



THE BIG 9

Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2017 – 2022
Consultation

27 June – 30 September 2016

#BigParkBigQuestions

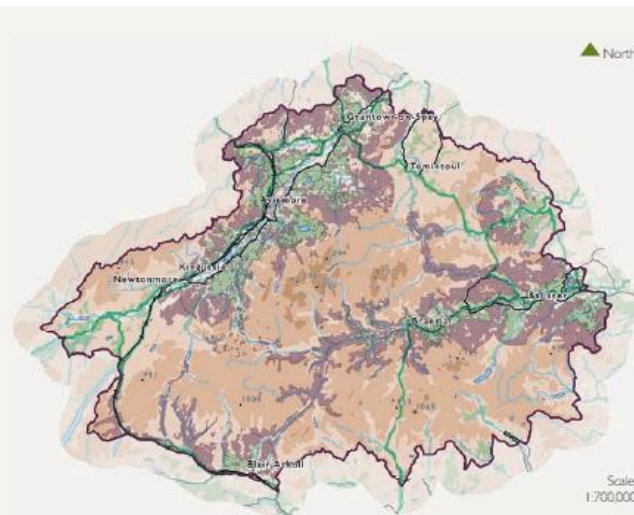
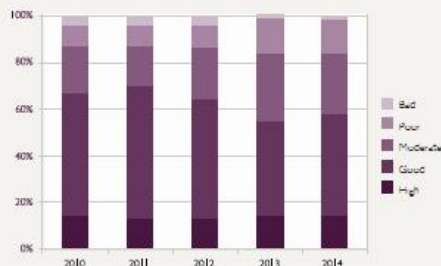


ISSUE 1 LANDSCAPE SCALE CONSERVATION

ISSUES

- Targeting woodland expansion to the most beneficial places and delivering key woodland linkages between catchments;
- Restoring the missing montane woodland habitat;
- Ensuring priority species conservation is built into habitat enhancement;
- Maintaining designated features in favourable condition and using designated sites more flexibly to help deliver the wider vision for ecosystem restoration;
- Tackling the 50% decline in freshwater pearl mussels in the River Spey;
- Maintaining and increasing capercaillie populations for which 80% of the national population is within the National Park;
- Safeguarding of protected species, including Scottish wildcats and birds of prey, by expanding populations and ranges; and
- Improving knowledge and research on the status and distribution of rare, endangered and protected species needed to underpin conservation efforts.

Water quality classification of waterbodies within and overlapping the National Park



Areas of woodland and potential woodland expansion in the Cairngorms National Park

■ woodland areas ■ potential woodland expansion areas

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TARGETS / PREFERRED DIRECTION

- More resilient and better connected woodlands, wetlands and uplands;
- A more extensive and better connected forest and restored montane woodland habitat;
- The network of designated sites contributes to delivering the wider landscape vision;
- The percentage of designated features in favourable conditions is higher than the national average;
- A clear understanding of the status and requirements of priority species through surveys, monitoring and research;
- Long term land management commitments to meet priority species' needs; and
- Meet Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 woodland expansion targets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

ISSUE 1 | KEY QUESTIONS

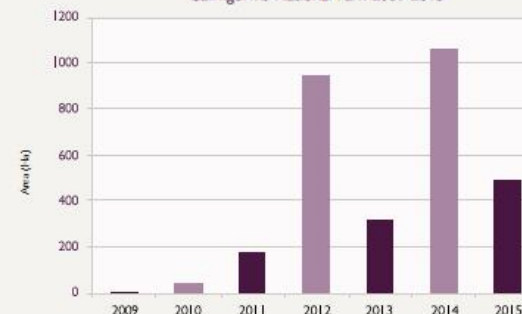
- What more can be done to encourage woodland expansion and active woodland management in appropriate places?
- What are the best ways to support collaboration at a landscape scale?
- How can designated sites help deliver large scale ecosystem restoration?

