



**Draft National Park Partnership Plan
2024 - 2029**

Strategic Environmental Assessment

DRAFT Environmental Report

April 2023

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1. Non-technical Summary

1.1 Introduction

This report summarises the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) of the draft National Park Partnership Plan 2024 -2029 (NPPP) published by Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority. SEA is required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 to determine the environmental impacts of implementing the Strategy.

1.2 Consultation Process

The National Park Partnership Plan 2024 - 2029 was prepared during 2022 and early 2023 based on stakeholder engagement, monitoring of the current NPPP indicators of success, commissioned research and new national policy guidance and strategy.

The level and scope of the SEA is considered to be proportionate and the conclusions reached is supported by feedback from the Consultation Authorities on the [draft scoping report](#).

Copies of the draft NPPP and SEA Environmental Report (including supporting figures and appendices) are available from the National Park Authority's website at www.lochlomond-trossachs.org.

1.3 Purpose of the Environmental Report

The purpose of this report is to identify any potential significant positive and negative environmental impacts from implementing the draft Plan. The effects of alternatives to the draft Plan are also outlined and evaluated in this report, as well as the actions to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse effects.

1.4 Purpose and Contents of the Draft National Park Partnership Plan 2024 - 2029

The Draft Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Partnership Plan presents a long term vision and actions for Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park over the next 5 years. Once approved it will replace the current NPPP, covering the period from 2018 – 2023. The new Partnership Plan aims to identify key climate, nature, land use, tourism, recreation, transport, economic and social issues within the National Park, it will also identify strategic measures to address the issues and opportunities identified.

The strategy covers the full geographic area of the National Park and contains the following sections:

1. Introduction
2. Restoring Nature
3. Creating a sustainable, Low-Carbon Destination
4. Enabling a Greener Economy and Sustainable Living
5. Tell us what you think
6. Glossary
7. Knowledge Base

1.5 Current State of the National Park Environment

In order to fully explore the environmental consequences of the NPPP, the National Park's environmental characteristics have been considered. Schedule 3(6) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 lists the range of environmental topics that should be

included in the SEA. A list of key environmental characteristics was previously developed and refined by staff across the organisation for the SEA of the Local Development Plan, previous National Park Partnership Plan and most recently the Tress and Woodland Strategy. This included expertise in, planning, ecology, landscape, trees and woodlands management, access and environment. This list has been reviewed and updated for the purposes of this SEA. The key environmental characteristics are set out in the [scoping report for this draft SEA](#).

1.6 Likely Significant Environmental Impacts of the Strategy

The assessment has concluded that the draft National Park Partnership Plan will have an overall positive environmental impact as its key focuses are People, Place and the Environment. The draft NPPP has been prepared with an emphasis on the environment and all policies, aims, objectives and targets seek to address the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis.

There is some potential for potentially negative environmental impacts through the development of the Place Programme. It has been identified that the implementation of infrastructure works could result in temporary negative environmental impacts but mitigation measures have been suggested and are already in place to ensure the effects are minimal and temporary – see Table 10 for full assessment.

Section 9.1 details the potential cumulative environmental impacts of the draft NPPP. **This demonstrates that the overall positive effects likely to be realised through implementing the Plan. In particular, there are major positive effects predicted for biodiversity, population and human health and cultural heritage.**

A summary of the results of the assessment can be found in Section 7 and full details of the assessments are presented in Appendix One Environmental Assessment Tables.

1.7 Alternative Approaches

Having a National Park Plan (referred to as the National Park Partnership Plan as it guides the work of others, not just the National Park Authority) is a legal requirement required by section 11 of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000. This limits the options available for consideration of alternatives, as having no NPPP is not permitted. Carrying forward the current 2018 – 2023 NPPP was ruled out as it does not fully reflect or address the new and urgent issues facing the National Park.

While having no Partnership Plan is not an option, the level of detail and content of the NPPP has been considered during its development. The two options for the final NPPP were to develop a high level strategy/vision document with no spatial targets included or to produce a strategy which included spatial targets:

Alternatives	Description of options
High Level Strategy with no spatial targets	A high-level strategy would be created for the National Park which sets out The National Park’s overarching aims and ambitions for the lifetime of the plan.
High Level Strategy including spatial targets	A high-level strategy would be created for the National Park which sets out the National Park’s key targets (specifically for Peatland and Woodland) and allows stakeholders and partners to understand the more specific aims and ambitions that the authority seeks to achieve.

The '*High Level Strategy including spatial targets*' has been identified as the preferred approach for the draft NPPP as this secures the greatest positive environmental effects. This has been decided as the most effective method as it enables the National Park Authority and our key partners to focus their efforts, resources and time into key areas of work with measurable outcomes.

The National Park has set ambitious targets for both peatland restoration and woodland creation within the draft NPPP. The aim of this is to highlight to internal and external partners that resources and efforts will require to be increased if we are to achieve the targets set out within the Plan.

The environmental implications of this will be an increased effort to improve key areas of our nature network. If these targets were not included within the NPPP then the likelihood of reaching these goals within the lifetime of the Plan is reduced. It is therefore necessary for optimum environmental benefits to set goals and targets.

1.8 Monitoring

A monitoring framework is currently in place for the existing National Park Partnership Plan 2018–2023. The methodologies for monitoring the targets set out in the Plan will be re-evaluated to assess their suitability. A new monitoring framework will be established which will supersede the existing framework and ensure that targets set out in the Plan are evaluated effectively. The effects of implementation of the NPPP will be monitored during the lifetime of the plan.

1.9 Next Steps

The draft NPPP is being published for a 12 week consultation in April 2023 alongside this draft Environmental Report. The draft NPPP will then be amended accordingly following this engagement and consultation period. Following approval of the finalised NPPP, a Post Adoption Statement will be produced detailing the ways in which the findings of the SEA Environmental Report, and the views expressed by consultees have been taken into account.

2. Introduction

The draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the draft NPPP is being undertaken to comply with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Scotland Act 2005. As the Strategy may have significant environmental effects and it is a qualifying plan under the terms of the Act, a Scoping Report was produced in July 2022 and submitted to the Consultation Authorities via the Scottish Government's SEA Gateway. Feedback on the proposed assessment methodology and consultation period for the Environmental Report was received from the Consultation Authorities in August 2022. Comments from the consultation authorities have been incorporated into the final assessment methodology and are summarised in Appendix Four below.

3. Purpose of the SEA Environmental Report

SEA is a requirement of the European Commission (EC) SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) – the SEA Directive – and the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The approach taken to this draft SEA has been informed by relevant EC and Scottish legislation as well as statutory and non-statutory SEA guidance. This report constitutes an draft Environmental Report in accordance with the requirements set out in the SEA Directive and the 2005 Act.

The 2005 Act is Scotland’s national legislative framework on SEA for implementation of the EU SEA Directive. In Scotland, SEA is a requirement for all public plans, programmes and strategies which may have a significant effect on the environment. The overall purpose of SEA is to protect the environment and promote sustainable development.

The purpose of this draft Environmental Report is to set out key findings from the SEA process undertaken to date and the proposed next steps. It presents a summary of the environmental assessment of the NPPP 2024-2029 outcomes and priorities and is intended to support members of the public, the statutory Consultation Authorities and other stakeholders in responding to the consultation on the plan and its potential environmental effects.

4. Details of the draft National Park Partnership Plan 2024-2029

Name of Responsible Authority:	Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority
Title of Draft Plan, Programme or Strategy (PPS):	Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Partnership Plan 2024-2029
Requirement for the PPS:	Section 11 of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000
Subject of the PPS:	Management of the National Park
Period covered by the PPS:	2024 - 2029
Frequency of updates:	Reviewed and updated every five years
Geographic Area covered by the PPS:	Area designated as Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park – see Figure One.
Purpose and/or objectives of the PPS:	The National Park Partnership Plan sets out the high-level vision for the National Park for the next five years. It focuses on improving the conditions for climate, nature and for people and sets out how resources should be focused to achieve these overarching aims.
Contact:	Laura Mowat MRTPI Project Management Advisor Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority National Park Headquarters Carrochan Road Balloch G83 8EG Laura.mowat@lochlomond-trossachs.org

4.1 Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park area.

The National Park covers an area of 720 square miles and is in proximity of large populated areas, including Glasgow and the central belt of Scotland. The National Park’s main landscapes consist of upland areas, including moorland & mountains. Woodlands and forest

cover a large area of the National Park (30%), these forest areas include the Queen Elizabeth forest park in The Trossachs and the Argyll in Cowal. The National Park is a popular destination for outdoor recreational activities, including mountain biking and walking. The National Park has 22 large lochs, Loch Lomond being the largest. Loch Lomond is a very popular tourist destination, particularly in the summer months. The rivers are also an important feature of the landscape of the National Park. With around 50 rivers in the park, providing important habitats for marine species including Atlantic Salmon.



Figure One – Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park

4.2 Content of the draft National Park Partnership Plan 2024 – 2029

The draft National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP) 2024 - 2029 sets out how the National Park is to be managed to achieve its statutory aims which are outlined in the National Park (Scotland) act 2000. These are to: -

- a) Conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area,
- b) Promote the sustainable use of the natural resources of the area,
- c) Promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public, and
- d) Promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.

These aims are to be collectively achieved unless there is a conflict between the first aim and any of the other aims in which case the first aim must be given priority.

The draft National Park Partnership Plan provides the strategic contexts for the authorities' functions and activities and importantly also those of other partner bodies operating in the national park.

The main purpose of the draft NPPP is to:

- set out the vision and overarching strategy for managing the National Park
- Guide the work of all public bodies and other partners to deliver the aims of the National Park set out the regional spatial strategy for the National Park
- Provide the strategic context for the local development plan and proposed Regional Land Use Framework

- Show how the National Park will contribute to the Scottish Government’s core purpose and National outcomes

The draft NPPP focuses on three key themes. These are detailed below:

1. Restoring Nature
2. Creating a sustainable, Low-Carbon Destination
3. Enabling a Greener Economy and Sustainable Living

By focusing on these key themes, the draft NPPP aims to tackle the twin crises of climate and nature whilst also ensuring that people who live, work and visit the park are a key consideration in the future of the National Park.

5. Relationship to other Plans, Policies, Programmes and Strategies

There is an extensive list of national policies and legislation, as well as European Union Directives, which are of relevance to preparing the NPPP. A review of relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies (PPS) has been undertaken and these are detailed in Appendix A of the [Scoping Report](#). These will be kept under review, and updated where necessary, during the preparation of the NPPP.

6. Methodology for the SEA

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) involved completing the following stages:

6.1 Establish the environmental baseline.

A fundamental aspect of the SEA is to establish the environmental baseline from which the draft Plan’s future implementation is being assessed. The baseline is determined according to the scope of the assessment and draft Plan. The purpose of the SEA is to determine how the environmental baseline will be altered as a result of the draft Plan’s implementation. The environmental baseline is included in the [2022 draft NPPP Scoping Report](#).

6.2 Develop the SEA objectives.

To assist in assessing the impact of the draft NPPP on the environment, a set of SEA objectives and associated questions have been produced. These relate to the specific SEA environmental receptors and issues that were felt to have potential to significantly impact on the environment. Each element of the draft NPPP has been assessed against the objectives to determine significant positive and negative environmental impacts. The proposed SEA objectives and questions are fully compliant with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

6.3 Identify and Assess Alternative Options

Part 2 Section 14 (20(b) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires the Environmental Report to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan and reasonable alternatives to the plan, taking into account its objectives and geographical scope. Guidance advises that only reasonable, realistic and relevant alternatives are put forward and that it is helpful if these are sufficiently distinct to enable meaningful comparisons to be made of the environmental implications of each.

The initial scoping of the vision and objectives for the draft Plan was undertaken via stakeholder engagement conducted via discussion papers, workshops and engagement with National Park Board Members and feedback/views shared over the period leading up to the draft Plan preparation by a range of partners. The outputs of this work informed the development of options and reasonable alternatives where these existed.

Where alternative options do come forward, these will be considered against the SEA objectives using the methodology outlined in this report.

6.4 Assess preferred Plan Options

The assessment of the environmental effects and their significance is based on a consideration of how the draft Plan is likely to affect the environmental baseline and whether any anticipated changes to the environmental baseline will help or hinder the SEA objectives being achieved. An assessment sheet has been completed for each identified relevant element of the draft Plan and the results are summarised in Section 9.1 below.

A copy of the scoring matrix being used to score each element of the draft NPPP which is considered to require a full assessment is detailed below. An example of the table used to display the full assessment is also shown below.

Scoring 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	x
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.	--

Example extract from Assessment Table

Assessor(s):	
Date of Assessment Completion:	

SECTION OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED:				
ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS				
SEA Objective:	Nature of Effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation	Mitigation and enhancement	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation
Biodiversity To protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity				

6.5 Identify and incorporate mitigation.

Mitigation has been identified for proposed options where a significant negative environmental effect is identified. In some cases, negative effects may be able to be mitigated through another objective, policy, and accompanying target and outcome. Additional mitigation may be required such as the modification or inclusion of an additional objective, policy, target and outcome, or monitoring indicator. Commencing the SEA process alongside the initial development of the drafting NPPP helps to ensure that modification of the draft plan was achieved as the environmental issues are identified.

The approved NPPP will be subject to ongoing monitoring. It is intended to create a set of indicators to measure the impacts that the NPPP may have on the environment during its lifespan. The indicators will be based on the baseline information and the existing environmental issues and problems in the area. These indicators have been developed during the preparation of the NPPP and environmental assessment processes.

Monitoring measures and a review of the NPPP will be discussed in the Environmental Report and will form the Post-Adoption Statement after the NPPP is approved by Scottish Ministers.

Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires the Environmental Report to outline how the SEA has been undertaken, and to be published for an appropriate consultation period a draft Environmental Report will be released for consultation alongside the draft Plan.

A Habitats Regulation Appraisal has also been undertaken for the draft NPPP in accordance with the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 (as amended). There is a separate report for these findings.

6.6 Consultation Period

Following a proposed 12 week public consultation process on both the draft NPPP and Environmental Report, the consultation responses received have been collated, considered and incorporated into the development of the final Plan, ready for Scottish Ministers approval. The Environmental Report will be updated as required.

7. Summary of the results of the assessment of the draft Plan

The detailed scoring assessment of the key elements of the draft Plan are set out in Appendix Two.

The assessment of the environmental effects of the draft Plan has been undertaken and options for mitigation to avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate for the environmental effects have been considered. Consideration has also been given to the policy requirements published in National Planning Framework 4 (NPF 4) and the Future Nature strategy published by the National Park Authority.

7.1 Key Findings

The draft environmental assessment has been undertaken against all the identified relevant elements of the draft NPPP. Given the strategic nature of the plan, many draft objectives, policies and actions have been screened out from the assessment. This is mainly due to uncertainties on the locations of where and when in the National Park the priorities will be delivered. It was concluded that undertaking further assessment at the lower-level plans, such as Local Development Plan and at project level, will ensure a more appropriate and informed assessment can be undertaken once the locations for the actions are identified.

Those parts of the plan that have gone through to detailed assessment have concluded that with the draft Plans emphasis on enhancing nature and climate, there will be overall positive environmental effects. Some uncertain effects on the environment have been identified for the actions linked to improvements at strategic visitor sites, however taking a strategic approach to these sites through the consideration of environmental issues within the Strategic Tourism Development Studies should ensure that any environmental effects are avoided, minimised or mitigated.

The effects of alternatives are also outlined and evaluated in this draft SEA, this has considered assessing the preferred ambitions for woodland planting and peatland restoration in this draft NPPP against even more ambitious targets and an alternative if there were no set targets.

The assessment of the draft targets concludes that there will be overall positive effects for both woodland planting and peatland restoration.

8 Post Adoption Statement

Once the Plan has received approval, a post adoption statement will be prepared outlining how the plan has been modified as a result of the SEA process.

9 Conclusion

The level and scope of the SEA is considered to be proportionate and this conclusion is supported by feedback from the Consultation Authorities on the draft Environmental Report

9.1 Summary of the results of the assessment and identification of potential cumulative impacts

Key element of draft strategy	SEA Environment Topics								
	Biodiversity	Landscape	Air Quality	Population and Human Health	Soil and Geology	Water	Climate	Material Assets	Cultural Heritage
Vision	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++
SECTION 1 - Restoring Nature	++	++	++	0	+	++	++	x	+
SECTION 2 – Greener Living and Economy	+	+	+	++	x	x	+	+	++
SECTION 3 – A Sustainable Low Carbon Destination	x	+	0	++	+	+	+	++	++

10 Environmental Assessment Tables

10.1 Table 1 – Policy screening table

POLICY		Reason for Screening IN/OUT
SECTION 1		
Restoring Nature for Climate	Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park will be a net zero place by 2040 and will continue to work towards being carbon negative beyond that. A key focus to achieve this will be to significantly increase efforts to naturally absorb carbon in the landscape through a Nature Based Solutions approach	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
a)	Restoring significant areas of peatland and protecting this precious resource by repairing degraded peat soils and ensuring impacts from grazing animals are minimal.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment. Any sites for peatland restoration will be identified through the emerging Peatland Strategy which will be subject to SEA. All sites will also be assessed for environmental impacts at project level.
b)	Increasing the quantity and quality of tree cover through planting and promoting natural regeneration by significantly reducing grazing animal pressure.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment. Consideration of the environmental impacts will be taken at project level.
c)	Ensuring that efforts to sequester carbon also help restore nature and contribute to establishing new Nature Networks.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
d)	Working with land managers and communities to secure new sources of funding that provides new opportunities and help support a just transition to a net zero and nature positive National Park.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
Restoring Nature for Healthy Ecosystems	The ongoing decline in nature in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park will be halted by 2030 and there will be widespread restoration and recovery of nature by 2040. A landscape scale Nature Network approach will be taken improving and connecting core areas and expanding the links between these core areas across the Park.	OUT – the policy is likely to encourage action which will have environmental impacts but as the projects have not yet been identified the policy is too general to

		assess. Any projects will be subject to separate environmental assessments.
a)	Improving the condition of existing Designated Sites where possible and delivering actions which protect and expand the special species and habitats found there.	IN – potential for environmental impacts through improvement works.
b)	Strategic landscape scale management to significantly reduce deer and sheep grazing and browsing pressures and to allow the recovery and expansion of our tree cover and reduce trampling of peat soils.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
c)	A strategic approach to controlling Invasive Non-Native Species at a catchment scale.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
d)	Improving the freshwater and marine environments by restoring rivers and wetlands and increasing water quality by addressing diffuse pollution, discharge and run-off from land uses.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
e)	Expanding our connected network of trees with an increased proportion of native tree and shrub species and improving their quality through proactive management, including management of invasive Rhododendron.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
f)	Ensuring that peatland restoration programmes deliver multiple benefits including improved biodiversity and water storage.	OUT – the emerging Peatland Strategy will ensure that environmental impacts of peatland restoration are considered. This will be subject to a separate SEA.
g)	Fully adopting and delivering the principles of the National Planning Framework 4 and ensuring that new development in the Park takes a net gain approach to protecting and restoring nature on and around development sites.	OUT – NPF 4 has already undergone a SEA and therefore the principles adopted through this policy have previously been screened. The updated Local Development Plan for the National Park will also undergo a separate SEA – the NET Gain policy will be developed through this process.
Restoring Nature through a New Land Economy	We will connect and embed our natural networks across all land uses in the Park by supporting positive land use change and more climate and regenerative land management practices.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.

a)	Piloting a Regional Land Use Partnership and from it delivering a Regional Land Use Framework to promote a collaborative approach to positive land use change delivering multiple benefits.	OUT – there has not yet been a location decided for the Regional Land Use Partnership and therefore it is not possible to determine the environmental impacts this might have.
b)	Ensuring planning policies support rural development which helps sustain land businesses, employment needs and local communities.	OUT – all planning policies will undergo SEA through the Development Plan process. It is not possible to determine environmental effects at this level.
c)	Working with national partners to secure more effective use of grants and subsidies which are tailored to support better outcomes for nature.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
d)	Delivering sustainable and regenerative agriculture to continue to support livelihoods, rural communities and food production whilst delivering restoration of our soils, expansion of tree cover and reduced grazing animal pressures on habitats	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
e)	Delivering timber production whilst expanding and improving a resilient and sustainable forest network.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment. This will be reviewed in more detail at project level.
f)	Enabling the creation of new nature-based green jobs and skills by mapping out capacity and skills shortages and supporting opportunities to grow employment and knowledge.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
g)	Developing and piloting new funding models which can blend public and private finance to support multi-year large-scale nature restoration projects.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
SECTION 2		
Connecting Everyone with Nature Experiences	In developing a high-quality visitor experience in the National Park we will work to ensure that nature and recreation experiences are accessible to and informed by the needs of all groups in society.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment. This will be further assessed through the EQIA process and will be determined at project level.
a)	Enabling and encouraging more underrepresented and protected groups to enjoy the National Park.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment. This will be further assessed through the EQIA process and will be determined at project level.
b)	Ensure improved communication about the National Park into networks used by underrepresented audiences including to improve representation and	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.

	participation in policy and decision making and to improve diversity generally in the work of the National Park Authority.	
c)	Ensuring that investment and visitor sites and infrastructure takes account of the accessibility needs of all abilities and cultures.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
d)	Encouraging local tourism and recreation businesses to improve accessibility in providing visitor offerings.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
e)	Ensuring that more young people enjoy an outdoor experience in the National Park and are inspired to care more for nature and the climate.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
Investing in Sustainable Visitor Experiences	The National Park Authority and its partners will take a place-based approach to investing in higher quality visitor facilities across publicly owned sites that reflects a sustainable balance between local needs, environmental sensitivities and visitor demand. There will be a particular focus on ensuring improvements that enable sustainable travel, improved accessibility, visitor safety and responsible tourism.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
a)	Supporting Sustainable Development - people and place, promoting a high-quality landscape experience through design excellence, for both visitors and communities, to enhance place quality and the landscape qualities of the National Park	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
b)	Supporting Sustainable Development – climate and nature, leading a nature-based approach to design which addresses the climate and biodiversity crises using the principles of both Future Nature and Mission Zero, protecting and enhancing biodiversity, and capitalising on the benefits of nature and considering sustainability of design, materials, maintenance, and use. Supporting inclusion and improved accessibility to the National Park by identifying and facilitating actions that support equality and diversity to secure barrier free / inclusive access meeting the needs of all users.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
c)	Supporting more sustainable ways of travel both to and within the National Park (Modal Shift) strengthening service support through a network of integrated hubs; walking, cycling, accommodation of electric vehicle EV use,	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.

	and public and shared transport and the facilities required to increase uptake and address private car use increases.	
d)	Supporting visitor management and dispersal, creating a flow of people to our more resilient places, and using good design, information and better provision to support more responsible behaviors whilst reducing the need for visitor management operations while continuing a collective approach to ensure effective long-term stewardship of our sites	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
SECTION 3		
Local Place Plans	The National Park Authority will provide help to communities within the National Park to prepare Local Place Plans and will support implementation of Local Place Plans by focusing on those aspects that contribute to:	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
a)	communities transition to net zero living and working through actions that increase opportunities for low carbon local living	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
b)	building resilience to the impacts of the changing climate	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
c)	restoring nature on land within, around and between communities	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
d)	increased collaboration between communities and between communities and a range of public, private and third sector partners	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
Empowering Communities	The National Park Authority and its partners will support communities to grow their influence to shape their local places through:	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
a)	supporting the preparation and implementation of Local Place Plans	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment. The environmental impacts from the development of these planned will be evaluated through the Planning process.
b)	supporting increased opportunities for communities to consider and inform how land and sites are used and developed to help support resilient, sustainable, vibrant and healthy communities	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.

c)	consideration of opportunities to support local wealth building through generation and retention of more wealth by local community organisations and local rural businesses.	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
Meeting Rural Housing needs	New housing within the National Park will help retain and attract young people and working age population through:	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
a)	focusing new housing provision on addressing local housing needs of communities and the rural economy	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment. Any new developments will require planning consent and therefore the environmental impacts will be assessed at this stage. All allocated sites have been subject to previous SEA through the Local Development Plan and any new sites will undergo SEA through the developing LDP.
b)	a continued focus on enabling affordable housing delivery, including a more diverse range of affordable tenures and addressing the challenges of delivering rural housing and	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment. Any new developments will require planning consent and therefore the environmental impacts will be assessed at this stage. All allocated sites have been subject to previous SEA through the Local Development Plan and any new sites will undergo SEA through the developing LDP
c)	consideration of the interventions required to stop the loss of housing from the existing housing supply	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.
Development and Infrastructure	Nationally strategic development and infrastructure improvements associated with trunk road improvements, electricity transmission or	OUT – too high level to enable meaningful assessment.

