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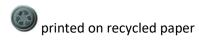
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#### 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background

In November 2022, Babbity Environmental was commissioned by the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the National Authority's future vision for the Park: *Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 People and Nature Thriving Together* (hereafter the Cairngorms 2030 Programme or C2030).

The Cairngorms 2030 Programme embraces a vision for the future of the Park in which, by 2030, the Cairngorms National Park aims to be an exemplar of people and nature thriving together in a rapidly changing world; a place where involvement is diverse, decision making is inclusive and there is a shared ambition for a future that is rich in nature: gifting a legacy of healthier people and place for future generations.

The CNPA's response to the climate emergency is centred on a community-based adaptation to climate change, with a focus on empowering communities to use their own knowledge and decision-making processes to take action. Effective community engagement and empowerment will enable positive and cooperative working relationships, leading to creative and innovative solutions to issues, and better economic, environmental and cultural outcomes for all parties.

In order to deliver the vision outlined above, the Cairngorms 2030 Programme contains a set of Aims and Objectives, under three distinct but related themes: People, Nature and Place, that, overall, sit under three overarching, cross-cutting principles: Inclusion and Diversity, System Change and the Wellbeing Economy, and Knowledge Exchange.

From these aims and objectives, 20 plans have emerged to tackle the climate emergency and the nature crisis, delivering an economy and sustainable development that works for all, across the Cairngorms National Park. This SEA addresses the potential environmental impacts, positive and negative, of the 2030 Programme's Aims, Objectives and Plans.

This report constitutes an Environmental Report, in accordance with the requirements of the European Community (EC) SEA Directive (2001/42/EC12) and the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the SEA Act). The Environmental Report illustrates the SEA process and the identification of all potentially significant environmental effects (both positive and negative) associated with the implementation of the draft 2030 Programme, with the overall process aiming to:

- Identify relevant environmental issues associated with the 2030 Programme, providing a high level of environmental protection and the integration of environmental decision making into the preparation of the draft plan;
- Evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of C2030, to ensure appropriate environment issues are identified, described, evaluated and taken into account, before the 2030 Programme is adopted and implemented; and
- Provide an early opportunity for public participation in environmental decision making, through consultation on the 2030 Programme and the associated Environmental Report.



## 1.2. Purpose of the SEA

SEA is a systematic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of proposed plans or programmes to ensure environmental issues are fully integrated and addressed at the earliest appropriate stage[s] of decision making. SEA, at its best, functions in promoting sustainable planning development and as a useful, transparent tool in the decision-making process.

The process of SEA was introduced under European Directive 2001/42/EC12 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (SEA Directive) and came into force in 2001. The Directive requires the CNPA, as the programming authority, to assess the likely significant effects of its plans and programmes on: "the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship of the above factors" including, "secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium, and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects".

The purpose of this report is to evaluate the likely environmental effects of implementing the Cairngorms 2030 Programme, and its related plans, as per the requirements of the Directive and Regulations. This includes an assessment of realistic alternative approaches and options, as well as the suggestion of mitigation and enhancement measures to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the strategy.

This report has been issued to the statutory consultation bodies by CNPA and is available to view and comment on by other interested organisations and members of the public in parallel with the consultation period for the Cairngorms 2030 Programme. More detail on the consultation period is available in Section 8.1.

The current level of environmental baselines are presented in Section 4, in support of the predicted assessment of the potential effects associated with implementing the CNPA's Plans. The environmental baseline provides information on both the current and potential issues directly associated with the plans, and with the likely future state without implementing them, estimated using past trends as required by the SEA Act. It also requires consideration of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.

## 1.3. Consultation process

In accordance with the SEA legislation, the Environmental Report will be made available for public consultation along with the draft Programme for a period of six weeks. Early engagement with the Consultation Authorities has already taken place and these representations have helped to inform the content of the draft Programme and the SEA process.

#### 1.4. Structure of this Report

The areas considered in this Environmental Report, and their location in the report, are as follows:

- Summary of the Cairngorms 2030 Programme Section 2.1;
- Relationship with other PPPS and environmental objectives Sections 2.3 & 2.6
- Review of CNPA Aims and Objectives Section 2.4
- SEA assessment methodology Section 3.2;
- Scope of Assessment Section 3.3



- Integrated Ecosystems Approach Section 3.7;
- Key issues and environmental baseline Sections 4.4 & 4.5;
- Existing environmental problems and the likely evolution of the environment without the 2030 Programme Section 4.14;
- Consideration of alternatives Section 6;
- Identification and assessment of likely significant effects on the environment Section 7 and appendices A & B;
- Mitigation and enhancement measures Section 7.5; and
- Proposed monitoring programme Section 8.6;
- Next steps regarding the consultation Section 8.2;
- Habitats Regulation Appraisal Section 9;
- Ecosystem Services Assessment Section 10;
- Summary of scoping consultation responses Appendix C

A non-technical summary of the information provided in this report has been provided separately.



#### 2. The Cairngorms 2030 Programme

Cairngorms 2030 is a programme consisting of 20 plans to tackle climate change and the nature crisis, delivering an economy that works for all, covering the Cairngorms National Park. The Cairngorms 2030 Programme outlines a strategy to deliver a vision for the Park, where involvement in decision-making is diverse and inclusive and there is a shared ambition for a future that is rich in nature, gifting a legacy of healthier people and place for future generations.

The 2030 Programme further explains how the 20 plans included within the Programme will progress, how outcomes will be developed, and success measured. It covers the context, need and rationale as well as the mechanics for how the Programme elements will be funded and managed and who will be involved.

## 2.1. Overall Programme Summary

The 2030 Programme has been shaped in direct response to the unprecedented biodiversity, human health and climate crises that have emerged as the greatest challenges of our time and how the National Park can work to address them. The Programme has been designed to tackle these crises, at a landscape scale, with input, support and collaboration from the people who live in, work and visit the Park to help rapidly deliver the Scottish Government's net-zero carbon, biodiversity and wellbeing targets.

To meet these challenges, the CNPA has taken a holistic approach to focus on Nature, People and Place as one linked system. The outcomes and goals of each are outlined below.

#### **2.1.1** Nature

The Cairngorms National Park aims to be a global exemplar of how people can work with nature to make the transformative, collaborative and innovative changes required to reduce carbon emissions and adapt in an ever-changing world. It will also seek to provide successful working models in which nature provides public health benefits and helps tackle dementia. Vital native habitats and ecosystems will be restored and recreated at scale to protect some of the most atrisk species and to help nature thrive.

#### 2.1.2 People

Residents and visitors of the National Park will be climate resilient, bold in ambition and innovative in delivery. Together with land managers, communities and business the National Park aims to build an empowered and collaborative partnership across the public, private and third sector to deliver change and a shared net zero future.

This will be achieved by developing new inclusive ways to empower people, placing them at the heart of decision making to transform their own communities, to build their capacity, capability and desire to make real change locally. Through this project, communities will develop a new focus to thrive with nature, reduce their impacts on the planet and improve wellbeing for all. A route to a wellbeing economy will be created that benefits people and nature and provides green solutions to public health priorities, including Covid-19 recovery, cost of living pressures, social isolation and those experiencing dementia and their carers.



#### 2.1.3 Place

The National Park looks to drive a systemic shift in how people interact with and care for the land around them. Sustainable and active travel will become realistic choices throughout the National Park. Land managers will explore more sustainable ways of managing land and lead the transition to net zero farming. Large areas of woodland and peatland will be expanded and restored, communities will develop natural solutions to alleviate flooding and will have their voices heard in how they value their landscapes.

## 2.2. Context and overview of plans

To align with the wider Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022-27, the 2030 Programme uses the same thematic breakdown of Nature, People & Place, under which the 20 plans are grouped. These are outlined below, with the related plans within each theme.

#### 2.2.1 **Nature**

The Nature-based Solutions (NbS) approach is an internationally agreed process to provide solutions to the twin crises of global warming and biodiversity loss. They were agreed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and defined as: "actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well- being and biodiversity benefits".

The Cairngorms 2030 Nature theme addresses the crises by adopting the principles of NbS, within the specific context of the Cairngorms National Park. They address some of the critical issues and promote solutions where we can provide the most effective remedy. This will ensure an effective contribution to mitigating global warming and reversing biodiversity loss for Scotland and the UK.

The 'Nature' projects should be considered as a group, all delivering the same aims. For example, the provision of clean rivers and better regulated water flows is achieved not just from the river restoration work but also the smart provision of new woodland and peatland restoration. Rain falling on the mountains won't just run off quickly, creating flooding, but will be filtered by the sponge of peatlands, slowed from reaching the ground by the woodland and then allowed to be stored in the restored floodplains. The farming areas will ensure more water is retained in healthier soils and that cattle are not disturbing particles by keeping them away from water courses. Farms will produce less pollution by needing fewer chemical inputs. All this could be achieved, whilst making sure the essence of the landscape, and its special qualities that the communities love, are enhanced and retained at each step.

The nature theme encompasses seven projects that will deliver a wide range of outcomes. These include:

- 1. Cairngorms Future Farming
- 2. Climate Resilient Catchments
- 3. Nature Recovery
- 4. Green Finance
- 5. Landscape and Communities
- 6. Peatland restoration



## 7. Woodland expansion

These projects were chosen as each of them addresses specific issues within the Park. Individually, they will enable improvements to these issues, as well as opportunities to develop new techniques and approaches. Collectively, they combine to create a tiered, catchment-wide programme that will allow whole landscapes to develop positively, using natural processes in response to climate change.

#### The outcomes

- Enhanced biodiversity providing "bigger, better and more joined up" habitats, with increased wildlife and protected species populations in better condition.
- Less greenhouse gasses from farms and other managed areas, with more being held in long term storage.
- Flood reduction and flow regulation, as well as cleaner rivers.
- Communities involved in their environment through having a voice in decision-making, with their special landscape qualities clearly expressed and used as a basis for policy and decision making in rural areas.
- More people directly involved in conservation through volunteering and with better skills to do so.
- A better trained workforce, now and in future, able to understand the need and benefits for incorporating environmental protection and enhancement within their daily work.
- More resilient farm businesses, able to at least maintain their economic viability, as well as being better prepared to access new Scottish Government Agri-environment schemes.
- Land more resistant to climate change effects, with healthier soils, rivers and habitats physically able to manage drought, floods and higher temperatures.

#### 2.2.2 People

The underlying premise of the People Theme is to make people feel more connected to the National Park, in order to engender a sense of ownership and care, which then encourages people to want to look after and get involved in projects and opportunities that benefit both people and nature, implementing long-term positive behaviour change.

The People Theme projects are designed to have a big impact on people's health and wellbeing, as well as creating more opportunities to improve their living and working conditions, whilst delivering net zero targets.

There will be three key aspects to the work undertaken:

- **Involve** people in codesigning and delivering practical projects, such as skills development, green health initiatives, climate learning, arts and cultural events, community engagement and community led climate action, to allow people to nurture a sense of ownership, responsibility and empowerment that will lead to more pro-environmental behaviours.
- *Empower* people by, continuing to put them at the centre of decision making that will affect them, their livelihoods and their communities. This will be, in part, though a community managed climate grants process, and also through action planning for future climate, nature and community resilience.



• *Inform* people, through workshops, training and resources, to help increase awareness and understanding of climate, biodiversity and health issues and how they will be affected by them. The wellbeing of communities and place will also be at the heart of this work.

The delivery phase of the People Theme Projects will focus on opportunities and initiatives that have not been tried before and working with new and existing audiences, with a view to making a real difference to people's lived experience in the Cairngorms. The eight People Theme projects are:

- 1. Wellbeing Economy
- 2. Public Health and the Outdoors
- 3. Dementia Activity Centre
- 4. Climate Learning and Education
- 5. Effective Community Engagement
- 6. Community Arts and Culture
- 7. Climate Conscious Communities
- 8. Community Managed Climate Grant Scheme

#### 2.2.3 Place

With transport accounting for over a third of Scotland's carbon emissions, how residents and visitors travel to and within the National Park will need to change in order to achieve Scotland's net zero targets and to tackle the challenges of the climate emergency. By changing the way people travel, the 2030 Programme aims to place active and sustainable travel at the heart of a greener future, leading to a fairer and regenerative local economy and to reduce transport-related carbon emissions. The Cairngorms National Park seeks to become a rural exemplar for sustainable and active travel, embracing technology and design innovation, to reduce transport-related carbon emissions.

The Park has a strong travel heritage based upon historical movement of people within a local region. However, much of the social transport heritage has been lost due to the dominance of privately owned motorised vehicles. Improving active travel routes and supporting infrastructure provides an opportunity to reconnect people with the social and environmental heritage of the park, strengthening people's sense of place and belonging. Raising awareness of the impact of personal travel choices and enabling a modal shift in behaviours, so that people travel more sustainably, will reduce the impact of personal journeys on the environmental heritage of the Park.

This suite of projects will collectively contribute to mitigating the climate emergency, changing attitudes and behaviours, to deliver net zero targets, whilst also improving the health and wellbeing of individuals. The means by which these targets will be reached are:

- Developing high-quality walking, wheeling and cycling connections in our communities.
- Developing a cohesive network that supports cycle use by residents and visitors across the park.
- Support delivery and use of sustainable transport options.



Encourage modal shift in personal behaviours.

The four Place Theme Projects are:

- 1. Active Communities
- 2. Cycle Friendly Cairngorms
- 3. Sustainable Travel
- 4. Changing Travel Behaviours

#### 2.2.4 Programme wide - Knowledge and Research Exchange

The objective of the 'Research, Evaluation and Knowledge Exchange' strand of work is to share the journey of the Cairngorms 2030 programme: the knowledge gained, change achieved, and lessons learned; within the organisation, locally, nationally and internationally.

The project will create a robust Knowledge Exchange, Research and Evaluation framework which will guide (i) the baselining of 'where we are'; (ii) the assessment of 'what we achieve' through both individual project level outputs and wider programme level outcomes; (iii) the capturing of the process of achieving the project and programme aims; (iv) the sharing of this information and experience in diverse networks across research, policy and practice, at all geographical scales.

## 2.3. Relationship with other PPPS and environmental objectives and assessment

Appended to this Chapter, in Section 2.6, is a Table of all relevant PPS and their relationship to the 2030 Programme.

## 2.4. Review of CNPA Aims and Objectives

#### 2.4.1 The Cairngorms National Park Aims

The National Park has four distinct, overarching aims, as set out by Parliament:

- 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.

These aims are to be pursued collectively. However, if there is conflict between the first aim and any of the others, greater weight is given to the first aim (as set out in Section 9.6 of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000). This helps ensure conservation of the natural and cultural heritage underpins the economic, social and recreation value of the Cairngorms National Park.

#### 2.4.2 2030 Programme Aims and Objectives

The 2030 Programme contains six aims and objectives, interlinked under the People, Nature & Place themes.



Table 2.1: Cairngorms 2030 Programme Aims and Objectives

People	Aim 1. To enhance ecological and economic wellbeing, through transformational, collaborative and innovative change.	Objective 1. People's health and livelihoods will be improved through the development and promotion of a wellbeing economy in the Cairngorms National Park.
le	Aim 2. To inform and change attitudes and behaviours in order to deliver netzero and biodiversity targets.	Objective 2. People and businesses will be more knowledgeable about climate and carbon and will have changed their behaviours to help deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets.
Nature	Aim 3. To empower people to take responsibility for decisions affecting change in their environment and see the benefits of those changes flow to their communities.	Objective 3. People will be more involved in their community's governance and practical activity.
J	Aim 4. To be an international showcase for inclusive and equitable land management change.	Objective 4. Cairngorms National Park will trial new models of land use and land management and pioneer new collaborations to engage with nature.
اط	Aim 5. To mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations.	Objective 5. Cairngorms National Park will contribute to net zero and biodiversity targets through landscape-scale enhancements to woodlands, peatlands, river catchments, uplands and farmlands.
Place	Aim 6. To place active travel at the heart of a greener future, leading to a fairer and regenerative local economy during Covid recovery.	Objective 6. Cairngorms National Park will be a rural exemplar for sustainable and active travel, embracing technology and design innovation, to reduce transport related carbon emissions.

# 2.5. High level policy assessment

There have been significant changes in the policy landscape, since the first NLHF Heritage Horizons funding application was submitted. A climate emergency and nature crisis have been declared. The UK has left the European Union and its policy framework, and the Covid-19 pandemic – and the collective need to recover from its impacts – is at the forefront of policy discussion. There is also a deepening cost-of-living crisis and a desire to move to an economy that works for everyone, with the wellbeing of our citizens at its heart.



#### 2.5.1 National policy framework

As a whole, the 2030 Cairngorms programme and its inclusion in the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan is guided by Scottish Government's National Performance Framework and by the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The development of Cairngorms 2030 has informed the climate change mitigation policy of the Cairngorms National Park, along aligned delivery themes. The documents listed below are the key national policy documents that underpin the approach taken in this plan.

#### **2.5.2** Nature

- A Future Strategy for Scottish Agriculture
- Climate Change Plan 2018 2032
- Deer Working Group Scottish Government Response
- Environment Strategy for Scotland
- Grouse Moor Management Review Scottish Government Response
- Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2021 2026
- Scottish Biodiversity Strategy 2022, Biodiversity Statement of Intent, Edinburgh Declaration
- Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plans

#### 2.5.3 People

- Equalities Duty
- Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement
- National Gaelic Language Plan
- Nature-based Jobs and Skills Action Plan
- Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation
- Scotland's Public Health Priorities
- Skills Action Plan for Rural Scotland
- Volunteering for All

## 2.5.4 Place

- Cultural Strategy for Scotland
- Housing to 2040 Strategy
- Let's Get Scotland Walking National Walking Strategy
- National Planning Framework 4
- National Transport Strategy
- Scotland Outlook 2030 Responsible Tourism for a Sustainable Future
- Strategic Transport Projects Review 2

#### 2.5.5 National policy context

The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019, which amends the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, sets targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045 at the latest, with interim targets for reductions of at least 56% by 2020, 75% by 2030, 90% by 2040.



Scotland's target of net-zero emissions by 2045, five years ahead of the UK, is firmly based on what the independent Committee on Climate Change (CCC) advise is the limit of what can currently be achieved. The levels of all of Scotland's targets are regularly reviewed, following advice from the CCC.

The 2019 Act embeds the principles of a Just Transition, which means reducing emissions in a way which tackles inequality and promotes fair work, at the heart of Scotland's approach to reaching net-zero.

#### 2.5.6 Local / regional policy context

The Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022-2027 is the overarching management plan for the Cairngorms National Park. It sets out how all those with a responsibility for the Park will coordinate their work to tackle the most important issues over the next five years. It includes the Economic Strategy, Sustainable Tourism Strategy, Regional Spatial Strategy, Climate Action Plan and the Regional Land Use Framework. It is supported by a number of action plans that will help to deliver the objectives of the plan and the National Park's aims.

The Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2020 will guide development in the Cairngorms National Park, over the period 2020-2025 and into the longer term.

#### 2.5.7 Thematic area policy context

The Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan provides strategic direction for five key strategies / plans. These are each developed, through close partnership working with different sectors, and their delivery is dependent on the work undertaken by businesses, land managers, communities, charities and the public sector, in mutual support.

This project delivers across all five strategies and will be the foundation for all future policy and strategy developments in the National Park.





# 2.6. Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA Topic	Relationship between the PPS and the Cairngorms 2030 plans				
International Directives and Polici	International Directives and Policies						
European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (European Council, 1992)	European Directive adopted under the auspices of the Council of Europe to protect and promote historical regional and minority languages in Europe. Identifies Gaelic as being an endangered language.	<ul><li>Landscape and Cultural heritage</li><li>Population and Human health</li></ul>	The proposals should support the Gaelic language, where relevant to the priorities identified.				
European Landscape Convention (European Commission, 2000)	Promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues.	<ul> <li>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</li> <li>Landscape and Cultural heritage</li> <li>Population and Human health</li> </ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should be a tool for the maintenance and restoration of landscapes and their natural habitats.				
The Paris Agreement (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2015)	The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change, by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.	■ Climatic Factors	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should seek to promote the development and use of appropriate renewable energy sources and contribute to climate change mitigation.				
Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC, 1997)	Protocol to the international Framework Convention on Climate Change Framework with the objective of reducing the greenhouse gases that cause climate change.	■ Climatic factors	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support measures that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.				
The Pan-European Biological	The Strategy aims to reverse the decline of landscape and	■ Biodiversity, Flora and	Where relevant to the priorities				
and Landscape Diversity Strategy (Council of Europe, 1995)	biological diversity, by promoting innovation and proactive policy making.	Fauna Landscape and Cultural Heritage Population and Human health	identified, the proposals should support the Strategy by considering the contribution that actions could make to protecting biodiversity and landscapes.				



Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, 1971	Requires conservation and wise use of wetlands.	<ul><li>Water</li><li>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</li><li>Landscape and Cultural Heritage</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should ensure the protection and enhancement of wetlands.
Taking Sustainable Use of Resources Forward: A thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste (EU 2005)	A sector-based strategy, produced as a requirement of the Seventh Environmental Action Programme of the European Community, seeking to help Europe become a recycling society that seeks to avoid waste and uses waste as a resource.	<ul><li>Climatic factors</li><li>Air</li><li>Material assets</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should seek to minimise waste and promote recycling.
Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection (EU 2006)	A sector-based strategy produced as a requirement of the Seventh Environmental Action Programme of the European Community, seeking to establish common principles for the protection and sustainable use of soils.	■ Soil and geodiversity	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should contribute towards the protection and improvement of soil.
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UN, 1992)	An international legally binding treaty, with three main goals: conservation of biodiversity; sustainable use of biodiversity; and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.	■ Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should look for opportunities to conserve and, where possible, to restore, biodiversity.
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (the Rio Earth Summit) 1992 (UN, 1992)	Treaty aimed at reducing global emissions of greenhouse gases to combat global warming.	■ Climatic factors	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should assist in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
National Legislation (UK and Scotl	and)	•	
Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000 (as amended in Scotland)	Establishes standards for air quality and sets limits for various pollutants in Scotland.	■ Air ■ Population and Human health	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support measures that would improve air quality.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended by Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011)	Prescribes the approach to be taken to planning for scheduled ancient monuments and archaeological areas.	■ Landscape and Cultural heritage	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should ensure that scheduled ancient monuments and archaeological areas are not adversely affected by new development.



Climate Change (Scotland) Act	Legislation to set a target for the year 2050, an interim target for the	■ Climatic factors	Where relevant to the priorities
2009	year 2020, and to provide for annual targets, for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; about the giving of advice to the Scottish		identified, the proposals should support and include climate change adaptation
	Ministers relating to climate change; to confer power on Ministers to impose climate change duties on public bodies; to make further provision about mitigation of and adaptation to climate change; to		and mitigation measures.
	make provision about energy efficiency, including provision to enable council tax discounts; to make provision about the reduction and recycling of waste; and for connected purposes.		
Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994 (as amended for Scotland)	These regulations relate to the designation of European sites, and provision of protection to various plant and animal species.	■ Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should ensure that European sites are protected from loss or damage.
Environment Act 1995	The Act sets new standards for environmental management by National Parks and other statutory bodies.	■ All Topics	The CNPA must adhere to the standards set out in the Act.
Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	Requires Strategic Environmental Assessments to be completed for plans, programmes and strategies likely to have significant environmental effects.	■ All Topics	Enables the significant environmental effects of the plans to be identified and addressed.
Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 2017	Requires environmental impact assessments for certain forestry projects.	■ All Topics	The plans will be required to be compatible with Environmental Impact Assessments legislation.
The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017	Requires environmental impact assessment of site-specific projects and specifically requires consideration of Sensitive Areas, including National Parks.	■ All Topics	The plans will be required to be compatible with Environmental Impact Assessments legislation.
Equality Act 2010	The Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society.	■ Population and Human health	The plans should ensure that they do not result in individuals or groups with protected characteristics being discriminated against.



Flood Risk Management	Establishes roles, responsibilities and requirements for sustainable	■ Climatic Factors	The plans should support flood
(Scotland) Act 2009	flood management.	■ Water ■ Population and Human health	management, particularly natural flood management.
Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005	The Act aims to secure Gaelic as an official language of Scotland, "commanding equal respect" with English.	<ul><li>Landscape and Cultural heritage</li><li>Population and Human health</li></ul>	In their production, the plans should meet the requirements of the Act and enable any other partners, including those not covered by the Act, to do the same.
Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014	Amongst other things, establishes Historic Environment Scotland with the general function of investigating, caring for and promoting Scotland's historic environment.	<ul><li>Landscape and Cultural heritage</li></ul>	The plans should support the protection and preservation of the historic environment.
Housing (Scotland) Act 2014	Makes provision about housing, including provision about the abolition of the right to buy, social housing, the law affecting private housing, the regulation of letting agents and the licensing of sites for mobile homes.	Population and Human health	The plans should support the provision of housing, particularly affordable housing.
Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	Establishes right of responsible access to land and water.	<ul> <li>Water</li> <li>Landscape and Cultural Heritage</li> <li>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</li> <li>Population and Human health</li> </ul>	The plans can provide for, and support, responsible access.
National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000	Specifies what a Park Authority can do and how it should be run, including a requirement to produce a National Park Plan.	■ All Topics	Establishes the aims of National Parks. Provides direction on the functions and role of the National Park Authority.



Nature Conservation Act (Scotland) 2004	Act places duties on public bodies for conserving biodiversity, increases protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), amends legislation on Nature Conservation Orders, provides for Land Management Orders for SSSIs and associated land, strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and requires the preparation of a Scottish Fossil Code.	<ul><li>Water</li><li>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</li><li>Landscape and Cultural Heritage</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland)Act 1997	Prescribes the approach to be taken in planning for listed buildings, conservation areas and designed landscapes and gardens.	<ul><li>Material Assets</li><li>Landscape and Cultural heritage</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should ensure that listed buildings, conservation areas and designed landscapes and gardens are not adversely affected.
Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended in Scotland)	Sets out offences in relation to the protection of badgers.	■ Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should seek to protect badgers.
Sewage (Scotland) Act 1968	Along with the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002, this gives responsibilities to Scottish Water to manage the discharge of surface water that enters its drainage systems (by providing sewers and public Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs)) and to maintain water supplies and drainage infrastructure.	<ul><li>Water</li><li>Population and Human health</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should have regard to Scottish Water's duties under this Act.
Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003	Transposes the Water Framework Directive into Scots' law.	<ul> <li>Water</li> <li>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</li> <li>Landscape and Cultural Heritage</li> <li>Population and Human health</li> </ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should encourage improvements to the water environment and support measures for more efficient use of water.
Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002	Along with the Sewage (Scotland) Act 1968, this gives responsibilities to Scottish Water to manage the discharge of surface water that enters its drainage systems (by providing sewers and public Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs)) and to maintain water supplies and drainage infrastructure.	■ Water ■ Population and Human health	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should have regard to Scottish Water's duties under this Act.



Wildlife and Countryside Act	Sets out offences in relation to the protection of certain species.	■ Biodiversity, Flora	Where relevant to the priorities
1981 (as amended in Scotland)		and Fauna	identified, the proposals should support protected species.
Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011	Amends Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and seeks to modernise game law; abolish the designation 'areas of special protection'; improve snaring practice; regulate invasive non- native species; change the licensing system for protected species; amend current arrangements for deer management and deer stalking; strengthen protection of badgers; change how muirburn can be practised; and make operational changes to the management of Sites of Scientific Interest; game law, use of shores, and invasive species legislation.	■ Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support provisions of the Act.
Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	To make provision in relation to the conservation of biodiversity; to make further provision in relation to the conservation and enhancement of Scotland's natural features; to amend the law relating to the protection of certain birds, animals and plants; and for connected purposes.	■ Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support provisions of the Act.
National Policy (UK and Scotland)			
The Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000	Sets out air quality objectives for Scotland.	<ul><li>Air</li><li>Population and Human health</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should encourage reductions in emissions, through a range of measures.
Creating Places - A policy statement on architecture and place for Scotland (Scottish Government, 2013)	A policy statement on architecture and place setting out the comprehensive value good design can deliver. The document contains an action plan that sets out the work that will be taken forward to achieve positive change.	<ul><li>Landscape and Cultural heritage</li><li>Population and Human health</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support good design.



Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (Scottish Government, 2014)	Sets objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, ministerial proposals and policies for meeting those objectives, and the period within which those proposals and policies will be introduced. The Programme also sets out the arrangements for wider engagement in meeting those objectives.	<ul><li>Climatic factors</li><li>Population and Human health</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should encourage reductions in emissions through a range of measures.
Civil Contingencies Act 2004	Delivers a framework for civil protection in the UK and defines the responsibilities for responders to emergencies.	<ul><li>Material Assets</li><li>Population and Human health</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support the requirements of responders to fulfil their statutory duties.
Cleaner Air for Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future (Scottish Government, 2015)	The national cross-government strategy that sets out how the Scottish Government and its partner organisations propose to reduce air pollution further to protect human health and fulfil Scotland's legal responsibilities as soon as possible.	<ul><li>Air</li><li>Population and Human health</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should encourage reductions in emissions through a range of measures.
Climate Change: The UK Programme (UK Government, 2000)	Goal to reduce carbon emissions in the UK by 60% by 2050.	Climatic factors Air	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should encourage reductions in emissions through a range of measures.
Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland (SEPA, 2009)	This policy aims to provide a sustainable future for Scotland's groundwater resources by protecting legitimate uses of groundwater and providing a common SEPA framework.	■ Water ■ Soil and geodiversity	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should aim, where possible, to manage significant flood risk to groundwater from flooding related pollution.
Designations Three Year Plans 2016 – 2019 (HES, 2016)	This document sets out the three-year plans for Historic Environment Scotland's work on designations.	<ul><li>Landscape and Cultural heritage</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should follow the guidance when considering designated sites and structures.



Historic Environment Circular 1 (HES, 2019)	This circular covers the requirements of the secondary legislation ('the Regulations') relating to the Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014 ('the 2014 Act').	■ Landscape and Cultural heritage	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should follow the guidance for policy development on the management of the historic environment.
Historic Environment Policy Statement (HES, 2019)	Document to which planning authorities are directed in their consideration of applications for conservation area consent, listed building consent, for buildings of all three categories, and their consideration of planning applications affecting the historic environment, and the setting of individual elements of the historic environment.	■ Landscape and Cultural heritage	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should follow the guidance for policy development on the management of the historic environment.
Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016 – 2021 (Scottish Government, 2016)	Outlines strategy for achieving sustainable land use across Scotland and getting the best from the land of Scotland.	■ All Topics	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plans could support the National Land Use Strategy.
Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes (HES, various)	Series of guidance notes which are designed to support the Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) and Scottish Planning Policy.	<ul><li>Landscape and Cultural heritage</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support positive management of the historic environment.
National Planning Framework 4 (Scottish Government, 2023)	A long-term strategy for Scotland that provides the spatial expression of the Government's Economic Strategy and plans for the development and investment in infrastructure.	■ All Topics	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support the strategic context set by NPF4 for future regional change around the Park.
Control of Woodland Removal Policy (Scottish Government, 2009)	Sets out Scottish Ministers' policy on woodland removal in Scotland.	<ul> <li>Climatic Factors</li> <li>Water</li> <li>Soil and geodiversity</li> <li>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</li> <li>Landscape and Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support the policy.



The River Basin Management	Fulfils a requirement under the Water Environment and Water	■ Water	Where relevant to the priorities
Plans for the Scotland River Basin District: 2015–2027 (SEPA, 2015)	Services (Scotland) Act 2003.	<ul><li>Soil and geodiversity</li><li>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</li></ul>	identified, the proposals should support management objectives for water bodies in the National Park.
Scotland Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 (Scottish Government, 2014)	Sets goals for sustainable rural development and the types of support available.	■ All Topics	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plans could support rural development and diversification.
Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Framework (Scottish Government, 2009)	The framework plays a central role in building Scotland's resilience to the changing climate, by setting the strategic direction for Scottish Government actions and providing specific actions for different sectors	<ul><li>Climatic factors</li><li>Population and Human health</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support and include climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.
Scotland's Economic Strategy (Scottish Government, 2015)	Reaffirms the Scottish Government's commitment to creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.	<ul><li>Material assets</li><li>Population and Human Health</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should encourage economic development that does not adversely affect the special qualities of the Park.
Scotland's National Transport Strategy (Transport Scotland, 2006)	Scottish Government's National Strategy for reducing transport emissions by 80%.	<ul><li>Climatic Factors</li><li>Air</li><li>Population and Human health</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support reductions in emissions from transport.
Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (Scottish Government, 2004 / 2013)	Comprises of two documents:  Scotland's Biodiversity – It's in Your Hands. A strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland (2004).  2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity - A Strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland (2013). Identifies Scottish biodiversity priorities and lead partners for taking action.	<ul> <li>Water</li> <li>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</li> <li>Landscape and Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should reflect the purpose of the Strategy through support for the Cairngorms Nature Action Plans 2013 - 2018.



Scottish Forestry Strategy	Outlines strategic priorities for forestry including management,	■ Air	Where relevant to the priorities
(Scottish Government, 2019)	planting and environmental stewardship.	<ul> <li>Water</li> <li>Soil and geodiversity</li> <li>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</li> <li>Landscape and Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>	identified, the proposals should provide a strategic direction for forestry policy within the National Park.
Scottish Geodiversity Charter	Charter sets out why geodiversity is important, and presents a vision	■ Soil and	The CNPA is a signatory to the Charter
2018-2023 (Scottish Geodiversity Forum, 2018)	that geodiversity is recognised as an integral and vital part of our environment, economy, heritage and future sustainability, to be safeguarded for existing and future generations in Scotland.	geodiversity Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Landscape and Cultural Heritage	and therefore, where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should include actions to help meet its objectives.
Scottish Government's	Gives an overview of the Scottish Government's plans for	■ Material Assets	Where relevant to the priorities
Infrastructure Investment Plans (Scottish Government, 2015)	infrastructure investment over the coming decades.	■ Population and Human health	identified, the proposals should take account of potential impacts (both positive and negative) of actions on existing and planned developments.
Scottish Government's National Performance Framework, National Outcomes (Scottish Government, undated)	As part of the National Performance Framework, the Scottish Government has set 15 National Outcomes that the public sector must collectively deliver on children and young people, economy, fair work and business, international, communities, education, health, poverty, culture, environment, human rights.	■ All Topics	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should identify and contribute to delivery of the outcomes that are most appropriate in the Park.
Scottish Planning Policy (Scottish Government, 2014)	National planning policy and guidance.	■ All Topics	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should identify and contribute to the requirements set out within Scottish Planning Policy.
Scottish Soil Framework (Scottish Government, 2009)	Ministers' policies and objectives for the conservation and use of soils.	■ All Topics	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should promote soil conservation.



Scottish Water Business Plans	The business plans set out how Scottish Water will deliver	■ Water	Where relevant to the priorities
2015 – 2021 (Scottish Water, 2015)	improvements to drinking water quality, the environment and customer service required by Scottish Ministers.	■ Population and Human health	identified, the proposals should be developed with regard to the objectives and actions proposed in the Business Plans.
Scottish Zero Waste Plans (Scottish Government, 2010)	Provides context for waste planning in Scotland by sets the strategic direction for waste policy for Scotland, with a target of 70% recycling and maximum 5% to landfill, by 2025, for all Scotland's waste.	<ul> <li>Climatic Factors</li> <li>Soil and geodiversity</li> <li>Material assets</li> <li>Population and Human health</li> </ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plans could support waste management and good design.
Tourism Scotland 2020 (HIE, 2012)	The strategy targets those markets that offer Scotland the greatest growth potential, provides collaboration within and across Scotland's tourism destinations and develops the authentic memorable experiences tourists seek.	<ul><li>Landscape and Cultural Heritage</li><li>Population and Human health</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support development of sustainable tourism to contribute to national targets for tourism growth.
UK Geodiversity Action Plans (UK GAP, 2011)	The Action Plans provides a framework in which actions for geodiversity can be captured in one place, allowing a range of organisations, groups and individuals to demonstrate their achievements in a UK-wide context	<ul> <li>Soil and geodiversity</li> <li>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</li> <li>Landscape and Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should include actions to help promote and protect the National Park's geodiversity.
UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (JNCC/Defra, 2012)	The Framework sets out the common purpose and shared priorities of the UK and Scotland for the management of the environment as a whole.	<ul><li>Water</li><li>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</li><li>Landscape and Cultural Heritage</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should reflect the purpose of the Framework through support for the Cairngorms Nature Action Plans 2013 - 2018.
Local Plans and Strategies			



Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2017 – 2022 and emerging NPPP 2022 – 2027 (due for adoption in autumn 2022)	The NPPP is a five-year management plan covering the whole of the Cairngorms National Park area (for a five year period, although it also contains longer term targets). NPPPs seek to identify key land management, social and economic issues for the Park as a whole, along with strategic measures to alleviate them.	■ All Topics	Where relevant, the plans should support the objectives and policies in the NPPP.
A9 Dualling Strategy (Transport Scotland)	The project involves the upgrade of 80 miles of single carriageway along the A9 between Perth and Inverness by 2025.	■ All Topics	The plans will need to consider the effects of the dualling on the aims of the National Park and how this will influence the proposals in the plans.
Cairngorms National Park Capercaillie Framework (CNPA, 2015) (and subsequent Cairngorms Capercaillie Project)	The Framework provides a set of working data, analysis and recommendations that will inform implementation across a wide spectrum of work, from habitat and species management, to recreation management and development planning. The Cairngorms Capercaillie Project will deliver the recommendations of the Capercaillie Framework.	■ Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support the aims of the Framework and ensure that capercaillie and their habitat are not adversely affected.
Cairngorms National Park Core Paths Plans (CNPA, 2015)	Identifies a network of core paths throughout the National Park.	<ul><li>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</li><li>Population and Human health</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support the promotion and development of core paths.
Cairngorms Forest Strategy (CNPA, 2018)	The Forest Strategy provides future direction for the management of existing forests and guidance on creating new woodlands that enhance the Cairngorms National Park and supports its four aims.	■ All Topics	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support the aims of the Strategy and ensure that forests and woodlands are not adversely affected.
Cairngorms National Park Economic Strategy 2015-2018 (CNPA, 2015)	The purpose of the Strategy for the Cairngorms National Park is to identify the priorities that are specifically relevant to the area and to ensure that partners are working together to address them.	■ Population and Human Health	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support the National Park's aim to promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.



Cairngorms National Park Gaelic Language Plans (CNPA, 2018)	A plan that aims to enhance the Gaelic Language and culture within the National Park.	<ul> <li>Landscape and Cultural Heritage</li> <li>Population and Human health</li> </ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support the aims of the Language Plans.
Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021	Establishes development and settlement strategy for the Park, allocates specific development sites, and provides policies for managing development in the Park.	■ All Topics	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plans will need to take account of the LDP contents.
Cairngorms Nature Action Plans (CNPA, 2018)	Priorities and actions for biodiversity in the National Park.	<ul><li>Water</li><li>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</li><li>Landscape and Cultural Heritage</li></ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support the implementation and review of Cairngorms' Action Plans.
Active Cairngorms (CNPA, 2015)	Provides a framework for managing outdoor access in the Park.	<ul> <li>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</li> <li>Landscape and Cultural Heritage</li> <li>Population and Human health</li> </ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plans could support and promote responsible outdoor access.
Community Visions and Local Community Action or development plans	Statements from communities in the Park about how they would like to change or develop in future, sometimes with plans on how to get there.	<ul> <li>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</li> <li>Landscape and Cultural heritage</li> <li>Population and Human health</li> </ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support communities in developing their own plans and capacity.
Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs) (prepared by Community Planning Partners in each of the 5 Local Authority areas overlapping the Park)	Strategic documents outlining (usually socio-economic) priorities for communities. Community Planning Partners include local public services such as councils, NHS boards, police and fire services, and other public bodies. They work together to improve the way that local services are planned, co-ordinated and carried out.	■ All Topics	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should help deliver priorities to address inequalities and issues in communities.



Local Housing Strategies	Required by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001. Sets out how housing	■ Population and	Where relevant to the priorities
(prepared by Local Authorities as housing authorities for each council area)	authorities will provide for housing needs and demands in their area.	Human health	identified, the proposals should support housing delivery.
Regional and Local Transport Strategies (prepared by Local Authorities)	Set out how to maintain and improve infrastructure.	<ul><li>Climatic Factors</li><li>Air</li><li>Population and Human health</li></ul>	Plans should support sustainable transport solutions and encourage lower carbon forms of transport.
River Dee Catchment Management Plans (Dee Catchment Partnership, 2007)	Aims to promote sustainable use of natural resources, to improve water quality and biodiversity within the river catchment.	<ul> <li>Water</li> <li>Soil and geodiversity</li> <li>Biodiversity, flora and fauna and Landscape and Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support integrated catchment management as a way of improving water quality and the health of natural systems.
River Spey Catchment Management Plans (Spey Catchment Initiative, 2016)	Aims to promote sustainable use of natural resources, to improve water quality and biodiversity within the river catchment.	<ul> <li>Water</li> <li>Soil and geodiversity</li> <li>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</li> <li>Landscape and Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support integrated catchment management as a way of improving water quality and the health of natural systems.
South Esk Catchment Management Plans (River South Esk Catchment Partnership, 2009)	Aims to promote sustainable use of natural resources, to improve water quality and biodiversity within the river catchment.	<ul> <li>Water</li> <li>Soil and geodiversity</li> <li>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</li> <li>Landscape and Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support integrated catchment management as a way of improving water quality and the health of natural systems.



Tourism: Action + Change: Tourism Action Plans for the Cairngorms National Park 2017- 2022 (CNPA, 2017)	Developed by the Cairngorms Tourism Partnership, which brings together the key businesses and agencies involved in tourism, the Action Plans sets out the priority actions over the next five years to deliver sustainable tourism in the Cairngorms National Park in line with the Europarc Federation of Protected Areas Charter.	<ul> <li>Air</li> <li>Water</li> <li>Material assets</li> <li>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</li> <li>Landscape and Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals should support the implementation of the Sustainable Tourism Strategy.
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## 3. Approach and Method

## 3.1. Background

The Cairngorm National Park Programme 2030 is subject to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 which requires an environmental assessment to be undertaken for all public sector policy, plans and programmes. A screening and scoping exercise was carried out in 2022, with regards to these regulations, and the conclusions of the exercise were that only ten of the 20 plans, contained within the programme, merited an assessment being conducted. The reason given for this was that other plans were either too conceptual in nature to allow for a meaningful assessment, or that they were unlikely to have negative environmental impacts<sup>1</sup>.

While consultation by the statutory authorities (see Appendix C) raised no issue with this approach, it was considered, upon reflection and review of the screening and scoping documents and in discussion with the CNPA SEA team, that the approach had limitations (see section 2.4). For the purpose of gaining the maximum utility from the SEA undertaking, the SEA team decided to go further than this initial scope and, following discussion with the Cairngorms programme team, an approach has been determined to expand the scope of the SEA assessment to include all 20 plans included within the 2030 programme, to include the aims and objectives of the 2030 Programme, as well as the 2030 Programme's overarching philosophy and values.

The SEA Act specifies the minimum data that is to be included within the SEA as being enough information to allow an assessment of the Plan, Programme or Strategy (PPS) on the following environmental features: biodiversity (including fauna and flora); population; human health; soil; water; air; climatic factors; material assets; cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; landscape; and, importantly, the inter-relationship between all of these issues and their potential cumulative impacts.

## 3.2. ANSEA Approach and Method

The SEA of the Cairngorm National Park Programme 2030 took an adapted ANSEA approach<sup>2</sup>, which sought to integrate the environmental assessment into the heart of the policy making process. The ANSEA approach is essentially a set of procedures through which the SEA team aims to communicate with the main programme team, throughout various stages of the programme or policy making process.

The first and main step in the process is to break down a fluid, uncertain and changing strategy development into discrete manageable units. These are identified as:

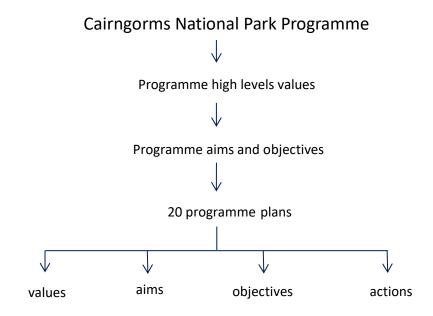
- The Functional System;
- Intervention Points; and
- Procedural Criteria.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Cairngorms 2030 programme and plans (screening determination in line with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> ANSEA (2002) New Concepts in Strategic Environmental Assessment: Towards Better Decision-Making



The definition of the functional system aims to break down the programme into as many sets of decisions and assumptions, as possible, to get an understanding of what it is doing. This ranges from the programme values, through to its conceptual aims and objectives and what it aims to deliver (Figure 1). Once this process is complete, it allows the SEA team to identify the points within the programme making process where they can meaningfully intervene (i.e. intervention points), to modify or suggest alternatives to the programme objectives and course of action, remembering that environmental issues are only one aspect of the wider issues that any programme needs to consider. Intervention points occur when decisions are being made by the programme team that can have positive or negative environmental effects. Ongoing consultation, between the programme team and SEA team, is a crucial part of the ANSEA approach, due to the reflexive and iterative nature of the process.



**Figure 1: SEA Intervention Points** 

It is recognised that the programme will develop plans that are at different stages of their implementation. These may be due to different funding mechanisms or differing timeframes for implementation. Due to the conceptual as opposed to physical nature of the plan's outcomes, each plan was assessed in line with the degree of detail that was to be presented in the 2030 programme. For plans that are still undergoing major development, recommendations were made for future rounds of environmental assessment.

## 3.3. Scope of Assessment

During the scoping report preparation, a list of environmental objectives, against which the plans' performance could be measured, were drawn up. These were produced from a review of the main environmental legislation and guidance within Scotland.



Following the baseline and PPS review, it was determined that there could be positive and/ or negative impacts on all of the SEA topics (see Table 3.1). As a result, they were all scoped into the assessment.

The environmental issues set out in Schedule 3 of the SEA Act, *Information for Environmental Reports*, were scoped against their potential for significance of impact associated with the CNPA Plan (Table 3.1).

The SEA topics and their main objectives in relation to SEA are shown in Tables 3.1 and 3.2.

Table 3-1: SEA Topics and their Rationale

SEA Issue	Rationale
Population and human health	<ul> <li>Potential for positive effects to the local environment, through successful cross Resource and Service working and collaboration.</li> <li>Potential positive effects on physical and mental health and wellbeing for people of all ages, through the promotion of quality living environments, access to sustainable employment and volunteering, availability and access to greenspace, and more active lifestyles.</li> <li>Potential to improve health and wellbeing through conservation awareness, promotion of renewable energy and substitutes for fossil fuel.</li> <li>Potential to protect and promote health and wellbeing through improved access to educational activities, environmental volunteering and conservation therapy.</li> <li>Potential positive effects on health and wellbeing through actions to reduce poverty.</li> <li>Potential positive effects through improvements to the availability and accessibility of services.</li> </ul>
Biodiversity, fauna and flora	<ul> <li>Potential for positive effects through the promotion of the benefits of biodiversity and greenspace and the protection of the Green Network.</li> <li>Potential for positive effects for ecosystem services – biodiversity as a life support system.</li> <li>Potential to make ecosystems more resilient to climate change.</li> <li>Potential to promote and support biodiversity gains with greenspace and local green networks.</li> <li>Potential for positive and negative effects on some species, habitats and ecosystems, through the promotion of actions, for example, developments and increasing visits to the outdoors.</li> <li>Potential to improve woodlands and increase canopy cover, particularly in urban areas, and thus improve habitat connectivity.</li> </ul>
Soil	<ul> <li>Potential positive effects associated with the reuse and/or greening of brownfield, vacant and derelict land and contaminated land.</li> <li>Potential positive effects through the promotion of a circular economy and reducing the amount of waste going to landfill.</li> <li>Potential positive effects through promoting the long-term sequestration of carbon in habitats, trees, and soil. Potential negative effects on other habitats if not done correctly.</li> </ul>



SEA Issue	Rationale
	<ul> <li>Potential positive effects through raising awareness of house building and other development impacts with regards to soil removal, soil capping and possible effects on natural flood defences.</li> <li>Potential positive effects on behaviours by raising awareness of possible soil contamination of micro plastics and other pollutants through landfill usage, littering and other activities.</li> </ul>
Water	<ul> <li>Potential positive effects relating to the reduction of flood risk, particularly through nature-based solutions and promotion of the green infrastructure.</li> <li>Potential positive effects by promoting the review of service provision to mitigate and adapt to expected climatic change, particularly due to increased rainfall, storms and heat waves.</li> <li>Potential positive effects through promoting the need to reduce water use.</li> <li>Potential positive effects to flood risk management through the promotion of the importance of wetlands and peatlands as additional carbon sequestration opportunities.</li> <li>Potential for positive effects by promoting the need to adapt food growing and agricultural practices to ensure resilience to climate change.</li> <li>Potential positive effects on behaviours by raising awareness of possible contamination to watercourses and groundwater of micro plastics and other pollutants through the use of landfill, littering and other activities.</li> <li>Potential positive effects through promoting responsible and safe enjoyment of water resources.</li> </ul>
Air, noise and light	<ul> <li>Potential positive effects to local air quality through actions to reduce emissions and other pollutants from road traffic, buildings and other sources.</li> <li>Potential positive effects through promoting the benefits of green infrastructure to reduce air and noise pollution.</li> <li>Potential positive effects through encouraging reduction in noise pollution, particularly noise nuisance.</li> <li>Potential positive effects on biodiversity by reducing light pollution at night-time.</li> <li>Potential positive and negative effects to road and community safety from changes to street lighting approach.</li> </ul>
Climatic factors	<ul> <li>Potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through improving domestic energy efficiency and other potential activities to tackle fuel poverty.</li> <li>Potential positive effects through reducing the CNP's greenhouse gas emissions through carbon management programmes.</li> <li>Potential for positive effects through the promotion of renewable energy solutions and the reduction in the dependency on fossil fuels.</li> <li>Potential for positive effects through the promotion and implementation of sustainable procurement policies and practices.</li> <li>Potential for positive effects through mainstreaming climate change mitigation and adaptation in all key CNPA plans, policies and strategies.</li> <li>Potential for positive effects for carbon capture and sequestration through the promotion of nature and biodiversity assets, including peatland and trees.</li> </ul>



SEA Issue	Rationale	
	<ul> <li>Potential for positive effects through the promotion of climate justice and a just transition to net zero.</li> </ul>	
Historic and cultural heritage	<ul> <li>Potential for positive effects on protected built and natural heritage, monuments and archaeology and the setting of historic and cultural assets through the promotion of the importance of these assets and the requirement to protect them.</li> <li>Potential for negative effects by increased footfall to historic assets encouraged by the Plan.</li> <li>Potential for positive effects through the promotion of green tourism.</li> </ul>	
Material assets	<ul> <li>Potential for positive effects through the promotion of the use of sustainable materials and practices within construction, maintenance and procurement.</li> <li>Potential for positive and negative effects from the greening and remediation of previously used land and vacant and derelict land.</li> <li>Potential for positive effects through enhancements to public spaces and greenspace.</li> <li>Potential for positive effects through the promotion of zero waste principles by encouraging recycling and reducing the volume of waste sent to landfill.</li> <li>Potential for positive effects through the provision and maintenance of safe, sustainable and affordable housing.</li> <li>Potential for positive effects through the promotion of sustainable transport modes, including public transport and active travel.</li> <li>Potential for positive effects through the promotion of zero carbon principles within Scottish Planning Policy and the Local Development Plan.</li> <li>Potential for positive effects through the promotion and delivery of the circular economy.</li> <li>Potential for positive effects on the improvement of grey, blue and green infrastructure.</li> </ul>	
Landscape	<ul> <li>Potential to promote local landscape character.</li> <li>Potential to influence other plans to promote the benefits of enjoyment of landscape and townscape to enhance health and wellbeing.</li> <li>Potential for positive effects through the promotion of respectful and responsible use of local neighbourhoods and community assets.</li> <li>Potential to foster sense of ownership and local investment in local landscapes and townscapes.</li> </ul>	
Inter-relationship issues	<ul> <li>Potential for significant effects from impacts relating to topics that are individually insignificant but collectively significant.</li> <li>Potential for beneficial cumulative impacts through mutually positive plans.</li> <li>Potential for negative cumulative impacts through mutually adverse plans.</li> <li>Potential for neutralising effects where one project or plan counterbalances the positive of negative effects of another, resulting in no net significant effects.</li> <li>Potential for synergistic effects where one project or plan's impacts are greater than the sum of its individual parts.</li> </ul>	



SEA Issue	Rationale	
	<ul> <li>Potential for transboundary (i.e. external to the Park) effects on more distant receptors.</li> </ul>	

Following consultation, it was determined that all environmental Issues would be scoped in as a precautionary measure. These formed the basis for developing the SEA objectives and sub-objectives used within the assessment process.

**Table 3-2: SEA Main Environmental Objectives** 

Topic	Objective number	Main Objective(s)	
Climatic factors	1a	Reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases with particular focus on emissions from buildings, transport, energy generation and industry (especially CO2), but also from natural carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands).	
	1b	Ensure existing and proposed infrastructure and buildings are located and designed to cope with future climate conditions.	
Air	2a	To maintain or improve air quality and reduce emissions of key pollutants as identified in the UK Air Quality Strategy.	
	3a	Maintain and improve the quality of water resources and protect and enhance the state of the water environment.	
Water	3b	Reduce demand for water and minimise unnecessary water use.	
	3c	To reduce the impact of invasive non-native species on the water environment.	
Soil and geodiversity	4a	Minimise contamination and safeguard and improve soil, peat quality and geodiversity.	
Material assets	5a	Encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets.	
Biodiversity flora and fauna	6a	Protect and enhance the biodiversity of the National Park. Safeguard the ecological viability of all qualifying features of all RAMSAR sites including SPAs and SACs.	
Landscape and	7a	Protect and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the landscapes of the Park.	
cultural heritage	7b	Protect and enhance the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic) of the Park.	
Population and human health	8a	Support and enhance the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors to the Park through housing, recreation and employment opportunities.	

Table 3.3 outlines the sub-objectives identified, offering an additional layer of assessment to the main objectives identified in Table 3.2. To ensure a fully robust SEA, the SEA Team proposed to amend, where applicable, the wording of some sub-objectives in collaboration with the CNPA Programme Team.



**Table 3-3: SEA Environmental Sub-objectives** 

Sub-	Sub-objective(s)	
objective		
number		
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	
1a	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	
1a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (e.g. increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (e.g. increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	
2a	Is there a potential effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (e.g. particulates)?	
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and groundwater from diffuse and point source pollution?	
3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	
3a	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	
3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?	
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	
4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	
4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (e.g. GCRs)?	
5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (e.g. water, timber, aggregates)?	
5a	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (e.g. water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	
5a	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	
	ı	



6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, invertebrate and	
	mammal species?	
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats	
	and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce	
	environmental effects?	
6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the	
	introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	
7a	Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities of the National Park	
	landscapes?	
7a	Will there be an effect landscape character and local distinctiveness?	
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including	
	linguistic)?	
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support	
	healthier lifestyles?	
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	

# 3.4. Overview of the SEA for the Draft Cairngorms Programme

As discussed in Section 3.1, a screening exercise, carried out under the SEA Act, identified 10 of the 20 subplans of the programme as having possible environmental effects and, therefore, would form the focus (i.e. the functional system) of the SEA. However, upon review and consultation between the SEA Team and the Cairngorms 2030 programme development team, it has been decided that the SEA should consider the *whole* of the Cairngorms Programme for the following reasons:

- 1. Sifting out plans, based on the lack of detail, could lead to missed opportunities at the conceptual stage of plan making,
- 2. By primarily considering projects to be scoped out, in terms of negative impacts, the approach could fail to identify and promote positive impacts, limiting the scope for environmental enhancement that is a major aim of the programme.
- 3. By considering plans in isolation, the approach failed to see the Cairngorms Programme as a holistic package of measures and, hence, could fail to adequately assess cumulative impacts and identify cumulative gains and, likewise, potential positive and negative inter-relationship issues.

The SEA process involves testing the proposed priorities and outcomes of the draft Programme against environmentally based SEA objectives (Tables 3.2 & 3.3), in order to predict the potential environmental effects (positive and negative) and consider appropriate mitigation or enhancement measures. A series of intervention points (section 3.2) have been identified in the development of the Programme. These are:

- 1. The setting of the programme's values;
- 2. The identification of the main conceptual aims and strategy of the programme; and,



3. The 20 plans held within the overall programme and related themes. Each theme has its own aims and objectives that are a subtext to that of the overall programme (see Figure 1).

# 3.5. Scope of the SEA

A Scoping Report was prepared and submitted by the CNPA to the SEA Gateway, in June 2022. It provided information on the draft CNPA 2030 Programme and set out the level and method proposed for undertaking the SEA. Consultation on the Scoping Report allowed the Consultation Authorities (Historic Environment Scotland, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and NatureScot) to provide comment on their views regarding the proposed assessment process, with the Consultation Authorities in agreement with the level in which the SEA issues were presented (Appendix C). It should be noted that of the three statutory consultees, SEPA did not take the opportunity to respond to the scoping report.

The SEA scoping report identified a number of procedural protocols for identifying environmental effects from the programme, including a significance matrix for assessing the importance and magnitude of an environmental effect (as shown in Table 3.4), which was used, in conjunction with the main objectives and sub-objectives, as a basis for carrying out the environmental assessment and recording the findings. Tables 3.2 and 3.3 provide the main objectives and template for scoring and recording potential environmental effects during the environmental assessment.

Accordingly, the SEA evaluated the magnitude of any potential significant environmental effects, determined a pre-and post-mitigation significance score, using the symbology in Table 3.4, and addressed what form any mitigation would take, for the 2030 programme's high-level values, its aims and objectives, and the related 20 plans, providing easy-to-read visual signifiers for potential environmental effects, ensuring consistency across the environmental assessments within the Environmental Report.

The information and issues identified as part of the baseline have also been used to inform which objectives and sub-objectives are relevant to the environmental assessment of the Cairngorms 2030 plans. The SEA objectives, sub-objectives and questions are provisional and may be modified during the SEA process – for example, as a result of comments from the Consultation Authorities, changes in the baseline data pertaining to individual plans when it is fully collected and/or if the content of the Cairngorms 2030 plans cover different subject matter than currently expected, (i.e., a change of scope).

Where available, guidance published by the consultation authorities was used as a basis for setting the SEA objectives and sub-objectives. These relate to the specific SEA environmental receptors and issues that have the potential to be affected by the Cairngorms 2030 plans.



**Table 3-4: Significance Matrix** 

Significance of Effect	
Element would have a major positive environmental effect in its	
current form as it would resolve an existing issue or maximise opportunities.	++
SIGNIFICANT.	
Element would have a minor positive environmental effect.	+
Effect of Element is uncertain.	?
No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	Х
Element would have no predicted environmental effects.	0
Element would have a minor adverse environmental effect.	-
The Element would have a major adverse environmental effect, as it would create	
significant new problems or substantially exacerbate existing problems. Consider	
exclusion of option. SIGNIFICANT.	

# 3.5.1 Longevity and Permanence of Effects

Consideration of longevity and scale of effects was built into the assessment table template (Section 7) and formed an integral part of the environmental assessment for each element assessed, using a short, medium and long-term scale.

# 3.5.2 Alternatives and Mitigation

Where environmental effects have been identified, alternative options have been considered and assessed as different options emerged during the drafting of the stage 1 plans. This important aspect of the SEA is a major area of successful legal challenges to SEA which have focused on the [in]adequate assessment of alternatives (as required by Article 5(1) of the SEA directive). This is reiterated in EU Guidance, which states that "the studying of alternatives is an important part of the assessment". Failure to comply would leave the plan/programme vulnerable to legal challenge.

In light of this, following the assessment procedure, the SEA team generated a number of sensible alternatives to the proposals offered by the Cairngorms 2030 Programme Review team. The alternatives suggested were "identified, described and evaluated in a comparable way" as to the main proposals, a stance which was integrated in the legal challenge to the Broadland Joint Strategy (Heard v. Broadland DC<sup>3</sup>).

### 3.5.3 Cumulative and In-combination Effects

Consideration of the potential for cumulative and in-combination effects is a legislative requirement and was included as an integral part of the environmental assessment process for individual elements of the plan and the 2030 programme as a whole. A review of the assessment results was also undertaken to double check any cumulative or in-combination effects that may not have been apparent during individual assessments.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.pacni.gov.uk/sites/pacni/files/Heard%20v%20Broadland%20DC%20%281%29.pdf Babbity Environmental Ltd Company registered in Scotland SC 564740



### 3.5.4 Other Environmental Assessments

Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) is mandatory for all plans deemed likely to have an adverse effect on a protected Natura 2000 site. As such, HRA was undertaken, as required, at the same time as the draft Environmental Report (Section 9). The Cairngorms National Park contains two types of Natura 2000 site within the Park - SACs (protected under the Habitats Directive) & SPAs (protected under the Birds Directive) in addition to Ramsar designated sites. Nearly half of the Park is considered under the Natura 2000 network<sup>4</sup>. The HRA was used to inform the Environmental Report and vice versa as part of an iterative process.

In addition, if it becomes apparent, during the plan development process that a plan, or elements of it, falls under other environmental assessment legislation; for example, some of the transport and travel options might fall within the thresholds of requiring EIA further down the implementation process, then the relevant assessment process, and impacts upon plan delivery, will be flagged.

# 3.6. Methodology Overview

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is an iterative, systematic process for identifying, reporting, proposing mitigation measures and monitoring environmental effects of plans, programmes and strategies (PPS). It aims to ensure that environmental issues are taken into account at every stage in the preparation, implementation, monitoring, and review of PPS of a public nature in an auditable and transparent manner.

The SEA process involves testing the proposed priorities and outcomes of a draft PPS (in this case, the Cairngorms National Park Authority's 2030 Programme) against environmentally based SEA objectives, in order to predict the potential environmental effects and consider appropriate mitigation or enhancement measures. The assessment is then followed by the preparation and undertaking of a monitoring programme, once the CNPA Programme is adopted.

The key stages of the SEA methodology are summarised in Table 3-5. Intervention points have previously been determined (see section 2.2) resulting in the stages outlined as 1-3 in Table 3.5. These stages cascade from the high-level overarching values of the draft 2030 programme (stage 1), to its aims and objectives (stage 2), finishing with an assessment of the 20 plans within the programme (stage 3), using the predetermined SEA topics (see section 2.3). Stages 5-7, in Table 3.5, were further applied to each of these three initial stages, resulting in an iterative, transparent and robust assessment.

Table 3-5: SEA methodology

	SEA stage	Assessment requirements
1	Test the CNPA Programme high-level values against SEA objectives	To ensure the draft CNPA Programme accords with environmental principles. To predict and evaluate the effects of the draft Programme and assist in its refinement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/151105PDF02Appendix2Topic61.pdf Babbity Environmental Ltd Company registered in Scotland SC 564740



2	Test the CNPA Programme aims and objectives against SEA objectives	To ensure the draft CNPA Programme accords with environmental principles. To predict and evaluate the effects of the draft Programme and assist in its refinement.
3	Test the CNPA 20 plans against SEA objectives	To ensure the draft CNPA plans accords with environmental principles. To predict and evaluate the effects of the plans and assist in its refinement.
4	Assess the 20 plans from a Natural Capital/Ecosystems Services approach	To add an additional level of robustness to the SEA and ensure a more encompassing, useful and holistic SEA.
5	Develop strategic alternatives	To assist in the development and refinement of the alternatives for achieving the overall purpose of the draft CNPA Programme.
6	Consider ways to enhance environmental benefits and/or mitigate against adverse effects of the draft CNPA Programme	To ensure all potential mitigation measures and indicators for maximising beneficial effects are considered and, as a result, residual effects identified.
7	Proposed measures to monitor the environmental effects of the draft CNPA Programme once implemented	To propose a monitoring framework to assess the environmental performance of the draft Programme.

# 3.7. Integrated Ecosystems Approach

An ecosystems approach, described by The Convention on Biological Diversity as a "strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way<sup>5</sup>", was further integrated into the Strategic Environmental Assessment. An ecosystems approach is not mandatory when undertaking an SEA but given the wide coverage of environmental topics that the 2005 Act requires an SEA to consider, there are strong synergies with this approach. Using an integrated approach should aim to focus on only the significant environmental effects of a plan, rather than all interactions with the environment, as proportionality, in the application of an ecosystems approach, is essential and can contribute to an effective SEA.

Following a review of the C2030 Programme, it was ascertained that four of the final twenty plans within the Cairngorms 2030 programme were likely to produce measurable ecosystems service changes (see section 10) and were therefore mapped against the relevant ecosystem services listed within the Eco-metric method (Ecosystems Knowledge Network, 2021). This utilised a natural capital approach, which was undertaken concurrently with the SEA (stage 4, Table 3.5). To avoid duplication of efforts, a natural capital baseline was established using the CNPA SEA topics baseline data. Once the baseline was established, the impact of the proposed 20 plans were determined through:

- Identification of the change in natural capital asset quantity, quality and location (based upon the natural capital baseline) &
- Assumptions as to the impacts on ecosystem service provision.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Integrating an Ecosystems Approach into Strategic Environmental Assessment, <a href="www.gov.scot">www.gov.scot</a> [2022]

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Upon determining the above, initial findings, as to the scale and direction of the impacts of the project on natural capital and ecosystem services, were defined. This comprised a qualitative narrative, along with quantification (where possible) of habitat losses or gains. Once impacts on natural capital assets and ecosystem services were known, high-level mitigation measures were outlined, alternatives suggested, and incorporated into the SEA.



### 4. The Environmental Baseline

### 4.1. Introduction to the Local Environment

The SEA Act requires that the Environmental Report includes a description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and its likely evolution without implementation of the 2030 Programme. It also requires consideration of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected. This section aims to describe the environmental context, within which the 2030 Programme will operate, and the implications, constraints and opportunities that this context imposes. The descriptive environmental baseline, for The Cairngorms National Park, can be found in the CNPA's SEA Topics Papers<sup>6</sup>.

# 4.2. Collecting environmental data

The environmental baseline was established for those environmental issues scoped into the assessment, taken from the environmental topics listed in Schedule 3 of the SEA Act. The relevant environmental information was primarily sourced from the CNPA's 2022 SEA Topic Papers Report, with further information gathered from SEPA, NatureScot, HES and the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 - 2027<sup>7</sup>. The collection of the baseline information and key indicators will support the CNPA's monitoring programme. The current status, trend and key environmental issues are considered through the data collected across the environmental indicators relevant to the Plans. The following sections provide overarching information on the environmental issues relevant for this SEA, which are:

- Climatic Factors;
- Air;
- Water;
- Soil & Geodiversity;
- Material assets;
- Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna;
- Cultural heritage; and
- Population and human health.

The baseline assessment further requires consideration of the key issues listed below:

- The inter-relationship between the issues;
- Short, medium, and long-term effects;
- Permanent and temporary effects;
- · Positive and negative effects; and
- Secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> CNPA SEA Topic Papers, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> CNPA NPPP 2022-2027, 2022 Babbity Environmental Ltd



# 4.3. Overview of the Cairngorms National Park

The Cairngorms National Park is part of an international family of National Parks and is the largest in the UK, at 4,528 sq. km (1,748 sq. miles), covering 6% of Scotland's landmass. The Park's unique management style, focused on partnership delivery through extensive stakeholder engagement, offers the ideal foundation for collaborative climate action, the primary focus of the 2030 Programme.

The area is home to around 18,500 people, living in 22 community council areas. The Park has a very important visitor economy, attracting around 1.9 million visitors a year - in summer months attracting as many visitors per day as there are residents. The Park covers parts of five local authority areas: Aberdeenshire, Moray, Highland, Angus, and Perth & Kinross.

As the UK's largest protected area and home to one quarter of the UK's rare and endangered species, the location of some of the most important wetlands in Europe and vast areas of peatland, the National Park has highly significant potential for environmental enhancements and has been at the forefront of conservation, land management, local engagement, outdoor education, recreation and visitor management, since the Park was designated in 2003.

# 4.4. Summary of Baseline Data

The environmental baseline has been collected using key environmental indicators that are reported within the CNPA's SEA Topics Baseline Report. A narrative summary of the key issues affecting CNPA are outlined in section 4.13, with an indication of the affected receptors and the potential implications and opportunities. A summary baseline of each of the SEA topics follows.

# 4.4.1 Climatic Factors

Historic climatic data, across the CNPA, is tracked and recorded from Braemar and Aviemore weather stations.

### **Braemar**

Braemar weather station is a sufficient distance from main settlements to not be affected by urbanisation and, therefore, best reflects the nature of the climate within the Park.

The findings are consistent with broader trends across Scotland, where temperatures have risen by around 0.8 degrees Celsius since 1980, with increased heavy precipitation events contributing to an increase in winter rainfall versus decreases in summer rainfall.

Records from the weather station indicate that this area of the Park is experiencing a decrease in the number of days of air frost and an increase in annual rainfall.

### **Aviemore**

The trend is for both Aviemore and Braemar to become wetter. However, in contrast to Braemar, the temperature trend for temperature in Aviemore is colder, and with more days of air frost, indicating an east/west divide, potentially caused by the intervening mountains. The difference between Aviemore and Braemar is also to be expected, as the effects of climate change will not be even across all areas.



Average maximum and minimum temperatures, in Aviemore, have both decreased by around 1°C since the mid 1980s, with average rainfall increasing, over a similar time period, by around 70mm a year. The average number of days per year with recorded air frost has increased from 80 to 90.

### 4.4.2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The trend in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions in the Park is encouraging, with a marked decline since 2001 overall. However, this is not represented equally among all sectors. There have been recent increases in transport, waste and development emissions within the Park, which have eaten into the decreases made through more tree planting and renewable energy usage.

#### 4.4.3 Woodland Creation

A key aim of the Cairngorms National Park Forest Strategy<sup>8</sup> is woodland creation. Woodland creation can occur through new planting or by creating conditions that allow natural regeneration. Woodland contributes to tackling climate change through trees absorbing carbon dioxide. It can also help to naturally mitigate flood events, an impact of a changing climate. There has been a significant increase in new woodland in the National Park since 2011, with around 40% occurring through regeneration and 60% through new planting.

### 4.4.4 Peatland Restoration

Peatlands are the largest natural terrestrial carbon stores, sequestering more carbon than all the other vegetation types combined globally. Their protection and restoration are critical in efforts to take climate change. Globally damaged peatlands account for 10% of the greenhouse gas emissions from the combined land use sector. The National Park is therefore involved in the restoration and protection of its natural peatlands, in an effort to tackle climate change.

Limited funding and weather issues, in 2016 and 2017, affected the proposed works during those years. Following delays due to Covid-19, six legacy projects, carried forward from 2019, started in the late summer of 2020, with two of these completed by March 2021. The CNPA was unable to attract any suitable contractors for other legacy projects or for new projects, and there remains a significant lack of contractors. Actual restoration management totalled only 131 hectares in 2020/219.

# 4.4.5 Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Carbon Dioxide

The UK National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory maps greenhouse gas emissions. In the Park, the most significant carbon dioxide emissions are associated with road transport corridors and settlements (Figure 4.1).

Other emission sources include those associated with agricultural practices and the Granish landfill site, near Aviemore. Due to topography and climate, the Park has limited land suitable for lowland agricultural practices, compared to upland land uses, meaning that emissions from agriculture are limited. The degraded peatlands, in the mountain areas, are also emitting carbon dioxide, adding to the emissions in the National Park. However, peatland restoration projects are underway to bring peatland habitats back to functioning carbon sinks.

<sup>8</sup> https://cairngorms.co.uk/working-together/authority/national-park-strategies/forest-strategy/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> CNPA KPI reporting, Board Paper 2; Annex 1, 2021



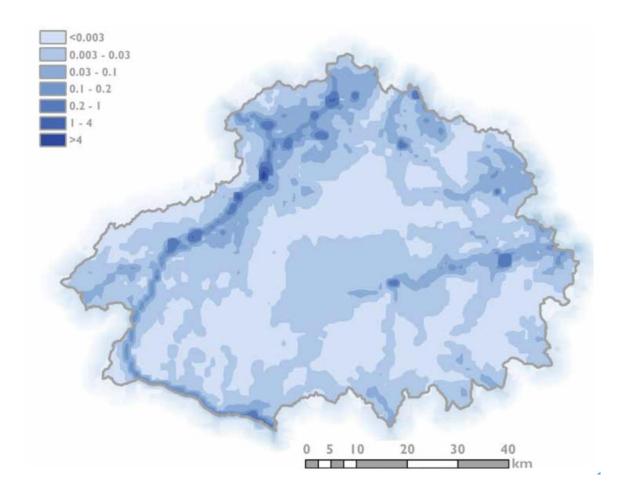


Figure 4.1 Carbon Dioxide (as carbon) emissions (t) for the Park, 2017 (km2 data)

### 4.4.6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Granish Landfill Site

With regard to methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), another greenhouse gas, the only facility within the Park that contributes towards the Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory is Granish landfill site, which is operated by Highland Council. Estimates, of the methane emissions for the site, indicate a trend for sudden significant reductions in emissions, which then plateau.

## 4.4.7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions per person

Annualised data for National Parks is not available. To get an approximation of the contribution of the Park, further analysis of data from the 2019 Department of Business, Energy and Industry Strategy<sup>10</sup> has been required. Mid-year population estimates have been used as a proxy for proportionally attributing the emissions of the residents within the Park. The overall trend has been for a combined reduction in emissions, per person, in the Park between 2005 - 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://ukclimateprojections-ui.metoffice.gov.uk/ Babbity Environmental Ltd Company registered in Scotland SC 564740



## 4.4.8 Future Climatic Projections

Probable projections, available from the 2018 UK Climate Projections,<sup>11</sup> are available for high, medium and low emission scenarios, with the latest projections down to a local resolution of 2.2 km<sup>2</sup>. However, the degree of uncertainty changes with the scale of resolution, so the data used for the baseline is for the 25km<sup>2</sup> area, including Braemar.

This is helpful as it increases the reliability of the projections and includes the Braemar weather station, used to record the actual climatic changes shown since the 1960s, allowing comparisons to be made. Although the overall trend in greenhouse gas emissions is downward in the Park, it is likely that substantial further decreases will be required to meet the emissions targets of the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill 2019.

## 4.5. Air

### 4.5.1 Air Pollution

Air pollution refers to the presence of harmful substances in the air that we breathe. These pollutants can come from natural sources, such as dust and wildfires, but the majority of air pollution is caused by human activities.

Common sources of human-caused air pollution include industrial processes, transportation, and energy production. For example, factories and power plants release pollutants such as sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter into the air. Vehicles emit pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and volatile organic compounds.

### 4.5.2 Effects

Poor air quality can have both short term and long-term effects on human health. Air pollution can also damage the wider environment, causing the acidification of soils and water or deposition of nutrients, negatively affecting plant and animal life. Air pollution can also damage the fabric of buildings and historic environments.

Exposure to air pollution can have serious health consequences, including respiratory problems, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. Children, the elderly, and people with pre-existing health conditions are particularly vulnerable.

Air pollution can also have a range of environmental impacts, including damage to crops and ecosystems, and climate change. To reduce air pollution, governments and individuals can take steps such as promoting cleaner transportation options, increasing energy efficiency, and reducing emissions from industrial processes.

## 4.5.3 Main Pollutants

The air quality objectives for Scotland are set out in the Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000 (as amended). The main pollutants of concern are:

- Nitrogen oxides (NOx)
- Sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)
- Ground-level ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/approach/collaboration/ukcp/index Babbity Environmental Ltd Company registered in Scotland SC 564740



- Particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>)
- Non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs)
- Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)

### 4.5.4 Reduction in Emissions

The air quality of Scotland is generally better now than it has been at any time since before the industrial revolution, with increasingly strict controls over industrial emissions, tighter fuel and emission standards for road vehicles and the control of smoke from domestic premises, yielding positive results.

An independent review<sup>12</sup> of air quality in Scotland, published in 2019, found 4 of the above 6 main pollutants of concern had significantly reduced.

### 4.5.5 Transport

Dualling of the A9 and how this could change traffic levels and visitor numbers in the Park, means that air quality could be a future concern, in particular, the potential for increasing pollutants associated with traffic emissions, such as  $PM_{10}$  and nitrogen dioxide ( $NO_2$ ). Spatial data, on the emission of  $PM_{10}$  and  $NO_2$ , is available from the UK National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory for 2016. The highest emissions are located along the A9 and within the main settlements of Aviemore, Grantown-on-Spey and Ballater, where traffic volumes are greatest. However, these emissions are still well below the World Health Organisation levels that would have adverse effects on human health.

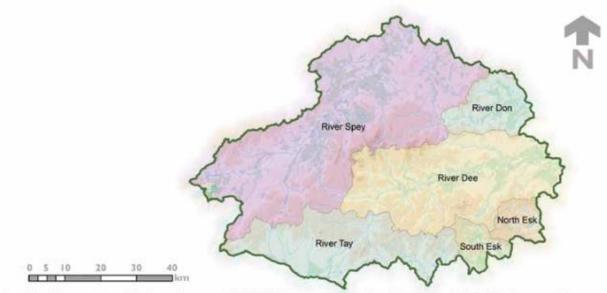
### 4.6. Water

### **4.6.1** Rivers

The Cairngorms National Park encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones. The Park contains part of eight river catchments, although two have only a very small portion within the Park (Figure 4.2). The largest catchment is for the River Spey, followed by the Dee.



**Table 4.2 CNPA catchments** 



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Many of the rivers and their tributaries, as well as the lochs and wetlands connected to them, are internationally and nationally important areas, protected for nature conservation. The rivers are also important, providing water for business and people within and outwith the Park, as they flow downstream, towards the sea.

## 4.6.2 Water Framework Directive

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations 2017 (now transposed post-Brexit) sets out the objectives for water protection in Scotland. The WFD sets out a number of objectives to improve the quality of water and water bodies:

- General protection of the aquatic ecology;
- Specific protection of unique & valuable habitats;
- Protection of drinking water resources; and
- Protection of bathing water.

The Directive requires all water features, above a certain size threshold, to be classified using a system of five quality classes – high, good, moderate, poor and bad, with groundwater classified as good or poor. The requirements of the WFD are part of Scottish legislation and set out the classification of water bodies by describing how much their condition or status differs from near natural conditions. Water bodies, in a near natural condition, are at high status, while those for which quality has been severely damaged, are classed as being in bad status.

From the available information, between 2013 and 2017, the number of waterbodies in the Park in high status have increased slightly, the number in good and moderate status have declined, while the number in poor status have increased four-fold.



## 4.6.3 Water Quality

SEPA monitors water levels at 20 sites within the Park, as well as at a number of locations just outside the Park boundary. The trends can be used as an indicator of climate change or as an identifier of potential risks, such as flooding and overall water quality.

### 4.6.4 Pollution

Pollution, leading to the deterioration of water quality, can originate from one of two sources; point and diffuse.

Point source discharge means a release of effluent, or other matter, to the water environment or land, via a pipe or outlet. For example, this includes sewage and trade effluent, surface water discharges from urban areas and abandoned mine discharges.

Diffuse pollution is the release of potential pollutants from a range of activities that, individually, may have no effect on the water environment, but, at the scale of a catchment, can have a significant effect. Activities associated with diffuse pollution are varied and include: run-off from roads, houses, commercial areas, farmland, forestry activities and community and amenity green spaces; seepage into groundwater from developed landscapes of all kinds; and yard run-off from industrial activities.

Government regulation has been extremely successful in reducing instances of point source pollution and therefore diffuse pollution is now of greatest concern. Diffuse sources of water pollution can have a significant effect of biodiversity and human health. The effects include:

- Groundwater and surface water contamination and the subsequent loss, or need for treatment, of drinking water resources;
- Nutrient enrichment and eutrophication of water bodies;
- Oxygen depletion of water bodies;
- Toxicity to plant and animal life, including endocrine disruption in fish; and
- Smothering of freshwater pearl mussel beds and fish spawning gravels.

Of particular significance, is the effect of water pollution on freshwater pearl mussel populations, as good water quality is essential for the completion of their life cycle. Freshwater pearl mussel is one of the priority species on the Nature Action Plan List (Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2019 - 2024) and is one of the qualifying features for a number of the National Park's SACs, including the River Spey and River Dee SACs.

As noted, the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations, adopted in 2017, remains the operational tool that sets out the objectives for water protection in Scotland post-Brexit. The WFD sets out a number of objectives in respect of which the quality of water is protected. The key ones are:

- General protection of the aquatic ecology;
- Specific protection of unique and valuable habitats;
- Protection of drinking water resources; and
- Protection of bathing water.



All these objectives must be integrated for each river basin. It is clear that the last three - special habitats, drinking water areas and bathing water - apply only to specific bodies of water (those supporting special wetlands; those identified for drinking water abstraction; and those generally used as bathing areas). In contrast, ecological protection should apply to all waters: the central requirement of the WFD is that the environment be protected to a high level in its entirety.

SEPA is the responsible authority for monitoring water quality in Scotland to the requirements set out by the WFD. The Directive requires all water features in a category (i.e. rivers, lochs, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater), above a certain size threshold, to be defined as water bodies.

Surface water bodies are classified using a system of five quality classes – high, good, moderate, poor and bad, with groundwater classified as good or poor. In general, the classification of water bodies describes by how much their condition or status differs from near natural conditions. Water bodies in a near natural condition are at high-status, while those whose quality has been severely damaged are at bad status.

From the available information, between 2013 and 2017 the number of waterbodies in the Park in high status have increased slightly, the number in good and moderate status have declined, while the number in poor status have increased four-fold. The main reasons for waterbodies not achieving overall good status is the presence of a large number of barriers to fish and poor morphology (this covers catchment/land use matters such inputs of fine sediments or impacts to hydrology and direct impacts, such as through engineering or condition of riparian corridor).

Section 4.9.8 below, *Freshwater and Wetland Habitats*, gives an indication of overall water quality in the Park and as can be seen, the current situation is mixed, and while only a minority of waterbodies are in bad or poor condition, there has been an increase in the number of waterbodies changing to a worse status or classification. SEPA predicts that more waterbodies in the Park will move into the good/moderate category by 2027, with the shift to a greater proportion having an improved status, likely to result from remediation works on historical engineering and barriers to fish passage.

### 4.6.5 Water Infrastructure

There are 9 water and waste treatment works, across the Park, with two private supplies serving Angus Glens and Glenmore. The largest, by far, is Aviemore, with a connection serving 10,556 homes, followed by Tomnavoulin, at 7,068. The rest of the park ranges across a much lower scale, with treatment works serving between 10 and 350 homes.

Including all planned and committed development proposals, capacity exists at most of the Scottish Water treatment works serving settlements in the Park. However, the reported current capacity of many waste treatment works serving the Park is an ongoing constraint to development.

# 4.6.6 Flooding

All of the rivers and watercourses in the Park have the potential to flood, to some degree. When the main rivers break their banks, they often cause damage to land, building and infrastructure, resulting in economic cost.



The River Spey and its tributaries continue to flood regularly. These floods have damaged properties in Newtonmore, Aviemore and Carrbridge, on a number of occasions. A significant number of properties remain at risk of future flooding in these and other settlements identified as Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) in the Park.

The Dee suffers from flooding related to heavy rain and melting snows. In 2014, the caravan park and a number of roads were closed due to flooding and, in December 2015 & January 2016, the Dee experienced widespread flooding, which caused significant damage to property and transport infrastructure. Ballater also has a significant number of properties at risk of flooding.

The Tay catchment contains one PVA that falls across the National Park boundary at Blair Atholl. A number of historical river floods have been recorded in this area, including July 1916 and June 1931, when the railway was affected, and evacuation was required, as River Garry flooded near Blair Atholl. There continues to be a risk of flooding at Blair Atholl from the Garry Burn and from surface water.

# 4.7. Soil & Geodiversity

Soils cover much of the surface of the earth, forming the foundation of all terrestrial ecosystems and services. They support key processes in biomass production, atmospheric and hydrological systems. Nearly all of the food, fuel and fibres used by humans are produced in soil. The functions provided by soil depend on a multitude of soil organisms, which makes soil an important part of our biodiversity. Soil is second only to the oceans as a carbon sink, with the potential to play an important role in the slowing of climate change.

## 4.7.1 Land Capability for Agriculture

Land Capability Classification for Agriculture mapping provides information about the potential for land to be productive. The classification ranks land from 1 to 7, on the basis of its potential productivity and cropping flexibility, determined by the extent to which its physical characteristics (soil, climate and topography) restrict agricultural use. Land classified from 1 to 3.1 is considered to be prime arable agricultural land suitable for production of a wide range of crops. Land classified as 3.2-4.2 is suitable for mixed agriculture (primarily cereals, forage crops and grass), with land classified as 5.1-5.3 having the potential to be improved grassland. Land classified as 6.1-7 is restricted to rough grazing, due to severe limitations that prevent improvement by mechanical means.

The majority of land in the National Park, around 93%, is classified as agricultural capability 5-7. Around 6% is classified as suitable for mixed agriculture (classes 3.2-4.2). Only 0.1%, a small area around Strathdon, on the edge of the National Park, is identified as 3.1, prime arable agricultural land.

### 4.7.2 Carbon Rich Soils

Carbon rich soils are important carbon sinks that, if exposed, start to release carbon back into the atmosphere. Carbon rich soils, such as those created by peatland habitats, are very slow to regenerate due to the cool wet conditions stunting plant growth. The soils of the Park are particularly rich in soil organic matter because the cool, moist climate encourages the retention of decomposed organic materials. Peat, the most carbon rich soil, covers an extensive area of the Park.



Climate is important in determining the equilibrium of soil organic matter content. Changes in climate, such as the increase in heavy rainfall events during winter, identified in Topic 1 (climatic factors) are likely to disrupt the equilibrium.

# 4.7.3 Geodiversity

Underpinning, and, in some instances, part of soils, is geodiversity. Many of the issues affecting soils also affect geodiversity, for example, acidification, erosion, and unsympathetic land management. Geodiversity is the term used to describe the variety of rocks and soils laid down over millennia, which combine to create landforms that are the basis for landscapes.

Geological Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites aim to safeguard wider geodiversity within the Park.

There are 16 geological and mixed (geological and biological) SSSIs within the National Park, covering an area of some 680km<sup>2</sup>, around 15% of the Park area, with 39 GCR sites covering an area of around 592km<sup>2</sup>.

### 4.8. Material Assets

Material assets can include a wide range of apparently disparate interests. Within the context of this SEA, and following the framework of the CNPA, consideration of the baseline has been given to energy, waste, geological materials used as a resource, transport and digital infrastructure.

### 4.8.1 Energy Generation

In order to safeguard the special landscape qualities of the Park, the Park Authority has historically implemented restrictive policies on large scale renewable energy development in the Park. As a result, developments of energy generating infrastructure have been relatively minor in scale and number. It should be noted that this may not reflect the amount actually generated, due to some permissions not being implemented and also variations in predicted and actual generation once built.

Installing certain renewable energy technologies, such as solar panels and biomass boilers, is within the permitted development rights of householders and businesses, provided certain conditions are met. This means that no data is available on energy generation installed under permitted development rights, as it is not recorded officially.

### 4.8.2 Geological Mineral Resources

The British Geological Society identifies 4 active quarries operating in the Park, based on 2014 information<sup>13</sup>. However, additional quarries are known to operate or have consent, in the Park. For example, Carn Dhomhnuill Bhain quarry, near Dalwhinnie, and Broomhill quarry, near Dulnain Bridge, were granted consent to recommence extraction activities in 2018. The quarries in the Park can extract a variety of mineral resources, mainly used for construction works.



### 4.8.3 Waste

Estimates of household waste and recycling for Local Authority (LA) areas are recorded by SEPA. Specific data for Scotland's national parks is not available and, therefore, to get an approximation of the Cairngorms National Park's contribution, further assumptions need to be made.

Mid-year population estimates have been used, as a proxy, for proportionally attributing the waste produced and recycled for the LAs that cover the National Park's area, to the National Park itself<sup>14</sup>. It is recognised that this is a blunt means of estimation; indeed estimates based on estimates should always be treated with caution. However, in the absence of detailed National Park specific information, the information presented in Tables 4.1 - 4.5 offers a 'best-guess' and a generalised baseline for measurement over the period.

Table 4.1: Average kg waste generated per person

Year	Average kg waste generated per person (CNP mean)	Scotland
2016	520	450
2017	510	450
2018	490	420
2019	490	420

Table 4.2: Average kg waste landfilled per person

Year	Average kg waste landfilled per person (CNP mean)	Scotland
2016	240	210
2017	240	200
2018	230	180
2019	220	130

Table 4.3: Average kg waste recycled per person

Year	Average kg waste recycled per person (CNP mean)	Scotland
2016	265	210
2017	260	205
2018	240	190
2019	250	200

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Cairngorms National Park Authority | Appendix 2: Topic 5 Material Assets 2017-2022 Babbity Environmental Ltd Company registered in Scotland SC 564740



Table 4.4: Average kg waste diverted from landfill by other mean, per person

Year	Average kg waste diverted from landfill by other means, per person (CNP mean)	Scotland
2016	22	44
2017	17	42
2018	22	56
2019	26	105

Table 4.5: Average tonnes CO₂e produced by waste

Year	Average tonnes CO₂e produced from waste (CNP mean)	Scotland
2016	1.90	1.50
2017	1.80	1.40
2018	1.70	1.30
2019	1.60	1.20

According to these estimates, the household waste, per person, is higher than the Scottish average, which for 2019 was 490 kg per person, across the Cairngorms, although showing a trend of reducing. It is estimated that the amount of waste landfilled was slightly higher than the Scottish average (220kgs compared to 130kgs) and the recycling rate is higher than the Scottish average, which in 2019 was 250kgs, compared to 200kg of waste recycled. Average waste, diverted to landfill by other means, fluctuates but is generally higher in Scotland, as a whole, by a factor of two. Average tonnes  $CO_2e$ , produced by waste, is generally higher in the CNP, compared to Scotland, but both shows signs of reducing, over time.

It should be recognised that the Cairngorms National Park is not responsible for waste management in the area, with this function falling to the Local Authorities that cover its area. The C2030 Programme may however play a role in waste reduction, contributing to the objectives of the Scottish Net Zero Plan (Scottish Government, 2021), by promoting the move to circular methods of production and consumption, embodied within a wellbeing economy.

# 4.8.4 Transport Infrastructure

The Park benefits from relatively good major transport infrastructure links, compared to many other rural areas in Scotland. A mainline railway between Perth and Inverness and four A Class roads (A9, A93, A95 and A86) connect the area with Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire, Perth and Kinross and the west of Scotland. Of the four A roads, the A9 is subject to a current improvement project. The A9 Dualling Strategy aims to link existing sections of dual carriageway to create a continuous dual carriageway between Inverness and Perth. The geography of the Park means that links between certain parts of the Park are relatively poor, due to topography and climate, affecting their travel times and navigability in poor weather.



### 4.8.5 Road

Networks of other A, B, C and unclassified roads provide access to other parts of the Park, although many are narrow and snaking, increasing journey times. The travel times have an effect on access to services for residents and visitors.

Drive times demonstrate the nature of the road infrastructure in the Park, with the population often having to travel for a long time to reach key services e.g., up to 72 minutes to reach a retail centre in parts of Moray, and up to 37 minutes to drive to a secondary school in parts of Aberdeenshire. The rural nature of the area is also demonstrated through the relatively high instances of car ownership. According to the 2011 Census, around 85% of households had access to a car or van, which is higher than the Scottish level of around 70%. As a result, a high proportion of the population of the Park have a reliance on the road infrastructure of the area for access to services, as well as for work.

### 4.8.6 Rail

The Highland Main Railway Line runs between Inverness and Perth, through the Park, with stations at Carrbridge, Aviemore, Kingussie, Newtonmore, Dalwhinnie and Blair Atholl.

Using annual passenger usage at stations, based on sales of tickets as an indicator of the overall use of the line, there is an indication that use has increased significantly, within the Park, over the last 17 years.

# 4.8.7 Digital Infrastructure

Good digital connectivity is increasingly seen as an essential basic service that is required by residents, businesses, students, visitors, and the public sector and has been brought sharply into focus, following the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant move towards home or hybrid working.

There are currently 28 telephone exchanges that cover the Park, not all of which are located within the Park boundary. All 28 exchanges are enabled to provide asymmetric digital subscriber line (ADSL) broadband, with all, but two, capable of providing connection speeds of up to 8 Mbps. (ASDL is a broadband connection, provided over home telephone lines.)

### **4.8.8 4G Not Spots**

4G Not Spots remain a significant problem in rural areas and the Cairngorms National Park is no exception. Although coverage has improved in recent years and remains strongest with the carrier EE, in terms of delivering 4G accessibility, there are still areas within the Park that have no 4G coverage with any of the four main carriers, predominantly located in the southern parts of the National Park, at the greatest distance from more highly populated areas.

## 4.9. Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna

The Cairngorms National Park is a nationally and internationally important haven for nature and wildlife. Covering only 6% of the landmass of Scotland, the Park holds 25% of all rare animals, insects, lichen and fungi in the UK. The National Park further hosts some of Scotland's wildest land, including arctic-like mountain plateaux and Scotland's most extensive semi-natural pine forest, home to 80% of the capercaillie population.

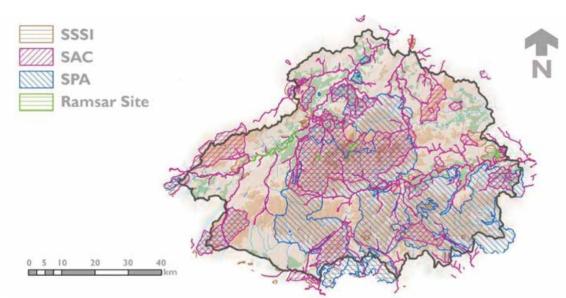


Half of the Park is designated as being of European importance for nature, through the Natura network, and over a quarter of the UK's rare and threatened species are found here.

Approximately 1200 species in the National Park are considered to be important for nature conservation, many of them are rare and endangered and some would become extinct in Scotland, if the populations in the National Park were to disappear.

### 4.9.1 Areas protected for nature conservation

With 55 nationally and 42 internationally important areas protected for nature conservation completely, or partially, within the National Park boundary, many of which overlap with each other, over half of the National Park is designated as one or more areas protected for nature conservation (Figure 4.3).



**Figure 4.3 Designated Sites** 

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# 4.9.2 Changes in protected area condition 2015 - 2021

The condition of the protected areas could be considered a reflection of the wider state of biodiversity within the Park. Since the environmental baseline assessment was carried out for the current NPPP in 2015, the overall number of protected areas in favourable condition has increased from 42% to 58%.

### 4.9.3 Summary of pressures affecting protected areas

A wide range of pressures affect qualifying interests and notified features of protected areas, resulting in unfavourable conditions, most of which relate to land/water use and management. The table below shows the number of protected areas affected by the particular pressure, according to the latest Site Condition Monitoring, carried out by NatureScot.



Table 4.6: Summary of pressures affecting protected areas

Pressure	Number of protected areas affected
Over/under grazing, trampling and other grazing	175
Agricultural/forestry ops, game/fisheries mgmt.	47
Burning	46
Recreation disturbance	44
Invasive species, plants & pests	43
Water mgmt. & quality	29
Natural events	27
Climate Change	9
No pro-active mgmt.	7
Pro-active onsite mgmt. & conservation	6
Extraction	5
Development	4
Wildlife Crime	4
Maintenance activities	3
Flood defence works	3
Air pollution	1
Dumping/spreading of materials	1
Inter-specific competition	1

# 4.9.4 National Nature Reserves

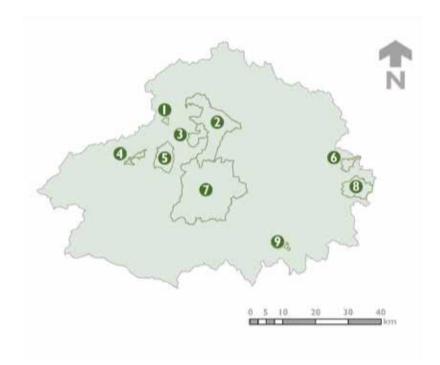
There are 9 actively promoted NNRs within the National Park, outlined in Table 4.7 and mapped in Figure 4.4.

**Table 4.7: National Nature Reserves** 

NNR		Managed by
1	Craigellachie	NatureScot
2	Abernethy	NatureScot & RSPB
3	Glenmore	Forestry & Land Scotland
4	Insh Marshes	RSPB
5	Invereshie & Inshriach	NatureScot
6	Muir of Dinnet	NatureScot
7	Mar Lodge Estate	National Trust for Scotland
8	Glen Tanar	Glen Tanar Estate
9	Corrie Fee	NatureScot



Figure 4.4. CNPA 9 National Nature Reserve Locations



# 4.9.5 Cairngorms Nature Action Plan (CNAP) priorities

A number of species and habitats, important for conservation and tackling the effects of climate change, have been identified for landscape scale conservation and priority species management within the CNAP. Table 4.8 outlines these:

**Table 4.8: CNPA Action Plan Priorities & Targets** 

Species	Landscape	
Scottish Wildcat	5,000ha new woodland (including	
Scottish Whatat	regeneration and montane)	
Beaver	70% of new woodland is native	
Curlew	750ha PAWS & native woodland under	
Curiew	active restoration	
Dorogrino Folcon	20 farms in woodland and grassland	
Peregrine Falcon	projects	
Invertebrates	increase in farmland waders from	
invertebrates	2015 baseline	
Aspen	5,000ha peatland under restoration	
Aspen	management	
Mountain Hare	150km river / riparian restoration	
Capercaillie	50 ponds created or restored	
Golden Eagle		
Hen Harrier		
Freshwater Pearl Mussel	]	
Plants, Fungi & Lichen		



### 4.9.6 Woodland habitats

The woodlands of the Park are a distinctive feature of the landscape, ecology, economy and cultural heritage. Part of the reason for their importance and distinctiveness stems from the unusually high proportion of native tree species they contain (i.e. even commercial woodlands are predominantly Scots pine).

It is also one of the most widely recognised special qualities of the Cairngorms National Park. By providing this network and supporting many of the priority species identified in the CNAP, forests and woodlands make an important contribution to the wider biodiversity in the Park.

## 4.9.7 Ancient Woodland Inventory woodlands in the Park

Around 340 square km of the National Park's woodlands are identified as being ancient, according to the Ancient Woodland Inventory<sup>15</sup>. Although not definitive, due to historical mapping issues, the Ancient Woodland Inventory provides an indication of where ancient woodlands can be found in the Park (see map below).

Ancient woodland is defined as land that is currently wooded and has been continually wooded, at least since 1750. Around 160 square km of ancient woodlands have been identified as being semi-natural. Ancient woodland is of great and irreplaceable importance for biodiversity, due to its antiquity and lack of significant disturbance to the soil structure. Once destroyed, it cannot be recreated.

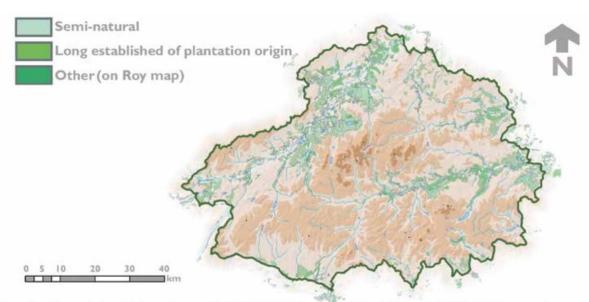


Figure 2.5 Ancient Woodland Location, CNPA

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> (https://www.nature.scot/professionaladvice/ land-and-sea-management/managing-land/forests-and-woodlands/history-scotlandswood- lands ).



### 4.9.8 Freshwater and wetland habitats

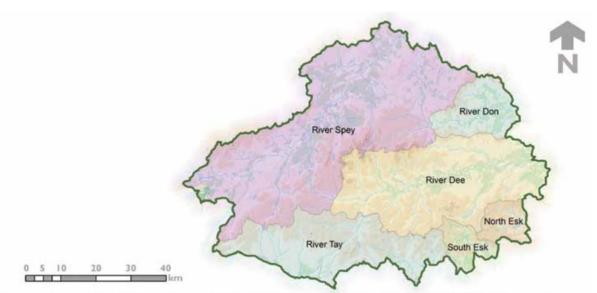
The Park contains part of eight river catchments, although two have only a very small portion within the Park (see Figure 6). The largest catchment is for the River Spey. The latest data available from SEPA provides information on the ecological status of the 154 waterbodies analysed by SEPA in the Park.

This shows that, since the environmental baseline assessment was carried out for the current NPPP in 2015, the number of waterbodies in high, good or moderate ecological status has increased by around 8%, while the number in bad or poor status has increased by 1.3% (Table 4).

Table 4.9: Waterbody status figures for waterbodies in the Park

Status	2015, # Waterbodies	2017, # Waterbodies	% Change
High	13	12	-0.65%
Good	80	87	+4.55%
Moderate	26	32	+3.90%
Poor	18	16	-1.30%
Bad	2	6	+2.60%

Figure 4.6. CNPA River Catchments



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### 4.9.9 Scottish Wildcat

Knowledge about population figures is patchy, partly due to the elusive behaviour of wildcat and also because of interbreeding with domestic/feral cats, resulting in hybrids that can be difficult to tell apart from pure bred wildcat. The Highland Wildlife Park near Kincraig is hosting a breeding and reintroduction programme for Scottish wildcat, Saving Wildcats. This should boost the population of Scottish wildcat in the National Park in future years.



## 4.9.10 Capercaillie

Capercaillie populations in Scotland have declined significantly from an estimated 20,000 birds in 1970 to 1,114 at the national winter survey in 2015/16. The Park holds a significant proportion of the national population – around 80%, the majority in Strathspey - mostly in areas protected for nature conservation but also in other forests that host metapopulations.

Capercaillie also persist in Deeside. The Strathspey capercaillie population is crucial to the long-term survival of the species in the UK.

#### 4.9.11 Curlew

The National Park is one of the most important UK mainland sites for breeding wading birds, due to its combination of wetlands, wet grasslands and low-intensity mixed farming. Nevertheless, curlew have seen their numbers dramatically reduce by over 62% between 1994 and 2017.

### 4.9.12 Deer

There are five species of deer found within the Cairngorms National Park. Their distribution is strongly influenced by human activity and land management:

- Red deer, a native species, have long been central to the cultural and natural heritage of the Highlands. They are common in most upland areas of the Park, although they can also be found in woodlands.
- Roe deer, another native species, are also numerous in the Park. They are more commonly seen on lower ground, in and around woodlands.
- Sika deer, a non-native species, are present in much smaller numbers. Populations of sika are found in the Monadhliath mountain range, with individuals also sometimes seen in other areas within the Park.
- Reindeer are found in the Park, mainly in the upland areas around Cairngorm and Cromdale hills. Once a native species, they were re-introduced in 1952, and form a unique semi-domestic herd managed by the Cairngorm Reindeer Centre.
- Fallow deer were introduced to Britain in the 11th century. There is a small population in the southern section of the Park, in Perthshire.

Deer numbers need to be managed to minimise negative effects on habitats, as well as to ensure there is sufficient food and shelter to maintain the health and welfare of the deer.

# 4.9.13 Other issues affecting biodiversity: diseases, non-native species

Non-native species can kill, harbour disease, and/or compete with native species.

### 4.9.14 Pathogens

Pathogens can cause death or reduce viability of populations of host species, which has implications for ecosystems and biodiversity. In the Park, the main issues relate to tree health:

• *Dothistroma* (red band) needle blight is a fungus that causes the premature loss of pine needles, weakening the tree which may lead to premature death.



- Ash die back or Chalara (*Hymenoecyphus fraxineus*) is a fungus causing dieback and mortality in ash trees.
- Ramorum Phytophthora ramorum is a fungal disease of larch.
- *Phytophthora austrocedraeon* is a fungus that causes dieback and mortality in juniper, where it attacks the roots and stems.

# 4.10. Landscape & Cultural Heritage

Landscape is the shape and diversity to our surroundings, the product of thousands of years of interaction between man and nature, encompassing the physical and cultural environment. Landscape is important, because it links culture with nature and the past with the present.

At 4,528 square kilometres, and comprising 6% of Scotland's land area, the Park is amongst the largest protected landscape in the UK.

# **4.10.1** Summary of the special qualities of the Park:

# **General qualities include:**

- Magnificent mountains towering over moorland, forest and strath.
- Vastness of space, scale and height.
- Strong juxtaposition of contrasting landscapes.
- A landscape of layers, from inhabited strath to remote, uninhabited upland.
- 'The harmony of complicated curves'.
- Landscapes, both cultural and natural.

# More defined qualities:

### 4.10.2 The Mountains and Plateaux

- The unifying presence of the central mountains.
- An imposing massif of strong dramatic character
- The unique plateaux of vast scale, distinctive landforms and exposed, boulder strewn high ground.
- The surrounding hills.
- The drama of deep corries.
- Exceptional glacial landforms and snowscapes.

# 4.10.3 Trees, Woods and Forests

- Dark and venerable pine forest (image below: mid-ground tree cover).
- Light and airy birch woods (image below: foreground trees).
- Parkland and policy woodlands.
- Long association with forestry.

# 4.10.4 Moorlands

- Extensive moorland, linking farmland, woodland and the high tops.
- A patchwork of muirburn.



### 4.10.5 Wildlife and Nature

- Dominance of natural landforms.
- Extensive tracts of natural vegetation.
- Association with iconic animals.
- Wild land.
- Wildness.

## 4.10.6 Glens and Straths

- Steep glens and high passes.
- Broad, farmed straths.
- Renowned rivers.
- Beautiful lochs.

## 4.10.7 Visual and Sensory Qualities

- Layers of receding ridge lines.
- Grand panoramas and framed views.
- A landscape of many colours.
- Dark skies.
- Attractive and contrasting textures.
- The dominance of natural sounds.

## 4.10.8 Culture and History

- Distinctive planned towns (e.g., Grantown).
- Vernacular stone buildings.
- Dramatic, historical routes.
- The wistfulness of abandoned settlements.
- Focal cultural landmarks of castles, distilleries and bridges.
- The Royal connection.

### 4.10.9 Recreation

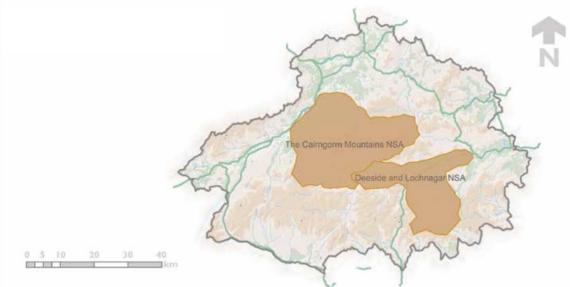
- A landscape of opportunities.
- Spirituality.

# 4.10.10 National Scenic Areas

Two National Scenic Areas (NSAs), the Cairngorm Mountains NSA and Deeside and Lochnagar NSA, are located entirely within the Park boundary, covering an area of around 1,072 square kilometres, which equates to just under 25% of the land area of the Park.



**Figure 4.7 National Scenic Areas** 



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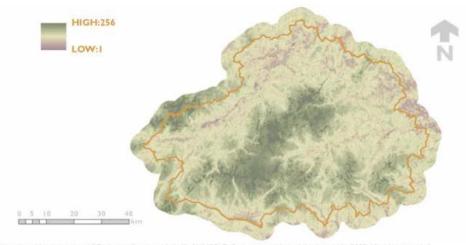
### 4.10.11 Wildness and Wild Land Areas

Wildness is a quality experienced by people, when visiting places of a certain character. Wildness is objectively considered through four physical attributes being present, namely;

- perceived naturalness of the land cover;
- ruggedness of the terrain;
- remoteness from public roads, ferries or railway stations and the visible lack of buildings, roads, pylons, and other modern artefacts.

Figure 4.8 shows the wildness of the National Park, on a scale of 1-256, indicating relative levels of wildness.

Figure 4.8 Relative Wildness Mapping



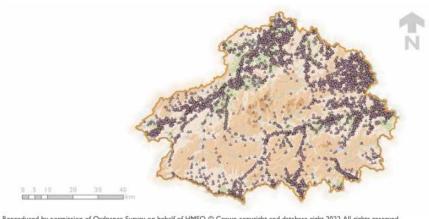
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## 4.10.12 Historic landscape

The landscape seen today is the result of a complex interplay of climate, geology, geomorphology, soil development, vegetation succession and herbivore impacts, along with human elements linked to settlement, transport, farming and forestry. Figure 4.9 identifies where historical archaeological records, as held by the Historic Environment Scotland, occur in the Park. These provide an indication of where human activity has occurred in the past. (There are also other historical features that are not mapped, but which contribute to a sense of place and are important to local people.)

Figure 4.9



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Of note, across the National Park, there exists: 110 Scheduled Monuments, 753 Listed Buildings, 11 Gardens and designed landscapes, 2 records on the Inventory of Historic Battlefields, and 5 Planned Towns (Ballater, Blair Atholl, Tomintoul, Grantown-on-Spey and Kingussie).

### 4.10.13 Conservation Areas

Parts of the planned towns of Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey and Blair Atholl have been designated as Conservation Areas, which are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997. The Park also has a further two Conservation Areas within its boundary, at Braemar and Inverey.

# 4.10.14 Buildings at Risk

The Buildings at Risk Register (BARR) for Scotland highlights properties of architectural or historic merit, throughout the country, that are considered to be at risk or under threat. To be at risk, a building does not necessarily need to be in poor condition, it may simply be standing empty with no clear, future use. Many buildings at risk are in this latter category. From the latest available data, 31 buildings were recorded as being at risk in the Park.

### 4.10.15 Linguistic Heritage

Located near the centre of Scotland and owing to the restrictive nature of its mountainous terrain, the Cairngorms National Park occupies a position where many of the linguistic and cultural differences found in Scotland intersect. The language used in place names in the Park often has historical meaning that describes the landscape, place, wildlife or activities that could be, or are still found there.



# 4.10.16 Spoken Languages

### Gaelic

Recorded in the Park to be the language spoken by a minority of the population (around 2.2% in the 2011 Census, down from around 3.1% in 2001 Census), Gaelic is a visible and inseparable part of the identity of the area, as it continues to dominate the names of places, both built and natural.

# Scots (Doric)

Doric is stronger in the east, where the influence of the lowlands is greatest. The language has also seen a fall in use, with around 29.3% (5,400 people) of the National Park's population claiming to be able to speak it, in the 2011 Census.

# 4.11. Population and human health

### 4.11.1 Population

The mid-year estimate of the population of the Cairngorms National Park in 2018 was 18,654 people, with around 50% female and 50% male. This is similar to the Scottish population where 49% of the population, in 2019, were estimated to be male and 51% female.

The age profile of the people living in the Park differs from the national population of Scotland, as a whole. A larger proportion of the population in the Park is made up of people within the 70 years and over age range, compared to the Scottish population, which is thought to reflect the attractiveness of the Park as somewhere to retire to.

It should be noted that the mid-year population estimates, for the working age category, may also be skewed by the time of year that data is collected, as this is when the working population increases to service tourism. Therefore, the proportion of pensionable age people, resident in the National Park year-round, compared to working age people, is likely to be greater than the 21% reported.

During the 21st century, the National Park has experienced a significant net increase in its resident population, rising by approximately 2,321 people, a growth of around 14%, between 2001 and 2019. This is above the overall Scottish rate, which saw an increase of around 7.8%, over the same period. However, after steady 1-2% annual increases, during most of the first decade, the National Park population has plateaued.

Population growth in the Park is not spread evenly, with areas of decline and areas of growth. The overall National Park population figures are also skewed by the Aviemore area, which saw far greater (48.9%) population growth compared to the National Park overall (14.2%). During this period, deaths have exceeded births every year, indicating that the population growth of the Park is driven by migration of people *into* the National Park.

The most recent population projection for the National Park was based on 2018 data, published in October 2019. The National Records of Scotland 'medium' projection is that between 2018 and 2043, the population of Park will increase by around 5% (with the low and high migration figures being +4 and +7%).



The National Park projected population compares at a higher rate of increase to the Scottish projections, which predict a 0, +3 or +5% population change between 2018 and 2043, under the low, medium and high migration scenarios.

The National Park is likely to encounter similar population trends to Scotland as a whole, but to a greater degree, with the population of children and those of working ages dropping by 3% and 6% respectively, and those of a pensionable age increasing by up to 10%.

## 4.11.2 Health & Housing

Human health depends on a number of general and local environmental factors, including access to services such as health, education, access to good quality outdoor recreational facilities and a high-quality and safe environment, with good quality air, soil and water. Influences, such as income, nutrition, occupation, housing conditions, sleep, weight and culture can additionally make a difference to the overall good health and wellbeing of the population. It is well recognised that the quality of housing, deprivation and health are linked. The SNHS considers that housing costs and quality, along with fuel poverty, influence health inequality in Scotland.

There is a low level of housing related deprivation within the Park, with no data zones falling within the 20% most deprived. However, there are areas where indicators of housing deprivation exceed the national average. In particular, at 4.3%, many areas of the National Park have relatively high percentages of the household population living in homes with no central heating, higher than the Scottish average of 2.3%.

A significant barrier in reducing household deprivation is the availability and affordability of enough new housing to enable people to move from housing that does not meet their needs (such as overcrowded or lacking central heating) into more suitable homes that are within their means.

### 4.11.3 Housing occupancy & second homes

Between 2010 and 2020, the number of dwellings in the Park grew from 9888 to 10273 (an increase of around 4%), with occupancy levels remaining between 83% - 84%, across the period, compared to 96% for Scotland as a whole. Over the same period, the number of second homes has declined by 10.1% (128 dwellings), with the percentage reducing from 12.8% to 11.1%. The number of vacant dwellings has increased, from 409 to 493 (20.5%), with the percentage increasing from 4.1% to 4.8%.

## 4.11.4 Housing Affordability

Affordability is a recognised issue in the Park. Between 1993 and 2015, the median price of a property in the Cairngorms National Park saw a net rise of almost 230%, with a peak, in 2015, of £192,500. In 2018 it had reduced slightly to £190,000.

When the Park was established, in 2003, the median Park house price was already £13,197 above the Scottish average. This gap has since increased to £37,500 in 2018, placing many houses outwith the financial reach of workers in the Park wishing to buy a home there.

The National Park is looking to address this issue via the NPPP via the following policies:



- Providing a housing land supply that supports young people and workers and maintains vibrant communities.
- Reducing the proportion of vacant and second homes to support community vibrancy, ensuring that new housing development best meets local needs.
- Maximising the proportion of new housing development that is affordable in perpetuity, using short-term let control areas and licensing of short-term let properties to manage the impact of second homes and short-term lets on the housing market (and the availability of housing for residents and workers).

# 4.11.5 Employment

8,100 people were employed in the National Park in 2020, with fulltime jobs the most numerous, employing 4,900 people; a level of fulltime employment of 60%, compared to 74% in Scotland as a whole. Part-time jobs were held by 3,200 people, or 40% of those employed.

The Park has a higher proportion of part time and self-employed people (both around 15%) than the Scottish population (around 13%). This may reflect the makeup of the main employment sectors in the Park (accommodation and food; arts, entertainment, recreation and other; skilled trades), which tend to be fulfilled by part time and self-employed workers.

There are fewer fulltime students in the Park, compared to Scotland as a whole (2% compared with 4%), accurately reflecting both the numbers of young people in the area, compared to Scotland, and the availability of higher education options in the locale.

Levels of unemployment are lower than Scotland overall, (3.5% compared with 4.9%), reflecting the higher-than-average numbers of people of a pensionable age in the Park and high levels of availability of seasonal work (the dates in which data were collected may also be a contributing factor).

### 4.11.6 Education and Training

Across the Park the mean adult educational score and attainment of school leavers are above the national averages and significantly below national average in terms of adults with no qualifications. There is a very low proportion of young people (16–19-year-olds) not participating in employment, education and training (NEET). Factors that may be contributing to this include:

- High average educational/vocational qualifications.
- Low unemployment rate and high availability of employment, in particular, in the tourism sector.
- Outward migration of young people.

Company registered in Scotland SC 564740

As part of the NPPP, the National Park is looking to undertake a just transition to net zero. The nature of many jobs will change in the National Park, over the coming years, as a low carbon economy is created. This means that there will likely be opportunities for new jobs, but also that some traditional jobs (including those in land use and tourism) may evolve over time.

### 4.11.7 Labour Market

The importance of certain employment sectors varies both between the different industries and between the different Local Authority areas, within the Park (Figure 4.9). Moray has a different profile to that of the other Local Authority areas. The largest differences are seen in the Babbity Environmental Ltd

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manufacturing and the accommodation and food services sectors. Manufacturing is a key sector for Moray, contributing 18%, compared to between 3% and 6% for the other Local Authority areas. In contrast, accommodation and food services contribute far less, at 8%, compared to between 15% and 18% for the other Local Authority areas. This may reflect the reliance the other areas in the Park have on tourism, which influences the accommodation and food services sector, whereas Moray has traditionally had a different economic focus and specialist manufacturing expertise, pertaining to its proximity to several military bases in the area.

The workforce shrank by 2.7%, between 2019- 2020, largely caused by a decrease in the prominent Accommodation and Food Service Activity Sector. Over a third of occupations (36%) were 'higher level', 33% were 'mid-level' and 31% were 'lower-level' This is compared to 45% 'higher level' and 35% 'lower level' occupations across Scotland.

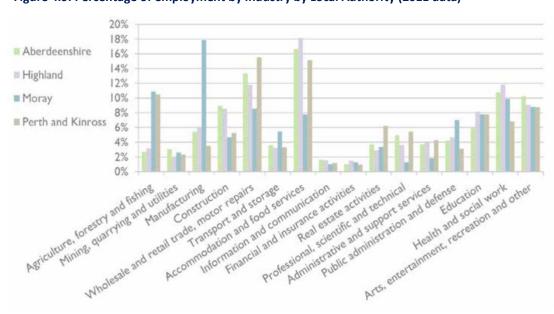


Figure 4.9. Percentage of employment by Industry by Local Authority (2011 data)

The labour market of the National Park is forecast to face some challenges, in the immediate term, with macroscale events, such as Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in job losses and limiting economic growth.

The forecast, for the mid-term (2020-2023), suggests there could be some job growth (100 people) and opportunities created, as a result of the need to replace workers leaving the labour market, due to retirement and other reasons (expected at 800 people). These are expected to be centred around the Accommodation & Food, Wholesale & Retail, Arts, Construction, Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing and Education sectors.

The forecast, for the long-term (2023-2030), predicts a halt in growth. However, there may be an ongoing requirement for skilled people to fill opportunities created by people leaving the labour market. This feature of the labour market, known as the replacement requirement, is a symptom of demographic change. It is forecast that there will be a requirement of 1,800 people to fill job



openings between 2023 and 2030. As the forecast expansion demand is zero, all 1,800 potential job openings are forecast to be a result of the replacement demand.

#### 4.11.8 Unemployment

Unemployment levels within the Park are relatively low, with the 2011 Census finding that only around 3% of the population, aged 16-74, were unemployed, compared to around 5% for Scotland. Around 0.3% had never worked, compared to around 1% for Scotland, with around 1% being long-term unemployed, compared to around 2% for Scotland. There is a variation between the Local Authority areas, with Moray experiencing higher rates of unemployment than Scotland and the other Local Authority areas, within the Park and Perth and Kinross, experiencing much lower rates.

The nature of employment within the Park is, however, extremely seasonal, with Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimants peaking in the winter months. Unemployment is at its lowest in July, which coincides with Scottish school and public holidays and key tourism months.

### 4.11.9 Commuting to work

Data, from the 2011 Census, found that, of the 18,712 people aged 16-74, in employment in the Park, around 52% of them commuted to work via car, van or motorbike. This is lower than the Scottish level of 56%, a reflection of the fact that the Park has a relatively high level of home working at around 23.4%. The use of public transport is particularly low within the Park, at around 3%, a reflection of the difficulties of providing good service in such a rural area.

A breakdown of the other methods of transport was not available, so it is not possible to say how many people in the Park walk or cycle to work.

The largest proportion of people commuting within the Park travel less than 2km to their work, and, at around 23%, the Park figure is higher than the Scottish level of around 17%. However, in the Park, a greater proportion of people commute further, when compared to the Scottish average; in Scotland around 50% of commuters travel less than 10km to their work, whereas, for the Park, around 36% of commuters travel that distance. In the Park, around 16% of commuters travel more than 30km, compared to the Scottish average of 7%.

### 4.11.10 Recreation Opportunities

In addition to the usual measures of deprivation, related to employment, finances and transport, other factors can influence human health, such as opportunities to access the outdoors for recreation, leisure and exercise. Being outside and physical activity are well known to improve physical and mental health, as well as addressing health inequalities.

Figure 4.10 shows several Walking and Cycle Routes throughout the Park. The Dava Way, around 41 miles in length, follows the old railway route that used to link Grantown on Spey, in the Park, with Forres, in Moray. The Speyside Way, around 65 miles in length, follows the River Spey from Buckie, on the Moray coast, to Newtonmore, in the Park. There is also a spur off the main route, which goes from around Ballindalloch, through Glenlivet to Tomintoul. A section of the Speyside Way forms part of the off-road National Cycle Network route 7. The Cateran Trail, around 64 miles in length, is a circular route, following old drove roads and ancient tracks through Perthshire and the Angus Glens, between Blairgowrie, Alyth and Spittal of Glenshee. The Deeside Way,



around 41 miles in length, follows the old railway route the used to link Ballater, in the Park, with Aberdeen. It also forms part of National Cycle Network route 195.

As well as the long-distance routes, there are numerous path networks, associated with settlements, providing shorter routes for exercise or getting around. Some of the path networks also link settlements, offering opportunities for commuting by active travel. Many of the paths in the Park are multi-user paths, providing opportunities for cyclists, as well as pedestrians, to be active. National Cycle Network route 7 goes between Inverness and Sunderland, passing through the Park, while the shorter route, 195, provides opportunities in Aberdeenshire.

There are also two water sports centres that facilitate non-motorised water sports through teaching and equipment hire, at Loch Insh and Loch Morlich.

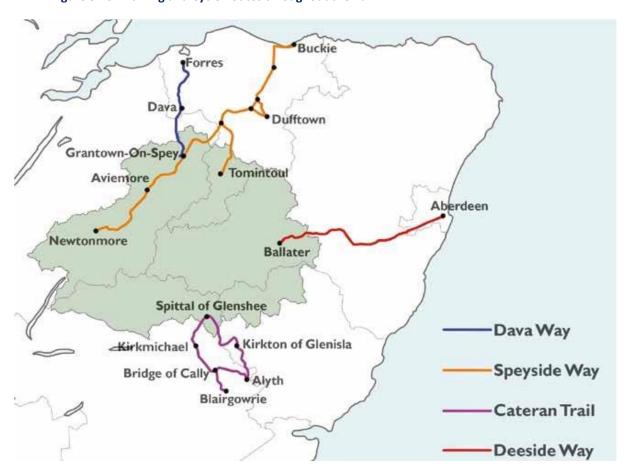


Figure 3.10. Walking and Cycle Routes throughout the Park



## 4.12. Key environmental Issues, Receptors, Opportunities and Implications

A summary of the key issues affecting the Cairngorms National Park, as raised in the above baseline assessment, are highlighted in Table 4.11, with an indication of the likely affected receptors and the potential opportunities, within the Cairngorms 2030 programme, to address such issues.

**Table 4.10: Key Environmental Issues and Receptors** 

#### Identified issue / cause Affected receptor Opportunities and implications **Climatic Factors** The Intergovernmental Science-Cumulative in nature on the The 2030 Programme will set Policy Platform on Biodiversity cause and effect of climate out action to mitigate the and Ecosystem Services issued a change, secondary & transimpacts of climate change, boundary effects on human warning about the damage promoting appropriate human beings are causing to the health, water, soil and improvement and adaptation planet. It found that the drivers geodiversity, biodiversity, flora measures across all areas. It will of damage have accelerated and fauna. look to build climate resilience over the past 50 years. Climate across communities, businesses change is one of the top three and the natural environment. causes. Woodland expansion is a crucial The trend in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent component of the Cairngorms emissions in the Park is National Park journey to net zero, with an aim to increase encouraging, with a marked the cover of biodiverse native decline since 2001 overall. However this is not represented woodland, within the Park, by at least 1,000 hectares between equally among all sectors. There 2023 and 2028. have been recent increases in Transport, Waste and Development emissions, within The catchments of the River the Park, which have eaten into Dee, Spey and South Esk the decreases made through together cover 90% of the more tree planting and National Park and the Climate renewable energy. Resilient Catchments project will bring direct benefit by The CNPA were unable to reducing the local flood risk, attract any suitable peatland storing water to improve contractors for other legacy drought resilience, and projects carried over from 2019 engaging local communities in or for new projects, and there their landscape through remains a significant lack of improved access and contractors. Actual restoration interpretation. management totalled only 131 hectares in 2020/21. Degraded Peatland restoration in the National Park will deliver 1,300 peatlands in the mountain areas are emitting carbon dioxide, hectares of high-quality adding to the emissions in the peatland restoration, each year, National Park. through the delivery phase.



By 2030 it will likely be too late to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. CNPA aims to deploy landscape scale, nature-based solutions to reduce carbon emissions and improve human and ecological wellbeing.

The Green Investment project will develop innovative new strategies to work with private finance investors for environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature restoration.

The Cairngorms Future Farming project will trial methods of climate-resilient farming, ensuring that the fragile economics of farm business management is enhanced to support a more sustainable approach to farming in the future.

An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects that meet their needs in their local area.

The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will link with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts.

The Climate Learning and Education Project aims to create educated and knowledgeable young people who understand the need for climate action, and who recognise the connections between biodiversity loss and the impacts on health and wellbeing.



The Community Arts and
Culture project will build
capacity and collaboration in
the art and culture sector and
strengthen people's connection
to landscape and place,
inspiring involvement in
community-based climate
action activity and encouraging
behaviour change.

The delivery phase of the Climate Conscious Communities Project will ensure that these programmes and organisations are well co-ordinated and working towards the Net Zero ambitions of C2030 and guided by the aims of the National Park Partnership Plan.

Cycle Friendly Cairngorms will deliver a package of workstreams that together will both encourage and make it easier to use a bike or e-bike to get around in the Park.

The Changing Travel Behaviours project aims to engage, empower and inspire residents and visitors to make a modal shift to active and sustainable travel options.



Identified issue / cause	Affected receptor	Opportunities and implications
racritimea issue y eause	Air	opportunities and implications
The highest emissions are	Cumulative effects relating to	Cycle Friendly Cairngorms will
located along the A9 and within	air issues.	create the conditions where
the main settlements of	an issues.	cycling. as a method of
Aviemore, Grantown-on-Spey		sustainable transport. is an
and Ballater, where traffic		accessible option for all. It will
volumes are greatest. However,		enable residents and visitors to
these emissions are still well		embrace travelling by cycle, as a
below the World Health		realistic alternative to car use,
Organisation levels that would		resulting in a reduction of
have adverse effects on human		personal car use for short
health.		· .
Health.		journeys and improvements to
Dualling of the AO and how this		air quality.
Dualling of the A9, and how this		By improving active travel
could change traffic levels and		infrastructure and public spaces,
visitor numbers in the Park,		it will become more enjoyable
means that air quality could be		for everyone to walk, cycle or
a future concern. In particular,		get around using a wheelchair,
the potential for increasing		helping to place active travel at
pollutants associated with		the heart of a greener and
traffic emissions such as PM <sub>10</sub>		healthier future.
and nitrogen dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> ).		
Identified issue / cause	Affected receptor	Opportunities and implications
	Water	
The Cairngorms National Park	Cumulative, synergistic and	The Climate Resilient
encompasses the headwaters of	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on	Catchments project will bring
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers,	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers,	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones.	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and engaging local communities in
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones. Between 2013 and 2017 the	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and engaging local communities in their landscape, through
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones.  Between 2013 and 2017 the number of waterbodies in the	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and engaging local communities in their landscape, through improved access and
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones. Between 2013 and 2017 the	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and engaging local communities in their landscape, through
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones.  Between 2013 and 2017 the number of waterbodies in the Park in high status have increased slightly, the number	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and engaging local communities in their landscape, through improved access and
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones.  Between 2013 and 2017 the number of waterbodies in the Park in high status have	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and engaging local communities in their landscape, through improved access and
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones.  Between 2013 and 2017 the number of waterbodies in the Park in high status have increased slightly, the number	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and engaging local communities in their landscape, through improved access and
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones.  Between 2013 and 2017 the number of waterbodies in the Park in high status have increased slightly, the number in good and moderate status	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and engaging local communities in their landscape, through improved access and
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones.  Between 2013 and 2017 the number of waterbodies in the Park in high status have increased slightly, the number in good and moderate status have declined, while the	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and engaging local communities in their landscape, through improved access and
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones.  Between 2013 and 2017 the number of waterbodies in the Park in high status have increased slightly, the number in good and moderate status have declined, while the number in poor status have	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and engaging local communities in their landscape, through improved access and
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones.  Between 2013 and 2017 the number of waterbodies in the Park in high status have increased slightly, the number in good and moderate status have declined, while the number in poor status have	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and engaging local communities in their landscape, through improved access and
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones.  Between 2013 and 2017 the number of waterbodies in the Park in high status have increased slightly, the number in good and moderate status have declined, while the number in poor status have increased four-fold.	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and engaging local communities in their landscape, through improved access and
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones.  Between 2013 and 2017 the number of waterbodies in the Park in high status have increased slightly, the number in good and moderate status have declined, while the number in poor status have increased four-fold.  All of the rivers and	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and engaging local communities in their landscape, through improved access and
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones.  Between 2013 and 2017 the number of waterbodies in the Park in high status have increased slightly, the number in good and moderate status have declined, while the number in poor status have increased four-fold.  All of the rivers and watercourses in the Park have	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and engaging local communities in their landscape, through improved access and
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones.  Between 2013 and 2017 the number of waterbodies in the Park in high status have increased slightly, the number in good and moderate status have declined, while the number in poor status have increased four-fold.  All of the rivers and watercourses in the Park have the potential to flood, to some	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and engaging local communities in their landscape, through improved access and
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones.  Between 2013 and 2017 the number of waterbodies in the Park in high status have increased slightly, the number in good and moderate status have declined, while the number in poor status have increased four-fold.  All of the rivers and watercourses in the Park have the potential to flood, to some degree. When the main rivers	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and engaging local communities in their landscape, through improved access and
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones.  Between 2013 and 2017 the number of waterbodies in the Park in high status have increased slightly, the number in good and moderate status have declined, while the number in poor status have increased four-fold.  All of the rivers and watercourses in the Park have the potential to flood, to some degree. When the main rivers break their banks, they often	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and engaging local communities in their landscape, through improved access and
encompasses the headwaters of three of Scotland's major rivers, the Tay, Dee and Spey, as well as many smaller ones.  Between 2013 and 2017 the number of waterbodies in the Park in high status have increased slightly, the number in good and moderate status have declined, while the number in poor status have increased four-fold.  All of the rivers and watercourses in the Park have the potential to flood, to some degree. When the main rivers break their banks, they often cause damage to land, building	Cumulative, synergistic and trans-boundary effects on human health, water, soil and geodiversity, climate change	Catchments project will bring direct benefit, by reducing the local flood risk, storing water to improve drought resilience, and engaging local communities in their landscape, through improved access and



Identified issue / cause	Affected receptor	Opportunities and implications
identified issue / cause	Soil & Geodiversity	Opportunities and implications
The soils of the Park are	·	Peatland restoration in the
	Cumulative, synergistic and	
particularly rich in soil organic	trans-boundary effects on	National Park will deliver 1,300
matter because the cool, moist	human health, water, soil and	hectares of high-quality
climate encourages the	geodiversity, climate change	peatland restoration, each year,
retention of decomposed	and flora and fauna	through the delivery phase.
organic materials. Peat, the		
most carbon rich soil, covers an		
extensive area of the Park.		
Climate is important in		
determining the equilibrium of		
soil organic matter content.		
Changes in climate, such as the		
increase in heavy rainfall events		
during winter are likely to		
disrupt the equilibrium.		
Identified issue / cause	Affected receptor	Opportunities and implications
	Material Assets	
In order to safeguard the special	Cumulative with secondary	Installing certain renewable
landscape qualities of the Park,	impacts on population and	energy technologies, such as
the Park Authority has	human health, air, and climatic	solar panels and biomass
historically implemented	factors.	boilers, is within the permitted
restrictive policies on large scale		development rights of
renewable energy development		householders and businesses,
in the Park. As a result,		provided certain conditions are
developments of energy		met.
generating infrastructure have		
been relatively minor in scale		Cycle Friendly Cairngorms,
and number.		Active Communities,
		Sustainable Travel and Changing
The geography of the Park		Travel Behaviours projects seek
means that links, between		to address and improve rural
certain parts of the Park, are		use of, and access to, a number
relatively poor due to		of alternatives to cars, across
topography and climate		the park, including the delivery
affecting their travel times and		of a range of sustainable
navigability in poor weather.		transport initiatives across the
		Park, further development of
4G Not Spots remain a		the sustainable transport model
significant problem in the		for Aviemore to Cairngorm
Cairngorms National Park and		Mountain, options in Deeside
there are still areas, within the		and the introduction of greener
Park, that have no 4G coverage		buses.
with any of the four main		
carriers.		



		A lack of digital infrastructure will impact the ability for people to conduct remote working and the implications this will have on rolling out a wellbeing economy could potentially be significant.
Identified issue / cause	Affected receptor	Opportunities and implications
	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	
A wide range of pressures affect qualifying interests and notified features of protected areas, resulting in unfavourable conditions, most of which relate to land/water use and management.  Around 340 square km of the National Park's woodlands are identified as being ancient, according to the Ancient Woodland Inventory. Ancient woodland is of great and irreplaceable importance for biodiversity, due to its antiquity and lack of significant disturbance to the soil structure. Once destroyed, it cannot be recreated.  Since 2015, the number of waterbodies in high, good or moderate ecological status has increased by around 8% while the number in bad or poor status has increased by 1.3%.	Cumulative effects on sensitive habitats and individual species, synergistic effects with human health, climate change.	One of the core goals of the 2030 Programme is aiming to work towards a sustainable future – to protect our natural world and develop local solutions to take action on biodiversity loss, in the face of the climate emergency.



	T	T = 1 / 2
Pathogens can cause death or		The 'Nature' theme projects, in
reduce viability of populations		particular, look to address and
of host species, which has		respond to the biodiversity
implications for ecosystems and		crises, via a range of projects
biodiversity. In the Park, the		including: woodland expansion
main issues relate to tree health		as a crucial component,
		peatland restoration
		(sequestering large amounts of
		CO <sub>2</sub> ), the restoration of four
		river catchments across the
		Park, projects to develop
		strategies for land management
		that increases the biodiversity
		and ecological health of the
		Park, trialling innovative
		approaches to seek more
		sustainable farming practices,
		and a Green Investment project,
		designed to create new
		strategies to work with private
		finance investors for
		environmentally sustainable
		projects, technologies and
		businesses that aim to reduce
		greenhouse gas emissions,
		mitigate climate change and
		deliver nature restoration, in
		ways that support socially
		inclusive, sustainable changes in
		land use.
Identified issue / cause	Affected receptor	Opportunities and implications
	Cultural Heritage	
The National Park provides a	Cumulative effects on historic	The 2030 Programme can help
rich sense of cultural, linguistic,	and cultural assets, synergistic	protect the cultural and historic
artistic and historical identity,	effects on population and	heritage of the area, from
which is important for	human health.	protecting ancient woodland to
enhancing the quality of life		building climate resilience to
across the wider region.		the impacts of climate change
		for cultural and heritage sites.
Two National Scenic Areas		in the same and heritage sites.
(NSAs), the Cairngorm		The Programme, along with
Mountains NSA and Deeside		partners and communities, will
and Lochnagar NSA, are located		promote the historic, natural
=		and cultural heritage of the
entirely within the Park		_
boundary, covering an area of		National Park to improve
around 1,072 square kilometres,		people's lives, health and
which equates to just under		wellbeing.
25% of the land area of the		
Park.		



The area has a rich heritage with a number of designated sites, listed buildings and scheduled monuments. Parts of the planned towns of Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey and Blair Atholl have been designated as Conservation Areas, which are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997. The Park also has a further two Conservation Areas, within its boundary, at Braemar and Inverey.

The Park further comprises a wide range of 'special qualities', which combined, create the sense of place found in the Park and is likewise home to a range of wildness/wild land areas where artefacts of modernity are not present.

## Affected receptor

## Opportunities and implications

Population and human health

A larger proportion of the population in the Park is made up of people within the 70 years and over age range, compared to the Scottish population.

Identified issue / cause

Population growth in the Park is not spread evenly, with areas of decline and areas of growth.

The overall National Park population figures are also skewed by the Aviemore area, which saw far greater (48.9%) population growth compared to the National Park overall (14.2%). Growth of the Park is driven by migration of people into the National Park.

Cumulative effects on human health and community wellbeing; and synergistic and transboundary effects on climate change and biodiversity. The 2030 Programme will aim to protect and enhance local environments, to sustain an increasing population and help promote community health and wellbeing. The programme aims to encourage more sustainable and active lifestyles, including the Cycle Friendly Cairngorms project, which will create the conditions where cycling, as a method of sustainable transport, is an accessible option for all. It will enable residents and visitors to embrace travelling by cycle as a realistic alternative to car use, resulting in a reduction of personal car use for short journeys.



There is a low level of housing related deprivation within the Park, with no data zones falling within the 20% most deprived.

4.3% of homes have no central heating, higher than the Scottish average of 2.3%.

Between 2010 and 2020 the number of dwellings in the Park grew around 4%, with occupancy levels remaining between 83% – 84% across the period compared to 96% for Scotland as a whole. Over the same period, the number of second homes has declined by 12.8% to 11.1%. The number of vacant dwellings has increased from 409 to 493 (20.5%).

Unemployment levels within the Park are relatively low, with around 3% of the population aged 16-74 unemployed, compared to around 5% for Scotland.

The use of public transport is particularly low within the Park, at around 3%.

In Scotland, around 50% of commuters travel less than 10km to their work, whereas, for the Park, around 36% of commuters travel that distance.

By encouraging more people to walk, wheel, and cycle for everyday journeys, the 'place' projects will improve health, create safer communities, and reduce environmental impacts. 'Changing Travel Behaviours' and 'Active Communities' aims to reconnect individuals to their local heritage, by making active travel and sustainable transport the natural choice for everyday journeys across the National Park.

The 'Sustainable Travel' project will support the delivery of a range of sustainable transport initiatives across the Park, including further development of the sustainable transport model for Aviemore to Cairngorm Mountain, options in Deeside and the introduction of greener buses.

The overarching 'Wellbeing Economy' project that ties into all of the 2030 Programme projects, recognises that housing, access to transport, human health, energy use, biodiversity and the climate crises are intricately linked.

The 2030 Programme will take into consideration the changing demographic of the area and the potential this will have on the environmental needs of local communities and service provision and delivery.



The 2030 programme will
promote health improvements
with a particular emphasis on
tackling poverty and inequality,
through closer integration of
health and environmental
objectives, and promoting the
importance of good quality local
environments and
neighbourhoods, providing links
to the wider community
planning partnerships.

## 4.13. Key Issues Relating to the 2030 Programme

Schedule 3 (4) of the SEA Act requires the Environmental Report to include a description of existing environmental issues, particularly those relating to any areas of specific environmental importance. The existing environmental issues (refer to the above, in Table 4.11) require to be considered in relation to the draft 2030 Programme and whether it will potentially aggravate, reduce, or otherwise affect current problems.

It is considered that, through the SEA process, existing environmental concerns shall be taken into account and, where necessary, mitigation measures will ensure that concerns highlighted will not be aggravated, and, in some instances, may be reduced. At the same time, opportunities to further enhance positive environmental effects will be considered.

#### 4.13.1 Climatic Factors

The 2030 Programme is on a larger scale than anything previously attempted in the UK and aims to inspire rural and urban communities, throughout Scotland and beyond, to take action and make a difference, impacting on a vast range of climate-focussed sectors, including farming, river catchment restoration, woodland enhancement, peatland restoration and lower emission travel.

## 4.13.2 Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna

The ecological emergency is a central issue within the CNP and impacts on biodiversity, through the loss and fragmentation of a variety of habitats, is a major concern. Loss of biodiversity can result in reduced ecosystem function and the degradation of key ecosystem services. The 2030 Programme will support the safeguarding of the area's rich, varied and vulnerable biodiversity, through the promotion of nature-based solutions and landscape-scale restoration projects, to tackle the climate emergency and to enable people to get closer to nature and the benefits it brings.

## 4.13.3 Population and Human Health

The resident and visitor populations of the CNP are at the core of the 2030 Programme's means of delivery. The 2030 Programme is in direct response to the immediate pressures on the majority of society, including the two million visitors which travel to the Cairngorms, from all over the world, each year. Crucially, the Programme coincides with the most acute cost-of-living crisis in a



generation coupled with the after-effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the climate emergency and nature crisis.

The 2030 Programme can influence these impacts, for example, by driving collaborative working across CNP resources, with partners and communities, to reduce disadvantage and inequalities, supporting a wellbeing economy, where society and nature live in harmony, where people enjoy a fair distribution of resources and live in healthy, affordable and resilient communities, and by promoting active lifestyles and travel, connecting a sustainable National Park that works for residents and visitors alike. Linked to this, is the safeguarding of cultural, historic and landscape assets, which are important for local people and tourists.

Furthermore, with transport accounting for over a third of Scotland's carbon emissions, how residents and visitors travel to, and within, the National Park will need to change, in order to achieve Scotland's net zero targets. By changing the way people travel, the aim for the 2030 Programme is to make the Park both a rural exemplar for sustainable and active travel, and to reduce transport-related carbon emissions.

One of the ways in which the 2030 Programme aims to achieve this, is by creating the conditions where cycling, as a method of sustainable transport, is an accessible option for all, enabling residents and visitors to embrace travelling by cycle as a realistic alternative to car use, resulting in a reduction of personal car use for short journeys. The Programme further seeks to work with local communities to make it easier and safer for residents and visitors to get around without a vehicle.

In order to reduce private car dependency, residents and visitors need to be able to access reliable and appropriate public transport that meets their needs. The 2030 Programme aims to support delivery of a range of sustainable transport initiatives, across the Park, including further development of the sustainable transport model for Aviemore to Cairngorm Mountain, options in Deeside and the introduction of greener buses.

A key aim of the 2030 Programme is the long-term modal shift to active and sustainable travel options, such that these become the automatic and obvious choice for everyday journeys to school, work and leisure.

## 4.14. Likely Evolution of the Environment Without the C2030 Programme

The SEA process involves an assessment of the evolution of the environment without the 2030 Programme being implemented. In relation to the current trends, identified in the existing Cairngorms National Park environment, with no 2030 Programme, several environmental indicators, including vulnerable priority species and landscape-scale ecosystems would either deteriorate or would not achieve their full environmental potential through receiving the appropriate support.

The 2030 Programme is the result of an extended process of community engagement and listening, which saw the CNPA visit communities the length and breadth of the National Park.

There is a real opportunity, through the 2030 Programme, to increase citizen participation, empower local communities and directly engage people in making decisions that affect their local area, addressing issues that matter to them and shaping the way the CNPA engages with people in the National Park, ensuring individuals and communities feel empowered, want to contribute,



and have the resources to effect real change. There is a potential for this to be acutely overlooked, if the programme were not to be enacted.

Without the 2030 Programme, there would be a less cohesive and collaborative approach to tackling environmental issues and embedding the principles, not only across all CNPA resources, but also with existing partners and our communities.

As the UK's largest and most ambitious response to the climate emergency, the 2030 programme is leading the way to tackle the climate and nature crises and place the ability to do so in the hands of the people who live, visit and work in the UK's largest national park. Although the current trend and high priority associated with actions to improve and respond to the climate emergency are ongoing and may continue to improve in a fragmented and incohesive manner, the level of progress achieved may well be less without the strategic direction and far-reaching vision set out in the 2030 Programme. The Programme will strengthen the importance placed on the environment, sustainable development and tackling climate change and the role these have on health and wellbeing and other environmental indicators, including biodiversity, heritage and culture, air, water and soils. The links between the climate, ecological emergencies and human wellbeing is emphasised in the 2030 Programme.

The 2030 Programme reinforces the importance of climate change to the other environmental indicators, as well as the inextricable links and synergies between climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Action Plan. The 2030 Programme provides the strategic framework for a collaborative approach in tackling the climate crises, as well as addressing the ecological emergency and concurrent social issues at a local level.



## 5. Development of the Assessment Criteria

## 5.1. Considering hierarchy of key environmental issues

The purpose of the SEA is to inform the development of the draft Cairngorms 2030 Programme and related projects, by assessing the potential impacts they may have upon the environment. A useful way to undertake the assessment (describing, analysing and comparing the environmental effects of the draft Cairngorms 2030 Programme) is through the use of environmentally specific objectives (referred to as SEA objectives) and a series of indicator questions.

The SEA objectives are separate from the Cairngorms 2030 Programme priorities and outcomes, although they can influence each other and even overlap. To fulfil the requirements of the SEA Directive, the SEA objectives cover the environmental issues set out in Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act, including the interrelationship between them.

## 5.2. Development of the SEA Objectives

The 2030 Cairngorms Programme recognises the urgent importance of addressing the climate and nature crises, and the requirement to act at unprecedented speed and scale across all parts of society. That is why the Cairngorms 2030 programme was designed to undertake the appropriate actions at scale, whilst encouraging and supporting the people who live, work in and visit the Park, to create a National Park that will be a place where ecological recovery, climate consciousness, social justice and inclusive decision-making are at the centre of the Park's agenda for the future: that is, to fulfil a shared ambition for a future that is rich in nature, gifting a legacy of healthier people and place for future generations.

The C2030 Programme is intended to provide the strategic framework to inform and guide action, across CNPA resources and services, to address the key issues relating to the Park and set out agreed priorities and policies to address and guide them. The C2030 Programme will be supported by a detailed action plan and monitoring system as noted in Section 8.1.

As such, the SEA objectives have been set at an appropriate level for assessing the C2030 Programme, without creating an overburden for it, where other Plans, Programmes and Strategies within the CNPA are the key drivers, which have undergone SEA in their own right. Due to the funding mechanism through the Heritage Lottery Fund, the C2030 Programme is separate from any other CNPA plans, programmes or strategies. The C2030 Programme is not dependent on any other CNPA plans, programmes or strategies and vice versa. However, the outcomes of the delivery stage of the C2030 Programme would contribute towards the aims and objectives of a number of CNPA plans, programmes and strategies, such as the National Park Partnership Plan, Cairngorms Nature Action Plan, Local Development Plan, Forest Strategy and Peatland Action Programme.

## 5.3. Refinement of the SEA Objectives

Following discussion with the wider CNPA C2030 Programme team, minor amendments to the original SEA sub-objectives have been incorporated: i.e., sub-objective 6a, 'will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird and mammal and species?' has been updated to include reference to invertebrates; whilst 7a, 'will there be an effect on the special qualities of the



National Park landscapes?' has been amended to include specific reference to the Special Landscape Qualities<sup>16</sup> (SLQs) of the National Park.

The assessment aims to identify such drivers to help ensure the environment is adequately promoted and protected and the results of the SEA are considered at the correct level, to ensure the promotion of wider social and environmental benefits for the area.

The requirements of the SEA Directive, through representing the environmental issues set out in Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act, are presented within the SEA objectives. The SEA objectives for the C2030 Programme were initially developed by participants at the scoping workshop and these were confirmed following consultation on the Scoping Report, with minor amendments, as noted above, incorporated during the iterative SEA process. The finalised main SEA objectives, sub-objectives and assessment criteria are presented in Table 5.1. These SEA objectives, sub-objectives and criteria were used as measures by which the environmental impacts of the draft C2030 Programme were assessed.

<sup>16</sup> https://cairngorms.co.uk/caring-future/cairngorms-landscapes/cairngorms-special-landscape-qualities/



# 5.4. SEA Objectives and Sub-objectives by Topic

Table 5.1: SEA Objectives and Sub-objectives by Topic

Topic	Objective	Main Objective(s)	SEA Sub-objective(s)
	no.		
			Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in
			new development?
		Reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases with particular focus	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy
		on emissions from buildings, transport, energy generation and	of appropriate scale for the Park?
Climatic factors	1a	industry (especially CO <sub>2</sub> ), but also from natural carbon sinks (such	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials
Climatic ractors	1a	as woodlands and peatlands).	and food produce?
		as woodiands and peatiands).	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and
			peatlands)?
			Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas
			emissions?
			Considering future implications of climate change (e.g.
			increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding,
		Ensure existing and proposed infrastructure and buildings are located and designed to cope with future climate conditions.	periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be
			an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?
Climatic factors	1b		Considering future implications of climate change (e.g.
			increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding,
			periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be
			an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local
			Development Plan?
		To maintain or improve air quality and reduce emissions of key pollutants.	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality
Air	2a		pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?
7.11			Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air
			pollution (e.g. particulates)?
		Maintain and improve the quality of water resources and to protect and enhance the state of the water environment.	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and
			groundwater from diffuse and point source pollution?
Water	3a		Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store
			water and the natural flood management services they provide?
			Will there be an effect on public water supplies?



Water	3b	Reduce demand for water and minimise unnecessary water use.	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?  Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?
Water	3c	To reduce the impact of invasive non-native species on the water environment.	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?
Soil and geodiversity	4a	Minimise contamination and safeguard and improve soil, peat quality and geodiversity.	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat? Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss? Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination? Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides? Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (e.g. GCRs)?
Material assets	5a	Encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets.	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (e.g. water, timber, aggregates)?  Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (e.g. water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?  Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?
Biodiversity flora and fauna	6a	Protect and enhance the biodiversity of the National Park.	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?  Will there be an effect on protected species?  Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?  Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?  Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?  Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?  Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?



Landscape and	7a	Protect and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities	Will there be an effect on the special qualities of the National Park landscapes?
cultural heritage	74	of the landscapes of the Park.	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?
Landscape and cultural heritage	7b	Protect and enhance the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic) of the Park.	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?
Population and human health	8a	Support and enhance the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors to the Park through housing, recreation and employment opportunities.	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs? Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles? Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?



#### 6. Assessment of Alternatives

## **6.1.** Assessing alternatives

The SEA Act requires that an Environmental Report is prepared to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a plan, policy or programme, such as the C2030 Programme, together with assessing reasonable alternatives.

The C2030 Programme serves as the comprehensive document that consolidates all aspects of the Cairngorms 2030 initiative. It serves as a blueprint, providing a detailed explanation of the overarching programme's purpose, methodology, timeline, and implementation strategies and those of each of the individual plans that make up the programme. The report encompasses the extensive groundwork conducted to develop the projects, outlines the planned delivery of outcomes and establishes criteria for measuring success. It not only highlights the broader context, necessity, and justification for this transformative endeavour, but also elucidates the funding and management mechanisms involved, as well as the key stakeholders.

Referred to as the "full programme report," the C2030 Programme effectively integrates all 20 plans under the Cairngorms 2030 umbrella and showcases their collaborative synergy, which is anticipated to generate impacts that far exceed the cumulative effects.

Two reasonable alternatives to the proposed 2030 Programme were considered, outlined in Table 6.1, and discussed in detail below.

Table 6.1

Alternative	Туре	Description
		The status quo option maintains current practices in the
		Cairngorms region without significant changes. The
1	Status Quo	proposed Heritage Horizons 2030 programme is not
1	Status Quo	progressed. This approach may not effectively address the
		global nature crises or maximise transformative potential.
		Evaluating its consequences is crucial.
		Under this alternative option, the Cairngorms 2030
	No Public Consultation	programme would proceed without engaging in any public
		consultation processes. Decisions regarding the project's
2		development, implementation, and outcomes would be
		made solely by the CNPA, without seeking input or
		feedback from the wider public or affected communities.



## 6.2. Identified Key Issues with the Alternatives

#### 6.2.1 Status Quo

The global nature crisis, which is principally caused by human activities, poses a significant threat to both people and the natural world. It is crucial for individuals to recognise their integral role within nature, rather than considering themselves separate from it. This requires fostering inclusivity, connectivity, motivation, and empowerment among individuals and communities, enabling them to play a central role in driving ecological transformation. The solution will require collaborating with nature, with a focus on ensuring that human activities contribute more to the well-being of living systems than they deplete. Taking decisive action is imperative to address these challenges effectively and the 2030 Programme seeks to do so.

The status quo option, however, represents maintaining the existing approach and practices within the Cairngorms region without any significant changes or interventions. Under this option, current land uses, conservation measures, tourism activities, and climate change responses would continue as they are. However, it is essential to consider that the status quo may not effectively address the challenges posed by the global nature crisis and the specific issues faced by the Cairngorms. It may not fully capitalise on the potential for transformative change or maximize the positive impacts that alternative options could offer. Therefore, carefully evaluating the potential consequences and limitations of maintaining the status quo is crucial.

#### **6.2.2** No Public Consultation

The second alternative option of proceeding with the Cairngorms 2030 programme without public consultation offers certain advantages. Firstly, it allows for expedited decision-making, leading to quicker implementation and potentially faster results. Additionally, by forgoing public consultation, the administrative burden and associated costs can be minimised, resulting in more efficient resource allocation and utilisation.

However, this alternative option also brings forth several disadvantages. By not involving stakeholders via public consultation, there is a lack of meaningful engagement and a missed opportunity to foster a sense of ownership and buy-in from local communities, residents, and visitors. Their concerns, needs and aspirations may not be adequately addressed, potentially undermining the success of the project.

Additionally, public consultation serves as a valuable platform for capturing diverse perspectives, knowledge, and expertise. By excluding public input, the alternative option runs the risk of overlooking valuable insights and innovative ideas that could enhance the outcomes of the Cairngorms 2030 programme.

Transparency and trust are crucial elements in any project, and public consultation plays a pivotal role in fostering them. By bypassing this process, there is a potential lack of transparency, reduced accountability and diminished public trust in the decision-making and implementation of the Cairngorms 2030 programme.

Lastly, public consultation provides opportunities to assess, monitor and mitigate potential environmental impacts. Without the input of the public, this alternative option may result in an incomplete assessment of ecological concerns and unintentional negative consequences for the environment.



While the alternative option of no public consultation may offer advantages, such as efficiency and reduced administrative burdens, it carries significant drawbacks. These include limited stakeholder involvement, missed opportunities for diverse perspectives, potential lack of transparency and trust, and incomplete assessment of environmental impacts. Considering the transformative nature of the Cairngorms 2030 programme and its goal of involving and empowering communities, it is essential to carefully evaluate the implications and potential trade-offs associated with bypassing public consultation. Meaningful and inclusive engagement with stakeholders can significantly enhance the effectiveness, legitimacy and long-term success of the project.



## 7. Assessment of Cairngorms 2030 Programme

## 7.1. SEA Compatibility Assessment Criteria

The C2030 Programme was assessed for its environmental effects and likely significance upon the environmental baseline. The Programme was assessed against the range of environmental issues set out in Schedule 3 of the SEA Act, using the SEA objectives which formed the assessment criteria. The SEA objectives, noted in Section 3, were developed to measure the environmental performance of the Programme. The assessment was informed by the following steps:

- Predicting potential environmental effects.
- Determining the magnitude of the effects and the sensitivity of the receptors.
- Evaluating the significance of the effects of implementation.
- Predicting the inter-relationship (cumulative, synergistic, transboundary or neutralising) effects of the C2030 Programme.
- Developing mitigation measures to prevent, reduce or offset effects; or suggesting enhancements to provide effective and actionable recommendations.

The SEA evaluated the magnitude of any potential significant environmental effects, determined a pre-and post-mitigation/enhancement significance score, using the symbology in Table 7.1, and addressed what form any mitigation/enhancement would take, for the 2030 programme's three overarching themes; related high-level values, aims and objectives, and the connected 20 plans, providing easy-to-read visual signifiers for potential environmental effects, ensuring consistency across the environmental assessments within the Environmental Report.

## 7.2. Compatibility Assessment of the 2030 Programme

The assessment drew out specific issues that may require further consideration within the drafting of the 2030 Programme and recommended mitigation or enhancements to the programme scope, where applicable, within the assessment templates. The key result of the assessment is the finding that the Programme is fully compatible with the SEA objectives.

The compatibility assessment identified that the 2030 Programme places strong emphasis on several key aspects:

- Nature Conservation and Restoration: The programme prioritises the conservation and restoration of vital native habitats and ecosystems within the Cairngorms National Park. It seeks to protect endangered species and promote biodiversity, at a landscape scale, and ensure the long-term sustainability of natural resources.
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: The programme recognises the urgent need to
  address the climate crisis and strives to reduce carbon emissions and promote climate
  resilience. It focuses on implementing innovative and collaborative measures to combat
  climate change and adapt to its impacts within the park.
- Community Empowerment and Engagement: The programme aims to actively involve local communities, residents and visitors in decision-making processes and project implementation. It seeks to empower individuals and communities, encouraging their active participation in shaping the future of the Cairngorms region and fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility.



Sustainable Land and Resource Management: The programme promotes sustainable
practices in land management, including sustainable agriculture, active and sustainable
travel, and responsible tourism. It seeks to strike a balance between conservation and
economic development, ensuring the responsible use of natural resources, while preserving
the integrity of the park.

## 7.3. Evaluating the potential environmental effects

At this stage of the SEA, consideration was given to the overall level of impact across the Programme and the SEA objectives in relation to:

- Direction of impact (positive or negative),
- Intensity of impact (major or minor positive or negative),
- Duration of impact (short (1-2 years), medium (2-5 years) or long term (5 years +)),
- Prediction of the cumulative effects and the development of mitigation and enhancement measures.

Through predicting and evaluating the potential environmental effects of the C2030 Programme, consideration was given to the three proposed overarching themes, within the Programme, that will shape the projects that emerge from the programme and how they will deliver on environmental issues.

#### 7.4. Assessment of Potential Environmental Effects

As the world experiences rapid changes and faces unprecedented crises related to climate, human health and ecology, the need for swift and comprehensive action became evident. The Cairngorms 2030 programme emerged as a response to these challenges, aiming to make significant strides in line with the Scottish Government's net-zero carbon targets. Recognising the interconnectedness of Nature, People, and Place, the programme was designed to address these issues holistically, ensuring the active participation and support of the park's residents, workers and visitors, to create a shared commitment to a future that is abundant in nature, leaving a lasting legacy of health and vitality for future generations.

The assessment approach uses the aforementioned overarching themes of Nature, People, and Place that have shaped the 2030 programme, to consider how these could potentially affect the local environment. The full assessment tables are shown in Appendices A & B. A summary of the key environmental effects is shown in Tables 7.2 to 7.4.

Table 7.1: Summary of key environmental effects and receptors

Кеу	
Element would have a major positive environmental effect in its	
current form as it would resolve an existing issue or maximise opportunities.	++
SIGNIFICANT.	
Element would have a minor positive environmental effect.	+
Effect of Element is uncertain.	?
No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	Х



Element would have no predicted environmental effects.			0
Element would have a minor adverse environmental effect.			-
The Element would have a major adverse environmental effect as it would create significant new problems, or substantially exacerbate existing problems. Consider exclusion of option. SIGNIFICANT.			
<b>S</b> : Short term (0 – 2 years)	S: Short term (0 – 2 years) M: Medium term (2 – 5 years) L: Long term (5+ years)		(5+ years)

**Table 7.2: Nature Theme Assessment** 

Theme 1: Nati	ure
	Population and human health: The nature theme projects in the Cairngorms 2030 programme
	will have a significant impact on population and human health in the Cairngorms National Park.
	The creation of "bigger, better, and more joined up" habitats leads to providing opportunities for
	nature-based recreational activities that promote physical activity, stress reduction, and overall
	well-being for the population. The projects emphasise community involvement and engagement,
	ensuring that residents have a voice in decision-making processes and policies related to rural
	areas. This fosters a sense of empowerment, social cohesion, and improved mental well-being
SML	within the population. A programme of training and skills development will flow throughout the
	nature theme to ensure that people have the skills to deliver these projects and continue them
	well into the future. This will include new grassland management techniques for farmers and
	species identification and recording for conservation volunteers. The latter may include high value
	IT and GIS skills to allow them to plot survey results. Staff upskilling is likely to include GIS,
	engagement and media communication skills. Many of these skills will be common to several
	Nature based Solutions projects and include staff, partners and volunteers and will be
	coordinated across the theme.
	<b>Biodiversity, fauna and flora:</b> The nature theme, within the Cairngorms 2030 programme, aims to
	have a significant positive impact on biodiversity, fauna, and flora in the Cairngorms National
	Park. By creating "bigger, better, and more joined up" habitats, the programme will enhance
	biodiversity and provide suitable conditions for a diverse range of species to thrive. It focuses on
	the protection of vulnerable and protected species through habitat restoration and conservation
	measures. The restoration of degraded habitats and the creation of new ones will contribute to
ON 41	the recovery of populations and promote overall ecosystem health. The programme also
SML	emphasises improving ecological connectivity within the park, by creating corridors and removing
	barriers to movement. This will facilitate species migration and genetic exchange, supporting
	biodiversity and healthy populations. Citizen science initiatives will involve volunteers in species
	identification and monitoring, providing valuable data for targeted conservation efforts. The
	enhancement of biodiversity, fauna, and flora will have positive cascading effects on ecosystem
	services such as pollination, carbon sequestration, and water purification. Overall, the nature
	theme will contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of the park's natural
	resources, ensuring resilient and healthy ecosystems for present and future generations.



SML	Soil: The nature theme of the Cairngorms 2030 programme focuses on improving soil health through initiatives such as peatland restoration, catchment restoration and regenerative farming practices and will have significant impact. By restoring degraded peatlands, and restoring functionality to floodplains, the programme aims to enhance soil structure, increase organic matter content and improve water-holding capacity. This contributes to healthier and more resilient soils that can support diverse vegetation and wildlife. Regenerative farming practices, including cover cropping and reduced tillage, also prioritise soil health by promoting soil biodiversity, nutrient retention, and water infiltration. These practices lead to improved soil fertility and sustainability. Healthy soils not only support the growth of diverse vegetation but also act as a carbon sink, helping to mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon. By targeting soil
	health, the nature theme in the Cairngorms 2030 programme aims to enhance biodiversity, support agricultural productivity and create a healthier environment for both human and natural communities.
SML	Water: The nature theme projects within the Cairngorms 2030 programme have significant impacts on water resources in the region. Through initiatives such as peatland restoration, woodland expansion, and climate-resilient catchments, the programme aims to enhance water quality, mitigate flooding, and ensure the availability of clean water. Peatland restoration plays a vital role in water management by restoring degraded peatlands, which act as natural sponges, slowing down water flow and reducing flood risks. This helps regulate water levels in rivers and streams. Woodland expansion contributes to water management by intercepting rainfall, reducing runoff and allowing water to seep into the soil. This replenishes groundwater reserves and maintains stable water flows in rivers, ensuring a sustainable water supply for humans and ecosystems. Climate-resilient catchments focus on sustainable land management practices to improve water quality and reduce pollution. Measures like buffer strips, riparian planting, and sustainable farming techniques minimise the impact of agricultural activities on water resources, promoting water quality and ecological health.
SML	Air, noise and light: The nature theme projects within the Cairngorms 2030 programme also have significant impacts on air quality, noise pollution, and light pollution in the region. By promoting woodland expansion and nature recovery, the programme helps improve air quality by enhancing the natural filtering capabilities of trees and vegetation. Trees absorb pollutants and release oxygen, contributing to cleaner and healthier air for both humans and wildlife. Efforts to restore and protect natural habitats also have a positive impact on reducing noise pollution. As vegetation and habitats thrive, they act as buffers, absorbing and dispersing sound, thereby reducing the impact of noise on local communities and wildlife.
SML	Climatic factors: The nature theme projects within the Cairngorms 2030 programme have significant impacts on climatic factors, contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in the region. One key impact is the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through initiatives such as sustainable land management practices, reforestation and peatland restoration. These projects help sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, effectively mitigating the effects of climate change. The expansion of woodlands also plays a vital role in regulating local microclimates. Trees provide shade, evaporative cooling, and windbreaks, which help moderate temperature extremes, reduce the urban heat island effect, and provide a more comfortable environment for both human and ecological communities. The nature theme projects focus on enhancing the resilience of ecosystems and landscapes to climate change impacts. By restoring and protecting natural habitats, such as wetlands and forests, these initiatives improve water retention, reduce the risk of flooding, and enhance the capacity of ecosystems to adapt to changing climate conditions.



## Historic and cultural heritage: The nature theme projects within the Cairngorms 2030 programme also have significant impacts on the historic and cultural heritage of the region, preserving and enhancing its rich history and cultural significance. By adopting nature-based solutions, the projects aim to ensure that the natural and cultural heritage of the Cairngorms National Park is protected and celebrated. This includes promoting sustainable land management practices that respect the historic landscape and cultural heritage features. The restoration and conservation of habitats and landscapes not only contribute to the ecological value of the area but also help to preserve important cultural sites and heritage assets. These projects consider the historical **SML** context and cultural significance of the land, ensuring that conservation efforts are aligned with the region's heritage values. Additionally, the involvement of local communities and stakeholders in decision-making processes allows for their input and engagement in preserving and interpreting the historic and cultural heritage of the Cairngorms. This participatory approach ensures that the local knowledge and traditions are respected and integrated into the projects. By valuing and protecting cultural assets alongside the natural environment, the Cairngorms 2030 programme seeks to create a harmonious balance between conservation, heritage and the well-being of present and future generations. Material assets: The nature theme projects within the Cairngorms 2030 programme have minor impacts on material assets, particularly extractive resources, in the region. The aim is to ensure the sustainable management and responsible use of these resources to support the long-term well-being of both the environment and local communities. The projects recognise that extractive resources, such as minerals and timber, play a role in the economic development and livelihoods of the region. However, they emphasize the need for careful planning and management to minimise negative impacts and promote sustainable practices. By adopting nature-based **SML** solutions, the projects seek to integrate environmental considerations into the extraction and utilisation of resources. This includes implementing practices that reduce environmental harm, such as responsible mining techniques and sustainable forestry practices. Furthermore, the projects aim to enhance the resilience and diversity of the region's economy by exploring opportunities for alternative and innovative approaches to resource management. This may involve promoting circular economy principles, encouraging the use of renewable resources, and supporting the development of sustainable industries. Landscape: The nature theme projects within the Cairngorms 2030 programme have significant impacts on the landscape of the Cairngorms National Park. The aim is to protect, enhance, and sustainably manage the unique and diverse landscapes within the region. The projects recognise that the Park's landscape features are a key asset, underpinning the identity, character, and attractiveness of the Cairngorms National Park. They seek to promote landscape conservation, restoration, and enhancement to ensure the long-term resilience and beauty of the area. Through nature-based solutions, the projects aim to create "bigger, better, and more joined-up" habitats, which can contribute to a more diverse and resilient landscape. This involves measures such as habitat restoration, woodland expansion, and peatland restoration, which can improve **SML** biodiversity, provide ecological connectivity, and enhance visual aesthetics. Additionally, the projects aim to involve communities in decision-making processes related to the landscape, ensuring that their perspectives and values are considered. By engaging local residents, visitors to the Park, land managers, and stakeholders, the projects promote a sense of ownership and stewardship, leading to a landscape that is cherished and protected. Furthermore, the projects strive to address landscape-related challenges, such as climate change impacts and land use conflicts. By implementing sustainable land management practices, promoting responsible tourism and integrating landscape considerations into planning and development processes, the

projects aim to minimise negative impacts on the landscape while maximising its potential for

ecological, social, and economic benefits.



