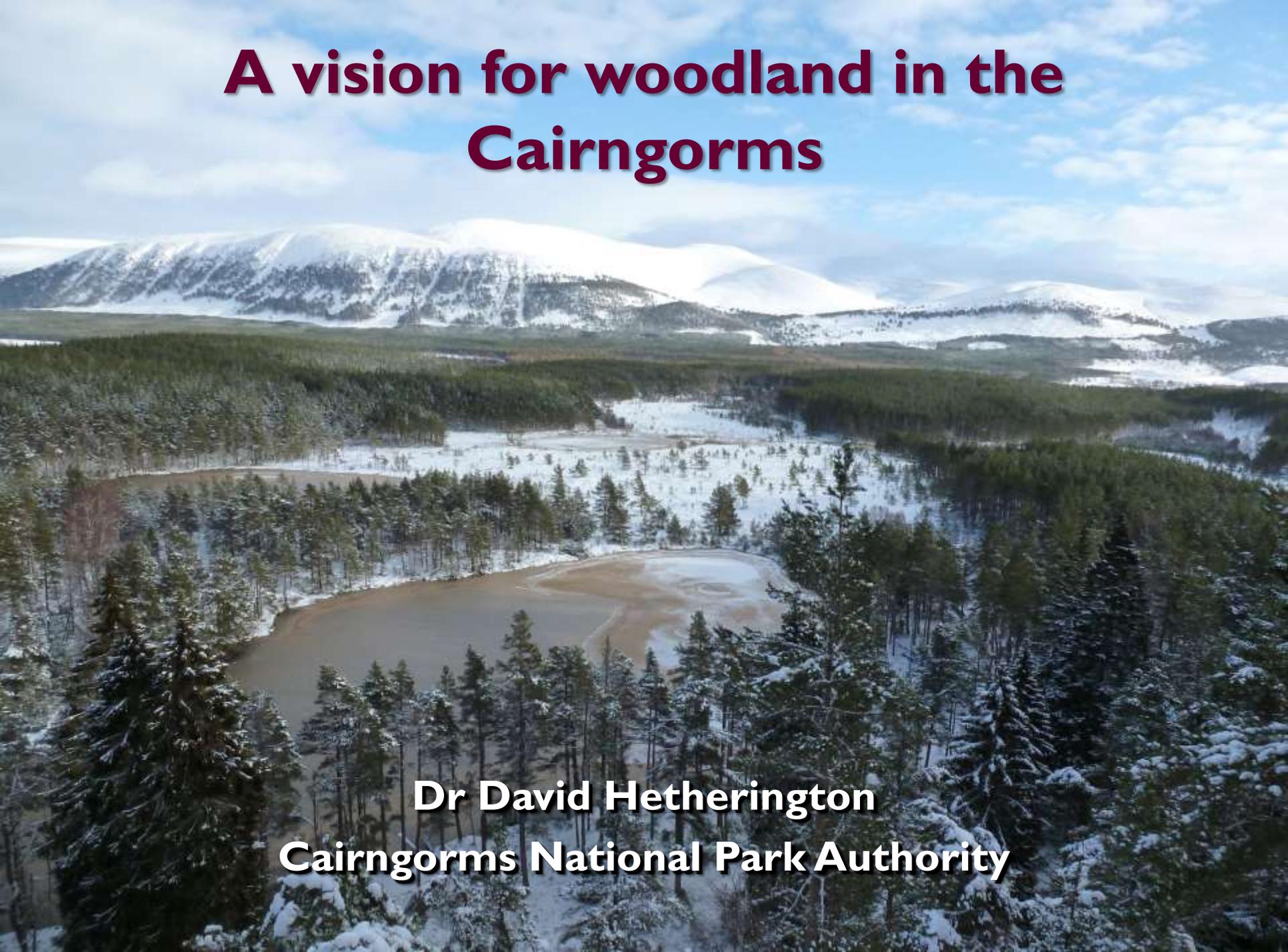


A vision for woodland in the Cairngorms

An aerial photograph of a winter landscape in the Cairngorms. The foreground is dominated by a dense forest of evergreen trees, their branches heavily laden with snow. In the middle ground, a large, irregularly shaped pond with a brownish, sediment-filled surface is surrounded by a mix of snow-covered ground and scattered trees. The background features a range of large, rounded mountains with significant snow cover under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

**Dr David Hetherington
Cairngorms National Park Authority**



**Distinctive woodland feature of Cairngorms:
Caledonian Forest remnants**



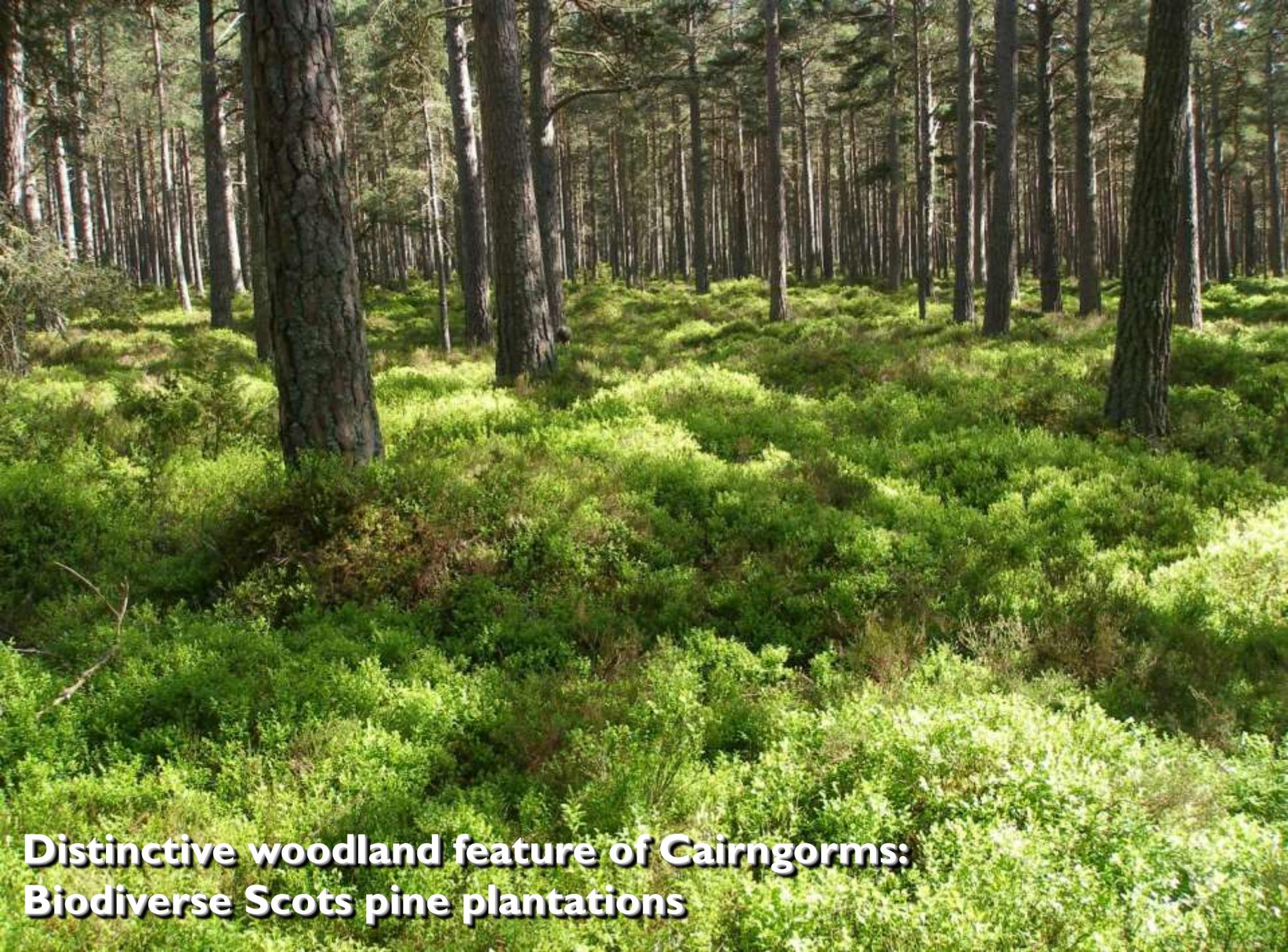
**Distinctive woodland feature of Cairngorms:
Highest, most natural treeline in UK (650m)**