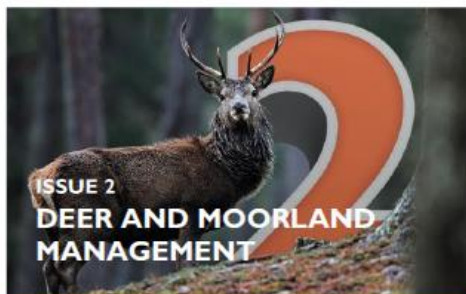
MECHANISMS FOR DELIVERY

- Collaboration across land holdings
- Cairngorms Nature
- Catchment partnerships
- Designated site management
- Capercaillie Framework
- Deer management groups
- Scottish Rural Development Programme
- Cairngorms Research Strategy



Area of new native woodland created in the Cairngorms National Park 2009-2015

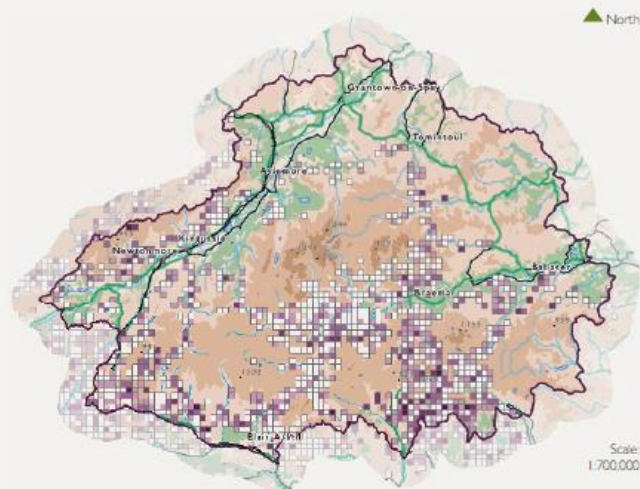




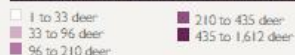
ISSUE 2 DEER AND MOORLAND MANAGEMENT

ISSUES

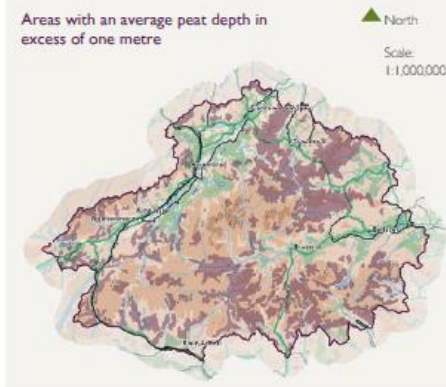
- Changing trends in land management, eg in some places a shift from sporting deer forest to habitat management, in other places increased intensity of management for grouse;
- Impacts of deer and grouse management in delivering woodland expansion and peatland restoration;
- A wider public interest remit for deer management groups and planning now in place;
- Restoring areas of peat in poor condition to improve ecosystem function and mitigate climate change;
- Raptor persecution and underlying conflicts between raptor conservation and the impacts of muirburn;
- Ensuring land management activities, eg muirburn and fencing does not adversely impact on landscape and recreation value; and
- Need to meet Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 woodland expansion targets.



Deer density polygons of 1km² based on results from deer counts, 2000-2010



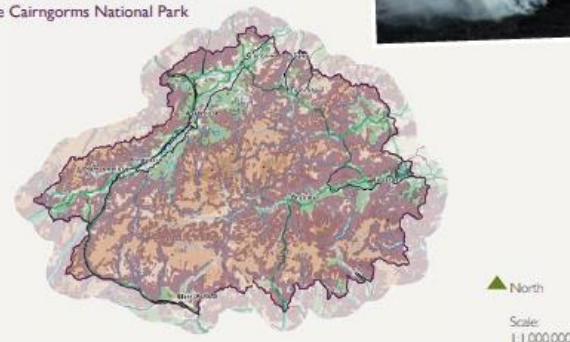
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TARGETS / PREFERRED DIRECTION

- Continue to improve and enhance the quality of moorland and montane habitats, particularly those in unfavourable condition;
- Manage deer numbers and muirburn to enable habitat enhancement;
- Improve the integration of grouse moor and sporting deer management with wider habitat and species diversity;
- Improve raptor population conservation;
- Expand peatland restoration projects; and
- Meet Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 woodland expansion targets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Heather moorland areas within the Cairngorms National Park



ISSUE 2 | KEY QUESTIONS

- Should the Park Partnership Plan set guidance on the appropriate range of deer densities necessary to deliver the public interest?
- How can management for grouse be better integrated with wider habitat and species enhancement objectives such as woodland expansion, peatland restoration and raptor conservation?

MECHANISMS FOR DELIVERY

- Collaboration across land holdings
- Deer management groups and plans
- Cairngorms Nature
- The East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership
- Catchment partnerships
- Designated site management
- National legislation including the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011

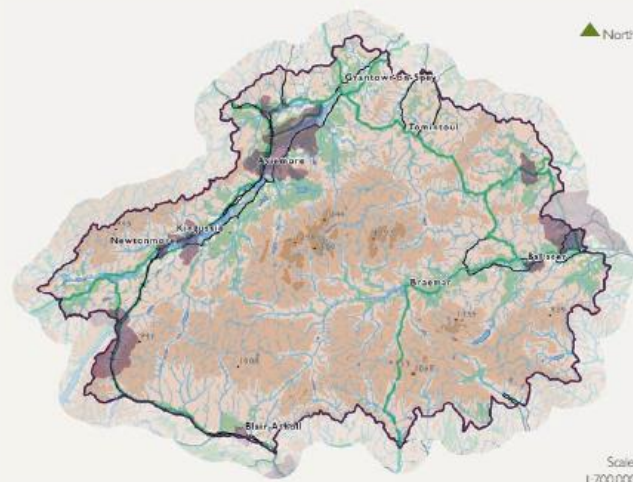




ISSUE 3 FLOOD MANAGEMENT

ISSUES

- Expected increase in the severity and frequency of flooding through climate change;
- Costs of the impacts of flooding on infrastructure, property and land use;
- Costs and potential downstream implications of hard engineering flood protection schemes;
- Increased international recognition of the benefits of a catchment wide approach to flood risk management but lack of consensus on measures;
- Wider, multiple benefits of natural flood management measures;
- Broad opportunity areas for natural flood management identified at national level; and
- Opportunity to trial and demonstrate the benefits of natural flood management on an international basis.



Indicative river flooding extent (medium probability 1 in 200 years) and Potentially Vulnerable Areas

■ 1:200 indicative flood zone ■ Potentially Vulnerable Areas

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ISSUE 3 | KEY QUESTIONS

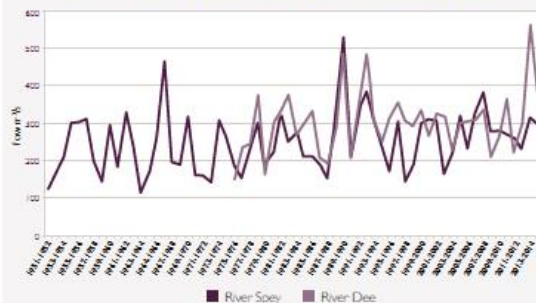
- What land use changes are needed to deliver more effective natural flood management and how can they be supported/funded?
- How can catchment management partnerships be better used to help deliver natural flood management as part of flood risk management?

MECHANISMS FOR DELIVERY

- Catchment partnerships and plans
- River basin planning
- Cairngorms Nature
- Flood Risk Management Strategies and Plans
- Development Plan
- Scottish Rural Development Programme funding
- Water Environment Fund



Annual maximum flow (AMAX) data for the River Spey at Grantown-on-Spey and River Dee at Polhollock, near Ballater



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TARGETS / PREFERRED DIRECTION

- Reduced speed of water run-off from uplands;
- Creation of more diverse ecological environments;
- Integration of natural flood management techniques into other land management objectives;
- Safeguard functional flood plain and avoid inappropriate development in areas of high flood risk; and
- Effective flood defences where appropriate.

River catchment areas covering the Cairngorms National Park



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ISSUE 4 VISITOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND INFORMATION

ISSUES

- Continuing to enhance the quality of place and infrastructure that underpins the tourism economy of the National Park;
- Providing up to date consistent information designed to meet the needs of visitors;
- Maintaining a high quality extensive network of off-road routes;
- Financial constraints will require even more effective public private partnerships;
- Impacts on the visitor experience of dualling the A9; and
- Ensuring visitor experience continues to celebrate and enhance the unique landscape, natural and cultural heritage of the National Park.

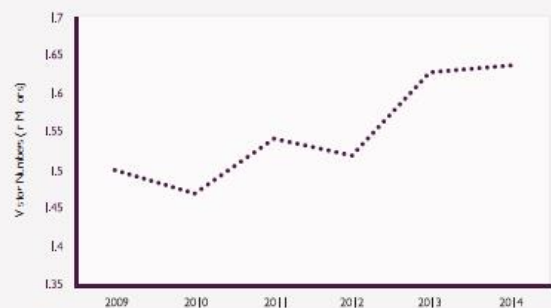


Visitor infrastructure and information across the Cairngorms National Park



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Visitor numbers to the Cairngorms National Park



TARGETS / PREFERRED DIRECTION

- Enhancing the quality of visitor infrastructure to match the quality of environment;
- Investing in maintaining and upgrading key off-road routes including the Speyside Way, Deeside Way and the Core Paths network;
- Delivering a consistent high quality of visitor welcome through new and improved information and ranger services as well as partnership working to support businesses and visitor attractions;
- Improving the visitor experience in Cairngorm and Glenmore;
- Completing the 'Snow Roads Scenic Route' and developing a similar experience along the A9; and
- Maintaining the CNPA website as the most popular and effective source of information for visitors with links to other key sites.

ISSUE 4 | KEY QUESTIONS

- Have the right visitor infrastructure investment priorities been identified, or are there others that should be included?
- How can the consistency and quality of visitor welcome be improved?

MECHANISMS FOR DELIVERY

- Tourism Action Plan linked to Tourism Scotland 2020
- Scottish Scenic Routes Initiative
- Cairngorm & Glenmore Strategy
- Tomintoul and Glenlivet Landscape Partnership
- The Mountains and The People Project
- Active Cairngorms
- Ranger Services



Visitor satisfaction (out of 10) across Cairngorms National Park

Source: Cairngorms Visitor Survey 2014/15





ISSUE 5 ACTIVE CAIRNGORMS

ISSUES

- 20% of Scotland's population are physically inactive;
- Physical inactivity is the second biggest cause of mortality, leading to 2,500 deaths in Scotland every year;
- Increasing outdoor physical activity can lead to improvements in many health conditions, from heart disease to mental health issues;
- The Cairngorms National Park has the access infrastructure, destination appeal and partnerships required to promote increased physical activity; and
- Active Cairngorms aims to make it easier and safer for people to move around the Park whatever their age, ability or background: to be more physically active, to learn about, care for and appreciate the Park.



Locations of health walks throughout the Cairngorms National Park

● Locations of health walks

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ISSUE 5 | KEY QUESTIONS

- How can levels of physical activity among residents and visitors be increased?
- How can environmental volunteering opportunities be better co-ordinated and promoted to engage people?

MECHANISMS FOR DELIVERY

- Active Cairngorms Partnership
- GP outdoor physical activity referral programme
- Health walks partnerships
- Volunteering



What's been done so far...



TARGETS / PREFERRED DIRECTION

- Make the most of the National Park's infrastructure and brand identity as part of Scotland's Natural Health Service;
- Residents and visitors will enjoy and use the Park for physical activity at least once a day;
- Target people currently living sedentary lifestyles where inactivity is the norm; these include older adults, young girls and those living with long term medical conditions;
- Support and promote the Active Cairngorms Partnership to jointly deliver on social, environmental and health care outcomes;
- Continued/enhanced delivery of health walks through the Cairngorms Walking to Health Project;
- Co-ordination of environmental volunteering opportunities; and
- Deliver active travel enhancements in Aviemore that deliver improved transport connections for visitors and residents.





ISSUES

- Making the most of the National Park as a resource for outdoor learning through the curriculum and for the whole learning community, including family learning, community learning and development and adult learning; and
- Addressing the barriers for under-represented groups to engage with the National Park. Key under-represented groups are schools from socially deprived areas, people with disabilities, young people (under 24), people in lower income/socio-economic groups and people from black and minority ethnic communities.

90 pupils a year involved in the Junior Ranger project from the 6 secondary schools across the National Park.

25,000 John Muir Awards have been completed through the Cairngorms National Park Authority since 2003, of which **25%** of participants come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

48 leaders from black and minority ethnic communities trained through the Community Leadership Programme benefiting a further **869** people to engage with their environment.