**SML** 

Inter-relationship issues: The nature theme projects within the Cairngorms 2030 programme will have significant impacts arising from the inter-relationship of their implementation. By adopting a holistic approach, the nature theme projects recognise that multiple individual impacts can collectively have significant effects on the overall ecosystem and community well-being. The nature theme projects within the programme have the potential to have further transboundary effects on areas outside the Cairngorms National Park. These effects may manifest in several ways: Ecological Connectivity: Enhancing biodiversity and creating "bigger, better, and more joined up" habitats within the park can promote ecological connectivity. This means that wildlife populations and species may benefit from improved habitat connectivity and have the potential to migrate or disperse beyond the park boundaries, influencing ecosystems in neighbouring areas. Water Quality and Flow: The projects' focus on flood reduction, flow regulation, and cleaner rivers can have downstream effects on water quality and hydrological regimes. Changes in water flow patterns, sediment transport, and pollutant levels within the park may impact water bodies and ecosystems located outside the park, particularly those that rely on water resources originating from the Cairngorms. Climate Change Mitigation: By sequestering more greenhouse gases and enhancing carbon storage in the long term, the nature theme projects contribute to climate change mitigation. While the immediate impact may be localised within the park, the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions can have broader implications by contributing to global efforts to mitigate climate change and reduce the transboundary effects of climate-related impacts. Cultural and Recreational Experiences: The enhancement of landscapes, habitats, and cultural heritage within the Cairngorms National Park can attract visitors from outside the area. The increased tourism and recreational activities may influence the socio-cultural fabric of neighbouring communities and have economic implications beyond the park's boundaries.

**Table 7.3: People Theme Assessment** 

## Theme 2: People

SML

Population and human health: The People Theme projects, within the Cairngorms 2030 programme, aim to have significant impacts on population and human health. By involving and empowering people in practical projects, the projects aim to foster a sense of ownership, responsibility, and empowerment, leading to pro-environmental behaviours. This engagement will create a stronger connection between people and the National Park, promoting a culture of care and stewardship. The projects will prioritise people's health and well-being, offering opportunities to improve living and working conditions, while achieving net-zero targets. Initiatives such as green health initiatives, a dementia resource centre, climate learning, arts and cultural events, and community-led climate action will directly contribute to enhancing people's health and wellbeing. These activities will encourage active lifestyles, provide access to nature and the outdoors and promote mental and physical well-being. Furthermore, the projects will inform people through workshops, training and resources, increasing awareness and understanding of climate, biodiversity and health issues. By enhancing knowledge and understanding, individuals will be better equipped to make informed decisions about their own health and contribute to the resilience of their communities. The People Theme projects have the potential to create a positive ripple effect, with benefits extending beyond individual well-being. Engaging communities and involving them in decision-making processes will foster a sense of community cohesion and resilience. This collective action can lead to increased social capital, improved community relationships and greater social support networks, all of which contribute to better population health outcomes.



## Biodiversity, fauna and flora: The People Theme projects within the Cairngorms 2030 programme have significant potential to positively impact biodiversity, fauna, and flora in the region. By involving people in practical projects and fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility, the projects aim to create a stronger connection between people and the natural environment, leading to a greater appreciation and understanding of biodiversity. Through initiatives such as community engagement, arts and culture programmes and community-managed climate grants, the projects can raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity, fauna, and flora and seek to fund community-led projects. This increased awareness can lead to more responsible SML behaviours and a greater willingness to protect and conserve local ecosystems. The Wellbeing Economy project, for example, focuses on promoting circular economic practices that support biodiversity conservation. By prioritising the well-being of both people and nature, the project aims to create economic systems that are in harmony with the environment, reducing the negative impacts on biodiversity and supporting the flourishing of fauna and flora. The Community Arts and Culture project can also play a role in highlighting the significance of biodiversity and ecosystems through creative expressions. Artistic endeavours, such as exhibitions, performances, and installations, can inspire people to appreciate and value the diverse flora and fauna present in the Cairngorms National Park. Soil: The People Theme projects within the Cairngorms 2030 programme can have significant impacts on soil health and quality. By involving people in practical projects and promoting sustainable practices, the projects aim to enhance soil conservation and fertility. The Wellbeing Economy project, for example, focuses on developing economic systems that prioritise the wellbeing of both people and the environment. This approach includes promoting sustainable land use practices that help maintain soil health and prevent erosion. By implementing regenerative agriculture techniques, such as cover cropping and rotational grazing, the project can improve soil structure, organic matter content, and nutrient cycling, leading to healthier and more productive **SML** soils. Furthermore, the Community Managed Climate Grant Scheme can support initiatives that focus on soil health and conservation. This could include projects aimed at promoting soil carbon sequestration, implementing agroforestry systems, or restoring degraded soils. By providing financial support and resources, the scheme enables communities to undertake projects that enhance soil quality and contribute to long-term soil health improvement. Overall, the People Theme projects have the potential to positively impact soil health within the Cairngorms National Park. By promoting sustainable land management practices, raising awareness, and providing resources, the projects can contribute to the conservation and restoration of soils, ensuring their long-term fertility and resilience. Water: The People Theme projects within the Cairngorms 2030 programme can have significant impacts on water resources and quality. Projects such as the Community Managed Climate Grant Scheme can support water-related initiatives, such as river restoration projects, wetland conservation, and water conservation programmes. These efforts can contribute to flood reduction, flow regulation, and the overall improvement of water ecosystems within the National SML Park. By informing and involving people in the importance of water resources, the People Theme projects help foster a sense of responsibility and stewardship towards water bodies within the Cairngorms National Park. Through community engagement, education, and the implementation of sustainable practices, these projects have the potential to positively impact water availability, quality and the overall health of aquatic ecosystems in the region.



	Air, noise and light: The people theme projects in the Cairngorms National Park, particularly Climate Conscious Communities and Climate Learning & Education, will have minor positive
SML	effects on local air (and noise) quality, with more people in the Park minded to use less polluting
	forms of travel. As the Park generally has very good air quality, relative benefits may be minor.
	Overall, this will benefit local residents and visitors and will have direct positive benefits for
	people in terms of reducing respiratory illnesses and for young children, whose lungs are more
	susceptible to air pollution. Awareness raising, about the health and wellbeing impacts of poor air,
	noise and light quality on people, will lead to improvements.
	Climatic factors: The People Theme projects within the Cairngorms 2030 programme are
SML	expected to have significant impacts on climatic factors. By promoting sustainable practices and
	engaging communities, these projects aim to contribute to climate change mitigation and
	adaptation efforts. By giving people more control over their lives and the decisions that affect
	them, the People projects will create more resilient communities. They will increase the
	understanding between CNPA and its communities, increasing the potential and resilience of both
	and their combined ability to deliver net-zero successfully within the Park. Connecting people with
	their traditional culture and heritage helps deepen their sense of belonging and is essential in
	encouraging positive and sustainable behaviour required to support net zero, biodiversity and
	wellbeing ambitions. The People projects will build capacity and collaboration in the sector and
	strengthen people's connection to landscape and place, inspiring involvement in community-
	based climate action activity and encouraging behaviour change.
	Historic and cultural heritage: The People Theme projects within the Cairngorms 2030
	programme are expected to have significant impacts on historic and cultural heritage within the
	National Park. For Cairngorms 2030, Heritage is the connection between people, place and nature
	- summed up in the word Dùthchas - the place, land or country one was born in/feels akin to and
	the custom, tradition, manner, or language that has been passed down through generations. The
	People projects recognise the importance of preserving and celebrating the rich heritage of the
	area, while promoting sustainable practices and community engagement. Within the Cairngorms
	National Park there is a wealth of cultural heritage which is a direct result of the people's
SML	interaction with the landscape, both in the present and in the past. To ensure that the unique
SIVIL	
	qualities of the communities are retained for future generations the project team, and The Park
	Authority as a whole, will work to understand how best to engage with the people who live and
	work the CNP, as well as those who visit the Park. Specifically, the Climate Learning and Education
	project has at its core a Learning for Sustainability scheme which will encourage young people,
	supported by their educators (and other facilitators in their local communities), to identify and
	develop strong connections with the social, economic and natural heritage priorities that are most important to them. Their action plans will give them a route map of actions to strengthen,
	conserve and celebrate these connections.
	Material assets: The People Theme projects within the Cairngorms 2030 programme primarily
SML	focus on the well-being of people, community empowerment, and environmental sustainability.
	While the projects do not directly target material assets or extractive resources, their overall
	impact on material assets can be understood in the context of promoting sustainable practices
	and enhancing the long-term economic viability of the region. The Wellbeing Economy project
	aims to promote sustainable economic practices within the Cairngorms National Park. This
	includes supporting local businesses and industries that prioritise responsible resource
	management and reducing reliance on extractive resources. By encouraging sustainable practices,
	the projects contribute to the preservation of material assets. Likewise, the focus on community
	empowerment and climate-conscious initiatives can enhance the resilience of local businesses
	and economies. By promoting diversification and innovation, the projects may help to create a
	more robust and sustainable economic framework, reducing dependency on finite material assets.



## Landscape: The People Theme projects within the Cairngorms 2030 programme aim to create a stronger connection between people and the National Park, fostering a sense of ownership, care, and stewardship. While the primary focus of these projects is on community well-being and engagement, their impacts on the landscape can be significant. Several projects emphasise the importance of nature and environmental conservation. By engaging local communities and SML empowering them to participate in conservation activities, the projects contribute to the preservation and restoration of the landscape. The underlying premise of the People Theme is to make people feel more connected to the National Park, in order to engender a sense of ownership and care which then encourages people to want to look after and get involved in projects and opportunities that benefit both people and nature, with subsequent additional benefits across the landscape of the Cairngorms National Park. Inter-relationship issues: The People theme projects within the Cairngorms 2030 programme will have significant impacts arising from the inter-relationship of their implementation. By involving people in codesigning and delivering practical projects, such as skills development, green health initiatives, climate learning, arts and cultural events, community engagement and community led climate action, a sense of ownership, responsibility and empowerment will form, leading to more SML pro-environmental behaviours. Combined with progressive and sustainable active transport projects and landscape scale restoration and conservation, there are multiple stacking cumulative benefits to be realised. By acting as an exemplar for community resilience and engagement, there is also significant scope for the CNP People theme to have transboundary effects in inspiring others to act decisively at the local, regional, national and international levels.

**Table 7.4: Place Theme Assessment** 

Theme 3: Place

## Cairngorms National Park is expected to have significant effects on population and human health. By prioritising active and sustainable travel options, these projects aim to bring about several positive outcomes. Firstly, the promotion of active travel, such as walking, wheeling and cycling, will encourage physical activity among residents and visitors. Increased physical activity has been associated with numerous health benefits, including improved cardiovascular fitness, reduced risk of chronic diseases and enhanced mental well-being. By providing high-quality active travel routes and supporting infrastructure, the projects will make it easier and more attractive for people to engage in physical activity as part of their daily routines, leading to improved overall health and fitness levels. Secondly, the reduction of private vehicle use and the increase in public transportation options will contribute to improved air quality within the park. By minimising carbon emissions and reducing pollution from vehicles, the projects will help create a cleaner and **SML** healthier environment for residents and visitors. Improved air quality has direct implications for respiratory health and can alleviate symptoms associated with respiratory conditions such as asthma and allergies. Furthermore, the shift towards sustainable travel choices is likely to have indirect effects on population and human health. By reducing car dependency and promoting active travel, the projects will contribute to decreased traffic congestion and road accidents, creating safer and more pleasant environments for pedestrians and cyclists. This, in turn, can enhance the overall well-being and safety of the community. Increased connectivity across the park can open up job opportunities, further boosting local economic well-being. Overall, the

implementation of the Place Theme projects is expected to have positive impacts on population and human health by promoting physical activity, improving air quality, and creating safer and more sustainable transportation options. These effects have the potential to enhance the overall

quality of life for residents and visitors of the Cairngorms National Park.

Population and human health: The implementation of the Place Theme projects within the



SML	Biodiversity, fauna and flora: The Enacting the Place Theme projects within the Cairngorms National Park is likely to have minor positive effects on biodiversity, as the focus on sustainable and active travel, along with the associated infrastructure developments, can contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the park's natural habitats and species. One of the key impacts is the reduction of private vehicle use, which can help minimise habitat fragmentation and disturbance. By encouraging alternative modes of transportation, such as walking, wheeling and cycling, the projects aim to decrease the negative impacts of road networks on wildlife populations and their habitats. This reduction in traffic can lead to improved connectivity between habitats and less road related deaths to wildlife, allowing for the movement and dispersal of species and promoting biodiversity conservation. The promotion of active travel routes and infrastructure can also create opportunities for the restoration and enhancement of ecological corridors. These corridors can serve as important pathways for wildlife movement, facilitating gene flow and enabling the exchange of individuals between populations.  Consequently, this can contribute to the maintenance of genetic diversity and the long-term viability of species within the park. Additionally, the projects' emphasis on sustainable practices aligns with the conservation objectives of the Cairngorms National Park. By reducing carbon emissions and promoting environmentally friendly transportation options, the projects contribute to mitigating climate change, which is a significant driver of biodiversity loss. The conservation of biodiversity is closely linked to climate change mitigation efforts, as healthy ecosystems can act as carbon sinks and support the adaptation of species to changing environmental conditions.
SML	<b>Soil:</b> Enacting the Place Theme projects in the Cairngorms National Park is likely to have minor positive impacts on soils. While the specific effects may vary, depending on the nature of individual projects, there are some general outcomes that can be anticipated. Firstly, the promotion of sustainable and active travel, including the development of walking, cycling and wheeling infrastructure, can help reduce soil erosion. By encouraging alternative modes of transportation that minimise vehicle use, the projects aim to decrease the need for road construction and maintenance, thereby reducing soil disturbance and erosion associated with
SML	Water: The Place Theme projects within the Cairngorms 2030 programme can have minor indirect positive impacts on water resources and quality. In addition, the promotion of sustainable and active travel options can contribute to reducing the carbon footprint associated with transportation. This, in turn, helps mitigate climate change, which has implications for water resources. Climate change can affect the availability and distribution of water, leading to changes in precipitation patterns, increased frequency of extreme weather events, and altered hydrological cycles. By addressing climate change through sustainable practices, the projects indirectly contribute to the preservation of water resources. A reduction in overall motor vehicle use, due to an increase in walking, cycling and wheeling will also reduce the amount of pollutants in road run-off, i.e. the water the flows across and off roads—which a danger to the water environment, as it carries pollutants onto adjacent land, as well as into watercourses and drains.



SML	Air, noise and light: The implementation of the Place Theme projects in the Cairngorms National Park is likely to have significant impacts on air quality, noise levels and light pollution, ultimately leading to a more favourable environment for both humans and wildlife. Improving air quality is a likely result of the projects, due to a reduction in overall traffic numbers and subsequent air pollution. This directly benefits the health and well-being of the population. This reduction in emissions can lead to improved air quality, particularly in areas with high traffic or congestion, resulting in a healthier and cleaner atmosphere for residents and visitors. Although not a primary focus of the projects, noise pollution levels may be indirectly mitigated. By promoting active and sustainable travel modes, such as walking and cycling, the projects can contribute to reducing noise from motorised vehicles. Encouraging quieter and more environmentally friendly modes of transportation can help create a quieter environment, especially in urban and residential areas,
SML	Climatic factors: The implementation of the Place Theme projects in the Cairngorms National Park is expected to have significant impacts on climatic factors, particularly in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the effects of climate change. One of the key goals of the projects is to promote sustainable and low-carbon practices, such as active and sustainable transportation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy generation. By encouraging the use of public transport, walking and cycling, the projects aim to reduce reliance on fossil fuel-based vehicles, leading to a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions. This can contribute to mitigating climate change and achieving Scotland's net-zero carbon targets. By addressing both mitigation and adaptation, the Place Theme projects in the Cairngorms National Park aim to reduce the Park's contribution to climate change, while enhancing its ability to cope with the impacts of a changing climate. This comprehensive approach is crucial in ensuring the long-term sustainability and resilience of the park's ecosystems, economies and communities, in the face of the climate crisis.
SML	Historic and cultural heritage: The Place Theme projects in the Cairngorms National Park are likely to have minor positive impacts on the historic and cultural heritage of the area. Increasing sustainable and active travel options may help to open up access to a wider breadth of the Park's visitors and residents, increasing their awareness of the cultural heritage of the area. The positive impacts on the local communities and visitors may also include an increased sense of pride and connection to their heritage, fostering a stronger sense of place and belonging. This can contribute to improved well-being and quality of life for residents, as well as enhancing the visitor experience and attracting cultural tourism.
	<b>Material assets:</b> The Place Theme projects within the Cairngorms 2030 programme are not predicted to have any effects, positive or negative, on material assets in the Park.
SML	Landscape: The shift towards active travel modes will also have positive effect on the landscape. As people engage in walking, cycling and wheeling, they will have a closer connection to the natural surroundings and a greater appreciation for the scenic beauty of the park. The Place theme projects include the development of high-quality walking and cycling routes, the enhancement of trail networks and the improvement of infrastructure to support active travel, all of which contribute to a more sustainable and visually appealing landscape. Moreover, reducing private car use and promoting active travel will alleviate the pressure on road networks and parking facilities, resulting in less infrastructure development and land consumption. This can help preserve the natural character and integrity of the landscape, preventing further fragmentation and disturbance.



**SML** 

Inter-relationship issues: When considering the inter-relationship impacts of the Place theme, several significantly positive effects can be anticipated. The Place theme focuses on delivering improved transport choices for all, with an increase in use of public transport in the Park and walking, wheeling and cycling becoming the preferred choice for short journeys. This will result in reduced social inequalities, improved health and wellbeing for individuals and a greater connection and appreciation of local heritage. The integration of the Place theme can help address social inequalities and promote social inclusion. For example, providing accessible and inclusive active travel infrastructure can ensure that individuals from diverse backgrounds and abilities have equal opportunities to engage with nature and enjoy the benefits of the park. The Place theme may also strengthen the connection between people and the park, fostering a sense of place and cultural identity. By promoting the preservation of, access to and celebration of cultural heritage, traditions and local knowledge, there is a potential for increased pride, attachment and stewardship, among residents and visitors in the CNP. Increased access to the physical environment, including green spaces, recreational areas and access to nature, can also have positive impacts on human well-being. The Place theme projects can provide opportunities for relaxation, physical activity and connection with nature, leading to improved mental and physical health outcomes. The Place theme projects also aim to engage communities and stakeholders in decision-making processes, empowering them to actively shape the future of the park. By fostering social cohesion and community resilience, the projects can contribute to a sense of collective responsibility, cooperation and shared goals. There is also the potential for conflicts and trade-offs between different aspects of the themes. For example, while promoting active travel and reducing private car use can have positive environmental impacts, it may require changes in land use and infrastructure development that could impact certain natural habitats or cultural heritage sites Balancing these considerations is crucial to minimise conflicts and maximise overall benefits.

## 7.5. Proposed mitigation and enhancement measures

Schedule 3 (7) of the SEA Act requires an explanation of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Plan. To increase the functionality of the SEA process, it was further decided, following consultation with the wider SEA team, to include suggested enhancements to the projects, where applicable. These are included in the project level assessment in Appendix B. The overall assessment highlighted that 2030 Programme will be a vital resource to address the climate and nature crises, with its focus on Nature, People and Place as one linked system.

The SEA demonstrated that the C2030 Programme should result in positive effects across the full range of environmental issues, particularly in terms of population and human health, climatic factors, biodiversity, air, soils, water, landscape and cultural and historic heritage. No negative environmental effects from the implementation of the Programme were identified.

The findings of the assessment have assisted in the further development of the C2030 Programme and helped to focus communications and actions across CNPA Resources. This will help ensure the successful delivery of the C2030 Programme and will facilitate the enhancement, reduction and offsetting of key environmental issues identified through the SEA process.



Preparing the C2030 Programme in tandem with the SEA allowed greater synergy and clarity and resulted in better consistency in approach to considering environmental issues. The SEA process has reinforced the importance of local environmental issues to people and communities and has helped to shape the C2030 Programme to have a more holistic approach. The process has helped to underline that the climate crisis must be addressed alongside the ecological emergency and that nature-based solutions are essential to mitigate negative environmental effects and to enhance positive effects, whilst ensuring that deep community engagement is at the core of delivering the C2030 Programme.

Development of the C2030 Programme was carried out in tandem with the SEA process. There were a lot of benefits in the process, particularly with regards to the SEA informing the development of the C2030 Programme's priorities and outcomes. This enabled the priorities and outcomes to be refined and more focussed and facilitated a series of actions which will be included within the final Programme, following public consultation of the C2030 Programme and this Environmental Report.

The SEA also informed aspects of the C2030 Programme's development:

#### Population and human health

The SEA helped to provide a wider perspective on how the C2030 Programme's themes are expected to have a significant impact on the SEA objective of population and human health in the context of creating a thriving environment that promotes the well-being of both residents and visitors, aligning with the goal of providing improved human health within the park.

### **Biodiversity**

The SEA reinforced the need to have a collaborative and widespread approach to address the climate emergency in tandem with the ecological emergency, to get optimum results for people and nature. The SEA affirmed the key role that biodiversity has in adapting to and mitigating climate change and underlined the need for biodiversity to be considered at the core of the C2030 Programme.

#### Water

The SEA underlined and promoted the vast benefits likely to occur on the water environment through a variety of projects, notably peatland and catchment restoration and the importance of good quality water environments for people, communities and nature.

## Air, noise and light

The SEA highlighted benefits likely to accrue from the active and sustainable transport projects, particular on the reduction of particulate matter and impacts on local air quality.

### **Climatic factors**

The SEA underlined the approach that addressing the climate crises is ultimately, the cornerstone that underpins the success of the proposed programme as a whole.



#### **Material assets**

The SEA highlighted the need for collaborative working across the CNPA and wider partners to ensure sustainable land use and the benefits of a circular economy, in regard to finite and renewable resources.

#### Historic and cultural heritage

The SEA was in tandem with the CNPA team's understanding that deep community engagement and a people-focussed approach would likely result in the most enduring benefits across all sectors, ensuring long-lasting community buy-in and support.

# Landscape

The SEA supported the need to consider multiple stakeholder opinions and suggested means to explore the complexity of subjectivity in a systematic and in-depth way, where there are multiple and differing views, or contentious or sensitive viewpoints on a topic.



#### 8. Monitoring

It is a requirement of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or program are monitored.

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 the 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 compile a baseline for future plans and programmes.
- To provide information for the EIAs of projects.

Extensive monitoring has been proposed for the projects within the C2030 Programme to date and is detailed in Table 8.1. The monitoring programme is being developed to help prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects and enhance positive effects for the C2030 Programme's projects. These include an action plan and an outcome monitoring plan, with a range of indicators which will measure progress against each environmental factor and the success of the projects as a whole.

The monitoring of the projects will assist in the early identification of any environmental issues (either positive or negative) associated with the implementation of the C2030 Programme.

Finalisation of these monitoring plans will consider appropriate comments received through the consultation process.



**Table 8.1: Monitoring and Evaluation Overview** 

Project #	Project Name	Monitoring proposed
<b>1</b> a	Wellbeing economy	<ul> <li>Monitoring and evaluation will require development through MB Associates /wellbeing Economy Working Group /SEFARI, over spring 2023.</li> </ul>
1b	Public health & the Outdoors	<ul> <li>Numbers of referrals will be monitored; numbers of referrals from each participating practice; numbers of patients engaging in referral; number of completed action plans.</li> <li>Each patient referred, through the Nature Prescriptions programme, will be asked to complete a short "entry questionnaire", which will include some questions about current contact with nature, physical activity, perceived barriers and the short 7-question Warwick and Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS). An equivalent follow-up questionnaire will be completed, at the patient review session (following an appropriate timescale agreed with the patient), so that comparative/progress data can be captured, and impact ascertained.</li> <li>Individual case studies / personal stories will be captured, in agreement with patients.</li> <li>UHI Centre for Rural Health (Prof Sarah-Anne Munoz) investigating deeper evaluation of use of the Primary Care Vision system, through application for a research grant from the National Institute for Health and Care Research under the "Health and health inequalities impact of place-based interventions" application process, throughout 2023. Research would commence Feb/March 24.</li> <li>Quality improvement projects, intended to be undertaken in 2023, during the early stages of pilot and delivery: 1) the patient experience, and 2) the practitioner experience.</li> </ul>
<b>1</b> c	Dementia Resource Centre	<ul> <li>Progress towards achieving each of the designated 8 outputs will be monitored by the following processes and tools:</li> <li>Fortnightly C2030 People Theme meetings.</li> <li>Fortnightly Project team meetings.</li> <li>Quarterly project reports including financial reporting and RAID reporting.</li> <li>Click Up tool.</li> <li>Internal monitoring through monthly reports and Shared Information System.</li> <li>There will be further input from MB Associates and UHI regarding indicators.</li> </ul>
2a	Climate Learning & Education	Monitoring and evaluation will be through the following indicators:  • Strand 1 Indicator: Each school will have an annual implementation plan of activity that is taken from their LfS action plans.



		<ul> <li>Strand 2 Indicator: By Year 5 of delivery, 70% of feeder schools will be able to demonstrate progress with their own LfS learning framework (possibly collaborating with the High School Action Plans or developing their own).</li> <li>Strand 3 Indicator: Each participating school will have a story of change to share that demonstrates the change they have managed to bring about.</li> <li>Strand 4 Indicator: Collaborative and supportive networks established, as per recommendations from delivery phase.</li> <li>Young People and Educators</li> <li>4a. Self-reported changes to behaviour due to 'climate consciousness'.</li> <li>7a. Perceptions of connection to heritage among students and educators.</li> <li>7b. Demographic profile of programme participants &amp; sample completing the evaluation questions for 7a.</li> <li>9a. Sustainable behaviour change index, combining qualitative and quantitative data.</li> <li>Young People</li> <li>3c. Number of CLE activity plan completed projects, funded by CNPA/Programme (grant scheme).</li> <li>11a. Number &amp; diversity of collective responses to climate change across action plans 11b. Perceptions of ability to act collectively on climate change.</li> <li>Schools</li> <li>16a. Number of partnerships/networks established &amp; number of/diversity of actors/types within them</li> <li>16b. Amount of external funding and support leveraged</li> <li>19b. Actual and proposed change reported by partners.</li> </ul>
2b	Effective Community Engagement	To be developed during Summer/ Autumn 2023.
<b>2</b> c	Communities Arts & Culture	<ul> <li>Monitoring and evaluation will be through the following indicators:</li> <li>Strand 1 Indicator – A creative network is established across the National Park and 3/4 network sessions are delivered annually.</li> <li>Strand 2 Indicator – See NPPP4 (National Park Partnership Plan 4) C10 Cultural Heritage Indicator.</li> <li>Increasing number of community led cultural heritage projects are delivered</li> <li>Strand 3 Indicator – A Park wide "festival" concept is established/in planning by Year 5.</li> <li>Strand 4 Indicator - Annual Creative Residency is implemented, collaborating with Bothy Project.</li> <li>Creative Practices</li> <li>7a. Perceptions of connection to heritage among residents and visitors.</li> <li>7b. Demographic profile of programme participants &amp; sample completing the evaluation questions for 7a.</li> </ul>



		<ul> <li>10a. Number of people employed on the living wage (% increase) / (% of total employment) (&amp; demographic spread) - specific to creative practices 16a. Number of partnerships/networks established &amp; number of/diversity of actors/types within them</li> <li>16b. Amount of external funding leveraged</li> </ul>
		Participants and Audiences
		1a. Involvement of specific EDI (Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion) groups in the programme.
		4a. Self-reported changes to behaviour due to 'climate consciousness'.
		6a. Total number of people volunteering in the programme/ total volunteer hours.
		16a. Number of partnerships/networks established & number of/diversity of actors/types within them
		<ul> <li>21a. Sustained collaborations across projects for delivery of holistic approaches to tackling climate change.</li> </ul>
3a	Climate Conscious	Monitoring and evaluation will be through the following criteria:
	Communities	Individuals:
		<ul> <li>4a. Self-reported changes to behaviour due to 'climate consciousness'</li> </ul>
		8a. Perceptions of living, working & visiting the Park, pre & post programme.
		8b. Community wellbeing index or Place Standard Tool.
		8c. Sentiment on social media in response to programme activity.
		9a. Sustainable behaviour change index, combining qualitative and quantitative data.
		Groups:
		11a. Number & diversity of collective responses to climate change.
		11b. Perceptions of ability to act collectively on climate change.
		• 14a. CNPA skills matrix.
		15a. Number and diversity of responses to consultation on community action places
		15b. Numbers and demographics of those participating in engagement activities.
		Numbers volunteering on projects via Volunteer Cairngorms
3c	Community Managed Climate Grants	To be developed during Summer/ Autumn 2023.
4b	Green Financing & Investment	Uptake of private investment support for Nature Restoration projects within CNP.
5a	Woodland expansion	By number of hectares of woodland planted.
		<ul> <li>Forestry Grant Scheme contract award checks, as per standard Scottish Forestry schedule of checks.</li> </ul>
		'Biodiversity value' surveys intended for before and after planting.



<b>5b</b> Peatland Restoration	• The main metric for success from this project will be the area of drained and degraded peat that is restored within the National Park. This data, along with costs and the number of projects, will be collated at the end of each year. Each project will have a formal end of project report that will detail its outcomes, including costs and information on those involved and wider engagement. Date will be reported to key project partners such as the Scottish Government Peat Action team, NatureScot and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
Sc Climate Resilient Catchments	<ul> <li>Monitoring and evaluation for the project outcomes will be as follows:</li> <li>Habitat Outcomes: Habitat will be created and improved instream, on the floodplain and in the riparian zone for a variety of key groups (e.g., waders, invertebrates and species linked to river designation, e.g., salmon, pearl mussel, otter, sea lamprey). Created and improved habitats will increase connectivity with surrounding habitats.</li> <li>Monitoring: records will be kept of the extent and types of each habitat created or improved. Mapping will be conducted to monitor linkages with surrounding habitats (e.g., by drone or satellite aerials). Monitoring will be conducted for key invertebrate, wading bird and fish species and will be contextualised within regional trends. eDNA will be used to enable wider surveys of some species groups e.g., macroinvertebrates.</li> <li>Evaluation: success will be measured by an increase in the various habitats (riparian woodland, wetlands, wader scrapes, instream habitats) and their connectivity to wider habitats in the catchment. Flooding and Drought Outcomes: contribution to wider catchment's improvements to reduce flooding impacts and increase drought resilience.</li> <li>Monitoring: project construction will be designed to maximise the modelled reduction in flooding and increase in drought resilience and progress towards this will be monitored through delivery of the project to the design specifications. Directly measuring the changes to flooding or drought is outwith the scope of this project as it would require intensive monitoring at control sites or similar. Therefore, monitoring will be conducted, through delivery of the project, to the modelled outcomes.</li> <li>Evaluation: success will be catchment projects that have been delivered to their design criteria and thus deliver the modelled reduction in flooding and drought increase.</li> <li>Community outcomes: increased amenity value for local community and visitors and increased awareness of climate</li></ul>



5d	Nature Recovery	<ul> <li>Peatland restoration and woodland expansion applications through established Scot Govt support schemes and associated periodic review procedures.</li> <li>Establishment of biodiversity baselines to enable future review and quantification of progress.</li> <li>Uptake of private investment support for Nature Restoration projects within CNP.</li> <li>Uptake of recommendations resulting from Development Phase data collection and applied science.</li> </ul>
5e	Cairngorms Future Farming	<ul> <li>Monitoring of the project's three key objectives and evaluation of their successes is summarised below:</li> <li>Each pilot farm will have a lower carbon footprint and higher biodiversity and habitat connectivity, whilst ensuring the farm business remains profitable.</li> <li>Monitoring: carbon audits will be repeated annually and extended phase 1 habitat surveys will be repeated at the middle and end of the project. Additional monitoring to be conducted at the start of the delivery phase and repeated near its end will include soil sampling for carbon and nutrients and nutrient management plans. More regular monitoring of certain species/ groups will also be conducted, e.g., bee transect lines, plant diversity surveys.</li> <li>Evaluation: success will be demonstrated by: a reduction in carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions; an increase in carbon storage or sequestration; an improvement in habitat quality and connectivity; and stability or improvement in the farms' finances.</li> <li>Establish a peer-peer knowledge exchange framework to encourage more National Park farmers to up-take similar nature and climate- friendly farming practices.</li> <li>Monitoring: progress towards the knowledge exchange framework establishment by various milestones, with some or all pilot farmers signed up to take part. Development of network of farms who are interested in being part of knowledge exchange network.</li> <li>Success: A knowledge exchange framework set up. Some, if not all, of the 6 farms actively taken part in sharing their practical experiences of implementing nature and climate- friendly farming practices, as part of the project, to their neighbours or further afield. Success would be an appreciable number of farmers in various areas of the park being engaged.</li> <li>Communicate the challenges, successes and practicalities of implementing these nature and climate-friendly practices, to influence farmers across the Highlands and relevant Government policy and funding.</li></ul>



# 5f Landscape and Communities

The project will monitor and evaluate success towards each of the seven project-specific outcomes:

- 1. Better understanding of how communities perceive, experience and value the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) of the Cairngorms National Park, through engaging with representatives of all communities which have an interest in the landscape of the National Park.
- Monitoring: records of communities reached, numbers and demographics of individuals engaged against specified targets of each of these. Target numbers of communities will be set for relevant quarters.
- Success: All pre-identified communities of place and interest and all target audiences reached, including statistically representative numbers of each.
- 2. Identification/ confirmation of the SLQs of the Cairngorms National Park and community preferences for different SLQ attributes and the creation of a predictive model for future landscape change options.
- Monitoring as for 1 but for the community preferences study.
- Success as for 1, plus the production of an updated list of SLQs that reflects how communities perceive, experience and value SLQs, and their preferences for change for each, and production of a predictive model for future change options.
- 3. Maps of the SLQs of the Cairngorms National Park to enable future monitoring of change.
- Monitoring: progress towards the production of maps of each SLQ.
- Success: maps of each SLQ (or group) output and framework for updating maps (related to regularity that relevant datasets are updated), designed and agreed upon with GIS Team.
- 4. Improved engagement with everyone with an interest in the landscape of the National Park, regarding the SLQs using different formats or tools.
- Monitoring: engagement with knowledge and awareness outputs, e.g., views/ shares of social media posts, visitors to web pages and guidance sheets, views of videos, etc.
- Success: a structured programme of engagement delivered.
- 5. Establish framework for continued landscape knowledge exchange within the National Park.
- Monitoring: records of connections made with potential landscape champions and volunteers, progress towards establishing a landscape forum, records of events with volunteers etc.
- Success: Network of landscape champions from across the park actively engaged. Landscape forum/panel established.
- 6. Contribute to organised events to promote and engage on SLQs of the National Park.
- Monitoring: register of events attended and types of engagement conducted, plus reflection on success of events and numbers/ demographics of people engaged.
- Success: variety of events attended, with positive engagement, with broad range of people.



		7. Exchange of information and provision of landscape advice for other Heritage Horizons Cairngorm2030 projects (HH projects),
		so interim findings input nature-based solutions across the programme.
		Monitoring: records of provision of advice to other HH projects.
		<ul> <li>Success: Siting and design of other projects' schemes adapted to respond to SLQs of the National Park.</li> </ul>
6h	Cycle Friendly	Number of spot hire hubs schemes established.
	Cairngorms	Number of bike hires.
		<ul> <li>Number of businesses participating in cycle friendly welcome scheme.</li> </ul>
		Number of people trained/upskilled.
		Feedback survey from participants.
6i	Active Communities	Number of communities engaged.
		Length of improved active travel routes.
6j	Sustainable Travel	Number of public transport routes that carry bikes.
		Number of bus passengers travelling within the National Park.
		<ul> <li>Number of rail passengers travelling to/from rail stations within the National Park.</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Number of cycle parking stands at public transport interchanges (e.g. stations, bus stops).</li> </ul>
6k	Changing Travel	Number of activities delivered.
	Behaviours	Number of engagement events.
		Number of participants.
		Follow up surveys to determine lasting impact of programme.
	Knowledge Exchange	A success on this project will be for all projects to show their baseline data, measurements, learning and evaluation and for these results
		to be shared. Furthermore:
		<ul> <li>1. There will be clear evidence and reporting on 'where we started from'.</li> </ul>
		• 2. There will be clear evidence and reporting on 'what we achieve', through both individual project level outputs and wider
		programme level outcomes.
		3. There will be clear evidence and reporting on the journey, changes and learning, as each project progresses towards the
		outcomes.
		4.The information and learning will be shared in diverse networks across research, policy and practice, at all geographical scales.



# 8.1. Consultation / Next Steps

The SEA Environmental Report will be submitted to the SEA Gateway and consulted on, with the Consultation Authorities, for a period of 6 weeks, between July and mid-August. Following consultation on the ER, the Park Authority will consider any comments received and will amend the ER, where appropriate. This will take place in the summer of 2023. All documents will be available for inspection in the Park Authority's main office, in Grantown-on-Spey, and in on its website.

Once the SEA has been adopted, an Adoption Statement will be published. The Adoption Statement will summarise how the Park Authority took the findings of the SEA process into account and how environmental considerations more generally have been integrated into the C2030 Programme. It will also be stated, within the Post-adoption Statement, if any changes have been made to the Programme 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 Park Authority to monitor significant effects following the adoption of the C2030 Programme, in accordance with the Scottish Government's SEA Guidance (2013).

#### 8.2. Future milestones in the development and adoption of the 2030 Programme

Table 8.2 outlines completed and projected next steps in the SEA process.

Table 8.2: Future milestones in the development and adoption of the Programme

Proposed timescale	Community Plan	SEA process
June 2023	Finalise C2030 Programme	Carry out SEA and prepare
Julie 2023		Environmental Report
	Formal consultation on the draft C2030	Submit Environmental Report to the
July - August 2023		Consultation Authorities, via SEA
	Programme	Gateway, for six weeks consultation
September 2023	Consider consultation feedback and reflect	Consider comments and revise
September 2023	in C2030 Programme, where appropriate	Environmental Report, as appropriate
September 2023	Approval of C2030 Programme	Finalise the monitoring programme and prepare the Post Adoption Statement
Contombor 2022	C2030 Programme implementation	Post Adoption Statement finalised and
September 2023		issued to SEA Gateway
Annually thereafter	Monitor and review	Monitor and review



#### 9. Habitats Regulations Assessment

#### 9.1. Introduction

The Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) is currently developing their 2030 Programme and as the responsible authority, the CNPA is also tasked with undertaking Habitats Regulation Assessment to comply with Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019[1], hereafter referred to as the Habitats Regulations.

This report covers the area of the programme that relates to the Outdoor Dementia Resource Centre within the Cairngorms National Park.

This HRA report includes the Stage 1 Screening (see Section 9.11) of the HRA process, outlining the designated European Site[s] identified within the first Screening stage which could potentially be impacted by the project.

Habitats Regulations Assessment is also commonly referred to as Appropriate Assessment (AA) although the requirement for AA is first determined by an initial 'screening' stage undertaken as part of the full HRA. This report addresses the future requirements Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA; it outlines the key tasks undertaken and the key findings/ recommendations emerging from the assessment.

#### 9.2. Overview of HRA

The Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) is a precautionary, rigorous, and legally binding process designed to protect Scotland's European sites<sup>17</sup>. It ensures that competent authorities carefully consider the potential impacts of plans and projects on Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Ramsar Sites (Ramsar sites support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention, 1971)) before granting authorisation. The HRA consists of a series of stages summarised below in section 9.3.

For ease of reference during HRA, these three designations (SACs, SPAs, and Ramsar sites) are collectively referred to as European sites, despite Ramsar designations being at the international level.

The overall purpose of the HRA is to conclude whether or not a proposal or policy, or the whole development plan, would adversely affect the integrity of the European site in question either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for the 'qualifying features' for which the European site was designated, i.e.:

• SACs – Annex I habitat types and Annex II species.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are sites of European importance: there is no change to the standard of protection as a result of EU Exit. The term 'European site' is being used to refer to what were previously known as 'Natura' sites. This recognises that Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) protect species and habitats shared across Europe and were originally designated under EU legislation.



- SPAs Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory species not listed in
- Annex I.
- Ramsar sites the reasons for listing the site under the Convention.

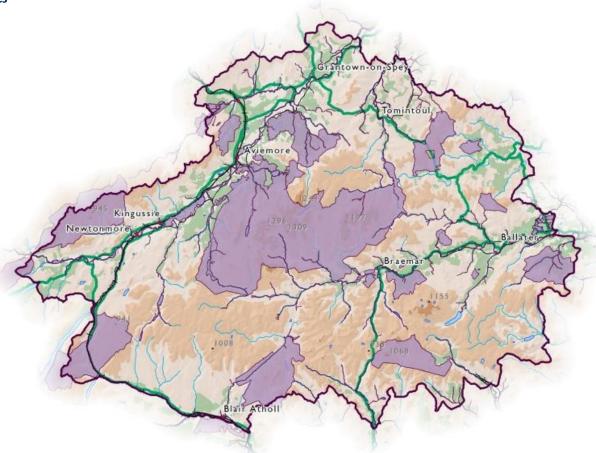
# 9.3. European sites

Nearly half of the Cairngorms National Park is designated as European sites, which form part of a wider network of such sites that are considered the best for wildlife in Europe.

There are two types of European Site within the National Park: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs, figure 1) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs, figure 2).

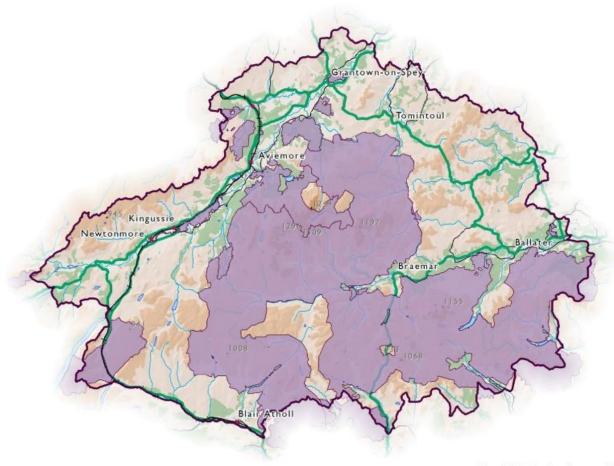


Figure 9.1: CNPA SACs



Special Areas of Conservation within the CNPA: Scale: 1:700,000

Figure 9.2: CNPA SPAs



Special Protection Areas within the CNPA: Scale: 1:700,000



There are over 20 SACs within or overlapping the National Park covering an area of around 1,063 km² (or 24% of the National Park's area). Around 53% of the land area protected as an SAC falls within the Cairngorms SAC, which is the third largest in Scotland. There are 16 SPAs within or overlapping the National Park (Figure XX), covering an area of around 2,013 km² (or 45% of the National Park's area).

With around 1,733 km<sup>2</sup> of its 1,875 km<sup>2</sup> within the National Park, The Cairngorms Massif SPA contributes 68% of the land protected as an SPA within the National Park. It is the largest in Scotland.

Table 9.1 provides information on SACs and SPAs both within and overlapping the Cairngorms National Park. Sites are listed with their qualifying interests, the latest assessment of their respective conditions and when the assessments took place.

Table 9.1: SACs & SPAs within the Cairngorms National Park (as of March 2023).

SAC/SPA	Site Name	Feature Name	Assessed Condition	Assessed Visit Date
SAC	Ballochbuie	Blanket bog	Favourable Recovered	23/06/2017
		Bog woodland	Unfavourable No change	02/08/2011
		Caledonian	Unfavourable No change	08/08/2011
		forest		
		Dry heaths	Unfavourable No change	01/10/2006
		Otter (Lutra	Favourable Maintained	12/11/2011
		lutra)		
		Plants in	Favourable Maintained	23/06/2017
		crevices on acid		
		rocks		
		Plants in	Favourable Maintained	23/11/2004
		crevices on		
		base-rich rocks		
		Wet heathland	Unfavourable No change	01/11/2006
		with cross-		
		leaved heath		
SAC	Beinn a' Ghlo	Acidic scree	Favourable Maintained	03/07/2017
		Alpine and	Favourable Maintained	03/07/2017
		subalpine heaths		
		Base-rich fens	Favourable Recovered	26/08/2015
		Blanket bog	Favourable Recovered	22/07/2010
		Dry grasslands	Unfavourable Recovering	22/07/2010
		and scrublands		
		on chalk or		
		limestone		
		Dry heaths	Unfavourable No change	19/08/2004



		Geyer's whorl snail (Vertigo	Favourable Maintained	03/07/2017
		geyeri)		
		Hard-water	Unfavourable Recovering	26/08/2015
		springs		
		depositing lime		
		High-altitude	Favourable Maintained	03/07/2017
		plant		
		communities		
		associated with		
		areas of water		
		seepage		
		Montane acid	Favourable Recovered	03/07/2017
		grasslands		
		Plants in	Favourable Maintained	03/07/2017
		crevices on acid		
		rocks		
		Plants in	Favourable Maintained	03/07/2017
		crevices on		
		base-rich rocks		
		Round-mouthed	Favourable Maintained	19/06/2017
		whorl snail		
		(Vertigo genesii)		
		Species-rich	Favourable Recovered	22/07/2010
		grassland with		
		mat-grass in		
		upland areas		
SAC	Caenlochan	Acidic scree	Unfavourable Declining	30/08/2012
		Alpine and	Unfavourable No change	16/07/2006
		subalpine heaths		
		Base-rich fens	Unfavourable No change	16/07/2006
		Base-rich scree	Favourable Maintained	16/07/2006
		Blanket bog	Unfavourable No change	16/07/2006
		Dry heaths	Unfavourable No change	16/07/2006
		Grasslands on	Favourable Maintained	16/07/2006
		soils rich in		
		heavy metals		
		High-altitude	Favourable Recovered	18/09/2012
		plant		
		communities		
		associated with		
		areas of water		
		seepage		
		Montane acid	Unfavourable No change	08/09/2012
		grasslands		
		Mountain willow	Unfavourable No change	23/08/2012
		scrub		



		Plants in	Favourable Maintained	16/07/2006
		crevices on acid		
		rocks		
		Plants in	Favourable Maintained	18/09/2012
		crevices on		
		base-rich rocks		
		Species-rich	Unfavourable No change	16/07/2006
		grassland with		
		mat-grass in		
		upland areas		
		Tall herb	Favourable Maintained	18/09/2012
		communities		
SAC	Cairngorms	Acid peat-	Favourable Maintained	09/09/2014
		stained lakes		
		and ponds		
		Acidic scree	Favourable Maintained	08/09/2015
		Alpine and	Favourable Recovered	21/08/2021
		subalpine heaths		
		Blanket bog	Unfavourable Recovering	21/09/2021
		Bog woodland	Favourable Maintained	05/09/2002
		Caledonian	Unfavourable Recovering	05/10/2015
		forest		
		Clear-water	Favourable Maintained	23/06/2010
		lakes or lochs		
		with aquatic		
		vegetation and		
		poor to		
		moderate		
		nutrient levels		
		Dry grasslands	Unfavourable Recovering	15/09/2021
		and scrublands	omavourable Necovering	13/03/2021
		on chalk or		
		limestone		
			Unfavourable Beauveries	14/00/2021
		Dry heaths	Unfavourable Recovering	14/09/2021
		Green shield-	Favourable Maintained	02/05/2006
		moss		
		(Buxbaumia		
		viridis)		
		Hard-water	Favourable Maintained	03/04/2007
		springs		
		depositing lime		
		High-altitude	Unfavourable Recovering	01/09/2021
		plant		
		communities		
		associated with		
		areas of water		
		seepage		
		2006.00	<u> </u>	



		luminan sis	Favorushia Maintain ad	01/00/2021
		Juniper on	Favourable Maintained	01/09/2021
		heaths or		
		calcareous		
		grasslands		
		Montane acid	Favourable Recovered	06/09/2021
		grasslands		
		Mountain willow	Unfavourable Recovering	01/09/2021
		scrub		
		Otter (Lutra	Unfavourable Declining	22/09/2011
		lutra)		
		Plants in	Favourable Maintained	03/09/2021
		crevices on acid		
		rocks		
		Plants in	Unfavourable No change	01/09/2021
		crevices on		
		base-rich rocks		
		Species-rich	Unfavourable Declining	15/08/2021
		grassland with		
		mat-grass in		
		upland areas		
		Tall herb	Favourable Maintained	01/09/2021
		communities		
		Very wet mires	Favourable Maintained	28/09/2021
		often identified		
		by an unstable		
		'quaking' surface		
		Wet heathland	Favourable Recovered	24/09/2021
		with cross-		
		leaved heath		
SAC	Coyles of Muick	Grasslands on	Favourable Maintained	03/08/2006
		soils rich in		
		heavy metals		
SAC	Creag	Acidic scree	Favourable Recovered	29/09/2015
	Meagaidh	Alpine and	Favourable Recovered	02/10/2015
		subalpine heaths	Tavourable Necovered	02/10/2013
		Subdiplife fleatifs		
		Blanket bog	Unfavourable No change	30/09/2005
		Clear-water	Favourable Maintained	10/06/2010
		lakes or lochs		
		with aquatic		
		vegetation and		
		poor to		
		moderate		
		nutrient levels		
		Dry heaths	Unfavourable No change	30/09/2005
		Montane acid	Favourable Maintained	02/10/2015
		grasslands		,,
		0. 400141140		



		Mountain willow scrub	Unfavourable No change	01/09/2005
		Plants in crevices on acid	Favourable Maintained	02/10/2015
		rocks		
		Plants in	Favourable Maintained	02/10/2015
		crevices on base-rich rocks		
		Tall herb	Favourable Recovered	29/09/2015
		communities		
		Wet heathland	Unfavourable No change	30/09/2005
		with cross-		
SAC	Croog nan	leaved heath Hard-water	Favourable Maintained	26/06/2013
SAC	Creag nan Gamhainn	springs	ravourable Maintaineu	20/00/2013
	Carmann	depositing lime		
SAC	Dinnet	Western acidic	Favourable Maintained	12/07/2002
	Oakwood	oak woodland		
SAC	Drumochter	Acidic scree	Favourable Maintained	06/07/2006
	Hills	Alpine and	Unfavourable No change	05/07/2006
		subalpine heaths		
		Blanket bog	Unfavourable No change	06/07/2006
		Dry heaths	Unfavourable No change	06/07/2006
		Montane acid	Favourable Recovered	08/08/2013
		grasslands		
		Mountain willow scrub	Unfavourable Declining	08/08/2013
		Plants in	Favourable Maintained	08/08/2013
		crevices on acid	Tavoarable Mantamea	00/00/2013
		rocks		
		Species-rich	Unfavourable No change	08/08/2013
		grassland with		
		mat-grass in upland areas		
		Tall herb	Unfavourable Recovering	08/08/2013
		communities	- Indiana in the state in the s	25,00,2020
		Wet heathland	Unfavourable No change	07/06/2006
		with cross-		
CAC		leaved heath		40/05/2217
SAC	Glen Tanar	Blanket bog	Unfavourable Declining	19/06/2017
		Caledonian forest	Favourable Maintained	08/04/2010
		Dry heaths	Favourable Maintained	23/10/2003
		Otter (Lutra	Favourable Maintained	23/09/2012
		lutra)	. a sourable manifulled	25/05/2012
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	I.



		Wet heathland	Favourable Maintained	21/11/2009
		with cross- leaved heath		
SAC	Green Hill of	Dry heaths	Favourable Maintained	15/08/2008
SAC	Strathdon			
	Stratificon	Grasslands on	Favourable Maintained	15/08/2008
		soils rich in		
		heavy metals	Consumable Maintained	02/00/2002
		Juniper on heaths or	Favourable Maintained	02/08/2002
		calcareous		
		grasslands		
SAC	Insh Marshes	Alder woodland	Unfavourable Recovering	19/05/2009
JAC	man warshes	on floodplains	Omavourable necovering	15/05/2005
		Clear-water	Favourable Maintained	30/07/2010
		lakes or lochs		
		with aquatic		
		vegetation and		
		poor to moderate		
		nutrient levels		
		Otter (Lutra	Favourable Declining	17/08/2011
		lutra)	Tavourable Deciming	17/00/2011
		Very wet mires	Favourable Maintained	04/10/2014
		often identified		, ==, === :
		by an unstable		
		'quaking' surface		
SAC	Kinveachy	Bog woodland	Unfavourable Recovering	24/06/2008
	Forest	Caledonian	Unfavourable Recovering	24/06/2008
		forest		
SAC	Ladder Hills	Alpine and	Favourable Maintained	03/09/1999
		subalpine heaths		
		Blanket bog	Favourable Maintained	03/09/1999
		Dry heaths	Unfavourable Declining	09/04/2007
SAC	Monadhliath	Blanket bog	Unfavourable No change	18/10/2020
SAC	Morrone	Alpine and	Favourable Maintained	01/07/2008
	Birkwood	subalpine heaths		
		Base-rich fens	Favourable Declining	03/06/2014
		Dry grasslands	Favourable Maintained	03/06/2014
		and scrublands		
		on chalk or		
		limestone		
		Geyer's whorl	Unfavourable Declining	30/06/2013
		snail (Vertigo		
		geyeri)		



	1	1	T	
		Hard-water	Favourable Maintained	03/06/2014
		springs		
		depositing lime	Favormaki - De-ili i	02/05/2011
		High-altitude	Favourable Declining	03/06/2014
		plant		
		communities		
		associated with areas of water		
		seepage	Favourable Recovered	14/07/2014
		Juniper on heaths or	ravourable Recovered	14/07/2014
		calcareous		
		grasslands		
SAC	Morven and		Favourable Maintained	25/01/2005
SAC	Mullachdubh	Juniper on heaths or	ravourable ivialitalileu	25/01/2005
	ividilacifuubii	calcareous		
		grasslands		
SAC	Muir of Dinnet	Clear-water	Favourable Maintained	25/06/2004
SAC	iviuii oi billilet	lakes or lochs	i avourable ivialiitaliieu	23/00/2004
		with aquatic		
		vegetation and		
		poor to		
		moderate		
		nutrient levels		
			Favourable Maintained	30/06/2000
		Degraded raised bog	ravourable ivialitalileu	30/06/2000
		Dry heaths	Unfavourable Declining	16/02/2001
		Otter (Lutra lutra)	Favourable Maintained	04/10/2012
		Very wet mires	Favourable Maintained	10/09/2014
		often identified		
		by an unstable		
		'quaking' surface		
SAC	River Dee	Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar)	Favourable Maintained	21/07/2011
		Freshwater pearl mussel	Unfavourable No change	07/08/2003
		(Margaritifera		
		margaritifera)		
		Otter (Lutra	Favourable Declining	06/10/2012
		lutra)		
SAC	River South Esk	Atlantic salmon	Unfavourable Recovering	29/07/2011
		(Salmo salar)		
		Freshwater pearl	Unfavourable No change	13/09/2009
		mussel		
		(Margaritifera		
		margaritifera)		



SAC	River Spey	Atlantic salmon	Unfavourable Recovering	04/09/2011
SAC	River Spey	(Salmo salar)	Omavourable Recovering	04/09/2011
		Freshwater pearl	Unfavourable Declining	30/09/2014
		mussel		
		(Margaritifera		
		margaritifera)		
		Otter (Lutra	Favourable Maintained	18/09/2011
		lutra)		
		Sea lamprey	Favourable Maintained	07/09/2011
		(Petromyzon		
		marinus)		
SAC	River Tay	Atlantic salmon	Favourable Maintained	19/09/2011
		(Salmo salar)		
		Brook lamprey	Favourable Maintained	30/11/2007
		(Lampetra		
		planeri)		
		Clear-water	Favourable Maintained	12/08/2009
		lakes or lochs		
		with aquatic		
		vegetation and		
		poor to		
		moderate		
		nutrient levels		
		Otter (Lutra	Favourable Maintained	03/09/2012
		lutra)		
		River lamprey	Favourable Maintained	30/11/2007
		(Lampetra		
		fluviatilis)		
		Sea lamprey	Favourable Maintained	30/11/2007
		(Petromyzon		
		marinus)		
SAC	The Maim	Dry heaths	Favourable Declining	02/12/2020
SAC	Tulach Hill and	Base-rich fens	Favourable Maintained	11/07/2017
	Glen Fender			
	Meadows	Dry grasslands	Unfavourable Declining	01/06/2017
		and scrublands	omavourable Decilining	01/00/201/
		on chalk or		
		limestone		
		Dry heaths	Favourable Recovered	24/08/2010
		Dry neatils	TO A COLI BASIC NECOVELED	27/00/2010
		Geyer's whorl	Favourable Maintained	10/06/2017
		snail (Vertigo		
		geyeri)		
		Limestone	Favourable Maintained	24/08/2010
		pavements		
			<u> </u>	



		Round-mouthed	Favourable Maintained	10/06/2017
		whorl snail		
		(Vertigo genesii)		
SPA	Abernethy Forest	Capercaillie (Tetrao	Favourable Maintained	28/04/2009
	10.00	urogallus),		
		breeding		
		Osprey (Pandion	Favourable Maintained	31/05/2007
		haliaetus),		
		breeding		
		Scottish crossbill	Favourable Maintained	28/03/2012
		(Loxia scotica), breeding		
SPA	Anagach	Capercaillie	Unfavourable Declining	29/04/2015
	Woods	(Tetrao	, and the second	
		urogallus),		
		breeding		
SPA	Ballochbuie	Capercaillie	Unfavourable Declining	14/04/2014
		(Tetrao urogallus),		
		breeding		
		Scottish crossbill	Favourable Maintained	01/03/2015
		(Loxia scotica),		
		breeding		
SPA	Caenlochan	Dotterel	Unfavourable Declining	04/07/2011
		(Charadrius		
		morinellus), breeding		
		Golden eagle	Favourable Maintained	04/12/2009
		(Aquila		, ==, ====
		chrysaetos),		
		breeding		
SPA	Cairngorms	Capercaillie	Favourable Maintained	25/04/2011
		(Tetrao		
		urogallus), breeding		
		Dotterel	Unfavourable Declining	01/07/2011
		(Charadrius		, , , , , ,
		morinellus),		
		breeding		
		Golden eagle	Favourable Maintained	31/07/2009
		(Aquila		
		chrysaetos), breeding		
		Merlin (Falco		
		columbarius),		
		breeding		



		Osprey (Pandion	Favourable Maintained	01/06/2006
		haliaetus),	ravourable ivialitailleu	01/00/2000
		breeding		
		Peregrine (Falco	Favourable Maintained	30/06/2002
		peregrinus),	Tavourable Maintainea	30/00/2002
		breeding		
		Scottish crossbill	Favourable Maintained	14/03/2012
		(Loxia scotica),	Tavourable Maintained	14/03/2012
		breeding		
SPA	Cairngorms	Golden eagle	Favourable Maintained	31/07/2015
SFA	Massif	(Aquila	ravourable ivialitalileu	31/07/2013
	IVIdSSII	chrysaetos),		
		breeding		
SPA	Craigmore	Capercaillie	Unfavourable Declining	20/04/2015
SPA	Wood	(Tetrao	Offiavourable Declining	20/04/2015
	vvood	-		
		urogallus), breeding		
CDA	Cuan		Umfavavanhla Daalinina	01/07/2011
SPA	Creag	Dotterel (Charadrius	Unfavourable Declining	01/07/2011
	Meagaidh	-		
		morinellus),		
SPA	Drumochter	breeding Dotterel	Unfavourable Declining	04/07/2011
SPA	Hills		Oniavourable Declining	04/07/2011
	піііѕ	(Charadrius		
		morinellus),		
		breeding	Unformable No about	24 /00 /2004
		Merlin (Falco	Unfavourable No change	31/08/2004
		columbarius),		
CDA	Forest of Clusia	breeding Hen harrier	Umfavavanhla Daalinina	05/05/2015
SPA	Forest of Clunie		Unfavourable Declining	05/05/2015
		(Circus cyaneus),		
		breeding	Unfavourable No shan-s	01/06/2015
		Merlin (Falco	Unfavourable No change	01/06/2015
		columbarius),		
		breeding	Hadayaya-l-l- D. P. 1	04 /05 /2045
		Osprey (Pandion	Unfavourable Declining	01/06/2015
		haliaetus),		
		breeding	Hafarana III N	04 106 12045
		Short-eared owl	Unfavourable No change	01/06/2015
		(Asio flammeus),		
CDA		breeding		40/04/2044
SPA	Glen Tanar	Capercaillie	Unfavourable Declining	18/04/2011
		(Tetrao		
		urogallus),		
		breeding		10 10 10 - 1 -
		Hen harrier	Favourable Maintained	19/07/2010
		(Circus cyaneus),		
		breeding		



		Osprey (Pandion haliaetus), breeding	Favourable Maintained	13/10/2010
		Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica), breeding	Favourable Maintained	23/03/2012
SPA	Kinveachy Forest	Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus), breeding	Favourable Maintained	15/05/2008
		Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica), breeding	Favourable Maintained	27/03/2012
SPA	Loch Vaa	Slavonian grebe (Podiceps auritus), breeding	Unfavourable No change	30/06/2007
SPA	Lochnagar	Dotterel (Charadrius morinellus), breeding	Unfavourable No change	04/07/2011
SPA	Muir of Dinnet	Greylag goose (Anser anser), non-breeding	Unfavourable Declining	05/11/2010
		Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding	Unfavourable No change	01/12/2012
SPA	River Spey - Insh Marshes	Hen harrier (Circus cyaneus), non-breeding	Favourable Maintained	22/02/2010
		Osprey (Pandion haliaetus), breeding	Favourable Maintained	07/09/2009
		Spotted crake (Porzana porzana), breeding	Favourable Maintained	31/12/2000
		Whooper swan (Cygnus cygnus), non-breeding	Favourable Maintained	31/12/2000
		Wigeon (Anas penelope), breeding	Unfavourable No change	30/05/2009
		Wood sandpiper (Tringa glareola), breeding	Unfavourable Declining	31/12/2000

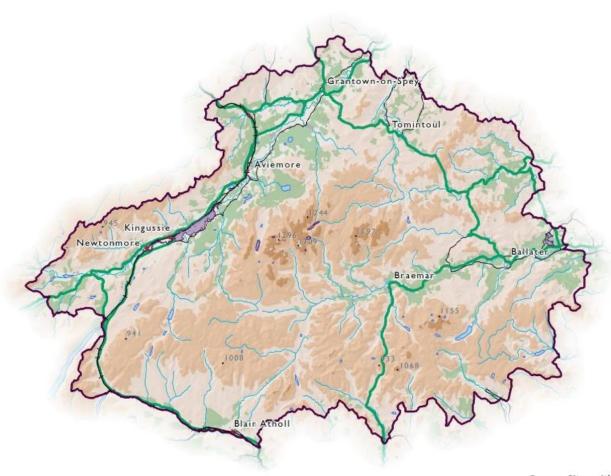


# 9.4. Ramsar Convention

The National Park is also home to three wetlands of international importance that have been designated under the Ramsar Convention (figure 3), all wholly located within the Cairngorms National Park and outlined in Table 9.2. The designation recognises the fundamental ecological functions of these areas as well as their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value. They are all also part of other sites protected for nature conservation.



Figure 9.3: Ramsar Sites in the CNPA



Ramsar Sites within the CNPA: Scale: 1:700,000



Table 9.2: Condition of RAMSAR Sites in the CNPA

Site Name	Feature Name	Assessed Condition	Assessed Visit Date
Cairngorm Lochs	Oligotrophic loch	Favourable Maintained	23/06/2010
Muir of Dinnet	Greylag goose (Anser anser), non- breeding	Unfavourable No change	12/10/2012
River Spey - Insh	Flood-plain fen	Favourable Maintained	10/08/2014
Marshes	Invertebrate assemblage	Favourable Maintained	20/08/2013
	Mesotrophic loch	Favourable Maintained	30/07/2010
	Osprey (Pandion haliaetus), breeding	Favourable Maintained	07/09/2009
	Otter (Lutra lutra)	Favourable Declining	17/08/2011
	Spotted crake (Porzana prozana), breeding	-	-
	Vascular plant assemblage	Favourable Maintained	10/08/2014
	Wet woodland	-	-
	Whooper swan (Cygnus cygnus), non-breeding	Favourable Maintained	28/03/2010
	Wigeon (Anas penelope) breeding	-	-
	Wood sandpiper (Tringa glareola) breeding	-	-

# 9.5. HRA Stages

The first stage of the HRA is to identify the plan or project under consideration (section 9.9). If the plan or project is directly connected with or necessary for the management of a European site for nature conservation, the process moves to the second stage. If not, it proceeds to stage three.

At stage two, the competent authority determines whether the plan or project is directly connected with or necessary for the management of the site. If it is, the process is complete, and consent may be granted. If not, the assessment moves to stage three.

Stage three involves assessing whether the plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (section 9.11). If there is no likely significant effect, the process is complete, and consent may be granted. If there is a likely significant effect, the assessment moves to stage four.

Stage four requires the undertaking of an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site based on its conservation objectives. This assessment is carried out by the competent authority



with advice from NatureScot. The assessment considers the potential impacts on each qualifying interest and their conservation objectives. If the proposal is deemed to adversely affect the integrity of the site, the assessment moves to stage five.

At stage five, the competent authority determines whether the proposal will adversely affect the integrity of the European site. If it can be ascertained beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposal will not adversely affect the site's integrity, consent may be granted. If not, the assessment proceeds to stage six.

Stage six explores whether there are alternative solutions to the proposed plan or project. If alternative solutions exist, consent cannot be granted. If there are no alternative solutions, the assessment moves to stage seven.

Stage seven considers whether a priority habitat or species would be adversely affected by the proposal. Priority habitats have a higher level of protection under the Habitats Regulations. If a priority habitat or species would be adversely affected, the assessment proceeds to stages eight and nine.

Stages eight and nine focus on imperative reasons of overriding public interest. If it cannot be ascertained that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the site, and there are no alternative solutions, the plan or project may proceed if there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest. Scottish Ministers must be consulted, and any necessary compensatory measures must be secured.

# 9.6. Competent Authority's Role

Throughout the HRA process, the competent authority must ensure that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site. If adverse effects cannot be ruled out, consent must be refused, unless there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

The HRA applies to any plan or project that could potentially impact a European site, *regardless* of its proximity. Competent authorities, such as local authorities, Scottish Forestry (for felling permissions), and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (for Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) licences), have the responsibility to determine whether a proposal can proceed. NatureScot can provide further assistance during the HRA process.

# 9.7. The Cairngorms 2030 Projects

# 9.8. Overview of the 2030 Programme

Of the nineteen focussed, and single overarching (Knowledge Exchange) plans that have emerged from the 2030 programme, only one, the Outdoor Dementia Resource centre, has been identified as potentially requiring HRA at this stage (Table 9.1). This is due primarily to the more developed nature of the project; the potential increase in the number of staff, visitors and service users to the centre, an increase in infrastructure to and across the site and associated potential impacts on local designated species and habitats.



**Table 9.3: 2030 Programmes and HRA Requirements** 

Project	Description	HRA required?
	This project will develop a wellbeing economy	
1a. Wellbeing	that delivers social justice, drawing on the	No
Economy	special natural and cultural qualities of the	
	Cairngorms.	
1b. Public	The project will establish and strengthen the	
Health & the	patient pathway from healthcare to health	No
Outdoors	and wellbeing opportunities in nature and the outdoors.	
	The Development Phase saw Scotland's first	
1c. Outdoor	Outdoor Resource Centre for people with	
Dementia	dementia successfully established at	
Resource	Badaguish Outdoor Centre. The Delivery	Yes. See below, section 9.5.
Centre	Phase will build upon the success of the	
Centre	Design Phase.	
	The Climate Learning and Education Project	
	aims to create educated and knowledgeable	
2a. Climate	young people who understand the need for	
Learning &	climate action, and who recognise the	No
Education	connections between biodiversity loss and	
	the impacts on health and wellbeing.	
	The ultimate outcome of this project will be	
	the increased sense of agency, ownership and	
2b. Effective	involvement of various audiences and	
Community	stakeholders as a result of the application of	No
Engagement	appropriate and innovative methods of	
	engagement, which will be shared widely	
	throughout the C2030 programme.	
	This project will build capacity and	
20	collaboration in the art and culture sector and	
2c. Communities	strengthen people's connection to landscape	No
Arts & Culture	and place, inspiring involvement in	No
Arts & Culture	community-based climate action activity and	
	encouraging behaviour change.	
3a. Climate	To co-ordinate and communicate activity	
Conscious	across organisations and communities in the	No
Communities	National Park with a remit for Climate Change	
	The Community Managed Climate Grants	
3c. Community	scheme will link with other C2030 projects to	
Managed	give communities the power to define,	No
Climate Grants	design, fund and deliver projects that build	
	resilience and mitigate climate impacts.	



4b Green Finance	This project will develop innovative new strategies to work with private finance investors for environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature	No
	restoration in ways that support socially inclusive, sustainable changes in land use.	
5a. Woodland Expansion	This project will increase the cover of biodiverse native woodland within the Park by at least 1,000 hectares between 2023 and 2028. By careful design, this project will add montane and riparian woodlands and a more diverse tree species mix to ultimately create a landscape scale native woodland of the highest nature conservation value.	No. At present, this project is in a conceptual stage, HRA may be required when final spatial boundaries of the projects have been determined and detailed design is in place. However, the competent authority may also determine that the plan or project is directly connected with or necessary for the management of the site and therefore HRA would not be deemed a requirement.
5b. Peatland Restoration	This project will deliver 1,300 hectares of high-quality peatland restoration in the National Park each year through the delivery phase. The project team will work with land managers to identify suitable areas, and then develop and deliver a specific project plan for each place.	As above.
5c Climate Resilient Catchments	The catchments of the River Dee, Spey and South Esk together cover 90% of the Cairngorms National Park. This project aims to preserve and restore floodplain and riverine habitat across the three proposed project catchment areas.	As above.
5d Nature Recovery	Nature Recovery will meet the C2030 objective of restoring landscapes: working with land managers to explore new ways of managing land as well as restoring and enhancing large areas of peatland and woodland.	As above.
5e Future Farming	The Cairngorms Future Farming project will work with six farms within the National Park to trial changes to farming practices that deliver practical improvements to carbon emissions and habitat quantity, quality and/or connectivity.	As above.



5f. Communities & Landscape Change	This project will engage with all communities that have an interest in the Cairngorms  National Park landscape (living within and outwith the park) to obtain robust data on how different people perceive, experience and value the Special Landscape Qualities of the CNP.	No.
6h. Cycle friendly Cairngorms	Cycle Friendly Cairngorms will create the conditions where cycling, as a method of sustainable transport, is an accessible option for all. It will enable residents and visitors to embrace travelling by cycle as a realistic alternative to car use, resulting in a reduction of personal car use for short journeys.	While there is limited detail to enable meaningful assessment at present, there could be environmental effects from infrastructure improvements and concept designs causing built development and/or changes to the patterns of human activity having effects on sensitive environmental areas/receptors (e.g. areas protected for nature conservation or otherwise important for wildlife, sensitive habitats, cultural heritage, built environment, landscape effects, etc). HRA will likely be required when final spatial boundaries of the projects have been determined and detailed design is in place.
6i. Active Communities	This project will work with local communities to make it easier and safer for residents and visitors to get around without a vehicle.	As above.
6j. Sustainable Travel	This project will support delivery of a range of sustainable transport initiatives across the National Park including further development of the sustainable transport model for Aviemore to Cairngorm Mountain, options in Deeside and initiatives to enable multi modal journeys.	As above.
6k. Changing Travel Behaviours	Changing Travel Behaviours aims to reconnect individuals to their local heritage by making active travel and sustainable transport the natural choice for everyday journeys across the National Park.	As above.

# 9.9. Outdoor Dementia Resource Centre

# 9.10. Site Description and location

Bagaduish is located approximately 6km east of Aviemore. Badaguish Outdoor Centre is an established recreational site offering an environmental and outdoor education service for youth



and community groups with numerous existing facilities on site (offices, toilet/shower blocks, lodges, café, play area, camping, wigwams, paths etc.).

# 9.11. European Sites in Proximity to Bagaduish

Within 500m south of the Badaguish complex, areas are designated as a Special Protection Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Area of Conservation and the entire site lies within the Cairngorms National Scenic Area. HRA specific designations (i.e. European Sites) are outlined in Table 9.2.

Table 9.4: European Designated Sites with the potential to be impacted by the Plan

			22/22/22/
Cairngorms SAC	Acid peat-stained lakes and	Favourable Maintained	09/09/2014
	ponds		
	Acidic scree	Favourable Maintained	08/09/2015
	Alpine and subalpine heaths	Favourable Recovered	21/08/2021
	Blanket bog	Unfavourable Recovering	21/09/2021
	Bog woodland	Favourable Maintained	05/09/2002
	Caledonian forest	Unfavourable Recovering	05/10/2015
	Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels	Favourable Maintained	23/06/2010
	Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone	Unfavourable Recovering	15/09/2021
	Dry heaths	Unfavourable Recovering	14/09/2021
	Green shield-moss (Buxbaumia viridis)	Favourable Maintained	02/05/2006
	Hard-water springs depositing lime	Favourable Maintained	03/04/2007
	High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage	Unfavourable Recovering	01/09/2021
	Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands	Favourable Maintained	01/09/2021
	Montane acid grasslands	Favourable Recovered	06/09/2021
	Mountain willow scrub	Unfavourable Recovering	01/09/2021
	Otter (Lutra lutra)	Unfavourable Declining	22/09/2011
	Plants in crevices on acid rocks	Favourable Maintained	03/09/2021
	Plants in crevices on base- rich rocks	Unfavourable No change	01/09/2021
	Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas	Unfavourable Declining	15/08/2021
	Tall herb communities	Favourable Maintained	01/09/2021



	Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface Wet heathland with crossleaved heath	Favourable Maintained Favourable Recovered	28/09/2021
River Spey SAC	Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar)	Unfavourable Recovering	04/09/2011
	Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera)	Unfavourable Declining	30/09/2014
	Otter (Lutra lutra)	Favourable Maintained	18/09/2011
	Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus)	Favourable Maintained	07/09/2011
Cairngorms SPA	Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus), breeding	Favourable Maintained	25/04/2011
	Dotterel (Charadrius morinellus), breeding	Unfavourable Declining	01/07/2011
	Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos), breeding	Favourable Maintained	31/07/2009
	Merlin (Falco columbarius), breeding		
	Osprey (Pandion haliaetus), breeding	Favourable Maintained	01/06/2006
	Peregrine (Falco peregrinus), breeding	Favourable Maintained	30/06/2002
	Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica), breeding	Favourable Maintained	14/03/2012

# 9.12. Development of the Project

The Development Phase of this project has launched Scotland's first Outdoor Resource Centre (ODRC) for people with dementia at Badaguish Outdoor Centre. The Delivery Phase will build upon the success, developing green health services for people with dementia locally and contributing to the development of practice and policy in this field, so that people with dementia may benefit from green health services at national level. This will be achieved through the following key project outputs:

- 1. The monthly programme of therapeutic activities will continue to develop, incorporating nature-based interventions with a defined health or social outcome, incorporating the following into the monthly program:
  - Working with Local Creatives
  - o John Muir Award
  - Dementia Friends Program
  - Brain Health Engagement
  - Online and Outreach Sessions
  - Outdoor Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (Cst)



- o Implement Findings of Journey Associates Design Phase Report
- 2. The transport infrastructure for dementia friendly outdoor activities and their participants at Badaguish will improve, and the carbon footprint reduced. In addition, feasibility studies exploring the possibility of creating a network of dementia friendly paths at Badaguish are planned.
- 3. The ODRC building will evolve, becoming more dementia friendly by implementing the findings of the dementia friendly environment audit, providing a workshop space and adequate storage.
  - This will involve a refurb of the ODRC to make the building more dementia friendly and address issues such as storage capacity. Erecting storage structures will require a planning application to be made.
- 4. A green health referral pathway for people with dementia will be established locally.
- 5. A business plan to secure long-term funding will be developed.
- 6. A national community of practice for those providing green health for people with dementia will develop across Alzheimer Scotland.

Key project outputs 1, 2, and 3 above have the potential to impact upon designated species through increased numbers of people to the site, increased access through the site, and development works on the site, respectively.

#### 9.13. Recommended next steps

When the operational plans are finalised for the dementia centre, a formal Appropriate Assessment will be required.



#### 10. Ecosystems Services Assessment

#### 10.1. Overview of the Assessment

The following assessment will examine the Cairngorms 2030 (C2030) Programme's applicable projects using a desktop Ecosystems Service Assessment (ESA).

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment<sup>18</sup> (2005) and later TEEB<sup>19</sup> (The Economics of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity 2010) grouped ecosystem services into four main categories: provisioning services; regulatory services; cultural services; and supporting services. These typologies provide a broadly inter-comparable set of services across bioregions and ecosystem types. They also exposes the complexity and multiplicity of interactions between social and natural systems:

- Provisioning services are those things that can be extracted from ecosystems to support
  human needs and are more or less synonymous with a prior definition of ecosystem 'goods'
  including such tangible assets as fresh water, food (crops, fish, etc.), fibre and fuel.
- Regulatory services include those processes that regulate the natural environment such as the natural regulation of air quality, climate, water flows, erosion, and pests.
- Cultural services include diverse aspects of aesthetic, inspirational, recreational, and other cultural values.
- Supporting services do not necessarily have direct or proxy economic worth but include processes essential for the maintenance of the integrity, resilience and functioning of ecosystems (such as soil formation, photosynthesis, and water recycling), and so the delivery of all other services.

#### 10.2. Rationale of the Assessment

An ecosystems perspective ensures that the full range of ecosystem services is recognised in assessment, not just a selected few of particular interest. The reason for this is that failing to retain an overview of interactions with the full system risks maximising some focal benefits at unaccounted cost to other ecosystem services and their beneficiaries.

Economic and non-economic valuation of ecosystem services is often demanded by policy makers and practitioners as supporting information to guide decisions in urban planning and governance. Ways in which ecosystems valuation can inform urban planning include awareness raising, economic accounting, priority-setting, incentive design, and litigation, thus broadly reflecting the objectives of "recognising, demonstrating, and capturing value" as suggested in the TEEB report.

Using ecosystem services in SEA has the potential to explain to decision makers why the environment matters and to demonstrate that SEA can add value to the plan or programme making process. This profile-raising potential should result in a more integrated and valuable SEA process and outcome.

<sup>18</sup> https://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> http://teebweb.org



Using ecosystem services allows us to consider how the environment supports the delivery of a variety of Plans, Programmes and Strategies (PPS) and how various PPS can support this. This can lead to more resilient, risk proofed projects.

Ecosystem services is part of the policy landscape – and much of Scotland's natural environment policy, and other areas like spatial planning (including the National Planning policy Framework and some Local Plans) refer to or uses the concept of ecosystem services.

## 10.3. Policy Context

The Ecosystem Approach is synonymous with sustainability and feeds directly into the UN's Sustainable Development Goals which set a framework for society to 'meet the needs of the current generation, without compromising the needs of future generations' 20, while the Ecosystem Approach adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and subsequently NatureScot<sup>21</sup>, has a broad scope that goes beyond ecosystems themselves to encompass social, cultural and economic factors that are fully interdependent with biodiversity and ecosystem services. This latter, more detailed approach has been utilised in the following assessment due to the expansive and multi-collaborative scope of the Cairngorms 2030 Programme.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) describes the Ecosystem Approach as 'a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way'<sup>22</sup>. It recognises that humans, are an integral component of ecosystems. Ecosystem services are the multiple benefits that natural environments supply to human beings. These include, for example, production of clean water and many raw materials used in economic activities, regulation of climate and flooding, a healthy biodiversity, soil formation and crop pollination, and cultural benefits such as aesthetic value and recreational opportunities.

The overarching policy surrounding climate change, biodiversity and development in Scotland is aspirational, with Scotland's Fourth National Planning Framework outlining that:

'the health of the planet's ecosystems is declining faster than at any point in human history and our natural environment is facing significant challenges, including ongoing loss of biodiversity. Since the 1990s alone, wildlife populations in Scotland have declined, on average, by around a quarter. This threatens the capacity of the natural environment to provide the services we all rely on and reduces our resilience to the impacts of climate change... We need to reverse biodiversity loss, safeguard the ecosystem services that the natural environment provides, and build resilience by enhancing nature networks and maximising the potential for restoration'<sup>23</sup>.

The 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity<sup>24</sup> enshrines the Ecosystem Approach with plans and decisions about land use to be based on an understanding of ecosystems, taking 'full account

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> https://sdgs.un.org/topics/biodiversity-and-ecosystems

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-biodiversity/scottish-biodiversity-strategy-and-cop15/ecosystem-approach

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> https://www.cbd.int/ecosystem

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotland-2045-fourth-national-planning-framework

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> https://www.gov.scot/publications/2020-challenge-scotlands-biodiversity-strategy-conservation-enhancement- biodiversity-scotland/



of land use impacts on the ecosystems services that underpin social, economic and environmental health'.

## 10.4. Assessment Methodology

Of the twenty projects in the scope of the 2030 Programme, four were determined to have definite impacts on ecosystem services across the Park. The assessed projects all fell under the 'Nature' theme and encompassed the following:

- 5a. Woodland Expansion
- 5b. Peatland Restoration
- 5c. Climate Resilient Catchments
- 5e. Future Farming Project

The ESA evaluated the magnitude of any potential significant changes to services, using the symbology in Table 10.1 (significance scoring system adapted from Defra's 'likelihood of impact<sup>25</sup>' scoring system and aligned with the CNPA's SEA template), providing easy-to-read visual signifiers for potential changes to ecosystem services, ensuring consistency across the environmental assessments within the Environmental Report.

Table 10.1: Ecosystem services significance matrix

Significance of Effect				
Likely to produce a significant uptake in the availability of a particular service in relation to the project.	++			
Likely to produce a minor positive uptake in the availability of a particular service in relation to the project.	+			
Change to service is uncertain	?			
No connectivity with the ecosystem service being assessed.	0			
Not an applicable ecosystem service to the project	Х			
Likely to produce a minor adverse impact on the availability of a particular service in relation to the project.	-			
Likely to produce a major adverse impact on the availability of a particular service in relation to the project.				

The assessment was applied using the full suite of ecosystem services to provide a 'read out' of the likely magnitude and positive/negative tendency of impacts.