**Distinctive woodland feature of Cairngorms:
Largest, most biodiverse stands of aspen**



**Distinctive woodland feature of Cairngorms:
Forest bog**



**Distinctive woodland feature of Cairngorms:
Biodiverse Scots pine plantations**

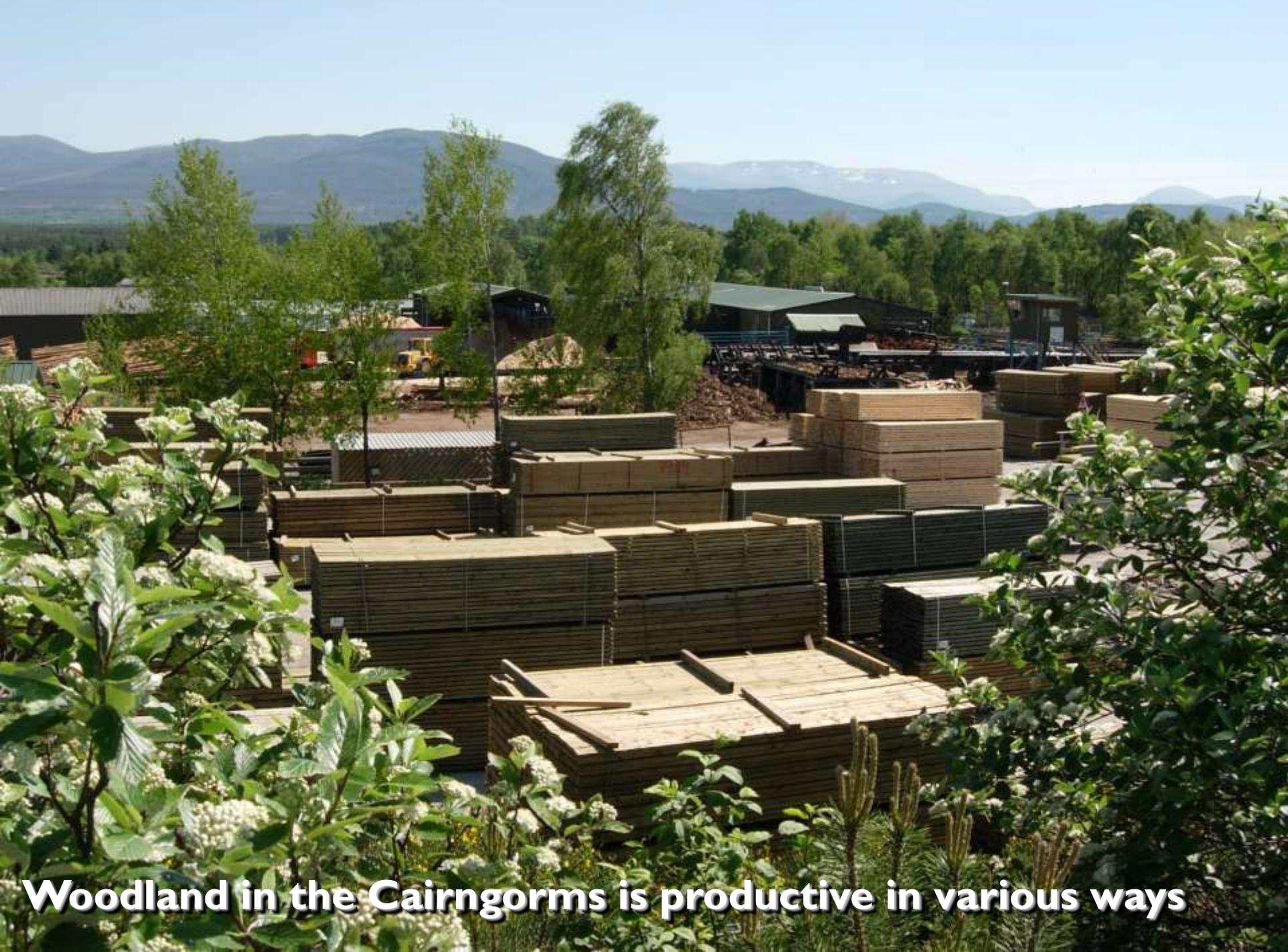
Native woodland

According to NWSS, native woodland as proportion of total Scottish woodland is **22.5%**

Highland	37.3%
Aberdeenshire	34.5%
Perth & Kinross	26.7%
Angus	21.7%
Moray	18.9%
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park	25.2%
Cairngorms National Park	69.0%