Origin of schools and groups who received the travel grant to visit the Cairngorms National Park



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TARGETS / PREFERRED DIRECTION

- Provide an opportunity for every child to visit the Cairngorms National Park during their school life to learn about and connect with the Park;
- Raise awareness and understanding of the Park and the issues and choices involved in management of the Park; and
- Create a Park for All that inspires a diversity of people to engage with and care for their National Park through lifelong learning.

ISSUE 6 | KEY QUESTIONS

- How can children across Scotland have the opportunity to visit and learn from being in the Cairngorms National Park?
- What else could be done to help under-represented groups visit and experience the National Park?

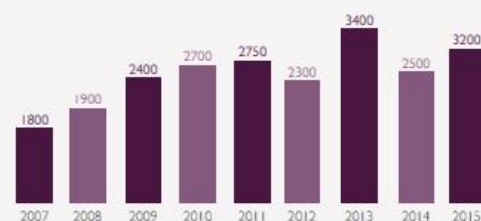
MECHANISMS FOR DELIVERY

Overcoming the barriers for schools and under-represented groups engaging with the Cairngorms National Park by:

- Building relationships and developing networks through partnership working locally and strategically
- Building commitment, confidence and competence through training leaders and staff, providing structured education programmes
- Raising awareness and providing information through developing and promoting learning resources
- Providing practical support through the travel grant scheme and officer support
- John Muir Award



Number of John Muir Awards completed through the Cairngorms National Park Authority since 2007



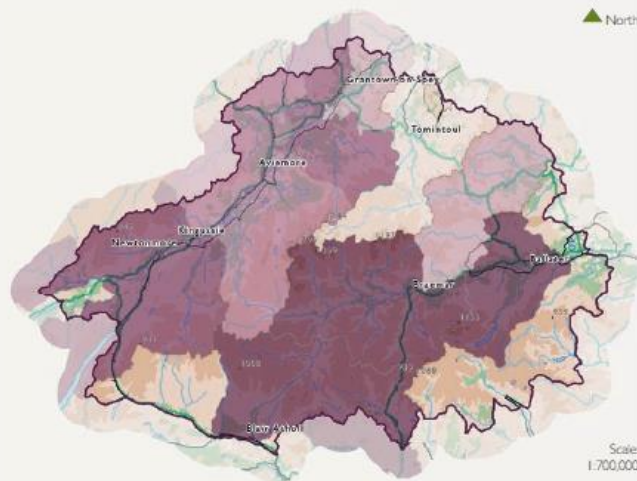
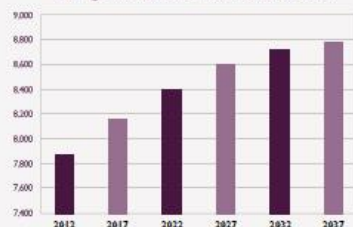


ISSUE 7 HOUSING

ISSUES

- The population of the Cairngorms National Park is set to grow by around 1% between 2012 and 2037 (an increase of around 120 people);
- Households are set to grow by around 12% between 2012 and 2037 (an increase of around 900 households);
- There is a shortage of housing that is affordable for people working in the National Park;
- The median house price was 7 times the median household income in 2013;
- Median asking price in September 2015 was £225,000;
- There is a high proportion of second homes, holiday homes and buy to let homes in the National Park, a percentage that is slowly increasing;
- Owing to the outstanding quality of the National Park's natural environment, there is a limited choice of sites capable of delivering future housing need;
- The higher development costs combined with the scarcity of finance since the credit crunch means that the number of housing completions has been falling; and
- Recent changes in stamp duty and council tax on second homes.

Overall household projections for the Cairngorms National Park, 2012 to 2037



Median house prices of data zones within the Cairngorms National Park in 2013



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TARGETS / PREFERRED DIRECTION

- Making sure that when new housing is built, more of it is accessible to people who live and work in the National Park through influencing scale and tenure of housing;
- Delivering more affordable housing as a proportion of all new development;
- Increasing the level of investment in affordable housing and infrastructure on key sites;
- Ensuring the delivery of key strategic sites;
- Maintaining high design standards appropriate for a National Park;
- Helping communities make the most of any right to buy land in order to secure local housing solutions; and
- Reducing the proportion of second and holiday homes in the National Park.