At this stage of the projects (i.e., development rather than delivery), of more value in day-to-day decision-making are assessments of 'marginal' changes. Marginal change recognises the difference between a 'baseline' state and a 'post-intervention', i.e., predicted, state. Marginal assessments of observed or anticipated changes in ecosystem services are more robust as the large number of assumptions and uncertainties used in any such study are applied to both the 'baseline' and 'outcome' states which, to a certain extent, cancels them out during comparison.

<sup>25</sup> 



Therefore, a marginal change narrative assessment was undertaken using expert knowledge and utilised the baseline work carried out by the CNPA in the SEA Topic Paper research and the individual Project Action Plans and associated material to produce an assessment of impacts across the whole of the system of services to avoid making potentially erroneous prejudgements about which services are the 'most important'. This resulted in a broad, systems-level overview a more granular approach encompassing a full economic valuation could be applied once the projects have progressed to a later stage.

#### **10.5. Summary**

Due to the specific focus of the projects within the 'Nature' theme of the C2020 Programme, the assessment found that there is strong evidence to suggest that there will be substantial and significantly positive effects on the majority of ecosystems services across the range of projects with no significantly negative effects. The full assessment tables are below in Tables 10.2 - 10.5.



# 10.6. Assessment Tables

Table 10.2: Ecosystem Services Assessment - Woodland Expansion Project

Project 5a Woodla	nd Expansior	า	
Provisioning	Baseline	Predicted	(These are the products obtained from ecosystems)
services			
Fresh water			An ecosystem service approach has the potential to strengthen freshwater management which aims to coordinate the
			conservation, management and sustainable development of water, land and resources across entire river basins.
			Such integrated approaches are designed to maximise the social and economic outputs of freshwater ecosystems whilst
			preserving and restoring their ecological status. Woodland expansion can help reduce soil erosion, enhance water infiltration,
			and stabilise riverbanks, thus improving the overall water quality of the ecosystem. Note that Woodland expansion may also
			lead to increased competition for resources such as water, especially in areas where water availability is limited, or may become
			so. This could have implications for other users, such as farmers or industries that rely on water for irrigation or production
			processes.
Food (e.g. crops,			Virtually all ecosystems provide the conditions for growing, collecting, hunting or harvesting food and ecosystems provide a
fruit, fish, etc.)			diverse range of food resources, including crops, fisheries, livestock, wild game, and foraged plants. These resources support
			human nutrition and food security. Woodland expansion can support food as a provisioning service by increasing pollinator
			abundance, the availability of forest foods such as wild mushrooms and providing shelter and shade to livestock, which in turn, will provide food to people.
Fibre and fuel			Forest ecosystems supply timber for construction, furniture, and paper products. Additionally, they provide fibres that are used
(e.g. timber,			in the production of textiles, ropes, and other materials.
wool, etc.)			The production of textiles, ropes, and other materials.
Genetic resources			The preservation of genetic resources in agriculture, forestry, and animal husbandry is a priority to ensure the continuity of
Genetic resources			genes and species. There is an ongoing loss of genetic diversity caused by the emphasis on productive species in agriculture and
			forestry practices to the detriment of native species. Native species play a crucial role in preserving genetic diversity as they
			possess unique characteristics such as disease resistance, efficient nutrient utilisation, and adaptation to local climate
			conditions. The preservation and promotion of genetic resources through woodland expansion may be extremely useful in
			safeguarding this service in the future.



Ornamental	Animal and plant products, such as skins, shells and flowers can be used as ornaments and whole plants are used for
resources (e.g.	landscaping and ornaments. It is unlikely for the woodland expansion project to significantly impact upon this service.
shells, flowers,	
etc.)	
Regulatory	(These are the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes)
services	
Air quality	The woodland expansion project is expected to have a positive impact on air quality regulation as an ecosystem service. As
regulation	trees grow, they play a vital role in the process of photosynthesis, absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and releasing
	oxygen. This process helps to reduce the concentration of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, in the air. Moreover, trees act as
	natural air filters by trapping and removing pollutants from the air, such as particulate matter and various gases. The foliage
	and bark of trees can capture and retain these pollutants, preventing them from being released back into the atmosphere. By
	expanding woodlands, the project will increase the density and diversity of vegetation, thereby enhancing the air purification
	capacity of the ecosystem.
Climate	Woodland expansion can contribute to mitigating climate change by acting as a carbon sink, sequestering carbon dioxide from
regulation	the atmosphere and storing it in tree biomass and soil. This reduces the overall greenhouse gas emissions and helps to regulate
	the global climate. By increasing the cover of biodiverse native woodlands within the project area, the woodland expansion
	project will enhance the capacity of the ecosystem to absorb and store carbon.
Water regulation	Woodland cover prevents soil erosion through root structure and increases soil health and complexity though mycorrhizal
	networks. Soil erosion is a key factor in the reduction of water quality, loss of soil fertility and contributes to decreased
	productivity of downstream fisheries. Water flow regulation is also a crucially important service provided by woodlands, and
	expanding the extant range of woodlands in the CNP will likely benefit downstream communities by the reduction in overall
	flow during storm periods. An increase in woodland cover may also reduce the pressure on downstream drainage systems by
	slowing water, with the underlying soil acting as a sponge by storing water in the pore spaces until it percolates as through-flow
	and base-flow.
Natural hazard	The woodland expansion project is expected to have a positive impact on natural hazard regulation as an ecosystem service.
regulation	Healthy woodlands play a significant role in mitigating and regulating natural hazards such as landslides, avalanches, forest
	fires. By expanding woodlands, the project can enhance these natural processes of natural hazard regulation. The increased
	coverage of trees and related vegetation can provide additional protection against landslides, avalanches, and fire, reducing the
	vulnerability of human communities and infrastructure to these hazards.



Pest regulation		Agricultural production relies not only on crops but on associated biodiversity in agro-ecosystems. Pests, diseases and weeds
		limit crop production, and are themselves limited by the action of their natural enemies, mostly arthropods and micro-
		organisms. Biological control, through an ecosystem approach, is a way to reduce pesticide use and enhance biodiversity while
		ensuring production. In addition, woodlands influence pest populations through ecological interactions and natural processes.
		One way in which woodlands contribute to pest regulation is by providing a habitat for a diverse range of natural predators,
		including birds, bats, insects, and other small mammals. These predators feed on pests such as insects, rodents, and other
		organisms that can cause damage to crops, trees, and other vegetation. By expanding woodlands, the project can create and
		enhance habitat for these natural predators, increasing their populations and their ability to regulate pest populations.
Disease		The woodland expansion project is expected to have a positive impact on disease regulation as an ecosystem service.
regulation		Woodlands play a crucial role in regulating diseases by influencing disease dynamics, promoting biodiversity, and providing
		habitat for natural enemies of pathogens. Promoting biodiversity within woodlands is another important factor in disease
		regulation. High biodiversity can reduce the impact of diseases by increasing ecosystem resilience. A diverse range of plant
		species can limit the build-up of specific pathogens by disrupting their life cycles and providing natural barriers. Biodiversity also
		supports a variety of beneficial organisms, such as insects and microorganisms, which can act as natural enemies of pathogens
		or help suppress their growth and spread.
Erosion		Woodland cover plays an important role in soil retention and the prevention of landslides. The woodland expansion project is
regulation		expected to have a positive impact on erosion regulation as an ecosystem service. Woodlands play a crucial role in preventing
		and mitigating soil erosion by stabilising the soil, reducing surface runoff, and promoting the infiltration of water into the
		ground. Tree roots help bind the soil particles together, providing structural support and reducing the likelihood of soil erosion.
		The extensive root systems of trees anchor the soil, preventing it from being easily washed away by wind or water. This is
		particularly important on sloping terrain where erosion is more prone to occur.
Water		Woodlands can be a source of impurities (e.g., in fresh water) but also can help to filter out and decompose organic wastes
purification and		introduced into inland waters and assimilate and detoxify compounds through soil and sub-soil processes. By expanding
waste treatment		woodlands, the project can enhance water purification and waste treatment. The increased tree cover and organic matter
		accumulation will contribute to improved water quality by filtering out pollutants, reducing sedimentation, and promoting
		natural processes of water purification. The woodlands will also aid in the decomposition of organic waste materials, enhancing
		nutrient cycling and waste treatment within the ecosystem.



Pollination	The woodland expansion project is expected to have a positive impact on pollination services as it creates a more diverse and
services	habitat-rich environment for pollinators such as bees, butterflies, birds, and other insects. Woodlands provide valuable floral
	resources, including nectar and pollen, that support pollinator populations. By expanding woodlands, the project increases the
	availability of flowering plants, shrubs, and trees that serve as food sources for pollinators throughout their life cycles. The
	diverse array of plant species in woodlands ensures a continuous and varied supply of nectar and pollen, sustaining pollinators
	throughout the year. The structure and composition of woodlands also play a role in supporting pollinators. Different tree
	species, understory plants, and vegetation layers create a variety of microhabitats that attract and support a diverse range of
	pollinator species.
Cultural services	(These are the nonmaterial benefits people obtain from ecosystems through spiritual enrichment, cognitive development,
	reflection, recreation, and aesthetic experience)
Cultural heritage	Many societies place high value on the maintenance of either historically important landscapes (cultural landscapes) or
	culturally significant species. Woodlands have deep-rooted cultural significance in Scottish society. They often hold historical,
	archaeological, and spiritual value, still serving as important sites for cultural practices, rituals, and traditions. Woodland
	expansion can contribute to the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage, including sacred sites, cultural landscapes,
	and traditional ecological knowledge associated with forests. This helps to maintain and strengthen the cultural identity and
	sense of place for local communities.
Recreation and	People often choose where to spend their leisure time based in part on the characteristics of the natural or cultivated
(eco) tourism	landscapes in a particular area. Woodlands provide opportunities for various recreational activities, such as hiking, nature
	walks, wildlife observation, and picnicking. The expansion of woodlands creates new areas for people to engage in outdoor
	activities, promoting physical exercise, relaxation, and a sense of connection with nature. Accessible and well-maintained trails
	and recreational facilities within the expanded woodlands can further enhance the cultural value and recreational opportunities
	for visitors and local communities.
Aesthetic value	Many people find beauty or aesthetic value in various aspects of ecosystems, as reflected in the support for parks, scenic drives,
	and the selection of housing locations. Woodland expansion enhances the visual appeal of the landscape, adding natural beauty
	and diversity. The presence of lush forests, vibrant foliage, and a variety of tree species can contribute to the aesthetic value of
	the surroundings. People often find solace and inspiration in the serene and picturesque qualities of woodlands, which can
	enhance their overall well-being and enjoyment of the natural environment.
Spiritual and	Many religions attach spiritual and religious values to ecosystems or their components. Although overtly religious connections
religious value	to ecosystems are less prevalent today, woodlands still offer solitude and seclusion, providing individuals with opportunities for
	contemplation, reflection, and seeking inner peace. The tranquillity and beauty of the woodland environment can facilitate
	spiritual experiences, mindfulness practices, and a sense of unity with the natural world.



Inspiration of art,	Woodlands have long been a source of inspiration for art and folklore, capturing the imaginations of artists, writers, and
folklore,	storytellers throughout history. The enchanting and mysterious nature of woodlands lends itself to the creation of captivating
architecture, etc.	artworks and the development of rich folklore. The story of the Giant of Kinveachy Forest, located between Aviemore, Boat of
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Garten and Carrbridge is just one of many.
Social relations	Ecosystems influence the types of social relations that are established in particular cultures. Less noticeable today in the
(e.g. fishing,	developed world due to the homogenisation of culture, particularly in regards to woodlands.
grazing, or	у по во предостава на предоста
cropping	
communities)	
Supporting	(Supporting services are those that are necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services. They differ from
services	provisioning, regulating, and cultural services in that their impacts on people are often indirect or occur over a very long time,
	whereas changes in the other categories have relatively direct and short-term impacts on people. (Some services, like erosion
	regulation, can be categorised as both a supporting and a regulating service, depending on the time scale and immediacy of
	their impact on people))
Soil formation	Humans do not directly use this as a service, but changes in soil formation would indirectly affect people through the impact on
	other services such as the provisioning service of food production. Because many provisioning services depend on soil fertility,
	the rate of soil formation influences human well-being in many ways. Woodlands contribute to the accumulation of organic
	matter in the soil. As trees shed leaves, twigs, and branches, these organic materials decompose on the forest floor, adding
	organic matter to the soil. This organic matter enhances soil fertility, improves its structure, and increases its water-holding
	capacity. The expansion of woodlands through the project will lead to a greater input of organic matter, promoting soil
	formation and nutrient cycling.
Primary	The assimilation or accumulation of energy and nutrients by organisms. Primary production provides the basis of the food web
production	for all higher consumers – herbivores as well as carnivores. Woodland expansion leads to an increase in the primary production
	of organic matter through photosynthesis. Trees and understory vegetation capture sunlight and convert it into energy, which
	fuels the growth and productivity of the ecosystem. This increased primary production provides a greater energy source for
	organisms within the woodland, supporting their assimilation and accumulation of energy.
Nutrient cycling	This indirect supporting service is required e. g. as the basis for crop production and plant growth. Woodland ecosystems have
	efficient nutrient cycling mechanisms. As organic matter, such as leaf litter and fallen branches, decomposes on the forest floor,
	nutrients are released back into the soil. This nutrient cycling promotes the availability of essential elements like nitrogen,
	phosphorus, and potassium, which are vital for organismal growth and metabolism.



Water recycling	Water cycles through ecosystems and is essential for living organisms. Woodland expansion can store water for longer allowing
	a more expansive distribution of water across the ecosystem.
Photosynthesis	Production of atmospheric oxygen through photosynthesis is often categorised as a supporting service since oxygen forms the
	basis for any animal life on Earth. Any impacts on the concentration of oxygen in the atmosphere through woodland expansion
	would only occur over an extremely long time.
Provision of	Habitat provision has vital long-term effects on diversity and species richness, and woodland systems play a significant role as
habitat	refuge for many species of birds, mammals, amphibians, bees, and butterflies. Woodland expansion creates new habitats and
	increases the overall availability of habitat for a wide range of plant and animal species. By establishing new woodlands or
	expanding existing ones, there is an increase in the total area of suitable habitat, providing opportunities for species to find
	shelter, food, breeding sites, and nesting locations. Woodland habitats support diverse communities of plant and animal
	species. The expansion of woodlands contributes to biodiversity enhancement by providing habitats for a variety of species,
	including trees, shrubs, understory plants, birds, mammals, insects, and fungi. Woodlands offer a range of microhabitats within
	their different layers, such as tree canopies, understory vegetation, fallen logs, and forest floors, supporting a wide array of
	species with different ecological requirements. Woodland expansion also allows for ecological succession to occur, leading to
	the development of more complex and mature habitats over time. As woodlands expand, pioneer species colonise the area,
	followed by intermediate species, and eventually steady-state species that are characteristic of mature woodlands. This
	progression provides a succession of habitats, benefiting species that rely on specific successional stages for feeding, nesting,
	and other ecological processes. Woodland expansion helps establish and enhance habitat connectivity in fragmented
	landscapes. By creating corridors of woodlands or connecting existing patches, species can move more freely between habitats,
	promoting gene flow, genetic diversity, and population resilience. Habitat connectivity is particularly crucial for species with
	large home ranges, migratory patterns, or those that depend on multiple habitats for their life cycle. Woodlands further offer a
	wide range of niche habitats, each with its own set of environmental conditions, microclimates, and ecological niches. The
	expansion of woodlands increases the availability of these niche habitats, such as deadwood habitats, tree cavities, forest
	edges, and understory vegetation. These specialised habitats support various species with specific adaptations and ecological
	requirements, including cavity-nesting birds, saprophytic fungi, and understory plants.



Table 10.3: Ecosystem Services Assessment - Peatland Restoration Project

Project 5b Peatlan	Project 5b Peatland Restoration			
Provisioning services	Baseline	Predicted	(These are the products obtained from ecosystems)	
Fresh water			An ecosystem service approach has the potential to strengthen freshwater management which aims to coordinate the conservation, management and sustainable development of water, land and resources across entire river basins.  Such integrated approaches are designed to maximise the social and economic outputs of freshwater ecosystems whilst preserving and restoring their ecological status. The peatland restoration project is expected to have positive effects on freshwater as an ecosystem service within the Cairngorms National Park. Peatlands act as natural filters, trapping sediments, and pollutants from water as it flows through their spongy vegetation and organic-rich soils. Peatlands provide unique habitats for a variety of plant and animal species, including specialised wetland plants, insects, birds, and amphibians. Restoring peatlands can create or improve habitats for freshwater-dependent species, contributing to the conservation and enhancement of freshwater biodiversity. Increased biodiversity in freshwater ecosystems can enhance ecosystem functioning and resilience. By restoring peatlands, the project can help improve water quality by reducing the amount of sediment, nutrients, and pollutants reaching freshwater systems. This leads to cleaner and healthier water, benefiting both aquatic organisms and human users.	
Food (e.g. crops, fruit, fish, etc.)			Virtually all ecosystems provide the conditions for growing, collecting, hunting or harvesting food and ecosystems provide a diverse range of food resources, including crops, fisheries, livestock, wild game, and foraged plants. These resources support human nutrition and food security. Restored peatlands have the potential to regulate water flows and maintain more consistent water availability, even during dry periods. This can be beneficial for agricultural activities that rely on sufficient water supply for irrigation, livestock watering, and aquaculture. Adequate water availability supports crop growth, livestock health, and fish production. Restored peatlands have higher organic matter content, improved water retention capacity, and enhanced microbial activity. These factors promote soil fertility and nutrient availability, which can positively influence the growth, yield, and quality of agricultural crops.	
Fibre and fuel (e.g. timber, wool, etc.)			Peatland restoration promotes sustainable resource management practices, including responsible timber harvesting. By implementing sustainable practices within the project area, the availability of timber can be maintained in the long term without compromising the integrity and functioning of the peatland ecosystem.	



Genetic resources	The preservation of genetic resources in agriculture, forestry, and animal husbandry is a priority to ensure the continuity of
Genetic resources	
	genes and species. There is an ongoing loss of genetic diversity caused by the emphasis on productive species in agriculture and
	forestry practices to the detriment of native species. Native species play a crucial role in preserving genetic diversity as they
	possess unique characteristics such as disease resistance, efficient nutrient utilisation, and adaptation to local climate
	conditions. Peatland restoration can contribute to the preservation and conservation of plant genetic resources. By restoring
	degraded peatlands, the project may create favourable conditions for the growth and development of various plant species,
	including those with valuable genetic traits. The restored peatland areas can serve as habitats for a diverse range of plant
	species, promoting biodiversity and maintaining genetic diversity within the ecosystem. This genetic diversity is important for
	the long-term adaptation and resilience of plant populations to environmental changes.
Ornamental	Animal and plant products, such as skins, shells and flowers can be used as ornaments and whole plants are used for
resources (e.g.	landscaping and ornaments. It is unlikely for the peatland restoration project to significantly impact upon this service.
shells, flowers,	
etc.)	
Regulatory	(These are the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes)
services	
Air quality	Peatlands are important carbon sinks, storing large amounts of carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere. When peatlands are
regulation	degraded or drained, carbon is released back into the atmosphere, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. By restoring
	peatlands, the project helps to sequester and store carbon, reducing the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere. This carbon
	sequestration process plays a crucial role in mitigating climate change and improving air quality. Peatland restoration can also
	help reduce air pollutants, including particulate matter (PM), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), and sulphur dioxide (SO2). Peatlands act
	as natural filters, trapping and retaining these pollutants, preventing them from being released into the air. The restoration of
	degraded peatlands can enhance their filtering capacity, improving air quality in the surrounding areas and reducing the
	potential negative impacts on human health and ecosystems.
Climate	Peatlands are highly effective carbon sinks, meaning they absorb and store large amounts of carbon dioxide (CO2) from the
regulation	atmosphere. By restoring degraded peatlands, the project can enhance carbon sequestration, helping to mitigate climate
	change by reducing the concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere. Healthy peatlands accumulate organic matter over time,
	which helps to lock away carbon for long periods. When peatlands are degraded or drained, they release carbon stored in the
	peat into the atmosphere as CO2. Additionally, the decomposition of peat in oxygen-deprived conditions can produce methane
	(CH4), another potent greenhouse gas. By restoring peatlands, the project can minimise these emissions, helping to reduce the
	overall greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change.
Į	overall greenhouse gas emissions and integate chinate change.



Water regulation		Restoring degraded peatlands can help improve water quality by reducing the amount of pollutants, such as sediment,
vvater regulation		nutrients, and organic matter, that are carried into water bodies. The project can help filter and retain these pollutants within
		the peatland system, preventing them from entering streams, rivers, and lakes. This contributes to cleaner and healthier water
		resources. Healthy peatlands also contribute to groundwater recharge by allowing water to infiltrate and replenish
		underground aquifers. This helps to maintain groundwater levels and supports the availability of freshwater for various uses,
		including drinking water supply and irrigation. By restoring peatlands, the project can enhance groundwater recharge
		processes, contributing to the overall water availability in the region.
Natural hazard		Peatlands are typically wet environments with high water content, making them less susceptible to wildfires. Restoring
regulation		peatlands helps maintain their moisture levels and prevents the drying out of peat, reducing the risk of peatland fires. By
		minimising the occurrence of wildfires, the project contributes to natural hazard regulation and helps protect surrounding
		ecosystems and communities from fire-related risks. Restoring peatlands can help mitigate the risk of flooding. Peatlands act as
		natural sponges, absorbing and storing large amounts of water during periods of heavy rainfall. By restoring degraded
		peatlands, their water-holding capacity is increased, allowing them to retain more water. This reduces the volume and peak
		flow of water entering rivers and streams, thereby decreasing the likelihood of flooding downstream.
Pest regulation		Agricultural production relies not only on crops but on associated biodiversity in agro-ecosystems. Pests, diseases and weeds
		limit crop production, and are themselves limited by the action of their natural enemies, mostly arthropods and micro-
		organisms. Biological control, through an ecosystem approach, is a way to reduce pesticide use and enhance biodiversity while
		ensuring production. Restoring peatlands involves improving the overall ecological health and biodiversity of the area. By
		creating a more diverse and balanced ecosystem, the project enhances the presence of natural predators, such as birds, bats,
		and insects, which play a crucial role in regulating pest populations. These predators help control pests by feeding on them or
		by creating an ecological balance that limits pest outbreaks. Peatland restoration can also provide suitable habitats for
		beneficial organisms, including insects, microbes, and other invertebrates, which are important for pest regulation. Many of
		these beneficial organisms serve as natural enemies of pests, either by preying on them, parasitising them, or competing with
		them for resources. By creating a favourable environment for these beneficial organisms, the project indirectly supports pest
		regulation.
		regulation.



Disease	Peatland restoration aims to improve the overall biodiversity and ecological health of the area. A diverse and balanced
regulation	ecosystem supports a wide range of species, including beneficial organisms such as insects, birds, and mammals. This increased
	biodiversity can help regulate disease dynamics by providing a buffer against the spread of pathogens. For example, diverse
	insect populations can help control disease-carrying pests or act as natural predators of disease vectors. Peatland restoration
	also involves improving the health and functionality of peat soils. Healthy soils with balanced nutrient cycling and microbial
	activity contribute to the overall resilience of plants and can help prevent the establishment and spread of soil-borne diseases.
	Disease-causing organisms may struggle to thrive in healthy soils, reducing the risk of disease outbreaks in agricultural or
	natural systems.
Erosion	Peatlands are characterised by the presence of vegetation, such as mosses, grasses, and shrubs, which play a crucial role in
regulation	preventing erosion. By restoring peatlands and promoting the growth of vegetation, the project helps to establish a dense cover
	that protects the soil surface from erosion caused by wind and water.
Water	Peatlands act as natural filters, removing pollutants and impurities from water as it passes through their porous and organic-
purification and	rich layers. By restoring peatlands, the project enhances their ability to filter and purify water, improving its quality. The
waste treatment	vegetation and peat layers in peatlands help to trap and retain pollutants, sediment, and excess nutrients, preventing them
	from reaching water bodies. This will help to maintain clean and healthy water sources within the Cairngorms National Park.
	Peatlands also play a crucial role in nutrient cycling, particularly the cycling of nitrogen and phosphorus. Through natural
	processes, peatlands can retain and store excess nutrients, preventing their release into water bodies where they can cause
	eutrophication and harm aquatic ecosystems. The restoration project helps to maintain the nutrient regulation capacity of
	peatlands, contributing to water purification by reducing nutrient pollution.
Pollination	Restored peatlands can offer suitable habitats for pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, and flies. The presence
services	of flowering plants and the restoration of native vegetation provide important food sources and nesting sites for these
	pollinators. The project contributes to creating or enhancing suitable habitats that support the life cycles and populations of
	pollinating species. Peatland restoration often involves reconnecting fragmented habitats and creating ecological corridors.
	These corridors can facilitate the movement of pollinators between different habitats, allowing for gene flow and genetic
	diversity among populations. Improved connectivity can enhance the resilience and stability of pollinator communities,
	ensuring their long-term survival and functioning.
Cultural services	(These are the nonmaterial benefits people obtain from ecosystems through spiritual enrichment, cognitive development,
	reflection, recreation, and aesthetic experience)



Cultural heritage		Many societies place high value on the maintenance of either historically important landscapes (cultural landscapes) or
		culturally significant species. Peatlands have a long history of human interaction and utilisation. They have been an integral part
		of the cultural heritage of local communities, often associated with traditional practices such as peat cutting and traditional
		land management. The restoration of peatlands can help preserve, and, if not revive, these traditional practices, then ensure
		the conservation of their historical import for future generations.
Recreation and		People often choose where to spend their leisure time based in part on the characteristics of the natural or cultivated
(eco) tourism		landscapes in a particular area. The scenic appeal of these landscapes can captivate visitors and residents alike, offering a sense
		of awe and appreciation for the natural world. Restored peatlands can also serve as key attractions for ecotourism. Eco-tourists
		who seek sustainable and nature-focused experiences are often drawn to destinations that prioritise conservation and offer
		unique ecological features. By promoting restored peatlands as ecotourism sites, the project can attract visitors interested in
		learning about peatland ecosystems, conservation practices, and their role in mitigating climate change.
Aesthetic value		Many people find beauty or aesthetic value in various aspects of ecosystems, as reflected in the support for parks, scenic drives,
		and the selection of housing locations. Peatlands often exhibit distinct visual features that add to their aesthetic value. These
		can include undulating terrain, patterned vegetation, vibrant mosses and lichens, colourful flowering plants, and atmospheric
		phenomena such as mist and reflections on water surfaces. The restoration of peatlands can highlight and amplify these
		dramatic features, creating visually captivating scenes. Peatland restoration also contributes to the preservation and
		enhancement of the natural beauty of the Cairngorms National Park. Restored peatlands showcase unique and visually striking
		landscapes, characterised by diverse vegetation, water features, and atmospheric conditions
Spiritual and		Many religions attach spiritual and religious values to ecosystems or their components. Peatland restoration fosters a deeper
religious value		connection with nature, which can be spiritually enriching. The serene and untouched nature of restored peatlands offers
		individuals an opportunity for contemplation, meditation, and a sense of harmony with the natural world. The tranquil
		atmosphere, the presence of diverse flora and fauna, and the unique visual and sensory experiences can evoke a spiritual
		connection and a sense of awe and reverence.
Inspiration of art,		Peatlands have often held a place in folklore and cultural narratives. The restoration of peatlands can revive and enhance local
folklore,		folklore and mythological stories associated with these landscapes: see the Goddess of Ballachulish. Folktales, legends, and oral
architecture, etc.		traditions that revolve around bog creatures, mystical beings, and the significance of peatlands in local history may be
		celebrated through cultural events, storytelling sessions, and community engagements.



Social relations	Ecosystems influence the types of social relations that are established in particular cultures. Less noticeable today in the
(e.g. fishing,	developed world due to the homogenisation of culture.
grazing, or	
cropping	
communities)	
Supporting	(Supporting services are those that are necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services. They differ from
services	provisioning, regulating, and cultural services in that their impacts on people are often indirect or occur over a very long time,
	whereas changes in the other categories have relatively direct and short-term impacts on people. (Some services, like erosion
	regulation, can be categorised as both a supporting and a regulating service, depending on the time scale and immediacy of
	their impact on people))
Soil formation	Humans do not directly use this as a service, but changes in soil formation would indirectly affect people through the impact on
	other services such as the provisioning service of food production. Because many provisioning services depend on soil fertility,
	the rate of soil formation influences human well-being in many ways. Peatlands are unique ecosystems characterized by the
	accumulation of partially decomposed organic matter called peat. Through the restoration of degraded peatlands, the process
	of peat accumulation can be revived. As peat accumulates over time, it contributes to the formation of organic-rich soil layers
	known as peat soils. These soils have unique characteristics and provide essential functions in ecosystems.
Primary	The assimilation or accumulation of energy and nutrients by organisms. Primary production provides the basis of the food web
production	for all higher consumers – herbivores as well as carnivores. Peatland restoration involves the re-establishment of vegetation in
	degraded or drained peatlands. By restoring the natural hydrological conditions and water levels, vegetation, including mosses,
	sedges, and shrubs, can recolonise the area. As vegetation regrows, it contributes to primary production by capturing sunlight
	and converting it into chemical energy through photosynthesis.
Nutrient cycling	This indirect supporting service is required e. g. as the basis for crop production and plant growth. Peatland restoration can
	improve nutrient availability in the ecosystem, which can positively influence primary production. Through the restoration of
	natural hydrological conditions, nutrient cycling processes, such as mineralisation and nutrient uptake by plants, are enhanced.
	Adequate nutrient availability supports the growth and productivity of vegetation, contributing to increased primary
	production.
Water recycling	Water cycles through ecosystems and is essential for living organisms. Peatlands have natural filtration properties that improve
	water quality. As water flows through the peat soil, it undergoes filtration and purification processes. Peat acts as a physical
	filter, removing sediments, pollutants, and excess nutrients from the water. The vegetation in restored peatlands further
	enhances water quality by absorbing and filtering pollutants, such as heavy metals and agricultural runoff. This natural filtration
	process contributes to water recycling by improving the overall quality of water within the ecosystem.



Photosynthesis		Production of atmospheric oxygen through photosynthesis is often categorised as a supporting service since oxygen forms the
		basis for any animal life on Earth. Any impacts on the concentration of oxygen in the atmosphere through peatland restoration
		would only occur over an extremely long time.
Provision of		Habitat provision has vital long-term effects on diversity and species richness, and woodland systems play a significant role as
habitat		refuge for many species of birds, mammals, amphibians, bees, and butterflies. Peatland restoration plays a crucial role in
		providing habitat provision as an ecosystem service. Peatlands are unique and valuable ecosystems that support a wide range
		of specialised plant and animal species. Through restoration efforts, degraded or damaged peatlands can be rehabilitated,
		creating suitable habitats for these species to thrive. Restoration involves re-establishing the hydrological conditions, promoting
		the growth of peat-forming vegetation, and enhancing the overall ecological functioning of the peatland. The recovery of peat-
		forming vegetation, such as sphagnum mosses and other wetland plants, provides suitable habitats for a range of specialised
		species, including insectivorous plants, bog orchids, and rare bird species. Peatlands also offer unique niche habitats that
		support specialised species adapted to the specific ecological conditions found in these wetland ecosystems. Restoring
		peatlands helps recreate these niche habitats, such as acidic bog pools, fen meadows, and open water areas. These habitats
		provide breeding grounds, feeding areas, and shelter for various organisms, including amphibians, insects, birds, and rare flora.
		Peatland restoration further contributes to habitat provision by enhancing landscape connectivity. Restored peatlands can act
		as stepping-stones or corridors, connecting fragmented habitats and facilitating the movement of species across the landscape.
		This connectivity is particularly important for species with large home ranges or those that depend on multiple habitats for their
		life cycle.



**Table 10.4: Ecosystem Service Assessment - Climate Resilient Catchments** 

Project 5c Climate	Resilient Cat	chments	
Provisioning services	Baseline	Predicted	(These are the products obtained from ecosystems)
Fresh water			An ecosystem service approach has the potential to strengthen freshwater management which aims to coordinate the conservation, management and sustainable development of water, land and resources across entire river basins. Such integrated approaches are designed to maximise the social and economic outputs of freshwater ecosystems whilst preserving and restoring their ecological status. The Climate Resilient Catchments project emphasises the restoration and improvement of floodplains and riverine habitat and in doing so, the project can improve ecosystem resilience and maintain or enhance the quality of freshwater resources. This benefits the ecosystem service of fresh water by ensuring clean and safe water for various uses, including drinking water, aquatic habitats, and recreational activities.
Food (e.g. crops, fruit, fish, etc.)			Virtually all ecosystems provide the conditions for growing, collecting, hunting or harvesting food and ecosystems provide a diverse range of food resources, including crops, fisheries, livestock, wild game, and foraged plants. These resources support human nutrition and food security. The project's efforts to improve water quality, reduce pollution, and restore freshwater ecosystems contribute to the health and sustainability of fish populations. By restoring natural habitats, promoting responsible fishing practices, and reducing the impacts of climate change on aquatic ecosystems, the project will help to maintain or enhance fish stocks. This supports the provision of fish as an important food resource and helps sustain local aquaculture.
Fibre and fuel (e.g. timber, wool, etc.)			No connectivity between the restoration of catchments in the CNP and the provision of fibre and fuel as an ecosystem resources.
Genetic resources			The project aims to restore and protect natural habitats within the catchment area, which plays a crucial role in conserving genetic resources. By preserving diverse ecosystems and their associated flora and fauna, the project helps safeguard the genetic diversity of terrestrial and aquatic plant and animal species. Genetic resources are the heritable materials within these species that provide valuable traits, genetic variation, and potential resilience to environmental changes. The project focuses on promoting the conservation and restoration of native species (freshwater mussel, Atlantic salmon) within the catchment area. Native species often possess unique genetic characteristics and adaptations to local environmental conditions. Protecting and restoring their habitats ensures the preservation of their genetic resources.



Ornamental	Animal and plant products, such as skins, shells and flowers can be used as ornaments and whole plants are used for
resources (e.g.	landscaping and ornaments. It is unlikely for the catchment project to significantly impact upon this service.
shells, flowers,	
etc.)	
Regulatory	(These are the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes)
services	
Air quality	The Climate Resilient Catchment project may focus on the restoration and conservation of riparian zones and wetlands within
regulation	the catchment area. These ecosystems act as natural buffers and filters, trapping pollutants and sediment before they reach
	water bodies and the atmosphere. Wetlands, in particular, have the ability to remove excess nutrients and pollutants from
	water, preventing their release into the air. By protecting and restoring these habitats, the project indirectly contributes to
	improving air quality by reducing the transport of pollutants.
Climate	The project's focus on catchment management can contribute to regulating the water cycle, which is closely linked to climate
regulation	regulation. By implementing measures to enhance water retention, such as restoring wetlands and improving soil water-holding
	capacity, the project helps regulate the flow of water within the catchment area. This can mitigate the impacts of extreme
	weather events, such as floods and droughts, which are influenced by climate change. Maintaining a balanced water cycle
	supports climate regulation by stabilising regional climate patterns and reducing the vulnerability of ecosystems and
	communities to climate-related risks.



Water regulation	 The Climate Resilient Catchment project can play a significant role in water regulation as an ecosystem service. One of the
Trater regulation	primary goals of the project is to reduce the risk of flooding within the catchment area. It does so by implementing measures
	that enhance natural water regulation processes. For example, the restoration of wetlands, creation of floodplains, and
	reforestation can increase water storage capacity and slow down the movement of water during heavy rainfall events. These
	interventions help to reduce the peak flow of water, alleviate pressure on river systems, and mitigate the risk of flooding
	downstream. By managing water more effectively, the project contributes to maintaining water balance and regulating the flow
	of water within the catchment. The Climate Resilient Catchment project also focuses on improving water retention within the
	catchment area. By restoring and conserving wetlands, improving soil health, and implementing sustainable land management
	practices, the project helps to increase the capacity of the landscape to retain water. This enhanced water retention contribute
	to drought resilience by ensuring a more sustainable water supply during dry periods. By regulating the availability of water
	resources, the project supports both ecological functioning and human water needs within the catchment. The project also
	contributes to water regulation by improving water quality. The project recognises the critical role of healthy ecosystems in
	water regulation. By restoring and conserving riparian zones, wetlands, and forests, the project supports the natural functioning
	of these ecosystems in water regulation processes. Vegetation and soil within these ecosystems act as natural filters, absorbing
	excess nutrients and pollutants and improving water quality. Additionally, the project's focus on preserving and restoring
	natural hydrological features, such as rivers and wetlands, contributes to maintaining the hydrological balance and overall
	water regulation within the catchment.
Natural hazard	The relationship between natural hazard regulation and the catchment project is significant. By implementing specific
regulation	interventions and measures, such as floodplain restoration, water storage, and improved land management practices, the
	project seeks to reduce the impacts of natural hazards, particularly flooding, on local communities. The catchment project
	recognises that historic changes in land management, including woodland loss and peatland degradation, have contributed to a
	reduction in the natural capacity of catchments to mitigate the impacts of climate change. This has led to increased flood event
	and other natural hazards in the affected communities. Through the project's interventions, such as the restoration of
	floodplains and the implementation of water storage mechanisms, the catchment's ability to regulate water flow and reduce
	flood risks is improved. This helps in mitigating the impact of natural hazards on communities living within the catchment areas
	Moreover, by focusing on land management strategies that enhance biodiversity and ecological health, the catchment project
	indirectly contributes to natural hazard regulation. Healthy ecosystems, with diverse habitats and species, are better equipped
	to withstand and buffer against natural hazards such as storms, fires and erosion. They provide natural protection and resilience
	to the surrounding areas, reducing the vulnerability of communities to these hazards.
	to the surrounding areas, reducing the vulnerability of confinitionities to these nazarus.



Pest regulation	Agricultural production relies not only on crops but on associated biodiversity in agro-ecosystems. Pests, diseases and weeds
	limit crop production, and are themselves limited by the action of their natural enemies, mostly arthropods and micro-
	organisms. Biological control, through an ecosystem approach, is a way to reduce pesticide use and enhance biodiversity while
	ensuring production. In addition, creating or restoring ecological corridors within the catchment areas can facilitate the
	movement of beneficial organisms, such as predators and pollinators, which play a crucial role in pest regulation. These
	corridors provide pathways for the natural dispersal of beneficial species, allowing them to reach areas affected by pests.
Disease	Diverse ecosystems tend to have a greater resilience to diseases as they support a wide range of species and ecological
regulation	interactions. By preserving natural habitats and promoting biodiversity, the catchment project contributes to maintaining a
	healthy ecosystem that can better resist and regulate diseases.
Erosion	One of the key strategies in erosion regulation is the establishment and management of vegetation. By planting native
regulation	vegetation, such as trees, shrubs, and grasses, in catchment and floodplain areas, the project can help stabilise the soil and
	reduce erosion. The roots of the vegetation bind the soil particles together, preventing their detachment and transport by
	water. The vegetation also helps slow down water flow, allowing sediments to settle and reducing the erosive force of the
	water. Restoring riparian buffer zones along rivers and streams is also an effective measure to regulate erosion. These zones
	consist of vegetation, including trees and bushes, along the banks of water bodies. They act as natural buffers, trapping
	sediments and reducing the impact of water flow on the banks. By establishing and maintaining riparian buffer zones,
	catchment and floodplain restoration projects help protect the banks from erosion, maintain water quality, and create habitat
	for wildlife.
Water	Wetlands are known for their exceptional capacity to purify water and treat wastewater naturally. Catchment and floodplain
purification and	restoration projects often focus on restoring and conserving wetland areas. Wetlands are effective at removing pollutants,
waste treatment	excess nutrients, and sediments from water. They provide a range of physical, chemical, and biological processes that
	contribute to water purification. Wetlands also serve as habitat for various microorganisms, plants, and animals that assist in
	breaking down organic matter and filtering water. Restoring riparian vegetation helps trap and filter pollutants, sediment, and
	nutrients before they reach water bodies. The roots of riparian plants also enhance water infiltration and stabilise the soil,
	reducing erosion and preventing the transport of pollutants.



Pollination	Catchment and floodplain	restoration projects can have positive impacts on pollination services, which are crucial for the
services	reproduction of many plai	nts and the production of fruits, seeds, and other agricultural crops. Catchment restoration projects
	often involve the establish	ment or enhancement of diverse vegetation communities, including native flowering plants. These
	vegetation patches provid	e habitat and food resources for a wide range of pollinators, including bees, butterflies, moths, and
	other insects. By creating	or expanding suitable habitats, restoration projects can attract and support a diverse pollinator
	community, increasing the	e availability of pollinators in the surrounding areas. Restoration projects that prioritise native plant
	species, especially those v	vith high nectar and pollen production, can significantly increase the availability of floral resources for
	pollinators. By promoting	the growth of native flowering plants, restoration efforts provide a diverse and abundant supply of
	food for pollinators throug	shout their active seasons. This abundance of flowers increases the chances of successful pollination
	and promotes the health a	and diversity of pollinator populations. Catchment and floodplain restoration projects also often aim
	to create ecological conne	ctivity between different habitats. By establishing green corridors and connecting fragmented
	habitats, these projects fa	cilitate the movement of pollinators between different areas, allowing for more efficient and
	widespread pollination. In	creased connectivity also benefits plants by facilitating gene flow and genetic diversity, which is
	essential for their long-ter	m survival and adaptation to changing environmental conditions.
Cultural services	(These are the nonmateria	al benefits people obtain from ecosystems through spiritual enrichment, cognitive development,
	reflection, recreation, and	aesthetic experience)
Cultural heritage	Many societies place high	value on the maintenance of either historically important landscapes (cultural landscapes) or
	culturally significant speci	es. Many catchment and floodplain areas have significant historical and cultural value and the CNP is
	home to several large cate	hments areas. By restoring the natural ecosystems and associated cultural elements, such as
		es these projects help maintain the cultural identity and heritage of the local communities.
Recreation and	People often choose when	e to spend their leisure time based in part on the characteristics of the natural or cultivated
(eco) tourism	landscapes in a particular	area. Catchment restoration can improve the ecological health and beauty of catchments and
		ancement creates more appealing and diverse natural landscapes that attract visitors interested in
	outdoor recreational activ	ities and nature-based experiences. The restored areas offer opportunities for hiking, wildlife
		ayaking, photography, and other recreational pursuits, providing visitors with memorable
		d revitalised environment.
Aesthetic value		or aesthetic value in various aspects of ecosystems, as reflected in the support for parks, scenic drives,
		ng locations. Catchment and floodplain restoration projects aim to restore natural landscapes by re-
		tion, improving water features, and revitalising the overall ecological balance. These efforts result in
	, ,       •	ents that showcase the beauty of natural elements such as forests, wetlands, rivers, and meadows.
	The restored landscapes p	provide a sense of harmony, tranquillity, and scenic beauty.



Spiritual and	Restoring catchments and floodplains brings attention to the importance of nature and its intricate ecological processes. These
religious value	projects emphasise the interconnectedness of all living beings and the natural world, aligning with spiritual and religious beliefs
	that recognise the sacredness of nature. By promoting the restoration and conservation of these ecosystems, they encourage a
	sense of stewardship and reverence for the Earth and its natural resources. Restored catchments and floodplains often offer
	serene and tranquil environments. The presence of flowing rivers, rejuvenated wetlands, and restored habitats creates a sense
	of peace and harmony. Such tranquil settings can be conducive to contemplation, meditation, and spiritual reflection, providing
	individuals with opportunities to connect with their inner selves and find solace in nature.
Inspiration of art,	The restored landscapes, diverse ecosystems, and natural beauty found in river catchments and floodplains can inspire artists of
folklore,	various disciplines, including painters, photographers, sculptors, and writers. The unique flora and fauna, changing seasons, and
architecture, etc.	the interplay of light and shadow provide rich subject matter for artistic interpretation. Artists may capture the essence of
	restored landscapes, wildlife, or water bodies in their works, conveying the beauty and significance of these environments to a
	wider audience. Restoration projects can also rekindle interest in folklore narratives, allowing communities to reconnect with
	their cultural heritage (e.g. the Spey Kelpies and Spey Stone). Folklore and storytelling serve as a means to transmit knowledge,
	values, and beliefs related to the land, fostering a sense of identity and strengthening the connection between people and their
	restored environments.
Social relations	Ecosystems influence the types of social relations that are established in particular cultures. Less noticeable today in the
(e.g. fishing,	developed world due to the homogenisation of culture.
grazing, or	
cropping	
communities)	
Supporting	(Supporting services are those that are necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services. They differ from
services	provisioning, regulating, and cultural services in that their impacts on people are often indirect or occur over a very long time,
	whereas changes in the other categories have relatively direct and short-term impacts on people. (Some services, like erosion
	regulation, can be categorised as both a supporting and a regulating service, depending on the time scale and immediacy of
	their impact on people))



Soil formation	Humans do not directly use this as a service, but changes in soil formation would indirectly affect people through the impact on
	other services such as the provisioning service of food production. Because many provisioning services depend on soil fertility,
	the rate of soil formation influences human well-being in many ways. Catchment and floodplain restoration projects play a
	significant role in soil formation as an ecosystem service. Restoration projects often involve the diversion of water flow and the
	creation of channels, wetlands, and floodplains. These areas serve as natural sediment traps, allowing sediment-laden water to
	slow down and deposit sediment particles. Over time, this sediment builds up, contributing to the formation of new soil layers.
	The deposition of sediments enhances soil fertility and nutrient content, creating a favourable environment for plant growth
	and ecosystem development.
Primary	Floodplain restoration projects often involve planting native vegetation, including grasses, shrubs, and trees, within catchments
production	and floodplains. The establishment of vegetation increases primary production by supporting photosynthesis, the process
	through which plants convert sunlight, carbon dioxide, and water into organic matter and oxygen. As vegetation cover expands,
	primary producers such as plants and algae thrive, leading to higher rates of primary production. The project may also improve
	soil fertility and nutrient cycling within catchments and floodplains by increasing sediment deposition and organic matter
	accumulation to enhance nutrient availability in the ecosystem. Nutrients, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, are
	essential for plant growth and primary production. Increased nutrient availability facilitates the uptake and utilisation of these
	resources by primary producers, leading to enhanced primary production rates.
Nutrient cycling	This indirect supporting service is required e. g. as the basis for crop production and plant growth. By enhancing sediment and
	nutrient retention, promoting organic matter accumulation, facilitating nutrient uptake by vegetation, supporting microbial
	activity, and protecting riparian zones and wetlands, catchment and floodplain restoration projects positively influence nutrient
	cycling. These projects help maintain nutrient balance, improve soil fertility, and sustain the availability of essential nutrients for
	plants, animals, and other organisms within the ecosystem.
Water recycling	Water cycles through ecosystems and is essential for living organisms. The project may involve the creation of ponds, wetlands,
	and floodplains that act as natural reservoirs for water storage. These areas help to capture and retain water during periods of
	high precipitation, such as heavy rainfall or snowmelt. By storing water, these habitats ensure a continuous water supply during
	drier periods, promoting water recycling within the ecosystem.
Photosynthesis	Production of atmospheric oxygen through photosynthesis is often categorised as a supporting service since oxygen forms the
	basis for any animal life on Earth. Any impacts on the concentration of oxygen in the atmosphere through floodplain restoration
	would only occur over an extremely long time.



Provision of habitat

Floodplain restoration projects aim to recreate or enhance natural floodplain ecosystems. By restoring floodplains to their natural state, including wetlands, meadows, and riparian areas, a diverse range of habitats can be created. These habitats provide suitable conditions for various plant and animal species, leading to increased biodiversity. Floodplain restoration projects often involve reconnecting rivers and streams to their floodplains, allowing for the movement of water, sediments, and organisms. This increased connectivity between aquatic and terrestrial habitats promotes the exchange of species, facilitates migration, and enhances ecological processes. Floodplain restoration also typically involves the establishment and conservation of riparian vegetation along watercourses. Riparian zones serve as important habitats for a wide range of species, including birds, mammals, amphibians, and insects. These vegetated areas provide food, nesting sites, and shelter, supporting the life cycles of numerous organisms. Furthermore, the restoration project may include the creation of wetlands, which are highly productive and biodiverse ecosystems. Wetlands provide habitat for a variety of plant and animal species, including waterfowl, amphibians, fish, and insects. They offer feeding grounds, breeding sites, and refuge for many species, contributing to overall habitat provision. Restored floodplains perform essential ecological functions that support habitat provision. They help regulate water flows, improve water quality, and provide nutrient cycling, creating favourable conditions for diverse plant and animal communities. These ecological processes contribute to the functioning and resilience of habitats within the floodplain.



**Table 10.5: Ecosystem Service Assessment - Cairngorms Future Farming** 

Provisioning	Baseline	Predicted	(These are the products obtained from ecosystems)
services			
Fresh water			An ecosystem service approach has the potential to strengthen freshwater management which aims to coordinate the
			conservation, management and sustainable development of water, land and resources across entire river basins. Such
			integrated approaches are designed to maximise the social and economic outputs of freshwater ecosystems whilst preserving
			and restoring their ecological status. Sustainable farming practices, such as reduced fertiliser use and improved management of
			floodplains, can contribute to better water quality in freshwater ecosystems. By minimising the application of agrochemicals,
			the project helps to reduce the risk of nutrient runoff and the subsequent eutrophication of water bodies. This is beneficial for
			both aquatic species and human water consumption. The restoration of floodplains and the management of grazing regimes
			can also contribute to the preservation and restoration of riparian zones and wetlands. These habitats play a crucial role in
			regulating water flow, filtering pollutants, and providing habitat for numerous species. By enhancing these areas, the project
			indirectly supports the quality and functioning of freshwater ecosystems within the park.
Food (e.g. crops,			Virtually all ecosystems provide the conditions for growing, collecting, hunting or harvesting food and ecosystems provide a
fruit, fish, etc.)			diverse range of food resources, including crops, fisheries, livestock, wild game, and foraged plants. These resources support
			human nutrition and food security. The Cairngorms Future Farming project directly relates to food as a provisioning ecosystem
			service. The project's focus on sustainable farming practices and improved land management techniques can have significant
			implications for the production of crops, fruits, and fish within the Cairngorms National Park. The project promotes sustainable
			agricultural practices that aim to reduce the environmental impact of farming while ensuring the long-term productivity of
			agricultural lands. By implementing methods such as organic farming, agroforestry, and reduced fertiliser use, the project
			supports the cultivation of crops and fruits in an environmentally friendly manner that aims to ensure the long-term feasibility
			of extensive farming practices.
Fibre and fuel			Agroforestry, an approach that combines trees and agricultural crops or livestock, is promoted by the project. Agroforestry
(e.g. timber,			systems provide multiple benefits, including the potential production of timber and other fibre resources. The integration of
wool, etc.)	X		trees within agricultural landscapes may allow for sustainable timber production alongside food and livestock production.
			Agroforestry can provide fuelwood, timber, and other woody biomass, contributing to local energy needs and reducing reliance
•			on non-renewable energy sources.



Canatia resources	The relationship between the Coirngarms Future Forming project and genetic resources as an accountage coming lies in their
Genetic resources	The relationship between the Cairngorms Future Farming project and genetic resources as an ecosystem service lies in their
	mutual recognition of the importance of preserving and utilising genetic diversity within the agricultural and natural systems of
	the Cairngorms National Park. The Future Farming project emphasises the conservation and restoration of biodiversity within
_	the national park. This includes protecting and managing the genetic diversity of wild plant and animal species, which serve as
_	valuable genetic resources. By safeguarding the diversity of native species, the project helps maintain the resilience of
_	ecosystems and ensures the availability of genetic resources for future use. The project acknowledges the value of traditional
_	crop and livestock varieties that have adapted to local conditions over generations. These varieties often possess unique
_	genetic traits, such as disease resistance or tolerance to harsh climates, which can be utilised in breeding programs to enhance
_	the resilience and productivity of agricultural systems. The project supports the conservation and promotion of traditional
_	varieties, ensuring the availability of genetic resources for future agricultural development. The project promotes sustainable
_	farming practices that help maintain and enhance genetic diversity. For example, by implementing agroforestry systems, crop
_	rotation, and mixed farming methods, farmers can support a wide range of plant and animal species, increasing the genetic
_	
_	diversity within agricultural landscapes. This approach not only benefits the ecological balance but also provides opportunities
_	for the discovery and utilisation of new genetic resources. Lastly, the Cairngorms Future Farming project encourages
_	collaboration among farmers, researchers, and local communities. Through knowledge exchange and partnerships, the project
_	facilitates the sharing of information on genetic resources. This may include traditional knowledge about local crop varieties, as
_	well as scientific research on genetic diversity and its importance for sustainable agriculture.
Ornamental	Animal and plant products, such as skins, shells and flowers can be used as ornaments and whole plants are used for
resources (e.g.	landscaping and ornaments. It is unlikely for the future farming project to significantly impact upon this service.
shells, flowers,	
etc.)	
Regulatory	(These are the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes)
services	



Air quality		The Future Farming project can have a positive impact on air quality regulation through various practices and initiatives that
regulation		aim to reduce air pollution and promote sustainable farming methods. The Future Farming project emphasises the adoption of
		sustainable agricultural practices that minimise the use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides. By promoting organic farming
		methods, precision agriculture techniques, and integrated pest management, the project helps reduce the release of air
		pollutants associated with conventional farming practices. This includes the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) such as
		carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ), nitrous oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O), and methane (CH <sup>4</sup> ), as well as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and ammonia
		(NH₃). The Future Farming project encourages the implementation of agroforestry systems and the planting of windbreaks.
		Trees and hedgerows act as natural barriers, reducing wind speed and can help in minimising the dispersion of airborne
		pollutants from agricultural activities. They also contribute to carbon sequestration, enhancing overall air quality and mitigating
		climate change impacts.
Climate		The Future Farming project can have significant impacts on climate regulation as an ecosystem service. Climate regulation
regulation		refers to the ability of ecosystems to absorb and store carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) from the
		atmosphere, mitigating climate change impacts. The project promotes practices that enhance carbon sequestration in
		agricultural landscapes. By adopting agroforestry systems, cover cropping, and conservation tillage, farmers can increase the
		organic matter content in the soil, leading to enhanced carbon storage. Trees and vegetation play a crucial role in sequestering
		carbon through photosynthesis, helping to reduce the concentration of CO <sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. The Future Farming project
		emphasises the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices that minimise the release of GHGs. By reducing the use of
		synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, optimising nutrient management, and practicing precision agriculture, farmers can decrease
		GHG emissions, such as nitrous oxide and methane. These gases have significantly higher global warming potentials compared
		to CO2, and their reduction contributes to climate regulation.



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Water regulation	The Future Farming project can have significant impacts on water regulation as an ecosystem service. Water regulation refers to
	the ability of ecosystems to regulate the flow, quality, and availability of water within a watershed. The project emphasises
	sustainable water management practices in agriculture. By promoting efficient irrigation techniques, such as drip irrigation and
	precision irrigation, farmers can minimise water wastage and improve water use efficiency. This helps to conserve water
	resources and maintain the natural flow of water within the ecosystem. The project encourages the adoption of conservation
	practices that help reduce water runoff and erosion. By implementing measures such as contour ploughing, terracing, and cover
	cropping, farmers can prevent soil erosion and retain water within the landscape. This helps to recharge groundwater reserves
	and maintain the natural hydrological cycle. The project also promotes the protection and restoration of riparian zones—the
	areas along rivers, streams, and water bodies. These zones play a critical role in water regulation by filtering pollutants,
	reducing sedimentation, and stabilising riverbanks. By implementing buffer strips and vegetation conservation measures,
	farmers can help maintain water quality and regulate water flow. Wetlands are important for water regulation as they act as
	natural filters and reservoirs, and The Future Farming project encourages the preservation and restoration of wetlands within
	agricultural landscapes. By protecting these areas, farmers can promote water purification, flood mitigation, and habitat
	conservation.
Natural hazard	The Future Farming project can have an impact on natural hazard regulation as an ecosystem service. Natural hazard regulation
regulation	refers to the ability of ecosystems to mitigate and regulate the impacts of natural hazards such as floods, landslides, and
	wildfires. Trees, forests, and other vegetation provide important natural barriers and can help regulate natural hazards. They
	can act as windbreaks, reducing the impact of strong winds and protecting against storm damage. They also help stabilise
	slopes, reducing the risk of landslides, and provide shade that can moderate temperature extremes and reduce the risk of
	wildfires.



Pest regulation	Agricultural production relies not only on crops but on associated biodiversity in agro-ecosystems. Pests, diseases and weeds
	limit crop production, and are themselves limited by the action of their natural enemies, mostly arthropods and micro-
	organisms. Biological control, through an ecosystem approach, is a way to reduce pesticide use and enhance biodiversity while
	ensuring production. The Future Framing project emphasises the preservation and restoration of natural habitats within
	agricultural landscapes. Maintaining diverse ecosystems and providing suitable habitats for natural enemies of pests, such as
	birds, bats, and beneficial insects, can enhance pest regulation. These organisms act as natural predators and help control pest
	populations by feeding on them or parasitising them. By preserving natural habitats, the project supports the presence of these
	natural enemies and promotes pest regulation. The Future Farming project may also encourage practices such as crop rotation
	and polyculture, where different crops are grown together in the same field. These practices disrupt pest life cycles and reduce
	the build-up of pests that are specific to certain crops. Additionally, diverse crop mixtures can confuse and deter pests, making
	it harder for them to locate and attack their preferred hosts. By implementing these practices, farmers can naturally reduce
	pest pressures and improve pest regulation and overall resilience.
Disease	Diverse ecosystems tend to have a greater resilience to diseases as they support a wide range of species and ecological
regulation	interactions. The Future Farming project emphasises the importance of soil health and the use of organic practices. Healthy
	soils support robust plant growth and resilience, making crops less susceptible to diseases. By enhancing soil fertility, organic
	matter content, and nutrient availability, farmers can improve the overall health and vitality of their crops, making them more
	resistant to diseases. Healthy plants have stronger immune systems, allowing them to better defend against pathogens and
	reduce disease incidence.
Erosion	The Future Farming project can have positive impacts on erosion regulation as an ecosystem service. Erosion regulation refers
regulation	to the ability of ecosystems to prevent or mitigate soil erosion, which is the process of soil being displaced by wind or water.
	The Future Farming may project promotes the establishment of buffer zones and riparian areas along water bodies. Buffer
	zones are areas of vegetation, such as grasses, trees, or shrubs, that act as a barrier between agricultural fields and water
	bodies. These zones help filter sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants, reducing their transport into water bodies and
	minimising erosion. Riparian areas, which are strips of vegetation along rivers and streams, provide similar erosion control
	functions by stabilising the banks and reducing sediment runoff.
Water	The Future Farming project may have positive impacts on water purification and waste treatment as ecosystem services. Water
purification and	purification and waste treatment refer to the ability of ecosystems to filter and cleanse water, removing contaminants and
waste treatment	improving water quality. By adopting precision agriculture techniques, farmers could optimise the application of fertilisers and
	potentially minimise nutrient runoff into water bodies. This has the potential to reduce the risk of nutrient pollution, such as
	excessive nitrogen and phosphorus, which can degrade water quality and cause harmful algal blooms. Proper nutrient
	management may help maintain a balanced nutrient load in agricultural runoff, potentially enhancing water purification.



		The project may also promote the establishment and conservation of riparian zones and wetlands. Riparian zones are vegetated
		areas along rivers, streams, and water bodies, while wetlands are water-saturated habitats. These ecosystems can act as
		natural filters, trapping sediments, nutrients, and pollutants from agricultural runoff before they enter water bodies. Riparian
		vegetation and wetland plants have the potential to absorb and metabolise contaminants, potentially improving water quality and promoting water purification.
Pollination		The Future Farming project could potentially have positive impacts on pollination services as an ecosystem service. The project
services		may promote biodiversity conservation by implementing practices that support diverse habitats and ecosystems. Maintaining a variety of flowering plants, altering mowing schedules to allow them to bloom and providing suitable nesting sites and habitats
		for pollinators can enhance their abundance and diversity. By preserving natural areas, creating wildflower strips, or incorporating hedgerows and flowering cover crops, the project could attract and support a diverse range of pollinators,
		including bees, butterflies, and other insects. The Future Farming project may also encourage the reduction of pesticide use or
		the adoption of alternative pest management strategies. Pesticides, particularly insecticides, can have negative impacts on pollinators by directly harming them or affecting their behaviour and reproductive capabilities. By implementing integrated pest
		management (IPM) techniques, farmers may use targeted pest control methods while minimising the impact on beneficial
		insects like pollinators. This approach could help protect pollinators and maintain healthy populations for efficient pollination.
Cultural services		(These are the nonmaterial benefits people obtain from ecosystems through spiritual enrichment, cognitive development,
		reflection, recreation, and aesthetic experience)
Cultural heritage		The Future Farming project may have indirect impacts on cultural heritage as an ecosystem service. Cultural heritage refers to
		the cultural practices, traditions, knowledge, and artifacts that are passed down through generations and contribute to a
		community's identity and sense of place. While the project primarily focuses on sustainable farming practices and ecosystem
		services, it can indirectly influence cultural heritage. The project recognises and seeks to support traditional farming practices
		that have deep cultural significance. Many farming communities have unique methods and knowledge that have been
		developed and refined over generations. By acknowledging and integrating traditional practices into the project, it can help
		preserve cultural heritage associated with farming techniques. The project's emphasis on sustainable farming practices and
		environmental stewardship may also attract visitors and tourists interested in experiencing authentic agricultural traditions and
		cultural heritage. This increased tourism can provide economic opportunities for local communities and contribute to the
		preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. Additionally, educational initiatives and interpretive materials associated with
		the project can raise awareness among visitors and locals about the cultural significance of farming practices and their
		connection to the land.



Recreation and		People often choose where to spend their leisure time based in part on the characteristics of the natural or cultivated		
(eco) tourism		landscapes in a particular area. The Future Farming project may have impacts on recreation and (eco) tourism as an ecosystem		
		service. Recreation and tourism are important aspects of ecosystem services as they provide opportunities for people to engage		
		with and enjoy natural environments. The Future Farming project may encourage farm-based tourism initiatives that allow		
		visitors to experience rural life, learn about sustainable farming practices, and engage in agricultural activities. Farm tours, farm		
		stays, or farm-to-table experiences can provide recreational and educational opportunities, allowing tourists to connect with		
		the land, understand food production processes, and appreciate the cultural heritage associated with farming. The project may		
		also contribute to the preservation and enhancement of natural landscapes, including farmland, forests, wetlands, and other		
		natural habitats. These well-managed and visually appealing landscapes can attract tourists and visitors who seek opportunities		
		for outdoor activities such as hiking, birdwatching, nature photography, or simply enjoying the scenic beauty of the area.		
Aesthetic value		Many people find beauty or aesthetic value in various aspects of ecosystems, as reflected in the support for parks, scenic drives,		
		and the selection of housing locations. The project may contribute to the preservation and enhancement of landscapes,		
		including farmland, forests, meadows, and other natural habitats. By implementing sustainable farming practices, such as		
		agroforestry, organic farming, or landscape design that integrates natural elements, the project can help maintain visually		
		pleasing and harmonious landscapes. Preserving the scenic beauty of the environment can contribute to its aesthetic value and		
		create a sense of tranquillity and visual enjoyment for both locals and visitors.		
Spiritual and		The Future Farming project may provide opportunities for communities to engage in rituals and ceremonies related to farming,		
religious value harvest, or other agricultural practices. T		harvest, or other agricultural practices. These rituals often have spiritual and religious significance, symbolising gratitude,		
		renewal, or the cyclical nature of life. By supporting and preserving traditional rituals and ceremonies, the project can reinforce		
		spiritual and religious values that are closely tied to the land and agricultural practices.		



Inspiration of art,		Sustainable farming practices often have deep cultural and historical roots, intertwined with local traditions and folklore. The
folklore,	_	project may revive or preserve traditional stories, myths, and folktales associated with farming, nature, and the land. These
architecture, etc.	_	narratives can highlight the importance of sustainable practices, the wisdom of past generations, and the enduring relationship
	_	between humans and the environment. Folklore can be passed down through generations, fostering a sense of cultural identity
	_	and connection to the land. The principles of sustainability, ecological balance, and community well-being promoted by the
	_	Future Farming project may also influence architectural design in the surrounding areas. Architects and urban planners may
	_	draw inspiration from the project's sustainable farming practices and incorporate elements of nature, such as green roofs,
	_	vertical gardens, or natural building materials, into their designs. The result could be buildings and structures that seamlessly
	_	blend with the natural environment, promoting a sense of harmony between human-made spaces and the surrounding
	_	landscape. The project may further support artistic and cultural activities that celebrate the beauty of the landscape and
	_	promote local creativity. This can support in organising art exhibitions, photography contests, or cultural events that focus on
	_	the natural environment and farming traditions. By highlighting the aesthetic qualities of the landscape through art and cultural
	_	expressions, the project can foster a deeper appreciation for the visual appeal of the area and its cultural significance.
Social relations		Ecosystems influence the types of social relations that are established in particular cultures. Less noticeable today in the
(e.g. fishing,		developed world due to the homogenisation of culture - with the probable exception of farming which maintains highly social
grazing, or		interactions and communities. With the project's focus on active community engagement and participation, it should help in
cropping		fostering a sense of ownership and collaboration among farming communities. By involving community members in decision-
communities)		making processes, their perspectives, knowledge, and experiences can be incorporated, leading to more inclusive and locally
		relevant solutions. This participatory approach can strengthen social bonds, promote community cohesion, and enhance trust
		between stakeholders. The Future Farming project may also create new economic opportunities within fishing, grazing, or
		cropping communities. Sustainable farming practices can increase productivity, diversify income sources, and enhance the
		economic viability of agricultural activities. This, in turn, can contribute to the well-being of community members, improve their
		livelihoods, and strengthen local economies. Economic stability and prosperity often have positive effects on social relations,
		fostering cooperation and reducing conflicts within communities. Finally, sustainable farming practices often have cultural and
		historical significance for local farming communities. The project's emphasis on preserving traditional knowledge, cultural
		heritage, and local practices can contribute to the cultural identity and well-being of these communities. By valuing and
		incorporating cultural elements into the project, it can help maintain and revitalise cultural traditions, strengthen community
		ties, and promote intergenerational knowledge transfer.



Supporting	(Supporting services are those that are necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services. They differ from
services	provisioning, regulating, and cultural services in that their impacts on people are often indirect or occur over a very long time, whereas changes in the other categories have relatively direct and short-term impacts on people. (Some services, like erosion regulation, can be categorised as both a supporting and a regulating service, depending on the time scale and immediacy of their impact on people))
Soil formation	Humans do not directly use this as a service, but changes in soil formation would indirectly affect people through the impact on other services such as the provisioning service of food production. Because many provisioning services depend on soil fertility, the rate of soil formation influences human well-being in many ways. The project Future Farming Project can promote sustainable soil management practices, such as organic farming, cover cropping, and reduced tillage. These practices can promote soil health and fertility by increasing organic matter content, improving soil structure, and enhancing nutrient cycling. By implementing such practices, the project may contribute to the formation of fertile and productive soils, which are essential for sustaining agricultural productivity and supporting ecosystem functioning. Soil formation is a complex and time-dependent process influenced by various factors, including climate, geology, vegetation, and land management practices. The success of the Future Farming project in enhancing soil formation as an ecosystem service will depend on the adoption of appropriate soil conservation and management practices, as well as the integration of local soil characteristics and conditions into the decision-making process.
Primary production	The project may emphasise effective nutrient management practices, including the use of organic fertilisers, precision nutrient application, and nutrient recycling. Proper nutrient management ensures that crops have access to essential elements for growth and development. By providing adequate nutrients while minimising nutrient losses, the project can enhance primary production by optimising plant nutrition and promoting healthy crop growth.
Nutrient cycling	This indirect supporting service is required e. g. as the basis for crop production and plant growth. The project may prioritise the use of organic matter, such as compost or cover crops, to enhance soil health and fertility. Organic matter acts as a source of nutrients and promotes the growth of beneficial microorganisms that aid in nutrient cycling. By incorporating organic matter into the soil, the project can increase nutrient availability and promote the decomposition and recycling of organic materials. The project may encourage practices that promote the recycling of nutrients within the agricultural system. For example, crop residues or livestock manure can be returned to the soil as organic amendments, replenishing nutrient stocks and improving soil fertility. Nutrient recycling minimises nutrient losses from the system and ensures that nutrients are utilised efficiently, reducing the need for external inputs.



Water recycling		Water cycles through ecosystems and is essential for living organisms. The project may encourage practices and technologies
		that promote efficient water use in agricultural activities. This could include the use of precision irrigation systems, such as drip
		or micro-irrigation, which deliver water directly to the plant roots, minimising water loss through evaporation or runoff. By
		maximising water use efficiency, the project can reduce the overall water demand and enhance water recycling within the
		system. The project may also encourage on-site water treatment facilities or technologies to treat and recycle water used in
		agricultural processes. For example, wastewater generated from various farm activities, such as irrigation runoff or livestock
		operations, can be treated and reused for irrigation purposes. By treating and recycling water on-site, the project can minimise
		the need for freshwater withdrawals and reduce the discharge of potentially polluted water into natural water bodies.
Photosynthesis		Production of atmospheric oxygen through photosynthesis is often categorised as a supporting service since oxygen forms the
		basis for any animal life on Earth. Any impacts on the concentration of oxygen in the atmosphere through associated farming
		activities would only occur over an extremely long time.
Provision of		The Future Farming project could have significant positive impacts on the provision of habitat as an ecosystem service. The
habitat		project may implement measures to enhance biodiversity on agricultural lands. This can include creating and maintaining
		habitat features such as hedgerows, field margins, or wildflower strips. These habitats can provide shelter, food, and breeding
		grounds for a variety of plant and animal species, including pollinators, birds, insects, and small mammals. By incorporating
		diverse habitats into the agricultural landscape, the project can support biodiversity and contribute to the provision of habitat
		for various species. The project may involve the restoration of degraded or fragmented habitats within and around the farming
		area. This can include re-establishing native vegetation, restoring wetlands, or revitalising riparian zones. These efforts can help
		recreate or expand natural habitats, providing suitable conditions for native flora and fauna to thrive. By restoring and
		conserving native ecosystems, the project can contribute to the provision of habitat for a wide range of species.
		The project may identify and protect ecologically important areas within the farming landscape. These areas could include
		wetlands, forests, or other unique ecosystems that support high levels of biodiversity or provide critical habitat for endangered
		or threatened species. By designating and conserving these areas, the project can safeguard important habitats and contribute
		to the overall provision of habitat services. Finally, the project may promote ecological connectivity by creating corridors or
		linkages between different habitat patches. These connections can facilitate the movement of species, allowing for gene flow,
		migration, and dispersal. By enhancing ecological connectivity, the project can support the exchange of genetic material,
		maintain species populations, and ensure the provision of habitat across larger landscapes.



# 11. Appendix A - Aims and Objectives Assessment Templates

Date of Ass							
SECTION C	Policy X, Option 1A, etc)		Objective 1a) People	Theme: People  Aim 1: To enhance ecological and economic wellbeing through transformational, collaborative and innovative change. 's health and livelihoods will be improved through the development and promotion of a wellbeing economy in the Cairngorms National Park			
SEA objective	ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS  SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)		Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree witt recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to when
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	+	system, with less waste and negative externalities.  A wellbeing economy should play its role in tackling the global climate emergency and limiting temperature rises. Achieving this outcome means ending our contribution to climate	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3b) Promoting a high standard of sustainable design, energy efficiency, sustainably-sourced materials and construction in new development.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	+	change by reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland by 2045 - an increase in renewable output will be an component of this process and can lead to improvements in people's health and livilihoods.  Within a wellbeing economy, instead of striving for ever-growing scale, businesses will seek "the right size," for energy requirements in relation to the wider commercial ecosystem - not unlike cells in an organism.  A wellbeing economy will be better at repairing things (what is termed a 'circular economy') than making and buying poor quality things that get thrown away soon after. More repair activity will need local craftspeople – it is not too hard to imagine our high streets and community centres seeing a return of artisans: alongside cobblers and tailors, repairers for our	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2a, increasing renewable electricity and heat generation, especially biomass, hydro, solar, small-scale wind turbines and heat exchange pumps that are compatible with conserving the special qualities of the National Park and maintain the integrity of designated sites.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	+	gadgets too.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A1c, working with farmers, crofters, communities and land managers to optimise local food production where factors such as supplier capacity, supply chains and consumer markets are favourable.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	+	A key feature of a wellbeing economy is the restorative, rather than extrative approach to land use. i.e., a wellbeing economy may function to help retain sensitive carbon sinks.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d, securing protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon.	++	
1a 1b	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?  Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.  The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.		By ensuring travel prices capture full costs and so are not misleading (for example, many polluting forms of travel do not price in their environmental impact and so are falsely attractive to consumers). This will also encourage better long-term use of our resources via repair, sharing, co-ownership.  In order to ensure the long-term resilience of the infrastructure and buildings in the Cairngorms National Park, it may be necessary to incorporate climate change considerations into their design and construction. This could involve using materials that are more resistant to flooding and high winds, designing buildings with better insulation to cope with extremes of temperature, and constructing roads and other infrastructure with better drainage to cope with increased rainfall.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3f, promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3d, facilitating the rehabilitation of redundant rural buildings and recycling of resources.	++	
1b	and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's	+		In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2d, promoting high standards of sustainable design and efficient use of energy and materials in construction for all new buildings.	++	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.		that are at risk of flooding or landslides. This may involve avoiding development in such areas, or designing infrastructure and buildings in a way that minimizes the risk of damage.  One of the key aspects of a wellbeing economy is promoting sustainable development, which can involve reducing the environmental impact of economic activities. This could include reducing air pollution emissions from sources such as transportation, industry, and heating systems. For example, promoting the use of low-emission vehicles or improving public and active transport options could help to reduce NO2 emissions from transportation.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3f, promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.	++	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	+	In addition, promoting sustainable land use practices such as reducing the use of fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture could help to reduce the levels of PM2.5 and SO2 emissions. By implementing sustainable development practices that reduce the use of fossil fuels and other sources of air pollution, the Park could help to reduce the amount of particulate matter in the air, which is a major contributor to air pollution. E.g. by championing renewable energy sources such as wind or solar power, or promote sustainable transportation options like biking or walking. These actions  Additionally, by promoting ecological and economic wellbeing, the Cairngorms National Park may be able to reduce the number of activities that contribute to air pollution. For	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3f, promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's	+	example, by encouraging sustainable tourism practices that minimize the use of vehicles or reduce the amount of waste generated by visitors, the park could help to mitigate the effects of air pollution on the local environment.  Ideally, a wellbeing economy is one of conservation and cultivation, rendering waste and pollution a thing of the past. A subsequent by-product of the move to a WB economy could have beneficial impacts on water quality and pollution.  The philosophy of 'building with nature', i.e., a component of a wellbeing economy, is a design approach that adopts the natural system as the basic premise to provide resilient	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.	++	
		health and livilihoods.  The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency		solutions that can reduce the impact of pollution, and can harness the forces of nature to benefit environment, economy and society. The approach may result in resilient, multifunctional, innovative designs tailored to the local context. Within this context, approaches can be delivered that operate using a 'blue-green' approach to integrate water and water treatment methods into sites, reducing pollution impacts from a variety of sources.  A wellbeing economy will seek to promote and integrate nature-based solutions into a variety of sectors across the Park, including natural flood management services that operate a 'building with nature' approach.			
3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	+	solutions that can enhance water management services and can harness the forces of nature to benefit the environment, economy and society. The approach can result in resilient, multi-functional, innovative designs tailored to the local context. Within this context, approaches can be delivered that operate using a 'blue-green' approach to integrate water storage and water management methods into sites, reducing impacts from flood events, helping to slow and store water on-site, and maintain essential ecosystem services (i.e. water purification).  The philosophy of 'building with nature', i.e., a component of a wellbeing economy, is a design approach that adopts the natural system as the basic premise to provide resilient solutions that can maintain or improve water resources, and can harness the forces of nature to benefit environment, economy and society. The approach may result in resilient, multi-functional, innovative designs tailored to the local context. Within this context, approaches can be delivered that operate using a 'blue-green' approach to improve and celebrate	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.	++	
За	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	?	water enhancing the state of the water environment.  Sustainable water management practices such as rainwater harvesting, water reuse, and efficient irrigation practices could help to conserve water resources and ensure that public water supplies are sustainable and secure.  However, it's important to note that the impact of the park's development on public water supplies would depend on the specific measures taken and the extent to which they are implemented. Climate change could also have an impact on water resources, with potential changes in rainfall patterns and water availability. Therefore, it's important to consider the potential impacts of climate change on water resources and take appropriate measures to ensure the resilience and sustainability of public water supplies in the Cairngorms National Park.  The development and promotion of a wellbeing economy in the Cairngorms National Park could potentially have an effect on the demand for water from development, both	engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.	+	
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	*	residential and business. Economic development often leads to an increase in population, and this can result in increased demand for water resources for domestic and commercial use.  However, sustainable development practices that promote water conservation and efficiency could help to mitigate the impact of increased demand for water. i.e.,, promoting sustainable land use practices such as rainwater harvesting and greywater reuse systems and efficient irrigation could also help to reduce the overall demand for water resources in the park.  Within this context, approaches can be delivered that operate using a 'blue-green' approach to integrate water management systems into sites, reducing demand on water use and promoting the use of water-efficient systems that could help to reduce water consumption in residential and commercial buildings.  Embedding principals of avoiding water wastage may help create positive effects, with the localisation and blending of production and consumption resulting in a better, circular	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.	++	
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	+	system, with less waste and negative externalities.  By promoting sustainable land use practices and supporting the restoration and protection of natural habitats, the park could help to maintain and improve the quality and availability of water resources.  The park could promote sustainable farming practices, such as reducing the use of fertilisers and pesticides, and implementing measures to control soil erosion, which can help to reduce the contamination of water resources. The park could also encourage the protection and restoration of riparian zones and wetlands, which can help to improve water quality and regulate water flow."  The park could implement programs to remove or control invasive species in rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water within the park's boundaries. This could involve working with	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.	++	
3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	+	could involve activities such as planting native vegetation, improving water quality, and restoring natural river and lake systems.  Monitoring systems and/or biosecurity measures could be implemented to prevent the introduction of invasive species, promoting sustainable land management practices that reduce the risk of invasion, and monitoring water resources to detect and respond to invasive species.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	+	the soil.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.  The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency	+	natural habitats. These practices can help to reduce soil sealing and improve soil structure, allowing for better water infiltration and improved soil fertility.  Additionally, the Park could focus on implementing measures to reduce soil loss, such as erosion control measures and sustainable land management practices that prioritise soil health. This could involve activities such as reforestation, soil conservation, and the use of cover crops and other soil-stabilizing vegetation.  The Cairngorms National Park's focus on enhancing ecological and economic wellbeing through transformational, collaborative, and innovative change may indirectly have an impact	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.  The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency		For example, if the park's initiatives involve reducing pollution and promoting sustainable practices, this could help mitigate soil contamination. Additionally, if the park promotes the use of organic and environmentally friendly farming practices, this could help reduce the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides that can lead to soil contamination.  If the park promotes sustainable land use practices, such as reforestation, soil conservation measures, and appropriate land management practices, it can help prevent soil erosion	of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration	++	
4a 4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?  Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.  The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's		land management practices like contour plowing, terracing, and cover cropping can help reduce soil erosion.  The park could implement measures to prevent soil erosion and protect the landscape from anthropogenic activities that can cause damage to the GCRs. E.g. the Park could also promote responsible tourism and outdoor recreation practices that minimize the impact on those goodiversity interests.	of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and	++	
5a		health and livilihoods.  The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.  The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency		A restorative, rather than extrative approach to land usage and their resources in a well-being economy may function to maintain a sustainable use of these resources. A circular approach to enhancing economic wellbeing may help to enshrine long-term thinking to landscape management.  The wellbeing economy concept recognizes that economic development must be balanced with social, environmental, and economic considerations, and seeks to promote sustainable practices that support long-term community well-being. This includes ensuring that infrastructure is designed and managed sustainably, taking into account the impact on the environment and the needs of the community.  For example, sustainable infrastructure design may involve the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind power, and the implementation of energy-efficient building	improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2b) Support businesses and communities to use less energy, reduce emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing climate.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2b) Support businesses and communities to use less energy, reduce	++	
5a	existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?  Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the	across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.  The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency	+	design to reduce energy consumption. Water and flood protection infrastructure may also be designed to mitigate the impact of climate change, such as increasing resilience to extreme weather events.  Overall, the impact of the development and promotion of a wellbeing economy on existing and proposed infrastructure would depend on the specific measures taken and the extent to which they are implemented. The promotion of sustainable infrastructure practices could help to mitigate the impact of economic development on the environment and support the long-term well-being of communities in the Cairngorms National Park.  Embedding principles of avoiding waste, and encouraging the reuse and repair of goods may help create positive effects, with the localisation and blending of production and consumption resulting in a better, circular system, with less waste and negative externalities.	emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing climate.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2b) Support businesses and communities to use less energy, reduce	++	
ъа 6а	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.  The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	?	The use of secondary and recycled materials can also help to reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production and transportation of new materials. Additionally, it can create opportunities for local businesses to participate in circular economy practices, which can support local economic development and job creation.  The development and promotion of a wellbeing economy in the Cairngorms National Park could potentially have both positive and negative effects on areas protected for nature conservation. On one hand, a wellbeing economy seeks to balance economic development with environmental protection, and thus could lead to the conservation and restoration of natural areas. For example, promoting sustainable tourism practices and encouraging visitors to appreciate and respect the natural environment could help to reduce the negative impact of human activity on protected areas.	emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing climate.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C5a) Take a coordinated approach to responsible tourism and management of the Cairngorms National Park as a visitor destination.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	?		In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important	+	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	?	and takes into account the needs of local wildlife.  The development and promotion of a wellbeing economy in the Cairngorms National Park could potentially have both positive and negative effects on protected species. On one hand, a wellbeing economy seeks to balance economic development with environmental protection, and thus could lead to measures that promote the conservation and protection of endangered or threatened species. For example, promoting sustainable land use practices and reducing the impact of human activity on natural habitats could help to protect and restore populations and areas of Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants.  On the other hand, economic development may lead to increased pressure on natural resources, and could potentially lead to habitat destruction and fragmentation, which could have negative impacts on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants. It is therefore important that any development is planned and managed in a way that minimizes the impact on the natural environment and takes into account the needs of local wildlife.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important	+	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	?	On the other hand, economic development may lead to increased pressure on natural resources, and could potentially lead to habitat destruction and fragmentation, which could have negative impacts on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird and mammal species. It is therefore important that any development is planned and managed in a way that minimizes the impact on the natural environment and takes into account the needs of local wildlife.  The development and promotion of a wellbeing economy in the Cairngorms National Park could potentially have both positive and negative effects on wider biodiversity. On one	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important	+	
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	?	hand, measures taken to promote economic development in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way could lead to improved management of natural resources, resulting in increased biodiversity and ecosystem health in the wider park area. For example, rewilding projects and restoration of degraded habitats could have a positive impact on a range of species.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important	+	
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek t reduce environmental effects?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	?	Efforts to promote a wellbeing economy could potentially result in increased investment in sustainable deer management practices, such as culling and population control measures. This could help to reduce the environmental impacts of deer grazing and support the recovery of degraded habitats and species.  On the other hand, economic development could also lead to increased pressure to maintain high deer populations for recreational hunting or other purposes, which could potentially undermine efforts to reduce the environmental impacts of deer grazing.  Overall, the impact of a wellbeing economy on deer management practices in the Cairngorms National Park would depend on the specific measures taken and the extent to which they are implemented. Balancing economic development with sustainable management of natural resources will be crucial to achieving long-term success in the area.  The park's initiatives to enhance ecological and economic wellbeing may involve promoting sustainable land management practices that avoid the introduction and spread of invasive	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3f) Reduce red deer and other herbivore (roe deer, fallow deer, sheep and hare) numbers where needed across the National Park to enable woodlands to expand, heather loss to be reversed, peatlands to recover and wider biodiversity and landscape enhancement to take place.	+	
6a		The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.		non-native species and tree diseases. For example, the park could work with local communities, landowners, and other stakeholders to develop best management practices that reduce the risk of introducing and spreading invasive species and tree diseases.  Additionally, the park could develop education and outreach programs to raise awareness about the risks posed by invasive non-native species and tree diseases and encourage people to take action to prevent their spread.  The park's initiatives to enhance ecological and economic wellbeing may involve measures to protect and preserve the special qualities of the Park. For example, the Park could	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6b) Tacklle and reduce the impacts of invasive non-native species.	++	
7a	Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) the National Park landscapes?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	+	promote sustainable land use practices that maintain the integrity of the landscape and its habitats. This could include measures to prevent soil erosion, the introduction of invasive species, and other human activities that may negatively impact the special qualities of the landscape.  Additionally, the park could develop education and outreach programs that help people understand and appreciate the special qualities of the landscape. This could include the development of new trails and visitor facilities that showcase the unique habitats, species, and geological features of the park.  The park's initiatives to enhance ecological and economic wellbeing may involve measures to protect and preserve the special qualities of the Park. For example, the Park could	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A4) Conserve and enhance the special landscape qualities of the National Park,	++	
7a	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	+	promote sustainable land use practices that maintain the integrity of the landscape and its habitats. This could include measures to prevent soil erosion, the introduction of invasive species, and other human activities that may negatively impact the special qualities of the landscape.  Additionally, the park could develop education and outreach programs that help people understand and appreciate the special qualities of the landscape. This could include the development of new trails and visitor facilities that showcase the unique habitats, species, and geological features of the park.  The development and promotion of a wellbeing economy in the Cairngorms National Park could potentially have both positive and negative effects on the historic and cultural environment and assets in the area.  On one hand, increased investment in sustainable economic development could lead to greater protection and preservation of historic and cultural sites and assets, as well as	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A4) Conserve and enhance the special landscape qualities of the National Park,	++	
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment ar assets (including linguistic)?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	?	increased opportunities for cultural tourism and appreciation of the area's linguistic heritage.  On the other hand, economic development could also lead to the degradation or loss of cultural and historic assets, particularly if development is not carefully planned and managed. Additionally, increased development and tourism could lead to cultural homogenization or dilution of traditional linguistic and cultural practices.  Overall, the impact of a wellbeing economy on the historic and cultural environment and assets in the Cairngorms National Park will depend on the specific measures taken and the extent to which they prioritize the protection and preservation of cultural and historic resources. Balancing economic development with cultural and historic preservation will be crucial to achieving sustainable development in the area.  The park could work with local communities, housing associations, and developers to encourage the development of affordable and sustainable housing that meets the needs of	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Objective C10) Safeguard and promote the Park's cultural heritage and provide opportunities for everyone to experience and learn about the National Park's outstanding historic environment, history and culture.	+	
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	+	local people. This could include the provision of affordable housing for key workers, the development of energy-efficient homes, and the use of sustainable building materials.  Additionally, the park could develop policies and strategies that support sustainable development and help address housing needs in the area. This could include the promotion of mixed-use developments that combine residential and commercial uses, the development of brownfield sites, and the provision of infrastructure to support new housing developments.  The park could develop new trails and recreational facilities that encourage active travel and promote healthier lifestyles. This could include the development of cycling and walking	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy B1i) Providing a housing land supply that supports young people and workers and maintains vibrant communities.  & B1j) Reducing the proportion of vacant and second homes to support community vibrancy, ensuring that new housing development best meets local needs.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.		routes, the provision of outdoor fitness equipment, and the promotion of outdoor recreational activities that support physical and mental well-being.  Additionally, the park could work with local communities, businesses, and stakeholders to promote sustainable tourism and support the local economy. This could include the development of sustainable tourism initiatives that promote the use of local businesses and services, the provision of sustainable transport options for visitors, and the promotion of eco-tourism.  It is possible that enhancing ecological and economic wellbeing in Cairngorms National Park through transformational, collaborative, and innovative change could lead to an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence.		++	
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to place of residence?	The transition to a wellbeing economy may help to embed positive principles of conservation and efficiency across several sectors in the Park whilst leading to multiple benefits in regard to improvements to people's health and livilihoods.	+		In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Objective B4) Increase skills and training opportunities for people in the National Park to meet business needs and ensure opportunities created by the growth in green jobs can be filled by residents and under-represented groups	++	

SECTION OI	- (-)			Theme: People  Aim 2 To inform and change attitudes and behaviours to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets  Objective 2b) People and businesses will be more knowledgeable about climate and carbon and will have changed their behaviours to help deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets				
SEA objective	SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	Justification and/or reasoning for enhancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement:  Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.	
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets		Encouraging net-zero and biodiversity targets means prioritising sustainable development practices and reducing carbon emissions, which would require a shift towards more energy-efficient buildings and infrastructure.  People and businesses changing attitudes and behaviours to deliver net-zero may result in increased energy conservation and sustainable practices that can encourage developers to incorporate energy conservation and efficiency measures in new developments. This can include strategies such as using renewable energy sources, improving insulation, and designing buildings to optimise energy performance. Additionally, by promoting the adoption of sustainable practices, the Cairngorms National Park can create a cultural shift towards valuing and prioritising energy efficiency and conservation in new development projects.		++		
1a	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	If people and businesses in the Cairngorms National Park are more knowledgeable about climate and carbon and change their behaviors to help deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets, there could be a positive effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park. This is because increased awareness and action on climate change and biodiversity could lead to greater investment in renewable energy and other sustainable practices.  Informed consumers and businesses may help drive a range of markets to speed up their transistion to net-zero through consumer choices (i.e. moving to energy suppliers with a focus on renewables or investing in renewable energy companies).  Moreover, if the community and businesses in the park actively support the transition to renewable energy, it could create a favorable environment for renewable energy projects. This could attract more investors and developers, leading to the construction of renewable energy infrastructure that is appropriate in scale for the park. Furthermore, with a greater focus on reducing carbon emissions, there may be greater incentives for renewable energy generation as it could lead to lower emissions and increased energy efficiency.	the special qualities of the National Park and maintaining the integrity of designated sites.  In line with NPF4 Sustainble Transport Policy 13:  a) Proposals to improve, enhance or provide active travel infrastructure, public transport infrastructure or multi-modal hubs will be supported. This includes proposals:	++		
1a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	If people and businesses in the Cairngorms National Park become more knowledgeable about climate and carbon and change their behaviors to help deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets, there could be a significant effect on local production and use of materials and food produce.  For instance, increased awareness and action on climate change and biodiversity could lead to a shift towards local and sustainable sourcing of materials and food produce. This could help reduce the carbon footprint associated with transportation and processing of goods, as well as support local producers. Informed consumers and businesses may help drive a range of markets to speed up their transistion to net-zero through consumer choices (i.e shopping locally)  Moreover, with a focus on biodiversity, there may be greater emphasis on the use of environmentally-friendly materials and practices, which could lead to the development of new markets for local producers who can provide such products.	In line with NPF4 Rural Development Policy 29a iii): Supporting the production and processing facilities for local produce and materials, for example local food production	++		
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	Informed consumers and businesses may help drive a range of markets to speed up their transistion to net-zero through consumer choices (i.e. peat-free fertilsers and sustainable timber)  Increased awareness and action on climate change and biodiversity could lead to a shift towards more sustainable modes of transportation, such as walking, cycling, and public transport, which	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d, securing protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon.	++		
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets  Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts	+	would reduce the carbon footprint associated with travel.  Moreover, there could be a greater emphasis on reducing unnecessary travel, such as by promoting remote work and virtual meetings, which could lead to a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions associated with travel.  Furthermore, a focus on biodiversity could lead to the development of new eco-tourism opportunities, which could provide a more sustainable alternative to traditional tourism and travel.  Climate change can have significant impacts on infrastructure and buildings, such as increased flooding and damage from extreme weather events.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3f, promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.	++		
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	To adapt to these impacts, existing infrastructure and buildings may need to be retrofitted or upgraded to become more resilient and sustainable. This could include measures such as installing flood barriers or green roofs to mitigate flooding, or improving insulation and using renewable energy sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.  There may need to be a greater focus on sustainable and resilient design and construction methods that can withstand the impacts of climate change. For example, buildings may incorporate	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3d, facilitating the rehabilitation of redundant rural buildings and recycling of resources.	++		
1b		Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets  Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses	+	Infrastructure projects may also take into account the potential for flooding or extreme weather events and include measures to mitigate these risks. Overall, a shift towards more sustainable development practices is likely to become a key consideration in the planning and design of new infrastructure and buildings in the Cairngorms National Park.  Increased awareness and action on climate change and biodiversity could lead to a reduction in the use of fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, which are significant contributors to air pollution. This could lead to a reduction in the levels of pollutants such as NO2, PM10, PM2.5, and SO2 in the local environment.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2d, promoting high standards of sustainable design and efficient use of energy and materials in construction for all new buildings.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3f, promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the	++		
2a 	(e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets  Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts	+	Furthermore, a shift towards more sustainable modes of transportation, such as walking, cycling, and public transport, could also lead to a reduction in the levels of pollutants in the air.  Increased awareness and action on climate change and biodiversity could lead to a reduction in the use of fossil fuels, which are significant contributors to PM emissions. For instance, a shift towards renewable energy sources and the adoption of more sustainable modes of transportation could lead to a reduction in the amount of particulate matter released into the air.	reliance on private motor vehicles.	++		
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	Moreover, a focus on sustainable agriculture and land use could lead to a reduction in particulate matter emissions associated with farming practices, such as plowing and burning of agricultural waste.  Increased awareness and action on climate change and biodiversity could lead to a reduction in the use of harmful chemicals, such as fertilisers and pesticides, in agriculture and other industries.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3f, promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.	++		
3a		Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	This could reduce the amount of diffuse source pollution entering the waterways and improve the overall water quality.  Furthermore, a focus on sustainable land use and forestry practices could lead to the reduction of point source pollution from industries such as mining and forestry.  Additionally, there could be a greater emphasis on the protection and restoration of wetlands and other natural water filtration systems, which could help reduce the amount of pollution entering waterways.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a "green engineering first" approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will:  i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk.  ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.	++		
3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	If people and businesses in the Cairngorms National Park become more knowledgeable about climate and carbon and change their behaviors to help deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets, there is likely to be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide. For example, if people and businesses reduce their water usage and increase the amount of blue-green infrastructure in the area, this could help to increase water retention and reduce the risk of flooding during periods of heavy rainfall. Similarly, if there is increased awareness and action taken to reduce carbon emissions, this could help to mitigate the impacts of climate change, such as more frequent and severe floods and droughts.	ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.	++		
3a	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	Protecting and enhancing ecosystems within the park can also help to maintain the quality and availability of water resources. For example, the restoration of wetlands and other natural habitats can improve water quality by filtering pollutants and reducing erosion. Additionally, sustainable forestry practices can help to maintain healthy watersheds and reduce the risk of soil erosion and sedimentation, which can impact water quality.	In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will: i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk. ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.	++		
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	Promoting water conservation and sustainable water management practices can help to reduce the demand for water from development. For example, encouraging the use of water-efficient fixtures and appliances in residential and commercial buildings can significantly reduce water consumption. Similarly, promoting sustainable landscaping practices, such as using drought-resistan plants and installing rainwater harvesting systems, can help to reduce outdoor water use.  The Cairngorms National Park can also work with local authorities and developers to promote sustainable development practices that minimise the demand for water. For example, blue-green infrastructure practices such as permeable pavements and green roofs can help to reduce the amount of water that is diverted from natural systems, while also providing additional benefits such as improved air quality and urban cooling.	In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will: i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk. ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.	++		
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	Changes in land use practices such as afforestation, restoration of wetlands, and sustainable agriculture can help protect water sources and improve water quality. Reduction in energy consumption and the use of renewable energy sources can also help reduce the amount of water used in energy production. Similarly, promoting sustainable transportation such as walking, cycling, and public transportation can reduce the use of private vehicles and associated water consumption.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will: i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk. ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.	++		
3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	Invasive non-native species can have significant negative impacts on native ecosystems, including water environments. For example, invasive plant species can displace native plants, leading to changes in water quality and habitat for aquatic species. Invasive animal species such as crayfish, mink, and signal crayfish can also disrupt the balance of aquatic ecosystems, leading to declines in native species populations.  Efforts to achieve net-zero and biodiversity targets may involve changes in land use practices, such as habitat restoration and the promotion of sustainable agriculture. These practices can help to create healthier ecosystems, which are less susceptible to invasive non-native species. In addition, increased awareness and education of the impacts of invasive non-native species can help prevent the introduction and spread of these species.		++		
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	Efforts to achieve net-zero targets will likely involve reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon sequestration. This can be achieved through measures such as afforestation, rewilding, restoration of degraded ecosystems, and peatland restoration. Peatland restoration involves rewetting degraded peatlands, which can help to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and promote the growth of peat-forming vegetation.  In addition, the Cairngorms National Park Authority has a Peatland Action Program in place, which aims to restore and protect degraded peatlands in the Park. Efforts to achieve net-zero and biodiversity targets may provide additional resources and support for the implementation of this program.  Furthermore, changing attitudes and behaviors towards land use and conservation can help to raise awareness of the importance of peatlands and the role they play in mitigating climate change.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++		
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	This can encourage individuals and communities to take action to protect and restore these vital ecosystems.  Efforts to achieve net-zero and biodiversity targets will likely involve changes in land use practices, such as promoting sustainable agriculture and forest management, protecting natural areas, and reducing urban sprawl. These practices can help to preserve soil quality, maintain soil structure, and reduce soil erosion and sedimentation.  In addition, changes in attitudes and behaviors towards waste management can also have an impact on soil quality. For example, reducing waste production, increasing recycling, and promoting composting can help to reduce the amount of organic matter that ends up in landfills and increase the availability of organic matter for soil.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++		
4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	Efforts to achieve net-zero and biodiversity targets may involve changes in land use practices, such as the reduction of pesticide and fertilizer use in agriculture, and the promotion of sustainable waste management practices. These changes can help to reduce the levels of contaminants in soil and improve soil quality.  Furthermore, efforts to restore degraded ecosystems, such as peatlands, can help to sequester pollutants and prevent them from entering the wider environment. This can help to reduce the levels of contaminants in soil over time.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++		
4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	Efforts to achieve net-zero and biodiversity targets in Cairngorms National Park may involve changes in land use practices that promote sustainable agriculture, forestry, and grazing management, as well as the protection of natural areas and the restoration of degraded ecosystems. These practices can help to maintain soil quality, prevent soil erosion, and stabilize slopes.  In addition, changes in attitudes and behaviors towards waste management and resource use can also have an impact on soil erosion and landslides. For example, reducing waste production,	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++		
4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and	+	increasing recycling, and promoting composting can help to reduce the demand for landfills and the need for land use change that can contribute to soil erosion and landslides.  Efforts to reduce carbon emissions and promote biodiversity may require changes in land use, such as reforestation or the creation of new wetlands, which could affect the geological features of the area. Changes in land use could also impact the exposure and accessibility of GCR sites. Additionally, the introduction of new infrastructure, such as renewable energy projects, could have potential impacts on the geology of the area.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++		
5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and	+	As people and businesses become more aware of the impacts of their actions on the environment and take steps to reduce their carbon footprint, there is likely to be a shift towards more sustainable practices, including the use of natural resources. For example, businesses may choose to source timber and aggregates from sustainable sources, reducing their impact on the environment. Similarly, individuals may adopt water-saving practices, reducing their consumption and helping to preserve this valuable resource.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2b) Support businesses and communities to use less energy, reduce emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle	++		
5a	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses	+	Moreover, as the importance of biodiversity is increasingly recognised, there may be greater efforts to protect and enhance natural habitats, further promoting the sustainable use of natural resources.  As awareness about the impacts of climate change grows, there is likely to be greater focus on developing and implementing sustainable infrastructure solutions, such as water, heat, energy, and flood protection infrastructure. This could involve promoting the use of renewable energy sources, adopting sustainable water management practices, and building infrastructure that is resilient to the impacts of climate change.		++		
	infrastructure)?  Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of	resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets  Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses		As people and businesses become more committed to reducing their carbon footprint, there may be greater pressure on policymakers and developers to prioritise sustainable infrastructure solutions. This could involve the promotion of public transport and active travel options, as well as the development of green infrastructure, such as green roofs and urban forests, to help mitigate the impacts of climate change.  More climate-conscious people and business changing attitudes and behaviours to deliver net-zero may result in increased resource conservation, and an increase in the reuse, repair and	resources, and plan for a changing climate.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2b) Support businesses and communities to use less energy, reduce emissions,			
5a	secondary and recycled materials?  Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for	resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets  Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses		recycling of goods through human actions  More climate-conscious people and business changing their attitudes to delver net-zero and biodiversity targets may help to underpin supportive attitudes towards increased protection and the	improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing climate.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C5a) Take a coordinated approach to responsible tourism and management of the	++		
6a	nature conservation?	across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets  Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses	+	More climate-conscious people and business changing their attitudes to delver net-zero and biodiversity targets may help to underpin supportive attitudes towards increased protection and the expansion of designated areas.  More climate-conscious people and business changing their attitudes to delver net-zero and biodiversity targets may help to underpin supportive attitudes towards increased protection of	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C5a) Take a coordinated approach to responsible tourism and management of the Cairngorms National Park as a visitor destination.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is	**		
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?  Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and	resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets  Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses	+	designated species.  Creating a shared vision and sense of belonging for the Cairngorms in 2030 may help to underpin supportive attitudes towards increased protection of the contraction of the contractio	most important	++		
6a	plants?  Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and	resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets  Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses	+	plants.  More climate-conscious people and business changing their attitudes to delver net-zero and biodiversity targets may help to underpin supportive attitudes towards increased protection of	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is	++		
oa 6a	invertebrate species?  Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the	resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets  Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses		Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird and mammal species.  More climate-conscious people and business changing their attitudes to delver net-zero and biodiversity targets may help to underpin supportive attitudes towards towards increasing wider	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is	++		
6a	habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?  Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets  Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and	+	Deer are an important part of the ecosystem in the Cairngorms, but their overpopulation can have negative impacts on biodiversity and the environment. By promoting more sustainable land management practices, such as reducing deer populations through selective culling, there can be a positive impact on the environment.  As people and businesses become more aware of the importance of biodiversity and the need to reduce carbon emissions, there may be increased support for more sustainable deer	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3f) Reduce red deer and other herbivore (roe deer, fallow deer, sheep and hare) numbers where needed across the National Park to enable woodlands to expand, heather loss to be reversed, peatlands to recover and wider biodiversity and landscape enhancement to take place.	++		
6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	management practices. This could involve more targeted culling strategies, the development of deer exclusion zones to protect vulnerable habitats, and the promotion of alternative land uses that are more compatible with deer management.  Effective land management practices to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases may include measures such as early detection and rapid response programs, monitoring and surveillance, and the development of management plans for high-risk areas. Education and outreach programmes can also be effective in informing the public and encouraging them to take steps to prevent the spread of invasive species and diseases.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6b) Tacklle and reduce the impacts of invasive non-native species.	++		
7a	Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	?	The Cairngorms National Park has a unique and diverse landscape, with a variety of habitats and wildlife that are of national and international importance. To achieve its net-zero and biodiversity targets, the National Park will need to prioritise actions that protect and enhance these special qualities, such as reducing carbon emissions, restoring degraded habitats, and improving wildlife corridors.  At the same time, it will also need to ensure that any changes are carried out in a way that minimises negative impacts on the landscape and its communities. This may involve working closely with local stakeholders to develop sustainable land use practices, promoting responsible tourism, and educating visitors about the importance of protecting the natural environment.  Overall, while there may be some trade-offs involved, it is possible for the Cairngorms National Park to achieve its goals while preserving the special qualities that make it such a unique and	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A4) Conserve and enhance the special landscape qualities of the National Park,	+		
7a	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	?	important part of Scotland's natural heritage.  To achieve net-zero and biodiversity targets, changes in land use, farming, forestry, and tourism practices may be necessary. These changes could impact the visual and cultural aspects of the landscape, potentially affecting the area's character and local distinctiveness.  However, if changes are carried out carefully and sustainably, it is possible to minimise negative impacts on the landscape character and local distinctiveness of the area. This could include developing policies that prioritise the protection of the most sensitive areas and encouraging sustainable land use practices that enhance the landscape's natural beauty and cultural heritage.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A4) Conserve and enhance the special landscape qualities of the National Park,  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Objective C10) Safeguard and promote the Park's cultural heritage and provide	+		
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	The Cairngorms National Park has a rich and diverse cultural heritage, including historic buildings, archaeological sites, and a scots-speaking and influenced community. Changes in land use, farming, forestry, and tourism practices may impact these cultural assets, potentially affecting the area's historic and cultural environment and its linguistic heritage.  Efforts to achieve net-zero and biodiversity targets can be carried out in a way that enhances the area's historic and cultural environment. This could include promoting sustainable agriculture practices that are rooted in traditional land management techniques, restoring historic buildings and landmarks, and encouraging the use of renewable energy sources that complement the landscape's natural beauty.  If the Cairngorms National Park seeks to inform and change attitudes and behaviors to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets, there may be an effect on housing for local needs. However, this	opportunities for everyone to experience and learn about the National Park's outstanding historic environment, history and culture.  In line with NPF4 Historic Assets and Places Policy 7d) Development proposals in or affecting conservation areas will only be supported where the character and appearance of the conservation area and its setting is preserved or enhanced	++		
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	effect will depend on the specific changes that are made and how they are implemented.  One potential impact could be changes in land use, which may lead to new developments or the conversion of existing buildings to support the area's sustainability goals. This could have an effect on the availability of housing for local needs, particularly if new developments are focused on holiday homes or second homes rather than affordable housing for local residents.  To mitigate any negative effects on housing for local needs, the Cairngorms National Park can develop policies that prioritise affordable housing and support for local communities. This could include working with local authorities and housing associations to provide affordable housing, encouraging the use of brownfield sites for development, and promoting sustainable and affordable building practices.  Efforts to achieve net-zero and biodiversity targets could promote the use of active travel modes such as walking, cycling, and public transportation, which can help reduce carbon emissions while	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy B1i) Providing a housing land supply that supports young people and workers and maintains vibrant communities.  & B1j) Reducing the proportion of vacant and second homes to support community vibrancy, ensuring that new housing development best meets local needs.	++		
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	Efforts to achieve net-zero and blodiversity targets could promote the use of active travel modes such as walking, cycling, and public transportation, which can help reduce carbon emissions while also promoting healthier and more active lifestyles.  To support these goals, the Park can develop policies that prioritise the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, such as cycle paths and public transportation networks. They can also encourage the use of low-carbon modes of transportation, such as electric bikes and cars, and promote the development of new active travel routes that connect local communities and tourist destinations.  To achieve net-zero and biodiversity targets, the Cairngorms National Park can promote the development of new sustainable industries, such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy B3b) Promoting the health benefits of outdoor recreation and GP-led green health	++		
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	Attitudinal and behavioural changes may result in positive knock-on impacts across a variety of sectors with more climate-conscious people and businesses resulting in positive knock-on impacts in the mission to deliver net-zero and biodiversity targets	+	eco-tourism. These industries could create new job opportunities that are local to places of residence, particularly in rural areas where employment opportunities may be limited.  In addition, efforts to achieve net-zero and biodiversity targets could support the development of local supply chains, which can help to create more resilient and sustainable local economies. By promoting the use of local products and services, the Cairngorms National Park can support the growth of local businesses and help to create new employment opportunities.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Objective B4) Increase skills and training opportunities for people in the National Park to meet business needs and ensure opportunities created by the growth in green jobs can be filled by residents and under-represented groups	++		

Assessor(s): Insert assesso  Date of Asses Insert date(s)	sment:	Theme: Nature						
SECTION OF  (eg Vision, Po	PLAN BEING ASSESSED:  icy X, Option 1A, etc)  ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMEN	ITAL EFFECTS	Aim 3. To empowe	Theme: Nature responsibility for decisions affecting change in their environment and see the benefits of those changes flow to their communities.  Objective 3c) People will be more involved in their community's governance and practical activity				
SEA objective	SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in	Justification and/or reasoning for enhancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide	
1a	Will there be an effect on energy	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.	Table 1)	Encouraging people to be more involved in their community's governance and practical activity may have an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development, as it can lead to greater awareness and understanding of the importance of reducing energy consumption and increasing efficiency. When people are engaged in their community, they may be more likely to support initiatives that promote sustainability, such as using renewable energy sources, improving building insulation, and reducing energy waste. Additionally, community engagement can lead to better communication and	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3b) Promoting a high standard of sustainable design, energy efficiency, sustainably-sourced materials and construction in new development.  In line with NPF4 Sustainble Transport Policy 13:  a) Proposals to improve, enhance or provide active travel infrastructure, public transport infrastructure or multi-	symbology in Table 1)	justification as to why.	
Tu Tu	development?	Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	·	Local authorities can ensure that new homes are designed and built in a way that will avoid subsequent retrofitting and are built to net zero standards. This will also avoid the cost of ensuring higher standards being borne by the people living in the property, rather than being met by the developer.	modal hubs will be supported. This includes proposals:  i. for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and electric vehicle forecourts, especially where fuelled by renewable energy.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2a, increasing suitable renewable electricity and heat generation, especially			
1a	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	+	,	biomass, hydro, solar, small-scale wind turbines and heat exchange pumps that are also compatible with conserving the special qualities of the National Park and maintaining the integrity of designated sites.  In line with NPF4 Sustainble Transport Policy 13:  a) Proposals to improve, enhance or provide active travel infrastructure, public transport infrastructure or multimodal hubs will be supported. This includes proposals:  i. for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and electric vehicle forecourts, especially where fuelled by renewable energy.	++		
1a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making	+	Democratising input into how local food economies are shaped and developed can lead to better access to local food, connecting growers and consumers across the Park, ensuring wealth is retained within the Park, and circulated within the community.  This could include initiatives such as community gardens and local food networks that promote sustainable and locally sourced food production, as well as projects that encourage the use of locally sourced and sustainable materials in construction and other industries. By promoting and supporting these initiatives, the Cairngorms National Park could help to reduce the carbon footprint associated with	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A1c, working with farmers, crofters, communities and land managers to optimise local food production where factors such as supplier capacity, supply chains and consumer markets are favourable.  In line with NPF4 Rural Development Policy 29a iii):	++		
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and	restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.  People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory	+	transportation of goods and materials, and support the local economy.  Empowering communities to engage in the decisions affecting their future, and enabling them to participate fully in and benefit from Scotland's low carbon transition could be transformative. Locally empowered and informed communities operating within a wellbeing economy are best placed to conserve and restore carbon sinks where appropriate. Additionally, community-led initiatives such as tree-	Supporting the production and processing facilities for local produce and materials, for example local food production  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d, securing protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon.	++		
1a	Will there be an effect on travel	processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.  People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory	+	By empowering people to take responsibility for decisions affecting change in their environment and seeing the benefits of those changes flowing to their communities, there may be increased support for more sustainable transport options, such as walking, cycling, and public transport.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3f, promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.	++		
	Considering future implications of	processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.  People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.		Moreover, as people become more involved in their community's governance and practical activity, there may be greater opportunities for community-led initiatives to promote sustainable transport. This could involve the development of local transport schemes, the promotion of carpooling and active travel options, and the implementation of infrastructure that supports sustainable transport.  To address the challenges of climate change, the National Park can develop policies and programs that promote the resilience of existing infrastructure and buildings to climate change impacts. This could include promoting the use of sustainable building materials and construction techniques, improving energy efficiency, and developing new infrastructure that can better withstand extreme weather events.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3d, facilitating the rehabilitation of redundant rural buildings and recycling of			
	Considering future implications of	Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.  People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This	+	extreme weather events, promoting the use of sustainable water management practices, and providing support for local agriculture and forestry industries that may be affected by changing weather patterns.  As people become more involved in their community's governance and practical activity, there may be greater opportunities for community-led initiatives to promote climate resilience. This could involve the development of local climate action plans, the implementation of green infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events, and the promotion of sustainable land management practices.  To ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of the Cairngorms National Park, the Local Development Plan should take into account the future implications of climate change and the potential impacts on infrastructure and buildings.	resources.	++		
1b	more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	+	This could include measures such as promoting the use of sustainable building materials and construction techniques, improving energy efficiency, and developing new infrastructure that can better withstand extreme weather events. For example, the Local Development Plan could encourage the use of green roofs and walls, which can help to reduce the impact of urban heat islands and provide additional insulation to buildings, or the use of sustainable drainage systems, which can help to manage flooding and reduce the risk of damage to infrastructure.  In addition, the Local Development Plan could also promote the use of climate modeling and risk assessments to identify areas that may be vulnerable to future climate change impacts, such as flooding or landslides, and incorporate measures to reduce these risks into the planning process.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2d, promoting high standards of sustainable design and efficient use of energy and materials in construction for all new buildings.	++		
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	+	the development of local air quality action plans, the implementation of green infrastructure to improve air quality, and the promotion of sustainable land management practices.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3f, promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.	++		
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	+	Moreover, as people become more involved in their community's governance and practical activity, there may be greater opportunities for community-led initiatives to promote cleaner air. This could involve the development of local air quality action plans, the implementation of green infrastructure to improve air quality, and the promotion of sustainable land management practices.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3f, promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.	++		
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and groundwater from diffuse and point	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making	+	By involving people in their community's governance and practical activity, there may be greater support for measures to reduce diffuse and point source pollution in the Cairngorms National Park. This could involve promoting sustainable land management practices to reduce the use of fertilisers and pesticides in agriculture, and implementing measures to reduce pollution from sewage treatment plants and other industrial sites.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will:  i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk.	++		
		processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.  People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.		Moreover, community-led initiatives could be developed to monitor water quality in the region, identify sources of pollution, and work towards addressing those sources. By empowering people to take responsibility for their environment and promoting community engagement, the Cairngorms National Park can work towards ensuring that the water quality of rivers, lochs, and ground-water is protected for current and future generations.  By involving people in their community's governance and practical activity, there may be greater support for measures to protect and enhance the natural flood management services provided by river catchments. This could involve promoting sustainable land management practices to improve soil health and reduce erosion, planting trees and other vegetation to absorb and slow down water, and restoring	ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.			
3a	of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.  People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This	+	provided by river catchments are protected and enhanced for current and future generations.  To ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of public water supplies in the Cairngorms National Park, it may be necessary to implement measures such as water conservation and demand	In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will: i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk. ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green	++		
3a	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. It is knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	+	management, enhancing water storage and distribution systems, and promoting the use of alternative sources of water such as rainwater harvesting and wastewater recycling. There may also be opportunities to restore and protect natural water resources, such as wetlands and rivers, which can help to regulate water flow and quality and provide important ecosystem services.  The management of public water supplies in the Park is likely to involve collaboration between a range of stakeholders, including local authorities, water utilities, landowners, and communities. By empowering people to take responsibility for decisions affecting change in their environment and involving them in the planning and management of public water supplies, it may be possible to promote greater awareness of the importance of water resources and encourage more sustainable practices.	engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will: i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk. ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.	++		
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	+	In addition, community-led initiatives could be developed to encourage the use of alternative water sources, such as rainwater harvesting, greywater reuse, and other water-saving technologies. These initiatives could help to reduce the demand for water from development in the area.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will:  i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk.  ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part	++		
3b	Will there be an effect on	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory	+	Could help to mitigate the impact of future development on water resources.  Greater community involvement and engagement could lead to increased awareness and understanding of the importance of water conservation, and encourage the adoption of more sustainable water use practices. This could include promoting the use of water-efficient appliances, fixing leaks, and reducing unnecessary water usage in households and businesses.  Furthermore, community-led initiatives could be developed to encourage the use of alternative water sources, such as rainwater harvesting, greywater reuse, and other water-saving technologies. These initiatives could help to reduce the demand for freshwater resources and reduce the environmental impact of water use in the area.	of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will:	++		
	Will there be an effect on the water	processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.  People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.		Overall, empowering people to take responsibility for their environment and promoting community engagement could lead to a more sustainable approach to water use in the Cairngorms National Park, which could help to ensure the long-term health and resilience of local water resources.  By increasing awareness and knowledge of invasive species and their impact on the ecosystem, communities could be empowered to take action to prevent their spread. This could include reporting sightings of invasive species and taking steps to prevent their introduction into new areas, such as through proper cleaning of boats and equipment before use in different waterways.	<ul> <li>i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk.</li> <li>ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.</li> <li>In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6b) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National</li> </ul>			
3c	native species?	Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.  People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.	+	In addition, community-led initiatives could be developed to actively manage and control invasive species in the water environment. This could involve targeted removal efforts and the implementation of measures to prevent the spread of invasive species, such as barriers or the use of biocontrols.  As people become more aware of the impact of climate change and the importance of carbon sequestration, they may be more likely to support efforts to protect peatlands and other carbon-rich soils.	Park is most important, with a particular focus on: Tackling and reducing the impacts of invasive non-native species.	++		
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.  People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This	+		In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++		
	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.  People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This	+	With greater community involvement, there is a greater likelihood of promoting sustainable land use practices and reducing urban sprawl, which in turn can help to reduce soil sealing.  Improved community involvement can also promote better soil structure and reduce soil loss. Practices such as cover cropping, reduced tillage, and conservation tillage can help to maintain soil structure and reduce soil erosion. Furthermore, community initiatives such as composting and green waste management can promote soil health by providing organic matter to soils.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++		
4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	+	By involving the community in governance and practical activities, there would be a greater awareness of the potential harm that pollution can cause to soil quality, and therefore a greater emphasis on preventing contamination.  The involvement of the community could lead to a better understanding of how soil contamination can occur, and individuals may take steps to minimize their own contributions to soil pollution, such as reducing their use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and properly disposing of hazardous materials. Community involvement may also lead to the implementation of measures to monitor soil quality and take action if contamination is detected.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++		
4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	+	For example, communities could develop sustainable land management plans that prioritize the protection and restoration of soil health and structure. This could include measures such as tree planting,	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	+		
4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	+	Empowering communities to engage in the decisions affecting their future, and enabling them to participate fully in and benefit from Scotland's low carbon transition could be transformative. Locally empowered and informed communities operating within a wellbeing economy are best placed to protect a range of environments across the Park.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++		
<b>5</b> -	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	+	demand from development and reducing water waste. Similarly, sustainable timber harvesting practices can be promoted, ensuring that forests are managed in a way that maintains their ecological integrity, while also meeting the needs of the local communities.  Furthermore, with increased awareness and involvement, communities can work together to reduce their dependence on non-renewable resources, such as aggregates, by exploring alternative materials and methods that are more environmentally friendly.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2b) Support businesses and communities to use less energy, reduce emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing climate.	++		
5a	sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.			emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing climate.	++		
	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory	+	and replacements.  With increased community involvement, there is potential for the promotion of sustainable practices such as recycling and the use of secondary materials, which can reduce the demand for finite resources and promote a circular economy.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2b) Support businesses and communities to use less energy, reduce emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce,	++		
	materials?	processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.  People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This		Furthermore, the promotion of sustainable practices and the use of secondary and recycled materials can also have economic benefits for local communities. The promotion of sustainable practices can create new job opportunities and support local businesses that provide recycled materials or services related to waste management.  By involving people in the management and protection of the park, there would be more eyes on the ground to identify and report any issues or threats to the natural environment. With more people engaged in the decision-making process, it would be possible to identify and implement more effective conservation strategies that reflect the needs of local communities.	reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing climate.			
6а	favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	+	Overall, empowering people to take responsibility for decisions affecting the Cairngorms National Park would likely have a positive impact on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation.  When local communities are involved in governance and practical activities related to conservation efforts, they are more likely to have a better understanding and appreciation of their local environment and	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C5a) Take a coordinated approach to responsible tourism and management of the Cairngorms National Park as a visitor destination.	++		
6а	Will there be an effect on protected species?	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	+	the importance of protecting it.  This can lead to a greater willingness to actively participate in conservation efforts, such as protecting the habitats of protected species and supporting measures to address threats to their survival. By involving lead, communities in monitoring and protecting protected species, there is also a greater change of suppose in achieving conservation goals.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important	++		
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory	+	conservation and active involvement in protecting the natural environment.  Empowering people to take responsibility for decisions affecting the Cairngorms National Park environment and community benefits could have a positive impact on the habitats and plants identified in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan (CNAP). The CNAP outlines specific actions to protect and enhance the natural environment of the Cairngorms National Park, and involves collaboration between many stakeholders, including local communities. By engaging with and empowering communities to participate in decision-making and practical activities related to the environment, the CNAP objectives could be better achieved.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important	++		
	nabitats and plants?	processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.  People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.		For example, community involvement in the implementation of the CNAP's objectives, such as the restoration of peatlands, could contribute to the conservation of habitats and plants identified in the plan. Local communities could also play a vital role in monitoring and protecting endangered plant species through activities such as habitat restoration and invasive species control. Additionally, increasing awareness and understanding of the importance of these habitats and plants among local communities could lead to a stronger commitment to their protection and conservation.  Empowering people to take responsibility for decisions affecting the Cairngorms National Park environment and community benefits could have a positive impact on the bird and mammals identified in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan (CNAP). The CNAP outlines specific actions to protect and enhance the natural environment of the Cairngorms National Park, and involves collaboration between many stakeholders, including local communities. By engaging with and empowering communities to participate in decision-making and practical activities related to the environment, the CNAP objectives could be				
6a	Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?	Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	+	better achieved.  For example, community involvement in the implementation of the CNAP's objectives, such as the restoration of peatlands, could contribute to the conservation of bird and mammals identified in the plan. Local communities could also play a vital role in monitoring and protecting endangered plant species through activities such as habitat restoration and invasive species control. Additionally, increasing awareness and understanding of the importance of these habitats and plants among local communities could lead to a stronger commitment to their protection and conservation.  People who are more involved in their community's governance and practical activity are likely to become more aware of the importance of biodiversity and take actions to protect it. This could include	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important	++		
6a	will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	+	adopting sustainable land-use practices, supporting wildlife-friendly farming and forestry practices, and actively participating in conservation efforts.  By involving local communities in decision-making, the Cairngorms National Park could encourage the development of policies and practices that promote the protection and restoration of biodiversity. Such policies could include reducing the use of pesticides and fertilisers, creating wildlife corridors, and protecting and restoring degraded habitats. These efforts could also lead to the creation of more ecologically diverse landscapes, which would support a wider range of species and improve overall ecosystem health. Ultimately, the involvement of local communities in conservation efforts can help to promote a more sustainable future for the Cairngorms National Park and its diverse wildlife.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important	++		
6а	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	+	Additionally, with a greater emphasis on sustainable use of natural resources, the effects of deer on the ecosystem can be weighed against other considerations, such as biodiversity conservation, carbon storage, and water quality. People taking an active role in community governance can also lead to the development of more collaborative, long-term deer management strategies that are more effective and sustainable. Overall, community empowerment can facilitate a more integrated approach to deer management that balances environmental, social, and economic considerations.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3f) Reduce red deer and other herbivore (roe deer, fallow deer, sheep and hare) numbers where needed across the National Park to enable woodlands to expand, heather loss to be reversed, peatlands to recover and wider biodiversity and landscape enhancement to take place.	+		
6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory	+	Increased community involvement in the management of the park's natural resources and infrastructure can promote better coordination and monitoring of the park's activities, which could prevent or limit the spread of invasive species and diseases.  Community involvement can also help to increase awareness and understanding of the potential risks associated with invasive species and diseases, which could lead to the adoption of best practices in land management. This includes the use of appropriate tools and techniques to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species, such as regular cleaning and maintenance of machinery, equipment, and vehicles that are used in the park.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6b) Tacklle and reduce the impacts of invasive non-native species.	++		
	tree diseases?	processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.  People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.		Furthermore, community involvement can also promote the use of native species and local tree varieties, which can be more resistant to diseases and pests, reducing the risk of their spread. Overall, community engagement can play a significant role in preventing the spread of invasive species and diseases in the Cairngorms National Park, thereby promoting the conservation of biodiversity and the long-term health of the ecosystem.  On one hand, increased involvement from local communities could lead to better management of the natural resources within the park, which could help to maintain or enhance the special qualities of the landscapes. For example, increased community involvement could lead to better management of the park's habitats and wildlife, and improved monitoring of the park's water quality.				
7a	will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?	Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	?	landscapes. For example, increased community involvement could lead to better management of the park's habitats and wildlife, and improved monitoring of the park's water quality.  On the other hand, increased human activity within the park could have negative impacts on the landscapes, particularly if this activity is not managed effectively. For example, increased visitor numbers could lead to more soil erosion, damage to vegetation and wildlife habitats, and increased littering and pollution.  When people are more involved in their community's governance and practical activities, they are more likely to be invested in the outcome of decisions and take a long-term view of the impacts of their actions.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A4) Conserve and enhance the special landscape qualities of the National Park,	+		
7a	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	+	This could lead to a greater appreciation of the unique landscape character and local distinctiveness of the Cairngorms National Park, as well as a desire to preserve and enhance these qualities. Communities may take a more proactive role in conservation efforts, such as protecting local habitats, reducing pollution, and promoting sustainable tourism.  Additionally, involving communities in decision-making processes can lead to more diverse perspectives being considered, resulting in a more holistic approach to managing the park. This could result in more effective and sustainable management practices that benefit both the environment and local communities.  Overall, empowering people to take responsibility for decisions affecting their environment and seeing the benefits of those changes flow to their communities can have a positive impact on landscape character and local distinctiveness in the Cairngorms National Park.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A4) Conserve and enhance the special landscape qualities of the National Park,	++		
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	+	The involvement of people in the governance and management of the National Park can lead to greater recognition and protection of the historic and cultural assets of the area. This could involve initiatives to preserve historic buildings, cultural landscapes, archaeological sites, and other significant assets, as well as promoting the use and preservation of Gaelic, Scots / Doric and other aspects of the area's cultural heritage. Additionally, increased community involvement could lead to the development of new opportunities for cultural and heritage tourism, which could provide economic benefits to the area.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Objective C10) Safeguard and promote the Park's cultural heritage and provide opportunities for everyone to experience and learn about the National Park's outstanding historic environment, history and culture.  In line with NPF4 Historic Assets and Places Policy 7d) Development proposals in or affecting conservation areas will only be supported where the character and appearance of the conservation area and its setting is preserved or enhanced	++		
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.	+	Community involvement in decision-making processes can also lead to more diverse perspectives being considered, resulting in a more holistic approach to housing policy in the park. Communities may be better able to advocate for their specific housing needs and work collaboratively with local authorities to develop and implement solutions.  However, it is important to note that any changes to housing policy would need to be carefully managed to ensure that they are sustainable and do not have negative impacts on the environment or local	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy B1i) Providing a housing land supply that supports young people and workers and maintains vibrant communities.  & B1j) Reducing the proportion of vacant and second homes to support community vibrancy, ensuring that new housing development best meets local needs.	++		
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier	People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making	+	communities. Overall, empowering communities could potentially have a positive effect on housing for local needs in the Cairngorms National Park.  When people are more involved in their community's governance and practical activities, they may be more likely to prioritize the development of sustainable and accessible recreation and active travel options, such as walking and cycling paths. This could lead to an increase in the number of people choosing to engage in these activities, which can have positive impacts on physical and mental health.  Additionally, involving communities in decision-making processes can lead to a more comprehensive understanding of the diverse recreation and active travel needs of the population, which can inform the	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy B3b) Promoting the health benefits of outdoor recreation and GP-led green health referrals.	++		
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to	restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.  People need to know what the impacts of climate change will be and how this will affect them, their families and their communities in the future. This knowledge is essential to help them make informed decisions about how they want their communities to develop and thrive in the future.  Community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory	+	Overall, empowering communities can have a positive effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles in the Cairngorms National Park.  Increased community involvement in the governance and practical activities of the Cairngorms National Park could potentially have an effect on employment opportunities in the local area. For example, if the community is encouraged to participate in projects aimed at improving the environment, such as habitat restoration or sustainable tourism initiatives, this could create new job opportunities for residents.	to meet business needs and ensure opportunities created by the growth in green jobs can be filled by residents	++		
	places of residence?	community governance will give decision-making and power directly to local communities enabling means to create new and effective participatory processes to develop community projects defined, designed, funded and delivered by communities. This kind of democratised decision-making restores power to communities and also encourages people to become more involved in the democratic process.			and under-represented groups			

SECTION OF	• •			Theme: Nature  Aim 4. To be an international showcase for inclusive and equitable land management change  Objective d) Cairngorms National Park will trial new models of land use and land management and pioneer new collaborations to engage with nature			
SEA	ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONME	Nature of effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation	Justification and/or reasoning for enhancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement:	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with
objective	SEA sub-objective	Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.	Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	By promoting sustainable land use and management practices, the park could encourage the use of renewable energy sources, reduce energy demand, and promote energy-efficient design and construction. This could	Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the	recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	+	include encouraging the use of renewable energy sources in new developments, as well as promoting energy-efficient building design and construction methods. This could involve working with developers to identify suitable locations for renewable energy infrastructure and providing guidance on planning and design considerations for renewable energy projects.  Another potential way in which inclusive and equitable land management change could impact energy conservation and efficiency is through the promotion of sustainable transportation options. This could include developing public transportation infrastructure, promoting engling and walking, and encouraging the use of electric or bybrid vehicles.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3b) Promoting a high standard of sustainable design, energy efficiency, sustainably-sourced materials and construction in new development.  In line with NPF4 Sustainable Transport Policy 13:  a) Proposals to improve, enhance or provide active travel infrastructure, public transport infrastructure or multi-modal hubs will be supported. This includes proposals:  i. for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and electric vehicle forecourts, especially where fuelled by renewable energy.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	+	By promoting sustainable land use and management practices, the park could encourage the use of renewable energy sources, reduce energy demand, and promote energy-efficient design and construction. This could include encouraging the use of renewable energy sources in new developments, as well as promoting energy-efficient building design and construction methods. This could involve working with developers to identify	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2a, increasing suitable renewable electricity and heat generation, especially biomass, hydro, solar, small-scale wind turbines and heat exchange pumps that are also compatible with conserving the special qualities of the National Park and maintaining the integrity of designated sites.  In line with NPF4 Sustainble Transport Policy 13:  a) Proposals to improve, enhance or provide active travel infrastructure, public transport infrastructure or multi-modal hubs will be supported. This includes proposals:  i. for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and electric vehicle forecourts, especially where fuelled by renewable	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	+	Additionally, new models of land use and management that prioritize conservation and restoration could potentially result in decreased use of environmentally damaging materials and practices, further reducing the negative impacts on the environment.  Overall, the Cairngorms National Park's efforts to be an international showcase for inclusive and equitable land management change and pioneer new collaborations to engage with nature could have positive effects on the	energy.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	+	Additionally, if the park were to engage in collaborative projects with local communities and stakeholders, such as through citizen science initiatives or education programs, this could help to raise awareness of the importance of carbon sinks and the need to protect them. This could in turn help to mobilize support for conservation efforts and promote sustainable land use practices that benefit both the environment and local communities.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d, securing protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on travel the produces greenhouse gas emissions?	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	?	If new models and collaborations involve promoting sustainable tourism practices, such as encouraging visitors to use public transportation or providing facilities for electric vehicles, it is possible that there could be a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions associated with travel.  However, if the changes lead to an increase in visitor numbers or longer travel distances, this could potentially result in an increase in greenhouse gas emissions associated with travel. For example, if the park were to promote a new ecotourism initiative that attracts visitors from further afield, this could result in an increase in greenhouse gas emissions associated with travel to and from the park.  It is worth noting, however, that the impact of travel on greenhouse gas emissions is only one aspect of the overall carbon footprint of tourism. Other factors, such as energy use in accommodations and waste management, also play an important role.  Changes in land use and management practices could affect the hydrology of the park, potentially increasing the risk of flooding in certain areas. This could have implications for existing infrastructure and buildings, such as	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3f, promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.	+	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), wi there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	?	Extreme temperature events, could also impact existing infrastructure and buildings in the park. E.g., heatwaves could lead to increased demand for cooling systems in buildings, which could in turn increase energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Likewise, cold snaps could lead to increased demand for heating systems,  To mitigate the potential impacts of climate change on existing infrastructure and buildings in the park, it will be important to consider the potential risks and vulnerabilities associated with any changes in land use or management practices. This could involve assessing the potential impacts of climate change on infrastructure and buildings, identifying vulnerable areas or structures, and developing adaptation strategies to minimize risk and enhance resilience.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3d, facilitating the rehabilitation of redundant rural buildings and recycling of resources.	+	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), wi there be an effect on infrastructur and buildings proposed in the Loc Development Plan?	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature	?	Any changes in land use or management practices that affect the hydrology, water availability, or land cover of the park could have implications for the design and location of infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan.  To ensure that proposed infrastructure and buildings in the Local Development Plan are resilient to future climate change impacts, it will be important to carefully consider the potential risks and vulnerabilities associated with any changes in land use or management practices. This could involve incorporating climate change considerations into the design and location of infrastructure and buildings, such as incorporating flood resilience measures, ensuring adequate water supply, and using materials and design that can withstand extreme temperatures.  Overall, any changes in land use or management practices that aim to increase the resilience of the park to future climate change impacts should be carefully integrated with the Local Development Plan to ensure that proposed infrastructure and buildings are able to withstand the potential impacts of climate change.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2d, promoting high standards of sustainable design and efficient use of energy and materials in construction for all new buidlings.	+	
2a	of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?  Will there be an effect on the leve	novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.  Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased	?	If the park were to increase the amount of woodland or other vegetation cover, this could help to absorb air pollutants and improve air quality. Vegetation acts as a natural filter for pollutants, trapping and absorbing them through the leaves and stems, and releasing clean oxygen into the atmosphere. Similarly, changes in land use or management practices that reduce vehicle use or promote low-emission transport could help to reduce emissions of air pollutants, such as NO2 and PM2.5, from road traffic.  Changes in land use or management practices that increase the amount of biomass burning, such as controlled burning of heather, could lead to increased levels of particulate matter, such as PM10 and PM2.5, in the air. Therefore, it's important to carefully consider the potential impacts of any changes made within the park on air quality, and to ensure that they do not inadvertently increase air pollution levels.  Inclusive and equitable land management change can encompass a range of practices that can impact particulate matter levels. For example, promoting sustainable transportation options, such as public transportation, cycling, and walking, can reduce the number of vehicles on the road and, therefore, reduce the levels of particulate matter emitted by vehicles. Encouraging the use of electric or hybrid vehicles can also reduce the levels of	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3f, promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.	+	
2a	of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	+	Additionally, sustainable land management practices, such as sustainable forestry and sustainable agriculture, can help to reduce the levels of particulate matter in the air. These practices can reduce the amount of chemicals and fertilizers used in agriculture and can help to prevent soil erosion and degradation, which can lead to increased levels of dust and other particulate matter in the air.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3f, promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering	++	
3a	quality of rivers, lochs and ground water from diffuse and point source pollution?  Will there be an effect on the abili	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.  Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased	+	Inclusive and equitable land management change can encompass a range of practices that can impact water quality. For example, sustainable land management practices, such as sustainable forestry and sustainable agriculture, can help to reduce the amount of chemicals and fertilizers used in agriculture, which can contribute to diffuse pollution of rivers and ground-water. Additionally, promoting sustainable land use practices that prevent soil erosion can also help to reduce the amount of sediment and other pollutants that enter waterways.  Furthermore, reducing the use of harmful chemicals in other industries, such as mining and manufacturing, can also help to reduce the amount of point source pollution that enters waterways.	first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will: i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk. ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.	++	
3a	of river catchments to store water and the natural flood managemer services they provide?	local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	+	In terms of flood management, natural features such as wetlands, forests, and riparian areas can play an important role in reducing the risk of flooding by storing water and slowing down its movement. Altering land use and management practices in ways that promote the restoration or creation of these natural features could therefore have positive impacts	In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will: i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk. ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering	++	
За	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land	?	Land use and management practices can impact the quality and quantity of water available for human use. For example, changes in land cover, such as deforestation or urbanization, can affect the water cycle and lead to decreased water availability in downstream areas. Similarly, certain agricultural practices, such as the use of pesticides and fertilizers, can lead to contamination of water sources.  If the new models of land use and management in the Cairngorms National Park result in changes to the water cycle or water quality, this could potentially affect public water supplies that rely on the rivers and streams in the area. However, if the new models and collaborations are designed to improve water quality and quantity, this could have a positive impact on public water supplies.	first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will: i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk. ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and	+	
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	?	Land use and management practices can impact the availability of water resources and affect the demand for water from development. E.g., changes in land cover, such as urbanization or deforestation, can lead to	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will:  i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk.  ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.	+	
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.  Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in	+	If the new models of land use and management in the Cairngorms National Park are designed to promote sustainable water use practices, this could have a positive impact on the sustainable use of water resources. For instance, sustainable land use practices such as conservation farming or agroforestry can promote soil health and water retention, reducing the need for irrigation and fertiliser use.  If the new models of land use and management in the Cairngorms National Park promote the conservation and restoration of native habitats, this could help to reduce the spread and impact of invasive non-native species in	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will: i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk. ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.	++	
Зс	Will there be an effect on the wate environment from invasive non- native species?	er ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.  Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in	?		In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6b) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important, with a particular focus on: Tackling and reducing the impacts of invasive non-native species.	+	
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	+	If the new models of land use and management in the Cairngorms National Park promote sustainable land use practices that conserve and restore peatlands, this could help to mitigate carbon emissions and increase carbon sequestration in the area. For instance, land management practices that promote the restoration of peatlands, such as rewetting, can help to reduce carbon emissions and increase carbon storage. Similarly, agroforestry practices that incorporate trees into peatland areas can help to reduce erosion, improve soil quality, and sequester carbon.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil los	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	+	If the new models of land use and management in the Cairngorms National Park are designed to promote sustainable land use practices such as agroforestry or conservation agriculture which can help to promote healthy	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on the leve of soil contamination?	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature	+	The use of organic farming methods and reduced chemical inputs can help to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers, which can reduce the risk of soil contamination. In addition, sustainable land use practices such as agreefy and conservation agriculture can help to promote healthy soil ecosystems, which can help to mitigate the impacts of soil contamination.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.  Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased	+	Promoting sustainable land use practices, such as sustainable forestry and sustainable agriculture, can help to prevent soil erosion by reducing the amount of soil disturbed during land use activities, and by maintaining vegetation cover that helps to stabilize the soil. Additionally, implementing erosion control measures, such as terracing or using natural barriers like vegetation, can help to prevent soil erosion and landslides.  Promoting sustainable land use practices, such as sustainable forestry and sustainable agriculture, can help to preserve areas of natural beauty and unique geological features. Additionally, implementing measures to	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.  Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in	+	Furthermore, incorporating geodiversity interests into land management planning and decision-making processes can help to ensure that these areas are protected and managed in a sustainable and equitable manner.	of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++	
5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	+	Additionally, adopting sustainable mining and quarrying practices can help to ensure that aggregates are extracted in a way that minimises environmental impacts and supports the long-term availability of these resources.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2b) Support businesses and communities to use less energy, reduce emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing climate.	++	
5a	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and managemen of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	+	Promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources can help to reduce the environmental impact of energy infrastructure and support the transition to a low-carbon economy. Similarly, implementing measures to reduce water consumption and protect water quality can help to ensure the sustainable use and management of water infrastructure.  Additionally, adopting sustainable land use practices can help to reduce the risk of flooding and the need for flood protection infrastructure by restoring natural wetland areas and creating green infrastructure that can absorb and manage stormwater runoff.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2b) Support businesses and communities to use less energy, reduce emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing climate.	++	
5a	Will there be an effect on the use finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials	open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	+	Using secondary materials, such as reclaimed timber or recycled aggregates, reduces the demand for virgin materials and can help to conserve finite resources. Similarly, promoting the use of recycled materials in construction and other infrastructure projects can help to reduce the environmental impact of these projects and support the transition to a circular economy.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2b) Support businesses and communities to use less energy, reduce emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing climate.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	+	By adopting sustainable land management practices and prioritising the conservation of natural habitats and species, the park could help to support the restoration and enhancement of protected areas. For example, the park could implement measures to control invasive species, improve habitat connectivity, and promote the regeneration of degraded habitats.  In addition, by engaging with local communities, businesses, and other stakeholders to raise awareness of the importance of nature conservation and promote sustainable practices, the park could help to create a culture of environmental stewardship and support the long-term sustainability of protected areas.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C5a) Take a coordinated approach to responsible tourism and management of the Cairngorms National Park as a visitor destination.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on protecte species?	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	+	By prioritising the conservation of natural habitats and implementing measures to control invasive species, the park could help to improve the habitat quality and availability for protected species. For example, the park could implement habitat restoration and creation projects, such as planting native vegetation, creating wetland areas, and improving riverine habitats.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	+	The CNAP is a 30-year plan that sets out the actions needed to conserve and restore the habitats and species of the Cairngorms National Park, including native woodland, peatland, rivers, and wetlands. By trialing new models of land use and management, the park could help to support the implementation of the CNAP and improve the condition of habitats and plants.  For example, the park could implement habitat restoration and creation projects, such as planting native vegetation, restoring peatlands, and improving riverine habitats, which can help to improve the habitat quality and availability for CNAP species.  In addition, by engaging with local communities, businesses, and other stakeholders to promote sustainable practices and raise awareness of the importance of conserving CNAP habitats and plants, the park could help to reduce the impact of human activities on these species, such as habitat destruction from development and disturbance from recreational activities.  The CNAP is a 30-year plan that sets out the actions needed to conserve and restore the habitats and species of the Cairngorms National Park, including native woodland, peatland, rivers, and wetlands. By trialing new	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.  Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in	+	models of land use and management, the park could help to support the implementation of the CNAP and improve the condition of birds and mammal species.  For example, the park could implement habitat restoration and creation projects, such as planting native vegetation, restoring peatlands, and improving riverine habitats, which can help to improve the habitat quality and availability for CNAP species.  In addition, by engaging with local communities, businesses, and other stakeholders to promote sustainable practices and raise awareness of the importance of conserving CNAP birds and mammal species, the park could help to reduce the impact of human activities on these species, such as habitat destruction from development and disturbance from recreational activities.  The CNAP is a 30-year plan that sets out the actions needed to conserve and restore the habitats and species of the Cairngorms National Park, including native woodland, peatland, rivers, and wetlands. By trialing new	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and specie identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.  Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in	+	models of land use and management, the park could help to support the implementation of the CNAP and improve the condition of the wider biodiversity in the Park.  For example, the park could implement habitat restoration and creation projects, such as planting native vegetation, restoring peatlands, and improving riverine habitats, which can help to improve the habitat quality and availability for many species.  In addition, by engaging with local communities, businesses, and other stakeholders to promote sustainable practices and raise awareness of the importance of conserving various species, the park could help to reduce the impact of human activities on these species, such as habitat destruction from development and disturbance from recreational activities.  New models of land use and management that prioritize conservation and restoration could involve a reevaluation of current deer management practices, potentially leading to more sustainable and effective approaches to managing deer populations.		++	
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek reduce environmental effects?  Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek	ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.  Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased	+		In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3f) Reduce red deer and other herbivore (roe deer, fallow deer, sheep and hare) numbers where needed across the National Park to enable woodlands to expand, heather loss to be reversed, peatlands to recover and wider biodiversity and landscape enhancement to take place.	++	
6a	avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species an tree diseases?  Will there be an effect on the	local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.  Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased lead influence and buttress approaches and greate public value. Similarly, rathinking people's relationship with land may	+		In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6b) Tacklle and reduce the impacts of invasive non-native species.	++	
7a	special landscape qualities (SLQs of the National Park landscapes?  Will there be an effect on	open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.  Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased	?	If new models of land use and management prioritise conservation and restoration of native species and ecosystems, this could have positive impacts on the special qualities of the landscape by promoting biodiversity and ecosystem health. However, if new developments or infrastructure projects are introduced without careful planning and consideration of the landscape's special qualities, this could have negative impacts on the natural and cultural features that contribute to the Cairngorms' unique character and sense of place.  Any changes to land use and management practices in the Cairngorms National Park could impact landscape character and local distinctiveness in a number of ways. For example, new models of land use and	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A4) Conserve and enhance the special landscape qualities of the National Park,	+	
7a	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.  Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in	?	management that prioritise sustainable and regenerative practices could lead to the restoration of natural habitats, which could enhance the unique character of the landscape and promote local distinctiveness.  Conversely, changes to land use and management that involve large-scale development or the introduction of non-native species could have negative impacts on the unique character and local distinctiveness of the area.  Any changes to land use and management practices in the area could have an impact on historic and cultural assets. E.g., new infrastructure or development could affect the setting of historic buildings or archaeological	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A4) Conserve and enhance the special landscape qualities of the National Park,  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Objective C10) Safeguard and promote the Park's cultural heritage and provide opportunities for everyone to experience and learn	+	
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	?	sites, potentially altering their significance or value.  Similarly, changes to land use and management could have an impact on traditional cultural practices and linguistic assets. For example, new land use practices that prioritise conservation and restoration of natural habitats could affect traditional land management practices that have been used for centuries, potentially affecting the use of traditional place names or dialects.	opportunities for everyone to experience and learn about the National Park's outstanding historic environment, history and culture.  In line with NPF4 Historic Assets and Places Policy 7d) Development proposals in or affecting conservation areas will only be supported where the character and appearance of the conservation area and its setting is preserved or enhanced	+	
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	?	Changes to land use and management practices in the Cairngorms National Park should be carefully planned and implemented to ensure that they support the needs of local communities, including their housing needs.  This could involve working closely with local communities and housing experts to develop plans that prioritise the availability of affordable and sustainable housing, while also promoting sustainable land use practices that	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy B1i) Providing a housing land supply that supports young people and workers and maintains vibrant communities.  & B1j) Reducing the proportion of vacant and second homes to support community vibrancy, ensuring that new housing development best meets local needs.	+	
8a	Will there be an effect on recreati and active travel opportunities the support healthier lifestyles?	open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	+	Similarly, initiatives that promote sustainable and active travel, such as the development of new walking and cycling routes or the improvement of public transport links, could help to increase access to recreational opportunities and support healthier lifestyles for local communities and visitors to the area.  If there is a shift towards more sustainable forestry practices, there may be a need for more workers to carry out tasks such as selective logging or planting new trees. Similarly, if there is an increased focus on eco-tourism,	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy B3b) Promoting the health benefits of outdoor recreation and GP-led green health referrals.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	Enabling those with a stake in land management and land use to understand, and act upon, their land rights and responsibilities in ways that they haven't been able to before can help to promote beneficial community input into a number of sectors, e.g., increased local influence can buttress economic wellbeing and create public value. Similarly, rethinking people's relationship with land may open up opportunities for greater community benefit with more diverse land ownership and management models and may forge novel and diverse partnerships that will bring new ideas, fresh approaches and enable a deeper and wider engagement with nature and land.	+	this could create new jobs in areas such as hospitality or outdoor recreation.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Objective B4) Increase skills and training opportunities for people in the National Park to meet business needs and ensure opportunities created by the growth in green jobs can be filled by residents and under-represented groups	++	

Assessor(s): Insert assessor(s)'s name  Date of Assessment: Insert date(s) of assessment						
SECTION OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED:  (eg Vision, Policy X, Option 1A, etc)  ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFEC	Ob	jective 5e) Cairngorms National Par	Theme: Place Aim 5. To mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations.  k will contribute to net zero and biodiversity targets through landscape-scale enhancements to woodlands, peatlands, river catchments, uplands and farmlands.			
SEA objective SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	Justification and/or reasoning for enhancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree win recommended mitigation are enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing provide justification as to why.
Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.	+	The Park could raise awareness about the importance of sustainability and conservation. This increased awareness could lead to developers and builders prioritizing energy conservation and efficiency in new developments.  Investment in green infrastructure: If the Cairngorms National Park enhances the landscape at a large scale, it could result in increased investment in green infrastructure, such as renewable energy sources, energy-efficient buildings, and public transportation. This investment could create new job opportunities and drive economic growth while also contributing to sustainability goals.  Through various landscape scale enhancement projects the Park may drive collaborations and partnerships between different stakeholders, such as local businesses, community groups, and conservation organizations. These partnerships could lead to new ideas and innovations in energy conservation and efficiency that could be incorporated into new development projects.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3b) Promoting a high standard of sustainable design, energy efficiency, sustainably-sourced materials and construction in new development.  In line with NPF4 Sustainble Transport Policy 13: a) Proposals to improve, enhance or provide active travel infrastructure, public transport infrastructure or multi-modal hubs will be supported. This includes proposals: i. for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and electric vehicle forecourts, especially where fuelled by renewable energy.	++	
Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.	+		In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2a, increasing suitable renewable electricity and heat generation, especially biomass, hydro, solar, small-scale wind turbines and heat exchange pumps that are also compatible with conserving the special qualities of the National Park and maintaining the integrity of designated sites.  In line with NPF4 Sustainble Transport Policy 13:  a) Proposals to improve, enhance or provide active travel infrastructure, public transport infrastructure or multimodal hubs will be supported. This includes proposals:  i. for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and electric vehicle forecourts, especially where fuelled by renewable energy.	++	
Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations	?	The establishment of new woodlands or the management of existing ones could provide a source of timber or other forest products for local use, such as for construction or furniture-making. The restoration of upland habitats could also support grazing for livestock, which could provide a source of local meat and dairy products.  The enhancement of river catchments could also lead to an increase in the production of freshwater fish, which could be used for local consumption or sold to nearby markets.  It will be important to consider the potential benefits and trade-offs of different landscape-scale enhancements to ensure that they are aligned with the goals of net zero and biodiversity targets while also supporting local communities and economies.  By enhancing or restoring these ecosystems, there is potential to increase their capacity as carbon sinks, which could help to mitigate climate change and contribute to the net zero target.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A1c, working with farmers, crofters, communities and land managers to optimise local food production where factors such as supplier capacity, supply chains and consumer markets are favourable.  In line with NPF4 Rural Development Policy 29a iii):  Supporting the production and processing facilities for local produce and materials, for example local food production	+	
Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and	+		In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d, securing protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon.	++	
Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.	+	Conversely, if enhancements include improvements to walking and cycling routes within (and to) the park, this could encourage more sustainable modes of transportation and reduce the reliance on cars. In addition, if the park invests in public transportation infrastructure or low-carbon transportation options, this could further reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with travel to the park.  Another potential effect could be a reduction in travel-related emissions from agricultural and forestry activities in the park. For example, if the landscape-scale enhancements focus on sustainable farming practices or forest management that reduces the need for heavy machinery or long-distance transportation of produce, this could reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with these activities.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3f, promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.	++	
	multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.	+	Landscape-scale enhancements such as restoring degraded river catchments or improving soil management practices on farmlands could help to reduce the risk of flooding and erosion, which can damage infrastructure and buildings. Similarly, enhancing woodlands and peatlands can help to regulate water flows and reduce the risk of landslides or other hazards that could impact infrastructure and buildings.  If the LDP includes proposals for new buildings or infrastructure in areas that are vulnerable to flooding, landscape-scale enhancements that reduce the risk of flooding or erosion may be	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3d, facilitating the rehabilitation of redundant rural buildings and recycling of resources.	++	
Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?  Will there be an effect on the levels of UK		?	needed to ensure that these proposals are viable in the long term.  Similarly, if the Local Development Plan includes proposals for new buildings or infrastructure in areas that are vulnerable to climate change impacts, it may be necessary to consider strategies for adapting these proposals to ensure that they are resilient to future climate change impacts.  If landscape-scale enhancements involve the restoration of degraded river catchments, this could impact the design of bridges or other infrastructure that cross these waterways. Likewise, if landscape-scale enhancements involve the creation of new woodlands or peatlands, this could impact the placement or design of proposed buildings in the area.  Enhancing woodlands and peatlands can help to sequester carbon dioxide, which is a greenhouse gas that contributes to air pollution and climate change. By reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, nature-based solutions can help to improve air quality and reduce the negative impacts of air pollution on human health.		+	
PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?  Will there be an effect on the levels of other	Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.	+	In addition, landscape-scale enhancements such as restoring degraded river catchments or improving soil management practices on farmlands can help to reduce the amount of dust and other particulate matter in the air, which can also have negative impacts on human health.  Particulate matter (PM) refers to a complex mixture of solid and liquid particles suspended in the air, which can come from a variety of sources including vehicle exhaust, industrial processes, and natural sources like dust and wildfires. Exposure to particulate matter has been linked to a range of negative health impacts, including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.  Landscape-scale enhancements can help to reduce levels of particulate matter in a number of ways. I.e.,	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3f, promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3f, promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the	++	
Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.		restoring degraded river catchments can help to reduce erosion and sedimentation, which can reduce the amount of fine particles in the air. Planting new woodlands or restoring degraded ones can help to absorb and trap particulate matter. Peatland restoration can help to reduce the amount of dust and other particulates in the air by stabilizing the peat and preventing erosion.  In addition, practices such as reducing tillage on farmland and promoting sustainable agriculture can also help to reduce particulate matter levels by reducing dust from soil disturbance.  Increasing the extent and density of woodland cover can help to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation in rivers and lochs, which can improve water quality. Restoring and enhancing peatlands can help to reduce the amount of nutrients and pollutants that are released into waterways, as well as helping to regulate water flow and reduce flooding. Improving farming	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will:  i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk.	++	
	Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.	+	Connecting landscape change to community aspirations can also have a positive impact on water quality, as it can encourage sustainable land use practices that minimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides, which can contaminate water sources through diffuse pollution. Additionally, involving local communities in the management of natural resources can lead to better monitoring and protection of water sources from point source pollution, such as sewage discharges or industrial waste.  Improving the health and extent of woodlands and peatlands can help to increase water storage capacity in the landscape, as trees and peatlands act as natural sponges that can absorb and hold large amounts of water. This can help to reduce the risk of flooding downstream during periods of heavy rainfall, as the water is absorbed and stored in the catchment rather than running off quickly into rivers and streams.	ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will: i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk. ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part	++	
3a Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.	+	Restoring woodland in upland areas can help to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality by reducing the amount of sediment, nutrients, and pollutants that enter rivers and other waterways. This can help to protect public water supplies by reducing the need for expensive water treatment processes.  Similarly, restoring peatlands can improve the quality of water that flows through them by reducing the amount of dissolved organic carbon, which can have negative impacts on water treatment processes. Restoring peatlands can also increase the water-holding capacity of the landscape, reducing the risk of flooding and erosion downstream.  However, it's worth noting that the effect on public water supplies will depend on the specific nature of the landscape-scale enhancements that are implemented, as well as a range of other factors such as local climate and land use patterns. It's possible that some interventions could have unintended consequences that may impact public water supplies negatively.	of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will: i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk. ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.	++	
Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.	?	Landscape-scale enhancements to woodlands, peatlands, river catchments, uplands, and farmlands in the Cairngorms National Park may indirectly affect the demand for water from development (residential and business) in the area.  For example, if the landscape-scale enhancements include increasing the availability of water in rivers and streams by improving the quality of water and reducing the risk of flooding, this may lead to an increased demand for water for various uses such as irrigation, commercial activities, and recreational activities.  On the other hand, landscape-scale enhancements such as improving water conservation measures, increasing the efficiency of irrigation systems, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices may help to reduce the demand for water from development in the area.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will: i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk. ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green	+	
Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.	+	availability of water for various uses. Sustainable management of farmlands and uplands can also help to promote soil health and reduce the need for irrigation, thereby reducing water usage.  These landscape-scale enhancements can help to ensure the sustainable use of water resources in the Cairngorms National Park by reducing water waste, improving water quality, and promoting efficient use of water resources for various purposes.  Landscape-scale enhancements that aim to restore and protect natural ecosystems can help to prevent or reduce the spread and impact of invasive non-native species.	engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will: i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk. ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6b) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National	++	
Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?  Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across	+	By enhancing the health and diversity of native plant communities, landscape-scale enhancements can help to reduce the potential for invasive non-native species to establish and spread.  Landscape-scale enhancements that aim to restore and protect peatlands can help to increase the carbon sequestration potential of peatlands and reduce the release of greenhouse	Park is most important, with a particular focus on: Tackling and reducing the impacts of invasive non-native species.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++	
4a Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations	+	Landscape-scale enhancements that promote sustainable land use practices and protect natural ecosystems can help to reduce soil sealing by minimising the need for new infrastructure development and preserving natural landscapes that are less susceptible to soil sealing.  Similarly, landscape-scale enhancements can also help to improve soil structure by promoting practices that maintain soil health and reduce soil erosion. For example, sustainable farming practices such as conservation tillage and cover cropping can improve soil health by increasing soil organic matter and reducing soil disturbance, which can help to maintain soil structure and reduce soil erosion.  If the enhancements involve planting new trees or restoring peatlands, this could help to mitigate some forms of soil contamination by reducing erosion and runoff and improving soil structure and nutrient cycling. However, if the soil is contaminated with heavy metals or other persistent pollutants, these contaminants may still persist in the soil even after restoration	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++	
4a Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?  Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.	+	efforts.  It is also possible that some of the management practices used in the enhancements, could contribute to soil contamination if not used carefully and in accordance with best practices. However, if these practices are managed carefully and with a focus on minimising environmental impacts, they could help to improve soil health and reduce contamination over the long term.  Landscape-scale enhancements to woodlands, peatlands, river catchments, uplands and farmlands can have positive effects on soil erosion and landslides. Planting trees, restoring degraded soils, and implementing sustainable agricultural practices can all help to stabilize soil and prevent erosion. In addition, restoring wetlands and other natural water features can help to mitigate the effects of heavy rainfall and reduce the risk of landslides.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve	++	
Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.		Specific impacts of these landscape-scale enhancements on soil erosion and landslides will depend on a variety of factors, including the types of agricultural practices implemented, the slope and topography of the land, and the frequency and intensity of rainfall and other weather events.  Certain landscape-scale enhancements, such as reforestation, restoration of wetlands, and restoration of degraded peatlands, can have positive effects on geodiversity interests by promoting the preservation of soil and rock formations and improving the overall ecological health of the area.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++	
Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations	?		In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2b) Support businesses and communities to use less energy, reduce emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing climate.	+	
Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?  Will there be an effect on the use of finite	could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and	+		emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing climate.	++	
Fa resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?  Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature	funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.	+	In addition, the enhancement of woodlands and peatlands can provide opportunities for sustainable timber harvesting and peatland restoration, which can contribute to the local economy while also promoting sustainable use of natural resources.  The enhancements can create new habitats, restore degraded ecosystems, and increase biodiversity. This can benefit the protected areas by providing more habitat and resources for the species that live there, and can help to maintain or enhance their favourable condition.  Conversely, if the enhancements involve the introduction of non-native species or the alteration of watercourses, this could lead to unintended consequences such as the displacement of	emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing climate.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C5a) Take a coordinated approach to responsible tourism and management of	++	
6a Will there be an effect on protected species?	Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.	?	Therefore, it is important that the landscape-scale enhancements are designed and implemented in a way that takes into account the needs and requirements of the protected areas. This may involve careful planning, consultation with stakeholders, and close monitoring of the impacts of the enhancements on the protected areas.  On the positive side, the enhancements can create new habitats, restore degraded ecosystems, and increase biodiversity, which can benefit many protected species. For example, restoring peatlands can create important habitat for many bird species, including endangered species such as the curlew and the golden plover. Similarly, enhancing woodlands can provide habitat for many species, including the red squirrel and the capercaillie.  However, on the negative side, there is a risk that the landscape-scale enhancements may unintentionally harm protected species, particularly if they are not carefully planned and	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important	+	
6a Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.	?	executed. For example, if the enhancements involve the introduction of non-native species or the alteration of watercourses, this could lead to unintended consequences such as the displacement of native species or the alteration of the food chain.  Landcsape scale enhancements can help to restore and create new habitats for the priority habitats and species identified in the Nature Action Plan. For example, the restoration of peatlands can create important habitat for many bog species such as the bog myrtle, while the enhancement of woodlands can provide habitat for many species of lichens and mosses. Similarly, the restoration of river catchments can help to create new habitat for freshwater pearl mussels, which are a priority species for conservation in the Cairngorms.  However, there is a risk that the landscape-scale enhancements may unintentionally impact the habitats and plants identified in the Nature Action Plan. For example, if the enhancements involve the introduction of non-native species or changes to the	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important	+	
Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature 6a Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?	A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.	?	example, if the enhancements involve the introduction of non-native species or the alteration of watercourses, this could lead to unintended consequences such as the displacement of native species or changes to the food chain.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important	+	
Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?		+	Improving and enhancing habitats in one area can provide benefits to species that rely on those habitats, even if they are located outside of the immediate area. For example, creating new woodlands or restoring degraded habitats in the Cairngorms National Park can provide additional habitat for species such as birds, mammals, and invertebrates that may range beyond the boundaries of the protected areas.  Additionally, the Cairngorms National Park is located within a larger landscape, and wildlife populations and ecosystems are interconnected across these larger landscapes. Improvements to the habitats and ecosystems within the National Park can have positive knock-on effects on surrounding areas by increasing the flow of wildlife between different habitats and areas.  Therefore, while the primary focus of the Cairngorms National Park's contributions to net zero and biodiversity targets may be on the habitats and species within the Park, the effects of these improvements can have wider-reaching benefits for biodiversity in the surrounding areas as well.		++	
Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations	+	Deer populations can have significant impacts on the environment, including damage to vegetation and soil erosion. In order to mitigate these effects, deer management practices may be necessary to reduce deer populations or change their grazing patterns.  As part of a multi-stakeholder approach, it is possible that a range of perspectives on deer management will be represented, including those who prioritise conservation of the natural environment as well as those who rely on deer stalking for recreation or livelihoods. This could lead to meaningful discussions and agreements on how best to manage deer populations in a way that balances the needs of different stakeholders with the goal of protecting the environment.  In addition, efforts to mitigate climate change and improve biodiversity may have indirect effects on deer populations. For example, reforestation efforts could provide additional habitat for deer, while measures to increase biodiversity could result in a more diverse range of plants for deer to eat.  Invasive non-native species and tree diseases can have a significant impact on the biodiversity of an area, and they can be spread through various means, including human activity.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3f) Reduce red deer and other herbivore (roe deer, fallow deer, sheep and	++	
and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?  Will there be an effect on the special landscape	could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and	?	Landscape-scale enhancements in the Cairngorms National Park could potentially introduce new plant and animal species to the area, some of which may be non-native or invasive.  Therefore, it is important that any landscape-scale enhancements to the Park are carefully planned and managed to minimize the risk of introducing or spreading invasive non-native species and tree diseases. This may include measures such as using locally sourced seed and plant material, carrying out appropriate biosecurity measures, and working with land managers to promote good practice in the management of land and biodiversity.  Any changes to the landscapes and ecosystems within the National Park can have an impact on these special qualities, however, if the landscape-scale enhancements are carefully planned and managed, they can help to enhance and protect the special qualities of the Park. For example, restoring degraded peatlands can help to improve the water quality of rivers and lochs, which in turn can support the biodiversity of the area and the recreational activities that depend on these water bodies. Restoring native woodlands can also help to create new habitate for species and enhance the visual appeal of the area.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6b) Tacklle and reduce the impacts of invasive non-native species.	+	
7a qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?  Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.	+	It is important that any landscape-scale enhancements are carried out in a way that is sensitive to the special qualities of the National Park and that they do not compromise the integrity of the landscape. This may involve working with local communities, landowners, and other stakeholders to develop plans that are consistent with the aims of the National Park and that take into account the cultural, ecological, and economic factors that are important to the area.  If landscape-scale enhancements are carefully planned and managed, they can help to enhance and protect the landscape character and local distinctiveness of the National Park. For example, restoring native woodlands can help to create a more diverse and visually interesting landscape, while also providing new habitats for species. Restoring peatlands can also help to preserve the distinctive moorland landscapes that are characteristic of the area, while also contributing to carbon storage and flood mitigation.  It is important that any landscape-scale enhancements are carried out in a way that is sensitive to the landscape character and local distinctiveness of the National Park. This may involve			
Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.	+	working with local communities, landowners, and other stakeholders to develop plans that are consistent with the aims of the National Park and that take into account the cultural, ecological, and economic factors that are important to the area.  The Cairngorms National Park is a culturally and historically rich landscape, with a wealth of archaeological, architectural, and linguistic features that are an important part of the area's heritage. Any changes to the landscape and ecosystems within the National Park can have an impact on these features and assets.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Objective C10) Safeguard and promote the Park's cultural heritage and provide opportunities for everyone to experience and learn about the National Park's outstanding historic environment, history and culture.  In line with NPF4 Historic Assets and Places Policy 7d) Development proposals in or affecting conservation areas will only be supported where the character and appearance of the conservation area and its setting is preserved or enhanced.	++	
8a Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.	?	If the landscape-scale enhancements are successful in attracting new visitors to the area or supporting new economic opportunities, it could lead to an increase in demand for housing. This could potentially lead to rising housing costs and a shortage of affordable housing, which could impact the ability of local residents to find suitable housing. However, it is also possible that landscape-scale enhancements could provide opportunities to support the development of affordable housing, particularly if they are linked to new economic opportunities or to the development of sustainable tourism. For example, new woodland and peatland projects could be developed in conjunction with affordable housing schemes or as part of wider regeneration initiatives.  It is important that any landscape-scale enhancements are developed in consultation with local communities and take into account the potential impacts on housing and other social and economic factors. This may involve working with local authorities, community groups, and other stakeholders to ensure that any new development or changes to the landscape are carefully managed to minimize any negative impacts on the local community.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy B1i) Providing a housing land supply that supports young people and workers and maintains vibrant communities.  & B1j) Reducing the proportion of vacant and second homes to support community vibrancy, ensuring that new housing development best meets local needs.	+	
Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.  A multi-stakeholder drive to mitigate the climate emergency, improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and	+	Restoring degraded peatlands and woodlands can create new habitats for wildlife and enhance the visual appeal of the area, making it more attractive for visitors. At the same time, these enhancements can provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and active travel, including hiking and cycling trails, wildlife watching opportunities, and other forms of outdoor recreation.  Landscape-scale enhancements can also support healthier lifestyles by providing opportunities for active travel, including walking and cycling. This can include developing new trails and paths that link communities and provide safe, accessible routes for active travel.  The restoration of degraded peatlands and woodlands can create new jobs in habitat management, forestry, and land-based industries such as farming and agriculture. These types of	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy B3b) Promoting the health benefits of outdoor recreation and GP-led green health referrals.	++	
Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	could lead to positive change across a number of sectors, bringing opportunities and benfits supported by a broad coalition of partners and funders for the benefit of people and nature.  Furthermore, delivering a suite of nature-based solutions to climate change on an landscape scale in Scotland and working across multiple land uses abd habitats, considerable progress may be made towards reaching net-zero and mitigating the biodiversity crisis.			In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Objective B4) Increase skills and training opportunities for people in the National Park to meet business needs and ensure opportunities created by the growth in green jobs can be filled by residents and under-represented groups	++	

Insert date(s) of				Theme: Place			
(eg Vision, Pol	icy X, Option 1A, etc)  ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL I			Theme: Place ce active travel at the heart of a greener future, leading to a fairer and regenerative local economy during Covid recovery will be a rural exemplar for sustainable and active travel, embracing technology and design innovation, to reduce transport related carbon emissions		Scoring:	CNPA response to
SEA objective	SEA sub-objective		significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	Justification and/or reasoning for enhancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.	+	By encouraging sustainable modes of transportation, there may be a reduction in the use of private cars. This may lead to a decrease in the amount of carbon emissions generated from transportation, which is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.  As a result, it is likely that developers in the area would be encouraged to adopt more energy-efficient and sustainable practices in their new developments. This could include the use of renewable energy sources such as EV charging points, solar panels and wind turbines, as well as the implementation of energy-efficient building materials and design principles.  Furthermore, if the Cairngorms National Park becomes a leader in sustainable and active travel, it is possible that this could create a demand for more sustainable and energy-efficient development in the area. Developers may see the benefits of adopting these practices not only from an environmental perspective, but also from a marketing perspective, as consumers become more conscious of their impact on the environment and seek out sustainable	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3b) Promoting a high standard of sustainable design, energy efficiency, sustainably-sourced materials and construction in new development.  In line with NPF4 Sustainble Transport Policy 13:  a) Proposals to improve, enhance or provide active travel infrastructure, public transport infrastructure or multi-modal hubs will be supported. This includes proposals:  i. for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and electric vehicle forecourts, especially where	++	justinoation as to why.
1a	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.		By encouraging sustainable modes of transportation, there may be a reduction in the use of private cars. This may lead to a decrease in the amount of carbon emissions generated from transportation, which is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.  As a result, it is likely that developers in the area would be encouraged to adopt more energy-efficient and sustainable practices in their new developments. This could include the use of renewable energy sources such as EV charging points, solar panels and wind turbines, as well as the implementation of energy-efficient building materials and design principles.	fuelled by renewable energy.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2a, increasing suitable renewable electricity and heat generation, especially biomass, hydro, solar, small-scale wind turbines and heat exchange pumps that are also compatible with conserving the special qualities of the National Park	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.	+	Local farmers could be encouraged to use sustainable farming methods, such as agroforestry or regenerative agriculture, which would reduce the need for artificial fertilisers and other inputs that contribute to carbon emissions. Similarly, the park could promote the use of locally sourced materials for construction and infrastructure projects, reducing the need for transportation and associated carbon emissions. For example, buildings could be constructed using locally sourced timber or stone, and renewable energy technologies such as wind turbines or solar panels could be used to power the park's facilities.  The park could encourage the use of electric vehicles and other low-carbon modes of transportation, which would reduce the need for fossil fuel-based transportation and associated carbon emissions. This could also have a positive impact on local businesses that produce or sell electric vehicles or related products.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A1c, working with farmers, crofters, communities and land managers to optimise local food production where factors such as supplier capacity, supply chains and consumer markets are favourable.  In line with NPF4 Rural Development Policy 29a iii): Supporting the production and processing facilities for local produce and materials, for example local food production	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.		If the park were to adopt sustainable and low-carbon transportation methods, it could help to reduce carbon emissions and therefore mitigate the impact of climate change on woodlands and peatlands. I.e., if the park encouraged the use of electric vehicles or public transport, it could reduce the amount of carbon emissions from transportation, which could help to protect woodlands and peatlands from the negative impacts of climate change.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d, securing protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.	+	The main goal of reducing carbon emissions from transportation is to mitigate the impact of climate change. By promoting sustainable and low-carbon travel options, such as public transport, cycling, and walking, the park could encourage visitors and locals to reduce their carbon footprint. This would help to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by travel, which is a major contributor to climate change.  In addition, the park could also promote the use of electric vehicles and other low-carbon modes of transportation, which would help to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by transportation.  Climate change is expected to result in more severe weather events, including flooding and drought, as well as changes in temperature and precipitation patterns. This can have a significant impact on existing infrastructure and	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3f, promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.	++	
1b	considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?  Considering future implications of	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.  By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.	+	buildings, particularly those that are vulnerable to flooding or other extreme weather events.  As part of a multi-stakeholder approach, it is possible that discussions and decisions will be made on how to adapt existing infrastructure and buildings to better withstand the impacts of climate change. This could include measures such as flood protection systems, green roofs to reduce heat island effects, and energy-efficient retrofits to reduce carbon emissions.  In addition, efforts to improve biodiversity and connect landscape change to community aspirations could also have implications for existing infrastructure and buildings. For example, restoring natural ecosystems such as wetland or forests could help to reduce the impact of flooding on infrastructure, while promoting sustainable land use practices could lead to changes in building design and construction.  The Local Development Plan is a document that outlines the planning policies and proposals for future development within the Cairngorms National Park. If the park adopts sustainable and low-carbon transportation methods, as well as other climate change mitigation measures, it may be necessary to revise the Local Development Plan to ensure that it is consistent with these goals.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3d, facilitating the rehabilitation of redundant rural buildings and recycling of resources.	++	
1b	periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.  By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.		In addition, the Local Development Plan may need to be revised to ensure that new buildings and infrastructure are designed to be resilient to the impacts of climate change, such as increased flooding, periods of drought, and extremes of temperature. This could include incorporating features such as flood-resistant materials, green roofs, and other climate-adaptive measures.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2d, promoting high standards of sustainable design and efficient use of energy and materials in construction for all new buildings.	++	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.  By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have	+	Transport-related emissions are a significant source of air pollutants, including nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and particulate matter (PM), which can have significant impacts on human health, including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. By reducing transport-related carbon emissions, the park could also reduce these air pollutants, leading to improvements in air quality.  Moreover, the park could also take steps to reduce other sources of air pollution within its boundaries, such as by promoting the use of cleaner energy sources and reducing emissions from industry and agriculture.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C3f, promoting active travel and public transport provision and reducing the reliance on private motor vehicles.	++	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.  By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have	+	By championing technology and design innovation to reduce transport-related carbon emissions, there is likely to be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution, such as particulate matter (PM).  By reducing transport-related carbon emissions, the park could also reduce the emissions of PM from transportation sources, leading to improvements in air quality. Additionally, the park could take steps to reduce other sources PM within its boundaries, such as by promoting the use of cleaner energy sources and reducing emissions from industry and agriculture.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4,	++	
32	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and groundwater from diffuse and point source pollution?	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.  By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have	+	By championing technology and design innovation to reduce transport-related carbon emissions, there is likely to be an effect on the water quality from diffuse and point source pollution.  Transport-related emissions can contribute to air pollution, which in turn can contribute to water pollution through a process called atmospheric deposition. When pollutants like nitrogen and sulfur oxides and particulate matter are released into the air, they can be carried long distances by wind and deposited onto the ground or into water bodies, leading to nutrient enrichment and harmful algal blooms.  By reducing transport-related carbon emissions, the park could help to reduce the amount of atmospheric deposition of pollutants and thereby reduce nutrient enrichment in water bodies.  Reducing carbon emissions could help mitigate the impacts of climate change, which is likely to lead to more frequent and intense extreme weather events such as floods and droughts. By reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the	applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will: i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk. ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.		park could help to reduce the severity and frequency of these events, which in turn could help to preserve the natural flood management services provided by river catchments.  In addition to reducing carbon emissions, the park could take steps to enhance the natural flood management services provided by river catchments. This could include restoring wetlands, improving soil management practices, and planting trees, all of which can help to increase the water-holding capacity of catchments and reduce the risk of flooding downstream.  By enhancing the natural flood management services provided by river catchments, the park could also help to improve water quality, as natural systems like wetlands and forests can help to filter pollutants from runoff and improve water infiltration and retention in soils.  One of the main factors that can affect public water supplies is land use practices, which can impact water quality and availability. By promoting sustainable travel and reducing carbon emissions, the park could help to reduce the	catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will: i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk. ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.		amount of pollutants entering water sources and thereby help to protect water quality.  In addition, the park could implement measures to enhance water quality and availability. This could include promoting sustainable land use practices, such as agroforestry and regenerative agriculture, which can help to improve soil health and water retention, and thereby support the long-term sustainability of public water supplies.  Furthermore, the park could also explore innovative technologies and solutions to improve water efficiency and reduce water use. For example, the park could promote the use of rainwater harvesting systems and greywater recycling systems to reduce the demand for potable water.	applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will: i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk. ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4,	++	
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.	+	One of the ways in which sustainable travel and design innovation can reduce demand for water from development is through more efficient land use and building design. For example, by promoting compact, walkable communities and integrating blue-green infrastructure, the park can reduce the need for water-intensive landscaping and lawns.	applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will: i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk. ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4,	++	
3n	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.  By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have	+	Sustainable travel and design innovation can help to promote sustainable use of water resources through more efficient land use and building design. By promoting compact, walkable communities and blue-green infrastructure, the park can reduce the need for water-intensive landscaping and lawns, as well as reducing the need for cars and associated infrastructure that can contribute to water pollution and runoff.  In addition, green building design and water-efficient technologies can reduce indoor water use in residential and business developments, further reducing pressure on local water resources.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3g and Scotland's National Planning Framework 4, applying a 'green engineering first' approach to flood management and water storage within catchments in the National Park.  In line with NPF4 Water Management Policy 22c) Development proposals will: i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk. ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue- green infrastructure.	++	
3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.	?	Transportation infrastructure, such as roads, railways, and airports, can serve as pathways for invasive non-native species to spread into new areas, including water bodies. By reducing reliance on private cars and promoting sustainable travel options, the park could potentially reduce the spread of invasive species that are commonly associated with road traffic, such as Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, and giant hogweed.  However, it is also important to note that sustainable travel options, such as cycling and hiking, can themselves potentially contribute to the spread of invasive species if appropriate biosecurity measures are not in place. For example, mountain bikers could inadvertently transport invasive plant seeds or pathogens on their bikes or clothing, while hikers could carry non-native seeds in their hiking boots or backpacks. Therefore, it will be important for the park to ensure that biosecurity measures are in place to minimise the risk of unintentional spread of invasive species by visitors.  By working to reduce transport related carbon emissions, there is likely to be a positive effect on carbon-rich soils, including peat. This is because measures to reduce carbon emissions, such as promoting sustainable and active	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6b) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important, with a particular focus on: Tackling and reducing the impacts of invasive non-native species.	+	
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.	+	travel, can help reduce the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere and therefore limit the impacts of climate change. Transport-related carbon emissions are primarily generated by the burning of fossil fuels, and efforts to reduce these emissions typically involve measures such as promoting public transport, encouraging the use of electric or low-emission vehicles, and promoting active travel modes such as cycling and walking.  While these measures are important for mitigating climate change, they are unlikely to have a direct impact on carbon-rich soils such as peat. However, promoting sustainable and active travel can indirectly contribute to the protection and restoration of peatlands by reducing the demand for new roads and infrastructure that could damage these sensitive ecosystems.  In addition, efforts to promote sustainable travel and reduce transport-related carbon emissions can have multiple co-benefits for the environment and local communities, including improved air quality, reduced congestion, and increased physical activity.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.  By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have	+	It is possible that there could be some positive effects on soil sealing, soil structure, and soil loss. For example, reducing the need for new roads and car parks by promoting sustainable and active travel could help to reduce soil sealing and the associated impacts on soil structure and function.  Similarly, measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as promoting sustainable agriculture and reducing the use of heavy machinery, could help to reduce soil erosion and improve soil health. Soil sealing and soil loss can also be influenced by a variety of other factors, including land use change, development, and climate change, so it is important to take a holistic approach to soil management in the Cairngorms National Park.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.  By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have	+	If there is increased use of electric vehicles or bicycles, there may be reduced emissions of pollutants that contribute to soil contamination, such as heavy metals and volatile organic compounds, from vehicle exhaust and fuel spills.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.  By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have	+	There is potential for the reduction of soil erosion and landslides due to the implementation of sustainable practices that reduce disturbance to the soil. By reducing the need for heavy machinery and vehicle traffic, soil compaction can be reduced, which can help to maintain soil structure and reduce erosion.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.  By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.	+	It is possible that the efforts to reduce transport related carbon emissions in the Cairngorms National Park through sustainable and active travel could have an effect on geodiversity interests, such as geological conservation sites designated as Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites. This is because some GCR sites may be located in areas that are sensitive to increased traffic or development, and may require additional measures to ensure their conservation and protection.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3d) Secure protection and restoration of degraded peatland, and promote sustainable management of peat and carbon-rich soils to maintain and improve their ability to store carbon and maintain soil health.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2b) Support businesses and communities to use less	++	
	use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?  Will there be an effect on the	Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.  By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.	+	There is a potential for positive impacts on the sustainable use of natural resources if the Cairngorms National Park becomes a rural exemplar for sustainable and active travel. I.e., if there is a reduction in carbon emissions from transport, it may lead to a decrease in the demand for fossil fuels used in transportation, which could help preserve the natural resources of oil and gas.  If the Cairngorms National Park becomes a rural exemplar for sustainable and active travel, it may have an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure. For example, reducing transport	energy, reduce emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing climate.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2b) Support businesses and communities to use less		
5a 5a	existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?  Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of	Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.  By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.	+	related carbon emissions may involve increasing the use of renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar or hydro power, to power electric vehicles or charging stations. This may require upgrades or expansions to existing energy infrastructure.  In reagrd to transport infrastructure construction, the use of recycled materials, such as recycled steel or reclaimed wood, can significantly reduce the environmental impact of building projects. Similarly, the use of recycled plastic and other materials in manufacturing can reduce the need for new raw materials and decrease the overall environmental footprint of the production process.	energy, reduce emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing climate.  In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C2b) Support businesses and communities to use less energy, reduce emissions, improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings, generate low impact renewable energy, reduce, reuse and recycle resources, and plan for a changing	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.  By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.	+	Reducing carbon emissions from transport can help mitigate the effects of climate change, which is a major threat to biodiversity and ecosystems. Additionally, the use of sustainable materials and practices in construction and development can help minimise disturbance to natural habitats and minimise damage to protected areas.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy C5a) Take a coordinated approach to responsible tourism and management of the Cairngorms National Park as a visitor destination.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.  By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.	?	The implementation of sustainable and active travel in the Cairngorms National Park may have an indirect positive effect on protected species. For example, reducing carbon emissions from transport can help mitigate climate change, which is one of the biggest threats to biodiversity and can have negative impacts on protected species. However, the specific effect on protected species would depend on the particular species in question and the specific activities and designs implemented in the park. For example, the construction of new infrastructure or the disruption of habitats during construction could have negative impacts on protected species.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important	+	
	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.	?	Promoting sustainable and active travel in the Cairngorms National Park could potentially lead to a reduction in carbon emissions from transportation, which could have positive effects on the environment, including the habitats and plants included in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan. Reduced emissions could improve air quality and reduce the impact of climate change on the ecosystem, which could in turn benefit the plants and animals that live there.  However, if new active trravel routes are used to promote tourism or other activities in the park, it could lead to increased foot traffic and disturbance of sensitive habitats or wildlife.	e. In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important	+	
	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.	?	Promoting sustainable and active travel in the Cairngorms National Park could potentially lead to a reduction in carbon emissions from transportation, which could have positive effects on the environment, including the bird and mammal species included in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan. Reduced emissions could improve air quality and reduce the impact of climate change on the ecosystem, which could in turn benefit the birds and mammals that live there.  However, if new active trravel routes are used to promote tourism or other activities in the park, it could lead to increased foot traffic and disturbance of sensitive habitats or wildlife.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important	+	
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.	?	Reducing transport-related carbon emissions could help to mitigate the impacts of climate change on the park's biodiversity. By reducing carbon emissions, the park could help to slow the pace of climate change and reduce its impacts on biodiversity.  Sustainable and active travel could help to reduce habitat fragmentation and promote the connectivity of ecosystems in the park, which could have positive effects on biodiversity. E.g., by maintaining wildlife corridors to connect fragmented habitats and improve the movement of wildlife through the park.  However, the introduction of new species through human travel could potentially have negative impacts on native species in the park.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6) Conserve and enhance the species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important	+	
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.	?	Reducing transport-related carbon emissions can indirectly contribute to broader efforts to mitigate climate change, which is expected to have impacts on wildlife populations, including deer. Climate change is likely to result in changes in temperature and precipitation patterns, which could alter the distribution and abundance of deer habitat.  In addition, promoting sustainable travel and reducing the demand for new roads and infrastructure could indirectly contribute to efforts to reduce the impact of deer on the environment. For example, reducing the need for new roads could help to maintain and restore natural habitats that are important for deer and other wildlife.  Overall, while promoting sustainable and active travel in the Cairngorms National Park is unlikely to have a direct impact on deer management practices, it can indirectly contribute to broader efforts to reduce the impact of deer on the environment. For example, reducing the need for new roads could help to maintain and restore natural habitats that are important for deer and other wildlife.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A3f) Reduce red deer and other herbivore (roe deer, fallow deer, sheep and hare) numbers where needed across the National Park to enable woodlands to expand, heather loss to be reversed, peatlands to recover and wider biodiversity and landscape enhancement to take place.	+	
6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.	?	the environment, while also promoting a range of other environmental and social benefits.  Sustainable and active travel could potentially reduce the need for transportation of goods and people through the park, which could in turn reduce the risk of unintentional introduction of non-native species and tree diseases. For example, if more people choose to cycle or walk instead of driving, there would be less potential for vehicles to transport invasive species or pathogens.  However, new technology and infrastructure implemented to promote sustainable and active travel could potentially increase the risk of introducing or spreading non-native species or tree diseases. For example, if new trails or infrastructure are constructed through areas with known invasive species, this could increase the risk of spreading these species to new areas. Similarly, if new technology is used to promote tourism or other activities in the park, this could increase the number of people and vehicles entering the park, potentially increasing the risk of introducing new invasive species or pathogens.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A6b) Tacklle and reduce the impacts of invasive non-native species.	+	
7a	Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.  By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have	?	Sustainable and active travel could help to reduce the impact of transportation on the landscape, potentially mitigating negative effects such as habitat fragmentation, pollution, and noise pollution. This could help to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the Cairngorms National Park, which includes unique landscapes, ecosystems, and cultural traditions.  There could also be potential negative effects on the special qualities of the National Park landscapes from the implementation of new technology and infrastructure. For example, if new transport infrastructure is constructed through sensitive areas or if new technology is used to promote tourism in previously undeveloped areas, this could potentially have negative impacts on the landscape, including habitat destruction, visual pollution, and increase human disturbance.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A4) Conserve and enhance the special landscape qualities of the National Park,	+	
/2	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.	?	Sustainable and active travel could potentially help to preserve and enhance the landscape character and local distinctiveness of the Park by reducing the impact of transportation on the environment. I.e., if more people choose to cycle or walk instead of driving, this could help to preserve the traditional rural character of the area by reducing the visual impact of cars and other vehicles.  However, there could also be potential negative effects on landscape character and local distinctiveness from the implementation of new technology and infrastructure. For example, if new infrastructure is constructed in a way the is not sympathetic to the local landscape, or if new technology is used to promote mass tourism or commercialization of the area, this could potentially have negative impacts on the character and distinctiveness of the Cairngorm National Park.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy A4) Conserve and enhance the special landscape qualities of the National Park, as	+	
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.  By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have	+	if more people choose to cycle or walk instead of driving, this could help to preserve the traditional rural character of the area and reduce the visual and audible impact of cars and other vehicles on historic and cultural sites.  Additionally, embracing technology and design innovation to reduce carbon emissions could potentially promote sustainable tourism and recreation, which could help to preserve and promote the area's historic and cultural asset including its linguistic heritage. For example, if new technology is used to promote low-impact tourism and recreation that respects the area's cultural heritage, this could help to preserve and promote the area's unique linguistic and cultural identity.	In line with NPF4 Historic Assets and Places Policy 7d) Development proposals in or affecting conservation areas will only be supported where the character and appearance of the conservation area and its setting is preserved or enhanced	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for	equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.	?	Promoting sustainable and active travel could potentially help to reduce the need for personal vehicles, which could make it easier for people to live further from urban centers and still access employment, services, and amenities. This could potentially reduce the pressure on housing supply in urban areas and make it easier for people to find affordable housing in rural areas, including the Cairngorms National Park.  However, it is also possible that promoting sustainable and active travel could increase the demand for housing in certain areas of the Cairngorms National Park, particularly if more people are attracted to the area as a result of it reputation as a rural exemplar for sustainable travel. This could potentially increase pressure on local housing supply and make it more difficult for local residents to find affordable housing.	young people and workers and maintains vibrant communities.	+	
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions.  Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.	+	Promoting sustainable and active travel, such as walking, cycling, and public transport, can create new opportunities for people to engage in outdoor recreation and physical activity. This can have positive impacts on public healt by encouraging people to be more active, reducing the risk of obesity and related health conditions.  In addition, promoting sustainable and active travel can create new opportunities for outdoor recreation in the Cairngorms National Park, which is already a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts. Encouraging visitors to use more sustainable modes of transport can reduce the impact of tourism on the environment, helping to preserve the natural beauty of the area and protect the habitats and species that call it home.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Policy B3b) Promoting the health benefits of outdoor	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of	By seeking to co-create a sustainable transport vision for 2030 and improve choices for appropriate transport modes and ensure that all rural communities in the CNP have equal access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options, the CNPA may drive progress towards substantially lowering transport-related carbon emissions. Furthermore, placing sustainable active travel at the heart of a greener and regenerative local economy will improve choices for appropriate transport modes ensuring that rural communities have access to healthier and sustainable low carbon transport options.	+	Promoting sustainable and active travel could potentially make it easier for people to access employment opportunities in the Cairngorms National Park and surrounding areas. By reducing the need for personal vehicles and promoting public transportation, walking, and cycling, people may have an easier time accessing jobs that are further from their home, which could potentially open up new employment opportunities.  Additionally, embracing technology and design innovation could potentially lead to the development of new industries and job opportunities in the Cairngorms National Park. For example, there could be opportunities to develop renewable energy projects, promote sustainable tourism, or create new jobs in areas such as green transportation or sustainable building design.  However, it is important to note that the potential impact on employment opportunities will depend on a number of factors, including the specific strategies and policies that are implemented, the local economic context, and the needs and priorities of local communities.	In line with 2022-2027 NPPP Objective B4) Increase skills and training opportunities for people in the National Park to meet business needs and ensure opportunities created by the growth in green jobs can be filled by residents and under-represented groups	++	



# 12. Appendix B - Project Assessment Templates

Assessor(s): Insert assess Date of Asse	• •						
Insert date(s) SECTION OF				1a Wellbeing Economy			
-	ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS  SEA sub-objective		Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)		Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	The creation of a wellbeing economy is intrinsically linked to all other work which takes place in CNPA, with potential positive impacts on how new development responds to, for example, the drive to net-zero within a just transistion.		A wellbeing economy may promote the integration of renewable energy sources into new development projects. This can include the installation of solar panels, micro wind turbines, or other systems to generate clean energy on-site. By incorporating renewable energy into new developments, the reliance on fossil fuels can be reduced, leading to more sustainable and energy-efficient buildings.  A wellbeing economy approach can also encourage sustainable building practices that prioritise energy efficiency. New developments can adopt design principles that minimise energy consumption, such as incorporating proper insulation, using energy-efficient appliances and lighting, and employing passive solar design strategies. This focus on sustainable building practices may result in reduced energy usage and lower carbon emissions.	The implementation and effectiveness of energy conservation and efficiency measures in new development depend on factors such as local regulations, funding availability, technological advancements and stakeholder collaboration. However, a wellbeing economy can provide a holistic framework that considers the social, environmental and economic aspects of development, which	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	The creation of a wellbeing economy is intrinsically linked to all other work which takes place in CNPA, with potential positive effects on the production of renewable energy, of appropriate scale, for the National Park.	+	A wellbeing economy encourages decentralised energy generation and local energy initiatives. This can involve promoting community-owned renewable energy projects, encouraging small-scale renewable energy installations on buildings and supporting local energy cooperatives. These efforts can enhance the production of renewable energy, at a scale that aligns with the needs and characteristics of the National Park, reducing dependence on centralised energy sources.	The feasibility and scale of renewable energy production within the National Park depend on factors such as available resources, technological advancements, environmental considerations and community support. Careful planning, stakeholder engagement and comprehensive assessments should be undertaken, to ensure that the production of renewable energy aligns with the principles and goals of a wellbeing economy, while also respecting the unique characteristics and environmental sensitivities of the Cairngorms National Park.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on the local production and use of materials and food produce.	+	A wellbeing economy places emphasis on sustainable and locally sourced food production. This can involve supporting local farmers and food producers who adopt environmentally friendly practices, such as organic farming, agroforestry, or permaculture. By prioritising local food production, the wellbeing economy promotes food security, reduces the reliance on long-distance transportation and supports the local agricultural sector.  A wellbeing economy further encourages the adoption of circular economy principles, which aim to minimise waste, promote resource efficiency, and maximise the value of materials. This can involve initiatives such as recycling, upcycling, composting, and reducing single-use items. By implementing circular economy practices, the local production and use of materials can become more sustainable and environmentally friendly.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	Creating a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have potential positive effects on carbon sinks, such as woodlands and peatlands.	+	The creation of a wellbeing economy involves raising public awareness about the importance of carbon sinks and their role in mitigating climate change. Education programs and campaigns can highlight the value of woodlands and peatlands as vital carbon sinks and emphasize the need for their protection and restoration. By promoting understanding and appreciation for carbon sinks, the wellbeing economy can generate support for conservation efforts and sustainable land management practices.  A wellbeing economy approach promotes sustainable transport infrastructure and encourages the use of low-carbon modes of	The specific impact on carbon sinks will depend on the implementation of policies, collaborations and the level of commitment to sustainability within the wellbeing economy framework of the CNP. Effective monitoring, enforcement of regulations and stakeholder engagement are essential to ensure the long-term preservation and enhancement of carbon sinks within the National Park.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on travel patterns and greenhouse gas emissions.	+	transportation. This can involve improving public transportation options, developing cycling and walking infrastructure and promoting the use of convenient and sustainable alternatives to private car travel, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with transportation.  A wellbeing economy may also involve raising public awareness about the environmental impact of travel and promoting behaviour change towards more sustainable travel choices. Educational campaigns and initiatives can inform residents, visitors, and businesses about the benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from travel and provide practical tips for making sustainable travel choices. By influencing travel behaviour, the wellbeing economy can contribute to lower greenhouse gas emissions from transportation.	The specific impacts on travel-related greenhouse gas emissions will depend on factors such as the effectiveness of sustainable transport measures, public engagement and the willingness of individuals and businesses to adopt more sustainable travel practices. The successful implementation of sustainable active transport strategies within the wellbeing economy framework can help reduce the carbon footprint associated with travel in the National Park.	++	
1b	flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	Considering future implications of climate change, the creation of a wellbeing economy may have a positive effect on existing infrastructure and buildings.	+	A wellbeing economy approach can prioritise retrofitting existing infrastructure and buildings, to enhance their resilience to climate change impacts. This may involve improving insulation, upgrading heating and cooling systems, installing renewable energy technologies and implementing water management measures. Retrofitting can help minimise energy consumption, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the adaptability of infrastructure and buildings to changing climate conditions.  As temperatures increase, the wellbeing economy can promote strategies to mitigate heat stress in urban areas. This can involve the creation of green spaces, the incorporation of urban forests or green roofs, and the development of cool pavements or reflective surfaces. Such measures help mitigate the urban heat island effect and reduce the impact of extreme temperatures on existing infrastructure and buildings.	The specific effects on existing infrastructure and buildings will depend on factors such as the scale of climate change impacts, local vulnerabilities, available resources and the relative level of commitment to climate resilience within the wellbeing economy framework. Implementing comprehensive climate adaptation strategies and integrating climate resilience into infrastructure planning and construction practices are crucial, for ensuring the long-term sustainability and functionality of existing built environments.	++	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	Considering the future implications of climate change, the creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan.	+	A wellbeing economy approach can prioritise climate-resilient design principles for proposed infrastructure and buildings in the Local Development Plan. This may involve incorporating measures to mitigate the impacts of increased flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature. Examples include designing buildings with flood-resistant features, implementing sustainable drainage systems, integrating green infrastructure to manage stormwater and utilising energy-efficient and passive cooling strategies. By adopting climate-resilient design, proposed infrastructure and buildings can better withstand and adapt to future climate challenges.  A wellbeing economy approach encourages sustainable transport options, such as promoting active travel (walking, cycling) and improving public transportation infrastructure. By reducing reliance on private vehicles and promoting low-emission modes of	The specific effects on proposed infrastructure and buildings will depend on factors such as local regulations, planning policies, available resources and the level of commitment to climate resilience within the wellbeing economy framework. By integrating climate resilience into the planning and development process, the wellbeing economy can contribute to the creation of infrastructure and buildings that are better prepared to withstand and adapt to future climate challenges in the National Park.	++	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO2, PM10, PM2.5, SO2)?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park can potentially have positive effects on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants.		transport, the wellbeing economy may help decrease emissions of pollutants like nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) from road traffic.  Furthermore, a wellbeing economy may prioritise sustainable land management practices, including the reduction of agricultural emissions and the adoption of environmentally friendly farming techniques. By promoting sustainable farming practices, such as optimised fertiliser use and improved livestock management, the wellbeing economy can contribute to reducing emissions of pollutants like ammonia (NH3) and nitrous oxide (N2O) from agricultural activities.  A wellbeing economy approach can prioritise sustainable industrial practices that aim to minimise emissions of particulate matter. This can involve implementing cleaner production technologies, improving emission control measures and promoting the use of low-	The specific impacts on air quality will depend on the implementation and effectiveness of measures within the wellbeing economy framework, as well as the cooperation and participation of various stakeholders. Monitoring air quality, enforcing regulations and promoting ongoing improvements in air pollution control would be required for achieving significant and sustained reductions in pollutants and improving air quality in the National Park.	++	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on the levels of other types of air pollution, including particulate matter (PM).		emission fuels. By reducing industrial emissions, the wellbeing economy contributes to lowering the levels of particulate matter in the air.  The restoration and expansion of existing woodlands within the National Park can have a positive impact on air quality. Trees and plants help capture and filter particulate matter from the air, improving overall air quality in the surrounding areas. The wellbeing economy can support initiatives that enhance green spaces and promote vegetation, leading to a reduction in particulate matter concentrations.  The creation of a wellbeing economy can influence sustainable urban planning practices within the National Park. This includes	Specific effects on particulate matter levels will depend on factors such as the implementation of sustainable practices, public engagement and the willingness of individuals, businesses and industries to adopt cleaner technologies and behaviours. Continuous monitoring of air quality, along with targeted measures to address particulate matter pollution sources, would be required, for effectively reducing levels of this type of air pollution in the National Park.	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and groundwater, by addressing diffuse and point source pollution.	+	implementing stormwater management systems, promoting green infrastructure and adopting low-impact development techniques. By managing stormwater runoff effectively and reducing urban pollutants, the wellbeing economy helps prevent contamination of rivers, lochs and groundwater, thereby preserving water quality.  A wellbeing economy approach may also promote sustainable land management practices that minimise pollution from agricultural activities. This includes implementing soil conservation techniques, proper waste management and optimized use of fertilisers and pesticides. By promoting sustainable farming practices, the wellbeing economy helps reduce diffuse pollution from agricultural runoff, thus improving water quality in rivers, lochs and groundwater.  A wellbeing economy can promote sustainable land management practices that minimise soil erosion and enhance water infiltration	The specific effects on water quality will depend on the implementation and effectiveness of measures within the wellbeing economy framework, as well as the cooperation and participation of various stakeholders. Regular monitoring of water quality, enforcement of regulations and ongoing efforts, to reduce diffuse and point source pollution, would likley be required for achieving and maintaining good water quality in the National Park.	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide.		within river catchments. This may include techniques such as contour plowing, agroforestry and the creation of buffer strips. By reducing soil erosion and increasing water infiltration, the wellbeing economy helps retain water within catchments and mitigate the impacts of heavy rainfall events.  Implementing a wellbeing economy will also likley require collaboration among various stakeholders, including local authorities, landowners, and communities. Through collaborative watershed management approaches, the wellbeing economy can facilitate coordinated efforts to manage water resources effectively, including flood risk management. This collaboration may enhance the overall resilience of river catchments and their ability to store water during flood events.  The creation of a wellbeing economy involves collaboration among various stakeholders, including water authorities, local	The specific effects on water storage and natural flood management services will depend on factors such as the implementation of sustainable practices, land use planning, hydrological conditions and the level of cooperation among stakeholders. Monitoring and adaptive management strategies will be required, to assess the effectiveness of interventions and ensure the long-term resilience of river catchments in the National Park.  The specific effects on public water supplies will depend on the implementation and effectiveness of measures within the wellbeing	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park can potentially have positive effects on public water supplies.	+	communities, and landowners. Through collaborative watershed management approaches, the wellbeing economy can seek to enhance the coordination of efforts to protect and manage water resources effectively. This may include implementing measures to minimise pollution, address water scarcity issues, and ensure the long-term sustainability of public water supplies.  The wellbeing economy approach promotes water efficiency and conservation practices in both residential and business	economy framework, as well as the cooperation and participation of various stakeholders. Continuous monitoring of water resources, enforcement of regulations, and ongoing efforts to protect and manage water sources are essential, for ensuring the availability and quality of public water supplies in the National Park.  The specific effects on water demand from development will depend on factors such as the implementation and adoption of	++	
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park can potentially have an effect on the demand for water from development, both residential and business.  Yes, the creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park	+	developments through encouraging circular principles. This includes implementing water-saving technologies, such as low-flow fixtures and appliances, as well as promoting behaviour changes to reduce water consumption. By prioritising water efficiency, the wellbeing economy may help to lower the overall demand for water from development.  The wellbeing economy approach promotes water conservation practices to minimise water wastage and ensure the sustainable	sustainable practices, the growth rate and scale of development, public attitudes and behaviours and the level of cooperation among stakeholders. Continuous monitoring of water demand, along with targeted measures to promote water efficiency and conservation, are essential, for managing water resources sustainably within the National Park.  The specific effects on the sustainable use of water resources will depend on the implementation and effectiveness of measures	++	
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?  Will there be an effect on the water environment	may have a positive effect on the sustainable use of water resources.  The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park can	+	use of water resources. This includes encouraging efficient water use in homes, businesses and public facilities, through the adoption of water-saving technologies, behaviour changes and educational initiatives. By emphasising water conservation, the wellbeing economy helps to optimise the use of available water resources.  A wellbeing economy approach can prioritise the restoration and enhancement of habitats in the water environment to support native species and reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems to invasive non-native species. By restoring degraded habitats, improving	within the wellbeing economy framework, as well as the cooperation and participation of various stakeholders. Ongoing monitoring, adaptive management and continuous improvement are vital, for ensuring the long-term sustainability of water resources in the National Park.  The specific effects on the water environment from invasive non-native species will depend on the implementation and effectiveness of measures within the wellbeing economy framework, as well as the cooperation and participation of various	++	
30	from invasive non-native species?  Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in	potentially have an effect on the water environment, by addressing the issue of invasive non-native species.  The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may		water quality, and promoting the growth of native vegetation, the wellbeing economy contributes to creating healthier ecosystems that are more resilient to invasive species.  The wellbeing economy approach will involve raising public awareness about the importance of carbon-rich soils, including peatlands, and their role in climate change mitigation. By educating and engaging the public, the wellbeing economy can promote	stakeholders. Continuous monitoring, adaptive management, and ongoing efforts to raise awareness and engage the public are essential, for effectively managing invasive species and protecting the water environment within the National Park.  The specific effects on carbon-rich soils, particularly peat, will depend on the implementation and effectiveness of measures within the wellbeing economy framework. Collaboration among stakeholders, including landowners, conservation organizations and	++	
4a	particular peat?  Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	have a positive effect on carbon-rich soils, including peat.  Yes, the creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss.	+	behaviour changes that contribute to the protection and restoration of carbon-rich soils. This includes reducing peat extraction, supporting peatland conservation efforts and adopting sustainable gardening practices that avoid the use of peat-based products.  The wellbeing economy involves raising awareness and educating the public about the importance of soil conservation. By promoting soil-friendly practices, providing educational resources and engaging stakeholders, the wellbeing economy encourages individuals and communities to adopt soil conservation strategies. This includes promoting responsible gardening practices, composting, minimising chemical inputs and adopting erosion control measures. Through education and awareness, the wellbeing	government agencies, is crucial for the successful restoration and management of peatlands. Continuous monitoring and adaptive management practices are necessary, to ensure the long-term preservation of carbon-rich soils within the National Park.  The specific effects on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss will depend on the implementation and effectiveness of measures within the wellbeing economy framework. Collaboration among stakeholders, including landowners, farmers, developers and conservation organizations, is essential for implementing sustainable land management practices and minimising the negative impacts on soil within the National Park. Ongoing monitoring and adaptive management are crucial, to ensure the long-term health	++	
<b>4</b> a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on the levels of soil contamination.	+	The wellbeing economy approach emphasises pollution prevention and sustainable practices, which can help reduce the introduction of contaminants into the soil. By promoting responsible waste management, proper disposal of hazardous substances and encouraging the use of environmentally friendly products, the implementation of a wellbeing economy may help to prevent soil contamination from occurring in the first place.  In cases where soil contamination already exists, the wellbeing economy approach can prioritise remediation and cleanup efforts. This may involve identifying contaminated sites, assessing the extent of contamination and implementing appropriate remediation strategies. A wellbeing economy can support initiatives aimed at removing or neutralising contaminants in the soil, restoring soil	The specific effects on soil contamination will depend on the implementation and effectiveness of measures within the wellbeing economy framework. Collaboration among stakeholders, including local government, environmental organisations, and local communities, is crucial for identifying and addressing soil contamination issues within the National Park. Ongoing monitoring and assessment are necessary, to ensure the successful reduction and management of soil contamination levels.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on soil erosion and landslides.	+	health and minimising the potential risks to human health and the environment.  The wellbeing economy approach promotes sustainable land management practices that aim to minimise soil erosion. This may include implementing erosion control measures such as terracing, contour plowing and using vegetation to stabilise slopes. By prioritising responsible land use, promoting soil conservation practices and encouraging sustainable agriculture and forestry, the wellbeing economy helps reduce soil erosion and the associated risks of landslides.	The specific effects on soil erosion and landslides will depend on the implementation and effectiveness of measures within the wellbeing economy framework. Collaboration among stakeholders, including landowners, government agencies, conservation organizations and local communities, is essential for implementing sustainable land management practices and minimising the risks associated with soil erosion and landslides within the National Park. Ongoing monitoring, assessment and adaptive management are crucial, to ensure the long-term protection of soil resources.	++	
<b>4</b> a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positve effect on geodiversity interests	+	A wellbeing economy approach often emphasises sustainability and environmental protection. This focus can lead to a greater emphasis on conserving and preserving geodiversity interests within the Cairngorm National Park. Efforts may be made to identify and protect GCRs, ensuring their long-term conservation and minimising the risk of damage or degradation.	To ensure the protection and conservation of geodiversity interests in the Cairngorm National Park, it will be neccessary to integrate geodiversity considerations into land-use planning, policy development, and decision-making processes associated with the wellbeing economy. This may involve conducting thorough impact assessments, implementing strict guidelines for infrastructure development, establishing visitor management strategies, and promoting responsible tourism practices.	++	
5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on the sustainable use of natural resources such as water, timber and aggregates.		The wellbeing economy approach encourages resource efficiency and the transition to a circular economy. This involves minimising waste, promoting recycling and reuse and reducing the extraction of virgin resources. By prioritising resource efficiency, the wellbeing economy helps reduce the demand for natural resources, including water, timber and aggregates, and encourages the development of sustainable alternatives and practices.	The specific effects on the sustainable use of natural resources will depend on the implementation and effectiveness of measures within the wellbeing economy framework. Collaboration among stakeholders, including regulators, resource managers, industries and local communities, is likley to be crucial for implementing sustainable resource management practices within the National Park. Ongoing monitoring, assessment and adaptive management are necessary, to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources in alignment with the goals of the wellbeing economy.	++	
5a	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positve effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure, including water, heat, energy and flood protection infrastructure.	+	The wellbeing economy approach can look to prioritise sustainable and resilient infrastructure planning and design. This may involve considering the long-term environmental and social impacts of infrastructure projects, as well as their compatibility with the goals of the wellbeing economy. Infrastructure projects can be designed to minimise resource consumption, optimise energy efficiency and incorporate renewable energy sources. By integrating sustainable principles into infrastructure planning and design, the wellbeing economy can promote the efficient use of resources and reduces the environmental footprint of infrastructure.	The specific effects on the sustainable use and management of infrastructure will depend on the implementation and effectiveness of measures within the wellbeing economy framework. Collaboration among stakeholders, including government agencies, infrastructure providers, local communities, and regulators, is essential for integrating sustainable principles into infrastructure planning, design, and management. Ongoing monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management are necessary, to ensure the sustainable use and management of infrastructure within the National Park.	++	
5a	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on the use of finite resources, through the promotion of secondary and recycled materials.		The creation of a wellbeing economy can foster the adoption of circular economy principles within the National Park. This involves designing products and infrastructure with the intention of reusing, refurbishing and recycling materials at the end of their life cycle. By promoting the use of secondary and recycled materials, the wellbeing economy encourages the development of local recycling industries, reduces reliance on imported materials and minimises the environmental impact of resource extraction.  The wellbeing economy approach can further influence procurement practices to prioritise the use of secondary and recycled materials in construction, infrastructure projects and public procurement. By setting criteria that require the use of sustainable and recycled materials, the wellbeing economy supports the development of markets for these materials and stimulates innovation in resource-efficient design and manufacturing.	The specific effects on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials will depend on the implementation and effectiveness of measures within the wellbeing economy framework. Collaboration among stakeholders, including regulators, businesses, waste management facilities and the community, is likely to be crucial for establishing the necessary infrastructure, policies and incentives, to promote the use of secondary and recycled materials. Ongoing monitoring, evaluation and adaptation are necessary, to ensure the continuous improvement of resource management practices within the National Park.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation.	+	The wellbeing economy approach recognises the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem health. By prioritising sustainable practices and ecosystem-based management, the wellbeing economy can contribute towards the conservation and enhancement of protected areas within the National Park. This includes maintaining and restoring habitats, protecting species of conservation concern and implementing measures to minimise disturbance and fragmentation of protected areas.	The specific effects on the favourable condition of protected areas will depend on the implementation and effectiveness of measures within the wellbeing economy framework. Ongoing monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management are necessary, to ensure the continuous improvement of conservation practices within the National Park. Collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders, including regulators, conservation organisations and local communities, are key to achieving the shared goal of maintaining and enhancing the favourable condition of protected areas.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on protected species	+	A wellbeing economy approach prioritises habitat restoration and enhancement. By restoring and improving habitats within the National Park, the wellbeing economy provides crucial habitats for protected species. This includes creating or restoring habitats such as woodlands, wetlands and grasslands that are important for the survival and reproduction of protected species.	The specific effects on protected species will depend on the implementation and effectiveness of measures within the wellbeing economy framework. Ongoing monitoring, research and adaptive management are necessary, to assess the status of protected species and their response to conservation efforts. Collaboration among stakeholders is vital for the successful implementation of conservation measures and the protection of protected species within the National Park.  The specific effects on CNAP habitats and plants will depend on the implementation and effectiveness of measures within the	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?  Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature	Yes, the creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on the habitats and plants identified in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan  Yes, the creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park	+	A wellbeing economy approach prioritises habitat restoration and enhancement. This can include activities such as reforestation, peatland restoration and the creation of wildlife corridors. By restoring and improving habitats identified in the CNAP, the wellbeing economy contributes to the conservation and expansion of important habitats for plants and wildlife within the National Park.  A wellbeing economy approach prioritises habitat restoration and enhancement. By restoring and improving habitats identified in the	wellbeing economy framework. Ongoing monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management are necessary, to assess the status of CNAP habitats and plants and their response to conservation efforts. Collaboration among stakeholders is crucial for the successful implementation of CNAP measures and the protection of habitats and plants in the National Park.  Specific effects on CNAP bird, mammal and invertebrate species will depend on the implementation and effectiveness of	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?  Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and	Yes, the creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on the bird, mammal and invertebrate species identified in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan  The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on wider biodiversity beyond protected		CNAP, such as woodlands, wetlands and grasslands, the wellbeing economy provides important habitats for bird, mammal and invertebrate species. This includes creating diverse and suitable habitats that support their feeding, nesting, and breeding requirements.  The wellbeing economy approach can promote habitat connectivity and ecological corridors within the National Park. By creating	measures within the wellbeing economy framework. Ongoing monitoring, research and adaptive management are necessary, to assess the status of CNAP species and their response to conservation efforts. Collaboration among stakeholders is vital for the successful implementation of CNAP measures and the protection of species in the National Park.  The specific effects on wider biodiversity will depend on the implementation and effectiveness of measures within the wellbeing economy framework. Ongoing monitoring, research and adaptive management will likley be necessary, to assess the status of	++	
6a 	species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?  Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental	areas and the habitats and species identified in the Cairngorms  Nature Action Plan.  The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have an effect on deer management practices that seek to	+	wildlife corridors and maintaining connected habitats, the wellbeing economy supports the movement and dispersal of species across the landscape. This allows for gene flow, colonisation of new areas and enhances overall biodiversity.  The wellbeing economy approach recognises the importance of maintaining ecological balance. Deer populations, when present in excessive numbers, can have negative impacts on vegetation, particularly in sensitive habitats. By implementing deer management	biodiversity and its response to conservation efforts. Collaboration among stakeholders is crucial for the successful implementation of biodiversity conservation measures in the National Park.  Collaboration among and with stakeholders, including landowners, wildlife managers and conservation organisations, is likely crucial for developing and implementing sustainable deer management practices within the wellbeing economy framework in the	++	
6a	effects?  Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have an effect on land management practices that aim to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and		practices that aim to reduce environmental effects, the wellbeing economy contributes to maintaining a balanced and healthy ecosystem.  The wellbeing economy approach emphasises raising awareness about the risks and impacts of invasive non-native species and tree diseases. By promoting education and providing information to land managers, local communities and visitors, the wellbeing economy enhances understanding of the importance of preventing their introduction and spread. This increased awareness can lead	Preventing the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases requires ongoing vigilance, monitoring and adaptive management. The wellbeing economy framework provides a platform for integrating these considerations into land management practices and promoting a proactive and coordinated approach to minimise the impacts of invasives within the	++	
7a	diseases?  Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?	tree diseases.  The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the park landscapes		to more informed land management decisions and practices.  A wellbeing economy approach recognises the value of the natural and cultural landscapes within the National Park. It emphasises the enhancement and protection of these landscapes, including their special qualities. By prioritising sustainable land management practices, conservation efforts and landscape planning, the wellbeing economy contributes to the preservation and enhancement of the SLQs in the National Park.	National Park.  The specific impacts on SLQs will depend on the specific strategies and actions implemented within the wellbeing economy framework. The engagement and collaboration of various stakeholders, including local communities, landowners, conservation	++	
7a	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness.	+	The wellbeing economy approach emphasises landscape planning and design that considers and enhances the local distinctiveness of the area. It recognizes the importance of preserving and celebrating the unique features, patterns and elements that contribute to the character of the landscapes within the National Park. By incorporating local distinctiveness considerations into land use decisions, development plans and design guidelines, the wellbeing economy helps maintain and enhance the landscape character.  A wellbeing economy further recognises the significance of cultural heritage and traditional landscapes in shaping the character of the National Park. It promotes the preservation and promotion of these elements, such as historic sites, traditional farming practices and local heritage. By valuing and protecting overarching cultural heritage, and supporting the continuation of traditional land uses, the wellbeing economy contributes to the maintenance of landscape character and local distinctiveness.	Any specific impacts on landscape character and local distinctiveness will depend on the strategies and actions implemented within the wellbeing economy framework. The collaboration and engagement of various stakeholders, including local communities, landowners, conservation organisations and government agencies, are crucial to ensuring that the creation of a wellbeing economy positively contributes to the landscape character and local distinctiveness of the National Park.	+	
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets, including linguistic aspects.	+	A wellbeing economy framework emphasises community engagement and empowerment. It recognises the importance of local communities as custodians of the historic and cultural environment. By involving communities in decision-making processes, including heritage management and interpretation activities, the wellbeing economy enables their active participation in preserving and promoting the cultural assets, including linguistic heritage.	Specific impacts on the historic and cultural environment and assets will depend on the strategies and actions implemented within the wellbeing economy framework. The collaboration and involvement of various stakeholders, including local communities, HES, linguistic experts and local government, are essential to ensuring that the creation of a wellbeing economy positively contributes to the preservation and promotion of the historic and cultural environment in the National Park.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a significant positive effect on housing for local needs.	+	A wellbeing economy approach recognises the importance of providing affordable housing for local residents. It emphasises the need to address housing affordability issues and ensure that adequate housing options are available for those who live and work in the National Park. By prioritising affordable housing initiatives, such as affordable housing developments, rent control measures, a reduction in second or holiday homes, the wellbeing economy can help address the housing needs of the local community.  A wellbeing economy approach recognises the importance of providing better access and connectivity within the National Park. This can involve the development and enhancement of trails, footpaths, cycling routes and other active travel infrastructure that promotes	Any specific impacts on housing for local needs will depend on the strategies and actions implemented within the wellbeing economy framework. Collaboration among various stakeholders, including local authorities, community groups, housing associations and developers, is crucial to ensure that the creation of a wellbeing economy positively addresses housing needs in the National Park.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyle	+	recreational activities and encourages healthier lifestyles. By improving access to natural and cultural attractions, the wellbeing economy enhances opportunities for outdoor recreation and active travel.  Furthermore, the creation of a wellbeing economy encourages community engagement and participation in recreational planning and decision-making processes. It recognises the importance of involving local residents, community groups, and stakeholders in shaping the recreational opportunities within the National Park. By empowering the community to have a voice in the development and management of recreation and active travel initiatives, the wellbeing economy ensures that the opportunities align with their needs and aspirations.  A wellbeing economy approach emphasises the development of local economic opportunities. By promoting sustainable and diverse	Any specific impacts on recreation and active travel opportunities will depend on the strategies and actions implemented within the wellbeing economy framework. Collaboration among various stakeholders, including local authorities, community organizations, tourism bodies and health agencies, is crucial to ensure that the creation of a wellbeing economy enhances recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles in the National Park.  Any specific impacts on local employment opportunities will depend on the strategies and actions implemented within the	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	The creation of a wellbeing economy in the National Park may have a positive effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence.	+	A wellbeing economy approach emphasises the development of local economic opportunities. By promoting sustainable and diverse sectors such as tourism, recreation, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy and local crafts, the wellbeing economy can contribute to the creation of new jobs within the National Park. This can include positions in hospitality, guiding and interpretation, conservation, sustainable land management and other related fields.	Any specific impacts on local employment opportunities will depend on the strategies and actions implemented within the wellbeing economy framework. Collaboration among various stakeholders, including local authorities, businesses, community organisations and educational institutions, is crucial to ensure that the creation of a wellbeing economy maximises employment opportunities local to places of residence in the National Park.	++	

Assessor(s):							
nsert assesso  Date of Asses	` '						
. ,	of assessment PLAN BEING ASSESSED:						
eg Vision, Pol	licy X, Option 1A, etc)		1	b. Public Health and the Outdoors			
SEA	SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	Justification and/or reasoning for enhancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	n/a	n/a	x	
10	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	n/a	n/a	х	
10	Will there be an effect on lead production and use of	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	n/a	n/a	х	
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	n/a	n/a	х	
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	n/a	n/a	х	
1b	be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	n/a	n/a	х	
1b	be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	n/a	n/a	х	
2a	Quality pollutants (e.g. $NO_2$ , $PM_{10}$ , $PM_{2.5}$ , $SO_2$ )?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	n/a	n/a	х	
∠a	politition (eg particulates)?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	n/a	n/a	х	
3a	and ground-water from diffuse and point source polition?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	n/a	n/a	х	
3a	provide?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	n/a	n/a	x	
3h	Will there he an effect on demand for water from	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	x	
3h	Will there he an effect on sustainable use of water	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	n/a	n/a	х	
30	Will there he an effect on the water environment from	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	n/a	n/a	х	
4a	Will there he an affect an earbon rich soils, in particular	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	n/a	n/a	х	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	n/a	n/a	х	
4a		No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	n/a	n/a	х	
4a 4a		No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	n/a	n/a n/a	X	
52	Will there he an effect on sustainable use of natural	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	n/a	n/a	x	
5a	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	n/a	n/a	х	
	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	n/a	n/a	х	
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	Undertaking a 'Nature Prescribing' approach in supporting individuals to access, connect with and appreciate that the natural heritage of the Cairngorms can bring health and wellbeing benefits for the individual, may also nurture a sense of value and guardianship for the environment that may have significantly positive effects on areas protected for nature conservation.	+	There are likely to be multiple synergystic benefits to those referred, via a nature prescribing approach, and to protected areas and species, as the cascading benefits from being connected to nature and the outdoors are likely to create a lasting sense of stewardship to the wider environment, in those experiencing reduced stress and anxiety, improved mood, improved mental wellbeing, improved sleep and the ability to relax.	Maintaining the approach to the project, as specfied in the project action plan, should help to nurture sustainable changes in the prescribing culture and approach to patient care.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	Undertaking a 'Nature Prescribing' approach in supporting individuals to access, connect with and appreciate that the natural heritage of the Cairngorms can bring health and wellbeing benefits for the individual, may also nurture a sense of value and guardianship for the environment that may have significantly positive effects on protected species	+	There are likely to be multiple synergystic benefits to those referred, via a nature prescribing approach, and to protected areas and species, as the cascading benefits from being connected to nature and the outdoors are likely to create a lasting sense of stewardship to the wider environment, in those experiencing reduced stress and anxiety, improved mood, improved mental wellbeing, improved sleep and the ability to relax.	Maintaining the approach to the project, as specfied in the project action plan, should help to nurture sustainable changes in the prescribing culture and approach to patient care.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	Undertaking a 'Nature Prescribing' approach in supporting individuals to access, connect with and appreciate that the natural heritage of the Cairngorms can bring health and wellbeing benefits for the individual, may also nurture a sense of value and guardianship for the environment that may have significantly positive effects CNAP habitats and plants	+	There are likely to be multiple synergystic benefits to those referred, via a nature prescribing approach, and to protected areas and species, as the cascading benefits from being connected to nature and the outdoors are likely to create a lasting sense of stewardship to the wider environment, in those experiencing reduced stress and anxiety, improved mood, improved mental wellbeing, improved sleep and the ability to relax.	Maintaining the approach to the project, as specfied in the project action plan, should help to nurture sustainable changes in the prescribing culture and approach to patient care.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?	Undertaking a 'Nature Prescribing' approach in supporting individuals to access, connect with and appreciate that the natural heritage of the Cairngorms can bring health and wellbeing benefits for the individual, may also nurture a sense of value and guardianship for the environment that may have significantly positive effects CNAP bird, mammal and invertebrate specie	+	There are likely to be multiple synergystic benefits to those referred, via a nature prescribing approach, and to protected areas and species, as the cascading benefits from being connected to nature and the outdoors are likely to create a lasting sense of stewardship to the wider environment, in those experiencing reduced stress and anxiety, improved mood, improved mental wellbeing, improved sleep and the ability to relax.	Maintaining the approach to the project, as specfied in the project action plan, should help to nurture sustainable changes in the prescribing culture and approach to patient care.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	Undertaking a 'Nature Prescribing' approach in supporting individuals to access, connect with and appreciate that the natural heritage of the Cairngorms can bring health and wellbeing benefits for the individual, may also nurture a sense of value and guardianship for the environment that may have significantly positive effects on wider biodiversity in the Park	+	There are likely to be multiple synergystic benefits to those referred, via a nature prescribing approach, and to protected areas and species, as the cascading benefits from being connected to nature and the outdoors are likely to create a lasting sense of stewardship to the wider environment, in those experiencing reduced stress and anxiety, improved mood, improved mental wellbeing, improved sleep and the ability to relax.	Maintaining the approach to the project, as specfied in the project action plan, should help to nurture sustainable changes in the prescribing culture and approach to patient care.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	n/a	n/a	х	
6a	native species and tree diseases?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	n/a	n/a	х	
7a	(SLQS) of the National Park landscapes?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	n/a	n/a	х	
/2	distinctiveness?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	n/a	n/a	х	
	environment and assets (including linguistic)?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	n/a	n/a	х	
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	Х	n/a By engaging a wider range of audiences with cycling, particularly those with health issues or low activity levels,	n/a	Х	
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	Undertaking a 'Nature Prescribing' referral pathway, to support more people to engage with active travel and recreation, may, from a healthcare perspective, improve health outcomes across the Park.	+	By engaging a wider range of audiences with cycling, particularly those with health issues or low activity levels, who might need more support or specialised bikes, may lead to more people using bikes more often, thus improving uptake and health outcomes.  Likewise, recreation opportunties such as community gardening, social forest or herittage walks, can have great mental and physical health benefits.	Maintaining the approach to the project, as specfied in the project action plan should help to nurture sustainable changes in the	++	
0	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	n/a	n/a	х	

Assessor(s): Insert assessor(s)'s name							
Date of Assessment: Insert date(s) of assessment							
SECTION OF PLAN BEING ASSE (eg Vision, Policy X, Option 1A, etc.			1c. Outdoor De	mentia Resource Centre			
(eg vicien, vicio) vi, opiicii vi, cio	ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS					Scoring:	CNPA response to
SEA objective	SEA sub-objective	Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	Justification and/or reasoning for enhancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER	recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.
1a	efficiency in new development?	<b>No connectivity</b> with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	<b>No connectivity</b> with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
1a	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	<b>No connectivity</b> with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
1a	Will there be an effect on local production and use	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	<b>No connectivity</b> with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?  Considering future implications of climate change	Minor potential adverse effect, resulting from an increase in GHG emisisons from travel to the centre from particpiants and staff.	?	Transport arrangements for participants to access the ODRC are planned to be improved and the carbon footprint reduced.	With suitable mitigation, i.e. car sharing, active tavel, more bike use, any impacts are likley to be negligble.	0	
1b	(eg increased severity of weather resulting in	<b>No connectivity</b> with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	<b>No connectivity</b> with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	<b>No connectivity</b> with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
1b	temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	<b>No connectivity</b> with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	<b>No connectivity</b> with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	Minor potential adverse effect, resulting from an increase in GHG emisisons from travel to the centre from particpiants and staff.	?	Transport arrangements for participants to access the ODRC are planned to be improved and the carbon footprint reduced.	With suitable mitigation, i.e. car sharing, active tavel, more bike use, any impacts are likley to be negligble.	0	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	Minor potential adverse effect, resulting from an increase in GHG emisisons from travel to the centre from particpiants and staff.	?	Transport arrangements for participants to access the ODRC are planned to be improved and the carbon footprint reduced.	With suitable mitigation, i.e. car sharing, active tavel, more bike use, any impacts are likley to be negligble.	0	
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
	management services they provide?  Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being	x	
3b		assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	The possibility of creating a network of dementia friendly paths at Badaguish raises potential effects on peatlands, if paths were placed in unsuitable areas.	?	With suitbale mitigation and careful planning, there are unlikley to be any significant effects on carbon rich soils.	Any future plans to create a network of pathways in the Park would need to consider impacts on established peatlands.	0	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	<b>No connectivity</b> with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	The possibility of creating a network of dementia friendly paths at Badaguish raises potential effects on soil stability, if paths were	?	With suitbale mitigation and careful planning, there are unlikley to be any significant effects on	Any future plans to create a network of pathways in the Park would need to consider impacts on soil (particularly erosion).	0	
4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	placed in unsuitable areas.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	Soils.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
5a	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
5a	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	<b>No connectivity</b> with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
6a		An increase of service users and staff to the Bagaduish centre could potentially impact on the favourable condition of protected areas.	?	An increase of people accessing the centre, with associated increase of potential foot traffic on pathways around the centre, could impact negatively on sensitive species and habitat receptors, including capercaillie, raptors, wildcats, invertebrates, peatland, freshwater systems and woodlands.	Any future plans to create a network of pathways in the Park, or increase traffic flows to the area, would need to be undertaken with suitable appropriate assessment as to potential impacts on sensitive enviromental receptors.	0	
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	An increase of service users and staff to the Bagaduish centre could potentially impact protected species.	?	An increase of people accessing the centre, with associated increase of potential foot traffic on pathways around the centre, could impact negatively on sensitive species and habitat receptors, including capercaillie, raptors, wildcats, invertebrates, peatland, freshwater systems and woodlands.	Any future plans to create a network of pathways in the Park, or increase traffic flows to the area, would need to be undertaken with suitable appropriate assessment as to potential impacts on sensitive enviromental receptors.	0	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	An increase of service users and staff to the Bagaduish centre could potentially impact CNAP habitats and plants.	?	An increase of people accessing the centre, with associated increase of potential foot traffic on pathways around the centre, could impact negatively on sensitive species and habitat receptors, including capercaillie, raptors, wildcats, invertebrates, peatland, freshwater systems and woodlands.	Any future plans to create a network of pathways in the Park or increase traffic flows to the area would need to be undertaken with suitable appropriate assessment as to potential impacts on sensitive enviromental receptors, including SLQs.	0	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?	An increase of service users and staff to the Bagaduish centre could potentially impact on CNAP species.	?	An increase of people accessing the centre, with associated increase of potential foot traffic on pathways around the centre could impact negatively on sensitive species and habitat receptors, including capercaillie, raptors, wildcats, invertebrates, peatland, freshwater systems and woodlands.	Any future plans to create a network of pathways in the Park, or increase traffic flows to the area, would need to be undertaken with suitable appropriate assessment as to potential impacts on sensitive enviromental receptors.	0	
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	An increase of service users and staff to the Bagaduish centre could potentially impact the wider biodiversity of the area.	?	An increase of people accessing the centre, with associated increase of potential foot traffic on pathways around the centre could impact negatively on sensitive species and habitat receptors, including capercaillie, raptors, wildcats, invertebrates, peatland, freshwater systems and woodlands.	Any future plans to create a network of pathways in the Park, or increase traffic flows to the area, would need to be undertaken with suitable appropriate assessment as to potential impacts on sensitive enviromental receptors.	0	
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
6a	Will there be an effect on land management	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
7a	Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?	An increase of service users and staff to the Bagaduish centre could potentially impact the special landscape qualities of the Park	?	An increase of people accessing the centre, with associated increase of potential foot traffic on pathways around the centre could impact negatively on sensitive species and habitat receptors, including capercaillie, raptors, wildcats, invertebrates, peat	Any future plans to create a network of pathways in the Park, or increase traffic flows to the area, would need to be undertaken with suitable appropriate assessment as to potential impacts on sensitive enviromental receptors, including SLQs.	0	
7a	local distinctiveness?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
7b	environment and assets (including linguistic)?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  The ODRC project will focus upon enabling people with dementia to	Х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/ Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	The ODRC project will focus upon enabling people with dementia to look out on nature, bringing the outdoors in and stepping out.  There are plans to develop cycling activities to support people with dementia to cycle at Badaguish, including all- abilities bikes.  The project team further seeks to enable people with dementia to be more physically active which will have a positive impact upon their experience of having a serious mental health condition.  Some participants might also progress to regular contact with nature via a community event, such as a health walk outwith the project.		Integrating the ODRC with a range of other proejcts in the C2030 Programme may help to deliver multiple benefits and increase the impact of the project.	Continuing to link to, and collaborate with, other projects such as:  1a. Wellbeing economy 1b. Public health and the outdoors 2c. Community Arts and Culture 6h Cycle Friendly Cairngorms  can produce mulitple, stacking benefits and would be encouraged.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	Potential increases to the scale of the centre may result in more staffing and employment opportunities at the heart of the Park.	+	At present the ODRC provides 1.5 FTE jobs, with future potenital capacity for apprenticeships and volunteers opportunities.		++	

eg Vision, Policy	LAN BEING ASSESSED:  y X, Option 1A, etc)  SSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS						
SEA	133E33WENT OF ENVIRONWENTAL EFFECTS			2a Climate Learning and Education			
objective Si	EA sub-objective	Nature of effect Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	Justification and/or reasoning for enhancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement:  Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.
1a I.	Vill there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new evelopment?	The Climate Learning and Education Project can have an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development. By educating and empowering young people to understand climate action and its connections to various aspects of sustainability, including energy conservation and efficiency, the project can influence their behaviours and decision-making processes related to new development.	+	By instilling a sense of agency and environmental responsibility in young people, the Climate Learning and Education Project can contribute to a shift in mindset and behaviours towards more sustainable and energy-efficient approaches in new development.  The project's emphasis on a Learning for Sustainability framework and pathway encourages lifelong behaviours aligned with environmental sustainability. This includes promoting pro-environmental habits, such as energy-conscious practices, both in personal lifestyles and in future decision-making processes related to new development.	Specific actions could include offsetting the environmental footprint of the project by implementing measures to reduce energy consumption, promote energy efficiency, and minimise greenhouse gas emissions associated with project activities, including transportation and events.		
	Vill there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of ppropriate scale for the Park?	The Climate Learning and Education Project may indirectly have an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Cairngorms National Park. By raising awareness and understanding of climate change, sustainability, and the importance of renewable energy sources, the project can inspire and empower young people to become advocates for renewable energy initiatives within the national park.	+	By integrating the principles of a wellbeing economy into the project, there can be a focus on promoting sustainable and locally-led renewable energy initiatives that prioritise the well-being of local communities and the natural environment. This can include exploring opportunities for community-owned renewable energy projects, innovative energy storage solutions, and partnerships with local businesses and organisations to support the development and scaling up of renewable energy in the park.	While the Climate Learning and Education Project itself may not directly create renewable energy projects, it can contribute to a supportive environment for renewable energy initiatives by nurturing a generation of environmentally conscious and empowered individuals who understand the importance of renewable energy and actively promote its adoption within the Cairngorms National Park.	++	
12		The Climate Learning and Education Project may have a positive effect on the local production and use of materials and food produce within the Cairngorms National Park through a number of ways.	+	The project can promote the principles of sustainable consumption, emphasizing the importance of locally sourced and ethically produced materials and food. By raising awareness about the environmental impact of resource-intensive production and long-distance transportation, the project can encourage individuals and communities to prioritise locally sourced materials and food produce, thereby reducing carbon emissions associated with transportation and supporting local businesses and producers.  The project can also educate young people about the benefits of local production and the positive impacts it can have on the environment, economy, and community resilience. By understanding the value of supporting local producers, participants can make informed choices and actively seek out locally made products, contributing to the growth of local industries and reducing the carbon footprint associated with long-distance supply chains.	By integrating these elements into the Climate Learning and Education Project, it may contribute to a shift towards more sustainable and locally focused production and consumption patterns, supporting the local economy, reducing environmental	++	
1a W	Vill there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and eatlands)?	The Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on carbon sinks, such as woodlands and peatlands, within the Cairngorms National Park.	+	The project can raise awareness among young people about the critical role of carbon sinks in mitigating climate change. By providing educational materials and experiences that highlight the value of woodlands and peatlands as natural carbon storage systems, the project can foster a sense of appreciation and understanding of their importance. By providing expertise, case study resources and site visits for school groups to better understand the role peatland restoration plays in carbon capture and habitat improvement, a deeper understanding of peatlands processes and their importance can be fostered in young people.	By incorporating these approaches into the Climate Learning and Education Project, it can play a significant role in fostering awareness, appreciation, and action towards the conservation and enhancement of carbon sinks like woodlands and peatlands in the Cairngorms National Park.	++	
1a W	Vill there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas missions?	The Climate Learning and Education Project may have a positive effect on travel patterns and contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with transportation.	+	The project can raise awareness among young people about the environmental impact of travel-related emissions. By providing information and resources on the carbon footprint of different transportation modes, participants can make more informed decisions regarding their travel choices and consider the environmental consequences of their actions.	The project can educate young people and their communities about sustainable transportation options, such as walking, cycling, or using public transportation. By emphasising the benefits of these modes of travel, and co-designing and supporting opportunity between schools and Active Travel projects around sustainable travel choices, the project can encourage individuals to choose low-carbon transportation methods for their daily commutes and other travel needs	++	
1b se	considering future implications of climate change (eg increased everity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and xtremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	Considering the future implications of climate change, the Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on existing infrastructure and buildings in the Cairngorms National Park.	+	The project can empower young people to advocate for climate-resilient infrastructure in their communities. By engaging in discussions, sharing knowledge, and participating in relevant forums, participants can contribute to the development of policies and practices that prioritise climate resilience in infrastructure planning and investment.	There may be scope to provide hands-on and experiential learning opportunities for young people, such as field trips to local ecosystems, renewable energy installations, and sustainable agriculture projects. This may allow students to directly engage with real-world examples and gain practical skills in environmental stewardship.	++	
1b Co	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased everity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and xtremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and uildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	Considering the future implications of climate change, the Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the LDP.	+	The project can raise awareness among young people about the potential risks and challenges posed by climate change to existing infrastructure. By fostering an understanding of the need for proactive measures, such as climate adaption plans and infrastructure maintenance, participants can contribute to the long-term sustainability and resilience of the built environment.  The project can provide education and awareness about the sources and impacts of air pollutants, including NO2, PM10, PM2.5, and	Suggested enhancement could be the facilitating of collaboration and knowledge-sharing among participating schools, teachers, and students. Encouraging networking events, workshops, and online platforms, where participants can exchange ideas, share best practices, and learn from each other's experiences, maybe valuable.	++	
	Vill there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	The Climate Learning and Education Project may have a positive effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants.	+	SO2. By raising awareness among young people and educators, they can become more informed about the issue and take actions to reduce pollution.  The project can promote sustainable travel practices by encouraging students and their families to choose low-emission transportation options. This can include organising car-sharing initiatives, promoting public transport use, and advocating for infrastructure improvements that support active transportation.	While the direct impact of the project on air quality may be limited, it can play a crucial role in raising awareness, educating future generations, and inspiring action to address the issue of air pollution. By fostering a sense of responsibility and understanding among young people, the project can contribute to long-term efforts in improving air quality and creating a healthier environment.	++	
	Vill there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg articulates)?	The Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on the levels of other types of air pollution, including particulate matter (PM).	+	The project can provide education on the sources and health impacts of particulate matter pollution. By increasing awareness among students and teachers, they can better understand the importance of reducing particulate emissions and take actions to address the issue.  The project can also promote behaviour changes that help minimise particulate pollution. This can include encouraging students and their families to adopt cleaner cooking practices, such as using efficient stoves or alternative cooking methods that produce fewer particulate emissions. Additionally, promoting the proper maintenance of vehicles and encouraging eco-driving practices can help reduce particulate emissions from transportation.	By integrating education, awareness, behaviour change, and advocacy, the project can play a role in reducing the levels of particulate matter in the air. While the direct impact may vary, the project can contribute to building a generation that is informed, engaged, and actively working towards cleaner air and a healthier environment.	++	
ya wa	Vill there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground- vater from diffuse and point source pollution?	Yes, the Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on water quality in rivers, lochs, and groundwater by addressing diffuse and point source pollution.  Yes, the Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on the	+	The project can promote best management practices to minimise diffuse and point source pollution. This can include educating students and their families about proper wastewater management, encouraging the use of eco-friendly cleaning products, and promoting the adoption of sustainable farming practices that reduce runoff and chemical inputs.  The project can provide education on the importance of catchment management and its role in water storage and flood management.	By integrating education, behaviour change, best management practices, restoration efforts, monitoring, and collaboration, the project can contribute to improving water quality in rivers, lochs, and groundwater. While the direct impact may vary, the project can play a role in nurturing a generation that understands the importance of clean water and actively works towards protecting and restoring water resources.  By providing education, promoting sustainable land management, engaging with local communities, and advocating for	++	
	Vill there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water nd the natural flood management services they provide?	ability of river catchments to store water and provide natural flood management services.	+	Students can learn about the natural processes that occur in river catchments, such as infiltration, groundwater recharge, and the role of wetlands in retaining water. Understanding these processes can help students appreciate the value of preserving and restoring natural features within catchments.  The project can empower students to become advocates for the protection of water resources. They can learn about the importance of	effective policies, the project can contribute to improving the ability of river catchments to store water and provide natural flood management services. This can help reduce the risk of flooding, enhance water availability during dry periods, and support the overall resilience of the ecosystem and local communities.  By promoting water conservation, sustainable water management practices, advocacy for water resource protection, and		
3a W	Vill there be an effect on public water supplies?	The Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on public water supplies.:	+	safeguarding watersheds, preventing pollution, and preserving the quality of water sources. By engaging with policymakers and decision-makers, students can raise awareness about the need to prioritise the protection of public water supplies and advocate for sustainable water management practices.	collaboration with water authorities, the project can contribute to maintaining and safeguarding public water supplies. This can help ensure the availability of clean and reliable water for communities within the Cairngorms National Park and support the long-term sustainability of water resources.	++	
20	Vill there be an effect on demand for water from development residential and business)?	The Climate Learning and Education Project may have a positive effect on demand for water from development.	+	The project can raise awareness among students, residents, and businesses about the importance of water conservation. By educating people about the finite nature of water resources and the need to use water efficiently, the project can help instill a culture of responsible water consumption. This, in turn, can reduce the overall demand for water from development.	By promoting water conservation education, sustainable development practices, integrated water management, and collaboration with local authorities and developers, the project can help reduce the demand for water from residential and business development. This can contribute to more sustainable water use in the Cairngorms National Park and support the long-term availability of water resources for both present and future generations.	++	
3b W	Vill there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	The Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on the sustainable use of water resources.	+	The project can educate students, residents, and businesses about the importance of sustainable water use. By raising awareness about the value of water resources, the project can promote responsible water consumption practices. This can include teaching efficient water use habits, such as reducing water waste, fixing leaks, and using water-saving technologies and fixtures.	responsible water use practices and lostering a culture of water stewardship, the project can help protect and preserve this	++	
30	Vill there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non- ative species?	The Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on the water environment by addressing the issue of invasive non-native species.	+	The project can educate students, teachers, and the community about the risks associated with invasive non-native species in water ecosystems. By raising awareness about the negative impacts of these species on native biodiversity, water quality, and ecosystem functioning, the project can encourage proactive measures to prevent their introduction and spread.	vital natural resource for future generations.  By incorporating education, prevention, monitoring, and restoration efforts, the project can contribute to minimising the negative impacts of invasive non-native species on the water environment. By fostering a sense of responsibility and stewardship among participants, the project can help protect the biodiversity and ecological integrity of water ecosystems in the Cairngorms National Park.	++	
4a W	Vill there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	The Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on carbon- rich soils, especially peat.	+	The project can educate students, teachers, and the community about the importance of carbon-rich soils, including peat, in carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation. By raising awareness about the value of these soils, the project can foster a sense of responsibility and promote actions to protect and restore them.  The project can further support peatland restoration initiatives within the Cairngorms National Park. Peatlands are vital carbon sinks, storing significant amounts of carbon. By engaging and training students and community members in peatland restoration activities, such as re-wetting degraded peatlands, restoring vegetation cover, and controlling drainage, the project can help preserve and enhance the carbon storage capacity of these ecosystems.	By integrating education, restoration, sustainable land management, and research, the project can contribute to the conservation and enhancement of carbon-rich soils, including peat. This, in turn, can help mitigate climate change by preserving and increasing carbon sequestration capabilities in the Cairngorms National Park.	++	
4a W	Vill there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	The Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on soil sealing, soil structure, and soil loss.	+	The project can promote soil-friendly practices that help maintain and improve soil structure. This can include teaching about the importance of organic matter, soil biodiversity, and the role of soil organisms in maintaining soil health. By advocating for practices such as composting, cover cropping, and reduced tillage, the project can help preserve soil structure and enhance its fertility and resilience.  The project can emphasise the importance of sustainable land management practices that minimise soil erosion and loss. This can include promoting practices such as agroforestry, rotational grazing, and the use of erosion control structures. By integrating these practices into educational programs and collaborating with land managers, the project can contribute to the preservation of soil quality and reduce the risk of soil erosion and loss.	By focusing on soil conservation, education, and sustainable land management, the project can help mitigate soil sealing, improve soil structure, and reduce soil erosion and loss within the Cairngorms National Park. This, in turn, can support ecosystem health, agricultural productivity, and overall environmental sustainability.	++	
4a W	Vill there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	The Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on levels of soil containnation	+	The project can emphasise the importance of monitoring soil quality and advocating for strong regulations to prevent soil contamination.  By promoting the implementation and enforcement of soil protection measures, the project can contribute to the reduction of soil contamination levels and ensure the long-term health of soils within the national park.	By integrating education, pollution prevention, remediation efforts, and advocacy for regulations, the project can have a positive effect on reducing soil contamination levels. This will help protect soil quality, safeguard ecosystem health, and support sustainable land use practices within the Cairngorms National Park.	++	
4a W	Vill there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	The Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect onsoil erosion and landslides	+	The project can educate students and the community about the causes and consequences of soil erosion and landslides. By raising awareness about the importance of soil conservation and slope stability, the project can promote responsible land management practices.	By integrating education, sustainable land management, vegetation restoration, and land use planning, the project can have a positive effect on reducing soil erosion and landslides. This will help protect soil resources, maintain ecosystem stability, and	++	
4a W	Vill there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	Yes, the Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on geodiversity interests, including Geological Conservation Review sites (GCRs).	+	The project can collaborate with relevant organisations, such as geological societies, conservation groups, and local authorities, to ensure that geodiversity interests are integrated into project activities. This can involve working together to identify and prioritise geodiversity	ensure the long-term health of the landscape within the Cairngorms National Park.  By incorporating education, conservation efforts, geological interpretation, and collaborative partnerships, the project can contribute to the protection and appreciation of geodiversity interests, including GCRs, within the Cairngorms National Park.	++	
	Vill there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg vater, timber, aggregates)?	The Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on the sustainable use of natural resources within the Cairngorms National Park.	+	sites, develop management plans, and implement conservation measures.  The project can educate students and the wider community about the importance of sustainable resource management. This can include raising awareness about the finite nature of resources such as water, timber, and aggregates, and the need to use them responsibly to ensure their long-term availability.  The project can also promote sustainable practices in resource use, such as water conservation measures, responsible forestry practices, and the use of recycled or alternative materials instead of aggregates whenever possible. This can include incorporating these practices		++	
5a ex	Vill there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of xisting and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood rotection infrastructure)?	The Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure within the Cairngorms National Park.	+	into project activities, educational curriculum, and community outreach initiatives.  The project can educate students and the community about the importance of sustainable infrastructure and its role in addressing climate change. This can include raising awareness about the need for energy-efficient buildings, sustainable water management systems, renewable energy sources, and nature-based flood protection infrastructure.  The project can showcase demonstration projects that highlight sustainable infrastructure solutions. This can include retrofitting existing buildings with energy-efficient technologies, implementing sustainable water management systems in schools or public facilities, and piloting nature-based flood protection measures. These projects can serve as examples of how sustainable infrastructure can be effectively implemented within the park.	By focusing on education, integration of sustainable practices, collaboration with stakeholders, demonstration projects, and policy advocacy, the project can contribute to the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure within the Cairngorms National Park. By promoting sustainable infrastructure solutions, the project can help create a more resilient and environmentally friendly park that is better equipped to address the challenges of climate change.	++	
	Vill there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of econdary and recycled materials?	Yes, the Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on the use of finite resources through the promotion and utilisation of secondary and recycled materials.	+	The project can raise awareness among students and the community about the importance of resource conservation and the benefits of using secondary and recycled materials. This can involve educating them about the environmental impacts of extracting and processing finite resources, as well as the potential of recycled materials to reduce waste and conserve resources.  The project may also promote recycling initiatives within schools and communities. It can also emphasise the concept of a circular economy, where materials are reused and recycled rather than discarded as waste. This can include educational campaigns, recycling programs, and partnerships with local recycling facilities such as Wastebusters, in Forres.		++	
	Vill there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected or nature conservation?	The Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on maintaining and enhancing the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation.	+	The project can provide environmental education programs that focus on the importance of protected areas and the need to conserve and enhance their biodiversity. By raising awareness and understanding among students and the community, the project can foster a sense of responsibility and stewardship towards these areas.  The project can include practical activities that involve habitat restoration and management within protected areas. This can include activities such as tree planting, invasive species removal, habitat creation, and wildlife monitoring. By actively engaging in these activities, participants can contribute to the improvement of habitat quality and the conservation of key species.	Through these approaches, the Climate Learning and Education Project can play a significant role in maintaining and enhancing the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation. By promoting environmental education, engaging in habitat restoration and management, collaborating with conservation organizations, advocating sustainable practices, and implementing monitoring and evaluation, the project can contribute to the long-term conservation of biodiversity	++	
6a W	Vill there be an effect on protected species?	The Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on protected species.	+	The project can provide education and awareness programs that focus on the importance of protected species and their conservation. By increasing knowledge and understanding among students and the community, the project can foster a sense of responsibility and promote actions to protect these species.  The project can collaborate with local conservation organisations and experts who specialise in protected species conservation. This collaboration can involve sharing knowledge, participating in species-specific conservation programs, and implementing best practices to ensure the protection of these species.	By incorporating these approaches, the Climate Learning and Education Project can contribute to the conservation of protected species within the Cairngorms National Park. By raising awareness, improving habitats, conducting monitoring and research, collaborating with conservation organisations, and promoting conservation practices, the project can help protect and enhance the populations and habitats of these important species.	++	
6a W	Vill there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and lants?	The Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on the habitats and plants identified in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan (CNAP).	+	The project can provide education and awareness programs that focus on the importance of CNAP habitats and plants. By increasing knowledge and understanding among students and the community, the project can promote the value of these habitats and plants and the need for their conservation.  The project can also support monitoring and research efforts to gather data on CNAP habitats and plants. This can include conducting surveys, mapping habitat distributions, and studying the ecology and population dynamics of key plant species. The collected information can contribute to the ongoing assessment and management of CNAP habitats and plants.  The project can raise awareness about the importance of CNAP species and their role in the ecosystem. By educating students and the		++	
60	Vill there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal nd invertebrate species?	Yes, the Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positve effect on the bird, mammal, and invertebrate species identified in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan (CNAP).	+	The project can raise awareness about the importance of CNAP species and their role in the ecosystem. By educating students and the community about these species, their habitats, and the threats they face, the project can promote their conservation and encourage actions to protect their populations.  The project can support monitoring and schools research activities to gather data on CNAP species. This can involve conducting surveys, population assessments, and habitat monitoring to track the status and trends of these species over time. The collected information can inform conservation strategies and management decisions.	By incorporating these approaches, the Climate Learning and Education Project can contribute to the conservation and enhancement of CNAP bird, mammal, and invertebrate species. Through education, habitat restoration, conservation measures, monitoring, research, and collaboration, the project can help safeguard the populations and habitats of these species within the Cairngorms National Park.	++	
	Vill there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas nd the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	The Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on wider biodiversity beyond protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan (CNAP).	+	The project can raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. By educating students and the community about the value of biodiversity, the project can promote a greater understanding of the interconnections between species, habitats, and ecosystem services.  The project can encourage the planting and conservation of native plant species, which provide important habitats and food sources for a variety of wildlife. By promoting native species in gardens, green spaces, and restoration projects, the project can support biodiversity by providing suitable habitats for a range of organisms, including birds, insects, and small mammals.			
	Vill there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to educe environmental effects?	The Climate Learning and Education Project may have a positive indirect effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects in the Cairngorms National Park.	?	The project can educate students, teachers, and the community about the ecological impact of deer populations on the environment. By raising awareness about the negative effects of overgrazing and deer browsing on vegetation and habitats, the project can foster a better understanding of the need for sustainable deer management.  The project can educate students, teachers, and the community about the risks and impacts associated with invasive populations on the environment. By	project can contribute to a more balanced and sustainable relationship between deer populations and the environment.	+	
6a av	Vill there be an effect on land management practices that seek to void the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and ee diseases?	Yes, the Climate Learning and Education Project can have a positive effect on land management practices that aim to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases in the Cairngorms National Park.	+	The project can educate students, teachers, and the community about the risks and impacts associated with invasive non-native species and tree diseases. By raising awareness about the importance of preventing their introduction and spread, the project can foster a better understanding of the need for proactive land management practices.  The project could also support and involve monitoring programs aimed at early detection of invasive non-native species and tree diseases. By training students and community members to identify potential threats and report their findings, the project can contribute to early intervention and rapid response, minimizing the impacts of invasive species and diseases on the landscape.	Through these approaches, the Climate Learning and Education Project may contribute to land management practices that aim to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases in the Cairngorms National Park. By combining education, collaboration, monitoring, biosecurity, native species restoration, and public engagement, the project can help protect the native biodiversity and ecological integrity of the park's landscapes.	++	
	Vill there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the lational Park landscapes?	Yes, the creation of a climate learning and education project can have a positive effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes.	+	The climate learning and education project can raise awareness about the significance of SLQs among students, educators, and the wider community. By educating people about the unique features, ecological importance, and cultural value of the landscapes, the project can foster a sense of appreciation and stewardship towards SLQs.  The climate learning and education project can increase awareness and understanding of the unique landscape character and local.	The climate learning and education project can positively influence the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes by raising awareness, promoting sustainable land management and involving communities to ensure that the SLQs are valued, protected, and passed on to future generations.	++	
		Yes, creating a climate learning and education project can have an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness.	+	The climate learning and education project can increase awareness and understanding of the unique landscape character and local distinctiveness of the area among students, educators, and the community. By learning about the natural features, cultural heritage, and historical significance of the landscapes, participants can develop a deeper appreciation for their local environment.  The project can incorporate landscape-sensitive education and activities that celebrate and engage with the local landscape character. This may include field trips, outdoor learning experiences, and practical projects that encourage participants to interact with and contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the local distinctiveness.	By integrating these approaches, the climate learning and education project can contribute to the preservation and enhancement of landscape character and local distinctiveness. It can empower individuals, foster community engagement, raise awareness, and collaborate with stakeholders to ensure that the unique qualities and characteristics of the landscapes are recognised, valued, and protected for present and future generations.	++	
7b as	Vill there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and ssets (including linguistic)?	Yes, creating a climate learning and education project can have an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets, including linguistic aspects.	+	The climate learning and education project can raise awareness about the historic and cultural environment, including significant landmarks, heritage sites, traditions, and customs. By educating participants about the rich cultural history of the area, the project can promote a sense of pride and appreciation for local heritage.  The project can explore the historical context of the landscapes, sharing stories and narratives that highlight the connections between the past and the present. By understanding the historical significance of the area, participants can develop a deeper appreciation for the cultural heritage and assets embedded within the landscapes.	By integrating these approaches, the climate learning and education project can have a positive effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets, including linguistic aspects. It can help raise awareness, promote cultural heritage preservation, empower communities, and create meaningful connections between the past, present, and future within the landscapes of the national park.	++	
<sub>83</sub> W		No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  Yes, creating a climate learning and education project can have a positive effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles.	+	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  Several schools identified transport issues as a key issue they wish to see progress. Collaboration with sustainable and active travel could deliver the following benefits:  1. Motivate more conscious travel choices by young people leads to better health and improved environment.  2. Behaviour shifts towards sustainable travel makes a direct and positive contribution to climate mitigation and can be measured.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  By implementing these strategies, particularly the co-design and support opportunity between schools and Active Travel projects, the climate learning and education project can have a positive effect on recreation and active travel opportunities. It can encourage individuals to engage in healthier lifestyles, make sustainable transportation choices, and enjoy the benefits of outdoor activities within the National Park.	* ++	
				The project can collaborate with local businesses and organisations to deliver its initiatives and programs. This collaboration can create partnerships that benefit both the project and local businesses. For example, local businesses can provide resources, expertise, or funding support to the project, while also gaining visibility and recognition for their sustainability efforts.  This collaboration can indirectly contribute to job retention and growth within local businesses. Employers in the Park, having an	By providing job opportunities, skills development, collaboration with local businesses, and promoting entrepreneurship and community engagement, the climate learning and education project can have a positive effect on employment opportunities	++	

	ssor(s)'s name						
SECTION	sessment: (s) of assessment  OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED:  Policy X, Option 1A, etc)			2b. Effective Community Engagement			
SEA objective	ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS  SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	Justification and/or reasoning for enhancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience, strengthen local communities and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.		
1a	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communties - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
5a	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
5a	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
7a	Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.  There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised, by		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
7a	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.  There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.  There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	empowering local communties - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.  There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	empowering local communties - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.  There is a potential for long-term direct and indirect positive effects to be realised by		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	empowering local communities - particularly those often under-represented - to shape the ways in which decisions are made that will import on their communities across a variety of sectors.		An effective way to engage and empower communities is to give them the financial responsibility to develop projects across a wide range of sectors that meet their needs in their local area.	Continuing to link the Effective Community Engagement project with other C2030 projects (i.e. the Community Managed Climate Grant) to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts, will likley create the most effective enhancements.	++	

Assessor(s) Insert assess							
( )	essment:  of assessment  F PLAN BEING ASSESSED:						
(eg Vision, P	olicy X, Option 1A, etc)  ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS			3a Climate Conscious Communties			
SEA objective	SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significanc of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	ce Justification and/or reasoning for ennancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.	Maintaining links to other C2030 projects (e.g 1a Wellbeing Economy, 1b Public Health and the Outdoors and 3c Community Managed Climate Grant Scheme) in order to strengthen key climate change behaviour messages, will help to reach a broader audience who will be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.		
1a	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.	Maintaining links to other C2030 projects (e.g 1a Wellbeing Economy, 1b Public Health and the Outdoors and 3c Community Managed Climate Grant Scheme) in order to strengthen key climate change behaviour messages, will help to reach a broader audience who will be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.		
1a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects			
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of	Maintaining links to other C2030 projects (e.g 1a Wellbeing Economy, 1b Public Health and the Outdoors and 3c Community Managed		
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them		that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of	Maintaining links to other C2030 projects (e.g 1a Wellbeing Economy, 1b Public Health and the Outdoors and 3c Community Managed Climate Grant Scheme) in order to strengthen key climate change behaviour messages, will help to reach a broader audience who will be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent		
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.	+	their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.  The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.  The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects	impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.  Maintaining links to other C2030 projects (e.g 1a Wellbeing Economy, 1b Public Health and the Outdoors and 3c Community Managed Climate Grant Scheme) in order to strengthen key climate change behaviour messages, will help to reach a broader audience who will be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.  Maintaining links to other C2030 projects (e.g 1a Wellbeing Economy, 1b Public Health and the Outdoors and 3c Community Managed	++	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.	+	that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.	Climate Grant Scheme) in order to strengthen key climate change behaviour messages, will help to reach a broader audience who will be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.	++	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.			
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.	+	that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.	be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.	Maintaining links to other C2030 projects (e.g 1a Wellbeing Economy, 1b Public Health and the Outdoors and 3c Community Managed Climate Grant Scheme) in order to strengthen key climate change behaviour messages, will help to reach a broader audience who will be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.		
3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.	Maintaining links to other C2030 projects (e.g 1a Wellbeing Economy, 1b Public Health and the Outdoors and 3c Community Managed Climate Grant Scheme) in order to strengthen key climate change behaviour messages, will help to reach a broader audience who will be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.		
За	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.	Maintaining links to other C2030 projects (e.g 1a Wellbeing Economy, 1b Public Health and the Outdoors and 3c Community Managed Climate Grant Scheme) in order to strengthen key climate change behaviour messages, will help to reach a broader audience who will be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.		
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.	_		Maintaining links to other C2030 projects (e.g 1a Wellbeing Economy, 1b Public Health and the Outdoors and 3c Community Managed Climate Grant Scheme) in order to strengthen key climate change behaviour messages, will help to reach a broader audience who will be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.		
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.			
3с	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non- native species?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.			
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.	Maintaining links to other C2030 projects (e.g 1a Wellbeing Economy, 1b Public Health and the Outdoors and 3c Community Managed Climate Grant Scheme) in order to strengthen key climate change behaviour messages, will help to reach a broader audience who will be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.		
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.			
4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.			Maintaining links to other C2030 projects (e.g 1a Wellbeing Economy, 1b Public Health and the Outdoors and 3c Community Managed Climate Grant Scheme) in order to strengthen key climate change behaviour messages, will help to reach a broader audience who will be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.		
4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.	_	The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.			
4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.			
5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.	Maintaining links to other C2030 projects (e.g 1a Wellbeing Economy, 1b Public Health and the Outdoors and 3c Community Managed Climate Grant Scheme) in order to strengthen key climate change behaviour messages, will help to reach a broader audience who will be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.		
5a	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.	Maintaining links to other C2030 projects (e.g 1a Wellbeing Economy, 1b Public Health and the Outdoors and 3c Community Managed Climate Grant Scheme) in order to strengthen key climate change behaviour messages, will help to reach a broader audience who will be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.	++	
5a	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.			
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.			
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.	Maintaining links to other C2030 projects (e.g 1a Wellbeing Economy, 1b Public Health and the Outdoors and 3c Community Managed Climate Grant Scheme) in order to strengthen key climate change behaviour messages, will help to reach a broader audience who will be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.		
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.			
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.			
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.	be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.	+	that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.	be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.	be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.	++	
7a	Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.	+	The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.	Climate Grant Scheme) in order to strengthen key climate change behaviour messages, will help to reach a broader audience who will be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.	++	
7a	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.			
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.	Maintaining links to other C2030 projects (e.g 1a Wellbeing Economy, 1b Public Health and the Outdoors and 3c Community Managed Climate Grant Scheme) in order to strengthen key climate change behaviour messages, will help to reach a broader audience who will be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.	+	The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.	Climate Grant Scheme) in order to strengthen key climate change behaviour messages, will help to reach a broader audience who will be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.		
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.	+	The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.	Climate Grant Scheme) in order to strengthen key climate change behaviour messages, will help to reach a broader audience who will be more aware of their individual impacts on nature, as well as their dependence on and connection to nature, with subsequent impacts across the wider environment of the CNP.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	By building climate resilience within communities, and deepening their knowledge of the climate issues that impact them across several sectors, significant positive effects may be realised. By helping communities to adapt and mitigate against these climate impacts through localised Community Action Plans, it may be possible to move them towards behaviour that minimises their overall carbon footprint.		The Climate Conscious Communities project has strong links and opportunities with other projects that will help maximise the impact of the C2030 programme. Together they will enable more people to decide how to take appropriate climate action, whilst ensuring the cultural heritage and heart of their communities remains and is potentially enhanced.			