Plantations of non-native conifer also a feature in parts of CNP



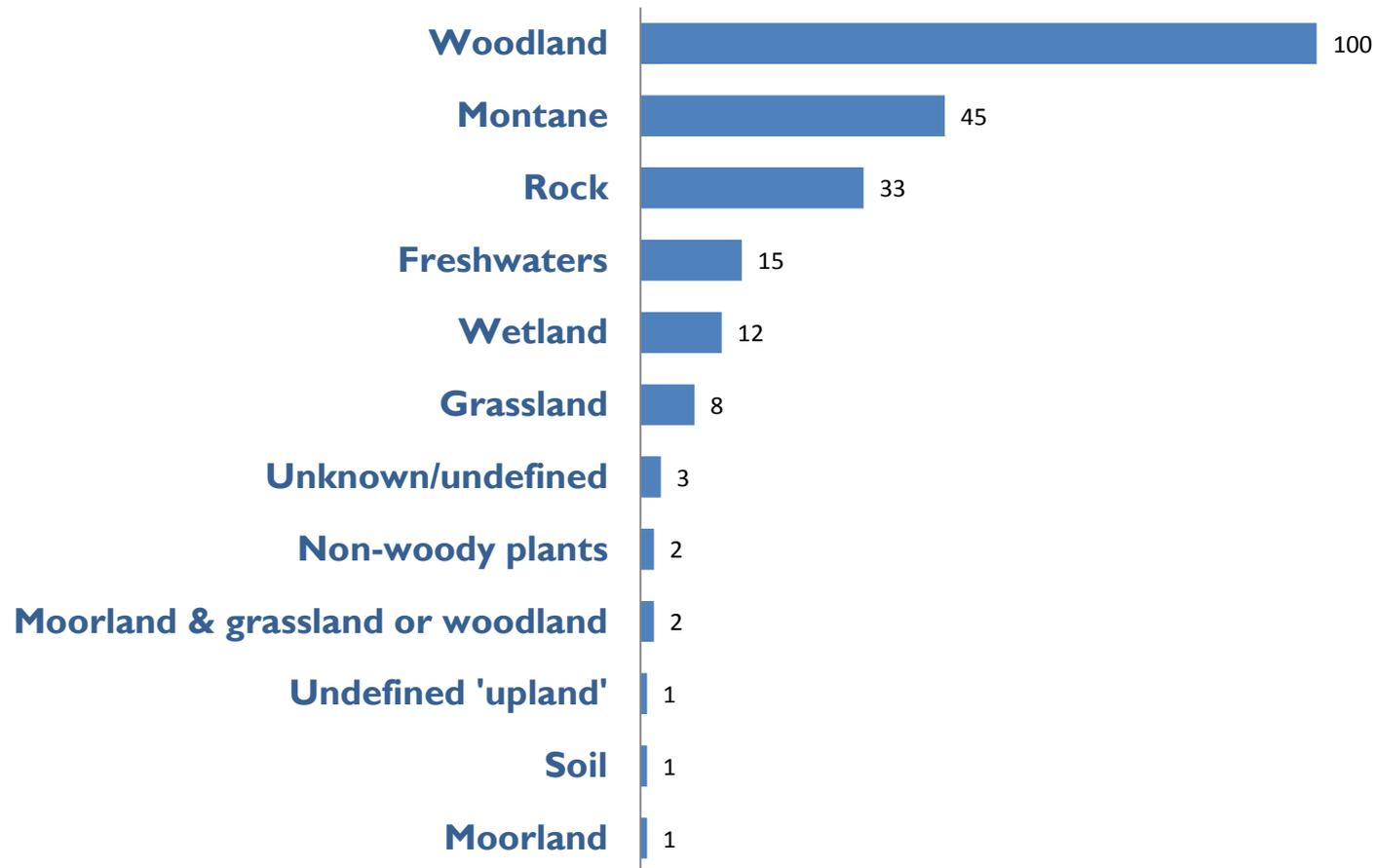
Woodland in the Cairngorms is productive in various ways





