve the quality of water resources | According to SPPP, where relevant policies in a development plan are out-of-date then the presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development will be a significant material consideration. However, the LDP plays an important role on minimising the effect on water quality, particularly through the designation of sites that are likely to have the least impact. In its absence of a plan ad-hoc development could lead water resources may be damaged by inappropriate placement. To a certain extent, national policy will be able to limit some of the effects by restricting development on established floodplains |
| 4 Minimise contamination and safeguard and improve soil and peat quality. | According to SPPP, where relevant policies in a development plan are out-of-date then the presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development will be a significant material consideration. However, the absence of a settlement strategy the location of development is harder to manage and therefore greater adverse impact on soil could occur through an increase in development of greenfield sites. This could be particularly significant if large scale development were to be allowed on the best and most versatile |

| SEA Objective | Business as Usual Scenario |
|---|---|
| | agricultural land. |
| 5 Encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets | According to SPPP, where relevant policies in a development plan are out-of-date then the presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development will be a significant material consideration. While decisions can be made it may reduce the ability for the CNPA to deliver desirable outcomes for specific types of applications e.g. mineral operations and hill tracks. |
| 6a Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity, distinctive wild species and habitats | The National Park is protected by many tiers of protected site and even in the absence of the LDP, development and land management practices would still have to meet the requirements of Natura legislation. However, biodiversity is more than just protected sites and the National Park is home to many important yet undesignated habitats, many of which are important to the protected sites themselves.<br>In the absence of an LDP national policy will continue to restrict development in the open countryside, and national and international legislation for conservation sites will continue to protect them from direct development. However, the overall biodiversity value of individual sites, and of the National Park as a whole could be damaged in the absence of policies concerning the selection of development sites and means of mitigating negative effects. Biodiversity is therefore likely to decline more than if and LDP was not in place. This is probable because the landscape and biodiversity policies of the plan provide additional policy guidance, which is amplified through the preparation of supplementary planning guidance.<br>Furthermore, in this scenario it's likely that the CNPA would have difficulty meeting its aim "*to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area*". |
| 6b Maintain and improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits | The National Park contains the most extensive tract of Caledonian forest in Britain. It has around 340 $km^2$ of ancient woodland, of which around 160 $km^2$ is semi-natural. Woodland is therefore an important habitat and resource of interest to many of the National Park's partners. In the LDP's absence, national policy such as SPP would continue to protect Ancient and Semi-natural woodland, however it would become more difficult to protect undesignated, yet still important woodlands, from development. |
| 7 Protect and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the National Park's | The Cairngorms National Park represents the UK's largest protected landscape and the NPPP offers the CNPA the ability to protect the special qualities of the National Park's landscape from development or land management practices that take place both within and outwith its boundary. However, the LDP and its |

| SEA Objective | Business as Usual Scenario |
|---|---|
| landscape and cultural and historic heritage | Supplementary Guidance provide direction at a site level and help direct and formulate the implementation of landscaping schemes. Should this ability be lost then it may result in a loss of landscape quality at a local level, which in combination with other sites, could have a wider landscape impact. |
| 8a Promote opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities | One of the aims of the National Park is "*to promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public*". The LDP is not the greatest contributor to meeting this objective. For example, it is the NPPP 2017 offers a framework for the coordinated delivery of services and facilities that support healthy living. However, the LDP's remit over the location of development sites can play a role in creating environments in which opportunities for health and wellbeing can be maximised. In the absence of an LDP to coordinate development, such opportunities could be lost. |
| 8b Support vibrant, safe and healthy communities | One of the aims of the National Park is "*to promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities*". Issues include a growing but aging population, relatively high house prices and relatively low median incomes. SPP states that here relevant policies in a development plan are out-of-date, then the presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development will be a significant material consideration. Decisions may therefore be made on a development management basis, however it will reduce the ability to gain housing that meets specific affordable and other special needs, or at least the ability to shape development for specific needs. |

## Development of the Cairngorms LDP Proposed Plan

> "[Reasonable alternatives] *can be used to achieve environmental benefits and, where well executed, can be an opportunity for the SEA to add value to the planning process by encouraging lateral or creative thinking. Alternatives must be realistic and are likely to emerge from the plan-making process. However, the SEA can encourage further thinking around alternatives, and highlight where environmentally preferable options exist.*"
>
> SEA Guidance
> (Scottish Government, 2013)

### Background and Strategic Context

All planning authorities in Scotland are required by law to publish a Local Development Plan (LDP) for their area. The LDP should set out policies and site allocations to guide the development and use of land within the plan area. Current legislation requires the LDP to be kept up-to-date and reviewed at least every five years. The existing LDP for the Cairngorms National Park was adopted in March 2015 and a new LDP must therefore be adopted in 2020.

The process for producing an LDP is set out in planning legislation and includes a number of key stages:

- identifying and consulting on the key issues for the LDP through a Main Issues Report;
- producing a Proposed LDP to outline the planning authority's settled view on policies and proposals for the development and use of land; and
- subjecting the Proposed LDP to public scrutiny and then an independent examination by a Reporter appointed by Scottish Ministers.

A Main Issues Report (MIR) was published for consultation from 17 November 2017 to 2 March 2018. The MIR identified 10 key topics that were considered to be the most important issues that the LDP 2020 would need to address. It also identified issues and objectives, as well as potential development options, for each of the main settlements in the National Park. The MIR sought views on the potential options for tackling the issues identified, including both the CNPA's preferred options and other reasonable alternatives. The MIR was subject to an environmental assessment which was published in an Environmental Report and consulted on at the same time as the MIR itself:

www.cairngorms.co.uk/authority/publication/435

A total of 329 formal responses were received to the MIR consultation. These came from a broad range of organisations and private individuals. A report summarising the consultation responses and seeking direction on how to take them into account in developing the Proposed LDP was considered by the Planning Committee in June 2018.

The MIR consultation responses included a number of new site proposals that were not included as options in the MIR. The

Planning Committee identified a small number of these proposals as being potentially appropriate for inclusion in the Proposed LDP. An additional focused consultation was carried out to seek wider public views on these new site proposals from 13 August to 21 September 2018. These sites were also subject to Environmental Assessment, which was presented as an addendum to the MIR's Environmental Report:

www.cairngorms.co.uk/consultation/post-mir

A total of 72 responses were received to the new sites consultation. A report summarising the responses and seeking direction on whether or not to include the new sites in the Proposed LDP in light of the consultation comments was considered by the Planning Committee in November 2018.

### Proposed LDP

The Proposed Plan is the result of this process. Its content takes account of the consultation responses to the MIR and the new sites consultation, as well as comments from Members during subsequent informal discussion sessions. In addition, it takes account of comments from other key stakeholders, including the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Water, Transport Scotland and partner local authorities, who have also been informally consulted on its emerging content.

The Proposed LDP links closely with the National Park Partnership Plan 2017-2022 (NPPP), which provides a strategic context for the LDP. It also takes account of guidance in the National Planning Framework and Scottish Planning Policy.

The Proposed LDP includes 5 sections: Introduction; Vision; Spatial Strategy; Policies; and Community Information. The vision is based on the vision and long-term outcomes in the NPPP. The spatial strategy (the overall development strategy on which the Proposed LDP is based) is largely unaltered from the current LDP. Nevertheless, the Proposed LDP does introduce a number of changes from the current LDP.

The Proposed LDP identifies eleven overarching policies, most of which also have sub-policies dealing with specific aspects of that policy area:

- Policy 1: New Housing Development;
- Policy 2: Supporting Economic Growth;
- Policy 3: Design and Placemaking;
- Policy 4: Natural Heritage;
- Policy 5: Landscape;
- Policy 6: The Siting and Design of Digital Communications Equipment;
- Policy 7: Renewable Energy;
- Policy 8: Open Space, Sport and Recreation;
- Policy 9: Cultural Heritage;
- Policy 10: Resources;
- Policy 11: Developer Obligations.

The Plan is based on an overall development strategy (**Figure 4**) which focuses most development to the main settlements of the National Park – Aviemore, Ballater, Grantown-on Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore. These

settlements are referred to as 'strategic settlements'.

In additional to the strategic settlements, the development strategy also identifies 'intermediate settlements' and 'rural settlements'. Intermediate settlements will accommodate development to meet wider needs, albeit at a more modest scale than within the strategic settlements, whilst development in rural settlements will primarily be aimed at meeting local need.

This Settlement hierarchy is set out as follows:

**Strategic Settlements**

- Aviemore
- Ballater
- Grantown-on-Spey
- Kingussie
- Newtonmore

**Intermediate Settlements**

- Blair Atholl
- Boat of Garten
- Braemar
- Carr-Bridge

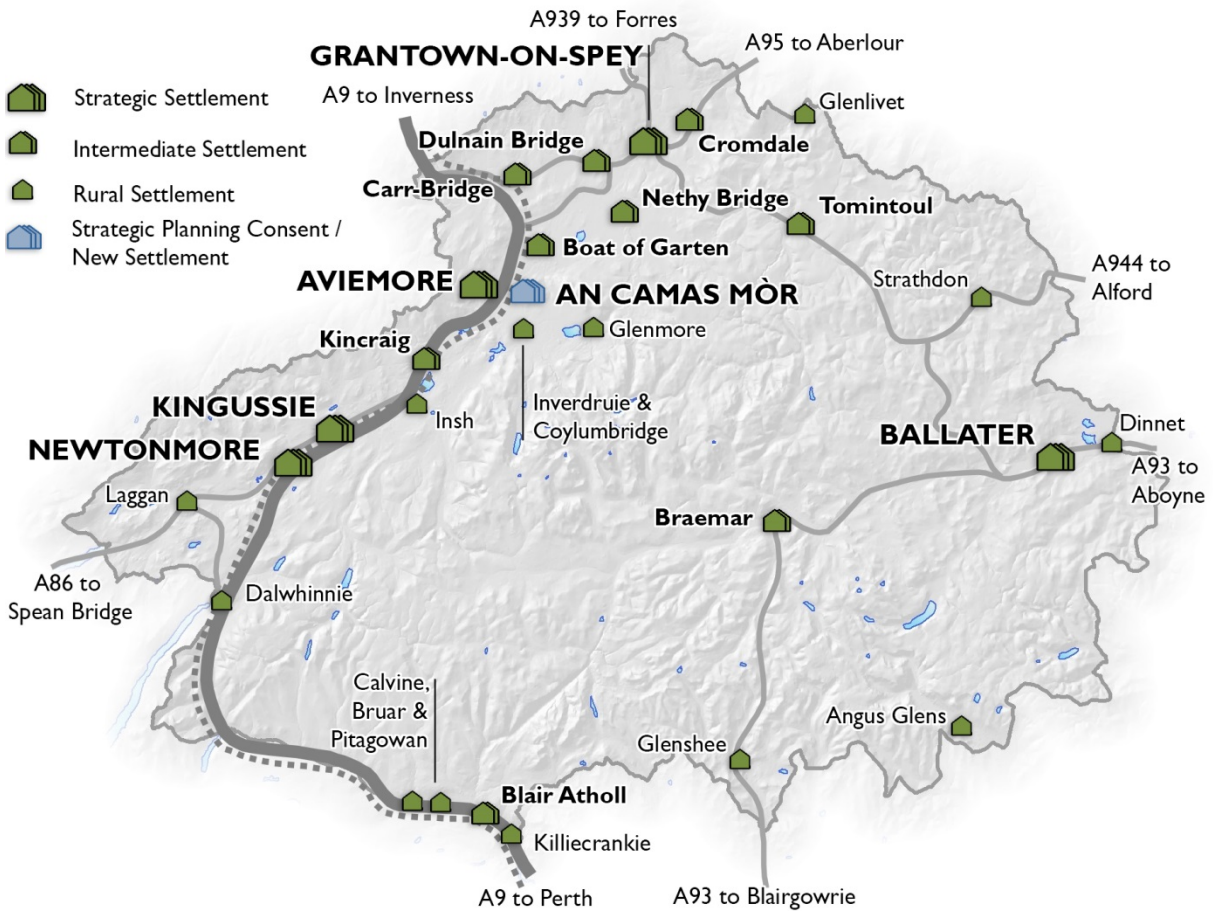



Figure 4 The LDP's proposed Settlement Strategy

- Cromdale
- Dulnain Bridge
- Kincraig
- Nethy Bridge
- Tomintoul

**Rural Settlements**

- Angus Glens
- Bruar and Pitagowan
- Calvine
- Dalwhinnie
- Dinnet
- Glenlivet
- Glenmore
- Glenshee
- Insh
- Inverdruie and Coylumbridge
- Killiecrankie
- Laggan
- Strathdon

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) 2005 requires that reasonable alternatives to the Plan be considered as part of the SEA. These options were presented and assessed in the Environmental Report of the MIR. The content on this Report therefore only contains assessments of the policies and sites developed from these options.

## Assessing the effects of the Proposed LDP's Vision, Strategy and Policies

> "*Evaluation involves forming a judgement on whether or not a predicted effect will be environmentally significant.*"
>
> A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive (ODPM, 2005)

The vision, settlement strategy and policies of the LDP were assessed for their likely effects in relation to the SEA Objectives. That is to say, are the steps necessary to pursue the LDP likely to have an effect on the aims of the SEA Objective?

This stage of the SEA involves:

- Predicting the effects of the plan or programme, including alternatives;
- Evaluating the effects of the draft plan or programme, including alternatives;
- Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects; and
- Proposing measures to monitor the environmental and sustainability effects of plan or programme implementation.

A summary of the assessment of the Strategy and Policies is shown in **Table 6**. The full appraisal matrices are included in **Appendix 6**.

The assessment was carried out using the following criteria:

| | |
|---|---|
| ++ | Option would have a major positive effect. |
| + | Option would have a minor positive effect. |
| ? | Effect of Option is uncertain. |
| ▫ | Option would have no predicted effects or no site specific effects. |
| - | Option would have a minor adverse effect. |
| -- | The Option would have a major adverse effect. |

A full outline of the assessment criteria can be found in **Appendix 5**.

Table 6 Summary of SEA Assessment of the Proposed LDP's Vision, Settlement Strategy and Policies.

| Plan Element | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| **Vision** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vision | + | + | + | ++ | + | + | + | ++ | ++ | ++ | ++ | ++ |
| **Spatial Strategy** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spatial Strategy | + | + | + | □ | - | - | □ | ? | □ | + | + | ++ |
| **Policies** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Policy 1: New Housing Development** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 Housing delivery in settlements | - | + | - | □ | - | - | □ | ? | ? | + | + | ++ |
| 1.2 Housing development in existing rural groups | □ | □ | □ | □ | ? | □ | □ | ? | ? | ? | + | □ |
| 1.3 Other housing in the countryside | □ | □ | □ | □ | ? | □ | □ | ? | ? | ? | + | □ |

| Plan Element | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| 1.4 Designing for affordability | + | + | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | + | + | + | ☐ | ☐ | ++ | ++ |
| 1.5 Affordable housing | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ++ | ++ |
| 1.6 Affordable housing exception sites | ? | ☐ | ? | ☐ | ? | ? | ☐ | ? | ? | ? | + | + |
| 1.7 Alterations to existing houses | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 1.8 Conversions | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 1.9 Replacement houses | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 1.10 Housing for gypsies and travellers | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | + |
| 1.11 Long term designations | - | - | - | - | - | - | ☐ | -- | ? | - | - | - |

| Plan Element | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| **Policy 2: Supporting Economic Growth** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 Retail development and high footfall generating uses | + | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | ? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | + |
| 2.2 Tourist accommodation | ? | ☐ | ? | ☐ | ☐ | ? | ☐ | ? | ? | ? | ☐ | + |
| 2.3 Other tourism and leisure developments | ? | ☐ | ? | ☐ | ☐ | ? | ☐ | ? | ? | ? | ☐ | + |
| 2.4 Other economic development | ? | ☐ | ? | ☐ | ☐ | ? | ☐ | ? | ? | ? | ☐ | + |
| 2.5 Protecting existing economic activity | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ? | ? | ☐ | ☐ | + |
| **Policy 3: Design and Placemaking** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1 Placemaking | ++ | + | + | + | + | + | + | ☐ | ☐ | ++ | ++ | + |
| 3.2 Major Developments | ++ | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | ++ | ++ |

| Plan Element | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| 3.3 Sustainable Design | ++ | + | + | + | + | + | + | □ | □ | ++ | ++ | + |
| 3.4 Replacing existing building stock | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| 3.5 Converting existing building stock | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| 3.6 Alterations to existing building stock | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| **Policy 4: Natural Heritage** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.1 International designations | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | ++ | + | □ | □ | □ |
| 4.2 National designations | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | ++ | + | □ | □ | □ |
| 4.3 Woodlands | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | ++ | ++ | + | + | + |

| Plan Element | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| 4.4 Protected species | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ++ | + | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4.5 Other biodiversity | + | + | + | + | + | + | ☐ | ++ | + | + | + | + |
| 4.6 All development | + | + | + | + | + | + | ☐ | ++ | + | + | + | + |
| **Policy 5: Landscape** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5.1 Special Landscape Qualities | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | + | + | ++ | + | + |
| 5.2 Private Roads and Ways | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | + | + | + | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ |
| **Policy 6: The Siting and Design of Digital Communications Equipment** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Policy 6: The Siting and Design of Digital Communications Equipment | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ? | ☐ | + |
| **Policy 7: Renewable Energy** | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Plan Element | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| 7.1 All renewable energy developments | ++ | ☐ | ☐ | + | ☐ | ? | + | ☐ | ☐ | ? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 7.2 Hydropower | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 7.3 Wind energy | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 7.4 Biomass | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 7.5 Energy from waste | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 7.6 Heat networks | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| **Policy 8: Open Space, Sport and Recreation** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8.1 New development | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ++ | ++ |

| Plan Element | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| 8.2 Re-development of outdoor sports facilities | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ++ | ++ |
| 8.3 Re-development of other open space | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ++ | ++ |
| **Policy 9: Cultural Heritage** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9.1 Listed buildings | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ++ | ++ | ☐ |
| 9.2 Cultural and historic designations | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ++ | ++ | ☐ |
| 9.3 Conservation areas | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ++ | ++ | ☐ |
| 9.4 Other cultural heritage | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ++ | ++ | ☐ |
| **Policy 10: Resources** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10.1 Water resources | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | ++ | ☐ | + | + | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 10.2 Flooding | ☐ | + | ☐ | ++ | + | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

| Plan Element | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| 10.3 Connection to sewerage | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 10.4 Waste management and minimisation | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ++ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 10.5 Landfill | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 10.6 Minerals | - | ☐ | - | ☐ | ? | - | + | ? | ? | ? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 10.7 Carbon sinks and stores | + | ☐ | ☐ | + | + | ++ | ☐ | + | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ |
| 10.8 Contaminated land | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ++ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| **Policy 11: Developer Obligations** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Policy 11: Developer Obligations | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | + | + | + | ++ | ++ |

## Assessment of Sites

As part of the Local Development Plan (LDP) preparation CNPA invited developers, landowners, public service providers, health providers and community councils to submit land that they would like to be considered for inclusion in the LDP for development. It should be noted that a request for such consideration did not automatically result in the land being included in the LDP. Whether or not sites get included in the LDP is the subject of a detailed SEA assessment.

The SEA formed part of the process for evaluating these sites and help identify preferred options. The sites were assessed for their likely effects in relation to the SEA Objectives. That is to say, would development of a site be likely to have an effect on the aims of the SEA Objective.

The outcome of this process, including assessments of both preferred and alternative options, was published in the Environmental Report for the MIR and can be viewed here:

www.cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/171113LDPMIRSiteAssessmentLocked.pdf

The next stage in the process is to assess the proposed allocations that evolved from these options and that assessment is presented in this report. A summary of the assessment of the sites is shown in **Table 7**. The full appraisal matrices, including details regarding the predicted effects of the sites, are included in **Appendix 7**.

Generally the effects that are predicted to result from implementation of the proposed allocations are found to be compatible with the SEA Objectives. Some adverse effects have been predicted, these largely being linked to the effects on the environmental SEA Objectives. These also relate to pre-mitigation effects and as a result do not reflect the final outcome that is expected from the Plan. A conclusion of no site specific effects has also been the result of a large number of assessments. This is for a number of main reasons:

- The site can have no likely effect on the objective because of its scale, location or nature of the development; or
- While development might have an effect on the Objective, the choice of one site over another in any particular settlement, would not. For example developing new houses in a settlement may put pressure on existing infrastructure (e.g. waste water treatment), but the exact location of the houses has no effect on this issue.