Investment Needs	hydro-electric power generation will be supported by ensuring opportunities to safeguard the environment and landscape qualities are maximised as well as creating enhanced opportunities for people to experience the National Parks special qualities.	
a)	Strategic scale development will be supported at Callander, Arrochar, Tarbet and Balloch through the delivery of the southern expansion of Callander, needed to facilitate sustainable expansion of the town and to provide mixed uses in support of the development needs of both Callander and surrounding rural communities for which it acts as a service hub. The New Local Development Plan will re-consider the requirement for longer term land release beyond the currently identified mixed used development site for which a masterplan has been prepared to guide and support development.	OUT – all strategic development will undergo SEA through the Local development Plan and will also taken into account any new requirements coming out of NPF 4 which has undergone SEA.
b)	Strategic scale development will be supported at Callander, Arrochar, Tarbet and Balloch through the prioritisation of development and infrastructure within Arrochar and Tarbet that helps unlock constrained, vacant and derelict sites, bringing them back into use in ways that support identified community needs, low carbon local	OUT – LDP will identify sites and therefore the environmental effects will be assessed through the LDP SEA.
c)	Strategic scale development will be supported at Callander, Arrochar, Tarbet and Balloch through the delivery of tourism investment in Balloch as a core strategic tourism gateway- location, with opportunities for improved transport interchange as well as job creation and wider economic regeneration with adjoining areas to the National Park.	OUT – LDP will identify sites and therefore the environmental effects will be assessed through the LDP SEA.
d)	Large scale wind farms will not be supported within the National Park in accordance with National Planning Framework 4. Wind Farm proposals adjacent to the National Park should be located and designed in ways that do not adversely impact on the special landscape qualities of the National Park.	OUT – there are no locations identified for this work and therefore it is not possible to assess the level of environmental impact.

10.2 Table 2 – Measures of Success Screening Table

MEASURE/INDICATOR		Reason for Screening IN/OUT
SECTION 1		
Net Zero	Measure the carbon footprint of the National Park every 5 years against the baseline year of 2022. Reach net zero GHG emissions by 2040.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment. Overall this will deliver positive environmental effects across the whole of the Park.
State of Nature	Baseline assessment to be completed in 2023, measure every 5 years thereafter.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment. There are no outputs at this time to measure.
Peatland Restoration	Track the extent and condition of the National Park’s peatland. Increase the average annual rate of restoration projects from the current average of 240/ha to 640/ha. Achieve approximately 8,000ha of restoration by 2030.	IN – potential for environmental effects and an understanding of the approximate locations enables assessment.
Trees and Woodlands	Track the extent and condition of the National Park’s woodland/forest/tree cover. Increase the average annual rate of woodland creation from the current average of 200ha year to 400ha.	IN - potential for environmental effects and an understanding of the approximate locations enables assessment.
Grazing Impacts	Complete Habitat Impact Assessments for every Deer Management Group every 2 years.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Water Quality	Track the ecological status of target waterbodies at key restoration sites (and a ‘control group’ of waterbodies for comparison).	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Invasive Non-native Species	Track the extent and distribution of target Invasive Non-native Species. See a demonstrable, ongoing decline that is consistent with halting the decline of nature by 2030.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Agreements	Track the amount of land in the National Park under new climate and nature-related agreements and funding	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
SECTION 2		

Net Zero	Measure the carbon footprint of the travel to and from the National Park against the baseline year of 2022, as part of a full footprint assessment every 5 years. Reach net zero GHG emissions by 2040	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Number of Visitors	Measure the annual number of people visiting the National Park.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Connection to Nature	Track the Nature Connectedness Index value for respondents who have visited the National Park. Baseline the value in 2023 and measure for any change every three years.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Diversity	Track how representative our domestic visitors are of Scottish society.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Visitor Economy	Track the overall value of the visitor economy.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Volunteering	Measure the number of hours of volunteering delivered under this Plan. Increase from the 2022 baseline.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment. Increased volunteering could lead to an increase in environmental works taking place but without more detail it is not possible to fully assess at this stage.
Strategic Investment	Track the total investment secured by 2030 to deliver programme of coordinated improvements at strategic visitor sites.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Car Usage	Track private car usage to and within the National Park. Decrease against 2019/20 visitor survey baseline of 79% of people travelling to the National Park by car.	OUT – too general for meaningful assessment. This will deliver some environmental benefits but at this stage there is not adequate information to assess fully.
Section 3		
Transition to a Greener Economy	Measure the creation of new and/or increased numbers of jobs and skills development opportunities in sectors key to the just transition of the rural economy of the National Park (for example, sustainable travel, woodland creation and ecotourism)	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.

Low carbon businesses	Decrease in GHG footprint of National Park businesses.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Green jobs and skills	Measure the amount of new training, skills development and volunteering opportunities designed to provide pathways for Young People to live and work in the National Park.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Community influence	measure the extent of community influence and involvement over how land and sites are used and managed. Measure the number of assets and land that are either in community control or where the community has worked with the land owner to identify	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.

10.3 Table 3: Aims Screening Table

AIM BY 2045		Reason for Screening IN/OUT
Restoring Nature for Climate		
	Our ecosystems are in good health and helping us to adapt and mitigate against the climate crisis, supporting the National Park to be an overall net carbon sink for Scotland.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Restoring Nature for Recovering Ecosystems and Species		
	The ongoing decline in nature in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park will be reversed by 2030 and there will be widespread restoration and recovery of nature by 2040. A landscape scale Nature Network approach will be taken improving and connecting core areas and expanding the links between these core areas across the National Park.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Shaping a New Land Economy		
	The National Park is an exemplar of a new form of best practice land use and management, where climate action, nature restoration, local produce and green jobs bring benefits for all.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Connecting Everyone with Nature		
	The National Park is a place where people of all backgrounds benefit from experiencing nature.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.

Improving Popular Places and Routes		
	People have a high-quality experience visiting the National Park and are able to use great services, facilities and routes with less impact on nature or contributing to climate change. Communities see less impacts of tourism on everyday life. Nature is recovering more rapidly in less visited areas, where priority has been given to non-motorised access and recreation activity.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
	Enjoyment of the most popular places and routes in the National Park is underpinned by holistically managed and resourced services delivery efficiencies and improvements for public service delivery. Ranger presence will help reduce footprint of visitors on climate and nature and promote responsible behaviours.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Low Carbon Travel for Everyone		
	The National Park has a thriving rural transport sector providing services which have reduced the need for car journeys and transport generated emissions, met the travel needs of both visitors and residents and provided more inclusive access to the outdoors.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Transitioning to a Greener Rural Economy		
	The National Park has a greener and more diverse rural economy, with businesses capitalising on the market advantage of restored nature and a net zero place; supporting an increase in working age population and contributing towards, sustainable, thriving communities.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Living Well Locally		
	National Park communities are leading the way on net zero living and working and have successfully adapted to living with the future impacts of climate change. As passionate ambassadors for local places, communities have utilized knowledge, skills and influence to deepen sense of place and their connection with nature, culture and heritage, providing a nature rich, resilient landscape for the next generation.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Harnessing the Power of Infrastructure and Development		
	New development and infrastructure is more responsive to the needs of land use and management, directly contributing to a wellbeing economy the benefits people and nature.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.

10.4 Table 4: Objectives Screening Table

OBJECTIVE BY 2030		Reason for Screening IN/OUT
Restoring Nature for Climate		
Peatland	To significantly reduce the area of degraded, high emission peatland and convert this into regenerating carbon capture condition instead.	OUT – to high level for meaningful assessment. Impact from Peatland restoration will be subject to SEA when the Peatland Strategy is adopted.
Trees and woodland	To increase the number, species diversity and health of trees across suitable areas of the Park.	OUT – to high level for meaningful assessment. The Trees and Woodlands strategy has undergone a separate SEA where this objective was considered.
Water	To increase the quality, naturalness and health of freshwater and marine bodies in the Park, allowing them to provide greater resilience to the impacts of climate change and be nature-rich environments.	OUT – to high level for meaningful assessment.
Restoring Nature for Recovering Ecosystems and Species		
Restore Nature at a Landscape Scale	Expand and improve priority habitats and enhance connectivity between habitats and eco-systems across the National Park to create functioning nature networks.	OUT – too high level to assess at this stage. Nature Networks will be assessed through the LDP process.
Land Managed Primarily for Nature Restoration	Increase the amount of land in the National Park managed primarily to restore nature	OUT – this is a process therefore not suitable for assessment.
Reduce Grazing Animal Pressures	Reduce grazing and trampling pressures in order to promote recovery of key habitats and sites.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Improved Monitoring of Changes in Nature	Develop improved monitoring and reporting to measure progress in nature restoration.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Shaping a New Land Economy		

Land Use Change	To transform over time land use within the Park, to ensure that it delivers much more for climate and nature, as well as local food and high-quality jobs	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
New Funding Streams	To develop funding support opportunities that help deliver wider public benefits from our land, including for climate and nature.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Engaging Communities in Land Use Decisions	To engage communities and other stakeholders more effectively in land use change decisions	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Green Jobs, Skills and Business Opportunities	To support change in the land management sector to better meet and benefit from the opportunities from changing land use priorities	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Connecting Everyone with Nature		
Sustainable Visitor Economy	The National Park visitor economy is transitioning to offering greater low emission nature-connected offerings	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Inspiring Action for Nature and Climate	Outreach and outdoor learning programmes are focused on building understanding of the challenges facing our planet, inspiring action for nature and climate and promoting the wellbeing benefits of enjoying the outdoors.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Diversity and Inclusion	Better communicated and designed opportunities to access the National Park and become involved in its work are reaching and engaging previously underrepresented audiences and have enabled improved diversity.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Diversity and Inclusion	Volunteering opportunities across the National Park have been expanded to enable wider opportunities for people from outside the Park to actively participate in nature restoration and climate action, use and develop skills and support our Ranger Service to engage with our visitors and communities.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Improving Popular Places and Routes		

Place Programme	A multi-year place programme approach has delivered an initial phase of co-ordinated improvements at strategic visitor sites supporting improvements for nature, climate, people, accessibility and diversity.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Place Programme	Ensuring investment in visitor hubs at, or linking to, Balloch, Callander and Arrochar/Tarbet will enable more sustainable ways to travel both to and within the National Park including links to improved active travel networks	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Place Programme	Investment in the National Park’s recreational path network will focus on keeping the existing network and statutory core paths in good condition and developing more sustainable models to resource path maintenance	OUT – there is no mapping which details where the pressure points are and therefore no understanding of where maintenance is required. There will be assessments carried out at project level or through Planning applications.
Place Programme	Investment in maintaining and where appropriate expanding facilities for enjoying water recreation and the safe enjoyment of busier Lochs.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
	To ensure a strong partnership approach to co-ordinating all public bodies with a role in supporting the safe and responsible enjoyment of the National Park.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
	National Park Camping and Loch Lomond Byelaws will be kept under review and amended as necessary where a regulatory response is needed to address issues of concern arising from changing recreational demand and behaviours	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
	A co-ordinated approach will be taken across responsible bodies to ensure the safe enjoyment of publicly managed and other popular visitor sites.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Low Carbon Travel for Everyone		
Whole System Approach	A ‘whole system approach’ has been taken and a range of new public transport services are provided which are targeted at popular outdoor leisure journeys, reducing transport emissions and promoting inclusion.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Incentivising Sustainable Travel Choices	Sustainable travel choices have been incentivised and enhanced through responsible public bodies collaborating on the operation and pricing of transport services, travel hubs and parking facilities.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Developing a Rural Transport Sector	Business and transport providers have collaborated to develop the sector and create commercial opportunities to meet sustainable travel demands	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Transitioning to a Greener Rural Economy		