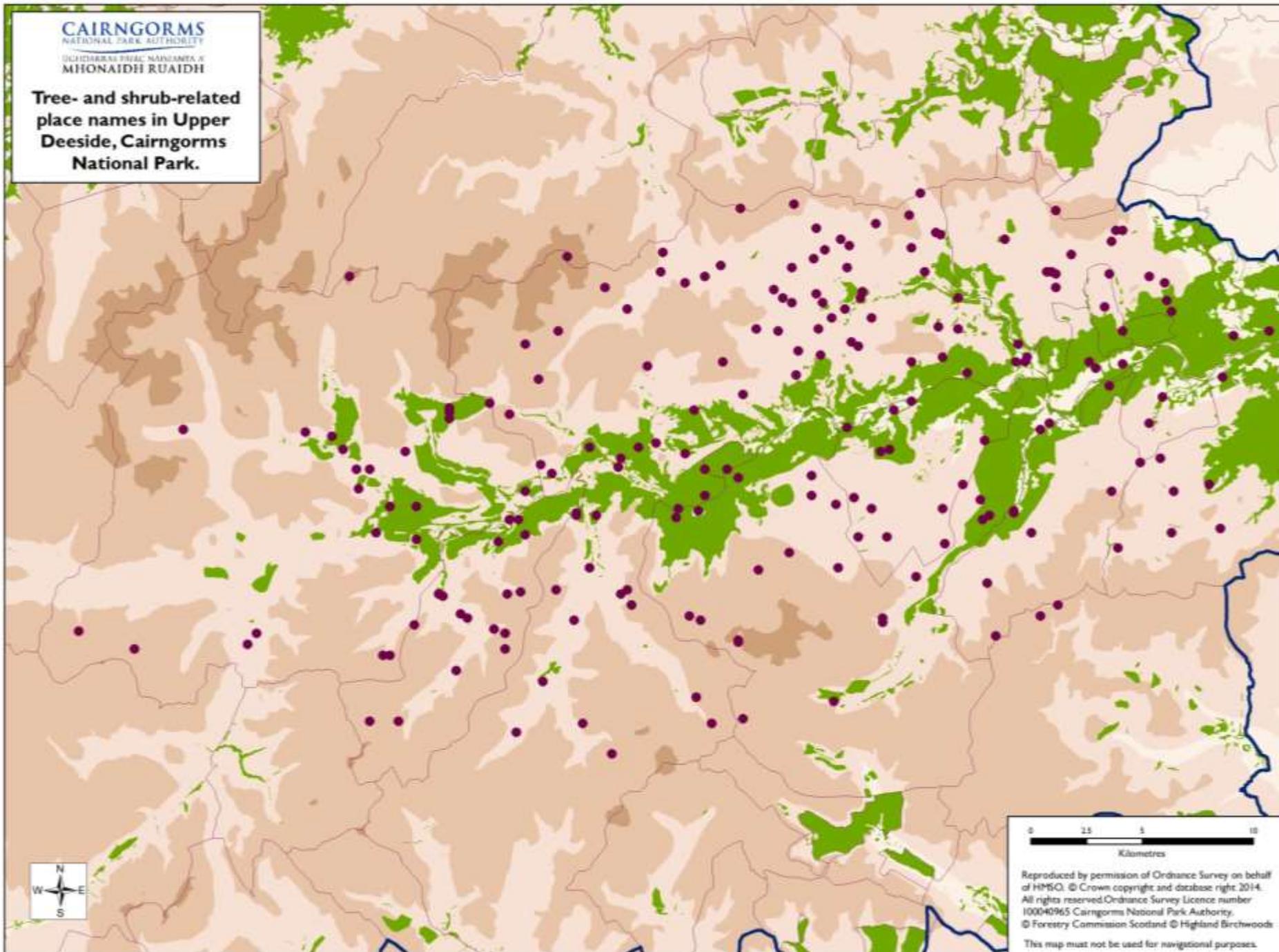


Significance of woodland for biodiversity in the Cairngorms



**223 species largely or entirely restricted to the Cairngorms National Park
(from Shaw & Thompson, 2006)**

**Tree- and shrub-related
place names in Upper
Deeside, Cairngorms
National Park.**





Lonesome pine in Glenfeshie in 2000



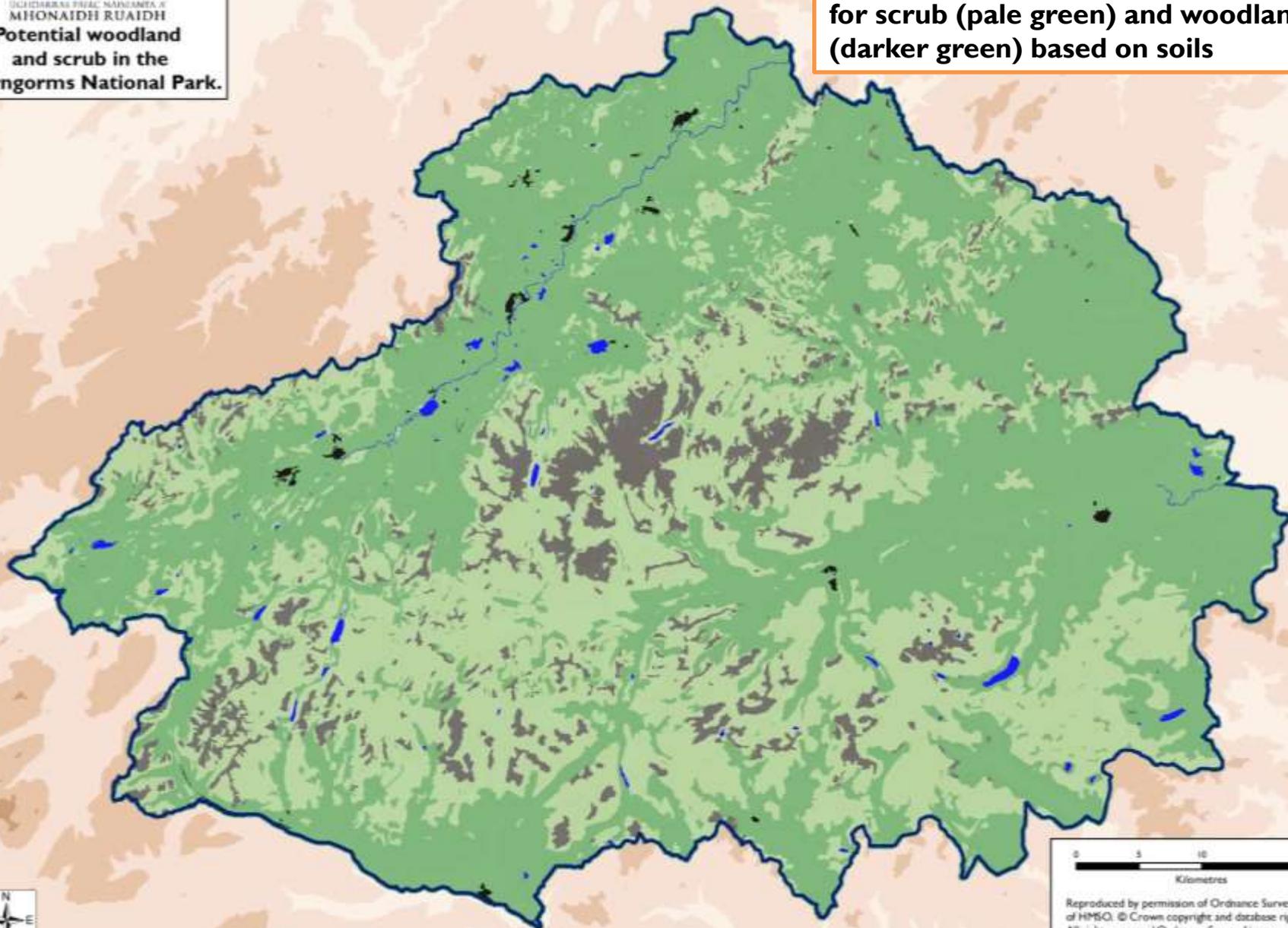
Same pine in 2014: changes in grazing pressure

CAIRNGORMS
NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

ÙGHÀRRAN NÀISEAC NAHÀRÀMÀ A
MÌONÀIDH RUÀIDH

Potential woodland
and scrub in the
Cairngorms National Park.