Table 7 Summary of SEA Assessment of Proposed Sites

| Site Ref. | Site Name | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| **Strategic Centres** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Aviemore** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H1 | Dalfaber 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | □ | - | □ | □ | - | - |
| H2 | Dalfaber 2 | - | □ | - | □ | □ | - | □ | - | □ | - | - | - |
| M1 | Aviemore Highland Resort | + | - | + | - | - | - | □ | -- | - | + | + | + |
| M2 | Laurel Bank | + | - | + | - | - | + | + | - | □ | □ | + | + |
| C1 | Land on Dalfaber Drive | + | □ | + | □ | □ | - | □ | - | □ | □ | + | + |

| Site Ref. | Site Name | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| C2 | Former School Playing Fields | + | - | + | - | - | + | + | □ | □ | □ | + | + |
| C3 | Land South of Dalfaber Drive | + | - | + | - | - | - | □ | - | □ | □ | + | + |
| ED1 | Dalfaber Industrial Estate | + | □ | + | □ | □ | + | + | □ | □ | + | + | + |
| ED2 | Myrtlefield Industrial Estate | + | □ | + | □ | □ | + | + | □ | □ | □ | + | + |
| ED3 | Granish | - | - | - | - | - | + | + | -- | -- | - | - | - |
| ACM | An Camas Mòr | ? | - | ? | - | - | - | □ | -- | -- | -- | ? | ? |

| Site Ref. | Site Name | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| LTH1 | North Aviemore 1 | - | □ | - | □ | □ | - | □ | - | - | - | - | - |
| LTH2 | North Aviemore 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | □ | -- | ? | - | - | - |
| **Ballater** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H1 | Monaltrie Park | + | - | + | - | - | - | + | -- | □ | □ | + | + |
| C1 | Former School Site | + | □ | + | □ | □ | + | + | □ | □ | + | + | + |
| ED1 | Ballater Business Park | + | □ | + | □ | □ | + | + | + | □ | + | + | + |
| T1 | Ballater Caravan Park | + | □ | + | □ | □ | + | + | □ | □ | □ | + | + |

| Site Ref. | Site Name | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| **Grantown-on-Spey** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H1 | Beachen Court | + | - | - | - | - | - | □ | + | □ | + | - | - |
| H2 | Castle Road | + | - | + | - | - | - | □ | - | - | - | + | + |
| C1 | Mossie Road | + | □ | + | □ | □ | - | □ | + | □ | □ | + | + |
| C2 | Strathspey Railway extension | - | - | - | - | □ | - | □ | + | □ | □ | - | - |
| ED1 | Woodlands Industrial Estate | - | □ | - | □ | □ | + | + | + | □ | + | - | - |
| T1 | Grantown Caravan Park | - | □ | - | □ | □ | + | + | -- | -- | -- | - | - |

| Site Ref. | Site Name | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| **Kingussie** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H1 | Land between Ardbroilach Road and Crag an Darach | - | □ | - | □ | □ | - | □ | + | □ | □ | - | - |
| C1 | Ardovnie Car Park | + | □ | + | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | + | + |
| C2 | Car Park | + | □ | + | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | + | + |
| C3 | Am Fasgadh | + | - | - | - | □ | + | + | □ | □ | □ | + | + |
| C4 | Car Park | + | - | + | - | - | + | | □ | □ | □ | + | + |
| ED1 | Council Depot | + | - | + | - | □ | + | + | □ | □ | + | + | + |

| Site Ref. | Site Name | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| ED2 | McCormack's Garage | + | □ | + | □ | □ | + | + | □ | □ | + | + | + |
| T1 | Kingussie Golf Club | - | □ | - | □ | □ | + | + | - | □ | - | - | - |
| **Newtonmore** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H1 | Land between Perth Road and Station Road | - | □ | - | □ | □ | - | □ | □ | □ | - | - | - |
| ED1 | Rear of Café | - | □ | - | □ | □ | + | + | □ | □ | □ | - | - |
| ED2 | Industrial Park | - | - | - | - | - | - | □ | + | □ | □ | - | - |
| T1 | Highland Folk Museum | - | □ | - | □ | □ | - | □ | □ | □ | □ | - | - |

| Site Ref. | Site Name | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| **Intermediate Settlements** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Blair Atholl** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H1 | Land between Bridge of Tilt and Old Bridge of Tilt | -- | □ | -- | □ | □ | - | □ | □ | □ | - | -- | -- |
| H2 | Land Opposite Tilt Hotel | + | □ | + | □ | □ | - | □ | - | □ | -- | + | + |
| ED1 | Blair Atholl Saw Mill Yard | + | - | + | - | □ | + | + | + | □ | □ | + | + |
| T1 | Blair Castle Caravan Park | + | □ | + | □ | □ | - | □ | □ | □ | - | + | + |
| T2 | Blair Atholl Caravan Park | + | - | + | - | □ | + | + | □ | -- | - | + | + |

| Site Ref. | Site Name | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| T3 | Visitor Gateway | + | - | + | - | □ | + | + | □ | □ | □ | + | + |
| **Boat of Garten** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ED1 | The Steam Railway Station | + | □ | + | □ | □ | + | + | □ | □ | □ | + | + |
| T1 | Boat of Garten Caravanning and Camping Park | + | □ | + | □ | □ | + | + | □ | □ | □ | + | + |
| **Braemar** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H1 | Chapel Brae 1 | + | □ | + | □ | □ | - | □ | □ | □ | - | + | + |
| H2 | St Andrew's Terrace | + | □ | + | □ | □ | - | □ | □ | □ | - | + | + |

| Site Ref. | Site Name | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| H3 | Kindrochit Court | + | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | - | ☐ | - | ☐ | - | + | + |
| H4 | Chapel Brae 2 | - | ☐ | - | ☐ | ☐ | - | ☐ | - | - | - | - | - |
| H5 | North Braemar | + | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | - | ☐ | - | ☐ | - | + | + |
| ED1 | Ambulance Station | + | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | + | + | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | + | + |
| ED2 | The Mews | + | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | + | + | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | + | + |
| T1 | Braemar Caravan Park | - | - | - | - | - | - | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | - | - | - |
| **Carr-Bridge** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Site Ref. | Site Name | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| H1 | Carr Road | - | - | - | - | □ | - | □ | □ | □ | - | - | - |
| H2 | Crannich Park | - | - | - | - | - | - | □ | - | □ | - | - | - |
| ED1 | Land at Railway Station | - | - | - | - | - | + | + | -- | -- | - | - | - |
| ED2 | Carr-Bridge Garage | + | □ | + | □ | □ | + | + | □ | □ | + | + | + |
| ED3 | Former Saw Mill | - | - | - | - | - | + | + | ? | □ | + | - | - |
| T1 | Landmark Forest Adventure Park | + | □ | + | □ | □ | - | □ | -- | -- | - | + | + |
| **Cromdale** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Site Ref. | Site Name | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| H1 | Kirk Road | + | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | - | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | + | + | + |
| H2 | Auchroisk Park | + | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | - | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | + | + | + |
| ED1 | The Smoke House | + | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | - | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | + | + | + |
| **Dulnain Bridge** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H1 | Land west of play area | + | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | - | ☐ | - | ☐ | - | + | + |
| H2 | Land adjacent to A938 | + | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | - | ☐ | - | ☐ | - | + | + |
| ED1 | Dulnain Garage | + | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | + | + | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | + | + |

| Site Ref. | Site Name | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| **Kincraig** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H1 | Land Opposite School | + | - | + | - | - | - | □ | □ | □ | □ | + | + |
| ED1 | Baldow Smiddy | + | □ | + | □ | □ | - | □ | □ | □ | □ | + | + |
| ED2 | Land north of B9152 | + | □ | + | □ | □ | - | □ | □ | □ | - | + | + |
| **Nethy Bridge** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H1 | Land at Lynstock Crescent | - | □ | - | □ | □ | - | □ | - | □ | -- | - | - |
| H2 | Lettoch Road | - | - | - | - | - | - | □ | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Tomintoul** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Site Ref. | Site Name | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| H1 | Conglass Lane | + | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | - | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | + | + |
| H2 | Lecht Drive | + | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | - | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | + | + |
| ED1 | Garage North East | + | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | - | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | + | + | + |
| ED2 | Land by A939 | + | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | - | ☐ | - | ☐ | - | + | + |
| T1 | Land to the South West | + | ☐ | + | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | + | + |
| **Rural Settlement** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Calvine** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Site Ref. | Site Name | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| C1 | Old School | + | □ | + | □ | □ | + | + | □ | □ | + | + | + |
| **Dalwhinnie** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H1 | Land by garage | - | □ | - | □ | □ | - | □ | - | □ | □ | - | - |
| ED1 | Garage Site | - | □ | - | □ | □ | - | □ | + | □ | + | - | - |
| **Dinnet** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H1 | Land to East | + | - | + | - | □ | - | □ | - | - | - | + | + |
| ED1 | Former Steading | - | - | - | - | □ | + | + | □ | □ | + | - | - |
| **Glenmore** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Site Ref. | Site Name | SEA Objectives | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | 1b. Increase resilience to climate change | 2. Protect and enhance air quality | 3a. Reduce flood risk | 3b. Maintain and improve the quality of water | 4. Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality | 5. Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | 6a. Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity | 6b. Improve the management of woodland | 7. Protect the special qualities of the landscape | 8a. Maximise health and wellbeing | 8b. Vibrant, safe and healthy communities. |
| T1 | Glenmore Camp Site | -- | - | -- | - | - | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | + | □ |
| T2 | Glenmore Lodge | -- | □ | -- | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | + | + |
| **Inverdruie and Coylumbridge** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T1 | Camping Site | - | - | - | - | - | □ | □ | -- | -- | □ | | - |
| **Laggan** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H1 | Land adjacent to Achduchil | -- | - | -- | - | - | -- | □ | - | - | -- | -- | -- |

## Summary of Site Assessments

The following table provides a brief summary of the potential effects identified by the SEA assessment of the proposed allocated sites. The table shows that the majority of assessments were either positive or neutral around (around 66%) in their effects on the SEA Objectives.

Since the strategy and policies of the LDP direct the type of development appropriate for the sites and therefore contribute significantly to the mitigation identified during their assessment, a more comprehensive summary, which also discusses matters of cumulative, in combination and synergistic effects, can be found on the section on **Assessing Cumulative Effects** (page 75). Full details of suggested mitigation can be found alongside the assessments in **Appendix 7**.

Table 8 Summary of SEA Assessment of Proposed Allocated Sites

| Long Term Significance | Count | % |
|---|---|---|
| ++ | 0 | 0.0% |
| + | 287 | 29.3% |
| □ | 363 | 37.0% |
| ? | 6 | 0.6% |
| - | 291 | 29.7% |
| -- | 34 | 3.5% |

## Changes Arising from the Assessment

During the assessment of the options of the LDP a number of opportunities for enhancing its performance were identified.