Transition to a greener economy	The National Park economy is transitioning to a greener, zero-carbon wellbeing economy in ways that are fair and inclusive to everyone and where the benefits arising from this are retained and shared locally.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Low Carbon businesses	Businesses are reducing their carbon emissions from a shift to greener and more local supply chains, renewable energy use, more sustainable waste management, and greener forms of transport	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
A wellbeing economy	National Park communities are fully harnessing the opportunities arising from economic transition, seeing an increase in working age population through take up of new green jobs and experiencing a range of benefits from investment in natural capital within their local landscape.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Inclusion and learning opportunities	More people within our communities are contributing to supporting a greener rural economy through increased learning, skills and volunteering opportunities.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Living Well Locally		
Low carbon local living	People living within the National Park are reducing their carbon emissions through both individual and community led action to support the transition to net zero and more local living.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Increasing resilience to the changing climate	Communities are climate ready, having developed increased awareness and understanding of the impacts of climate change on health, buildings, local infrastructure, businesses and the surrounding natural environment and identified how to adapt and build resilience to living with a changing climate.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Addressing housing needs	Housing within the National Park better meets the needs of young and working age people who wish to work and live in the National Park, directly supporting the rural economy and vibrant rural communities.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Rural transport and active travel	People living and working in the National Park are less reliant on car-based travel through improvements to rural transport provision and active travel links within and between communities in and around the National Park.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Community influence and place making	Communities are empowered to exert more influence and control over changes in and around the places where they live, delivering a range of outcomes that support local living and strengthening connections between people, land, nature, culture and heritage.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Harnessing the Power of Infrastructure and Development		

Identifying development needs and opportunities	New development and infrastructure is delivered in an integrated way with investment in nature and carbon, helping to unlock the value of natural capital where possible and respond to locally identified needs and opportunities.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Nature first approach to development	New development is helping to create nature rich places and networks, with stronger connections established between places and habitats within and around the National Park.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Delivering positive local outcomes	Development and Infrastructure investment have directly contributed towards the creation of a wellbeing economy where local communities benefit from local wealth generation and are empowered to shape their own places, including more control and influence over land and assets	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Making the best use of land and assets	Vacant and derelict sites within many of the National Park’s communities are being brought back into use and help to meet the needs of local communities and businesses or are restored to provide green infrastructure and support nature.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.

10.5 Table 5: Actions Screening Table

ACTION		Reason for Screening IN/OUT
RESTORING NATURE FOR CLIMATE		
Peatland	Scaling up of the Peatland ACTION programme, with support from private finance and carbon markets, to repair more degraded peatland areas, reducing emissions and switching them into carbon capture mode.	OUT – this is too general to meaningfully assess at this stage. The full environmental impacts will be assessed within the draft Peatland Strategy (which will be subject to SEA) and will also be assessed at individual project level.
Peatland	Reduction in damage to fragile peatland surfaces from wild deer and livestock trampling through active management.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Trees and Woodland	Encourage and support more projects and proposals that deliver healthy and diverse tree and shrub habitats in suitable landscapes in the Park. Including productive forests, native woodlands, hedgerows and scrub, this	OUT – the Trees and Woodlands Strategy has already undergone SEA where this action was assessed.

	will be delivered through proactive management of grazing animals and invasive Rhododendron at a strategic, landscape scale allowing successful natural regeneration and alongside planting schemes.	
Water	Engage with public and stakeholder organisations, and land managers to trial and pilot restoration projects on water bodies through channel re-alignment, removal of legacy engineering structures, woody dam installation, pond creation and water margin woodland creation.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Water	Targeted action on wetland Designated Sites in unfavourable condition.	IN – location of wetland Designated Sites are known so some high level assessment can take place.
Water	Review of abstraction, impoundment and discharge permits to promote nature recovery.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Water	Support the return of the beaver to the Park's water bodies.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment
Water	Engage with strategic, regional initiatives that aim to tackle marine litter and pollution for the Clyde area	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment
Restoring Nature for Recovering Ecosystems and Species		
Restore Nature at a Landscape Scale	Expand, connect and strengthen at a large-scale, the major habitat networks of trees, peatlands and wetlands	OUT – the NPPP doesn't propose the detailed located of these and therefore this action is considered too high level to assess fully. The details will be assessed at project level.
Restore Nature at a Landscape Scale	Develop and deliver large-scale nature restoration projects and programmes and improve connectivity to create nature networks for the Park. Priority areas include Wild Strathfillan, The Great Trossachs Forest and Loch Lomond Basin	OUT – not possible to assess at this scale. Projects and timelines have not yet been identified and therefore a meaningful assessment cannot take place.
Restore Nature at a Landscape Scale	Tackle Invasive Non-Native Species at a strategic, large-scale, with the aim of reducing population levels to a point that they no longer create a threat to native ecosystems.	OUT – there are no specific locations identified for this piece of work therefore a meaningful assessment cannot take place.

Restore Nature at a Landscape Scale	Increase the use of effective and focused legislative actions on compliance, and if necessary, enforcement to prevent deliberate mismanagement or neglect that leads to an erosion of nature	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Land Managed Primarily for Nature Restoration	Develop a collaborative approach to nature restoration prime purpose on land owned or managed by public bodies, environmental charitable bodies, willing private land managers and for all Designated Sites. Create a Nature Restoration Land Forum that coordinates and supports this approach across the Park and contributes to the implementation of Scotland's 30x30 commitment.	OUT – this is a process and therefore not suitable for assessment.
Land Managed Primarily for Nature Restoration	Develop and deliver opportunities for nature restoration projects on other important habitats and species, such as natural grasslands, flood meadows or parklands.	OUT – this is a process and therefore not suitable for assessment.
Reduce Grazing Animal Pressures	By developing a Herbivore Strategy and through proactive management measures, drive forward a significant reduction in unwanted impacts from grazing animals across the Park that lead to active recovery of trees, peatlands and wetland habitats.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Improved Monitoring of Changes in Nature	Create a State of Nature monitoring and reporting system for the National Park that provides accurate data and knowledge on the condition of nature, and where action needs to be strategically focused.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Shaping a New Land Economy		
Land Use Change	Facilitate a Regional Land Use Partnership in order to prepare a Park-wide Land Use Framework setting out collaborative land use change objectives and priorities across multiple land holdings at a landscape scale.	OUT – details of the Partnership and Framework have yet to be shared and therefore it is not possible to carry out a meaningful assessment.
Land Use Change	Promote the integration of land use and development priorities and opportunities within emerging area-based strategies prepared through the new Local Development Plan.	OUT – this is a process and therefore not suitable for assessment.
Land Use Change	Facilitate strategic joined-up planning for larger land holdings (or multiple neighboring holdings) incorporating the business and investment	OUT – this is a process and therefore not suitable for assessment.

	opportunities coming from climate and nature restoration land use changes	
Land Use Change	Encourage and support land managers to shift more suitable land towards low carbon and regenerative agriculture as a primary purpose.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
New Funding Streams	Engage in national level land reform policy discussions to advocate for a shift in land use policy support and regulation schemes to deliver a change in the way that land and water is managed, towards a system that does not continue to deplete nature and instead restores it as well as support production and jobs.	OUT – this is a process and therefore not suitable for assessment.
New Funding Streams	Encourage, develop and pilot novel funding streams and projects, such as private green finance and new investment markets (e.g., carbon and biodiversity credits) that bring new, multi-year resources to allow delivery of land-use based climate and nature restoration benefits across the Park.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Engaging Communities in Land Use Decisions	Support and enable communities to engage with land managers and influence land use decisions affecting their futures and what discuss opportunities there might be to benefit all parties.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Green Jobs, Skills and Business Opportunities	Develop and deliver training and further education opportunities that meet the anticipated demand from scaling up climate and nature restoration projects as well as and regenerative agriculture and sustainable forestry. Help local communities and land managers to turn these into employment and volunteering opportunities through training and re-training.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Green Jobs, Skills and Business Opportunities	Create longer-term confidence for land management contractors and service providers by scaling and packaging up projects more strategically and over multiple years.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Connecting Everyone with Nature		
Sustainable Visitor Economy	Review existing nature-based tourism offerings and identify opportunities with our Destination Group of tourism businesses to support growth in delivery.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.

Sustainable Visitor Economy	Work with national agencies and organisations to develop practical toolkits and other approaches to help tourism businesses maximise the market opportunities in low carbon tourism.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Inspiring Action for Nature and Climate	Develop guiding principles for our work in nature connection and an outreach/outdoor learning programme to promote climate and nature conscious behaviours.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Inspiring Action for Nature and Climate	Review and realign our educational and outreach resources and programme with Future Nature priorities and key messages.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Inspiring Action for Nature and Climate	Develop and deliver National Park local schools ‘Nature Network’ project.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Inspiring Action for Nature and Climate	Bring together National Park education and volunteering providers to build consensus on objectives and better align delivery to address nature and climate priorities.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Inspiring Action for Nature and Climate	Continue to support the Walk in the Park programme of wellbeing walks.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Diversity and Inclusion	Continue to develop the role and membership of the National Park Youth Committee in providing a youth voice ensuring the priorities of young people are reflected in policies and decisions.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Diversity and Inclusion	Engage and support the growing sector of charities and voluntary organisations who work with a wide range of ethnic communities to enable more access to the National Park.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Diversity and Inclusion	Design communication approaches to ensure all opportunities to access or become involved in the work of the National Park are reaching underrepresented groups.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.

Diversity and Inclusion	Refresh the National Park volunteering programme to rebuild volunteer numbers following the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, seeking to expand the diversity and including for young people.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Improving Popular Places and Routes		
Place Programme	Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Studies have been completed engaging with local communities partners and stakeholders.	OUT – no environmental impacts from the completion of the studies. The implementation of the studies will be subject to Planning and other necessary consents.
Place Programme	A multi-year Place investment programme is co-ordinating investment by partners, public bodies on priority visitor infrastructure projects that support : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People and Place - Climate and Nature - Inclusion and improved accessibility - Modal shift to sustainable and active travel - Visitor management and dispersal 	IN – the project work planned as part of this programme is likely to have environmental impacts.
Place Programme	Promote investment in digital and sensor technologies to improve visitor data gathering that informs responsive visitor services and real time information.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Place Programme	Ensure investment in visitor sites also enables the development of a growing and reliable EV charging network.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Place Programme	Develop better designed place connectivity between rail, bus and water transports service at Balloch which also promotes and enables active travel opportunities.	OUT – this action will be assessed at Local Development Place level.
Place Programme	Working with destination businesses and public bodies at Arrochar and Tarbet to maximise connectivity between road, rail, active travel and water access.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Place Programme	Develop a location in Callander to be the hub for sustainable travel into the wider Trossachs area.	OUT – this action will be assessed at Local Development Place level.

Place Programme	Develop model for the sustainable management and promotion of the West Highland Way. Develop a maintenance programme for the most heavily used stretches of the core path network informed by a path condition monitoring framework supported by volunteers.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Place Programme	The existing pier and pontoon infrastructure on Loch Lomond will be invested in to enable leisure journeys and growing water transport services.	OUT – no locations identified and therefore the environmental impacts cannot be meaningfully assessed. Any works will be subject to planning consent and CAR consents to ensure there is minimal impact to the environment.
Place Programme	Joint visitor management planning with partners will ensure a co-ordinated approach to staff presence on the ground, litter management, visitor information campaigns and operation of publicly managed visitor facilities.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Place Programme	Changes to the Loch Lomond Byelaws will be implemented to ensure safe recreational experiences at busy locations, reducing conflicts between power and non-powered activities.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Place Programme	The 2015 Loch Lomond and The Trossachs Camping Byelaws will be reviewed to continue a high quality camping experience in the camping management zones.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Place Programme	A consistent approach will be taken to the provision of signage, public rescue equipment-, and visitor information campaigns by responsible public bodies to raise awareness of public safety issues and potential hazards in the outdoors, particularly in relation to water safety.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Place Programme	Further develop the volunteer ranger programme to support and supplement the work of the professional Ranger service and engage with our visitors.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Low Carbon Travel for Everyone		
Whole System Approach	Develop a governance model in collaboration with responsible transport authorities and agencies which enables a National Park wide approach to rural transport planning.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.

Whole System Approach	Develop new targeted seasonal transport services that provide a viable and attractive alternative to the private car to access popular National Park destinations.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Whole System Approach	Gather data which demonstrates the latent demand for rural travel to inform service planning.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Whole System Approach	Develop and deliver an active travel strategy that links up services and infrastructure as key parts of an integrated, connected multi-modal transport experience of the National Park.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Incentivising Sustainable Travel Choices	Develop a strategic approach to setting pricing levels for travel and parking which will incentivise and support low carbon travel choices where alternative transport services are in place.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Incentivising Sustainable Travel Choices	Develop a network focused on mass transit corridors and journey demand including journeys to the National Park from nearby urban areas.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Incentivising Sustainable Travel Choices	Work with operators to develop an improved, integrated and affordable Waterbus service network on Loch Lomond and Loch Katrine.	OUT – project focused on reducing costs and improving timetable therefore unlikely to have any environmental impacts.
Developing a Rural Transport Sector	Work with transport providers to address barriers to delivering integrated rural transport services in particular; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ delivering seasonal services. ○ creating jobs and sourcing staff to operate services. collaborating with destination businesses to promote itineraries and complimentary offerings to grow demand.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Transitioning to a Greener Rural Economy		
Transition to a greener economy	Establish a robust evidence base to identify where there are existing skills or labour shortages along with opportunities and demand for new green skills and jobs growth.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Transition to a greener economy	Develop a Green Skills and Just Transition Action Plan for the National Park to ensure the benefits arising from economic transition are shared in a fair and inclusive way.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.

Transition to a greener economy	Support closer working between public sector, land managers, businesses and communities to grow the green economy, including opportunities for new business models, collaborative pilots and community led social enterprise that will help build and retain local economic wealth and grow the local workforce.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Low Carbon businesses	Identify the support needs of existing businesses (including land and tourism) to help them transition to net zero including specialist technical advice and identification of opportunities for collaborative support and action	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Low Carbon businesses	Seek the expansion of specialist business support and funding to facilitate carbon reduction.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Low Carbon businesses	Continue to support improvements to digital and telecommunications infrastructure to facilitate improvements in business operations and minimise the need for travel where appropriate.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Low Carbon businesses	Support collaboration between tourism businesses, communities and public sector partners on improved public transport solutions for employees and visitors.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
A wellbeing economy	Through the Park Authority's planning role and working with housing partners ensure new housing more closely corresponds to identified requirements of communities and the local labour force.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
A wellbeing economy	Update a framework of support for communities to fully realise the potential opportunities arising from transition to net zero through increased capacity building support, training and skills development for community anchor organisations.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
A wellbeing economy	Through learning programmes, training and events support communities to understand how they can engage in and help inform land use decisions and investment in natural capital that can help address identified local community needs.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Inclusion and learning opportunities	Refresh the National Park Authority led volunteering programme in the Park, particularly to welcome new volunteers from our communities.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.

Inclusion and learning opportunities	Design a whole volunteering pathway, providing opportunities to gain green skills, from youth programmes through to adult volunteering, skills sharing and beyond to employment.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Inclusion and learning opportunities	Support young people to see their future in the National Park through development of traineeships, apprenticeships and placements that provide wide-scoping opportunities for green skills development and pathways into green jobs and careers.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Inclusion and learning opportunities	Continue to grow the National Park Authority Youth Committee as a platform for young people to engage with the National Park, be involved in decision making and advocate for their sustainable future.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Living Well Locally		
Low carbon local living	Through the roll out of collaborative initiatives (such as the Scottish Government led Community Climate Action Hub network), support communities to collaborate and led more on climate action.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Low carbon local living	Support Councils' work on rolling out Local Food Growing strategies and Local Heat and Energy Efficiency strategies.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Low carbon local living	Support improved opportunities to live more locally through taking a local place-based partnership approach towards service delivery, including supporting the retention of local services and facilities, public transport, alongside innovative new approaches towards rural service provision, including through digital and online opportunities.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Low carbon local living	Support opportunities to re-purpose and for multi-use of existing facilities including halls, local business hubs and valued heritage assets within communities.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Increasing resilience to the changing climate	Support communities to identify ways in which they can take action on climate mitigation and adaptation, including consideration of how investment in natural capital and carbon can help support increased local resilience, particularly in relation to flooding, through local resilience plans, Local Place Plans and the new Local Development Plan and proposed Regional Land Use Partnership.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.

Addressing housing needs	Through the new Local Development Plan, ensure that new housing responds to meeting local housing needs of both communities and the rural economy through a continued focus on affordable housing provision and securing delivery of a broader range of housing types and tenures.	OUT – this will be considered by the Local Development Plan which will be subject to SEA.
Addressing housing needs	Through the new Local Development Plan, stem the further loss of housing to holiday lets and second homes through consideration of interventions including a new requirement for all new homes to be for permanent occupation only and the merits of applying for Short Term let control areas within certain areas of the National Park.	OUT – this will be considered by the Local Development Plan which will be subject to SEA
Addressing housing needs	Support delivery of a minimum of 30 new homes per year. Through the preparation of the new Local Development Plan, consider whether this minimum requirement needs to be increased, informed by Local Place Plans, aligned to investment for nature and climate and where additional housing can support some of the more remote rural communities in the National Park.	OUT – this will be considered by the Local Development Plan which will be subject to SEA
Rural transport and active travel	Support communities to identify improvements to rural transport options through collaboration with public/private sector to establish innovative solutions or new social enterprise opportunities.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Rural transport and active travel	Support preparation of an Active Travel Strategy for the National Park that improves active travel opportunities within and between communities to help more people meet their everyday needs by walking, cycling or wheeling as well as support health and wellbeing outcomes.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Community influence and place making	Establish an updated framework from public and third sector organisations to provide increased support to communities to build and maintain capacity within their local organisations and to increase levels of confidence and knowledge to engage in decisions around land and development. This could be through networking, learning and skills development to provision of dedicated development support to assist with project identification, securing funding and delivery.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Community influence and place making	Support to communities to care for heritage assets, where possible linked to opportunities for re-use, social enterprise and job creation.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Harnessing the Power of Infrastructure and Development		

Identifying development needs and opportunities	Prepare a revised development strategy in the new Local Development Plan with a focus on development and infrastructure requirements to support nature, climate, low carbon rural living and community wealth building outcomes.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Identifying development needs and opportunities	Through the new Local Development Plan, expand the coverage of area-based land use and development planning investment strategies in partnership with landowners, communities, businesses and public agencies, integrated if possible with the development of a Regional Land Use Framework for the National Park.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Identifying development needs and opportunities	Support the delivery of nationally strategic infrastructure development identified by National Planning Framework 4 by ensuring these are designed and delivered in ways that are sensitive to the National Park’s special environmental and landscape qualities and maximise benefits to local communities, businesses and visitors.	OUT – NPF 4 underwent SEA and therefore any infrastructure development that is supported will have been subject to the necessary assessments. Further assessments would also be completed at project level.
Identifying development needs and opportunities	Support the delivery of the strategic development needed at Callander to support sustainable expansion of the town and more local living outcomes, the delivery of strategic development that improves Balloch as a main visitor and transport interchange hub for the National Park as well as continuing place-based partnership working approach at Arrochar and Tarbet to support rural regeneration.	OUT – existing allocations have already undergone an SEA. Any new allocations will undergo SEA as part of the LDP.
Nature first approach to development	Ensure new development delivers positive outcomes for nature through securing biodiversity net gains on site and investing in local nature networks identified as part of the development of the new Local Development Plan.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Nature first approach to development	Support awareness raising and sharing of good practice on development and nature.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Delivering positive local outcomes	Support local communities to influence how land and sites are used within and around towns and villages and ensure the benefits arising from this are retained and circulated locally, including greater influence via partnership working with public and private sectors and landowners and/or potentially through more community ownership of land and assets.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.

Delivering positive local outcomes	Through the new Local Development Plan set out an approach for inward investment in the tourism sector, recognising the important role of this sector to the rural economy and livelihoods, whilst seeking to balance this with environmental carrying capacity and community views and aspirations on use of land and sites of local community importance.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Making the best use of land and assets	Work with communities, through Local Place Plans, to identify a list of undeveloped and vacant sites within and around towns and villages and that could be brought into use or restored to improve local places and nature.	OUT – too high level for meaningful assessment.
Making the best use of land and assets	Consider and identify the range of interventions required to facilitate bringing these sites back into use, including community right to buy, finance options and potentially Compulsory Purchase Orders where undeveloped sites are causing significant blight within local communities and/or are impacting on achieving net zero, nature restoration and/or sustainable local living outcomes.	OUT – this will be assessed by the LPD SEA once the locations are known.

11 Assessments Undertaken

11.1 Table 6: Improving the condition of existing Designated Sites

Assessor(s):	Laura Mowat			
Date of Assessment Completion:	28 th February 2023			
SECTION OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED:	<i>Policy – Restoring Nature for Healthy Ecosystems Part (f) ‘Improving the condition of existing Designated Sites where possible and delivering actions which protect and expand the special species and habitats found there.’</i>			
ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS				
SEA Objective:	Nature of Effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation	Mitigation and enhancement	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation
Biodiversity To protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity	The improvement of existing Designated Sites within the National Park boundary will have a positive impact on biodiversity. This work will help to restore and enhance biodiversity at these nationally significant sites.	++	As the effects of nature restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Landscape To protect, enhance and restore the special landscape qualities of the National Park	The impact on landscape character can be subjective and will differ between each site. Overall the improvement of the Designated Sites	+	Consider the impact on visual landscape quality when developing actions for each site and ensure that the improvement measures taken are	N/A as the scoring remains the same.

	should have an overall positive impact on the landscape quality. There is a risk that improving the sites could detract from people's enjoyment of the site and the visual amenity.		suitable for each location.	
Air To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality	Improving Designated Sites by planting more trees will likely improve air quality and this will act as a carbon sink.	+	As the effects of nature restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	N/A as the scoring remains the same.
Population and human health To protect and improve human health, well being, inclusion and sustainable communities	N/A as not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Geology, minerals and soils To maintain and enhance soils and geodiversity assets.	Increasing biodiversity within Designated Sites will increase the resilience of the soil to environmental challenges.	+	As the effects of nature restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	N/A as the scoring remains the same.
Water environment	The creation and restoration of habitats in key parts of a catchment can	+	As the effects of nature restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or	N/A as the scoring remains the same.

To protect and enhance the state of the water environment.	contribute to reducing pressures, inputs and demands affecting the wider water environment, providing a range of ecosystem services including water purification and reducing run off of excess water from the land.		further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	
Climate To help mitigate the causes of climate change and adapt to its short and long term impacts	N/A as not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Material assets To protect material assets and promote the sustainable use of natural resources	N/A as not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Cultural heritage To protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	N/A as not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Commentary	It is considered that improving the designated sites within the National Park will have an overall positive impact on the environment – particularly for biodiversity. The designated sites within the National Park boundary are all important areas for biodiversity and therefore the aim of improving these sites will only increase their national significance. The projects to improve these sites have not yet been identified and decided and therefore a more meaningful and detailed assessment will be undertaken once the site-specific actions are understood. At a high level it is determined that this action will have a significant positive impact on the environment and no negative impacts have been identified. It has been noted within the mitigation actions that to ensure the positive environmental impacts are realised that the improvement actions for each site will need to be considered on a case by case basis.			