. ,	or(s)'s name						
(eg Vision, Po	ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS			3c Community Managed Climate Grants			
SEA objective	SEA sub-objective	Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective.  Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	Justification and/or reasoning for enhancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.		
1a	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
ID	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?  Considering future implications of climate change (eg	empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors' potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
1b	increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects.	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.  Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.  Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?  Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store	empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.  Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.  Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in	++	
3a 	water and the natural flood management services they provide?	and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects	+	resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.  Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build	developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.  Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in	++	
3a 	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?  Will there be an effect on demand for water from development	and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects	+	resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.  Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build	developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.  Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in	++	
3b	(residential and business)?	and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects	+	resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.  Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build	developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.  Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in	++	
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?  Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive	and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects	+	resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.  Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build	developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.  Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in	++	
3c	non-native species?	and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects	+	resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.  Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build	developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.  Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in		
4a 	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?  Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil	and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against	+	resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.  Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon	developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.  Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of	++	
4a 	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	climate action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against	<b>+</b>	how resources are allocated.  Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon	grant funding delivery.	++	
	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against	+	how resources are allocated.  Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon	grant funding delivery.  Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against	+	how resources are allocated.  Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon	grant funding delivery.  Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of	++	
	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all	+	how resources are allocated.  Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	grant funding delivery.  Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
52	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
<b>6</b> a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?	The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
7a	Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?	The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
7a	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.  The Community Managed Climate Grants scheme will engage and	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	empower communities by giving them the means to develop projects and take action to increase knowledge and take action against climate change, across various sectors, potentially in relation to all SEA objectives.	+	Linking with other C2030 projects to give communities the power to define, design, fund and deliver projects that build resilience and mitigate climate impacts can have long-lasting postive effects on a range of objectives, dependant upon how resources are allocated.	Maintaining links with project partners and continuing to engage with the stakeholders in developing the grant criteria and methodology may be key in finding innovative methods of grant funding delivery.	++	

Date of A Insert date SECTION	essor(s)'s name ssessment: e(s) of assessment  OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED:			4b Green Investment			
SEA objective	SEA out chicative	Nature of effect Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	Justification and/or reasoning for enhancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects, to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	restoration.  While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description ,which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
<b>1</b> a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
<b>1</b> a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	restoration.  While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
<b>1</b> a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices, and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature	+	The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices, and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles outlined in the project description which encompasses environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
За	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	restoration  While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature restoration.		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices, and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
За	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles outlined in the project description which encompasses environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices, and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
<b>4</b> a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices, and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
<b>4</b> a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
<b>4</b> a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
<b>4</b> a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
5a	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
5a	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority .	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
<b>6</b> a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature restoration.		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature restoration.		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature restoration.		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature restoration.		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	restoration.  While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature restoration.		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
<b>7</b> a	Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?	restoration.  While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
7a	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	restoration.  While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature restoration.		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	restoration.  While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature restoration		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	restoration.  While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	restoration.  While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature restoration.		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specified goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	restoration.  While specific details are not explicitly mentioned as to what projects will be progressed, there are potentially significantly positive environmental effects that could accrue across a wide range of sectors in the Cairngorms National Park. These potential positive effects can be inferred from the broader goals and principles, outlined in the project description, which encompass environmentally sustainable projects, technologies and businesses that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change and deliver nature restoration.		The overarching goals of the Green Investment project and the emphasis on nature-based solutions suggest a potential for multiple, stacking, positive environmental effects that can contribute to the specifies goals of Cairngorms National Park Authority.	It will be important to maintain a broad scope of nature recovery projects to encompass a wide range of ecosystem services.  This could include initiatives that enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, promote sustainable land management practices and provide socio-economic benefits to local communities. By incorporating multiple environmental objectives into the project, it can contribute to holistic and sustainable outcomes, greater than the sum of their parts.	++	
		restoration.					

Assessor(s)	: sor(s)'s name						
( )	essment: ) of assessment F PLAN BEING ASSESSED:						
	olicy X, Option 1A, etc)  ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS			Recommended mitigation and enhancement:			
SEA objective	SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	Justification and/or reasoning for ennancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?  Will there be an effect on the production of renewable	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	n/a	n/a	X	
1a 	energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	n/a  More ecologically diverse and resiliant wooded areas may have positive effects on local pollintor abundance, providing valuable services to food production.	n/a	X	
1a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	Woodland expansion may have both direct and indirect impacts on local production and the use of materials and food produce	+	Likewise, woodland expansion can have indirect impacts on food production by improving local nutrient cycling and soil health.  Furthermore, as woodlands expand, there may be an opportunity to increase the local production of timber and wood products. This can support the forestry industry, providing a sustainable source of raw materials for construction, furniture, paper and other wood-based industries. Woodland management practices, such as selective harvesting/coppicing and replanting, can ensure a continuous supply of timber while maintaining the overall health and biodiversity of the forest  Woodland expnasion can impact upon carbon sinks via the following:	As per CNPA Woodland Expansion action plan, proceed to increase the cover of biodiverse native woodland within the Park by at least 1,000 hectares, between 2023 and 2028, adding montane and riparian woodlands and a more diverse tree species mix to ultimately create a landscape scale native woodland of the highest nature conservation value.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	Woodland expansion may play a crucial role in enhancing and expanding carbon sinks.	+	Increased Carbon Sequestration Soil Carbon Accumulation Preservation of Existing Carbon Sinks (i.e. old-growth forests, peatlands and wetlands) Long-Term Carbon Storage Carbon Offsetting (i.e. Green Finance)	As per CNPA Woodland Expansion action plan, proceed to increase the cover of biodiverse native woodland within the Park by at least 1,000 hectares, between 2023 and 2028, adding montane and riparian woodlands and a more diverse tree species mix to ultimately create a landscape scale native woodland of the highest nature conservation value.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	Potenital for minor effects in regard to increasing greenhouse gas emissions from travel due to more people seeking to visit the Park to enjoy the expanded woodlands	?	Linking with projects 17, 19 & 20 should help to mitigate impacts of increased transport by providing alternative methods of moving across the CNP.  Woodland expansion can absorb and retain water at source, allowing it to be stored and gradually released	Continue to progress C2030 projects 17, 19 & 20 as per action plans	+	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	An increase in woodland cover may help to attenuate potential impacts from climate change issues and related effects on infrastructure and buildings	+	During heavy rainfall, woodlands can protect the soil from being washed away, reducing sedimentation in water bodies and maintaining the capacity of waterways to carry water.  The roots of trees help to reinforce the banks and prevent erosion, reducing the likelihood of riverbank collapse and channel shifting.  Forests play a vital role in regulating water flows downstream, they help to regulate the timing and magnitude of river flow by storing water during wet periods and gradually releasing it during drier periods	As per CNPA Woodland Expansion action plan, proceed to increase the cover of biodiverse native woodland within the Park by at least 1,000 hectares between 2023 and 2028, adding montane and riparian woodlands and a more diverse tree species mix to ultimately create a landscape scale native woodland of the highest nature conservation value.	++	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	An increase in woodland cover may help to attenuate potential impacts from climate change issues and related effects on infrastructure and buildings	+	Woodland expansion can absorb and retain water at source, allowing it to be stored and gradually released  During heavy rainfall, woodlands can protect the soil from being washed away, reducing sedimentation in water bodies and maintaining the capacity of waterways to carry water.  The roots of trees help to reinforce the banks and prevent erosion, reducing the likelihood of riverbank collapse and channel shifting.  Forests play a vital role in regulating water flows downstream, they help to regulate the timing and magnitude of river flow by storing water during wet periods and gradually releasing it during drier periods  As per CNPA Woodland Expansion action plan, proceed to increase the cover of biodiverse native woodland within the Park by at least 1,000 hectares, between 2023 and 2028, adding montane and riparian woodlands and a more diverse tree species mix to ultimately create a landscape scale native woodland of the highest nature conservation value.  As per CNPA Woodland Expansion action plan, proceed to increase the cover of biodiverse native woodland within the Park by at least 1,000 hectares, between 2023 and 2028, adding montane and riparian woodlands and a more diverse tree species mix to ultimately create a landscape scale native woodland of the highest nature conservation value.  As per CNPA Woodland Expansion action plan, proceed to increase the cover of biodiverse native woodland within the Park by at least 1,000 hectares, between 2023 and 2028, adding montane and riparian woodlands and a more diverse tree species mix to ultimately create a landscape scale native woodland of the highest nature conservation value.  As per CNPA Woodland Expansion action plan, proceed to increase the cover of biodiverse native woodland within the Park by at least 1,000 hectares, between 2023 and 2028, adding montane and riparian woodlands and a more diverse tree species mix to ultimately create a landscape scale native woodland of the highest nature conservation value.		++	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	An increase in woodland cover may help to mitigate adverse levels of air quality	+			++	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	An increase in woodland cover may help to mitigate adverse levels of air quality.	+	Woodland expansion can promote higher levls of good air quality as woodlands act as natural filters, trapping and removing particulate matter from the air. Particulate matter consists of tiny particles such as dust, soot, pollen, and other pollutants that can be harmful to human health when inhaled. As air passes through the leaves and branches of trees, these particles get trapped,	As per CNPA Woodland Expansion action plan, proceed to increase the cover of biodiverse native woodland within the Park by at least 1,000 hectares, between 2023 and 2028, adding montane and riparian woodlands and a more diverse tree species mix to ultimately create a	++	
	position (og partioulates):			effectively reducing their concentration in the air and improving air quality.  Woodlands can absorb excess nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, from agricultural runoff and other pollution sources.			
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	Yes, woodland expansion may have a positive effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs, and groundwater, by mitigating both diffuse and point source pollution.	+	By reducing surface runoff and promoting infiltration, woodlands help prevent the erosion of topsoil, which often carries sediment and pollutants into water bodies.  Woodland expansion, along riverbanks and riparian areas, creates buffer zones that protect water bodies from pollution sources.  Woodland expansion promotes biodiversity and ecological interactions that contribute to improved water quality. A diverse and healthy ecosystem supports a variety of organisms, including microbes, plants, and aquatic species, which play important roles in nutrient cycling and pollutant breakdown.	As per CNPA Woodland Expansion action plan, proceed to increase the cover of biodiverse native woodland within the Park by at least 1,000 hectares, between 2023 and 2028, adding montane and riparian woodlands and a more diverse tree species mix to ultimately create a landscape scale native woodland of the highest nature conservation value.	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	An increase in woodland cover may positvely impact the storage and release of water flows, improving natural flood management services.	+	Woodland expansion can absorb and retain water at source, allowing it to be stored and gradually released  During heavy rainfall, woodlands can protect the soil from being washed away, reducing sedimentation in water bodies and maintaining the capacity of waterways to carry water.  The roots of trees help to reinforce the banks and prevent erosion, reducing the likelihood of riverbank collapse and channel shifting.  Forests play a vital role in regulating water flows downstream, they help to regulate the timing and magnitude of river flow by storing water during water during water during water during water and gradually releasing it during drier periods.	As per CNPA Woodland Expansion action plan, proceed to increase the cover of biodiverse native woodland within the Park by at least 1,000 hectares, between 2023 and 2028, adding montane and riparian woodlands and a more diverse tree species mix to ultimately create a landscape scale native woodland of the highest nature conservation value.	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	It's important to note that the impacts of woodland expansion on public water supplies may vary depending on local conditions, including the specific characteristics of the water sources, the scale and location of the woodlands, and the management practices employed.	?	storing water during wet periods and gradually releasing it during drier periods  There is a possibility that, due to natural water management processes, downstream water quality will be higher, lessening the burden on public water treatment facilities, i.e., if woodlands protect water sources from pollution and maintain good water quality, less intensive treatment processes may be required to meet regulatory standards.  However, the proximity of woodlands to reservoirs or water extraction points may raise concerns about sedimentation or the management of tree debris	Comprehensive planning, monitoring, and collaboration between water authorities, land managers and relevant stakeholders are essential to ensure sustainable woodland expansion that considers water resource protection and public water supply needs.	+	
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	Woodland expansion may indirectly impact the demand for water from residential and business developments.	?	Woodland expansion can play a role in protecting watersheds and maintaining healthy water sources. By reducing soil erosion, filtering pollutants and enhancing water quality, woodlands may contribute to the overall availability of clean and reliable water resources. This can help meet the water demands of residential and business developments, without the need for additional water treatment or purification processes.	Comprehensive planning and coordination between water authorities, land managers and developers can help ensure that the potential benefits of woodland expansion, in relation to water demand, are maximized and integrated into sustainable development practices.  It's important to note that the specific impacts of woodland expansion on water resources will depend on various factors, including local climate	+	
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	Yes, woodland expansion may have an effect on the sustainable use of water resources.	+	include water purification, regulation of streamflow, erosion control and the maintenance of ecological processes that contribute to water availability and quality. These services help maintain the ecological integrity of water systems, supporting the sustainable use of water resources for various purposes, such as drinking water supply, irrigation and industrial use.	hydrology, land use patterns and management practices. Implementing sustainable forest management practices, considering local water needs and conditions and engaging with relevant stakeholders are essential for maximising the positive effects of woodland expansion on the sustainable use of water resources.		
3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?	Woodland expansion may have implications for the water environment regarding invasive non- native species.	?	Woodland expansion can create new habitat opportunities for invasive non-native species. Some invasive species thrive in disturbed or fragmented habitats and the creation of new woodlands can provide suitable conditions for their establishment and	Woodland expansion should be accompanied by effective management strategies to address invasive non-native species. Monitoring and early detection of invasive species are crucial to prevent their establishment and mitigate their impacts on the water environment. Implementing appropriate management practices, such as targeted removal or control of invasive species, can help minimise their negative effects and	+	
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	Woodland expansion may have both positive and negative effects on carbon-rich soils, including peat.	?	promote the establishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.  In the stablishment of diverse and resilient native ecosystems.		+	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	Woodland expansion may have positive effects on soil sealing, soil structure, and soil loss.	+	Drainage of peatlands, whether for forestry or other land uses, can lead to the oxidation of peat soils, resulting in the release of stored carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Therefore, it is essential to consider the hydrological conditions and carbon storage potential of peatlands when planning woodland expansion to avoid unintentional carbon losses.  Trees and their root systems play a crucial role in improving soil structure, by promoting aggregation and stability. Their roots help bind soil particles together, creating pore spaces for water infiltration and air circulation. As woodlands expand, the tree roots penetrate the soil, contributing to its overall stability and structure.	in a manner that maximises carbon storage potential and minimises unintended carbon losses.  The specific effects of woodland expansion on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss may vary, depending on factors such as tree species, land management practices and local soil conditions. Appropriate land use planning, implementation of sustainable forestry practices and collaboration among land managers, conservation organizations and relevant stakeholders are essential to maximise the positive impacts of	++	
		Woodland expansion may have an effect on the levels of soil contamination, although the		When woodlands are established, they can help dilute the concentrations of certain contaminants in the soil through processes	woodland expansion on soil-related factors.  In areas potentially subject to soil contamination, it may be neccessary to conduct site-specific assessments and consider the nature and extent of soil contamination before implementing woodland expansion projects. Remediation strategies, such as soil amendments, phytoremediation		
4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	extent and direction of the impact depend on various factors.	,	such as deposition and sedimentation whilst the uptake of contaminants by trees may reduce the availability of contaminants in the soil, potentially decreasing the risk of exposure and migration of contaminants to other environmental receptors.	techniques, or targeted cleanup efforts, may be necessary in cases where soil contamination poses significant risks to human health or the environment. Integrated approaches that combine appropriate soil management practices, site-specific risk assessments, and monitoring can help ensure the successful integration of woodland expansion with soil contamination management.	*	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	Woodland expansion may have a positive effect on reducing soil erosion and landslides.	+	Woodland expansion may help to control soil erosion by providing a protective cover of vegetation. The roots of trees bind soil particles, enhancing soil stability and reducing the vulnerability of soil to erosion by wind and water. The canopy of trees also intercepts rainfall, reducing the impact of raindrops on the soil surface and slowing down surface runoff. The leaf litter and organic debris from trees further act as a natural mulch, protecting the soil from erosive forces.  Woodland expansion may also improve slope stability and reduce the risk of landslides: tree roots penetrate the soil, providing mechanical reinforcement and anchoring the soil. Their network of roots helps hold the soil together, reducing the likelihood of slope failure and landslides. The presence of trees and their root systems also helps to stabilise riverbanks, reducing erosion and the likelihood of streambank collapse.	The specific effects of woodland expansion on soil erosion and landslides can vary, depending on factors such as slope gradient, soil type, climate and land management practices. Proper land use planning, including consideration of potential erosion-prone areas, implementation of erosion control measures, and monitoring, is essential, to ensure the successful integration of woodland expansion in mitigating soil erosion and landslides.	f ++	
4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	Woodland expansion may have an effect on geodiversity interests	?	Woodland expansion and geodiversity conservation may sometimes present conflicting priorities. While woodland expansion contributes to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation, it may involve the removal, change or disturbance of vegetation cover, potentially affecting exposed geological features. Balancing these priorities requires careful planning, consultation, and site-specific assessments to identify areas where woodland expansion can be compatible with the preservation of geodiversity interests.	Collaboration between geologists, ecologists, land managers, conservation organisations, and relevant stakeholders is essential to ensure effective integration of woodland expansion and geodiversity conservation. It should be possible to identify areas where woodland expansion can coexist with the protection of geologically important sites, while considering the wider conservation and ecosystem services provided by woodlands.  When woodland expansion is planned in areas of geodiversity interest, appropriate mitigation measures should be considered. These measures may include designating buffer zones around GCRs to minimise potential impacts, implementing controlled access or visitor management strategies, and promoting educational initiatives to raise awareness about the importance of geodiversity conservation.		
5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	Woodland expansion may have both positive and negative effects on the sustainable use of natural resources.	?	Woodland expansion may have a positive impact on water resources, by promoting water regulation and conservation. Trees in woodlands help regulate water flow by reducing surface runoff and promoting water infiltration, thereby enhancing groundwater recharge and maintaining streamflow. However, it's important to carefully manage woodland expansion, to avoid excessive water use in water-stressed areas, particularly if the expansion involves water-intensive tree species or if it leads to changes in hydrological regimes.  Woodland expansion may also provide a sustainable source of timber and wood products. Properly managed woodlands can support timber production for a variety of uses, providing a renewable and climate-friendly alternative to non-renewable	The impact on natural resource use by woodland expansion can vary depending on factors such as the specific location, forest management practices and stakeholder engagement. Implementing sustainable land management practices, considering the local context and resource availability and involving relevant stakeholders in decision-making processes are key to ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources alongside woodland expansion efforts.	+	
5a 5a	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?  Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x x	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	x x	
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	Woodland expansion may have a significantly positive effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation.	+	The managed shift, from open moorland to more diverse landscapes featuring expanded woodland, will add diversity into the landscapes of the National Park, which were historically more wooded, but more recently have become dominated by wide open expanses of moorland. This shift may help to increase the ecological resiliance and condition of areas protected for nature	As per CNPA Woodland Expansion action plan, proceed to increase the cover of biodiverse native woodland within the Park by at least 1,000 hectares, between 2023 and 2028, adding montane and riparian woodlands and a more diverse tree species mix to ultimately create a	++	
<b>6</b> a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	Woodland expansion may have a significantly positive effect on protected species	+	expanses of moorland. This shift may help to increase the ecological resiliance and condition of areas protected for nature conservation.  There are a number of protected species in the CNP, where vital conservation work is being delivered to ensure they thrive within the Cairngorms. This work, by a range of organisations, land managers, various groups and individuals, is vital to the areas continued importance for biodiversity. Certain mammals and birds, such as the capercaillie and the wildcat, a range of invertebrate species and several plant & tree species may positively respond to the increase in woodland across the National	As per CNPA Woodland Expansion action plan, proceed to increase the cover of biodiverse native woodland within the Park by at least 1,000 hectares, between 2023 and 2028, adding montane and riparian woodlands and a more diverse tree species mix to ultimately create a landscape scale native woodland of the highest nature conservation value.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	Woodland expansion may have a significantly positive effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants.	+	Park.  As per the 2019-2024 CNPA Nature Action Plan, with its priorites of woodland expansion, freshwater restoration and nature friendly farming, the woodland expansion project aligns directly.	As per CNPA Woodland Expansion action plan, proceed to increase the cover of biodiverse native woodland within the Park by at least 1,000 hectares, between 2023 and 2028, adding montane and riparian woodlands and a more diverse tree species mix to ultimately create a	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?	Woodland expansion may have a significantly positive effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species.	+	As per the 2019-2024 CNPA Nature Action Plan, with its priority species and targets, including capercaillie and the wildcat, a range of invertebrate species and several plant & tree species may positively respond to the increase in woodland across the	landscape scale native woodland of the highest nature conservation value.  As per CNPA Woodland Expansion action plan, proceed to increase the cover of biodiverse native woodland within the Park by at least 1,000 hectares, between 2023 and 2028, adding montane and riparian woodlands and a more diverse tree species mix to ultimately create a	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in	Woodland expansion may have a significantly positive effect on wider biodiversity outwith designated areas in the CNP.	+	National Park. As such, the woodland expansion project aligns directly.  Restoring landscape-scale ecological processes found in native mixed woodland will likely have significantly positive effects on a wide range of species in the Park, increasing diversity, abundance and resilience.	landscape scale native woodland of the highest nature conservation value.  As per CNPA Woodland Expansion action plan, proceed to increase the cover of biodiverse native woodland within the Park by at least 1,000 hectares, between 2023 and 2028, adding montane and riparian woodlands and a more diverse tree species mix to ultimately create a	++	
6a	the CNAP) in the National Park?  Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	There is unlikely to be any negative impact on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects, as maintaining effective deer management, to protect tree seedlings	?	wide range of species in the Park, increasing diversity, abundance and resilience.  It is likley that deer management practices will be unaffected by this project.	landscape scale native woodland of the highest nature conservation value.  Maintain best pratice deer management in the CNP.	+	
6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive nonnative species and tree diseases?	from browsing, will be a primary outlook of the project. Any efects are likely to be positive.  Woodland expansion can have a positive effect on land management practices aimed at avoiding the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases.	?	Woodland expansion should be accompanied by robust biosecurity measures, to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases. These measures may include sourcing plant material from known suppliers with adequate biosecurity protocols, conducting thorough inspections of planting stock to detect any signs of pests or diseases and implementing appropriate quarantine measures, when required. Biosecurity protocols should also extend to the management and maintenance of newly created woodlands, to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species and pathogens.	Adhering to best practices, using native plant species, implementing biosecurity protocols and staying vigilant, through monitoring and early detection efforts, can help to ensure that woodland creation projects contribute positively to ecosystem health and biodiversity conservation.	+	
7a	Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?	Woodland expansion may have an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of National Park landscapes.	?	Woodland expansion can influence the visual character and aesthetics of a landscape. The addition of woodlands can alter the open or expansive vistas, the patterns of fields and hedgerows and the overall visual composition of the landscape. Depending on the location, scale and design of woodland expansion, it can either enhance or change the visual qualities of the National Park landscapes. Some people may appreciate the natural beauty and diversity brought by woodlands, while others may prefer the characteristic open or heathland views.	Balancing woodland expansion with the preservation of existing SLQs requires careful planning and consideration of the visual impact. By involving local communities, stakeholders and experts in the planning and decision-making processes of woodland expansion within National Park landscapes and by considering the specific SLQs, cultural heritage, and aspirations of the local communities, it is possible to achieve a balance between woodland expansion and the preservation of the unique qualities that make National Park landscapes special.		
7a	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	Woodland expansion may have an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness.	?	The impact of woodland expansion on landscape character and local distinctiveness can be subjective and vary depending on the specific context and stakeholders involved. A comprehensive assessment of the landscape's cultural, historical, ecological and social values, combined with effective community engagement, can help guide woodland expansion projects that balance ecological benefits with the preservation of landscape character and local distinctiveness.  By incorporating local knowledge, preferences, and aspirations, woodland expansion projects can be tailored to reflect the unique characteristics and values of the landscape. Collaborative approaches that consider the social and cultural dimensions alongside ecological		+	
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	Woodland expansion may have an effect on the historic and cultural environment.	?	Woodland expansion can potentially affect cultural landscapes, which are characterized by the interactions between humans and their environment over time. Cultural landscapes may include features such as historic structures, archaeological sites, traditional land uses, or cultural practices. When planning woodland expansion, it is important to consider the potential impact on these cultural landscapes and take measures to protect and preserve them. Woodland creation should be carried out in a way that respects and integrates with the cultural heritage of the area. Woodland managers may want to consider the shifting baseline of the CNP, cogniscant of the understanding that the National Park would have had much wider tree cover in its relatively recent history.			
8a 8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?  Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  Woodland expansion may have a significantly positive effect on recreation and active travel in the National Park.	+	m/a  Woodland expansion can provide additional recreational opportunities that support healthier lifestyles. Woodlands offer spaces for activities such as walking, hiking, trail running, cycling, wildlife observation and nature-based recreation. The presence of woodlands can encourage people to engage in outdoor activities, promoting physical exercise and well-being. Accessible and well-designed woodland trails and paths can enhance active travel opportunities and encourage people to choose walking or cycling as a means of transportation.	n/a  Specific effects of woodland expansion on recreation and active travel opportunities will depend on factors such as the location, scale, design and management of the woodlands. By carefully considering these factors and actively engaging with relevant stakeholders, woodland expansion can contribute positively to recreation and active travel, promoting healthier lifestyles and well-being in the surrounding communities	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	Woodland expansion may have an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence.	?	Woodland expansion can create employment opportunities in the field of forestry and woodland management. As new woodlands are established, there may be a need for professionals and workers skilled in tree planting, forest management, timber harvesting and other related activities. This can lead to job creation for local communities, including positions such as forest managers, tree surgeons, forest rangers and forest technicians.  The project may also contribute to the growth of ecotourism and nature-based businesses in the National Park. The presence of woodlands provides opportunities for recreational activities, nature-based tourism, wildlife watching, and other related services.	The extent and nature of employment opportunities, resulting from woodland expansion, will depend on various factors, including the scale of expansion, local economic conditions and the presence of supporting infrastructure and services. Engaging with local communities, providing training and skills development programmes and fostering collaboration between stakeholders can help maximise the local employment potential associated with woodland expansion projects.		
				This can stimulate the development of small businesses, such as nature guides, outdoor adventure companies, accommodation providers, and local craftspeople, which can generate employment opportunities for local residents.			

Date of Ass		5b Peatland Restoration						
SECTION C	S) of assessment  OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED:  Policy X, Option 1A, etc)  ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS			5b Peatland Restoration				
SEA objective		Nature of effect Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the	Justification and/or reasoning for enhancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide	
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	symbology in Table 1)	n/a	n/a	mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	justification as to why.	
1a 1a	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?  Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x x	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	x x		
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	Restoring peatlands may have a positive effect on carbon sinks, including woodlands and peatlands themselves.	+	Peatlands are highly effective at sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it in the form of organic matter. When peatlands are drained or degraded, the carbon stored in the peat is released into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. By restoring peatlands, such as through re-wetting or re-vegetation, the process of carbon sequestration can be resumed, leading to increased carbon storage in the peat.	The success and effectiveness of peatland restoration in enhancing carbon sinks depend on various factors, including the extent of degradation, the specific restoration techniques employed, and ongoing management practices. Peatland restoration should be carried out based on sound scientific knowledge and best practices to ensure the long-term effectiveness of carbon sequestration and the preservation of these valuable ecosystems.	++		
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	Restoring peatlands may indirectly have an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions	+	The restoration of peatlands itself can act as a form of carbon offsetting. Peatlands have a high potential for carbon sequestration, effectively removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. By restoring degraded peatlands and promoting their long-term conservation, the net emissions from travel and other human activities can be offset by the carbon sequestration capacity of these restored ecosystems.  Peatlands have a natural capacity to store and slowly release water, acting as natural sponges. By restoring peatlands, their water-holding capacity can be increased, helping to mitigate the impact of increased flooding caused by climate change. Restored	The overall impact of peatland restoration on travel-related greenhouse gas emissions will depend on several factors, including the scale and location of the restoration projects, the specific land management practices implemented, and the behaviour of individuals and businesses in response to restored peatland areas. Strategic planning and coordination among stakeholders can help ensure that peatland restoration projects are designed and managed in a way that minimizes travel emissions and promotes sustainable practices.	++		
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	Restoring peatlands may have a positive effect on existing infrastructure and buildings in the face of future climate change implications.	+	peatlands can absorb and retain excess rainfall, reducing the volume and velocity of water entering rivers and downstream areas.  This can alleviate pressure on existing infrastructure, such as drainage systems and flood defenses, and help prevent or minimise flood damage to buildings and infrastructure.  Peatlands also play a crucial role in maintaining water availability during periods of drought. Restored peatlands can help retain water during wetter periods and slowly release it during drier periods, sustaining water flows and maintaining groundwater levels. This can support the resilience of water supply systems, including reservoirs and wells, which are essential for meeting the water needs of buildings and infrastructure during drought events.  Peatlands have a natural capacity to store and slowly release water, acting as natural sponges. By restoring peatlands, their water-	The effectiveness of peatland restoration in mitigating climate change impacts on infrastructure and buildings may vary depending on the specific local conditions, the scale of restoration efforts, and the design and maintenance of infrastructure itself. Integrated approaches that consider both infrastructure planning and peatland restoration can lead to more resilient and sustainable solutions in the face of future climate change challenges.	++		
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	Restoring peatlands may have a positive effect on proposed infrastructure and buildings in the face of future climate change implications.	+	holding capacity can be increased, helping to mitigate the impact of increased flooding caused by climate change. Restored peatlands can absorb and retain excess rainfall, reducing the volume and velocity of water entering rivers and downstream areas. This can alleviate pressure on existing infrastructure, such as drainage systems and flood defenses, and help prevent or minimise flood damage to buildings and infrastructure.  Peatlands also play a crucial role in maintaining water availability during periods of drought. Restored peatlands can help retain water during wetter periods and slowly release it during drier periods, sustaining water flows and maintaining groundwater levels. This can support the resilience of water supply systems, including reservoirs and wells, which are essential for meeting the water needs of buildings and infrastructure during drought events.  Restored peatlands act as carbon sinks, absorbing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This helps reduce the overall	The effectiveness of peatland restoration in mitigating climate change impacts on infrastructure and buildings may vary depending on the specific local conditions, the scale of restoration efforts, and the design and maintenance of infrastructure itself. Integrated approaches that consider both infrastructure planning and peatland restoration can lead to more resilient and sustainable solutions in the face of future climate change challenges.	++		
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	Restoring peatlands may have a positive effect on the levels of air pollutants, including nitrogen dioxide (NO2), particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), and sulfur dioxide (SO2), which are common pollutants in the UK.	+	concentration of greenhouse gases, including those that contribute to air pollution.  Peatlands can also influence ammonia (NH3) emissions, which contribute to poor air quality and can have detrimental effects on human health and ecosystems. Restored peatlands, with higher water tables and improved vegetation cover, can reduce ammonia emissions from surrounding agricultural areas by limiting the conversion of organic nitrogen into ammonia.	While peatland restoration can have positive effects on air quality, the magnitude of these effects may vary depending on various factors, such as the extent of peatland restoration, the proximity of restored peatlands to pollution sources, and the overall air pollution context of the surrounding area.  Integration with other air quality improvement strategies and the reduction of pollution sources would be required for achieving significant improvements in air quality at regional scales.	++		
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	Restoring peatlands may have a positive effect on the levels of air pollutants, including particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5).	+	Peatland restoration involves re-establishing vegetation, including sphagnum mosses and other peat-forming plants. This vegetation acts as a natural filter and can help absorb certain pollutants from the air. This filtering effect can help reduce the levels of PM10 and PM2.5 in the immediate vicinity of peatland areas, leading to improved air quality. Additionally, restored peatlands support diverse plant and microbial communities, contributing to overall ecosystem health and functioning. Healthy ecosystems are better equipped to mitigate air pollution and maintain cleaner air quality.	overall air pollution context of the surrounding area.	++		
За	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	Restoring peatlands can have a positive effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs, and groundwater by mitigating diffuse and point source pollution.	+	Peatlands act as natural filters, trapping sediment, organic matter, and pollutants present in runoff water. As water flows through restored peatlands, the vegetation and soil effectively remove pollutants and excess nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, from the water. This filtration and nutrient retention capacity can help reduce the levels of pollutants reaching rivers, lochs, and groundwater, leading to improved water quality.  Excess nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, can contribute to water pollution and eutrophication, leading to harmful algal blooms and oxygen depletion in aquatic ecosystems. Restored peatlands can act as nutrient sinks, absorbing and retaining excess nutrients from agricultural runoff or wastewater. This can help reduce the nutrient load reaching water bodies and mitigate the associated water quality issues.  Peatlands have high water-holding capacity, due to their unique hydrological characteristics. Restoring degraded peatlands involves raising the water table and re-wetting the peat, which increases its ability to store water. This increased water storage capacity can	The effectiveness of peatland restoration in improving water quality depends on various factors, including the extent and success of restoration efforts, the surrounding land use practices, and the connectivity of restored peatlands with water bodies. Integrated approaches, considering both peatland restoration and sustainable land management practices, are key to achieving significant and long-lasting improvements in water quality.	++		
3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	Restoring peatlands may have a positive effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and provide natural flood management services.	+	help regulate water flow in river catchments by attenuating peak flows during heavy rainfall events and releasing water gradually during drier periods.  Restored peatlands act as natural buffers that can regulate water flow and alleviate flooding. During periods of heavy rainfall, the	and success of restoration efforts, the connectivity of restored peatlands within the catchment, and the overall hydrological characteristics of the area. Integrated catchment management approaches, considering both peatland restoration and other land and water management strategies, are crucial for maximising the flood mitigation benefits of restored peatlands.	++		
3a 	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	Restoring peatlands may have both direct and indirect effects on public water supplies.	+	catchment. By raising the water table and re-wetting degraded peatlands, the ability of peat to retain water increases, leading to higher groundwater recharge rates. This can contribute to maintaining sustainable water levels in aquifers, which are important sources of public water supply.  Peatland restoration can indirectly improve the quality of water sources that serve as public water supplies. As restored peatlands act as natural filters, they help remove sediment, organic matter, and pollutants from runoff water. This filtration capacity can result in cleaner and clearer water entering rivers, lakes, and reservoirs, reducing the need for extensive water treatment processes and ensuring a better quality water supply for the public.  Restoring peatlands may contribute to increased water availability within a catchment. By re-wetting degraded peatlands and raising	The effectiveness of these benefits depends on various factors, including the location and connectivity of restored peatlands to water sources, the hydrological characteristics of the area, and the overall water management practices within the catchment. Integrated approaches that consider both peatland restoration and sustainable water resource management are crucial for maximising the positive impact on public water supplies.	++		
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	Restoring peatlands may potentially have an effect on the demand for water from development, both residential and business sectors.	?	Restoring peatlands may contribute to increased water availability within a catchment. By re-wetting degraded peatlands and raising the water table, the overall water resources in the area can be replenished. This increased water availability can help meet the demands of development projects, reducing the risk of water scarcity and the need for alternative water sources.  Peatland restoration may also indirectly encourage water efficiency practices by creating awareness of the importance of preserving water resources. As the restoration of peatlands helps maintain sustainable water levels and promotes better water management, it can inspire individuals, businesses, and communities to adopt water-saving measures. This can include using water-efficient technologies, implementing water conservation practices, and optimising water use in various sectors.  Peatland restoration enhances the provision of ecosystem services related to water resources. Restored peatlands can act as	The specific impact of peatland restoration on water demand from development will depend on the local context, the scale of restoration efforts, and the overall water management practices in place. Additionally, other factors such as population growth, land development patterns, and water-use efficiency measures implemented by the development sector will also influence water demand. A comprehensive approach that considers multiple factors would be necessary to manage water demand effectively while restoring peatlands.  The effectiveness of peatland restoration in promoting the sustainable use of water resources depends on various factors, including the	+		
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	Restoring peatlands may have a positive effect on the sustainable use of water resources.	?	Peatland restoration enhances the provision of ecosystem services related to water resources. Hestored peatlands can act as natural water filters, reducing the need for extensive water treatment processes. They also support biodiversity and habitat preservation, contributing to the ecological health of aquatic ecosystems. These ecosystem services promote the sustainable use and management of water resources, ensuring their availability for future generations.  Restoring peatlands can enhance biodiversity, including the diversity of native plant species and associated organisms. A diverse	The effectiveness of peatland restoration in promoting the sustainable use of water resources depends on various factors, including the scale and success of restoration efforts, the connectivity of restored peatlands within the catchment, and the integration of restoration activities with broader water management strategies. Integrated approaches that consider both peatland restoration and sustainable water resource management are crucial for maximising the sustainable use of water resources.	+		
3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?	Restoring peatlands can have a positive effect on the water environment by reducing the impact of invasive non-native species.	+	and healthy ecosystem is more resilient to invasion by non-native species. Restored peatlands with a rich variety of native species create a complex and balanced ecosystem, reducing the vulnerability of the water environment to invasive species colonisation.  In addition, the peatland restoration project will involve ongoing monitoring and evaluation efforts which will help to detect and manage any invasive non-native species that may be present or potentially introduced. Early detection and rapid response measures can help prevent the establishment and spread of invasive species, minimising their impact on the water environment.	While peatland restoration can help reduce the impact of invasive non-native species, ongoing monitoring and management efforts are necessary to ensure their long-term control. As outlined in the 2024-2028 Action Plan sections 3b and 6a, detailed restoration plans and a reporting and monitoring phase are planned which will help to mitigate impacts from invasive non-native species in the National Park.	++		
<b>4</b> a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	Restoring peatlands can have a significant positive effect on carbon-rich soils.	+	Peatlands are formed by the gradual accumulation of organic matter, primarily plant material such as mosses and other vegetation. Restoring degraded peatlands involves re-establishing the hydrological conditions necessary for peat accumulation. By raising the water table and creating waterlogged conditions, peatland restoration promotes the growth and preservation of peat, leading to the accumulation of carbon-rich soils.  Peatlands are recognised as highly effective carbon sinks. The waterlogged conditions in peatlands slow down the decomposition of organic matter, facilitating the accumulation of carbon over time. By restoring peatlands, the process of carbon sequestration can be enhanced. The re-establishment of peat-forming vegetation and the reduction of disturbances help maintain and increase carbon storage in the peat soils.  Peatlands play a crucial role in mitigating climate change by sequestering and storing large amounts of carbon. Restoring peatlands enhances their carbon storage capacity, contributing to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The preservation and restoration of carbon-rich soils in peatlands can help mitigate climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and	are necessary to ensure the long-term preservation and protection of carbon-rich soils within restored peatlands.	++		
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	Restoring peatlands may have a positive effect on soil sealing, soil structure, and soil loss.	+	locking it away in long-term storage.  Peatland restoration promotes the development of healthy soil structure. The re-wetting of degraded peatlands helps restore the natural water balance, preventing the compaction and degradation of soil structure. As water fills the pore spaces within the soil, it supports the formation of a more porous and well-structured soil matrix. This improved soil structure enhances water retention	The specific effects of peatland restoration on soil sealing, soil structure, and soil loss will depend on various factors, including the specific restoration techniques employed, the scale of restoration, and the overall land management practices in the surrounding area. Proper planning, monitoring, and ongoing management are essential to maximise the positive impacts of peatland restoration on soil-related factors.	++		
<b>4</b> a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	Restoring peatland may have a positive effect on reducing soil contamination.	+	capacity, nutrient cycling, and root penetration, leading to healthier and more productive soils.  Restored peatlands can act as natural filters, helping to remove contaminants from water that passes through the peat soil. Peat has a high organic matter content, which can absorb and retain pollutants, such as heavy metals and organic compounds. As water flows through the peatland, it undergoes natural filtration, reducing the transport of contaminants and improving soil quality.  Furthermore, restoring peatlands can help mitigate soil contamination from agricultural activities. By re-wetting and restoring hydrological conditions, peatlands can intercept and retain agricultural runoff, preventing contaminants such as fertilisers and pesticides from reaching water bodies or infiltrating into the soil. The vegetation and organic matter in restored peatlands also		++		
<b>4</b> a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	Restoring peatlands may have a positive effect on reducing soil erosion and mitigating landslides.	+	contribute to nutrient cycling and retention, minimising the risk of nutrient pollution.  Peatlands are wetland ecosystems, characterised by the accumulation of partially decayed plant material called peat. They act as natural buffers, absorbing and storing water, while slowly releasing it, thus maintaining water levels and preventing excessive runoff. Furthermore, when peatlands are restored, the accumulation of organic matter increases, leading to the formation of thicker and	of restoration, local climatic conditions, land management practices, and the surrounding landscape. However, overall, restoring peatlands can play an important role in reducing soil erosion and landslides by improving water regulation, enhancing vegetation cover, retaining	++		
<b>4</b> a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	Restoring peatlands may have both positive and negative effects on geodiversity interests, or other areas of geological significance. The impact will depend on the specific characteristics of the peatland being restored and the geological features present in that particular area.	?	more stable soil layers. This enhanced soil structure helps to prevent erosion and provides better stability against landslides.  Peatlands can contain important geological features such as mineral deposits, fossil records, and unique landforms. By restoring peatlands, efforts can be made to preserve and protect these geological features. Proper restoration practices can include measures to avoid disturbance or damage to the underlying geological formations, ensuring their long-term conservation.  Peatland restoration may also involve modifications to the hydrological conditions within the area. This can include rewetting drained peatlands or altering water flow patterns. While these changes can benefit the overall ecosystem, they might also impact certain geological features. For example, altered water levels or flow patterns might affect the exposure or preservation of specific geological formations or the accessibility of certain geological sites.  The process of restoring peatlands often involves plant machinery, excavation, or other forms of intervention. These activities could potentially disturb or damage geological features, if not carefully planned and executed. It is crucial to ensure that restoration	Overall, the effects of peatland restoration on geodiversity interests can be complex and site-specific. It is essential to conduct thorough assessments, engage with geological experts, and develop restoration plans that consider the unique geological characteristics of the area to minimise potential negative impacts and maximise the conservation of both peatland ecosystems and significant geological features.	+		
5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	Restoring peatlands may have both positive and negative effects on the sustainable use of natural resources, such as water and timber.	?	activities are conducted with the guidance of geological experts, to minimise any negative impacts on significant geological sites.  Water Resources: Peatlands play a crucial role in regulating water resources. By restoring peatlands, their water-holding capacity is increased, leading to better water retention and gradual release. This can have positive effects on sustainable water management by improving water availability during dry periods, regulating water flow, and reducing the risk of flooding. It can also contribute to maintaining water quality by filtering pollutants and reducing sediment runoff.  Timber and Wood Products: Peatlands can contain trees and woody vegetation, and restoration efforts may include reestablishing or enhancing forest cover. However, the sustainable use of timber resources needs to be carefully managed to avoid overexploitation. Sustainable forestry practices, such as selective logging and reforestation, can be implemented in restored peatlands to ensure the long-term availability of timber resources, whilst preserving the ecological functions of the peatland ecosystem.  Peatlands can play a vital role in regulating water flow and can help mitigate flooding by absorbing and slowly releasing water. By	The sustainable use of natural resources in restored peatlands requires careful planning, monitoring, and adherence to relevant regulations and guidelines. Balancing conservation objectives with resource utilisation is crucial to ensure the long-term sustainability of both the peatland ecosystem and the natural resource industries.	+		
5a	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	Peatland restoration may have a positive effect on the sustainable use and management of water and flood infrastructure.	+	restoring peatlands, their water-holding capacity is enhanced, which can reduce the strain on existing water infrastructure, such as dams and reservoirs. Additionally, restored peatlands can act as natural filters, improving water quality and reducing the need for costly water treatment infrastructure.  Restored peatlands can contribute to flood protection by increasing water retention and reducing the peak flow of water during heavy rainfall events. This can alleviate pressure on existing flood protection infrastructure, such as levees or embankments. However, it is essential to consider the specific hydrological characteristics of the peatland and the surrounding landscape to ensure that the restored peatland effectively complements and integrates with the overall flood protection system.	Balancing the benefits of peatland restoration with the requirements of infrastructure development is a complex task that requires careful planning, interdisciplinary collaboration, and adherence to environmental regulations. Integrating nature-based solutions and considering the ecological functions of peatlands in infrastructure planning can help maximise the benefits of both peatland restoration and infrastructure projects, whilst minimising negative impacts on the environment.	++		
5a	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	restored peatland effectively complements and integrates with the overall flood protection system.  n/a  Peatlands are often recognised as important habitats for a variety of plant and animal species and can support high levels of biodiversity. Peatlands provide unique and specialized habitats for a wide range of species, including rare and threatened ones.	n/a	X		
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	Restoring peatlands can have a positive effect on maintaining or enhancing the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation.	+	Restoration activities, such as rewetting drained peatlands or reintroducing native vegetation, can recreate or improve habitat conditions, allowing for the recovery of specific plant and animal communities. This can help maintain or enhance the favourable condition of protected areas by supporting the natural ecological processes and species interactions that are crucial for their conservation.  Peatlands can also serve as corridors for species movement and migration, allowing for ecological connectivity between different habitats. Restoration of peatlands can help maintain or enhance this connectivity, facilitating the movement of species within protected areas and promoting genetic exchange. This contributes to the long-term viability of populations and can strengthen the ecological resilience of protected areas.	The specific outcomes of peatland restoration in protected areas can depend on factors such as the condition of the peatland prior to restoration, the restoration techniques employed, and the ecological context of the protected area. Comprehensive planning, monitoring, and adaptive management approaches are crucial to ensure that restoration efforts are tailored to the specific needs and objectives of the protected area, leading to positive outcomes for nature conservation.	++		
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	Restoring peatlands can have positive effects on protected species by providing or improving habitat conditions that are essential for their survival and well-being.	+	Peatlands are often recognised as important habitats for a variety of plant and animal species and can support high levels of biodiversity. Peatlands provide unique and specialized habitats for a wide range of species, including rare and threatened ones. Restoration activities, such as rewetting drained peatlands or reintroducing native vegetation, can recreate or improve habitat conditions, allowing for the recovery of specific plant and animal communities. Restoration efforts can help recreate specialized microhabitats, such as wetlands, bogs, or fen areas, which are crucial for many protected species.  Peatlands can also serve as corridors for species movement and migration, allowing for ecological connectivity between different habitats. Restoration of peatlands can help maintain or enhance this connectivity, facilitating the movement of species within protected areas and promoting genetic exchange. This contributes to the long-term viability of populations and can strengthen the ecological resilience of protected species.	The specific outcomes of peatland restoration on protected species can vary, depending on the characteristics of the peatland, the specific species involved, and the success of the restoration efforts. Thorough monitoring and adaptive management approaches may be necessary to evaluate the response of protected species to restoration activities and make adjustments, as needed, to optimise the outcomes for their conservation. Collaboration between restoration practitioners, conservation organisations, and relevant stakeholders is crucial for successful peatland restoration and the protection of vulnerable species.	++		
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	Restoring peatlands may have a significantly positive effect on the habitats and plants identified in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan.	+	vegetation and supports the recovery of plant communities that are important for the habitat.  Peatland restoration can benefit specific plant species identified in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan. Many plant species in peatlands are adapted to the unique conditions found in these habitats, including acidic soils and waterlogged environments. By restoring peatlands, suitable conditions can be recreated or enhanced, supporting the recovery and expansion of plant species of interest. This includes rare or threatened plant species that are important for the conservation objectives outlined in the Action Plan.  Peatlands are home to a variety of bird species, including both resident and migratory species. Restoring peatlands can enhance or		++		
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?	Restoring peatlands in the Cairngorms can have positive effects on bird, mammal, and invertebrate species that are part of the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan.	+	recreate suitable nesting, foraging, and breeding habitats for birds, such as waders, waterfowl, and raptors. By rewetting drained peatlands, the water levels can be restored, creating favorable conditions for wetland-dependent bird species. Peatland restoration can increase the availability of prey species, improve vegetation structure, and contribute to the conservation of bird populations identified in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan.  Peatlands provide important habitats for various mammal species, including those that are specially adapted to wetland environments. Restoring peatland hydrology and the vegetation composition of peatlands can benefit species such as water voles, otters, and certain bat species that rely on wetland habitats for foraging, shelter, and breeding.  Peatlands are rich in invertebrate diversity, including numerous specialized and rare species. Restoring peatlands can create or enhance the specific microhabitats required by different invertebrate groups, such as sphagnum mosses, bog pools, and wetland vegetation. These habitats support a variety of invertebrate species, including dragonflies, damselflies, butterflies, and beetles.  Peatlands play a crucial role in supporting biodiversity at various scales and have cascading effects on surrounding ecosystems.	The specific outcomes of peatland restoration on bird, mammal, and invertebrate species will depend on factors such as the characteristics of the peatland, the restoration techniques employed, and the specific requirements of the target species. Monitoring and adaptive management approaches are crucial to evaluate the response of species to restoration activities and make adjustments, as needed, to optimise the outcomes for their conservation. Collaboration between restoration practitioners, conservation organizations, and relevant stakeholders is essential for successful peatland restoration and the protection of these species in the Cairngorms.	++		
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	Restoring peatlands in the Cairngorms National Park can have positive effects on wider biodiversity beyond protected areas and the specific habitats and species identified in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan.	+	Restoring peatlands can also enhance the provision of ecosystem services, which benefit both wildlife and human communities. Healthy peatlands provide various services such as water regulation, carbon sequestration, and nutrient cycling. By restoring the hydrological balance, rewetting drained peatlands, and promoting the growth of vegetation, peatland restoration can improve water quality, reduce flood risk, and store carbon. These benefits contribute to the wider biodiversity and ecological functioning of the	The specific outcomes of peatland restoration on wider biodiversity in the National Park may vary, depending on various factors including the condition of the peatland prior to restoration, the restoration techniques employed, and the surrounding landscape context. Thorough monitoring and adaptive management approaches are necessary to evaluate the ecological response and maximize the positive impacts on wider biodiversity. Collaboration between restoration practitioners, conservation organizations, and stakeholders is crucial for successful peatland restoration and the conservation of biodiversity in the Cairngorms National Park.	++		
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	Restoring peatlands may have an indirect effect on deer management practices aimed at reducing environmental impacts.	?	National Park.  Deer populations can have significant impacts on vegetation and habitats, including peatlands, and can hinder the restoration efforts.  The strategic landscape appraisal work, during the development phase, has helped relevant groups understand the interactions	The specific outcomes of peatland restoration on deer management practices will depend on various factors, including the characteristics of the peatland, the behaviour and preferences of deer populations, and the effectiveness of deer management strategies. A holistic and adaptive approach, incorporating scientific research, monitoring, and stakeholder engagement, is crucial for successful peatland restoration	+		
6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	Restoring peatlands may have indirect effects on land management practices aimed at avoiding the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases.	?	While peatland restoration itself may not directly address these issues, it can contribute to creating a healthier and more resilient ecosystem, which can indirectly support efforts to manage invasive species and tree diseases.  Restoring peatlands involves enhancing the hydrology, vegetation, and overall ecosystem functions. This can result in the creation of more favourable conditions for native plant species, including those that are naturally adapted to the peatland environment. A diverse and healthy native plant community can provide stronger competition against invasive non-native species, reducing their	While peatland restoration can contribute indirectly to land management practices related to invasive species and tree diseases, specific management strategies targeted at these issues may still be necessary. Land managers should continue to implement appropriate measures to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species and tree diseases, such as practising good biosecurity protocols, early detection and eradication efforts, and following relevant regulations and guidelines specific to the region.	+		
7a	Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?	Restoring peatlands in the National Park may have an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the area.	?	establishment and spread.  Peatlands are an integral part of the landscape and play a significant role in shaping its unique character and qualities.  Peatlands contribute to the visual character of the landscapes in the National Park. The restoration of degraded peatlands can lead to improvements in the visual qualities of the area. By restoring the natural hydrology and vegetation, peatlands can regain their characteristic features, such as vibrant colours, diverse plant communities, and unique landforms. This can enhance the visual appeal and aesthetic value of the landscapes, contributing to their SLQs.  Peatlands are also often considered as wild and natural landscapes, characterised by their remote and untouched qualities.	The specific effects of peatland restoration on the SLQs of National Park landscapes may vary depending on factors such as the condition of the peatland prior to restoration, the restoration techniques employed, and the cultural and historical context of the region. A comprehensive approach to peatland restoration, that considers both ecological and cultural values, is crucial for maximising the positive effects on the SLQs of the National Park landscapes.	+		
7a	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	Restoring peatlands in the Cairngorms National Park may have a positive effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness.	+	Restoring peatlands can help recreate or enhance these aspects of wilderness and naturalness. By returning degraded peatlands to their natural state, they can regain their sense of wildness, providing habitats for a variety of wildlife and exhibiting natural ecological processes. This contributes to the perception and experience of the landscapes as authentic and untamed, aligning with the SLQs associated with wild and natural environments.  Peatlands are often considered iconic landscapes within the Cairngorms National Park. The restoration of degraded peatlands helps preserve and maintain these distinctive landscapes. By restoring the natural hydrology, vegetation, and landforms of peatlands, their unique features and scenic qualities can be preserved and celebrated, contributing to the overall landscape character of the park.  Peatlands have cultural and historical significance in the Cairngorms National Park. They are linked to traditional land uses, folklore,	The specific effects of peatland restoration on landscape character and local distinctiveness in the Cairngorms National Park may vary depending on various factors, including the location, scale, and condition of the peatlands, as well as the involvement of local communities and stakeholders. A holistic approach that integrates ecological, cultural, and community perspectives is essential to ensure that peatland	++		
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	Restoring peatlands in the Cairngorms National Park may have an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets, including linguistic aspects. Peatlands are intertwined with the historical and cultural heritage of the region, and their	+	and historical practices, such as peat cutting and traditional crafts. Restoring peatlands can help preserve and revive these cultural connections, enhancing the local distinctiveness by maintaining the links to the park's heritage and traditional practices.  Peatlands often contain well-preserved archaeological remains due to the waterlogged conditions that help protect organic materials. Restoring peatlands can contribute to the preservation of archaeological sites and artifacts, including ancient structures, tools, and cultural artifacts. By maintaining the natural hydrology and ecological conditions of peatlands, restoration efforts can help protect and conserve the cultural heritage present within them.  Peatlands often have associated place names (i.e. A' Mhòine Mhòr - The Big Peat Bog) and linguistic references that reflect the	The specific effects of peatland restoration on the historic and cultural environment and assets in the Cairngorms National Park may vary, depending on factors such as the location of the peatlands, the involvement of local communities, and the integration of cultural heritage considerations in restoration planning. Collaboration with relevant stakeholders, such as archaeologists, cultural heritage experts, and local communities, is crucial for ensuring that peatland restoration aligns with the preservation and enhancement of the historic and cultural	++		
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	restoration can contribute to the preservation and enhancement of these important assets.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	cultural significance of these landscapes. By restoring peatlands, there can be a revival or renewed appreciation for these linguistic and place name connections. Language and terminology related to peatlands and associated cultural practices can be preserved, documented, and celebrated, contributing to the linguistic assets of the Cairngorms National Park.  n/a  Restored peatlands can provide new opportunities for walking and hiking. Peatland areas can be designated as nature trails or incorporated into existing trail networks, allowing visitors to explore and appreciate the unique landscapes. Walking and hiking in	environment and assets of the Cairngorms National Park.  n/a	X		
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	Restoring peatlands in the Cairngorms National Park can have a positive effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles.	+	these areas offer physical exercise, exposure to nature, and opportunities for relaxation and enjoyment, promoting healthier lifestyles.  Restored peatlands can also provide opportunities for a range of nature-based recreational activities. These activities can include birdwatching, wildlife photography, nature observation, and nature interpretation. Engaging in such activities encourages people to spend time outdoors, fostering a deeper connection with nature and promoting healthier and more active lifestyles.  Spending time in natural environments, such as restored peatlands, has been linked to improved mental health and well-being. The peaceful and serene qualities of peatlands, coupled with the physical activity involved in outdoor recreation, can contribute to stress	The specific effects on recreation and active travel opportunities may depend on the accessibility, location, and management of the restored peatlands. Collaborating with local communities, recreation and tourism organisations, and relevant stakeholders can help ensure that the restoration efforts align with the needs and preferences of recreational users, supporting healthier lifestyles in the Cairngorms National Park.	++		
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	peaceful and serene qualities of peatlands, coupled with the physical activity involved in outdoor recreation, can contribute to stress reduction, improved mood, and overall well-being.  n/a	n/a	x		

Assessor(s) Insert assess Date of Asse	. ,						
Insert date(s	of assessment  F PLAN BEING ASSESSED: olicy X, Option 1A, etc)			5c Climate Resilient Catchments			
	ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS	Nature of effect	Scoring: significance of effect before			Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation	CNPA response to recommendation:
SEA objective	SEA sub-objective	effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.	Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	Justification and/or reasoning for enhancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	The restoration projects in the catchments of the River Dee, Spey, and South Esk have the potential to indirectly contribute to energy conservation and efficiency in new development within the Cairngorms National Park. While the primary focus of these projects is on the restoration of floodplains and river habitats, there are potential positive	+	The restoration projects can inform land use planning practices that prioritise resource-efficiency and sustainable development. By considering the ecological values and natural features of the catchments, development plans can be designed to minimise energy consumption and promote energy-efficient infrastructure.	While the restoration projects can indirectly contribute to energy conservation and efficiency, direct implementation of energy-related initiatives would require additional efforts and specific focus on energy	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	effects on energy conservation and efficiency.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	The projects can raise awareness about the importance of energy conservation and efficiency among the local communities, stakeholders, and developers. By integrating educational programs and promoting sustainable practices, there can be a positive influence on energy-conscious decision-making in future development initiatives.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	efficiency measures within the development process.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
<b>1</b> a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	The restoration projects in the catchments of the River Dee, Spey, and South Esk may have indirect effects on the local production and use of materials and food produce within	+	The focus of these projects is primarily on restoring floodplains, river habitats, and conserving biodiversity, which can contribute to overall ecosystem health and resilience.  By improving the health and quality of river systems, these restoration projects can positively impact the surrounding	While the direct impact on local production and food produce may vary, depending on the specific details of the restoration projects, the overall objective of enhancing the ecological integrity of the catchments can contribute to a more sustainable and resilient local food system. It can promote practices that support the production of	++	
	and rood produce.	the Cairngorms National Park.		landscapes and agricultural areas. Healthy river ecosystems can support sustainable agriculture by providing water resources for irrigation, improving soil fertility through natural processes, and creating habitats for beneficial organisms such as pollinators.  Peatlands are important carbon sinks as they store significant amounts of carbon in their organic soils. However, historic changes in land management and other factors have led to the degradation of peatlands, resulting in carbon loss through	hoolthy, locally coursed food, while minimizing pogetive environmental impacts		
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	The restoration projects in the catchments of the River Dee, Spey, and South Esk can have a positive effect on carbon sinks, including woodlands and peatlands, within the	+	decomposition and greenhouse gas emissions. The restoration projects can involve measures to restore and conserve peatlands, such as blocking drainage ditches and re-wetting degraded areas. These actions help to preserve and enhance the carbon sequestration potential of peatlands, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation.	By restoring and conserving these carbon sinks, the restoration projects can help mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting carbon sequestration. Additionally, healthy and functioning woodlands and peatlands provide various co-benefits, such as habitat restoration, water regulation, and	++	
		Cairngorms National Park.		Similarly, woodlands and floodplains play a crucial role in carbon sequestration and storage. Restoring and expanding woodland and floodplain areas, within the catchments, can enhance the capacity of the Cairngorms National Park to absorb and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Planting native tree species in riparian areas and implementing sustainable forestry practices can promote carbon sequestration and contribute to the long-term storage of carbon in biomass and forest soils.	improved biodiversity.		
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	The restoration projects in the catchments of the River Dee, Spey, and South Esk within the Cairngorms National Park can potentially have an effect on travel patterns and thus contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.	?	The restoration projects may involve the development of nature-based tourism and additional recreational opportunities within the park. This can attract visitors who are interested in experiencing the restored habitats and natural landscapes, potentially reducing the need for long-distance travel to other destinations for recreational purposes. It could also, however, attract people from further away to visit the newly restotred areas. By providing local and accessible nature-based experiences, combined with sustainable active travel options, the projects may contribute to reducing the carbon footprint	It's important to note that the specific measures and initiatives aimed at reducing travel-related emissions would need to be outlined in the project plans and implementation strategies. By implementing sustainable transportation options and minimising the carbon footprint of travel activities, the restoration projects can contribute to overall efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions in the Cairngorms National Park.	+	
	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding,	Yes, considering the future implications of climate change, such as increased severity of		associated with travel.  Catchment restoration aims to improve the natural water management processes within river catchments, including floodplains, by restoring and enhancing their ecological functions. This can involve measures such as re-establishing natural floodplain areas, improving riverine habitats, and implementing sustainable land management practices.	Enhacements to the project could take the form of facilitating a knowledge sharing and capacity building initiative among stakeholders involved in catchment restoration projects. This may include providing training and		
10	periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	flood events, there is likely to be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings within the Cairngorms National Park.	· ·	By restoring floodplains and riverine habitats, catchment restoration projects help to increase the capacity of the catchments to absorb and store excess water during periods of heavy rainfall, reducing the risk of flooding downstream. This can help protect existing infrastructure and buildings located in flood-prone areas.  Catchment restoration projects, such as restoring floodplains and enhancing riverine habitats, can help reduce the risk of	resources to landowners, communities, and professionals to support the implementation of sustainable land management practices and climate-resilient infrastructure	*	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	The catchment restoration projects can play a crucial role in addressing the future implications of climate change on proposed infrastructure and buildings in the LDP.	+	flooding. By allowing floodwaters to spread out and be naturally absorbed by the landscape, these projects can protect downstream areas and infrastructure from the impacts of increased rainfall and severe weather events.  Catchment restoration projects can address erosion issues and reduce sedimentation in water bodies. This is important for maintaining the integrity of infrastructure, such as bridges and culverts, which can be damaged by excessive sedimentation	Integrating nature-based solutions into catchment restoration projects may further enhance climate resilience. This could include restoring and expanding natural habitats, such as wetlands and forests, which can provide multiple benefits such as flood mitigation, water filtration, and temperature regulation.	++	
		The Climate Resilient Catchment project may have indirect effects on the levels of UK		during high-flow events.  The restoration of catchments often involves the planting of trees, creation of green spaces, and restoration of natural habitats. Vegetation plays a crucial role in absorbing air pollutants, including nitrogen dioxide (NO2), particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), and sulfur dioxide (SO2). Increasing vegetation cover can help reduce the concentration of these	While the direct impact of the Climate Resilient Catchment project on air quality pollutants may not be the		
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	National Air Quality pollutants. While the primary focus of the project is on catchment restoration and climate change adaptation, certain measures implemented, as part of the project, can contribute to improving air quality.	+	pollutants in the air.  Catchment restoration projects can promote sustainable transportation practices, such as the development of walking and cycling routes or the improvement of public transportation systems. By encouraging active travel and reducing reliance on private vehicles, the project can contribute to lower emissions of pollutants from vehicle exhaust, particularly nitrogen dioxide	context and existing air quality conditions.	++	
	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	The Climate Resilient Catchment project may have a positive effect on the levels of other types of air pollution, including particulate matter (PM).	+	<ul> <li>(NO2).</li> <li>Vegetation, especially trees and shrubs, can act as natural filters, capturing and trapping particulate matter from the air. The leaves and branches of plants can help intercept and absorb PM, leading to a reduction in its concentration.</li> <li>Catchment restoration projects can incorporate source control measures to reduce the generation or release of particulate</li> </ul>	The specific impact of the project on particulate matter levels would depend on the project's final scope, design, and implementation, as well as the local sources and characteristics of particulate pollution. However, by incorporating nature-based solutions, sustainable practices, and pollution control measures, the Climate Resilient	++	
		paradato matter (r m).		matter. For example, if the project involves agricultural practices, implementing measures to reduce soil erosion can minimise the generation of dust particles.  Catchment restoration projects often include measures to mitigate diffuse pollution, such as implementing best management practices in agriculture, promoting sustainable land management techniques, and restoring riparian zones. These measures	Catchment projects can contribute to mitigating particulate pollution and improving overall air quality.		
За	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project may have a positive effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs, and groundwater by addressing diffuse and point source pollution.	+	can help reduce the amount of pollutants, including sediment, nutrients, pesticides, and pathogens entering the water bodies, thus improving water quality.  Wetlands can play a crucial role in improving water quality by acting as natural filters. Catchment restoration projects may involve the restoration or creation of wetlands within the catchment area. Wetlands help remove pollutants through physical,	The Climate Resilient Catchment project can contribute to reducing diffuse and point source pollution, thereby enhancing the water quality of rivers, lochs, and groundwater within the catchment area. However, the specific outcomes would depend on the project's design, implementation, and the characteristics of the catchment, as well as the collaboration and participation of stakeholders in adopting sustainable land and water management practices.	++	
	Will thoro he an effect and the			chemical, and biological processes, effectively improving water quality. They can remove nutrients, trap sediments, and provide habitat for beneficial microorganisms that help break down pollutants.  Catchment restoration projects often include measures to enhance the natural water storage capacity of river catchments. This can involve restoring wetlands, improving soil health, and implementing sustainable land management practices. By restoring natural features and habitats, the catchment can better retain water during periods of high rainfall, increasing its	The specific outcomes of the project in terms of water storage and flood management would depend on the		
3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project may have a positive effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and provide natural flood management services.	+	overall water storage capacity. This helps reduce the risk of downstream flooding by slowing down the flow of water and allowing it to be absorbed into the ground or stored in wetland areas. Furthermore, by restoring floodplain areas and removing or modifying artificial barriers (such as embankments or drainage channels), the project can allow for the natural expansion of floodplains and improve their ability to store and manage floodwaters. This can help reduce flood risk downstream and provide valuable natural flood management services.	project's design, implementation, and the characteristics of the catchment. Additionally, collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including landowners, local communities, and water management authorities, is crucial for the successful implementation of catchment restoration measures and the realisation of their benefits for water storage and flood management.	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can potentially have a positive effect on public water supplies.	+	Catchment restoration projects often involve measures to improve water quality by reducing pollution, sedimentation, and nutrient runoff. By implementing sustainable land management practices, restoring riparian buffers, and enhancing natural features within the catchment, the project can help reduce the contamination of water sources. Improved water quality can benefit public water supplies by reducing the need for costly treatment processes and ensuring a safer and more reliable	The specific impacts on public water supplies would depend on the characteristics of the catchment, the design and implementation of the project, and the collaboration with relevant stakeholders.	++	
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can potentially have a positive effect on the demand for water from development, both residential and business.	+	water source.  The project focuses on catchment restoration and implementing sustainable land management practices. These practices aim to improve water availability and quality within the catchment, which can reduce the demand for water from alternative sources. By enhancing natural water storage, promoting groundwater recharge, and minimizing water loss through improved land management, the project can contribute to more sustainable water use in the catchment area.	The specific impact on water demand from development would depend on various factors, including the scale and nature of the development or residential area, local regulations and policies, and the level of adoption of water-efficient practices.	++	
		Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can have a positive effect on the sustainable		The project aims to restore and enhance catchment areas, which are vital for water resource management. By implementing sustainable land management practices, such as reforestation, wetland restoration, and soil conservation, the project helps maintain and improve the health of water resources. This contributes to sustainable water availability and promotes long-term water security.	By implementing sustainable practices, raising awareness, promoting efficient water use, and fostering collaboration, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can contribute to the sustainable use of water resources.		
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	use of water resources.	+	The project can encourage integrated water management approaches that consider the entire water cycle, including water supply, demand, and ecosystem needs. By promoting the integration of water management strategies across different sectors, such as agriculture, industry, and urban development, the project can help balance competing water needs and optimise the sustainable use of available water resources.	This not only benefits the environment but also supports the socio-economic development and resilience of the catchment area.	++	
3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?	Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can have a positive effect on the water environment by addressing the issue of invasive non-native species. Invasive species can significantly impact the water environment, including rivers, lochs, and groundwater. They can outcompete native species, alter habitats, disrupt ecosystem functions, and degrade water quality.	+	The feasibility study of the Dalgety floodplain highlighted that the invasive species, Giant Hogweed, was thickly present on the site, particularly along the riverbank. The project team successfully collaborated with the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI; funded by NLHF and the Nature Restoration Fund) to prioritise treatment of the hogweed at the site and upstream to further enhance the restoration options.	The Climate Resilient Catchment project aims to minimise the negative effects of invasive non-native species on the water environment within the catchment area. By promoting proactive management, early detection, prevention, and habitat restoration, the project will contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of water resources in the face of invasive species threats.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can have an effect on carbon-rich soils, including peatlands. Peatlands are important carbon sinks, storing significant amounts of	+	A core activity in Peatland restoration is improving hydrological systems in the uplands and peatland restoration work is known to reduce flood flows and sustain flows of water for longer in drought periods. Restored peatland also helps improve water quality downstream. These factors all contribute to making catchments more climate change resilient.	Through these measures, the Climate Resilient Catchment project aims to mitigate the negative effects of peatland degradation, preserve carbon-rich soils, and contribute to overall carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation efforts. By restoring and protecting peatlands, the project helps to ensure the long-term	++	
	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil	carbon. However, they are vulnerable to degradation and can release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere when disturbed or drained.  Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can have a positive effect on soil sealing, soil		The peatland programme will work closely with the climate resilient catchment projects to target peatland zones that sit within the most sensitive catchment areas where work can support a notable improvement in resilience and will prioritise these within the programme wherever possible.  The project can promote sustainable land use practices that minimise soil sealing, such as encouraging permeable surfaces,	sustainability of these important ecosystems and their carbon storage potential.  The Climate Resilient Catchment project can mitigate soil sealing, improve soil structure, and reduce soil erosion and loss by promoting sustainable land management practices and soil conservation strategies, to protect and		
4a	loss?	structure, and soil loss.  The Climate Resilient Catchment project can have an effect on the levels of soil contamination. Whilst the project's primary focus may be on improving water quality and	+	green infrastructure, and sustainable urban planning. By preserving natural soil surfaces and reducing soil sealing, the project helps maintain the soil's ability to absorb and retain water, supporting water infiltration and groundwater recharge.  The project would need to incorporate appropriate soil management practices, remediation techniques, and monitoring	enhance the health and resilience of soils, which are crucial for supporting ecosystems, agriculture, and water management in the catchment area.  The project could incorporate soil monitoring and assessment programmes to identify areas of concern and track changes in soil quality over time. This can involve regular soil sampling and analysis to determine the presence		
4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	catchment management, addressing soil contamination can be an integral part of these efforts.  Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can have a positive effect on soil erosion and	<u> </u>	protocols to effectively address soil contamination and mitigate its potential effects on ecosystems and human health within the catchment area.  By focussing on restoring and protecting riparian zones, it should be possible to stabilise riverbanks, reducing erosion, and	and concentration of contaminants. By conducting comprehensive monitoring and assessment, the project can provide valuable data to guide targeted remediation efforts and ensure the long-term health of soils.  By addressing soil erosion and landslides, through a combination of sustainable land management practices, riparian restoration, and slope stabilisation measures, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can enhance the	++	
4a 	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?  Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project may have a positive effect on geodiversity	+	filtering sediment runoff. By restoring and enhancing riparian vegetation, the project can further help mitigate soil erosion and improve the overall health of the catchment's waterways.  The project may include measures to conserve and enhance geodiversity within the catchment area. This can involve the restoration and protection of geological sites, the promotion of geological education and interpretation, and the engagement	resilience of the catchment's soil and reduce the associated risks to ecosystems, infrastructure, and human populations.  By integrating considerations for geodiversity interests into the Climate Resilient Catchment project, the project can seek to protect and enhance the geological heritage of the catchment areas and wider Park. This can	++	
		interests		of local communities in geodiversity conservation efforts. By raising awareness and understanding of geodiversity, the project can foster appreciation for the geological heritage of the area and encourage its long-term preservation.  The project focuses on improving the management and conservation of water resources in the catchment. This includes measures to enhance water quality, reduce pollution, and protect ecosystems that depend on healthy water systems. By implementing sustainable water management practices, such as water efficiency measures and the protection of water	contribute to the overall conservation of biodiversity, promote geological education and tourism, and support the sustainable management of natural resources.		
5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can have an effect on the sustainable use of natural resources, including water, timber, and aggregates, as the project aims to promote sustainable management practices and can help to ensure the long-term viability of natural resource utilisation within the catchment area.	+	sources, the project contributes to the sustainable use of this vital resource.  The project may involve initiatives to promote sustainable forestry practices within the catchment. This includes responsible timber harvesting, reforestation efforts, and the protection of forests to ensure their long-term health and productivity. By following sustainable forestry guidelines, such as selective logging, tree replanting, and habitat conservation, the project	By integrating principles of sustainability into the management of natural resources, and integrating raising awareness of sustainble resoursce use, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can seek to to promote the utilisation of resources with the preservation of ecological integrity, promoting the long-term viability of these valuable assets for future generations.	++	
	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and	Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can have a positive effect on the sustainable		helps maintain a sustainable supply of timber while preserving forest ecosystems. The Slugain Burn project further aims to install on-site interpretation, in order to celebrate the cultural and historical heritage of the wood and meal mills which have shaped the working landscape.  The Brechin flooplain project will look at retaining and stabilising an embankment breach on a section of floodplain,	By integrating principles of sustainability and climate resilience into infrastructure planning, design, and flood		
5a	management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure related to water, heat, energy, and flood protection.	+	downstream of the bridge, to reconnect the river to the floodplain, reduce stream power, disperse flood waters over a larger area, and contribute to reduced flood risk within Brechin PVA.  By promoting the utilisation of secondary and recycled materials, the project can reduce the demand for virgin resources, minimise waste generation, and enhance the sustainability of construction and infrastructure development. The project can also adopt a circular economy approach, which aims to keep materials in use for as long as possible through recycling.	management, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can help to ensure the long-term sustainable use of infrastructure assets, while minimising environmental impacts and maximising their resilience to climate change.  Overall, by prioritising the use of secondary and recycled materials, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can	++	
5a	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	Yes, the use of secondary and recycled materials in the Climate Resilient Catchment project can have a positive effect on the use of finite resources.	+	waste, encouraging the recovery of materials from existing infrastructure, and supporting markets for secondary materials.  By closing the material loop and reducing waste, the project can contributes to the sustainable use of resources and minimise the need for new resource extraction.	help to contribute to the sustainable and efficient use of finite resources. It can help reduce the reliance on virgin resources, minimise waste generation, and support the transition towards a more circular and resource-efficient economy.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	Yes, there may be a positive effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation through the Climate Resilient Catchment project.	+	The primary focus of the project is to use processed based principles that allow the river and floodplain to develop and function more naturally, bringing benefits for biodiversity, and climate resilience.  The project also seeks to maximise awareness raising and learning opportunities around river restoration, habitat and biodiversity enhancement and climate change resilience, through interpretation, including on site information, media outputs,	Overall, the Climate Resilient Catchment project aims to have a positive effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation. Through habitat restoration, enhancement of ecosystem services, monitoring and management, and stakeholder engagement, the project contributes to the conservation and sustainable management of protected areas, thereby maintaining their favourable condition and ecological value.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	Yes, the project may have a positive effect on protected species.	+	The project aims to enhance the designated features of the European Designated sites  (Special Area of Conservation and Special Protected Areas) that each site is located within.	There may be potential to enhance the project by fostering research collaborations to explore innovative approaches and technologies that can enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of catchment restoration. This can involve studying the best practices in ecological restoration, exploring new monitoring techniques, and	++	
<b>6</b> a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project is likely to have an effect on the habitats and plants identified in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan. The restoration activities carried out as part of the project, such as floodplain restoration, habitat creation, and vegetation management, can contribute to the conservation and enhancement of these habitats and	+	The project proposes to enhance species richness and abundance by expanding the range and quality of habitats in the river channel, riparian zone and floodplain. Keystone species supported by the habitat restoration are Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel and otter however the whole ecosystem will be dynamic and benefit a full range of species.	investigating nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation.  It is important for the project planners and stakeholders to coordinate with the relevant authorities and experts involved in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan to ensure that the restoration efforts align with the broader conservation goals for the area. This coordination can help ensure that the project's activities complement existing conservation initiatives and maximise the positive effects on the habitats and plants of the Cairngorms	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?	Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can have an effect on bird, mammal, and invertebrate species identified in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan.	+	The project proposes to enhance species richness and abundance by expanding the range and quality of habitats in the river channel, riparian zone and floodplain. Keystone species supported by the habitat restoration are Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel and otter, however, the whole ecosystem will be dynamic and benefit a full range of species.	National Park.  It is important for the project planners and stakeholders to coordinate with the relevant authorities and experts involved in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan, to ensure that the restoration efforts align with the broader conservation goals for the area. This coordination can help ensure that the project's activities complement existing conservation initiatives and maximise the positive effects on the CNAP species.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can have an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park.	+	The project proposes to enhance species richness and abundance by expanding the range and quality of habitats in the river channel, riparian zone and floodplain. Keystone species supported by the habitat restoration are Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel and otter, however, the whole ecosystem will be dynamic and benefit a full range of species.	It is important for the project planners and stakeholders to coordinate with the relevant authorities and experts involved in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan to ensure that the restoration efforts align with the broader conservation goals for the area. This coordination can help ensure that the project's activities complement existing conservation initiatives and maximise the positive effects on the wder biodiversity outwith the Park.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	The Climate Resilient Catchment project may have mixed effects on deer management practices that aim to reduce environmental effects.	?	As part of the project, the restoration and conservation activities, carried out in the catchment areas, may contribute to creating more favourable conditions for vegetation growth and regeneration. By restoring floodplains, riverbanks, and other habitats, there may be an increase in available foraging and vegetation cover, which can influence deer behavior and population dynamics.  Monitoring: records will be kept of the extent and types of each babitat created or improved. Mapping will be conducted to	It's important to note that the specific strategies and approaches to deer management, within the project, will depend on various factors, including ecological considerations, local conditions, and stakeholder engagement. If managed strategically, there may be benefits to deer management regimes across the Park.	+	
6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive nonnative species and tree diseases?	Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project may have positive effects on land management practices aimed at preventing the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases.	+	wider surveys of some species groups e.g. macroinvertebrates and track potential introductions of invasive non-natives.  By restoring floodplains, creating new habitats, and implementing sustainable land management practices, the project can	Monitoring and early detection systems, including the development of management strategies to control and eradicate invasive species, and the promotion of biosecurity practices to prevent their introduction, may be useful to ensure any spread of invasive species and/or diseases are halted.	++	
7a	Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?	Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project may have an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes. The restoration activities and land management practices implemented as part of the project can contribute to the	+	help maintain the unique character, scenic beauty, and cultural significance of the landscapes within the National Park. The conservation and restoration of natural features, such as rivers, woodlands, and peatlands, can contribute to the overall aesthetic value and sense of place that characterizes the National Park.  Furthermore, the project's focus on climate resilience and environmental sustainability can help safeguard the SLQs in the	It is important for the project partners, planners and stakeholders to consider the SLQs of the National Park landscapes in their decision-making processes and to implement measures that minimise any potential negative impacts and maximise the preservation and enhancement of these special qualities.	++	
		preservation and enhancement of the SLQs.		face of climate change and other environmental challenges. By promoting resilient ecosystems, protecting biodiversity, and conserving natural resources, the project can help ensure the long-term viability and integrity of the special landscapes within the National Park.  Through floodplain restoration, habitat creation, and vegetation management, the project can help enhance and protect the	paste and maximise the preservation and enhancement of these special qualities.		
7a	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can have a positive effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness within the Cairngorms National Park. The restoration activities and land management practices undertaken as part of the project can contribute to shaping, restoring and preserving the unique landscape character and local	+	natural features, landforms, and scenic qualities that contribute to the distinctiveness of the landscapes. By promoting the conservation of key habitats, such as rivers, woodlands and wetlands, the project can maintain the ecological diversity and visual appeal that define the landscape character.  Moreover, the project's focus on climate resilience and sustainable land management can help ensure that the landscapes	It will be important for the project planners and stakeholders to consider the existing landscape character and local distinctiveness in their decision-making processes and to implement measures that respect and enhance these qualities. By doing so, the project can contribute to the preservation and celebration of the unique	++	
		distinctiveness of the area.		continue to provide a sense of place and identity for local communities and visitors. By incorporating local knowledge, traditional practices, and cultural values into the restoration efforts, the project can further reinforce the local distinctiveness and strengthen the connection between people and their landscapes.  The Cairngorms National Park is rich in cultural and historical heritage, including archaeological sites, traditional buildings,	landscapes and cultural heritage within the Cairngorms National Park.		
7h	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment	Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can have an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets, including linguistic heritage, within the Cairngorms		cultural landscapes, and linguistic traditions. The project should take into account the potential impacts on these assets and aim to protect and enhance them where possible.  For example, during floodplain restoration or habitat creation, it is important to consider any archaeological sites or historic structures present in the area. Measures can be taken to avoid or mitigate potential damage to these sites, such as	By considering the historic and cultural environment and assets in the planning and execution of the project, it is possible to minimise negative impacts and even enhance the understanding, appreciation, and interpretation of	++	
70	and assets (including linguistic)?	National Park. The restoration activities and land management practices associated with the project can impact the cultural and historical features of the area.	•	conducting surveys and assessments prior to construction and implementing appropriate conservation practices.  Furthermore, the project can provide opportunities for engaging with local communities and stakeholders to ensure that their cultural heritage and linguistic traditions are respected and preserved. This can involve working closely with local experts, historians, and community groups to incorporate their knowledge and perspectives into the project design and	the area's cultural heritage. This can contribute to the overall sustainability and resilience of the Cairngorms National Park by fostering a sense of pride, identity, and connection among local communities and visitors.		
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	implementation.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  By restoring floodplains, creating riverine habitats, and improving the overall natural environment, the project can provide new opportunities for outdoor recreation and active travel. These restored areas can become valuable spaces for activities	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can have a positive effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles in the Cairngorms National Park.	+	such as walking, cycling, birdwatching, and other nature-based pursuits.  The project's focus on catchment restoration and sustainable land management can also contribute to the development of trails, paths, and access points that facilitate active travel within the park. Improved infrastructure and connectivity can encourage residents and visitors to engage in physical activities whilst enjoying the Park's natural beauty.	Overall, the Climate Resilient Catchment project supports recreation and active travel in promoting healthier lifestyles. By enhancing the Park's natural assets and creating sustainable infrastructure, it aims to provide opportunities for individuals to engage in outdoor activities, improving their physical and mental well-being.	++	
				The project involves various restoration and conservation activities, such as floodplain restoration, habitat creation, and land management practices. These activities require a range of skills and expertise, including ecological surveying, habitat restoration, monitoring, and project management. As a result, there will be a need for a skilled workforce to implement and manage these activities.	By promoting sustainable land management practices and conservation activities, the project can not only		
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	Yes, the Climate Resilient Catchment project can have a positive effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence in the Cairngorms National Park.	+	Local residents who possess relevant skills and qualifications can benefit from increased employment opportunities in sectors related to conservation, land management, ecological restoration, and environmental monitoring. This can include positions such as ecologists, field technicians, project coordinators, and conservation officers.	contribute to the ecological health of the Cairngorms National Park but also supports the local economy by creating jobs and enhancing employment opportunities for residents.	++	
				Furthermore, the project's emphasis on community involvement and engagement provides opportunities for local residents to actively participate and volunteer in the restoration efforts. This can lead to the development of community-based initiatives and employment opportunities related to education, outreach, and community engagement.			