Table 9 Changes arising from the assessment.

| Policy / Site | SEA Objective | Reasons for Change | Recommendation |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Policies** | | | |
| 10.6 Minerals | SEA Objective 5: Sustainable use and reuse of material assets | While the policy performs positively against the SEA Objective, a possible enhancement has been identified. Though restrictive, as worded the policy only dealt with primary mineral resources, however it should be recognised that secondary aggregates and / or recycled materials can be a more sustainable source of mineral resources and should be encouraged. The result could mean that the need to exploit new mineral resources is lessened, thereby increasing the overall effectiveness of the policy. | Policy could be enhanced by encouraging the processing of secondary aggregate/recycled materials:<br><br>"*Proposals will be supported that enable a higher proportion of secondary aggregate/recycled materials to substitute for the consumption of primary aggregates; including facilities for storing, processing and recycling construction, demolition and excavation materials on construction sites and within active mineral sites and former quarries.*" |
| **Sites** | | | |
| H1 Aviemore | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Around 10% site is affected by the low probability river extent flood zone. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*Should the existing permission expire or be varied, a revised Flood Risk Assessment and hydromorphological study will be required to identify the functional floodplain and developable area.*" |

| Policy / Site | SEA Objective | Reasons for Change | Recommendation |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | "*A revised Drainage Impact Assessment may be required.*" |
| M1 Aviemore | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | The site's north eastern boundary runs along a burn and consequently a small strip along this boundary is affected by the medium probability flood zone. Across the site there are patches of medium and high probability surface water flood risk, though combined this probably equates to less than 15%. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area.*"<br><br>"*A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues.*" |
| M2 | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Around 10% is affected by the medium probability river extent flood zone. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area.*"<br><br>"*A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues.*" |
| C2 Aviemore | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | The whole site is affected by the low probability river extent flood zone. | Site specific mitigation<br><br>Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area.*"<br><br>"*A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues.*" |
| C3 Aviemore | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce | Around 10% is affected by the medium probability surface water flood zone. | See Mitigation for Site Aviemore H1.<br><br>Site specific mitigation |

| Policy / Site | SEA Objective | Reasons for Change | Recommendation |
|---|---|---|---|
| | flood risk | | Include following requirements:<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues."* |
| ED1 Aviemore | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Parts of the site are affected by the medium probability surface water flood zone. These areas are however already developed. | Include following requirements:<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues."* |
| ED3 Aviemore | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Patches of the site are affected by the medium probability surface water flood zone. Combined these equate to less than 10%. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area."*<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues."* |
| ACM | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Large areas of the site are affected by the medium and low probability river extent and surface water flood zones. These areas fall outside of the site's preferred area. However, a large proportion of the site is wooded, so development would result in a loss of trees, which have benefits in terms of managing the effects of climate change, especially those related to flooding. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area."* |
| LTH 1 Aviemore | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce | Small areas of the site are affected by the medium probability surface water flood zone. These are however so | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will* |

| Policy / Site | SEA Objective | Reasons for Change | Recommendation |
|---|---|---|---|
| | flood risk | minor that they are unlikely to have an effect. | *be required to identify the developable area."*<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues."* |
| LTH2 Aviemore | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Patches of the site are affected by the medium probability surface water flood zone. Combined these equate to less than 10%. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area."*<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues."* |
| H1 Ballater | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Around 20% of the site is affected by the low probability river flooding zone. Aberdeenshire Council has commissioned a flood study for Ballater, which reviewed the hydrology of the area in light of Storm Frank. The draft Storm Frank extents have been used to inform the site assessment. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*Aberdeenshire Council has commissioned a flood study for Ballater. Any site layout will need to take account of the functional flood plain, as defined in the Ballater Flood Study, and will require safe access and egress."*<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues."* |
| ED1 Ballater | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | The whole site is affected by the low and medium probability river extent flood zone. The site is however already developed. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area."* |
| T1 Ballater | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | The whole site is affected by the medium probability river extent flood zone. The site is however already developed. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area."* |
| H1 Grantown- | 1b Increase resilience to | Around 10% of the site is affected by | Include following requirements: |

| Policy / Site | SEA Objective | Reasons for Change | Recommendation |
|---|---|---|---|
| on-Spey | the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | the low probability river extend flood zone. | "*A revised Flood Risk Assessment will be required.*"<br><br>"*A revised Drainage Impact Assessment will be required and any new development must take account of and ensure integration with the existing SuDS scheme.*" |
| H2 Grantown-on-Spey | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Patches of the site, which combined equate to around 15% of its area, are affected by the medium probability surface water flood zone. The most significant of these of these are outside of the site's preferred area. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment will be required.*"<br><br>"*A Drainage Impact Assessment is required.*" |
| C2 Grantown-on-Spey | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Around 10% of the site is affected by the medium probability surface water flooding. | Include following requirements:<br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area.*"<br><br>"*A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues* |
| ED1 Grantown-on-Spey | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | The site is affected by small patches of the medium probability surface water flood zone. Most of the site is however already developed. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues.*" |
| C3 Kingussie | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Around 70% of the site is affected by the medium probability river extent flood zone. Most of the site is however already developed in some form. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area.*"<br><br>"*A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues.*" |

| Policy / Site | SEA Objective | Reasons for Change | Recommendation |
|---|---|---|---|
| ED1 Kingussie | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Around 50% of the site is affected by the low and medium probability river extent flood zones. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area.*"<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues."* |
| ED2 Kingussie | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | No site specific effects, although the medium and high probability flood zone surrounds the site. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to accompany any further development proposals.*" |
| T1 Kingussie | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Around 15% of the site is affected by the medium probability river extent and surface water flood zones. These areas are however already developed or excluded from the developable area. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area.*"<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues."* |
| H1 Newtonmore | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Around 20% of the site is affected by the medium probability river extend flood zone. This area is however confined to the south and is excluded from the site's developable area. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area.*"<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues."* |
| ED1 Newtonmore | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | No site specific effects, although the site is surrounded by the medium and high probability flood zone. | See Mitigation for Site Aviemore H1.<br><br>Include following requirements: |

| Policy / Site | SEA Objective | Reasons for Change | Recommendation |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *"A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area."*<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues"* |
| ED2 Newtonmore | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Parts of the site are affected by the low medium and low probability river extent flood zone. | See Mitigation for Site Aviemore H1.<br><br>Site specific mitigation<br><br>Include following requirements:<br><br>*"A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area."*<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues"* |
| T1 Newtonmore | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | A small area along the site's southern boundary is affected by the medium probability river extent flood zone. Owing to the nature of the site's use it is unlikely that this is going to be developed. | See Mitigation for Site Aviemore H1.<br><br>Site specific mitigation<br><br>Include following requirements:<br><br>*"A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area."*<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues"* |
| H2 Blair Atholl | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate | A small part of the site is affected by the medium probability river flooding | Include following requirements: |

| Policy / Site | SEA Objective | Reasons for Change | Recommendation |
|---|---|---|---|
| | change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | and surface water flood zones. | *"A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area."*<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues"* |
| ED1 Blair Atholl | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | The whole site is affected by the medium probability river extent and surface water flood zones. The site is however already developed. | Include following requirements:<br><br>*"A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area."*<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues"* |
| T1 Blair Atholl | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Small areas of the site are affected by the medium probability surface water flood zone. These are however so minor that they are unlikely to have an effect. | Include following requirements:<br><br>*"A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area."*<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues"* |
| T2 Blair Atholl | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Around 20% of the site is affected by the medium probability river flooding zone. The site is however already developed. | Include following requirements:<br><br>*"A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area."*<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues"* |
| T3 Blair Atholl | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce | Around 50% of the site is affected by the medium probability river extent flood zone. The site is however already | Include following requirements:<br><br>*"A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will* |

| Policy / Site | SEA Objective | Reasons for Change | Recommendation |
|---|---|---|---|
| | flood risk | developed. | *be required to identify the developable area."*<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues"* |
| T1 Braemar | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Around 20% of the site is affected by the low probability river flooding zone. This part is not within the area preferred for the extension of the caravan park. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area."* |
| H1 Carr-Bridge | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Small areas of the site are affected by the medium probability surface water flood zone. Around half the site is wooded, so development would result in a loss of trees, which have benefits in terms of managing the effects of climate change, especially those related to flooding. This wooded area falls outside of the site's preferred area. | Include following requirements:<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues"* |
| H2 Carr-Bridge | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Around 10% is affected by the medium probability surface water flood zone. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A revised Flood Risk Assessment may be required."* |
| ED1 Carr-Bridge | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | The site is affected by small patches of the medium probability surface water flood zone. Most of the site is wooded, so development would result in a loss of trees, which have benefits in terms of managing the effects of climate change, especially those related to | Site specific mitigation<br><br>Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A revised Flood Risk Assessment may be required."* |

| Policy / Site | SEA Objective | Reasons for Change | Recommendation |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | flooding. | |
| ED3 Carr-Bridge | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Around 50% is affected by the medium probability river extent and surface water flood zone. | Include following requirements:<br><br>*"A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area."* |
| T1 Carr-Bridge | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Small areas of the site are affected by the medium probability surface water flood zone. These are however so minor that they are unlikely to have an effect. | Include following requirements:<br><br>*"A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area."*<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues"* |
| H1 Kincraig | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Around 40% of the site is affected by the medium probability surface water flood zone and a watercourse runs along its western edge. | Include following requirements:<br><br>*"A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area."*<br><br>*"A Drainage Impact Assessment is required and should address existing surface water flooding issues"* |
| H2 Nethy Bridge | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Around 40% is affected by the medium probability river extent flood zone. The preferred part of the site is not within this area. | Include following requirements:<br><br>*"A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area."* |
| ED1 Dinnet | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | A small area of the site, certainly less than 5%, is affected by the medium probability river extent flood zone. | Include following requirements:<br><br>*"A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area."* |
| T1 Glenmore | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate | Around 15% of the site is affected by the medium probability river extend | Include following requirements: |

| Policy / Site | SEA Objective | Reasons for Change | Recommendation |
|---|---|---|---|
| | change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | flood zone, essentially following the path of a water course. | "*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area.*" |
| T1 Inverdruie and Coylumbridge | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Around 40% of the site is affected by the medium probability river extend flood zone, essentially following the path of a water course. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area.*" |
| H1 Laggan | 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change and 3a. Reduce flood risk | Around 15% is affected by the medium probability river extent flood zone and surface water run-off zone. | Include following requirements:<br><br>"*A Flood Risk Assessment or other supporting information will be required to identify the developable area.*" |
| H1 Laggan | 4 Minimise contamination and safeguard and improve soil and peat quality. | There is deep present along the site's north western boundary. While not likely that deep peat covers a significant proportion of the site, in order to ensure negative effects do not arise, it is recommended that a peat survey be one of the site's requirements. | Add following text to site requirements:<br><br>"*Deep peat in vicinity of site. A Peat survey will be required to ensure that development does not occur where deep peat is present.*" |

## Assessing Cumulative Effects

> "*Many environmental problems result from the accumulation of multiple small and often indirect effects, rather than a few large and obvious ones.*"
>
> A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive (ODPM, 2005)

It is a requirement of the SEA Directive that the effects of Strategy's objectives and spatial options are assessed in combination with other Strategy elements (as opposed to in isolation) (**Figure 5**, **Figure 6** and **Figure 7**). These combined effects are called cumulative effects; effects that arise due to the addition of the effects of a number of elements to produce a greater effect; and synergistic effects; those that arise from an interaction of the effects of objectives, and can be thought of as effects that are greater than the sum of the parts.