11.2 Table 7: Peatland Restoration

Assessor(s):	Laura Mowat			
Date of Assessment Completion:	28th February 2023			
SECTION OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED:	Restoring Nature Measure of Success: <i>‘Track the extent and condition of the National Park’s peatland. Increase the average annual rate of restoration projects from the current average of 240/ha to 640/ha. Achieve approximately 8,000ha of restoration by 2030.’</i>			
ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS				
SEA Objective:	Nature of Effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation	Mitigation and enhancement	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation
Biodiversity To protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity	Areas of degraded peatland are generally considered to be species poor. By restoring peatland it provides a habitat for a range of rare and threatened plants and animals. The restoration of peatland areas will therefore have an overall positive impact on biodiversity within the National Park.	+	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Landscape To protect, enhance and restore the special	The target for restoring 8000ha of Peatland will result in the sustainable management and restoration of this	+	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further	n/a as the scoring remains the same.

landscape qualities of the National Park	special landscape across large areas of the National Park.		enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	
Air To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality	Peatland is a carbon sink and therefore restoring it will lock in carbon in the atmosphere and overall improve air quality.	++	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Population and human health To protect and improve human health, well being, inclusion and sustainable communities	N/A not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Geology, minerals and soils To maintain and enhance soils and geodiversity assets.	The overarching aim to restore degraded peatland will improve soil quality and prevent erosion.	++	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Water environment To protect and enhance the state of the water environment.	Peatland restoration aims to improve the water environment by improving drainage, water quality and reducing floodrisk.	++	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Climate	Degraded peatland can be a large source of	++	As the effects of peatland restoration	n/a as the scoring remains the same.

To help mitigate the causes of climate change and adapt to its short and long term impacts	carbon emissions whereas restored peatland acts as a carbon sink. Ensuring that the targets set out in the NPPP are met would result in significant environmental benefits.		are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same.	
Material assets To protect material assets and promote the sustainable use of natural resources	N/A as not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Cultural heritage To protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	N/A as not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Commentary	It has been determined that if the peatland restoration target proposed within the NPPP is met, it will overall have a significant positive environmental impact. The restoration of the National Park's peatland is a key priority for the NPPP and other relevant Plans and Strategies. The National Park are currently developing a Peatland Strategy which will provide more detail and will also be subject to SEA and each Peatland project is also assessed for environmental effects at project level. As an overarching aim, the peatland restoration target is likely to benefit the air quality, mitigate the effects of climate change, improve the water environment and enrich the soils. There are multiple environmental benefits to the Peatland Restoration work and it is considered that this work will have an overwhelming positive impact on the environment.			

11.3 Table 8: Woodland Creation

Assessor(s):	Laura Mowat			
Date of Assessment Completion:	28th February 2023			
SECTION OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED:	<i>Restoring Nature Measure of Success: Track the extent and condition of the National Park's woodland/forest/tree cover. Increase the average annual rate of woodland creation from the current average of 200ha year to 400ha.</i>			
ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS				
SEA Objective:	Nature of Effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation	Mitigation and enhancement	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation
Biodiversity To protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity	Woodland creation is considered to have a positive impact on biodiversity as it creates vital habitats as well as wildlife corridors which enable a more connected habitat network to form.	++	As the effects of woodland creation are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Landscape To protect, enhance and restore the special landscape qualities of the National Park	It is considered that woodland creation will have an overall positive impact on landscape quality, however, it should be noted that ensuring appropriate landscapes are selected for planting is key.	+	Scenario planning for woodland creation sites is already underway. This should be taken into consideration when selecting an appropriate location for planting.	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Air	Increased woodland cover will have a	++	As the effects of woodland creation are	n/a as the scoring remains the same.

To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality	significant positive impact on air quality as trees sequester carbon from the atmosphere.		positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	
Population and human health To protect and improve human health, well being, inclusion and sustainable communities	N/A as not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Geology, minerals and soils To maintain and enhance soils and geodiversity assets.	Tree planting has a generally positive impact on soil quality and reduces soil erosion.	+	As the effects of woodland creation are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Water environment To protect and enhance the state of the water environment.	Woodland creation is likely to have an overall positive impact on the water environment as tree planting can improve water quality and reduce flooding. There are concerns that planting can occasionally reduce water quality by increasing the acidity of the water.	+	Tree planting near important water bodies should be carefully considered to ensure no adverse impact on water quality. This will be further assessed within the Trees and Woodlands Strategy.	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Climate	Increasing the number of trees within the	++	As the effects of woodland creation are	n/a as the scoring remains the same.

To help mitigate the causes of climate change and adapt to its short and long term impacts	National Park will have a significant positive impact on the climate. Trees sequester carbon from the atmosphere and therefore help mitigate the causes of climate change.		positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	
Material assets To protect material assets and promote the sustainable use of natural resources	N/A as not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Cultural heritage To protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	Increased tree cover in culturally significant places could reduce the public's enjoyment of the site and ability to access important historic assets.	-	The location of any tree planting would need to consider any archeological, historic and cultural assets. This should be taken into consideration as part of an EIA.	+
Commentary	The target proposed within the NPPP is overall likely to have a positive impact on the environment. The assessment completed above has displayed that increasing woodland cover within the National Park will have significant environmental benefits for biodiversity, air quality and climate change and also benefit the soil quality and overall landscape quality. The aim of the woodland creation target is to increase the level of woodland cover and also increase the number of native species within the National Park. The assessment has noted that there is the potential that increasing the number of trees could negatively impact the cultural heritage within the National Park as it could result in reduced accessibility or visibility of important historic assets. It has been suggested in the mitigation targets that each woodland creation project should carefully consider this as part of an EIA to ensure there is not negative impact.			

11.4 Table 9: Wetland Designated Sites

Assessor(s):	Laura Mowat			
Date of Assessment Completion:	28 th February 2023			
SECTION OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED:	<i>Restoring Nature: Targeted action on wetland Designated Sites in unfavourable condition.</i>			
	ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS			
SEA Objective:	Nature of Effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation	Mitigation and enhancement	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation
Biodiversity To protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity	Wetlands are a species rich habitat and support thousands of plant and animal varieties. By targeting action on wetland sites biodiversity will be significantly improved.	+	As the effects of wetland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Landscape To protect, enhance and restore the special landscape qualities of the National Park	Wetland Designated Sites are an important landscape feature within the National Park. Focusing work on these sites ensures that the landscapes are enhanced, and their unique qualities are protected.	+	As the effects of wetland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Air	Some wetland areas sequester carbon and therefore reduce the carbon levels within the	+	As the effects of wetland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation	n/a as the scoring remains the same.

To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality	atmosphere. Restoring these areas will ensure that fewer green house gases are released.		or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	
Population and human health To protect and improve human health, well being, inclusion and sustainable communities	N/A as not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Geology, minerals and soils To maintain and enhance soils and geodiversity assets.	Improving the quality of wetland sites within the National Park will contribute towards erosion control	+	As the effects of wetland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Water environment To protect and enhance the state of the water environment.	Wetlands can intercept runoff from surfaces and remove pollutants through physical, chemical, and biological processes. This results in improved water quality.	++	As the effects of wetland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Climate To help mitigate the causes of climate change and adapt to its short and long term impacts	Some wetland areas sequester carbon and therefore reduce the carbon levels within the atmosphere. Restoring these areas will ensure that fewer green house gases are released.	+	As the effects of wetland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.

Material assets To protect material assets and promote the sustainable use of natural resources	N/A as not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Cultural heritage To protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	N/A as not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Commentary	The assessment above has considered the likely environmental impacts of targeting improvement action to wetland designated sites in unfavorable condition. The overall impact of this action is likely to be positive, particularly for the water environment. The specific actions required on each site have not yet been identified and therefore it was not possible to do a more detailed assessment of this action but overall the improvement of nationally significant wetland sites will be a positive for the wider environment. These sites are important areas for plant species and wildlife and therefore improving the habitats will not only improve the water environment but will also increase the biodiversity on site. To ensure that each site reaches favorable condition, it is key that the improvement actions are tailored to the specific requirements of the site and the surrounding landscape.			

11.5 Table 10: Place Investment Programme

Assessor(s):	Laura Mowat			
Date of Assessment Completion:	28th February 2023			
SECTION OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED:	<p><i>Creating a Sustainable, Low Carbon Destination Action:</i> A multi-year Place investment programme is co-ordinating investment by partners, public bodies on priority visitor infrastructure projects that support :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People and Place - Climate and Nature - Inclusion and improved accessibility - Modal shift to sustainable and active travel - Visitor management and dispersal 			
ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS				
SEA Objective:	Nature of Effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation	Mitigation and enhancement	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation
Biodiversity To protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity	The nature of the proposals are unknown and therefore their specific impact on biodiversity is not clear at this stage.	?	Ensure ecological advice is sought at each stage of the project development process.	+
Landscape To protect, enhance and restore the special landscape qualities of the National Park	One of the overarching aims of the Place programme is to enhance visitors' enjoyment and understanding of the landscape.	++	Ensure local and site specific issues are considered as part of the STID studies. This will ensure there are minimal impacts to the landscape quality.	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Air	By improving the visitor infrastructure there is a possibility that private	-	Ensure sites are accessible by public transport – The NPA	0

<p>To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality</p>	<p>car use increases which will adversely impact air quality.</p> <p>The building out of these sites could also cause negative impacts to the air quality as it would result in increased construction traffic.</p>		<p>Modal shift Strategy is taking this forward. Include electric charging points to encourage less polluting vehicles.</p> <p>Make use of local suppliers to minimise travel of workers and materials to the construction site.</p>	
<p>Population and human health To protect and improve human health, well being, inclusion and sustainable communities</p>	<p>The investment programme aims to improve the visitor experience for locals and tourists. The aim is to promote active travel, outdoor recreation and a healthier lifestyle.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">++</p>	<p>As the effects of Place Programme are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same</p>	<p>n/a as the scoring remains the same.</p>
<p>Geology, minerals and soils To maintain and enhance soils and geodiversity assets.</p>	<p>It is unknown at this stage the impacts that the various projects will have on soil at different sites.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">?</p>	<p>Seek the advice of specialist to ensure projects will not have an adverse impact on soil quality.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">0</p>
<p>Water environment To protect and enhance the state of the water environment.</p>	<p>It is unknown at this stage the impacts that the various projects will have on water quality at different sites.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">?</p>	<p>Ensure all projects receive specialist advice to minimize the impact on the water environment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">+</p>
<p>Climate To help mitigate the causes of climate change and adapt</p>	<p>The Place Programme aims to encourage the use of public transport, electric charging</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">+</p>	<p>As the effects of Place Programme are positive, there is no need for mitigation or</p>	<p>n/a as the scoring remains the same.</p>

to its short and long term impacts	vehicles and active travel routes with the end goal of reducing overall emissions throughout the National Park.		further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	
Material assets To protect material assets and promote the sustainable use of natural resources	The Place investment programme supports the use of sustainable materials and construction methods. The ambition is to use local materials and reduce the carbon footprint of the works by making use of local suppliers.	+	As the effects of Place Programme are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Cultural heritage To protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	Cultural heritage is a key consideration of the Place programme. The aim is to ensure that visitors can enjoy the historic environment whilst ensuring it is protected.	++	As the effects of Place Programme are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Commentary	The Place Programme is a five year infrastructure investment programme aiming to improve the visitor and living experience within the National Park. The environmental impacts of this programme are difficult to determine at this high-level but each project is subject to Planning regulations and will therefore be in line with the recently published NPF4 (which has been subject to SEA). The overarching aim of the Place Programme is to improve the infrastructure within the National Park to make it more sustainable and allow visitors to explore the National Park without increasing their carbon footprint. Each project has a clear environmental focus and sustainable approach and any potential negative impacts have had mitigation actions suggested. Overall the Place Programme will positively impact the cultural heritage and landscape quality of the National Park whilst also aiming to improve, in the longer term, air quality and the climate.			