ISSUE 7 | KEY QUESTIONS

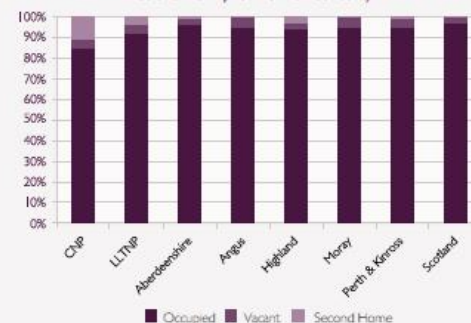
- How can more housing that is affordable to people working in the National Park be delivered?
- How can the proportion of second home ownership in the National Park be reduced?
- How can best use be made of the existing land supply (eg what types of housing should be prioritised)?

MECHANISMS FOR DELIVERY

- The Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan as the land-use strategy for the National Park
- The Local Development Plan and Action Programme
- Local Authority Housing Strategies



Dwelling occupancy types in the Cairngorms National Park in 2014
(Stats for neighbouring Local Authorities and Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park provided for context)

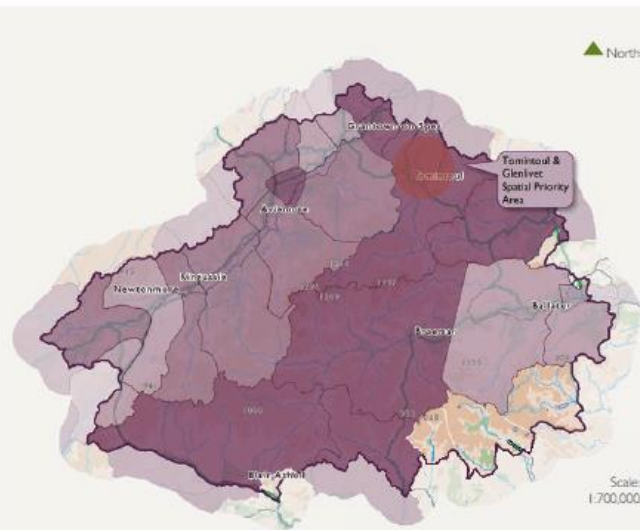




ISSUE 8 COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND EMPOWERMENT

ISSUES

- Ensuring appropriate support structures are in place to help build community capacity, encourage empowerment and support community planning;
- Ensuring representativeness, improving communication and encouraging greater participation from community bodies to undertake regular engagement activities;
- Ensuring each community has enough volunteers to take advantage of new opportunities and proactively address issues;
- Supporting and identifying opportunities to enable communities to take control of income-generating assets; and
- Establishing local community planning structures within the five Community Planning Partnership areas.



When most recent Community Action Plans were produced

■ 2008-2009 ■ 2010-2011 ■ 2012 onwards

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ISSUE 8 | KEY QUESTIONS

- Are there sufficient support structures available to help build capacity and encourage empowerment, particularly in the most fragile communities?
- How should communities be supported to maximise the opportunities provided by the Community Empowerment Act and Land Reform Act?

MECHANISMS FOR DELIVERY

- The LEADER Local Development Strategy
- Community Development Officer network
- The provision of external support and funding from regional or national bodies
- Association of Cairngorms Communities providing a leadership role as a key organisation for National Park-wide community-led activity
- The creation of appropriate local community planning arrangements in each of the five Community Planning Partnership areas



TARGETS / PREFERRED DIRECTION

- Offer support to communities through locally based support organisations, with a presumption in favour of collaborative working;
- Support communities to review and update their Community Action Plan at least every five years;
- Work collaboratively through community planning structures to provide consistent and clear support and communications to communities;
- Work collaboratively on and jointly resource shared priorities, involving communities of place and interest;
- Offer support and advice to the Association of Cairngorms Communities and use it as a forum for broader engagement; and
- Identify a new Spatial Priority Area to provide an enhanced level of assistance/collaboration over a focussed time period to the Dalwhinnie, Kingussie, Laggan and Newtonmore area.

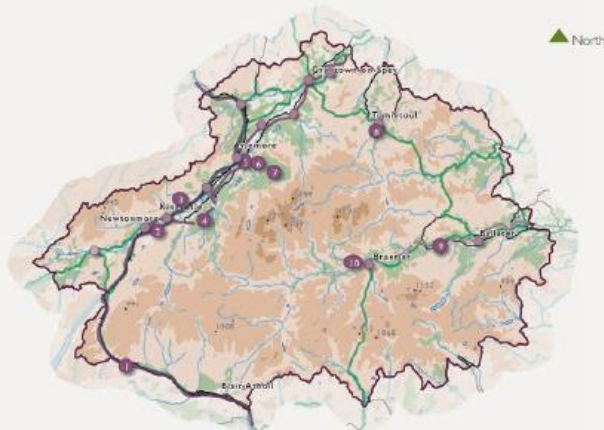




ISSUE 9 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ISSUES

- Achieving consistent 'buy-in' to the National Park brand across the National Park;
- Promoting the National Park and surrounding regional destinations, eg Aberdeenshire and Inverness & Loch Ness, to their mutual benefit;
- Limited public transport;
- Increasing pressure on infrastructure including roads, rail, housing, business premises;
- Comparatively poor broadband and mobile reception in the remoter areas of the National Park;
- A lack of Further and Higher Education opportunities;
- Attracting investment for key infrastructure projects; and
- A continued heavy reliance on low-wage tourism sector.



Strategic projects and super-fast broadband provision in the Cairngorms National Park

Scale:
1:700,000

1. A9 Dualing and Rail improvements between Perth and Inverness
 2. Highland Folk Museum
 3. Highland Wildlife Park
 4. Speyside Way extension (hatched)
 5. Active travel enhancements in Aviemore
 6. An Carnas Mor
 7. Visitor facility improvements at Cairngorm and Glenmore
 8. Tomintoul and Glenlivet Landscape Partnership
 9. Deeside Way extension (hatched)
 10. Fife Arms, Braemar
- Provided through fibre optic cabinets
 Provided through Community Led Broadband Project

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ISSUE 9 | KEY QUESTIONS

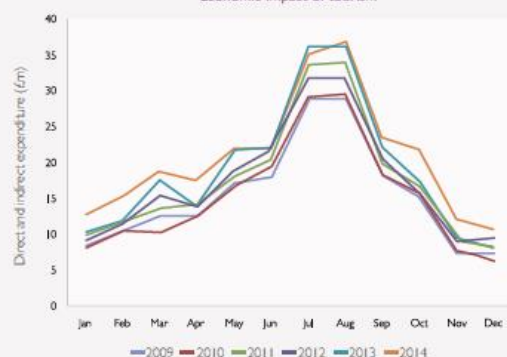
- How can the National Park tourism sector be strengthened?
- How can businesses be better connected with the natural environment for economic benefit?
- What more can be done to diversify the National Park's economy beyond tourism?
- Have the right key infrastructure priorities been identified, or are there others that should be included?

MECHANISMS FOR DELIVERY

- Cairngorms Business Partnership – providing business leadership and promoting collaboration
- Cairngorms Economic Forum and Strategy
- Business Support Group
- Cairngorms Local Action Group
- Cairngorms Tourism Partnership
- Cairngorms Nature Strategy Group
- Digital Cairngorms Steering Group
- Cairngorms Community Broadband Project



Economic impact of tourism



TARGETS / PREFERRED DIRECTION

- Deliver the Cairngorms National Park Economic Strategy's (2015-2018) priorities for:
 - » **Tourism:** consolidating and enhancing the strong brand of the National Park throughout the visitor journey; creating a more valuable, resilient year round tourism economy with increased profitability and local prosperity
 - » **Forestry:** supporting a more valuable and resilient forestry sector with increased profitability and local prosperity
 - » **Food and Drink:** encouraging a growing food and drink sector locally and with new markets
 - » **Energy and Renewables:** encouraging businesses to use less energy, reduce costs, and generate income from renewable energy;

- A growing business sector with increasing employment;
- Improving and increasing Further and Higher Education opportunities within the National Park to support key sectors;
- Increased investment in businesses and infrastructure to make better connections to the natural capital (the natural assets and special qualities) of the National Park;
- Improve physical infrastructure and digital connectivity in the National Park to support a growing economy; and
- Developing a better understanding of current and future economic trends and opportunities.



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