
STRATEGY

Cairngorm and Glenmore
Strategy

**Strategic Environmental Assessment
Environmental Report**

December 2015

Appendix 2: Environmental Baseline

Topic 7: Landscape and Cultural Heritage

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Landscape

“Landscapes [are]... an essential component of people’s surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity.”

European Landscape Convention
(2000).

Landscape is the physical manifestation of space, the tangible elements that give shape and diversity to our surroundings. It is the product of thousands of years of interaction between man and nature, encompassing the environmental and cultural, physical and symbolic. It is also the environment perceived, predominantly visually but additionally through our senses of smell, touch and hearing. Our appreciation of landscape is also affected, by our cultural backgrounds, and by personal and professional interests.

Landscape is important, not just as scenery but because it links culture with nature, and

the past with the present. Well-looked after and highly valued landscapes are essential to social well-being and an economically healthy society. Landscapes are valued because of their inherent interest, their contribution to both national identity and local distinctiveness. The protection of high quality and highly valued landscapes therefore is important both for its own sake and for the health, social and economic wellbeing of individuals and communities.

At 4,528 square kilometres, and comprising 6% of Scotland’s land area, the Cairngorms National Park is the UK’s largest protected landscape.

The Cairngorms are best known as an upland massif of expansive proportions and a sub-arctic environment. There are no other mountains like them in Britain. Massive granite domes with corries and passes scooped out; broad rolling plateau more like Scandinavia than the UK.

Nowhere else is consistently higher, colder or wilder. The mountains dominate the National Park and have an effect on the way people live and the landscapes they live in.

But the landscape of the Cairngorms National Park is far more than that. It encompasses strath and glen, village and farm, woodland, moorland, river and loch. Landscapes that provide a home and a livelihood, engage the imagination, excite the mind, challenge our endurance and strength and give us a sense of the past and memories for the future.

Landscapes change daily, seasonally and year by year as the light changes, as crops are harvested, as trees grow, as houses are built and others fall into ruin and as rocks weather and erode. In the coming years and decades, the landscapes of the National Park will change as we address issues such as climate change, the decline of fossil fuels and changing population dynamics.

Landscape Character

Cairngorm and Glenmore occupy one of the National Park's best known landscapes, being the gateway for many into the area's forests and mountains. It is a large scale landscape defined by its native pine forest and open granite mountains. It is a landscape admired for its scenic grandeur and beauty, containing an essentially wild character despite the attentions of human management.

The area mostly sits within the Glenmore Landscape Character Area (LCA) (**Figure 64**), which defines landscapes by the consistency of character formed by the topography, land use, history, settlement and development and the way the landscape is experienced. (Grant *et al.* 2009). A description of their landscape characteristics, experience and sensitivity of each area, along with a succinct summary of what makes the areas distinctive from elsewhere in the national Park, is provided on the CNPA's website:

www.cairngorms.co.uk/landscape-toolkit

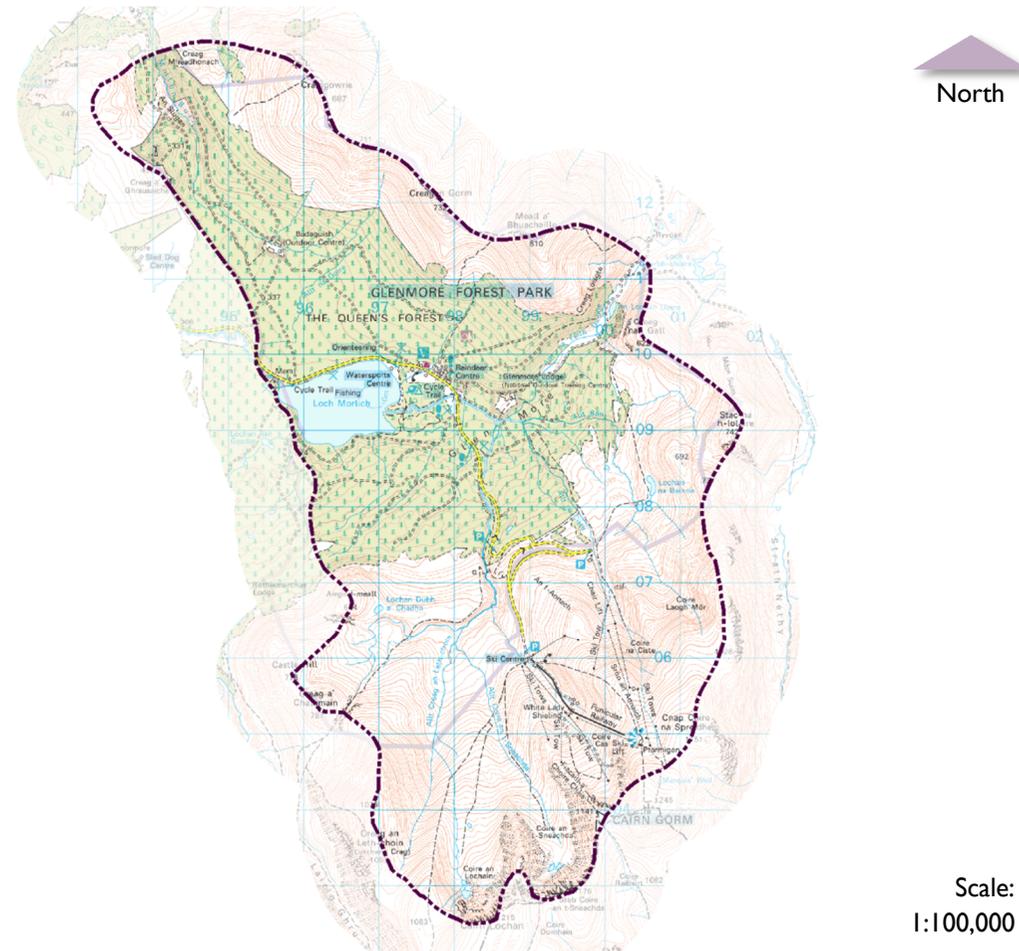


Figure 64 Glenmore Landscape Character Area.

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The area offers a strong sense of being surrounded by the massive bulk of the Cairngorm Mountains, and the sense of enclosure is reinforced by the woodland of Glenmore and Rothiemurchus. While the dramatic landform of the Northern Corries looms dramatically into views, often quite suddenly, Loch Morlich also forms a visual focus within the dense cover of darker woodland.

The qualities that make up this landscape's character and experience are outlined in **Table 17**.

Special Qualities of the Cairngorms National Park

In 2010 work was conducted to identify the 'Special Qualities' of the Cairngorms National Park's landscape (Scottish Natural Heritage & Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2010).

Table 17 Landscape characteristics and experience of Glenmore LCA.

| Landscape Character |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This is the upper part of a bowl-shaped landform, extending east from the Rothiemurchus character area, contained by the arc of the high granite "pluton" of the Cairngorms massif to the south and the Kincardine Hills to the north-east. ➤ On the slopes that rise around Glenmore there are some very large moraines and melt water channels, which are often hidden in the woodland, but where they appear above the forest, for example at Ryvoan, they appear as dramatic, large steps on the hillside. ➤ When exposed by rivers or manmade excavations, the gravelly deposits are revealed. ➤ The huge scale and bold form of amphitheatre-like corries, deeply cut valleys and ridges of the bulk Cairngorms create a dramatic skyline. ➤ Glenmore Forest covers much of the gently dished lower ground of this character area. It is predominantly composed of pine and is largely commercially managed. ➤ Larger 'specimen' native pine fringe Loch Morlich and young native pine regeneration is evident on the upper slopes of the Kincardine Hills, increasingly creating a more naturalistic, fragmented upper margin to the forest. ➤ Occasional mature 'granny' pine can be found as small stands or individual trees within the forest. ➤ Loch Morlich forms a focus within the forest, its simple, rounded form, sandy beach and light-reflective surface standing out amidst the extensive dark green coniferous cover. ➤ This character area is sparsely settled, with a single focus of settlement at Glenmore, where development is often related to recreational use of the forest and surrounding mountains. ➤ Summer shielings can be found on the east slopes of Airgiod-meall ridge. There are likely to be others hidden in the forest, along the main rivers and burns. ➤ Loch Morlich is a focus for recreation with a large camp site and water sports facility abutting the sandy beach on its eastern shore. Glenmore Forest accommodates a network of well-used tracks and footpaths popular with cyclists and walkers. A plethora of signs marks a range of other recreational and commercial facilities accessed from the public road to the Cairn Gorm ski centre, which passes through the forest. |

This work identified the qualities that make the landscape and scenery of the area special and hence underpins the reason for the designation of both the National Park and the National Scenic Areas within it. The work should make it easier to direct future landscape change so that the appeal and value of the National Park can be passed on to future generations. The work also provides a solid basis for any activity designed to promote the area, whether to residents, businesses or visitors. **Table 18** provides a summary of the National Park's special qualities; full details may be found in *The Special Landscape Qualities of the Cairngorms National Park* (Scottish Natural Heritage & Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2010):

www.snh.gov.uk/publications-data-and-research/publications/search-the-catalogue/publication-detail/?id=1520

