

Increasing Contractor Capacity in the Cairngorms National Park



“Restoring damaged peatland obviously has significant benefits to the environment, but I think what is important on top of that is the jobs that will be created locally.”

Sean Williamson
Peatland contractor

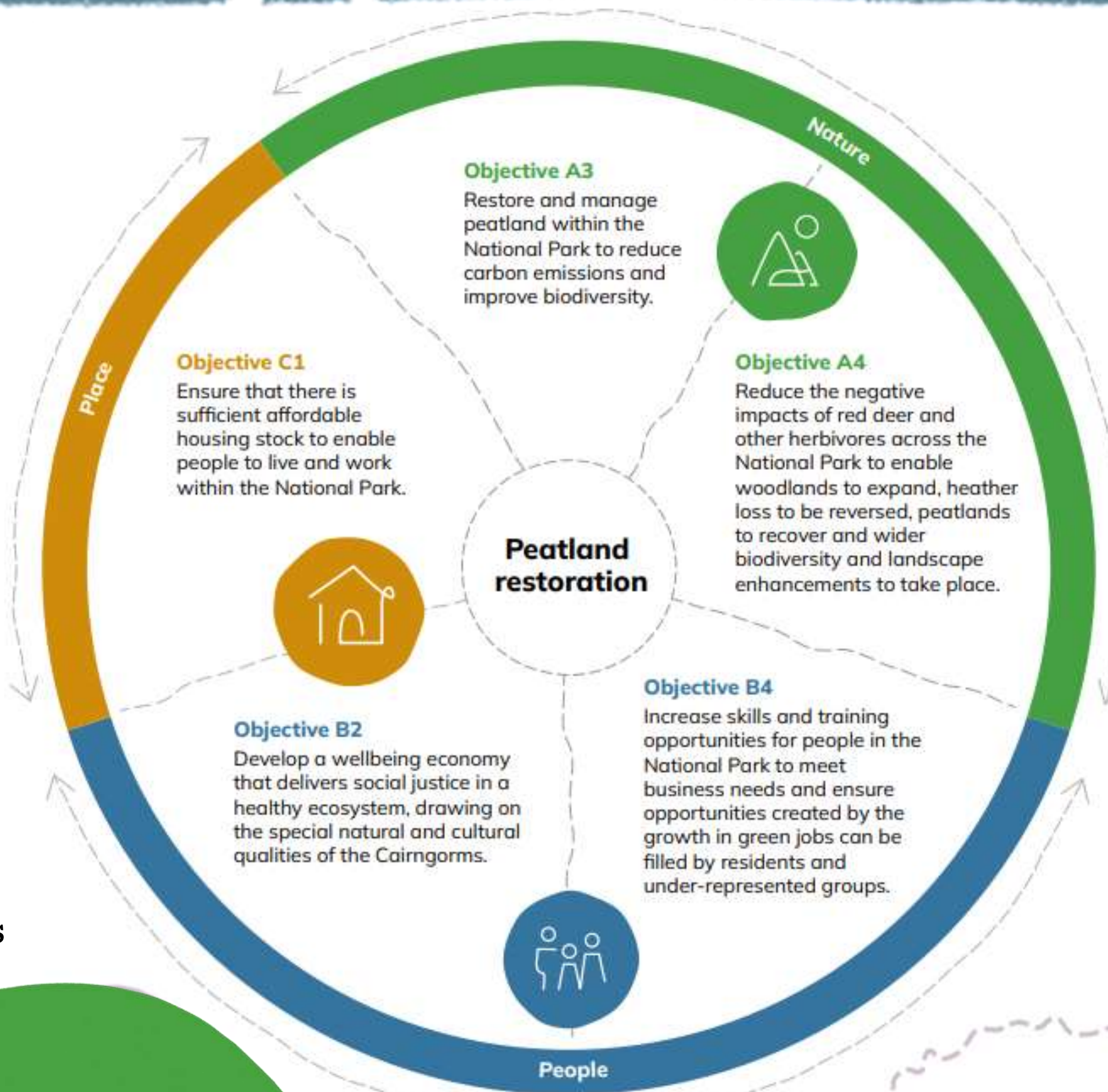


Illustration from the National Park Partnership Plan to show how the objectives are interrelated

The National Park Partnership Plan 2022-27 sets out how all those with a responsibility for the National Park will coordinate their work to tackle the most important issues

The issues:

Very few, or sometimes no submissions, were coming in for the peatland projects in the National Park when tendered

A number of local contractors had expressed a wish to enter the peatland restoration sector, but they had no restoration experience

The solution:

Select entry-level restoration projects for inexperienced contractors, adapt the tender scoring criteria to consider factors other than restoration experience, and provide on-the-job training from the Cairngorms Peatland ACTION Project Officer team

Since the beginning of the New Entrants programme in the Cairngorms National Park in 2021, there have been 8 companies introduced to peatland restoration through this scheme.

Most of the restoration has been drain blocking and some projects have also included easy erosion features. One project was focussed on hand-labour work to install materials like geotextile.

Companies are shown restoration techniques, given advice on supervision, recording and reporting progress.

These projects require significant additional Project Officer time – but they are well worth it.

Many of the companies are now established in the restoration sector and successfully competing for high value projects at tender.

We will review the New Entrants programme before the 2025 season to assess current needs.



“ It’s great that contractors in the Cairngorms are being given the opportunity to diversify the services they offer and upskill their team. All this will have a positive impact on our economy in the Cairngorms National Park.”
Sean Williamson
Peatland contractor

Our long-term vision:
‘An outstanding National Park, enjoyed and valued by everyone, where nature and people thrive together’

Contact the team: peatlandaction@cairngorms.co.uk