Native Woodland Model prediction
for scrub (pale green) and woodland
(darker green) based on soils

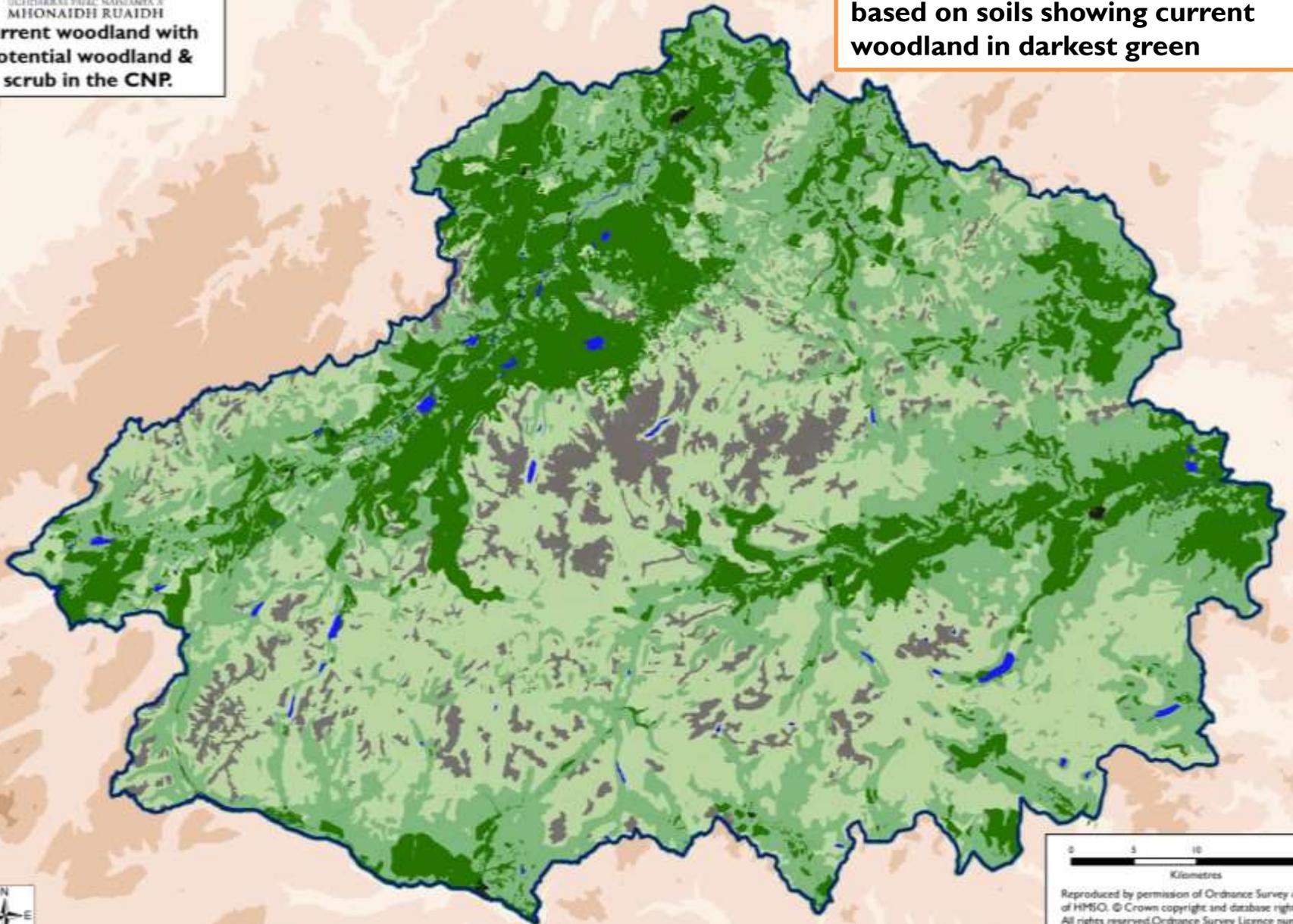


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Current woodland with
potential woodland &
scrub in the CNP.

Native Woodland Model prediction
based on soils showing current
woodland in darkest green



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1927

Fidjadalen

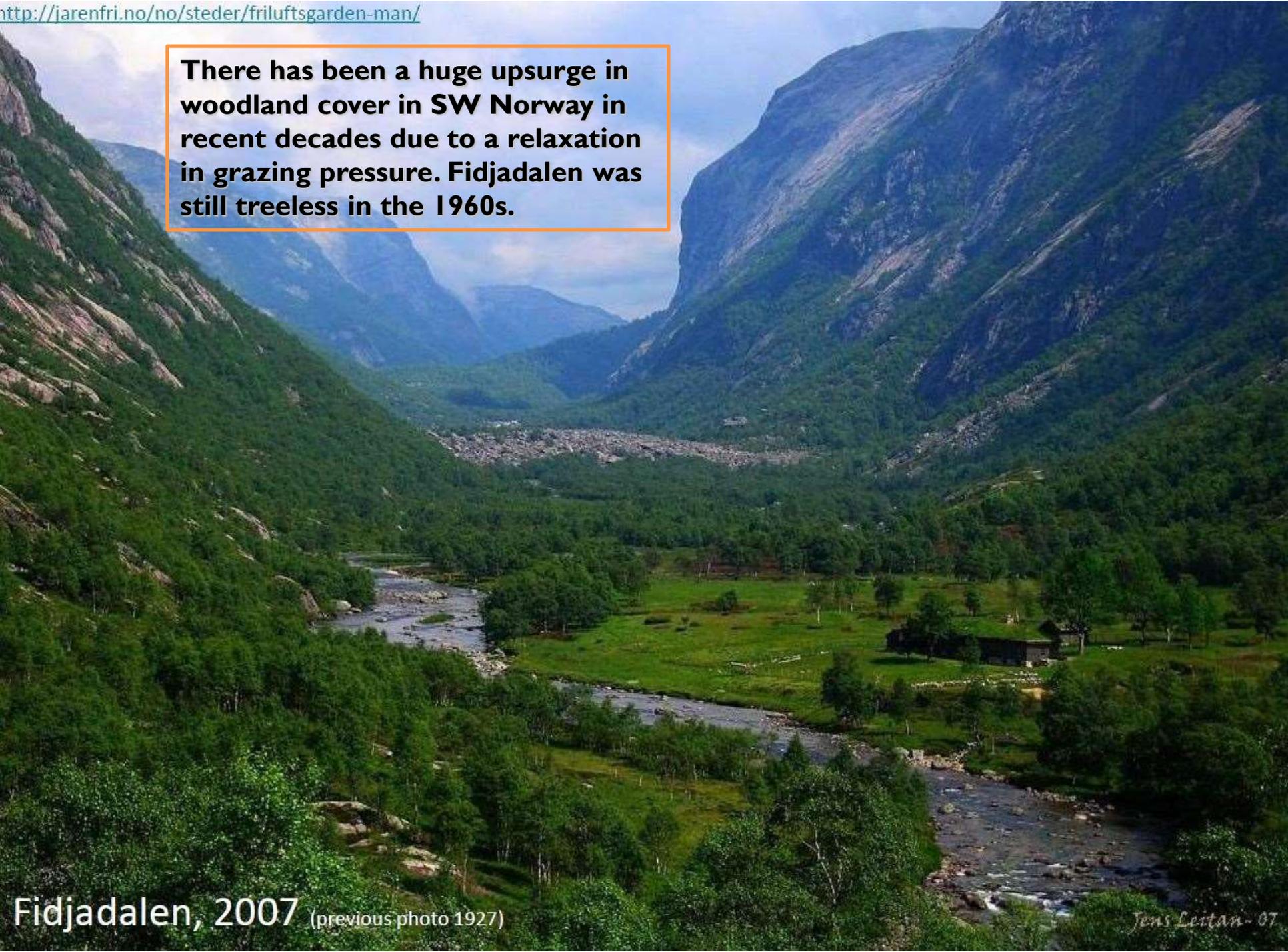
www.nina.no



SW Norway is climatically and geologically very similar to the Highlands



There has been a huge upsurge in woodland cover in SW Norway in recent decades due to a relaxation in grazing pressure. Fidjadalen was still treeless in the 1960s.



Fidjadalen, 2007 (previous photo 1927)



SW Norway
Birch zone above pine



**Meall a' Bhuachaille, Glenmore
Pines advancing well beyond 650m**



'Allt an Da Chraobh Bheath',
flows from 1000m down to
880m on Balmoral. In SW
Norway this altitude would
be in the birch zone. The
name means 'the stream of
the two birch trees'.



SW Norway
900m-1100m on peaty soils



SW Norway
Peat bog occurs in mosaic in birch zone



Mark Hamblin



SW Norway

Various birds breed successfully in birch zone

Mark Hamblin



RSPB Images



SW Norway: Grouse shooting, deer stalking, livestock grazing, Woodfuel all take place in mountain birch zone

The capercaillie has undergone a massive national decline over the past 40 years. 80% of the UK population now lives in the CNP. Conserving the species is a priority, but it also acts as an ‘umbrella species’, i.e. by conserving it, you look after its woodland habitat and thus many other species.



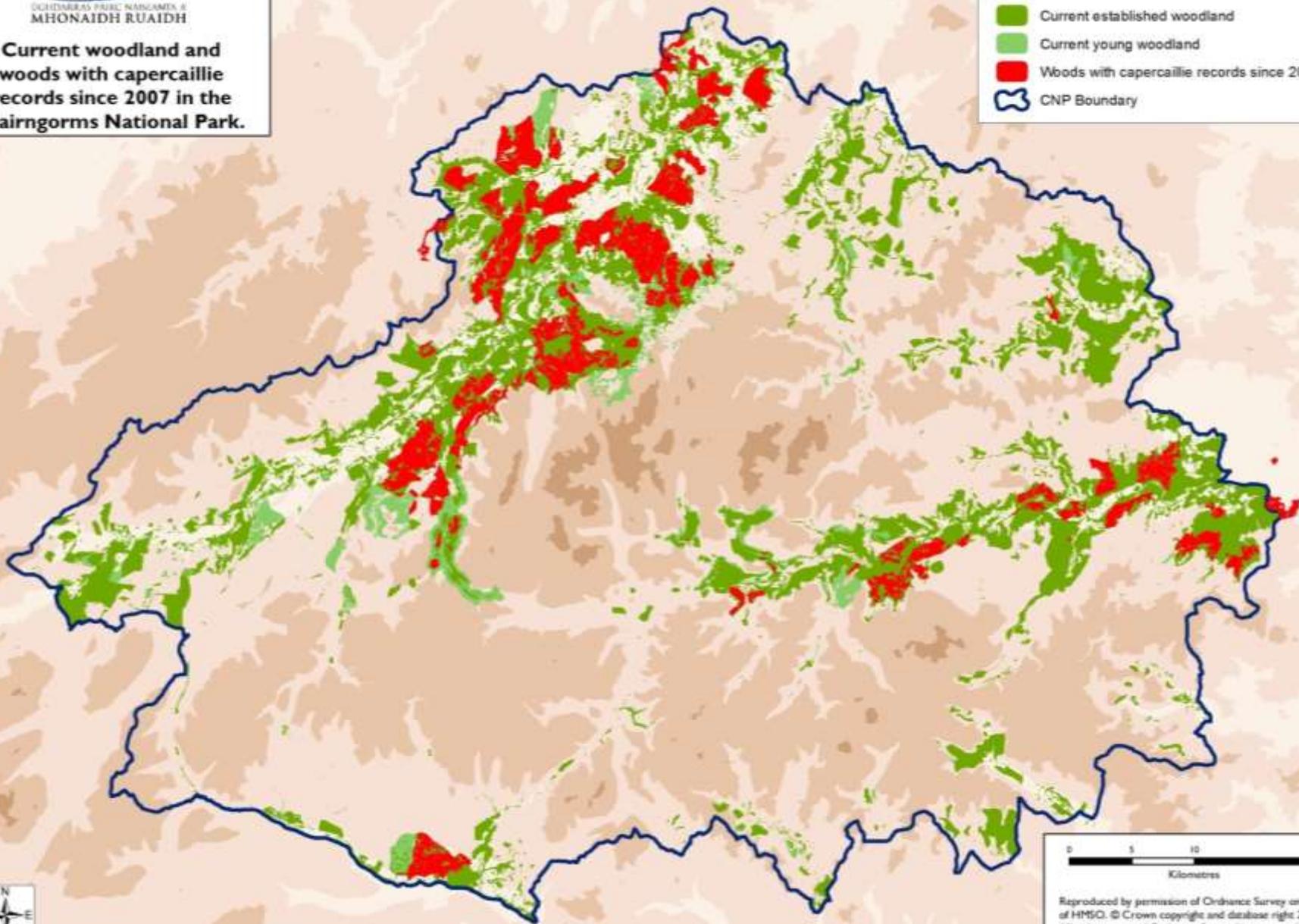
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OGHDUMRAS PARIC NAINGAMES /
MHONAI DH RUAIDH

**Current woodland and
woods with capercaillie
records since 2007 in the
Cairngorms National Park.**

Key

- Current established woodland
- Current young woodland
- Woods with capercaillie records since 2007
- CNP Boundary