It is important to note that in isolation, only one significant adverse effects was identified by the assessment of the Plan's vision,

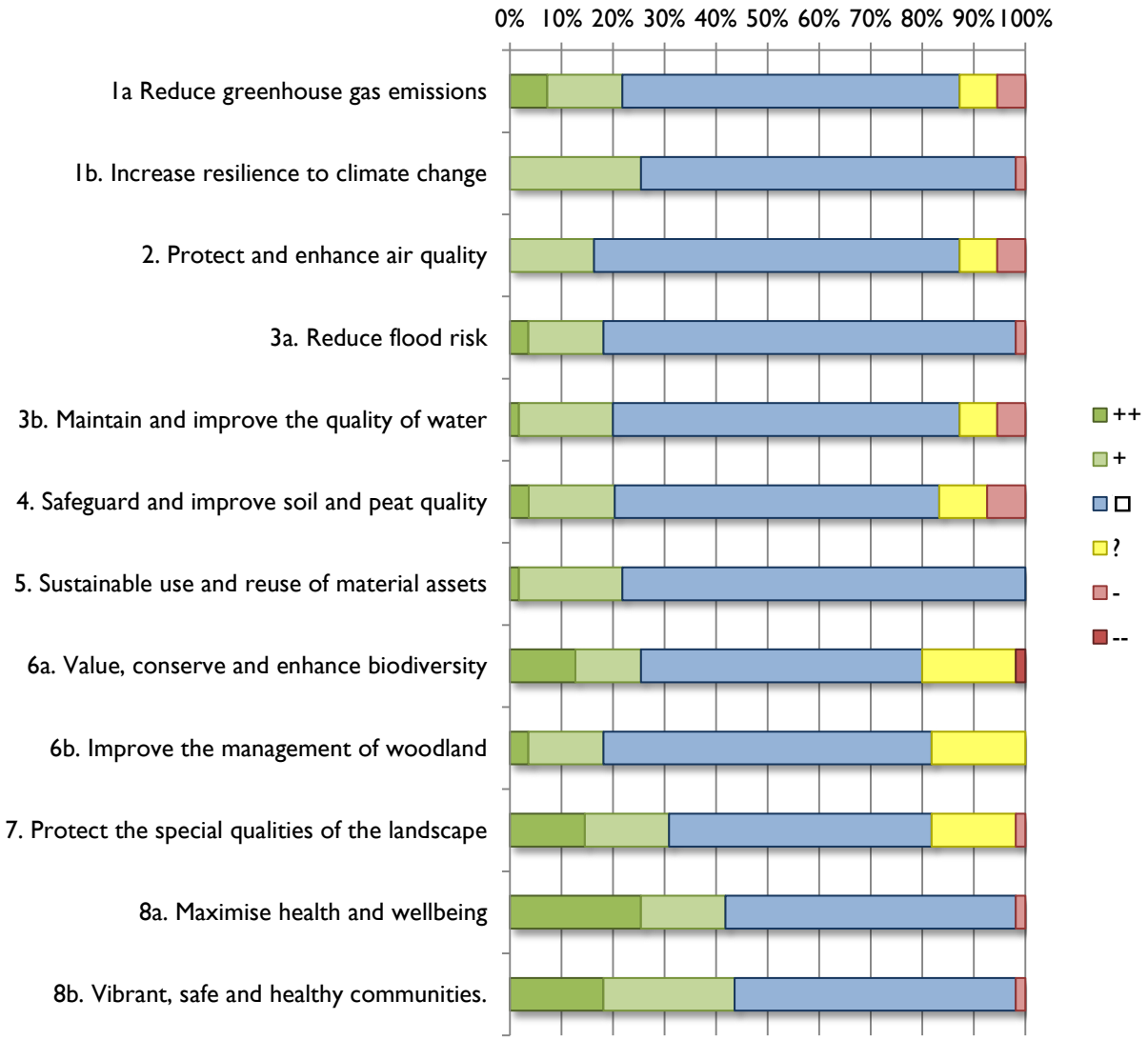



Figure 5 Summary of assessment by SEA Objective.

strategy and policies. However, this effect was identified against Policy 1.11, the purpose of which is to set out the circumstances under which long-term allocated sites may be released during the plan period 2020-2029. The assessment is does not relate to the policy itself but to the sites that fall underneath its requirements, namely LTH 1 and LTH 2.

The assessment therefore reflects a site based issue and one that is limited in scale. The effects of sites LTH1 and LTH 2 are better considered under the section of the Environmental Report that considers the relative merits of sites. It is also important to note that the requirements of Policy 1.11 also mean that the sites are unlikely to be delivered during the Plan period and if they are, it is only because other sites are not, causing the land supply to fall below its 5-year threshold. Cumulative effects are therefore not likely to occur as the shortfall required for this to happen is significant.

Nevertheless, site based and plan base policy based mitigation measures have been identified , which means significant adverse effects can be avoided. Therefore, the policy is not considered to have any bearing on the overall sustainability or environmental impact of the of the Plan.

Consideration also needs to be given as to whether or not significant in-combination or cumulative effects might arise from the 18 predicted minor adverse effects identified in the assessment.

The adverse effects cluster around certain options and certain SEA Objectives. SEA Objective 1a to Reduce GHG emissions, Objective 2 to protect and enhance air quality, Objective 3b to maintain and improve the quality of water and Objective 4 to Safeguard and improve soil and peat quality returned the greatest number of minor adverse effects, with 2, 2, 3 and 3 respectively. Most of these are associated with housing growth.

In terms of GHG emissions, it is not considered that the cumulative effects are likely to become significant. This largely because the National Park's population is a small one and is not projected to grow let alone reach levels whereby considerable harm might be caused. Furthermore, improvements to the insulatory standards and energy efficiency of buildings means that the effects of any new development are likely to be limited.

Where the effects of SEA Objectives 1a and 2 meet is with the emissions caused by private motor vehicles. The SEA predicts that a growing population combined with growing visitor numbers is likely to result in a concurrent rise in the use of private motor vehicles.

These effects also need to be considered in combination with the duelling of the A9, which is set to take place over the Plan period, with work already underway within the National Park.

In terms of GHG emissions, it is not considered that the number of additional journeys created is likely to result in significant harm. Again, this is because the projections over the Plan period and beyond indicate a small reduction in the average household size and existing

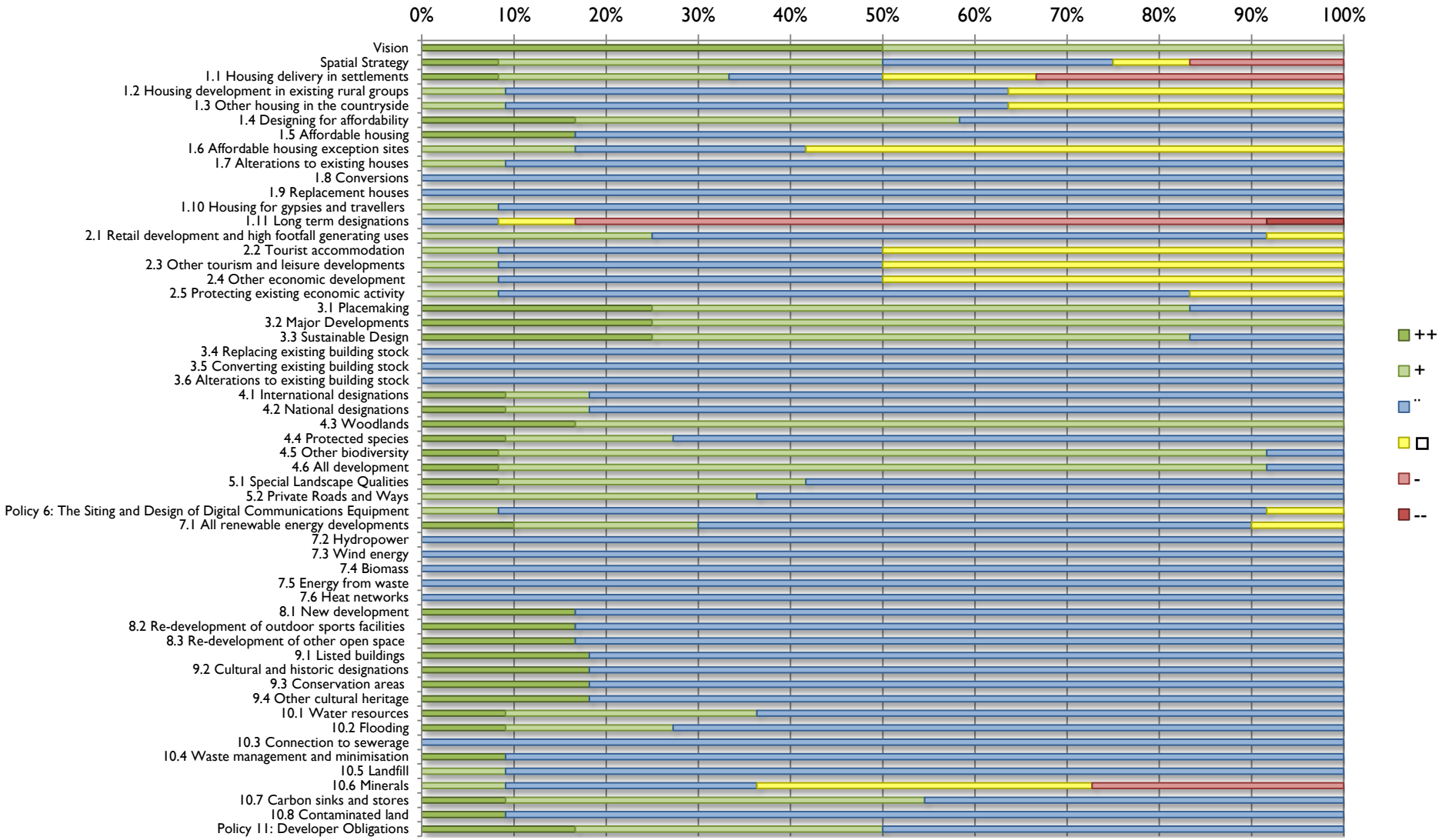



Figure 6 Summary of assessment by LDP's Vision, Strategy and Policies

population and therefore the growth in car journeys is unlikely to be high.