12 Alternative Options Considered

12.1 Peatland Target Alternative Options

DRAFT TARGET: - Increase the average annual rate of restoration projects from the current average of 240/ha to 640/ha. Achieve approximately 8,000ha of restoration by 2030.

Assessor(s):	Laura Mowat			
Date of Assessment Completion:	15/02/23			
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:	No spatial target is set for peatland restoration within the National Park.			
ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS				
SEA Objective:	Nature of Effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation	Mitigation and enhancement	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation
Biodiversity To protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity	No set target results in the cumulative environmental effects of peatland restoration being impossible to determine and therefore measuring impact (positive or negative) is also not possible.	?	Set targets and establish work programmes which make it possible to determine the environmental impacts of undertaking peatland restoration projects.	+
Landscape To protect, enhance and restore the special landscape qualities of the National Park	No set target results in the cumulative environmental effects of peatland restoration being impossible to determine and therefore measuring	?	Set targets and establish work programmes which make it possible to determine the environmental impacts of	+

	impact (positive or negative) is also not possible.		undertaking peatland restoration projects.	
Air To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality	No set target results in the cumulative environmental effects of peatland restoration being impossible to determine and therefore measuring impact (positive or negative) is also not possible.	?	Set targets and establish work programmes which make it possible to determine the environmental impacts of undertaking peatland restoration projects.	+
Population and human health To protect and improve human health, well being, inclusion and sustainable communities	No set target means it is not possible to identify impacts.	?	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Geology, minerals and soils To maintain and enhance soils and geodiversity assets.	No set target results in the cumulative environmental effects of peatland restoration being impossible to determine and therefore measuring impact (positive or negative) is also not possible.	?	Set targets and establish work programmes which make it possible to determine the environmental impacts of undertaking peatland restoration projects.	+
Water environment To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance the ecological status of water bodies	No set target results in the cumulative environmental effects of peatland restoration being impossible to determine and therefore measuring	?	Set targets and establish work programmes which make it possible to determine the environmental impacts of	+

	impact (positive or negative) is also not possible.		undertaking peatland restoration projects.	
Climate To help mitigate the causes of climate change and adapt to its short and long term impacts	No set target results in the cumulative environmental effects of peatland restoration being impossible to determine and therefore measuring impact (positive or negative) is also not possible.	?	Set targets and establish work programmes which make it possible to determine the environmental impacts of undertaking peatland restoration projects.	+
Material assets To protect material assets and promote the sustainable use of natural resources	N/A as NPPP objective ? is not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Cultural heritage To protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	N/A as NPPP not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.

Assessor(s):	Laura Mowat			
Date of Assessment Completion:	15/02/23			
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:	The current 2018-2023 NPPP target is used for Peatland Restoration			
ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS				
SEA Objective:	Nature of Effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation	Mitigation and enhancement	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation
Biodiversity To protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity	The current target will provide some positive benefits for biodiversity whilst also balancing	+	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation	n/a as the scoring remains the same.

	the need for other land uses however it is unlikely to deliver intended the intended scale of outputs by target dates identified.		or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	
Landscape To protect, enhance and restore the special landscape qualities of the National Park	The current target will provide some positive benefits for landscape by restoring degraded peatland however it is unlikely to deliver intended the intended scale of outputs by target dates identified.	+	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Air To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality	The current target ensures that there will be a significant improvement in air quality as a result of carbon sequestration from restored peatland however it is unlikely to deliver intended the intended scale of outputs by target dates identified.	+	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Population and human health To protect and improve human health, well being, inclusion and sustainable communities	Positive impacts on Human health as peatland restoration will help mitigate climate change and support adaptation by holding back water and impacts of flooding.	+	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.

<p>Geology, minerals and soils To maintain and enhance soils and geodiversity assets.</p>	<p>The current target aims to have a significant positive impact however it is unlikely to deliver intended the intended scale of outputs by target dates identified.</p>	+	<p>As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same</p>	<p>n/a as the scoring remains the same.</p>
<p>Water environment To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance the ecological status of water bodies</p>	<p>The current target for peatland restoration within the NPA ensures benefits for water quality however it is unlikely to deliver intended the intended scale of outputs by target dates identified.</p>	+	<p>As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same</p>	<p>n/a as the scoring remains the same.</p>
<p>Climate To help mitigate the causes of climate change and adapt to its short and long term impacts</p>	<p>The draft peatland restoration target will help mitigate the effects of climate change however it is unlikely to deliver intended the intended scale of outputs by target dates identified.</p>	+	<p>As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same</p>	<p>n/a as the scoring remains the same.</p>
<p>Material assets To protect material assets and promote the sustainable use of natural resources</p>	<p>The current target will support this objective however it is unlikely to deliver intended the intended scale of outputs by target dates identified.</p>	+	<p>N/A as no effects predicted.</p>	<p>N/A as no effects predicted.</p>
<p>Cultural heritage</p>	<p>There is a risk that increasing the number</p>	-	<p>There needs to be consideration given to</p>	+

To protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	of peatland restoration projects could impact on the cultural and historic heritage by making heritage assets harder to access.		multiple land use options and ensuring that people have access to the historic environment.	
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Assessor(s):	Laura Mowat			
Date of Assessment Completion:	15/02/23			
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:	The NPPP increases the target for Peatland Restoration to that proposed within the Draft Plan 2024-2029			
ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS				
SEA Objective:	Nature of Effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation	Mitigation and enhancement	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation
Biodiversity To protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity	Increased peatland restoration would result in an increase in threatened plants and animals that exist in peatland habitats.	++	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Landscape To protect, enhance and restore the special landscape qualities of the National Park	A higher target would result in more areas of degraded peatland being restored contributing to protecting, enhancing and restoring upland landscapes,	++	There needs to be a holistic approach taken to land-use and landscape across the National Park.	+
Air	Increasing the Peatland restoration target would	++	As the effects of peatland restoration	n/a as the scoring remains the same.

To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality	result in an improvement in air quality.		are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	
Population and human health To protect and improve human health, well being, inclusion and sustainable communities	Positive impacts on Human health as peatland restoration will help mitigate climate change and support adaptation by holding back water and impacts of flooding.	++	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Geology, minerals and soils To maintain and enhance soils and geodiversity assets.	Increasing the target for peatland restoration would improve soil quality and geodiversity.	++	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Water environment To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance the ecological status of water bodies	Increasing the target for peatland restoration would improve the water environment.	++	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Climate To help mitigate the causes of climate change and adapt to its short and long term impacts	Increasing the target for peatland restoration would result in higher levels of carbon sequestration and	++	As the effects of peatland restoration are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further	n/a as the scoring remains the same.

	therefore positive benefits for the environment.		enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	
Material assets To protect material assets and promote the sustainable use of natural resources	The current target will support this objective however it is unlikely to deliver intended the intended scale of outputs by target dates identified.	+	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Cultural heritage To protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	There is a risk that increasing the number of peatland restoration projects could impact on the cultural and historic heritage by making heritage assets harder to access.	-	There needs to be consideration given to multiple land use options and ensuring that people have access to the historic environment.	+

Conclusion:
The increased target for peatland restoration within the draft NPPP is considered to be at the right level in order to support increased peatland restoration at scale and pace. If the target was too low, as in the first assessment table, then the carbon released by exposed peatlands would have an overall detrimental impact on the environment. It is important that there is a focus on other elements of the ecosystem/nature network too. A holistic approach needs to be taken allowing consideration of other nature restoration work/land-use.

12.2 Woodland Creation Target Alternative Options

DRAFT TARGET: - Increase the average annual rate of woodland creation from the current average of 200ha year to 400ha

Assessor(s):	Laura Mowat
Date of Assessment Completion:	15/02/23

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:	No spatial target is set for woodland creation within the National Park.			
ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS				
SEA Objective:	Nature of Effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation	Mitigation and enhancement	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation
Biodiversity To protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity	Without a target for woodland creation it is difficult to assess the effect on the environment. While there are locations specific within the Trees and Woodlands Strategy, without a numerical target it is not possible to estimate the impact of any project on biodiversity.	?	Set targets and establish work programmes which make it possible to determine the environmental impacts of undertaking woodland creation projects.	+
Landscape To protect, enhance and restore the special landscape qualities of the National Park	Without a target for woodland creation it is difficult to assess the effect on the environment. While there are locations specific within the Trees and Woodlands Strategy, without a numerical target it is not possible to estimate the impact of any project on landscape quality.	?	Set targets and establish work programmes which make it possible to determine the environmental impacts of undertaking woodland creation projects.	+
Air	Without a target for woodland creation it is difficult to assess the	?	Set targets and establish work programmes which	+

<p>To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality</p>	<p>effect on the environment. While there are locations specific within the Trees and Woodlands Strategy, without a numerical target it is not possible to estimate the impact of any project on air quality.</p>		<p>make it possible to determine the environmental impacts of undertaking woodland creation projects.</p>	
<p>Population and human health To protect and improve human health, well being, inclusion and sustainable communities</p>	<p>N/A as NPPP not related to this objective.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">x</p>	<p>N/A as no effects predicted.</p>	<p>N/A as no effects predicted.</p>
<p>Geology, minerals and soils To maintain and enhance soils and geodiversity assets.</p>	<p>Without a target for woodland creation it is difficult to assess the effect on the environment. While there are locations specific within the Trees and Woodlands Strategy, without a numerical target it is not possible to estimate the impact of any project on soil quality.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">?</p>	<p>Set targets and establish work programmes which make it possible to determine the environmental impacts of undertaking woodland creation projects.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">+</p>
<p>Water environment To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance the ecological status of water bodies</p>	<p>Without a target for woodland creation it is difficult to assess the effect on the environment. While there are locations specific within the</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">?</p>	<p>Set targets and establish work programmes which make it possible to determine the environmental impacts of</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">+</p>

	Trees and Woodlands Strategy, without a numerical target it is not possible to estimate the impact of any project on water quality.		undertaking woodland creation projects.	
Climate To help mitigate the causes of climate change and adapt to its short and long term impacts	Without a target for woodland creation it is difficult to assess the effect on the environment. While there are locations specified within the Trees and Woodlands Strategy, without a numerical target it is not possible to estimate the impact of any project on the climate.	?	Set targets and establish work programmes which make it possible to determine the environmental impacts of undertaking woodland creation projects.	+
Material assets To protect material assets and promote the sustainable use of natural resources	N/A as not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Cultural heritage To protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	Without a target for woodland creation it is difficult to assess the effect on the environment. While there are locations specific within the Trees and Woodlands Strategy, without a numerical target it is not possible to estimate the impact of any	?	Set targets and establish work programmes which make it possible to determine the environmental impacts of undertaking woodland creation projects.	+

	project on cultural heritage.			
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Assessor(s):	Laura Mowat			
Date of Assessment Completion:	15/02/23			
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:	The current 2018-23 NPPP target is used for woodland creation			
ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS				
SEA Objective:	Nature of Effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation	Mitigation and enhancement	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation
Biodiversity To protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity	The current target for woodland creation is not delivering the extent of woodland creation required to meet identified targets in the Draft NPPP	+	As the effects of woodland creation are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Landscape To protect, enhance and restore the special landscape qualities of the National Park	Woodland creation will result in landscape change but will deliver overall positive effects for climate and nature however can potentially result in landscape change.	?	All tree planting would be subject to EIA and consideration should be given as to the appropriate landscapes for undertaking woodland creation projects.	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Air To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality	Likely result in significant benefits for air quality as trees sequester carbon from the atmosphere however these are not	+	As the effects of woodland creation are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The	n/a as the scoring remains the same.

	being achieved to the extend envisaged.		scoring therefore remains the same	
Population and human health To protect and improve human health, well being, inclusion and sustainable communities	N/A as NPPP not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Geology, minerals and soils To maintain and enhance soils and geodiversity assets.	The current targets would likely have a positive impact on soil quality.	+	As the effects of woodland creation are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Water environment To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance the ecological status of water bodies	The target for woodland creation set out within the current NPPP will result in improved water quality.	+	As the effects of woodland creation are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Climate To help mitigate the causes of climate change and adapt to its short and long term impacts	There will be benefits to the climate if the target set out in the current NPPP is achieved.	+	As the effects of woodland creation are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Material assets To protect material assets and promote the sustainable use of natural resources	N/A as NPPP not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.