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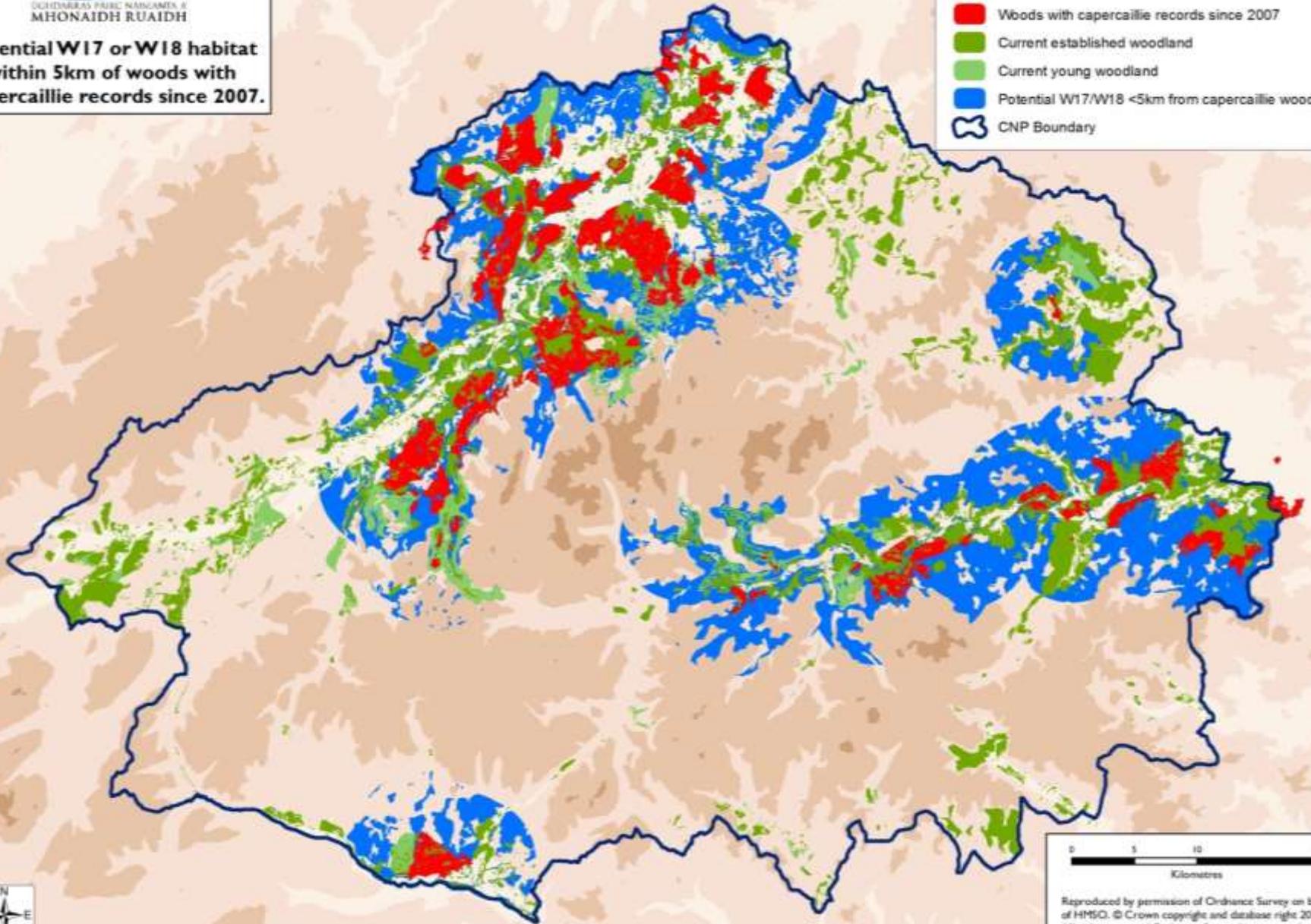
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NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

OGHDUMRAS PARIC NAINAMAS &
MHONAI DH RUAIDH

Potential W17 or W18 habitat
within 5km of woods with
capercaillie records since 2007.

Key

- Woods with capercaillie records since 2007
- Current established woodland
- Current young woodland
- Potential W17/W18 <5km from capercaillie woods
- CNP Boundary



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Cairngorms Locational Premium

(blue areas on map)

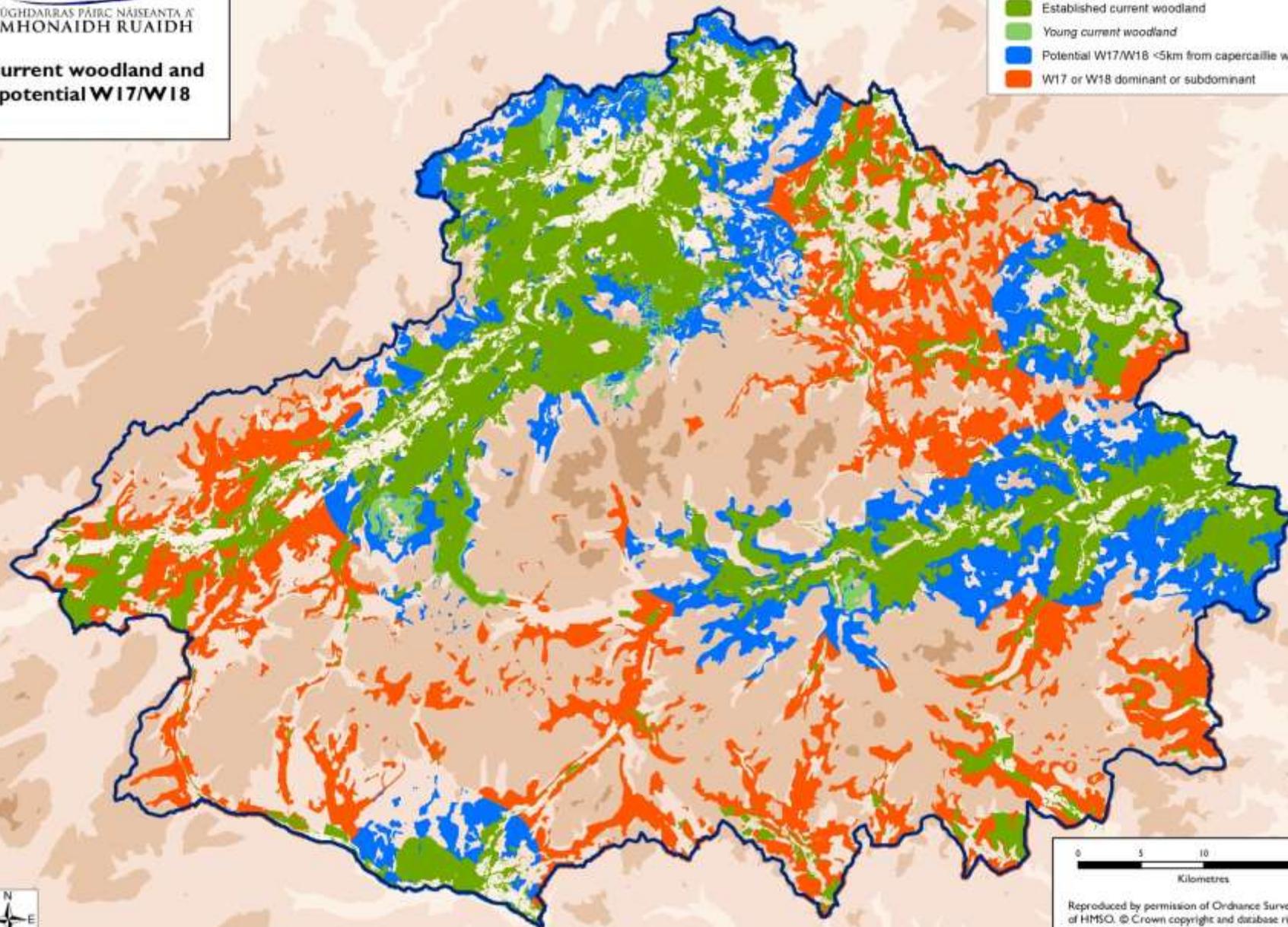
Higher payment rates (12.5% extra) apply to:

- Diverse conifer**
- Native Scots pine**
- Native upland birch**
- Native broadleaves**
- Native low-density broadleaves**

**Current woodland and
potential W17/W18**

Key

- Established current woodland
- Young current woodland
- Potential W17/W18 <5km from capercaillie woods
- W17 or W18 dominant or subdominant

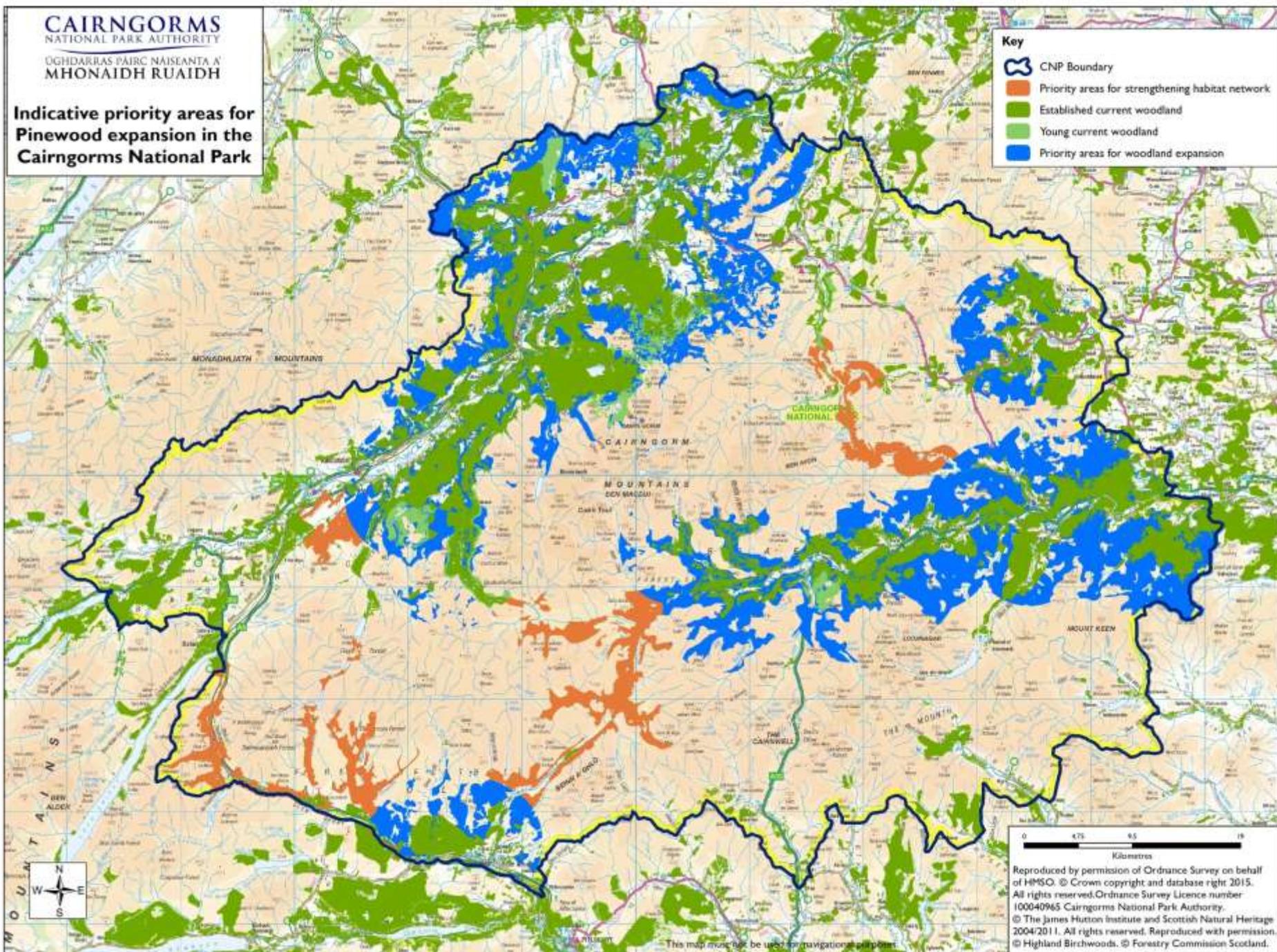


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‘Pearls in Peril’ exclosures on the River Gairn: planting riparian trees to create shade for upland streams and thus combat rising water temperatures harmful to salmon and pearl mussels



Indicative priority areas for
Pinewood expansion in the
Cairngorms National Park



In summary

- **The woodlands of the Cairngorms already contribute a great deal to the area's distinctive wildlife and landscapes.**
- **They are also very significant for the local economy, for delivering ecosystem services, and for our well-being.**
- **We have huge potential for further landscape-scale woodland recovery.**
- **Expanding out from our existing woodland resource is a strategic priority**
- **Strengthening a forest habitat network within and between catchments will help absorb the impacts of climate change**