In terms of the effect on air quality, the fact that no air quality objectives are currently failing within the National Park and that the duelling of the A9 is likely to result in a reduction in ambient air pollution means that again, the effects are unlikely to become significant.

A number of minor negative effects have also been identified around SEA Objective 3b, which is concerned with water quality and quantity. These largely relate to potential effects from surface-water pollutants, particularly during the construction phase and the pressure developments might place on water and waste treatment infrastructure, which in some areas does not have enough capacity to meet projected growth. Since all of these effects essentially relate to the same cause, namely the development of housing, cumulative effects are not considered likely.

In fact, taken together with the work carried out by River Catchment Initiatives, the overall effects of the Plan are likely to be positive.

In terms of soil and peat quality, minor effects relate to the fact that most development is likely to occur on greenfield sites. There is little that can be done about this, although particularly valuable and sensitive soils should be avoided. Again, owing to the limited scale at which development is likely to take place over the Plan period, this is not expected to become significant.

Overall, the Strategy's cumulative effects are likely to be positive in nature, with strong environmental priorities protecting and encouraging the conservation and enhancement of the National Park's important habitats and species and progressive economic and recreational outcomes generating positive effects on human health and wellbeing.

## Evaluation of Uncertainties and Risks

Although some policies score negatively against one or more SEA Objective, the implementation of mitigation measures can help alleviate, if not neutralise some of these effects. It is worth noting that all but one of these potential adverse effects are only minor in nature.

A large number of uncertainties exist around the provision of tourist facilities and accommodation. This is largely because the scale and location of these can vary greatly and it is not possible to accurately predict what might come forward during the plan period. Risks are minimised by the fact the development plan contains policies that can be used to avoid any significant adverse effects.

For the same reason, uncertainties are identified around policies relating to economic development. While sites have been identified to accommodate some growth, businesses in the Cairngorms often fall within the small to medium enterprise category. Thus, need for development is often small in scale and in locations that are difficult to plan for in the long-term. Based on historical rates of development and the

nature and scale of projects, risks are considered to be low.

Uncertainty also exist around certain housing policies, in particular policies 1.2, 1.3 and 1.6. These essentially deal with windfall development outwith settlements and therefore the location of proposals is unknown. Risks are however low, largely due to the limited scale of the development these policies enable.

It is important to note that as a precautionary measure mitigation measures have not only been identified in relation to predicted adverse effects, but also where uncertainties are recognised. These are described in **Table 11**.

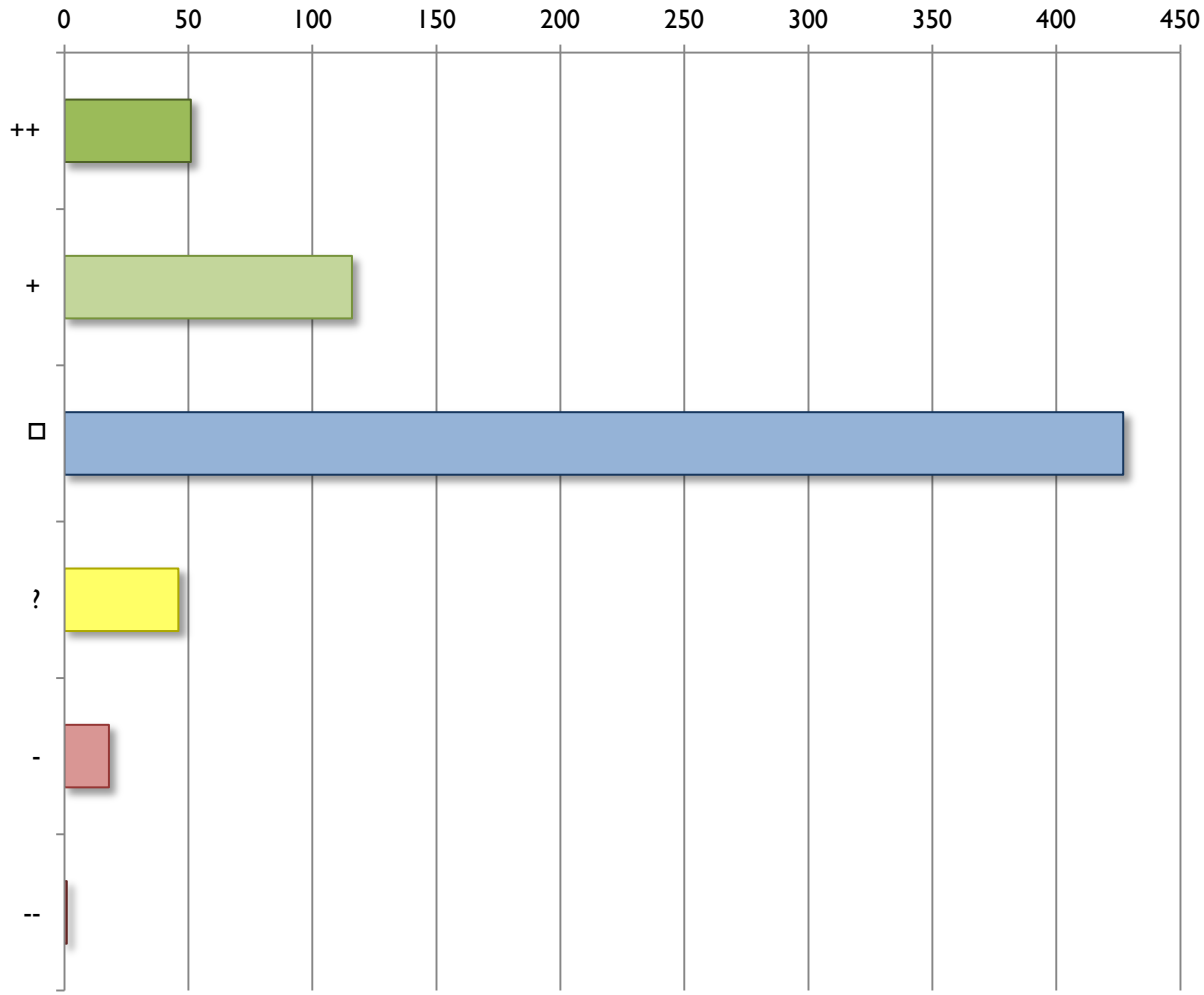



Figure 7 Overall summary of the LDP vision, strategy and policies predicted long term effects.

## Key Messages from Assessment

Generally, the plan elements scored well in the assessment (**Figure 5**, **Figure 6**, **Figure 7** and **Table 10**). No likely significant adverse effects were identified.

Some minor adverse effects were predicted, these mostly being linked to the settlement strategy and economic growth, and the land-take associated with these. These effects have not resulted in the need to make significant changes to the Plan's proposals at this stage. Mitigation measures have been identified that address potential negative effects (**Table 11**).

Table 10 Summary of SEA's conclusions on Vision, Strategy and Policies.

| Long Term Significance | Count | % |
|---|---|---|
| ++ | 51 | 7.7% |
| + | 116 | 17.6% |
| □ | 427 | 64.8% |
| ? | 46 | 7.0% |
| - | 18 | 2.7% |
| -- | 1 | 0.2% |

## Mitigation

Table 11 Summary of measures proposed to mitigate any negative effects arising from the implementation of the LDP. Site specific mitigation measures can be found in Appendix 7.

| SEA Objective | Policy Measures | Site Measures | Lead Authority | Proposed Timescale |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions | The Settlement Strategy and Policy1 partially mitigates themselves by supporting the improvement of an integrated and sustainable walking and cycling network with better links to transport. Furthermore, Policies 3, 7 and 11 have a wide range of elements that will help mitigate the negative effects of this policy on the SEA Objective, including encouraging the incorporation of renewable energy technologies into development, requiring a high standard of design and the LPA to ask for developer obligations to deliver improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure and the public transport network. The overall policy approach is supported by the Cairngorms NPPP, particular Policy 3.2. | The effects of climate change have been a key consideration in the formation of the LDP's overall Settlement Strategy, with the focus of Strategic and Intermediate Settlement's designed to reduce the reliance on private motor vehicles. Policies 1 and 2 have been designed to direct development to these more sustainable locations Policies 3, and 7 also have elements that require the delivery of different types of mitigation that will limit the effects of the site on the climate, including building high quality and energy efficient buildings that incorporate renewable energy technologies. Through these policies, where appropriate development should include provision for improved pedestrian and public transport infrastructure. This may include the provision of pavements, public footpaths, cycle tracks and improved on-site access. | CNPA | 2020-2025 |
| 1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change | Development, whether it be on allocated sites or windfall, will need to meet the requirements of Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy. | The Settlement Strategy has been designed to locate development in the most sustainable locations, a key part of which has been the desire to locate development in those areas least susceptible to the effects of climate | | |

| SEA Objective | Policy Measures | Site Measures | Lead Authority | Proposed Timescale |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Under the provisions of the 2009 Act, the CNPA has carried out a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for all sites identified for allocation within the Proposed Plan and recommends methods of managing flood risk on sites that may be subject to some risk. Where necessary, these site specific recommendations have been incorporated into the Settlement Information section of the Proposed Plan and will therefore need to be met in order for planning permission to be gained. Further, more detailed Flood Risk Assessments will be required on sites where they have been deemed necessary. Policies 3 and 10 have a wide range of elements relating to design and SuDS, which are applicable to all developments that will help mitigate the negative effects of this policy on the SEA Objective. Other policies may also have indirect effects in mitigating any negative effects, for example, Policies 4 and 5. It is however important to note that the development of these sites is unlikely within the Plan period. | change.<br><br>With respect to flood risk, both present and future, development, whether it be on allocated sites or windfall, will need to meet the requirements of Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy. Under the provisions of the 2009 Act, the CNPA has carried out a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for all sites identified for allocation within the Proposed Plan and recommends methods of managing flood risk on sites that may be subject to some risk. Where necessary, these site specific recommendations have been incorporated into the Settlement Information section of the Proposed Plan and will therefore need to be met in order for planning permission to be gained. Further, more detailed Flood Risk Assessments will be required on sites where they have been deemed necessary.<br><br>Policies 3 and 10 have a wide range of elements relating to design and SuDS, which are applicable to all developments that will help mitigate the negative effects of this policy on the SEA Objective. Both policies may also | | |