(eg Vision, Po	or(s)'s name ssment:			5d Nature Recovery			
SEA objective	SEA sub-objective		Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance	Justification and/or reasoning for enhancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements wil	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and
objective			of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate	be used to create positive effects.	environmental effect AFTER	enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised, across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.  Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too	++	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
<b>3</b> a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives,	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too	++	
	water and the natural flood management services they provide?  Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.  There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives once		Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.  Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.	early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.  As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too		
3a 	will there be an effect on public water supplies?	a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.  Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.	early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.  Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.  Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non- native species?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.  Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
5a	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
5a	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
<b>6</b> a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
<b>6</b> a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
7a	Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
7a	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	There is potential for positive effects to be realised across all sectors and objectives, once a more explicit project pathway has been decided.	+	Nature Recovery Projects will follow the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standard in delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that protect, sustainably manage and restore natural ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges (Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss) effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.  Projects will be funded by attracting private investment into the Cairngorms National Park to allow project delivery at pace and scale.	As noted, due to the wide-ranging potential positive impacts that the Nature Recovery project may create, it is too early to recommend specific mitigation or enhancements to the project.	++	

	<b>):</b> sor(s)'s name						
ECTION O	r) of assessment F PLAN BEING ASSESSED:			5e Future Farming			
y Vision, P	Policy X, Option 1A, etc)  ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS			se ruture rarming		Scoring:	
EA pjective	SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.	of the amiliar mantal offset		Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed is column F). If disagreeing, projustification as to why.
1a 1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?  Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x x		No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x x	
1a	appropriate scale for the Park?  Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	Yes, the Cairngorms Future Farming project is likely to have a significant positive effect on the local production and use of materials and food produce the National Park.		The project aims to trial changes in farming practices that deliver practical improvements to carbon emissions and habitat quantity, quality, and connectivity. By implementing nature- and climate-	Overall, the development palse of the Cairngorms Future Farming project has the potential to positively influence local production and use of materials and food produce by promoting sustainable farming practices, enhancing biodiversity, and supporting resilient farm businesses within the National Park. In the latter stages of the project, there may be scope to explore opportunities to expand the project's reach beyond the initial six farms. Perhaps by working with a larger number of farms across the National Park to broaden the impact and gather more data and evidence on nature- and climate-friendly farming practices. This could involve engaging with additional farmers and providing them with support, incentives, and knowledge exchange opportunities.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	The Cairngorms Future Farming project, with its focus on trialing changes to farming practices that deliver improvements to carbon emissions and habitat quantity, quality, and connectivity, can have positive effects on carbon sinks such as woodlands and peatlands.	at	production of food. By enhancing the economic resilience of farm businesses, the project can contribute to the local production and availability of food produce within the National Park.  The project can encourage farmers to incorporate agroforestry practices, such as planting trees on farmland, and support afforestation efforts in suitable areas. Increasing tree cover can sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, enhance biodiversity, improve soil health, and provide additional ecosystem services.  By promoting sustainable land management practices, the project can also contribute to maintaining and enhancing existing carbon sinks. This includes avoiding excessive soil disturbance, minimising erosion, implementing responsible grazing practices, and adopting precision farming techniques that optimize resource use and minimise carbon emissions.	As above, there may be scope in the latter stages of the project to encourage farmers to adopt agroforestry practices on a larger scale. Providing support and resources for establishing tree plantations, hedgerows, and windbreaks on farmland, can maximisie carbon sequestration potential while providing additional benefits such as wildlife habitat and erosion control.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	The Cairngorms Future Farming project may have some indirect effects on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions. While the project primarily focuses on improving farming practices and enhancing the sustainability of agricultural activities, there may be some transportation-related implications.	+	While it is not be possible to completely eliminate travel-related greenhouse gas emissions, implementing these measures can help minimize the project's overall carbon footprint. It's important to assess and consider the travel implications throughout the project's planning and implementation stages and prioritise sustainable transportation options whenever feasible.	Encourage farmers to explore local sourcing and distribution options to reduce the need for long-distance transportation of agricultural products. Promote local food networks and collaborations between farmers, producers, and retailers to minimize transportation-related emissions.	++	
b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing	Yes, the Future Farming project may have an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings in the context of climate change.		Overall, the Future Farming project can drive changes in existing infrastructure and buildings to make them more resilient, sustainable, and adaptable to the challenges posed by climate change.	Climate change will result in changes to temperature, precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events. To adapt to these changes, farmers may need to modify existing farm buildings to ensure they are resilient and can withstand climate-related risks such as increased heat, heavy rainfall, or strong winds. This may involve retrofitting buildings with insulation, improving ventilation systems, or reinforcing structures to withstand extreme weather events.	+	
b	infrastructure and buildings?  Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	Yes, the Future Farming project can potentially have an effect on the infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan.	?	The Future Farming project may lead to changes in land use patterns as farmers adopt different farming practices and interventions. This could have implications for the location and design of infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan. It may be necessary to reassess land use allocations and ensure that proposed infrastructure aligns with the changing agricultural practices and environmental objectives of the project.  The project's aim to reduce carbon emissions and improve biodiversity and habitat connectivity may indirectly contribute to lower levels of air pollutants. By promoting sustainable farming practices, such as reducing the use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, optimising livestock management, and implementing agroforestry or cover cropping, the project can potentially mitigate the emissions of air pollutants associated with agricultural activities.	Proposed infrastructure and buildings should support sustainable and climate-resilient practices in agriculture while promoting the overall development objectives of the area. Collaboration and coordination between the project stakeholders and local planning authorities can help ensure the integration of these objectives into the planning and development process.	+	
a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutant (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	The Future Farming project's specific impact on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants such as NO2, PM10, PM2.5, and SO2 will depend on sever factors related to the farming practices being implemented.		Ammonia (NH3) is an air pollutant oft derived from agricultural sources, particularly livestock farming. Depending on the specific interventions and practices implemented in the project, there could	The primary focus of the Future Farming project is on carbon emissions reduction, biodiversity enhancement, and habitat connectivity. While these objectives indirectly contribute to improved air quality, addressing specific air pollutants like NO2, PM10, PM2.5, and SO2 may require additional measures beyond the scope of the project. National and local air quality management strategies and policies, as well as collaboration between the agricultural sector, local authorities, and relevant stakeholders, will play a crucial role in addressing and mitigating air pollution at a broader scale.	+	
l	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	The Future Farming project's impact on levels of other types of air pollution, such as particulate matter (PM), will depend on the specific farming practices implemented and their associated effects on emissions.		Certain farming activities can generate dust, especially during plowing, harvesting, and other field operations. The project's focus on promoting sustainable farming practices, such as reduced tillage or conservation agriculture techniques, can potentially minimise soil disturbance and dust emissions.	The Future Farming project primarily focuses on carbon emissions reduction, biodiversity enhancement, and habitat connectivity. While these objectives may have ancillary benefits in terms of reducing particulate matter emissions, addressing specific air pollutants like particulate matter requires comprehensive air quality management strategies and collaboration between various sectors and stakeholders.	+	
l	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	The Future Farming project's impact on water quality will depend on the specific farming practices implemented and their effects on both diffuse and point source pollution.	<b>?</b>	The project may encourage sustainable pest and weed management practices that aim to minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides or promote the use of environmentally friendly alternatives.  By reducing chemical inputs, the project can help minimise the potential for water contamination from agricultural runoff.  Establishing riparian buffer zones along watercourses can help filter and retain nutrients, sediments, and pollutants from agricultural runoff before they reach water bodies. The project may	The project's focus on carbon emissions reduction, habitat enhancement, and farm business resilience may indirectly contribute to improved water quality. By promoting sustainable farming practices and better land management, the project can help reduce the potential for diffuse and point source pollution and enhance the overall health of rivers, lochs, and groundwater within the project's scope.	+	
a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	The Future Farming project's impact on the ability of river catchments to store water and provide natural flood management services will depend on the specific farming practices implemented and their effects on the landscape.	?	promote the creation or enhancement of these buffer zones, which can have a positive impact on water quality.  Incorporating tree planting and agroforestry practices into farming systems can have multiple benefits, including improved water management. Trees help intercept rainfall, reduce surface runoff, and increase water infiltration. Agroforestry systems, which combine tree cultivation with agricultural crops or livestock, can further enhance water storage capacity and reduce the risk of flooding by improving soil structure and water-holding capacity.  The project may also include initiatives to restore riparian zones and wetland habitats within farm landscapes. These areas can act as natural sponges, absorbing and storing water during periods of high rainfall. Restoring or enhancing such habitats can help increase the water storage capacity of catchments and provide natural flood management services by attenuating floodwaters and reducing their downstream impacts.	By implementing these and other water-friendly farming practices, the Future Farming project may enhance the ability of river catchments to store water and provide natural flood management services. These measures may not only contribute to more sustainable land and water management, but also help mitigate the impacts of climate change, including increased rainfall intensity and the associated risks of flooding.	+	
		The Future Farming project's impact on public water supplies will depend on	n	By further demonstrating floodplain grazing regimes that increase biodiversity and reduce negative impacts on water quality, the project work will look to prioritise and highlight new approaches to farming that will provide additional benefits for protection of water courses.  The project may intergrate initiatives to protect and enhance the quality of water sources used for public water supplies. This can involve measures such as riparian buffer zone creation, wetland	The specific details and measures of the Future Farming project will determine the extent of its impact on public water supplies. However, by promoting		
) )	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?  Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	various factors, including the specific farming practices implemented and their effects on water quality and quantity.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  Yes, the Future Farming project has the potential to have an effect on the	eir ?	restoration, and land management practices that prevent contamination and maintain the integrity of water catchments. These efforts contribute to safeguarding the quality and availability of water resources for public supply systems.	sustainable farming practices, protecting water sources, and fostering collaboration, the project has the potential to contribute to the preservation and sustainable management of water resources, benefiting public water supplies in the long run.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	+ x	
o	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	sustainable use of water resources. By implementing sustainable farming practices and promoting responsible water management, the project can aim reduce water consumption and optimise water use efficiency in agricultural activities. This can help minimise the impact on water resources and contribut to their long-term sustainability.	to + ute	The project's emphasis on integrated land management plans and peer-to-peer knowledge exchange can facilitate the sharing of best practices in water resource management among farmers within the National Park. This can help disseminate innovative approaches and strategies that support sustainable water use across the farming community.	It's important to note that while the project can encourage sustainable water use within the agricultural sector, broader efforts and policies are also required to address water sustainability across various sectors and ensure the overall management of water resources in the region.	++	
	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non- native species?	The Future Farming project's focus on enhancing habitat quantity, quality, and connectivity, as well as promoting biodiversity, can indirectly contribute to mitigating the impact of invasive non-native species on the water environmen By improving habitat conditions and connectivity, the project aims to create a more favorable environment for native species, which can help reduce the establishment and spread of invasive species.	nt. a	The Future Farming project's emphasis on sustainable farming practices and integrated land management plans can help minimise the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species.  Through careful land management, including proper monitoring and control measures, farmers can reduce the risk of introducing or promoting invasive species within their farms.  By promoting more sustainable farming practices and integrated land management plans, the Future Farming project can contribute to the conservation and restoration of peatlands. This can	It's important to note that the management of invasive non-native species is a complex and ongoing challenge that requires collaboration among various stakeholders, including farmers, land managers, conservation organizations, and government agencies. The Future Farming project can play a role in promoting awareness, knowledge exchange, and best practices, which can contribute to reducing the impact of invasive species on the water environment.	+	
	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	The Future Farming project, with its focus on implementing changes to farmin practices that deliver improvements to carbon emissions and habitat quantity quality, and connectivity, can potentially have positive effects on carbon-rich soils, including peatlands.	у,	involve measures such as reducing drainage, implementing sustainable grazing practices, and restoring degraded peatland areas. These actions can help to maintain the integrity of peat soils, enhance carbon sequestration, and mitigate carbon emissions.  Additionally, the project's emphasis on habitat surveys, monitoring and integrated land management plans can facilitate the identification and protection of peatland areas within the participating farms. This can include measures to avoid peatland disturbance and promote their ecological health and functioning.	It's worth noting that peatland conservation and restoration are complex and long-term processes that require a coordinated approach involving multiple stakeholders, including farmers, landowners, conservation organizations, and policymakers. The Future Farming project can contribute to these efforts by providing practical examples, sharing knowledge, and demonstrating the benefits of sustainable land management practices for carbon-rich soils, including peatlands.	++	
	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	The Future Farming project, with its focus on implementing changes to farmin practices that prioritise carbon emissions reduction and habitat enhancement can potentially have positive effects on soil sealing, soil structure, and soil loss	+ + ss.	Soil sampling, forage analysis and manure analysis: all farms are considering implementing a sampling and analysis strategy in some form as these analyses will help farmers focus on the inputs required, e.g., quantities and types of fertilisers spread on fields. This can support reductions in carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions, reduce diffuse pollution, improve business resilience (e.g., reduce reliance on expensive synthetic fertilisers) and improve soil quality and livestock health.  Diverse seed mixes and alternative re-seeding methods have been suggested on several farms. Suggested seed mix improvements include sowing a grass mix with more nitrogen-fixing legumes to enhance soil health.	Maintaining regular soil testing and analysis can provide valuable feedback to farmers and help track improvements in soil health over time.	++	
ı	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	The Future Farming project, with its focus on improving farming practices and promoting sustainable land management, can potentially have a positive effect on reducing soil contamination levels. By implementing environmentally friend practices and minimising the use of chemical inputs, the project aims to protect soil quality and reduce the risk of soil contamination.	dly ?	It's important to note that the specific impact on soil contamination will depend on the existing conditions, farming practices, and historical land use in the area. Therefore, the project should conduct site-specific assessments and tailor its strategies to address any identified soil contamination issues effectively.	Providing guidance and support to farmers in managing and remediating areas of land that may have pre-existing soil contamination. This may involve collaboration with relevant local authorities and experts to ensure appropriate remediation measures are taken.	+	
	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?  Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	The Future Farming project, with its focus on implementing sustainable farmin practices and improving land management, can have a positive effect on reducing soil erosion and the risk of landslides.  Regarding the Future Farming project, its primary focus is on trialing changes to farming practices to improve carbon emissions and enhance habitat quantit quality, and connectivity. While the project's main emphasis is on agricultural practices, there may be indirect effects on geodiversity interests.	es ity,		Emphasise the importance of protecting and restoring riparian zones along water bodies. These areas act as buffers, preventing sediment runoff, filtering pollutants, and reducing the risk of erosion and landslides along riverbanks.  In addition to carbon emissions reduction and habitat enhancement, the project can incorporate specific farming practices that minimise impacts on geodiversity. This can include avoiding activities that can cause soil erosion, protecting sensitive geological features, and implementing measures to maintain soil health and structure.		
	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	Yes, the Future Farming project is likely to have a positive effect on the sustainable use of natural resources such as water, timber, and aggregates. E trialing changes to farming practices that aim to reduce carbon emissions and enhance biodiversity, the project can contribute to more sustainable resource management.	nd +	The project's focus on carbon emissions reduction and habitat enhancement can lead to improved water management practices on farms. This may include the implementation of measures to reduce water consumption, enhance water quality, and mitigate the impacts of agricultural activities on water bodies. Sustainable irrigation techniques, water-efficient farming methods, and the protection of water sources can all contribute to the sustainable use of water resources.  Although the Future Farming project primarily focuses on agricultural practices, it can indirectly influence the sustainable use of timber. For example, if agroforestry practices are introduced as part of the project, it may be possible to promote the cultivation of trees on farms for timber production. These practices can provide a sustainable source of timber while also enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services.	Overall, the Future Farming project can play a role in promoting the sustainable use of natural resources by implementing practices that prioritise carbon emissions reduction, habitat enhancement, and ecosystem health. By integrating sustainable resource management principles into farming practices, the project can contribute to the long-term preservation and responsible use of water, timber, aggregates, and other natural resources.	t	
	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	Yes, the Future Farming project can have an effect on the sustainable use an management of existing and proposed infrastructure, including water, heat, energy, and flood protection infrastructure.		The project's emphasis on carbon emissions reduction can also impact the sustainable use and management of heat and energy infrastructure. By promoting energy-efficient farming practices, the project can reduce the demand for energy and contribute to the transition to renewable energy sources. This can involve the adoption of energy-saving technologies, the use of renewable energy systems such as solar panels or biomass boilers, and the integration of energy management strategies to optimise energy usage on farms.  By implementing nature-based solutions and floodplain restoration measures, the project may also contribute to natural flood management and reduce reliance on traditional flood protection infrastructure. This can involve restoring wetlands, creating floodplain storage areas, and promoting land management practices that enhance water infiltration and reduce surface runoff.  The project can address the use of finite resources by promoting the reduction, reuse, and recycling of packaging materials. By encouraging farmers to adopt sustainable packaging practices,	Overall, the Future Farming project can contribute to the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure by integrating practices that prioritise resource efficiency, renewable energy adoption, and nature-based solutions. By aligning farming practices with sustainable infrastructure goals, the project can help optimise the use of resources, reduce environmental impacts, and enhance the resilience and efficiency of water, heat, energy, and flood protection infrastructure.	++	
	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	Yes, the use of secondary and recycled materials can have an effect on the use of finite resources, and this can be relevant to the Future Farming projec as well		such as using recycled or biodegradable packaging materials and minimising waste generation, the project can contribute to a more circular economy and reduce the consumption of finite resources.  Another aspect of resource conservation is the proper management of organic waste. The project can educate farmers on the benefits of composting and organic waste recycling, which can turn organic residues into valuable soil amendments. By promoting these practices, the project can help reduce the reliance on synthetic fertilisers and improve soil health, ultimately contributing to more sustainable resource use in agriculture.	By incorporating these strategies and promoting the use of secondary and recycled materials, the Future Farming project may contribute to a more circular and sustainable agricultural system. This approach helps minimise the extraction and consumption of finite resources, reduce waste generation, and support a more efficient and responsible use of materials throughout the farming process.		
	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	The Future Farming project, with its focus on improving carbon emissions, habitat quantity, quality, and connectivity, is likely to have positive effects on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation.		The project will develop new approaches to low-carbon and nature-friendly farming in upland areas and aims to result in lasting positive change on each of the participating farms. The proejct also seeks to upskill farmers and increase their knowledge and understanding of nature- friendly and low-carbon farming.  The project also aims to inspire similar changes throughout the National Park's farming community and beyond through the establishment of a farmer-led knowledge exchange. This network will be established and facilitated by the project officer with advice and guidance from project partners, particularly the Nature Friendly Farming Network, who are experienced in setting up similar networks in other parts of the UK	By considering the specific conservation objectives of protected areas and aligning with sustainable land management practices, the Future Farming project can contribute to the favourable condition of these areas. The project's emphasis on habitat enhancement, carbon storage, and sustainable practices can support the long-term conservation goals and ecological health of protected areas within the Cairngorms National Park.	++	
	Will there be an effect on protected species?	The Future Farming project's focus on improving habitat quantity, quality, and connectivity can have positive effects on protected species within the Cairngorms National Park	<b>+</b>	The project's integrated land management plans and carbon audits can help identify and address potential threats to protected species. By promoting sustainable land management practices and reducing harmful impacts such as habitat loss, pollution, and disturbance, the project can contribute to the protection of these species. It can also involve targeted conservation measures specific to the needs of individual protected species, such as providing nesting sites for birds or creating suitable breeding habitats for amphibians.  Interventions are also under consideration on the different farms include making room for missing species such as beaver and several others.	The specific effects on protected species will depend on the characteristics and requirements of each species, as well as the success of the project's implementation. Consideration of the specific conservation needs and monitoring of protected species will be essential throughout the project to ensure its positive impact on these valuable components of the Cairngorms National Park's biodiversity.	++	
	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	Yes, the Future Farming project, which focuses on improving farming practice and habitat management, is likely to have an effect on the habitats and plants identified in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan.		The project's focus on enhancing habitat quality can provide favourable conditions for plant species and habitats identified in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan, particularly as addressed by landscape-scale nature friendly famring practices. By preserving and restoring their habitats, the project can directly contribute to the conservation of several plant species.	The success of the project in benefiting Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants will depend on effective implementation, monitoring, and adaptive management. Ongoing collaboration with relevant stakeholders and the integration of scientific knowledge and best practices will be crucial for achieving positive outcomes for these important ecological components.	++	
	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mamma and invertebrate species?	Yes, the Future Farming project within the Cairngorms National Park has the potential to have an effect on bird, mammal, and invertebrate species identified in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan.		The project's monitoring and land management plans can help identify and address threats to these species, ensuring their long-term survival.  Wetlands and waders initiatives, supporting land managers, agents, farmers and crofters with equipment, funding and management advice to manage habitat so that it is suitable for farmland wader can also contribure significantly to CNAP species concservation	It's important to note that the success of the project in benefiting Cairngorms Nature Action Plan species will depend on effective implementation, ongoing monitoring, and adaptive management. Collaboration with relevant stakeholders, integration of scientific knowledge, and long-term commitment to conservation goals will be essential for ensuring positive outcomes for these important wildlife species.	++	
	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	Yes, the Future Farming project within the Cairngorms National Park has the potential to have an effect on wider biodiversity beyond the protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan (CNAP).		The project's focus on improving farming practices and habitat management can have positive effects on a range of habitats found within the National Park. By implementing measures to enhance biodiversity, such as creating wildflower meadows, sowing pollinator or bird seed mixes particularly around margins of fields to enhance biodiversity, restoring wetlands, or planting native trees, the project can benefit a variety of plant and animal species beyond those specifically identified in the CNAP.  Integrating trees on farms will increase habitat connectivity, enhance biodiversity and increase carbon storage as well as benefiting livestock by providing shelter and diversifying their diets.  Improving farm habitats to benefit both biodiversity and to help the farm business adapt to climate change and an evolving national subsidy system can have additional benefits to wider biodiversity in the park also.	The success of the project in enhancing wider biodiversity will depend on effective implementation, long-term commitment, and continuous monitoring and evaluation. Conservation efforts should consider both the specific needs of target species and the broader ecological context to ensure the conservation of a diverse range of species and habitats within the Cairngorms National Park.	++	
	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	The Future Farming project in the Cairngorms National Park may have indired effects on deer management practices, which can contribute to reducing environmental impacts.		The project's focus on carbon audits, habitat surveys, and integrated land management plans can include monitoring and evaluation of deer populations and their impact on habitats. This information can contribute to a better understanding of the interactions between deer populations, vegetation dynamics, and broader ecological health. By gathering data and evidence, the project can inform evidence-based deer management approaches that aim to reduce environmental effects.	While the Future Farming project may not directly focus on deer management, its efforts to improve land management practices and promote sustainable approaches can create opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing among stakeholders involved in deer management. By integrating deer management considerations into broader conservation and land stewardship initiatives, the project can indirectly contribute to reducing the environmental effects associated with deer populations in the Cairngorms National Park.	+	
	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	Yes, the Future Farming project in the Cairngorms National Park can have ar effect on land management practices aimed at avoiding the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases.		The project's focus on habitat restoration and biodiversity enhancement can indirectly help prevent the establishment and spread of invasive non-native species. By restoring native habitats,	By incorporating principles of sustainable land management, promoting biodiversity, raising awareness, and fostering collaboration, the Future Farming project can contribute to land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases in the Cairngorms National Park.	++	
	Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?	Yes, the implementation of projects like the Future Farming project in the Cairngorms National Park can have an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the park.	+	The project's emphasis on maintaining viable farm businesses and local farming practices can contribute to the preservation of the cultural heritage associated with farming in the Cairngorms. By supporting farmers in adopting nature- and climate-friendly practices, the project ensures that traditional farming methods, knowledge, and cultural landscapes are conserved. This helps maintain the unique cultural heritage and farming traditions that have shaped the landscapes of the National Park.  Farmers are directly involved in managing the natural heritage in the National Park by creating and maintaining farmland habitats and they play a crucial role in the transition to net zero. Farmers are also integral to the local cultural and historical heritage of the National Park's landscapes  Farming in the Cairngorms National Park has also historically been more extensive and with lower inputs meaning the high input models that have begun to be trialled in the lowlands are not necessarily applicable to this landscape, climate and farm structure.	While the Future Farming project primarily aims to improve farming practices and enhance biodiversity, it indirectly contributes to the preservation and enhancement of the special landscape qualities of the Cairngorms National Park. By promoting sustainable land management, preserving cultural heritage, strengthening the sense of place, and conserving biodiversity, the project aligns with the values and objectives of protecting and enhancing the SLQs in the park.	++	
	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	Yes, the implementation of projects such as the Future Farming project in the Cairngorms National Park can have an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness.		The Future Farming project, which focuses on improving farming practices and biodiversity conservation, can contribute to shaping and influencing the landscape character of the Cairngorms National Park. By promoting sustainable land management practices, habitat restoration, and the preservation of cultural landscapes, the project can help maintain or enhance the unique characteristics and qualities that define the landscapes within the park. This includes elements such as landforms, vegetation patterns, visual features, and ecological diversity, all of which contribute to the overall landscape character.  The Future Farming project's aim to combine nature conservation and cultural heritage preservation contributes to the integration of both aspects, enhancing the overall landscape character and local distinctiveness. By promoting sustainable land management practices that integrate ecological and cultural values, the project creates a harmonious relationship between nature and culture.  This integration adds depth and richness to the landscapes, reinforcing their unique character and sense of place.	Overall, the Future Farming project can have a positive effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness in the Cairngorms National Park. By promoting sustainable land management practices, preserving cultural heritage, integrating nature and culture, and engaging with local communities, these projects contribute to maintaining and enhancing the unique qualities that make the landscapes within the park special and distinct.  The project will also improve knowledge of the natural and cultural importance of farming through outreach and knowledge exchange.	++	
)	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	Yes, the implementation of projects within the Cairngorms National Park, such as the Future Farming project, can have an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets, including linguistic aspects.		This integration adds depth and richness to the landscapes, reinforcing their unique character and sense of place.  The Future Farming project, as it works closely with farms and supports the preservation of viable and resilient farm businesses, can have implications for the historic environment. Farms within the park may have historical features, such as traditional buildings, field patterns, and archaeological sites. The project's focus on sustainable land management and conservation can help protect and enhance these historic features, ensuring their preservation for future generations. By valuing and maintaining the historic environment, the project contributes to the cultural heritage and sense of place within the park.	The Future Farming project can have a positive effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets in the Cairngorms National Park. By supporting the preservation of historic features, cultural assets, and linguistic heritage, as well as promoting education and outreach, these projects contribute to the overall cultural richness, sense of place, and sustainable management of the park's historic and cultural environment.	++	
a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	The Future Farming project, focused on sustainable farming practices and conservation, may indirectly impact housing for local needs in the Cairngorm National Park.		The project's support for viable and resilient farm businesses can encourage farm diversification efforts. Some farmers may explore alternative sources of income by developing farm-related enterprises such as holiday cottages, farm-stay accommodations, or farm shops. This diversification can contribute to the availability of housing options for local needs, including accommodation for visitors and potential employment opportunities within the tourism and hospitality sectors.	While the direct impact of the Future Farming project on housing for local needs may not be its primary focus, the broader goals of sustainable farming practices, rural development, and community engagement can indirectly contribute to discussions and initiatives related to housing availability, affordability, and suitability for local residents within the Cairngorms National Park.		
a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	Yes, the Future Farming project in the Cairngorms National Park can have a positive effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles.	<b>+</b>	The project's focus on sustainable farming practices and habitat conservation can contribute to improving access to the countryside. This can involve creating or enhancing public footpaths, trails, and nature reserves within the farming areas. These recreational amenities provide opportunities for people to engage in outdoor activities such as walking, hiking, cycling, and wildlife observation. By promoting and maintaining these access points, the project can support healthier lifestyles by encouraging physical activity and connecting people with nature.  The project aims to trial changes in farming practices and promote sustainable approaches to farming. This can lead to the creation of new job opportunities within the agricultural sector. As farmers adopt new practices, they may require additional workforce to implement and manage these changes. This can include roles such as farm managers, agricultural technicians, biodiversity	Overall, the Future Farming project can have a positive impact on recreation and active travel opportunities in the Cairngorms National Park, providing access to the countryside, promoting active travel such as walking, wheeling or cycling, offering educational and recreational programs, and integrating health and well-being initiatives. These efforts contribute to supporting healthier lifestyles and encouraging individuals to engage in physical activities, while enjoying the natural beauty and resources of the National Park.  Overall, the Future Farming project can have a positive effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence in the Cairngorms National Park. It can	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	Yes, the Future Farming project in the Cairngorms National Park can have ar effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence.	tn +	specialists, and conservation officers. The project's focus on enhancing the economics of farm business management can contribute to the viability and sustainability of local farms, thereby	Overall, the Future Farming project can have a positive effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence in the Cairngorms National Park. It can create new jobs within the farming and agricultural sector, stimulate employment in land management and conservation fields, facilitate knowledge exchange and outreach roles, and support the growth of supporting industries and services. These employment opportunities can contribute to the local economy, promote sustainable livelihoods, and enhance the economic resilience of the communities residing in the National Park.		

ate of Assess							
sert date(s) o	of assessment						
	PLAN BEING ASSESSED: icy X, Option 1A, etc)			5f Communities and Landscape Change			
EA ojective	SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective.	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	Justification and/or reasoning for enhancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
1a ı	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	The project may have an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park	?	By engaging with communities and obtaining robust data on their perceptions and values, the project can gather insights into community preferences and priorities regarding renewable energy development within the National Park. This information can help identify areas where renewable energy projects can be implemented in a manner that aligns with community aspirations and minimises potential impacts on the SLQs.	The project's focus on net-zero and community values may be able to promote the integration of renewable energy generation with other sustainable practices. For example, renewable energy projects can be designed in conjunction with energy efficiency measures, smart grid technologies, and sustainable transportation options to create a holistic and environmentally friendly approach to energy production within the National Park.	++	
1a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
1a \	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	Yes, the project is likely to have an effect on carbon sinks such as woodlands and peatlands within the Cairngorms National Park.	+	The project's focus on understanding community perceptions and values related to the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) can contribute to the conservation and restoration of woodlands and peatlands. By engaging with communities and obtaining robust data on how people perceive and value these landscapes, the project can inform conservation efforts and prioritise the protection and restoration of carbon-rich habitats.  The project may also influence land management practices that support the preservation and expansion of carbon sinks. By gathering data on community perceptions and experiences, it can inform land management plans and strategies that prioritise the sustainable management of woodlands and peatlands. This may include measures such as afforestation, rewilding initiatives, and peatland restoration projects that enhance carbon sequestration.	Overall, the project has the potential to positively influence the conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of carbon sinks such as woodlands and peatlands within the Cairngorms National Park. By engaging with communities, promoting awareness, fostering collaboration, and informing policy decisions, it can contribute to the protection and enhancement of these vital ecosystems for carbon sequestration.	++	
	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
1b i	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?  Considering future implications of climate	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
1b	change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
2a I	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
3a ı	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
,	Will there be an effect on the ability of river	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
	management services they provide?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
3h	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
30	Will there he an effect on the water environment	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	The Communities and Landscape Change project aims to engage with communities to understand their perceptions, experiences, and values of the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) in the Cairngorms National Park. While the project's focus is primarily on the social and cultural aspects of the landscape, there may be indirect effects on carbon-rich soils, including peat, through changes in land management practices and community engagement.	?	The project's engagement with communities can contribute to raising awareness about the importance of carbon-rich soils and peatlands as valuable natural resources. By fostering a sense of connection and appreciation for the landscape, there is potential for increased support for conservation and sustainable land management practices that can help protect carbon-rich soils.	While the Communities and Landscape Change project may not directly focus on carbon-rich soils and peatlands, its emphasis on community engagement and landscape stewardship can indirectly contribute to their protection and conservation.	+	
4a \	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	Х	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	Х	
4a (	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	The Communities and Landscape Change project, which aims to engage with communities and understand their perceptions and values of the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) in the Cairngorms National Park, may have an indirect effect on geodiversity interests.	?	Through community engagement, the project can raise awareness about the importance of geodiversity and the unique geological features present in the National Park. By involving communities in discussions and activities related to the landscape, there is an opportunity to educate and inform people about the significance of GCR sites and other geodiversity interests.  This increased awareness and understanding can lead to a greater appreciation for the geological heritage of the area and may encourage efforts to protect and conserve geodiversity. Local communities may become more involved in monitoring and conserving GCR sites, and initiatives can be developed to promote responsible access and enjoyment while preserving the geological features.	While the impact of the Communities and Landscape Change project on geodiversity interests may be indirect, it has the potential to raise awareness, promote conservation efforts, and foster collaboration to safeguard the unique geological features within the Cairngorms National Park.	+	
5a ı	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
<sup>5a</sup> i	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	ж	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
5a ı	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
6a (	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	The Communities and Landscape Change project, which aims to engage with communities and understand their perceptions and values of the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) in the Cairngorms National Park, can have both direct and indirect effects on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation.	+	By involving local communities in discussions and activities related to the landscape, there is an opportunity to educate and inform people about the value of protected areas and the species and habitats they support. This can lead to increased support and stewardship for these areas, which can contribute to their favourable condition.  Furthermore, by involving communities in discussions about the landscape and its conservation, their perspectives and insights can contribute to the development of strategies and policies that prioritize the protection and enhancement of areas of ecological importance. This can indirectly support the favourable condition of protected areas by influencing landuse decisions, habitat restoration efforts, and conservation initiatives.	Clear processes and plans are in place for application of the findings of this project, as existing national and Parkwide policies require conservation and enhancement of SLQs, for example through the National Planning Framework, the National Park Partnership Plan and the Local Development Plan. Importantly, by improving the understanding of how communities perceive, experience and appreciate the SLQs of the Cairngorms National Park, it will be possible to ensure landscape changes proposed in the future, which are judged against these policies, reflect community values.	++	
6a V	Will there be an effect on protected species?	As the landscape (and SLQs) of the area is projected to change, the Cairngorms National Park will continue contribute to net zero and biodiversity targets through landscape-scale enhancements to woodlands, peatlands, river catchments, uplands and farmlands. These targets will sek to conserve and protect protected species, habitats and wider biodiversity of the Park.	+	Specific impacts will depend on the actions and initiatives undertaken as part of the project outcomes	The effectiveness of the project's impact on protected species will depend on which of the selected options for change that will have the most positive effects on the SLQs of the National Park which are most important to communities and translate into positive outcomes for protected species, habitats and plants within the Cairngorms National Park are progressed	++	
	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	As the landscape (and SLQs) of the area is projected to change, the Cairngorms National Park will continue contribute to net zero and biodiversity targets through landscape-scale enhancements to woodlands, peatlands, river catchments, uplands and farmlands. These targets will sek to conserve and protect protected species, habitats and wider biodiversity of the Park.	+	Specific impacts will depend on the actions and initiatives undertaken as part of the project outcomes	The effectiveness of the project's impact on protected species will depend on which of the selected options for change that will have the most positive effects on the SLQs of the National Park which are most important to communities and translate into positive outcomes for protected species, habitats and plants within the Cairngorms National Park are progressed	++	
6a /	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?	As the landscape (and SLQs) of the area is projected to change, the Cairngorms National Park will continue contribute to net zero and biodiversity targets through landscape-scale enhancements to woodlands, peatlands, river catchments, uplands and farmlands. These targets will seek to conserve and protect protected species, habitats and wider biodiversity of the Park.	+	Specific impacts will depend on the actions and initiatives undertaken as part of the project outcomes.	The effectiveness of the project's impact on protected species will depend on which of the selected options for change that will have the most positive effects on the SLQs of the National Park which are most important to communities and translate into positive outcomes for protected species, habitats and plants within the Cairngorms National Park are progressed.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	As the landscape (and SLQs) of the area is projected to change, the Cairngorms National Park will continue contribute to net zero and biodiversity targets through landscape-scale enhancements to woodlands, peatlands, river catchments, uplands and farmlands. These targets will sek to conserve and protect protected species, habitats and wider biodiversity of the Park.	+	Specific impacts will depend on the actions and initiatives undertaken as part of the project outcomes.	The effectiveness of the project's impact on protected species will depend on which of the selected options for change that will have the most positive effects on the SLQs of the National Park which are most important to communities and translate into positive outcomes for protected species, habitats and plants within the Cairngorms National Park are progressed.		
	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	The Communities and Landscape Change project, with its focus on engaging with communities and understanding their values and perceptions of the landscape, can indirectly influence deer management practices.	+	The CNPA NPPP outlines the aim to reduce the negative impacts of red deer and other herbivores across the National Park to enable woodlands to expand, heather loss to be reversed, peatlands to recover and wider biodiversity and landscape enhancements to take place.	The project can facilitate knowledge exchange between scientific experts, land managers, and local communities regarding effective deer management practices. By disseminating research findings and best practices, the project can provide information on the ecological benefits of managing deer populations at sustainable levels. This knowledge exchange can empower communities to make informed decisions about deer management and encourage the adoption of practices that minimise environmental effects.	++	
6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
7a (	Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?	Landscapes are where people, place and nature-based solutions connect. National Parks are recognised specifically for their 'Special Landscape Qualities' (SLQ) but it is acknowledged that landscapes will change in the future, partly to address community needs as well as the climate and nature crises. To reconcile these factors, this project seeks to equitably select options for change that will have the most positive effects on the SLQs of the National Park which are most important to local communities.	+	Multiple innovative methods will be used to engage with all sectors of society (not just those confident or familiar with expressing their views) and the outputs will include written descriptions, maps, illustrations, statistics and a predictive model. The project will engage with all communities that have an interest in the Cairngorms National Park landscape (living within and outwith the park) to obtain robust data on how different people perceive, experience and value the SLQs, subsequently facilitating people to be more involved in their community's governance and practical activity.	Participatory mapping and visualisation could be used to allow communities to visually express their perceptions and values related to SLQs. This could involve mapping exercises where community members identify and mark areas of significance, create collages or mood boards representing their experiences, or use digital platforms to share their stories and connections to the landscape. These visual outputs can serve as powerful tools for communication and understanding.	++	
7a 🥻	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	Yes, the Communities and Landscape Change project is likely to have an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness. By engaging with all sectors of society and obtaining robust data on how different people perceive, experience, and value the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) of the Cairngorms National Park landscape, the project can direct landscape change in the Park to reflect local interest.	+	Through the use of innovative methods such as written descriptions, maps, illustrations, and statistics, the project can capture the diverse perspectives and experiences of the community members. This data can help identify the elements that contribute to the landscape character and local distinctiveness, such as iconic landmarks, cultural heritage sites, traditional land uses, and unique natural features.	It may be useful to ensure that the collected data is comprehensively analyzed and interpreted to identify common themes, patterns, and areas of agreement or disagreement regarding landscape character and local distinctiveness. A Q methodology approach may be apprpriate as it is highly suited to problems of complexity, where there are multiple and differing views, or contentious or sensitive viewpoints on a topic.	++	
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	Yes, the Communities and Landscape Change project is likely to have an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets, including linguistic aspects, within the Cairngorms National Park. The project's focus on engaging with all communities and obtaining robust data on how different people perceive, experience, and value the special landscape qualities (SLQs) will inherently involve the exploration and documentation of the area's historical and cultural heritage.	+	By integrating these approaches into the Communities and Landscape Change project, there may be a positive effect on the understanding, preservation, and celebration of the historic and cultural environment and assets, including linguistic aspects, within the Cairngorms National Park.	Facilitating oral history projects to capture the stories, memories, and traditional knowledge of local communities could be used to ensure a high-quality study of the area's linguistic heritage. Engaging with older generations, who possess valuable information about the area's cultural heritage, including traditional practices, dialects, and linguistic elements can also be valuable. These narratives can contribute to a better understanding and appreciation of the region's cultural history.	++	
8a \	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
8a t	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	Yes, the Communities and Landscape Change project is likely to have an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles within the Cairngorms National Park. The project's aim, to engage with all sectors of society and obtain data on how people perceive and value the landscape, can help inform the development of recreational activities and infrastructure that promote active lifestyles and	+	With the landscapes of the park likley to change in the future, how aspects of the landscape are used, for differing recreational purposes, will need to be explored. From dog walking and associated impacts on protected species, to the angling and rock climbing communites, with their distinct opinions on what landscapes are preferable, it will be vital to try to navigate the discussion as equitably as possible.			

(eg Vision,	Policy X, Option 1A, etc)	NVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS					
SEA objective	SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	Justification and/or reasoning for ennancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
1a	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
1a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
1a	peatlands)?  Will there be an effect on travel that produces	Yes, the Cycle Friendly Cairngorms project is designed to have an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions. By promoting and facilitating the use of bicycles and e-bikes as a means of transportation	+	By introducing a bike and e-bike hire scheme based on street spot rentals and expanding it to cover key visitor journeys, the project encourages people to choose cycling as a sustainable mode of transportation. This shift from motorized vehicles to bicycles reduces the emissions associated with fossil fuel consumption.	Overall, the Cycle Friendly Cairngorms project seeks to minimise travel-related greenhouse gas emissions by promoting and facilitating the use of bicycles and e-bikes as sustainable alternatives to traditional motorised	++	
	greenhouse gas emissions?  Considering future implications of	within the National Park, the project aims to reduce reliance on fossil fuel- powered vehicles, which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.		Addressing barriers to cycle use, such as secure storage and parking facilities at appropriate locations and establishing a reliable e-bike charging network, further contributes to the convenience and practicality of cycling. These infrastructure improvements support the adoption of cycling as a viable transportation option, reducing the need for greenhouse gas-emitting vehicles.	transportation methods.		
1b	climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	<b>No connectivity</b> with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	<b>No connectivity</b> with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?		X	<b>No connectivity</b> with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	<b>No connectivity</b> with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> ,		+	By encouraging people to use bicycles and e-bikes instead of motorised vehicles for their daily trips, the project can contribute to a decrease in emissions of pollutants like nitrogen dioxide (NO2), particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), and sulfur dioxide (SO2). These pollutants are commonly emitted by motor vehicles. By reducing the number of vehicles on the road, the project helps reduce the overall emissions of these pollutants.  The project's focus on promoting cycling as a convenient and sustainable mode of transportation can lead to a shift from car usage to cycling. Since cars are a major source of air	While the direct impact of the project on air quality pollutants may vary depending on factors such as the scale of adoption and the existing air quality conditions, the promotion of cycling as an alternative mode of transportation is generally expected to have a highly positive effect on reducing air pollution and improving air quality in the Cairngorms National Park and surrounding areas.	++	
	PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?  Will there be an effect on the levels of	Yes, the Cycle Friendly Cairngorms project can have a positive effect on reducing the levels of other types of air pollution, including particulate matter		pollution in urban areas, this modal shift can result in improved air quality in more built-up areas of the Park by reducing the emissions of pollutants associated with car exhaust.  By promoting cycling as a sustainable mode of transportation, the project aims to reduce the number of motorised vehicles on the road. Motor vehicles are a significant source of particulate matter emissions. By encouraging people to use bicycles and e-bikes instead of cars, the project helps reduce the overall emissions of particulate matter, leading to	While the direct impact on particulate matter levels will depend on various factors, including the scale of cycling		
2a	other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	(PM). Particulate matter refers to tiny particles suspended in the air, and it is classified based on their size, such as PM10 (particles with a diameter of 10 micrometers or less) and PM2.5 (particles with a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less).	+	Increased cycling can also help alleviate traffic congestion in more urban areas. Congested traffic conditions often result in stop-and-go driving, which increases emissions of particulate matter. By reducing the number of cars on the road and promoting smoother traffic flow, the project can contribute to lower emissions of particulate matter and reducing localised air pollution hotspots.	adoption and the existing air quality conditions, the promotion of cycling as a means of transportation is generally expected to have a positive effect on reducing particulate matter pollution in the Cairngorms National Park and surrounding areas.	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and groundwater from diffuse and point source pollution?  Will there be an	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	<b>No connectivity</b> with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
За	effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
3a	Will there be an effect on public water supplies? Will there be an	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
3b	effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
3с	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
4a	will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination? Will there be an	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
4a 4a	effect on soil erosion and landslides?  Will there be an effect on geodiversity	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x x	
5a	interests (eg GCRs)?  Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water,	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
5a	timber, aggregates)?  Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
5a	or flood protection infrastructure)?  Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
6a	nature conservation? Will there be an effect on protected species?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?  Will there be an	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
6a	effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	<b>No connectivity</b> with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
7a	diseases?  Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
7a	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	Х	
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
8a	linguistic)?  Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  The project aims to promote cycling as a mode of transportation and recreation within the Cairngorms National Park. By providing infrastructure, resources, and information, it encourages people to choose cycling as a means to explore and enjoy the park. This opens up numerous recreational opportunities, such as cycling trails, bike tours, and scenic	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	Yes, the Cycle Friendly Cairngorms project will likely have a significant effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles.  The development of a training programme to increase the number of	+	rides, that allow individuals and families to engage in outdoor activities while staying active.  The project also emphasises the use of bicycles and e-bikes for everyday journeys, such as commuting, running errands, or accessing local amenities. By promoting active travel	Overall, the Cycle Friendly Cairngorms project aims to create an environment that supports and encourages active travel and recreational cycling, thereby promoting healthier lifestyles and providing opportunities for people to engage with the natural beauty and landscapes of the Cairngorms National Park.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	The development of a training programme to increase the number of qualified bike mechanics to ensure capacity to service and maintain the fleets of cycles and e- bikes is part of the project, with suggested activities ranging from working with existing bike shops to create internships / training / work experience placements for young people to learn the trade of becoming a mechanic.  Continued funding of identified core activities that need financial support to continue eg bike servicing, maintenance, insurance, volunteer training has been identified as a legacy aspect of the project	+	The training program for bike mechanics could be made more robust and effective in addressing the capacity needs for servicing and maintaining bike fleets.	As part of the training programme, it could be useful to facilitate mentorship programs where experienced bike mechanics can share their knowledge and skills with aspiring mechanics and to encourage collaboration and knowledge exchange between experienced professionals and trainees to foster a supportive learning environment.	++	

Assessor(s):	sor(s):  issessor(s)'s name  i Assessment:							
SECTION OF	date(s) of assessment  ION OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED: sion, Policy X, Option 1A, etc)  ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS			6i. Active Communities				
SEA objective	SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	Justification and/or reasoning for enhancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.	
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
1a	Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
1a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	Yes, the Active Communities Project will have a significant effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions.  + The implication of the imp		By constructing active travel routes, footpaths, pavement widenings, segregated cycle lanes, and new crossings, the project aims to provide safe and convenient infrastructure for walking, cycling, and wheeling. These infrastructure improvements encourage people to choose active modes of transportation for their daily journeys, such as commuting, shopping, or recreational activities. By shifting travel behavior from motorised vehicles to active modes, the project helps reduce the reliance on fossil fuel-powered transportation and subsequently decreases greenhouse gas emissions.  The implementation of traffic calming measures, such as reduced speed limits and raised junctions prioritising pedestrians, contributes to creating a safer and more pedestrian-friendly environment. These measures help to promote walking and cycling as viable transportation options, especially for short journeys within and between communities. By reducing the dominance of motor vehicles and encouraging active modes of travel, the project supports a shift towards lower-emission transportation and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.	Overall, the Active Communities Project, with its focus on active travel infrastructure, traffic calming measures, and initiatives to encourage sustainable travel behaviors, plays a crucial role in reducing travel-related greenhouse gas emissions. By facilitating and promoting walking, cycling, and wheeling as viable transportation options, the project contributes to a more sustainable and low-carbon transportation system in the Cairngorms National Park.	++		
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x		
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?  Yes, the implementation of the Active Communities Project and the promotion of active travel modes can have a positive effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants, including NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , and SO <sub>2</sub> .		+	By providing well-designed and safe infrastructure for walking, cycling, and wheeling, the project encourages people to choose these sustainable modes of transportation over private car use. Active travel modes do not produce exhaust emissions, unlike motor vehicles. Therefore, as more individuals adopt walking, cycling, or wheeling as their preferred modes of travel, there will be a reduction in direct emissions of pollutants, leading to improved air quality.	Overall, the Active Communities Project's emphasis on promoting active travel modes and reducing reliance on motorized vehicles can contribute to the reduction of UK National Air Quality pollutants. By encouraging more sustainable and low-emission modes of transportation, the project plays a part in improving air quality and creating healthier environments within the communities it serves.	++		
2a	Yes, the implementation of the Active Communities Project and the promotion of active travel modes can have an effect on reducing the levels of other types of air pollution.  Yes, the implementation of the Active Communities Project and the promotion of active travel modes can have an effect on reducing the levels of other types of air pollution, including particulate matter (PM) pollution.		+	One of the sources of particulate matter in urban areas is the wear and tear of vehicle components such as brakes and tires. As the Active Communities Project aims to reduce motorised traffic volume and encourage active travel, there will be a decrease in the overall wear of these vehicle components. This reduction in brake and tire wear contributes to a decrease in the release of particulate matter into the air, improving air quality.	While the primary focus of the Active Communities Project is to promote active travel and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, these efforts indirectly contribute to the reduction of other air pollutants, including particulate matter. By creating a shift towards sustainable and non-polluting modes of transportation, the project helps create cleaner and healthier environments for communities, with improved air quality being one of the positive outcomes.	++		
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
3a	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non- native species?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
4a	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
4a	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
4a	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X		
5a	water, timber, aggregates)?  Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x		
5a	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
6a	Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
6a	Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
6a	Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
7a	Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
7a	Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х		
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	Yes, the implementation of the Active Communities Project will have a significant effect on recreation and active travel opportunities, which in turn support healthier lifestyles. One of the core project outcomes is that communities across the National Park are better connected by a network of fully accessible paths and cycle routes, improving people's health and wellbeing.	+	The project aims to develop and construct active travel routes, footpaths, cycle lanes, and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. By creating safe and accessible infrastructure, it encourages people to engage in active modes of transportation such as walking, cycling, and wheeling. These infrastructure improvements provide opportunities for recreation by offering designated paths for walking and cycling, promoting outdoor activities and exercise.  The Active Communities Project further focuses on connecting communities through active travel routes. By establishing a 3.2km active travel route between Dulnain Bridge and Grantown on Spey, and progressing with other connectivity projects, it improves accessibility and connectivity between communities. This creates more opportunities for people to engage in active travel, explore different areas, and connect with neighboring communities for recreational purposes.	Overall, the Active Communities Project creates opportunities for individuals to engage in active travel, promotes healthier lifestyles through increased physical activity, and enhances recreational experiences by improving connectivity and access to natural surroundings. By integrating active travel into daily routines, individuals can enjoy the benefits of physical exercise, outdoor recreation, and a more sustainable way of getting around.	++		
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	Yes, the implementation of the Active Communities Project and the development of active travel infrastructure can have a positive effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence.	+	The development of active travel infrastructure, including designated routes and paths, may stimulate the growth of active travel services. This can include guided tours, walking groups, cycling events, outdoor recreation programmes, and other services catering to individuals and groups interested in active travel. These services can generate employment opportunities for guides, instructors, event organisers, and support staff.	By investing in active travel infrastructure and promoting a culture of active travel, the Active Communities Project can contribute to the creation of employment opportunities within the local community. These opportunities may span various sectors, including construction, maintenance, bike industry, tourism, hospitality, and education. It is important to involve and engage with local businesses, organisations, and community members to maximise the potential employment benefits and ensure that the opportunities align with the needs and aspirations of the local community.			

	ssor(s)'s name						
(-	s) of assessment						
	OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED: Policy X, Option 1A, etc)			6j. Sustainable Travel			
SEA objective	SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)		Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?  Will there be an effect on the production of	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	Х	
1a	renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
1a	Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
1a	Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  By improving walking, wheeling, and cycling infrastructure, providing bike-friendly facilities, integrating bus services, and facilitating integrated journey	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	Yes, the implementation of the Sustainable Transport Project in the Cairngorms National Park is expected to have an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions. The project aims to promote and support sustainable modes of transport, such as walking, cycling, and public transportation, which have lower carbon footprints compared to private car use.	+	planning, the project encourages people to choose more sustainable travel options. These initiatives can lead to a reduction in the use of private cars,	Overall, the project's efforts to promote sustainable transport modes and facilitate behaviour change towards greener travel options are aimed at mitigating the environmental impact of travel-related greenhouse gas emissions in the National Park.	s <b>++</b>	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	The implementation of the Sustainable Transport Project in the Cairngorms National Park is expected to have an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants such as NO2, PM10, PM2.5, and SO2. The project's focus on promoting sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling, and public transportation, can contribute to reducing air pollution levels in the park.	+	By encouraging people to choose alternative modes of transport to private cars, the project helps reduce vehicle emissions that are significant contributors to air pollution. Private cars are a major source of pollutants like nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5). Through initiatives such as improved walking and cycling infrastructure, the provision of bike-friendly facilities, and the integration of public transport services, the project aims to decrease the reliance on private car use and consequently reduce air pollution.  Furthermore, the project's emphasis on multi-modal journeys and the development of sustainable transport models can help optimise transportation routes and reduce congestion, leading to improved air quality. By creating more efficient and environmentally friendly transportation options, the project contributes to mitigating the levels of air pollutants such as sulfur dioxide (SO2) as well.	Overall, the Sustainable Transport Project's efforts to promote sustainable modes of transport and reduce reliance on private cars are expected to have a positive impact on air quality, leading to a reduction in the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants in the Cairngorms National Park.		
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	The implementation of the Sustainable Transport Project in the Cairngorms National Park is expected to have an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution, including particulate matter (PM) pollutants.	+	Particulate matter refers to tiny particles suspended in the air, which can be harmful to human health and the environment. The project's focus on promoting sustainable modes of transport, such as walking, wheeling, cycling, and public transportation, can contribute to reducing particulate matter pollution in the park.  Private cars are a significant source of particulate matter emissions, especially from exhaust fumes and the wear and tear of tires and brakes. By encouraging people to use alternative modes of transport to private cars, the project helps reduce the number of vehicles on the road and, consequently, the amount of particulate matter released into the air.  Moreover, the project's initiatives to improve walking and cycling infrastructure, promote bike-friendly routes, and integrate public transport services can further reduce the reliance on private cars, leading to decreased particulate matter emissions.  Additionally, the project's efforts to optimise transportation routes, reduce congestion, and promote efficient multi-modal journeys can contribute to reducing particulate matter pollution associated with traffic congestion.	By promoting sustainable modes of transport and reducing the use of private cars, the Sustainable Transport Project aims to improve air quality, including reducing levels of particulate matter pollutants, in the Cairngorms National Park.	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
3a	point source pollution?  Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	Y	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	¥	
3a	management services they provide?  Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?  Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
4a	and soil loss?  Will there be an effect on the levels of soil	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
4a	contamination?  Will there be an effect on soil erosion and	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
4a 4a	landslides?  Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg		x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
5a	GCRs)?  Will there be an effect on sustainable use of	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
5a	natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?  Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
5a	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?  Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	Х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
6a	Action Plan habitats and plants?  Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
6a	Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?  Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
6a	(outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?  Will there be an effect on deer management	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
6a	practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?  Will there be an effect on land management	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
6a	practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
7a	Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?  Will there be an effect on landscape character and	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
7a 	local distinctiveness?  Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
7b 8a	environment and assets (including linguistic)?  Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	The implementation of the Sustainable Transport Project in the Cairngorms National Park is expected to have a positive effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles.	+	By providing safer and more accessible routes for walking and cycling, the project encourages people to engage in active forms of transportation and recreation.  Improved infrastructure and facilities promote physical activity and support healthier lifestyles by making it easier for residents and visitors to engage in active modes of travel. The project aims to enhance the connectivity between communities, encouraging active travel within and between locales.	Overall, the Sustainable Transport Project aims to enhance recreation and active travel opportunities, providing healthier and more sustainable options for residents and visitors in the Cairngorms National Park.	++	
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	Yes, the implementation of the Sustainable Transport Project in the Cairngorms National Park is expected to have an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence.	+	The project involves various initiatives and activities related to sustainable transport, such as the development of active travel infrastructure, improvement of public transportation systems, and promotion of sustainable travel options. These initiatives require planning, construction, operation, and maintenance, which can create job opportunities in the local area.  Furthermore, the project may lead to the establishment or expansion of businesses that support sustainable transport, such as bike rental shops, bike repair services, and public transportation operators. These businesses can create employment opportunities for local residents.  Lastly, Improved connectivity can have a positive impact by improving access to job opportunities located in urban centers or other rural areas. This allows residents of rural areas to commute to work more easily and opens up employment options that were previously inaccessible due to transportation limitations. It can also support local entrepreneurship in rural areas. It can enable individuals to start their own businesses, such as transportation services, tour guides, or outdoor activity providers, catering to both residents and tourists. This can contribute to the diversification of the local economy and the creation of self-employment opportunities.	By investing in sustainable transport and promoting active travel, the Sustainable Transport Project can contribute to the local economy by creating direct and indirect employment opportunities. These opportunities can benefit local residents and enhance the overall economic vitality of the communities within the Cairngorms National Park.  By addressing transportation barriers and improving connectivity, the Sustainable Transport Project can also help create a more favourable environment for job creation in rural areas. It provides opportunities for residents to access employment, attract businesses, boost tourism, and foster local entrepreneurship.	++	

Assessor(s): Insert assess  Date of Asse	or(s)'s name						
Insert date(s)	of assessment  PLAN BEING ASSESSED:			6k Changing Travel Behaviours			
(eg Vision, Po	ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS			6k. Changing Travel Behaviours			
SEA objective	SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	Justification and/or reasoning for enhancement/mitigation recommendations	Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.
1a	Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?  Will there be an effect on the production of renewable	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
1a 1a	energy of appropriate scale for the Park?  Will there be an effect on local production and use of	being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
1a	materials and food produce?  Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
1a	Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	Yes, the implementation of the Changing Travel Behaviours Action Plan is expected to have a positive effect on travel behavior and, consequently, on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The plan focuses on promoting active travel and sustainable transport options such as walking, wheeling, and cycling, which are low-carbon modes of transportation.	+	By encouraging more people to choose these environmentally friendly modes of transportation for their everyday journeys, the plan aims to reduce the reliance on private vehicles that contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. Private vehicles, especially those powered by fossil fuels, are a major source of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.  By enabling a modal shift to active travel and sustainable transport, the plan seeks to decrease the overall carbon footprint associated with transportation in the Cairngorms National Park. It aims to achieve this by providing accessible and inclusive walking, wheeling, and cycling opportunities for residents and visitors, making these options more attractive and convenient compared to driving a car.  The project also aligns with broader sustainability goals, including the reduction of transport-related carbon emissions, as part of the Cairngorms 2030 initiative. By placing active and	Overall, the Changing Travel Behaviours Action Plan is designed to change travel habits and encourage the adoption of low-carbon transportation options. By reducing reliance on private vehicles and promoting active travel and sustainable transport, the plan aims to have a positive effect on travel behaviors and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the Cairngorms National Park.	++	
1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg		х	sustainable travel at the heart of a greener future, the plan acknowledges the importance of mitigating the environmental impacts of transportation.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
1b	infrastructure and buildings?  Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
	temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	being assessed.					
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?  The Changing Travel Behaviours Action Plan in the Cairngorms National Park primarily focuses on promoting sustainable and active travel options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. While these efforts can indirectly contribute to improvements in air quality, the specific impact on UK National Air Quality pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide (NO2), particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), and sulfur dioxide (SO2) may vary.		Active travel modes like walking and cycling do not directly emit pollutants like NO2, PM10, PM2.5, or SO2. Therefore, by encouraging people to choose these modes of transport instead of private vehicles, the plan may help reduce local emissions of these pollutants. As a result, areas with increased active travel may experience improvements in air quality.  Furthermore, the plan's emphasis on improving infrastructure and connectivity may have additional positive effects on air quality. For instance, by creating more pedestrian-friendly areas, introducing cycle lanes, and enhancing public transportation, the plan aims to reduce the overall reliance on cars. As a consequence, there may be fewer vehicles on the roads emitting pollutants and contributing to poor air quality.  It is important to note that the direct impact on air quality will also depend on various factors such as the number of people adopting active travel, the reduction in private vehicle usage, and the prevailing air pollution levels in the region.	While the Changing Travel Behaviours Action Plan in the Cairngorms National Park primarily aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the promotion of active travel and sustainable transport options can indirectly contribute to improvements in air quality. By reducing private vehicle usage and creating a supportive infrastructure, the plan may help decrease local emissions of pollutants like NO2, PM10, PM2.5, and SO2.  To assess the specific impact on UK National Air Quality pollutants, it would be necessary to conduct comprehensive air quality monitoring before and after the implementation of the plan. This would help determine any changes in pollutant levels and their correlation with the promotion of sustainable and active travel.	++		
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	The Changing Travel Behaviours Action Plan in the Cairngorms National Park, which promotes sustainable and active travel options, may have an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution, including particulate matter (PM) pollution.	+	Particulate matter can originate from various sources, including vehicle emissions, industrial processes, construction activities, and natural sources like dust and pollen.  By encouraging active travel modes like walking and cycling and reducing the reliance on private vehicles, the Changing Travel Behaviours Action Plan aims to reduce the overall emissions of pollutants associated with transportation. Private vehicles, particularly those running on fossil fuels, can contribute significantly to particulate matter pollution through exhaust emissions and road dust resuspension.  As a result, if the plan successfully promotes a shift towards sustainable travel options, there is a potential for a decrease in particulate matter pollution in the Cairngorms National Park. By reducing the number of vehicles on the road, the plan can help mitigate the emissions of particulates from vehicle exhausts and the disturbance of road dust.	The Changing Travel Behaviours Action Plan in the Cairngorms National Park has the potential to reduce particulate matter pollution by promoting sustainable and active travel options. By decreasing the number of vehicles on the road and mitigating emissions from exhaust and road dust, the plan can contribute to improving air quality. However, the specific impact on particulate matter pollution will depend on various factors, including the prevailing pollution sources in the area. Monitoring and analysis of particulate levels would be required to assess the plan's effectiveness in reducing this type of air pollution.	++	
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
3a	Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
3a	services they provide?  Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
3b	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?  Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	Х	
4a	and soil loss?  Will there be an effect on the levels of soil	being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
4a 4a	contamination?  Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective	x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
4a	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
5a 5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?  Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x x	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x	
5a	infrastructure)? Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
6a	Will there be an effect on protected species?	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
6a	Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?  Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
6a	Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?  Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
6a	protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?  Will there be an effect on deer management practices	being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	Х	
6a	that seek to reduce environmental effects?  Will there be an effect on land management practices	being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective	X	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
6a	that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and tree diseases?  Will there be an effect on the special landscape	being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective  being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
7a	qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?  Will there be an effect on landscape character and	being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective  being assessed.	X	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	Х	
/a 7h	local distinctiveness?  Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural	being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective	X	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	X	
8a	environment and assets (including linguistic)?  Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.  No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	х	
8a	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	Yes, the implementation of the Changing Travel Behaviours Action Plan in the Cairngorms National Park is expected to have a positive effect on recreation and active travel opportunities, ultimately supporting healthier lifestyles for residents and visitors.		The plan aims to promote sustainable and active travel options such as walking, cycling, and public transportation. By encouraging these modes of transportation, it creates opportunities for people to engage in physical activity as part of their daily travel routines. Walking and cycling, in particular, are forms of active transportation that provide numerous health benefits, including improved cardiovascular fitness, weight management, reduced risk of chronic diseases, and enhanced mental well-being.  The plan also focuses on enhancing the infrastructure and facilities necessary to support active travel. This includes the development of walking and cycling paths, improved signage, and the provision of bike-sharing schemes. These initiatives make it easier and more convenient for individuals to choose active modes of transportation and engage in recreational activities.  By providing alternative travel options and improving the infrastructure, the plan encourages people to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives. It supports recreational activities such as hiking, nature walks, cycling tours, and other outdoor pursuits that can be enjoyed within the beautiful landscapes of the Cairngorms National Park. These activities not only contribute to a healthier lifestyle but also allow individuals to connect with nature, reduce stress levels, and enhance overall well-being.		++	
8a	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	Yes, the implementation of the Changing Travel Behaviours Action Plan in the Cairngorms National Park is expected to have an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence. The plan's focus on promoting sustainable and active travel options can generate employment opportunities in various sectors.		By enhancing the travel experience and promoting sustainable modes of transportation, the plan aims to attract more visitors to the Cairngorms National Park. This can lead to increased demand for tourism and hospitality services, including accommodation, restaurants, cafes, guided tours, and outdoor activity providers. Local businesses can benefit from the growth in tourism and create job opportunities for residents in various roles, such as hotel staff, tour guides, chefs, and outdoor instructors.  Encouraging active travel and reducing reliance on private vehicles can also contribute to the vitality of local businesses. As people choose to walk, cycle, or use public transportation, they are more likely to support local shops, cafes, and services located in their communities. This increased footfall can boost sales and create employment opportunities in retail, food services, and other sectors.  The focus on reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable practices in transportation may also drive the demand for renewable energy and environmental services. Local businesses specializing in renewable energy installation, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, waste management, and environmental consulting can benefit from the transition towards sustainable travel behaviors.	promoting sustainable practices and supporting the local economy, the plan aims to enhance employment opportunities and contribute to the economic well-being of the communities within the park.	++	

Assessor(s): Insert assessor(s)'s name  Date of Assessment: Insert date(s) of assessment  SECTION OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED: (eg Vision, Policy X, Option 1A, etc)			Knowledge Exchange			
SEA objective SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)		Recommended mitigation and enhancement: Specific and actionable suggestions on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)	CNPA response to recommendation: Either agree or disagree with recommended mitigation and enhancement (as proposed in column F). If disagreeing, provide justification as to why.
Will there be an effect on energy conservation and efficiency in new development?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a	++	
Will there be an effect on the production of renewable energy of appropriate scale for the Park?	related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion  The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a	++	
Will there be an effect on local production and use of materials and food produce?	related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion  The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	microsite.  Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a	++	
Will there be an effect on carbon sinks (such as woodlands and peatlands)?	2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a	++	
Will there be an effect on travel that produces greenhouse gas emissions?	related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion  The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a	++	
Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a	++	
Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO <sub>2</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> )?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion	+	The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite	++	
Will there be an effect on the water quality of rivers, lochs and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
Will there be an effect on the ability of river catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
3a Will there be an effect on public water supplies?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite	++	
3c Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils, in particular peat?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
4a Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
4a Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
4a Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCRs)?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, timber, aggregates)?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of areas protected for nature conservation?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
6a Will there be an effect on protected species?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan habitats and plants?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion	+	The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
6a Will there be an effect on Cairngorms Nature Action Plan bird, mammal and invertebrate species?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion	+	The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
Will there be an effect on wider biodiversity (outwith protected areas and the habitats and species identified in the CNAP) in the National Park?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion	+	The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
Will there be an effect on deer management practices that seek to reduce environmental effects?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion	+	The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
Will there be an effect on land management practices that seek to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive nonnative species and tree diseases?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
Will there be an effect on the special landscape qualities (SLQs) of the National Park landscapes?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion	+	The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
7a Will there be an effect on landscape character and local distinctiveness?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion	+	The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
7b Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic)?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion	+	The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
8a Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion	+	The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030 through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion	+	The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the proejct delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	
Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?	The knowledge exchange project emphasises innovation, utilising current academic, policy, and practice knowledge to inform the delivery phase. It seeks to measure metrics related to landscape-scale net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, and community empowerment. The project aims to be transformative by sharing the journey of Cairngorms 2030, through robust research, inclusive practices, and longitudinal evaluations, empowering communities and promoting knowledge exchange beyond Scotland's borders. There is scope for the project to significantly effect all related sectors and environmental objectives following project completion		The success of the project will be measured by the availability of baseline data, clear evidence of achievements and progress, reporting on the project's journey and learning, and the sharing of information across research, policy, and practice networks.	Any potential enhancements to the project will likely take an iterative form, with learning expereinces and new ideas relayed back into the project delivery team and partners. There have already been adjustments, such as the establishment of an Academic Reference Group and the decision not to pursue the voluntary community researcher project due to time constraints and limited interest. The work related to online evidence repositories has been superseded by the redevelopment of the CNPA website, which will incorporate the Cairngorms 2030 knowledge exchange website as a microsite.	++	



# 13. Appendix C - Scoping Report Consultee Responses



By email to: sea gateway@gov.scot

Nina Caudrey
Planning Officer
Development Planning and Environmental Advice
Cairngorms National Park Authority
14 The Square
Grantown on Spey
PH26 3HG

Longmore House Salisbury Place Edinburgh EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716 Switchboard: 0131-668-8600 HMConsultations@hes.scot

> Our case ID: 300058899 Your ref: 01740 - Scoping 22 June 2022

# **Dear Nina Caudrey**

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Cairngorms National Park Authority - Cairngorms 2030 plans

### **Scoping Report**

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 01 June 2022 about the above scoping report. We have reviewed this in our role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act. This letter contains our views on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report. Please note that our view is based on our main area of interest for the historic environment.

### Scope and level of detail

We understand that this programme consists of a number of plans aimed at tackling issues such as climate change and the nature crisis. We note that the historic environment has been scoped into the assessment. On the basis of the information provided, we are content with this approach and are satisfied with the scope and level of detail proposed for the assessment, subject to the detailed comments provided in the attached annex.

#### **Consultation period for the Environmental Report**

We note that a consultation period of 6 to 8 weeks is proposed and we are content to agree with this timescale. Please note that, for administrative purposes, we consider that the consultation period commences on receipt of the relevant documents by the SEA Gateway.

We hope this is helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Andrew Stevenson who can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 8960 or by email on <a href="mailto:andrew.stevenson2@hes.scot">andrew.stevenson2@hes.scot</a>.

Yours sincerely

#### **Historic Environment Scotland**

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH Scottish Charity No. **SC045925** 



#### **Annex**

## **Topics Scoped In**

We welcome that the historic environment has been scoped into the assessment. We note that it is considered under the heading of Landscape and Cultural Heritage which is in line with the prepared Environmental Assessment Topic Paper.

#### **Environmental Baseline**

The Environmental Assessment Topic Paper for Landscape and Cultural Heritage sets out an appropriate baseline for the assessment. It will be important that the assessment of the plans is tested against a baseline that is at a commensurate level. For example, where specific projects are proposed effects against specific assets can be considered (we note the commentary regarding forestry and peatlands suggests greater detail) as well as holistically considering the effects of such projects on the historic environment resource.

#### Methodology

A standard matrix approach to the assessment is proposed and we are content that this methodology is appropriate. In terms of the proposed environmental objectives and sub-objectives these will serve to test the content of the various plans and we particularly welcome the scoring of the assessment be prior to and following mitigation/enhancement.

In carrying out the assessment we would encourage the holistic consideration of effects on the historic environment, considering not just the effects that plan components can have on the historic environment but where the historic environment can actively aid in the delivery of plan aims, particularly in areas such as tourism, placemaking and active travel.

#### Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies

We welcome the inclusion of the <u>Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS)</u> here. In terms of the description of the policy document we would emphasis that HEPS contains the key policies and principles for the management of the historic environment and supports good decision making for all aspects of the historic environment, designated or not. We would also note that reference to SHEP should be updated to HEPS.

Historic Environment Scotland 22 June 2022

# **Local Government and Communities Directorate**Planning and Architecture Division



T: 07501497462

E: SEA.Gateway@gov.scot

# Nina Caudrey,

MRTPI,
Planning Officer (Development Planning and
Environmental Advice),
Cairngorms National Park Authority,
14 The Square,
Grantown on Spey,
PH26 3HG

# Our ref: 01740 - Scoping - Cairngorms National Park Authority - Cairngorms 2030 plans

6<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Nina Caudrey,

With reference to the Scoping report you submitted to the SEA Gateway on 1st June 2022.

In accordance with Section 15(2) of the **Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005** the Consultation Authorities have now considered the Scoping report you submitted. The individual responses from the Consultation Authorities to your report are attached to this letter.

As the Consultation Authorities have now expressed their views on the proposed scope and level of detail of the report, you should refer to the Act to consider what your next step should be. You should of course take into account the opinions offered by the Consultation Authorities.

Note, in accordance with Section 15(3) of the 2005 Act (when agreed) you are required to formally write to advise the Scottish Ministers of the period of consultation you intend to specify, both for the public and the Consultation Authorities.

If you have any queries or would like me to clarify any points, please call me on 07501497462.

Kind regards,

Clare Donnelly SEA Gateway Administrator