Cultural heritage To protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	There is a risk that increasing the number of woodland creation projects could impact on the cultural and historic heritage by making heritage assets harder to access.	-	There needs to be consideration given to multiple land use options and ensuring that people have access to the historic environment.	+
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Assessor(s):	Laura Mowat			
Date of Assessment Completion:	15/02/23			
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:	The draft NPPP (2024-2029) increases the target for woodland creation.			
ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS				
SEA Objective:	Nature of Effect	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation	Mitigation and enhancement	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation
Biodiversity To protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity	An increase in woodland creation will overall improve this habitats health and resilience. There is a risk that this could impact on current land use and management and species.	++	Ensure there is a holistic approach to nature restoration and that other habitats and species are considered.	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Landscape To protect, enhance and restore the special landscape qualities of the National Park	Increasing the number of trees planted within the NPA will result in landscape change.	?	There needs to be a holistic approach taken to land-use and landscape across the National Park.	+
Air	Air quality is likely to benefit significantly from an increased	++	As the effects of woodland creation are positive, there is no	n/a as the scoring remains the same.

To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality	number of woodland creation projects.		need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	
Population and human health To protect and improve human health, well being, inclusion and sustainable communities	N/A as NPPP objective ? is not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Geology, minerals and soils To maintain and enhance soils and geodiversity assets.	Increasing the number of trees across the park is likely to improve the soil quality overall.	+	As the effects of woodland creation are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Water environment To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance the ecological status of water bodies	Increased tree planting is likely to improve the water environment.	+	As the effects of woodland creation are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.
Climate To help mitigate the causes of climate change and adapt to its short and long term impacts	Increasing the target for woodland creation would result in higher levels of carbon sequestration and therefore positive benefits for the environment.	++	As the effects of woodland creation are positive, there is no need for mitigation or further enhancements. The scoring therefore remains the same	n/a as the scoring remains the same.

Material assets To protect material assets and promote the sustainable use of natural resources	N/A as NPPP objective ? is not related to this objective.	x	N/A as no effects predicted.	N/A as no effects predicted.
Cultural heritage To protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	There is a risk that increasing the number of woodland creation projects could impact on the cultural and historic heritage by making heritage assets harder to access.	-	There needs to be consideration given to multiple land use options and ensuring that people have access to the historic environment.	+

Conclusion:

The proposed Draft NPPP target is ambitious and will result in significant environmental benefits whilst still allowing other nature restoration work to take place to meet identified targets necessary to prevent the decline and then restore nature. It is necessary to ensure that a holistic approach is taken to nature restoration works as a there are multiple elements that make up a thriving eco-system.

13 Summary of Responses to the draft SEA scoping report

Scoping Response Comment	Suggested Response/Action
Comments from NatureScot	
Within Table 2 – Scoped Issues, Trends and Information Sources to be included in the SEA – designated / protected sites are noted specifically within the ‘Biodiversity’ and ‘Forests and Woodlands’ sections. There are three riverine Special Areas of Conservation within the NP (the Endrick Water, Tay and Teith SAC’s) which are an important factor in the ‘current state’ baseline, and trends in their status should be noted. We	Agreed, to be amended and included in final report.

suggest that specific note of these sites might be a relevant addition to the 'Water Environment' section.	
We agree with the intention set out in Table 3 – Issues scoped in/out – that all environmental parameters have been scoped in.	Noted.
We are pleased to note that a Habitats Regulations Appraisal will be undertaken for the Partnership Plan. Advice and guidance on this process is available here: Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans: Guidance for Plan-making Bodies in Scotland.	Noted. NatureScot will be consulted separately on the Habitats Regulations Appraisal of the draft Plan.
Paragraph 4.1(a) states that Table 1 summarises the environmental baseline for the assessment and key information sources, however this information is provided in Table 2, Table 1 is the SEA Timeline	This will be amended and updated in the final Environment Report document.
We note that throughout the Scoping report we are referred to as SNH. As our operating name is now NatureScot, for the avoidance of confusion would it be possible for you to update this please.	Noted. All references to SNH will be amended to NatureScot in the Environment Report.
Comments from Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	
PPS The PPS listed in Appendix A provides a good start at providing a background framework to the development of the plan. For information we have recently published updated Flood Risk Management Plans and River Basin Management Plans. The table also appears to omit the air quality strategy Cleaner Air for Scotland which may be relevant.	Noted, table to be updated for final Plan.
PPS Some of the PPS included have been subject to SEA. Where this is the case you may find it useful to prepare a summary of the key SEA findings relevant to the plan. This may assist you with data sources and environmental baseline information and	Noted, to consider for final Plan.

<p>also ensure the SEA picks up issues or mitigation actions which may have been identified elsewhere.</p>	
<p>Baseline Information and Environmental Problems We hold significant amounts of environmental data which may be of interest to you in preparing the environmental baseline, identifying environmental problems, and summarising the likely changes to the environment in the absence of the PPS, all of which are required for the assessment. Much of this readily available on our website. Additional information may also be available from our Access to Information unit (foi@sepa.org.uk).</p>	<p>The information and data on the SEPA website has provided the National Park with useful information to assist with the preparation of the environmental baseline.</p>
<p>Baseline Information and Environmental Problems Table 2 includes a good summary of baseline information sources on the aspects of the environmental issues which fall within our remit. We also consider the environmental problems described generally highlight the main issues of relevance for the SEA topics within our remit. We recommend you make reference to our SEA topic guidance notes for air, soil, water, material assets and human health which may point to additional information sources relevant to the plan. As noted above more recent versions of the RBMP and FRMPs have been published than those referenced in the table.</p>	<p>Noted, this is to be updated alongside the final Plan.</p>
<p>Baseline Information and Environmental Problems We note that 'Material Assets' is missing from Table 2 and as this is to be assessed within the SEA, we recommend appropriate baseline information is gathered in advance of the assessment being completed. Our topic guidance on material assets may assist this.</p>	<p>Noted – this topic has been added.</p>
<p>Scoping of Environmental Topics We agree that all environmental topics should be scoped into the assessment.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

<p>Methodology for Assessing Environmental Effects We are satisfied with the proposed assessment methodology. We expect all aspects of the PPS which could have significant effects to be assessed. Where it is expected that other PPS are better placed to undertake more detailed assessment of environmental effects this should be clearly set out in the ER.</p>	<p>Noted – this has been set out within the policy, measure, aims, objectives and actions screening tables. Much of the content within the draft NPPP is considered to be too high-level to conduct meaningful assessment and therefore more detailed assessments will take place through the production of other plans.</p>
<p>SEA Objectives We support the use of SEA objectives as assessment tools as they allow a systematic, rigorous, and consistent framework with which to assess environmental effects.</p>	<p>Noted – this approach has been taken forward into the Environmental Report</p>
<p>SEA Objectives We are generally content with the proposed SEA objectives to be used in the assessment. However, we recommend the Water Environment objective is revised '<i>To protect and enhance the state of the water environment</i>' as opposed to just focusing on the ecological status of water bodies. There are suggested sub-objectives and assessment questions in our water topic guidance.</p>	<p>This has been updated within the Draft Plan and the objectives in the assessment tables.</p>
<p>Alternatives We note alternatives are still being considered. Any reasonable alternatives identified during the preparation of the plan should be assessed as part of the SEA process and the findings of the assessment should inform the choice of the preferred option. This should be documented in the ER.</p>	<p>The alternative approaches to the development of the NPPP are set out in section 1.8. The alternative approaches to the specific targets set in the NPPP are set explored.</p>
<p>Assessment Matrices We are content with the proposed detailed assessment matrix and welcome the inclusion of a commentary section to explain the rationale behind the assessment results. It is helpful if the assessment matrix also directly links the assessment result with proposed mitigation measures.</p>	<p>Noted – all assessment matrices have taken forward this approach</p>
<p>Assessment Matrices</p>	<p>Each of the assessment tables details the reasons behind the scoring decision and summarising commentary is provided at</p>

When it comes to setting out the results of the assessment, please provide enough information to clearly justify the reasons for each of the assessments presented. It would also be helpful to set out assumptions that are made during the assessment and difficulties and limitations encountered.	the bottom of each table to ensure the assessors understand the thinking behind each assessment.
Mitigation and Enhancement One of the most important ways to mitigate significant environmental effects identified through the assessment is to make changes to the plan itself so that significant effects are avoided. The ER should identify any changes made to the strategy because of the SEA	No significant changes identified during the drafting and draft assessment process.
Mitigation and Enhancement We would encourage you to use the assessment as a way to improve the environmental performance of individual aspects of the final option; hence we support proposals for enhancement of positive effects as well as mitigation of negative effects.	The assessment tables have informed the Place Programme project development to ensure that environmental factors are taken into consideration in all aspects of the projects.
Mitigation and Enhancement Where the mitigation does not relate to modification to the plan then it would be extremely helpful to set out the proposed mitigation measures in a way that clearly identifies: (1) the measures required, (2) when they would be required and (3) who will be required to implement them.	Noted and actioned.
Monitoring We welcome the early consideration given to the proposed approach to monitor environmental effects. It would be helpful if the ER included a description of the measures envisaged to monitor the significant environmental effects of the plan	Noted and intended for the Final Plan and SEA report.
Outcome of the Scoping Exercise We would find it helpful if the ER included a summary of the scoping outcomes and how comments from the Consultation Authorities were taken into account.	This table has been included within the Environment Report to highlight the outcomes of the scoping report and demonstrate how they have been considered as part of the development of the final report.
Comments from Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	

<p>Table 2: Scoped issues, trends and information sources to be included in National Park Partnership Plan SEA We recommend that you also consider adding the effects of climate change adaptation and mitigation on the historic environment; high quality development in historic places; and the need for a holistic approach to the environment which encompasses both natural and historic aspects to the key trends influencing the NPPP.</p>	<p>These issues have been added to the list of sub-objectives/questions for the assessment.</p>
<p>Table 4: Proposed SEA Objectives and Assessment Questions SEA objectives and assessments questions can add most value when they reflect both the baseline (including key trends, pressures and opportunities), relevant PPS and the nature of the plan being assessed. Additionally, whilst we agree that it's important to assess the likely effects on individual designated (and non-designated) assets, it's also important to consider the historic environment at a scale of places and spaces.</p>	<p>The historic environment has been a key consideration throughout the assessment of the Plan.</p>
<p>Identify and assess alternative options Your methodology suggests that preferred options will propose undergo more detailed assessment and evaluation in the Environmental Report than alternative options. You should note that para 3.23 of the Scottish Government's SEA Guidance states that any reasonable alternatives covered within an assessment should be considered to the same level of detail as the preferred option.</p>	<p>The alternative approaches to the development of the NPPP are set out in section 1.8. The alternative approaches to the specific targets set in the NPPP are also considered.</p>
<p>Relevant Legislation Plans Policies and Programmes and Related Environmental Objectives For information, the Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) was superseded in 2019 by the Historic Environment</p>	<p>Noted. The relevant table in the Environment Report (Table ? Plans, Programmes and Strategies) has been updated accordingly.</p>

<p>Policy for Scotland (HEPS), which should be referenced here as the relevant document.</p>	
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