

Cairngorms National Park

Active Cairngorms Action Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Post-adoption Report

November 2024

Introduction

This document is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) post-adoption report for the Cairngorms National Park Active Cairngorms Action Plan (ACAP), which was adopted in December 2023.

The environmental assessment process ran after this adoption and informed the revisions and final adoption of the Plan.

Context - post-adoption report requirements

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 sets out six requirements for SEAs post-adoption of plans at section 18(3). These can be summarised and combined. This results in a set of four matters that this post-adoption report requires to address:

1. Taking account of the environmental assessment: how the environmental considerations and findings of the assessment presented in the Environmental Report have been taken into account in the plan or programme (in this case, the plan is the Active Cairngorms Action Plan).
2. Taking account of consultation responses: how the opinions and results of relevant consultations have been taken into account (in this case, the responses to the consultations on the scoping report and draft Environmental Report that accompanied the Active Cairngorms Action Plan).
3. Consideration of alternatives: the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives considered.
4. Monitoring of environmental effects: the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.

This report seeks to address these four questions.

Taking account of the environmental assessment

Environmental issues were considered from the outset and throughout the preparation of the Active Cairngorms Action Plan, being an integral part of the preparation process. The Environmental Assessment process (and Habitats Regulations Appraisal) have been used to inform the contents of the plan. Actions to safeguard the natural and cultural heritage of the National Park, support economic opportunities and improve health and wellbeing of people are included within the ACAP. In addition, the Active Cairngorms Action Plan is a subset of the National Park Partnership Plan, subject to SEA and HRA, and as such is identified as delivering key environmental issues relevant to the Park area

Taking account of consultation responses

There were no public consultation responses to the draft Environmental Report. The consultation authorities accepted the draft report as written and provided no specific changes or amendments.

Consideration of alternatives

The National Park Partnership Plan, subject to SEA and HRA, set out the requirement to develop, consult and adopt an Active Cairngorms Action Plan. Therefore no alternatives were considered in the development of the ACAP Environmental Report.

Monitoring of environmental effects

Monitoring is only required if significant adverse effects are identified. Monitoring will take place through the NPP framework. No negative effects were predicted to occur as a result of implementation of the ACAP (see annex1).

Annex 1- Table of Significant effects (green = positive, blue = no predicted environmental effect)

SEA Sub objective	Priority Actions	Managing for Visitors	Minimising impacts on sensitive species and habitats	Public Health in the outdoors	Volunteer Cairngorms	Young People and Outdoor Learning	Paths and trails
3a1		Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
3a2		Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
3a3		Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
3c1		Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
4a1		Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
4a2		Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
4a3		Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
4a4		Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
4a5		Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
5a1		Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
5a2		Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
5a3		Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
6a1		Green	Dark Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
6a2		Green	Dark Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
6a3		Green	Dark Green	Blue	Green	Blue	Green
6a4		Green	Dark Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
6a5		Green	Dark Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green
6a6		Green	Light Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
6a7		Green	Light Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
7a1		Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
7a2		Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
7b1		Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
8a1		Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
8a2		Green	Light Green	Dark Green	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green
8a3		Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue