



# Babbity Environmental

[www.Babbity.co.uk](http://www.Babbity.co.uk)



Babbity Environmental Ltd.,  
Company registered in Scotland SC 564740.

Copyright 2023. All rights reserved.

No part of this report may be copied or reproduced by any means without prior written  
permission

**Wednesday, 16 August 2023**



printed on recycled paper



Document control sheet:

Client: CNPA  
Proposal: CNPA SEA  
Title: SEA NTS

Form BE 180/P

Original Report Author J Gordon  
Checked by A Ryan  
Released by Dr G Cannibal

This submission has been prepared for the exclusive use of the commissioning party and, unless otherwise agreed in writing by Babbity Environmental Ltd, no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of this report. No liability is accepted by Babbity Environmental Ltd, for any use of this report, other than for the purposes for which it was originally prepared and provided.

Opinions and information provided in the report are on the basis of Babbity Environmental Ltd using due skill, care and diligence in the preparation of the same and no warranty is provided as to their accuracy.

It should be noted, and it is expressly stated, that no independent verification of any of the documents or information supplied to Babbity Environmental Ltd has been made.



## CONTENTS

<b>1. Non - Technical Summary</b> .....	<b>4</b>
1.1. INTRODUCTION .....	4
1.2. HERITAGE HORIZONS: CAIRNGORMS 2030 - PEOPLE AND NATURE THRIVING TOGETHER .....	4
1.3. EXPECTED IMPACTS OF THE CAIRNGORMS 2030 PROGRAMME .....	4
1.4. KEY OUTCOMES .....	5
1.5. CONCLUSIONS.....	6



## **1. Non - Technical Summary**

### **1.1. Introduction**

In November 2022, Babbity Environmental Ltd was tasked, by the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA), to conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Cairngorms 2030 Programme, titled "Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 - People and Nature Thriving Together", hereafter 'C2030'.

The SEA assessed the potential environmental impacts, both positive and negative, of C2030's goals, objectives and plans. The assessment followed the requirements of the European Community (EC) SEA Directive and the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, aiming to identify and address significant environmental effects, during the early stages of planning.

The purpose of the SEA is to systematically evaluate the environmental consequences of proposed plans or programmes, ensuring that environmental concerns are integrated and considered from the outset. Introduced under the European Directive 2001/42/EC, SEA aims to promote sustainable development and transparency in decision-making.

The report evaluated the likely environmental effects of implementing C2030 and its associated plans, in accordance with regulatory requirements. It examined alternative approaches, suggested mitigation and enhancement measures and aimed to prevent, reduce, or offset significant adverse environmental effects.

### **1.2. Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030 - People and Nature Thriving Together**

To address the pressing climate crisis, the CNPA's focused on large-scale community-driven adaptation to climate change. Empowering local communities, with knowledge and decision-making authority, is key to fostering collaborative relationships, innovative solutions and positive outcomes for the environment, culture and economy.

C2030 envisions a future where the Cairngorms National Park becomes a model of coexistence between people and nature, by 2030. The aim is to create a place of diversity, inclusive decision-making and a shared commitment to a nature-rich future, benefiting both current and future generations. C2030 is structured around three core themes: People, Nature and Place. This framework has led to the creation of 20 plans, aimed at addressing climate and nature-related challenges, whilst promoting sustainable development across the national park.

C2030 is driven by a strong commitment to addressing critical environmental challenges, particularly within the context of the climate and ecological crises. It embraces a wide spectrum of areas, ranging from sustainable farming practices and river restoration to the enhancement of woodlands and peatlands, as well as promoting low-emission modes of travel.

### **1.3. Expected Impacts of the Cairngorms 2030 Programme**

The Cairngorms 2030 Programme was found to have the potential to bring about a range of positive impacts and outcomes for the Cairngorms National Park and its surrounding communities. A brief synopsis of these are outlined below:



### 1.3.1 Enhanced Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health:

The programme aims to safeguard and restore the rich and diverse biodiversity of the Cairngorms National Park. By implementing nature-based solutions and large-scale restoration projects, the programme intends to improve habitat quality, enhance ecosystem health and support a thriving range of plant and animal species.



### 1.3.2 Climate Resilience:

The programme takes a proactive approach to addressing the challenges posed by climate change. Through sustainable land management practices, habitat restoration and a focus on reducing carbon emissions, C2030 aims to increase the park's resilience to climate-related impacts.

### 1.3.3 Community Empowerment:

Local communities will be empowered by involving them in decision-making processes and collaborative initiatives. By engaging residents and visitors alike, the programme aims to build a sense of ownership, encourage active participation and enhance the well-being of those who live, work and visit the National Park.

Local communities will be empowered by



### 1.3.4 Improved Transport and Accessibility:

A key focus of the programme is to transform transportation within the Park. By promoting sustainable and active travel options, such as cycling and public transport, C2030 aims to

reduce

congestion, lower carbon emissions, increase opportunities and enhance accessibility for residents and visitors.



## 1.4. Key Outcomes

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 significant negative environmental effects from the implementation of the Programme were identified.



## **1.5. Conclusions**

C2030 represents a transformative effort to ensure a thriving future for the Cairngorms National Park, by promoting positive changes in biodiversity, climate resilience, community engagement, sustainable tourism, transportation, economic opportunities, cultural preservation, education, collaboration and long-term sustainability.

By embracing people-centric practices, enhancing biodiversity and engaging communities, the programme aims to lead the way in addressing pressing environmental challenges, paving the path for a healthier, more climate-focussed, and more sustainable future.

In summary, the Cairngorms 2030 Programme aspires to ensure a vibrant and harmonious future for the Cairngorms National Park and its inhabitants.