| SEA Objective | Policy Measures | Site Measures | Lead Authority | Proposed Timescale |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | be used to ensure that flood resistant building measures are incorporated into developments. Other policies may also have indirect effects in mitigating any negative effects, for example, Policies 4 and 5. | | |
| 2 Protect and enhance air quality | The policy partially mitigates itself by supporting the improvement of an integrated and sustainable walking and cycling network with better links to transport. Furthermore, Policies 3, 7 and 11 have a wide range of elements that will help mitigate the negative effects of this policy on the SEA Objective, including encouraging the incorporation of renewable energy technologies into development, requiring a high standard of design and the LPA to ask for developer obligations to deliver improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure and the public transport network. The overall policy approach is supported by the Cairngorms NPPP, particular Policy 3.2. | The Settlement Strategy supports the improvement of an integrated and sustainable walking and cycling network with better links to transport. Policies 1 and 2 have been designed to direct development to more sustainable locations. Furthermore, Policies 3 and 11 have a wide range of elements that will help mitigate the negative effects of this policy on the SEA Objective, including encouraging the incorporation of renewable energy technologies into development, requiring a high standard of design and the LPA to ask for developer obligations to deliver improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure and the public transport network. The overall policy approach is supported by the Cairngorms NPPP, particular Policy 3.2. | CNPA | 2020-2025 |
| 3a Reduce flood risk | Development, whether it be on allocated sites or windfall, will need to meet the requirements of Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, National Planning | Development, whether it be on allocated sites or windfall, will need to meet the requirements of Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, National Planning | CNPA | 2020-2025 |

| SEA Objective | Policy Measures | Site Measures | Lead Authority | Proposed Timescale |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy. Under the provisions of the 2009 Act, the CNPA has carried out a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for all sites identified for allocation within the Proposed Plan and recommends methods of managing flood risk on sites that may be subject to some risk. These site specific recommendations have been incorporated into the Settlement Information section of the Proposed Plan and will therefore need to be met in order for planning permission to be gained. Further, more detailed Flood Risk Assessments will be required on sites where they have been deemed necessary. Policies 3 and 10 have a wide range of elements relating to design and SuDS, which are applicable to all developments that will help mitigate the negative effects of this policy on the SEA Objective. Other policies may also have indirect effects in mitigating any negative effects, for example, Policies 4 and 5. It is however important to note that the development of these sites is unlikely within the Plan period. | Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy. Under the provisions of the 2009 Act, the CNPA has carried out a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for all sites identified for allocation within the Proposed Plan and recommends methods of managing flood risk on sites that may be subject to some risk. These site specific recommendations have been incorporated into the Settlement Information section of the Proposed Plan and will therefore need to be met in order for planning permission to be gained. Further, more detailed Flood Risk Assessments will be required on sites where they have been deemed necessary. Policies 3 and 10 have a wide range of elements relating to design and SuDS, which are applicable to all developments that will help mitigate the negative effects of this policy on the SEA Objective. Other policies may also have indirect effects in mitigating any negative effects, for example, Policies 4 and 5. It is however important to note that the development of these sites is unlikely within the Plan period. | | |

| SEA Objective | Policy Measures | Site Measures | Lead Authority | Proposed Timescale |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3b Maintain and improve the quality of water resources | Development, whether it be on allocated sites or windfall, will need to meet the requirements of Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy. Under the provisions of the 2009 Act, the CNPA has carried out a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for all sites identified for allocation within the Proposed Plan and recommends methods of managing flood risk on sites that may be subject to some risk. These site specific recommendations have been incorporated into the Settlement Information section of the Proposed Plan and will therefore need to be met in order for planning permission to be gained. Further, more detailed Flood Risk Assessments will be required on sites where they have been deemed necessary. Policies 3 and 10 have a wide range of elements relating to design and SuDS, which are applicable to all developments that will help mitigate the negative effects of this policy on the SEA Objective. Other policies may also have indirect effects in mitigating any negative effects, for example, Policies 4 and 5. | Policy 10 requires SUDS to be implemented as part of all developments in order to manage on-site run-off and reduce flood risk in adjacent areas. Management schemes can be put in place to ensure negative effects do not arise during construction. | CNPA | 2020-2025 |
| 4 Minimise | While a minor negative effect has been | In order to maximise the use of land, thereby | CNPA | 2020-2025 |

| SEA Objective | Policy Measures | Site Measures | Lead Authority | Proposed Timescale |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| contamination and safeguard and improve soil and peat quality. | identified, the strategy aims to minimise the loss of soil by directingdevelopment to the most sustainable locations andencouraging the coalescence of uses. Sites are also scaled so that their use is maximised through the requirement to deliver higher densities than has been the historic norm. Policies 3, 4 and 10 also have elements that will help mitigate the negative effects of this policy on the SEA Objective. | reducing the negative effects on soil, sites have been allocated to offer the highest density of development possible, without appearing out of place with their surroundings. | | |
| 5 Encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets. | No mitigation required. | No mitigation required. | N/A | N/A |
| 6a Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity, distinctive wild species and habitats | Ecological appraisals have been carried out and have been used to inform the choice of allocations and the mitigation that may be applied to limit any negative effects they may have on biodiversity. Where necessary, these have been included within the Settlement Information Section of the Proposed Plan and their requirements will need to be met to gain planning permission. Where necessary, the requirement for further surveys has been identified. Where no site specific requirements have been identified, requirements are set out by Policy 4, which seeks to reduce any negative effects on | Ecological appraisals have been carried out and have been used to inform the choice of allocations and the mitigation that may be applied to limit any negative effects they may have on biodiversity. Where necessary, these have been included within the Settlement Information Section of the Proposed Plan and their requirements will need to be met to gain planning permission. Where necessary, the requirement for further surveys has been identified. Where no site specific requirements have been identified, requirements are set out by Policy 4, which applies to all development, and seeks to | CNPA | 2020-2025 |

| SEA Objective | Policy Measures | Site Measures | Lead Authority | Proposed Timescale |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | biodiversity, while Policies 5 and 11 also have some positive synergistic effects on the SEA Objective.<br><br>With regard to Capercaillie, the CNPA is in the process of developing a Capercaillie Framework, which it is intended the LDP support, which will:<br><br>➢ 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 measures currently being deployed, using spatial mapped data where possible;<br>➢ inform future decisions about co-ordinated deployment of management measures for Capercaillie conservation;<br>➢ identify what else we may need to do, where we may need further investment or resources and highlight the future agenda for management action. | reduce any negative effects on biodiversity.<br><br>Mitigation is applied through Policy 4, with:<br>➢ 4.1 dealing with the potential effects on International Designations, such as SACs, SPAs, SSSIs and Ramsar sites;<br>➢ 4.2 dealing with the potential effects on national designations such as SSSIs, NNRs and NSAs;<br>➢ 4.3 dealing with the potential effects on woodland habitats, including areas identified on the AWI;<br>➢ 4.4 dealing with the potential effects on protected species, including European Protected Species, species protected under Schedule 1, 1A, A1 and 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and badgers and their sets, as required but h the Protection of Badgers Act1992 (as amended).<br>➢ 4.5 dealing with the potential effects on other habitats and species, such as those listed in Annexes 11 of V of the EC Habitats Directive, Annex I of the EC Birds Directive, CNAP, UKBAP, Birds of Conservation Concern and Scottish Biodiversity List. | | |

| SEA Objective | Policy Measures | Site Measures | Lead Authority | Proposed Timescale |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 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.<br><br>Work on Phase 2 is underway and is supported by Heritage Lottery Funding. Where effects are identified from the development of sites, further funding for mitigation may be levied through Policy 11. The HRA on the LDP has identified the areas where this is likely to be the case and mitigation measures have been identified included within the LDP where necessary. | ➢ 4.6 dealing with the potential effects any other protected priority habitat or species that may be present on or adjacent to a site.<br><br>Policies 5 and 11 also have some positive synergistic effects on the SEA Objective as landscaping schemes can deliver biodiversity gain while Policy offers the means to fund broader scale mitigation.<br><br>With regard to Capercaillie, the CNPA is in the process of developing a Capercaillie Framework, which it is intended the LDP support, which will:<br>➢ 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 measures currently being deployed, using spatial mapped data where possible;<br>➢ inform future decisions about co-ordinated deployment of management measures for Capercaillie conservation; | | |

| SEA Objective | Policy Measures | Site Measures | Lead Authority | Proposed Timescale |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ➢ identify what else we may need to do, where we may need further investment or resources and highlight the future agenda for management action.<br>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.<br><br>Work on Phase 2 is underway and is supported by Heritage Lottery Funding. Where effects are identified from the development of sites, further funding for mitigation may be levied through Policy 11. The HRA on the LDP has identified the areas where this is likely to be the case and mitigation measures have been identified included within the LDP where necessary. | | |
| 6b Maintain and improve the sustainable management of woodland for | Ecological appraisals, which included an assessment of the condition of woodlands and trees that may be affected by development, have been carried out and have been used to inform the choice of allocations and the | Ecological appraisals have been carried out and have been used to inform the choice of allocations and the mitigation that may be applied to limit any negative effects they may have on woodlands. Policy 4, which applies to | CNPA | 2020-2025 |

| SEA Objective | Policy Measures | Site Measures | Lead Authority | Proposed Timescale |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| multiple benefits | mitigation that may be applied to limit any negative effects they may have on biodiversity. These have been included within the Settlement Information Section of the Proposed Plan and their requirements will need to be met to gain planning permission. Where necessary, the requirement for further surveys has been identified. Policy 4 also seeks to reduce any negative effects on biodiversity, while Policy 5 also has some positive synergistic effects on the SEA Objective. | all development seeks to reduce any negative effects on biodiversity as a whole, with Policy 4.4 specifically seeking to avoid the loss of woodland habitats, including areas identified on the AWI. | | |
| 7 Protect and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the National Park's landscape and cultural and historic heritage | Landscape appraisals have been carried out and have been used to inform the choice of allocations and the mitigation that may be applied to limit any negative effects they may have on the special qualities of the National Park. Although the effects of this policy are uncertain, Policies 4 and 5 will help mitigate against any of the possible negative effects facing the National Park's landscape | Landscape appraisals have been carried out and have been used to inform the choice of allocations and the mitigation that may be applied to limit any negative effects they may have on the special qualities of the National Park.<br>As the overarching strategy for policy within the National Park the NPPP offers a means of mitigation that would need to be incorporated within the Proposed LDP. NPPP Policy 1.3 seeks to ensure that the management of the National Park results in the conservation and enhancement of the National Park's special qualities.<br><br>Within the LDP itself, Policy 5 aims to ensure that the impact of development on landscape | CNPA | 2020-2025 |

| SEA Objective | Policy Measures | Site Measures | Lead Authority | Proposed Timescale |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | will be limited and where possible contribute to its enhancement. Additionally Policy 4 and Policy and 8 offer synergistic effects as habitat mitigation and compensation and the protection and creation of open spaces can contribute positively to landscape quality. With respect to the historic environment, Policy 9 provides the primary means of avoiding negative effects, with:<br>➢ 9.1 dealing with the potential effects on listed buildings;<br>➢ 9.2 dealing with the potential effects on cultural and historic designations such as scheduled monuments, inventory battlefield sites and designed gardens and landscapes<br>➢ 9.3 dealing with the potential effects on conservation areas; and<br>➢ 9.4 dealing with the potential effects on all other heritage assets, including those identified on the Sites and Monuments and Records.<br><br>Policy 3 also plays an important role in not only avoiding negative effects, but also delivering enhancements. Specifically: | | |

| SEA Objective | Policy Measures | Site Measures | Lead Authority | Proposed Timescale |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ➢ 3.1 requires all developments to meet the six qualities of successful places;<br>➢ 3.2 requires all major developments to be subject to masterplans or development briefs, meaning that opportunities can be taken at a strategic level to manage the effects of development on landscape quality and heritage assets<br>➢ 3.3 requires development to meet a variety of tests, including that development be sympathetic to the traditional pattern and character of the surrounding area, use materials and landscaping that complement the setting of the development and improve or add to existing public and amenity open space.<br><br>Where necessary, landscaping requirements have been highlighted in the Site information of the LDP. | | |
| 8a Promote opportunities that maximise the health | Policies 3, 7 and 11 have a wide range of elements that will help mitigate the negative effects of this policy on the SEA Objective, | The desire to co-locate housing with other community facilities has been a key consideration in the formation of the LDP's | CNPA | 2020-2025 |

| SEA Objective | Policy Measures | Site Measures | Lead Authority | Proposed Timescale |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| and wellbeing of local people, visitors and communities. | Policy 11 allows the LPA to ask for developer obligations to deliver improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure and the public transport network. | overall Strategy as it promotes walking and cycling and provides easy access to health facilities. Policies 1 and 2 have been designed to locate development in the most sustainable locations, which limit the need to travel by elsewhere to get involved in community interactions.<br><br>Healthy lifestyles are indirectly prompted through Policy 3, and in particular Policy 3.1, which requires all development to meet the six qualities of successful places, including the need to be safe and pleasant, welcoming and easy to move around and beyond.<br><br>Policy 8 also promotes healthy lifestyles through encouraging the development and protection of recreational facilities and other open spaces, both formal and informal.<br><br>Policies 4 and 5 both have elements that offer synergistic effects as good biodiversity mitigation and landscaping schemes can double up as recreational spaces and encourage people to engage in their surrounding environment. More practically, Policy 11 offers the means of delivering these. | | |

| SEA Objective | Policy Measures | Site Measures | Lead Authority | Proposed Timescale |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8b Support vibrant, safe and healthy communities. | Policies 3, 7 and 11 have a wide range of elements that will help mitigate the negative effects of this policy on the SEA Objective, Policy 11 allows the LPA to ask for developer obligations to deliver improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure and the public transport network. | The desire to co-locate housing with other community facilities has been a key consideration in the formation of the LDP's overall Strategy. Policies 1 and 2 have been designed to locate development in the most sustainable locations, which limit the need to travel by elsewhere to get involved in community interactions. Policies 3, 4, 5, 9 and 11 all have elements that will help mitigate many of the effects of the site on the SEA Objective. In Particular Policy 3.1 requires all development to meet the six qualities of successful places, which requires development to be safe and pleasant, welcoming and easy to move around and beyond, all of which can contribute positively towards enabling people, to engage with their environment and those they share it with. This is supported by Policy 3.3, which requires development to add to excising public and amenity space and maintain and maximise all opportunities for responsible outdoor access. | CNPA | 2020-2025 |

## Monitoring

> "…*focusing monitoring on the significant environmental effects identified in the assessment is likely to encourage the creation of new monitoring regimes. It is therefore practical to make a clear link between the significant effects predicted within an assessment and the indicators selected to monitor the likely environmental effects.*"
>
> SEA Guidance
> (Scottish Government, 2013)

It is a requirement of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or program are monitored. This environmental monitoring may in turn form part of the monitoring framework for the LDP itself.

SEA monitoring should be undertaken for the following reasons:

- to identify whether the SEA's predictions of environmental effects were accurate;
- to identify unforeseen adverse effects and to enable appropriate remedial action to be taken;
- to identify whether the plan is contributing to the achievement of SEA Objectives;
- to identify whether mitigation measures are performing as well as expected;
- to identify whether any adverse effects are within acceptable limits or whether remedial action is required;
- to help compile a baseline for future plans and programmes; and
- to provide information for the EIAs of projects.

The 2005 Act does not require bespoke monitoring arrangements or timelines to be set out for SEA. Furthermore SEA monitoring should be based around the significant environmental effects identified during the assessment. The potential significantly adverse effects has not been identified by the assessment and therefore there is not a duty under the act to establish a monitoring framework.

However, owing to the special nature of the National Park's environment and the scope of the LDP to affect it, a proposed monitoring framework is being been developed. The framework designed to monitor what are considered to be the key environmental impacts of the LDP (**Table 12**, p.96). Indicators have not been developed for all SEA objectives as the potential for effects has been determined to be negligible. The indicators will be monitored as part of the LDP implementation and sit alongside the monitoring regimes of other PPS active within the Cairngorms, for example the NPPP (2017) and its successors.

This Environmental Report is not the conclusion of the SEA process and the proposed monitoring framework will be

refined following its publication. A finalised set of indicators will be set out in the Post-adoption Statement, which will be published following the LDP's approval by the Scottish Government.

Table 12 Proposed SEA Monitoring Framework.

| Indicator | Related Objectives | Rationale | Source | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Estimated per capita $CO_2$ emissions (t) for the National Park | 1a Reduce greenhouse gas emissions<br>1b Increase resilience to the effects of climate change | Carbon dioxide emissions account for around 82% of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK. As the population of the National Park grows it is important to ensure it does so sustainably and that per capita emissions continue to decline for significant adverse effects to be avoided. | Department of Energy and Climate Change | Annual |
| Area of land permitted on 1:200 floodplain | 3a Reduce flood risk | The estimated total average annual cost of damage in Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) within and overlapping the National Park is £1,071,000. To avoid significant adverse effects it is important to ensure that floodplains remain functional and people and infrastructure are not placed at increased risk. | CNPA | Annual |
| Water quality classification of waterbodies within and overlapping the Cairngorms National Park | 3b Maintain and improve the quality of water resources | Good water quality is essential for many of the National Park's important wetland habitats and species as well as for providing clean drinking water. | SEPA | Annual |

| Indicator | Related Objectives | Rationale | Source | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Area under peatland restoration | 4 Minimise contamination and safeguard and improve soil and peat quality. | Peat and carbon rich soils offer a range of important ecosystem services as well as being important ecosystems in their own right. | CNPA | Annual |
| Area of peatland lost due to development | | | | |
| Estimated household waste per person (kg per person) in National Park | 5 Encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets | Reducing the amount of waste produced and increasing the percentage of this waste that is recycled is essential for the sustainable use and management of our material assets. | Scottish Government | Annual |
| Estimated recycling rate (%) in National Park | | | | |
| Number cappercaillie recorded during the annual lek count | 6a Value, conserve and enhance biodiversity, distinctive native species and habitats | The LDP's spatial strategy focuses growth on the main settlements as identified in the current and future LDP. Many of these settlements are near to important habitats and protected sites, for example Glenmore and the River Spey near Aviemore. | CNPA | Annual |
| Number cappercaillie recorded during the annual brood count | | | SNH<br>RSPB<br>FCS | Annual |
| Number of cappercaillie recorded during the National Winter Survey | | | SNH<br>RSPB | Every 6 years<br>(Most recent count Winter 15/16) |
| The Ecological status of waterbodies within and overlapping the National Park | | | SEPA | Annual |

| Indicator | Related Objectives | Rationale | Source | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of new ponds created, including SuDS ponds. | | Wetlands area CNAP priority habitat and development may result in its loss. Development can however be the driving force behind creating new wetlands, in particular through the creation of SuDs schemes. | CNPA | Annual |
| Percentage of designated features in favourable condition | | It is important that the application of the LDP avoids having adverse effects on designated sites. The LDP should have a positive effect. The indicator will provide information for a wide range of habitat types. | SNH | As and when sites are assessed. |
| Area of new native woodland created in the National Park | 6b Maintain and improve the sustainable management of woodland for multiple benefits | Woodlands offer a range of important ecosystem services as well as being important ecosystems in their own right. | FCS | Annual |
| Change in the wildness of land within the National Park. | 7 Protect and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the National Park's landscape and cultural heritage | Changes to land management practices and the development delivered through the LDP could have an effect of the special qualities of the landscape, with relative wildness being an important part. | CNPA<br>SNH | Once at end of Plan period |
| Percentage of visitors using active travel during their stay | 8a Promote opportunities that maximise the health and wellbeing of local people, visitors and | In 2015, 16% of visitors used active travel during their stay in the National Park. An increase in this level would contribute towards the National Park's | CNPA | 2020 |

| Indicator | Related Objectives | Rationale | Source | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | communities. | overall sustainability. | | |
| Percentage of new dwellings with a selling price below the overall median house price of the National Park | 8b Support vibrant, safe and healthy communities. | Access to suitable housing is essential for the health and wellbeing of communities. Houses sold at or above the median price are however out of the range of those with incomes around the median. Delivering 'affordable housing' is therefore essential to avoid significant adverse effects. | CNPA | Annual |
| Average distance of households from key community facilities (e.g. post office, petrol station, primary school, secondary school, GP). | | Facilities such as post offices and primary schools are essential for the viability of communities while facilities such as GPs are important for supporting healthy lifestyles. The indicator can be compared against 2012 and 2016 baselines. | Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation | 2020 |

## Consultation / Next Steps

> "*Consultation with the Consultation Authorities at screening and scoping stages has a statutory duration period of 28 days and five weeks respectively.*"
>
> SEA of Development Plans
> (Scottish Government, 2010)

The SEA Environmental Report will be submitted to the SEA Gateway and consulted on with the CAs for a period of 10 weeks between 25th January 2019 and 4th April 2019. Following consultation on the Environmental Report, the CNPA will consider any comments received and will amend the SEA work where appropriate. This will take place in spring/summer 2019.

All documents will be available for inspection in the CNPA's main office in Grantown-on-Spey and in on its website.

Once the LDP has been adopted an Adoption Statement will be published. The Adoption Statement will summarise how the CNPA took the findings of the SEA process into account and how environmental considerations more generally have been integrated into the LDP. It will also be stated within the Post-adoption Statement if any changes have been made to the LDP as a result of the SEA process and following responses to consultation. If changes have been rejected this will also be explained.

It will also be necessary for the CNPA to monitor significant effects following the adoption of the LDP in accordance with the Scottish Government's SEA Guidance (2013).

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