- The 'ski road' climbs upwards from Loch Morlich on the steep lower slopes of Cairn Gorm in a series of looping, switch-back bends which offer glimpse views of gravel banks where the river is eroding old glacial deposits.
- A large car park is sited at the foot of the funicular railway and the ski slopes which are marked by snow fences, metal gantries and ski lifts. It offers expansive views across the basin of Glenmore Forest and Strathspey.

Landscape Experience

- Glenmore Forest, Loch Morlich and the Cairngorm mountains are a focus for recreation and as such it is difficult to experience a strong sense of seclusion within this character area, particularly in the more popular areas, and with skiing infrastructure extending onto the mountain slopes.
- While the presence of the ski road, which provides access high up onto the slopes of the northern Cairngorm Massif, reduces the degree of remoteness experienced it does allow spectacular views into the deep valleys and corries of the mountains and enables an accessible appreciation of their huge scale and dramatic form.
- The northern corries offer an accessible but alpine experience of corrie, lochan and crag, dominated by the dramatic vertical scale of the corrie faces.
- Adverse weather conditions at any time of the year can emphasise the scale and elemental qualities of the mountains, even from the exposed car park at the head of the ski road.
- The Cairngorm massif, its skyline, corries and major glens, forms a dramatic backdrop seen from Loch Morlich and from footpaths within the Kincardine Hills

Table 18 Summary of the special landscape qualities of the Cairngorms National Park (Scottish Natural Heritage & Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2010).

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>General Qualities</p> | <p>Trees, Woods and Forests</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Magnificent mountains towering over moorland, forest and strath. ➤ Vastness of space, scale and height. ➤ Strong juxtaposition of contrasting landscapes. ➤ A landscape of layers, from inhabited strath to remote, uninhabited upland. ➤ ‘The harmony of complicated curves’. ➤ Landscapes both cultural and natural. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dark and venerable pine forest. ➤ Light and airy birch woods. ➤ Parkland and policy woodlands. ➤ Long association with forestry. |
| <p>The Mountains and Plateaux</p> | <p>Wildlife and Nature</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The unifying presence of the central mountains. ➤ An imposing massif of strong dramatic character. ➤ The unique plateaux of vast scale, distinctive landforms and exposed, boulderstrewn high ground. ➤ The surrounding hills. ➤ The drama of deep corries. ➤ Exceptional glacial landforms. ➤ Snowscapes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dominance of natural landforms. ➤ Extensive tracts of natural vegetation. ➤ Association with iconic animals. ➤ Wild land. ➤ Wildness. |
| <p>Moorlands</p> | <p>Visual and Sensory Qualities</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Extensive moorland, linking the farmland, woodland and the high tops. ➤ A patchwork of muirburn. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Layers of receding ridge lines. ➤ Grand panoramas and framed views. ➤ A landscape of many colours. ➤ Dark skies. ➤ Attractive and contrasting textures. ➤ The dominance of natural sounds. |
| <p>Glens and Straths</p> | <p>Culture and History</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Steep glens and high passes. ➤ Broad, farmed straths. ➤ Renowned rivers. ➤ Beautiful lochs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Distinctive planned towns. ➤ Vernacular stone buildings. ➤ Dramatic, historical routes. ➤ The wistfulness of abandoned settlements. ➤ Focal cultural landmarks of castles, distilleries and bridges. ➤ The Royal connection. |
| | <p>Recreation</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A landscape of opportunities. ➤ Spirituality. |

National Scenic Areas

Cairngorm and Glenmore fall within the Cairngorms Mountains National Scenic Area (NSA) (**Figure 65**), which covers a total area of 672 km².

NSAs are designated under Section 263A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, and are defined as “of outstanding scenic value in a national context”. The legislation also states that within an NSA “special attention is to be paid to the desirability of safeguarding or enhancing its character or appearance” (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2010). This is given a policy basis through paragraph 212 of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (Scottish Government, 2014, p. 48). Most new developments within NSAs need to be accompanied by a design statement, and there are restrictions on certain permitted development rights.

The original description given in the 1978 report *Scotland’s Scenic Heritage* (Countryside Commission for Scotland, 1978), which lead to the designation of NSA, may be found in the appendices of

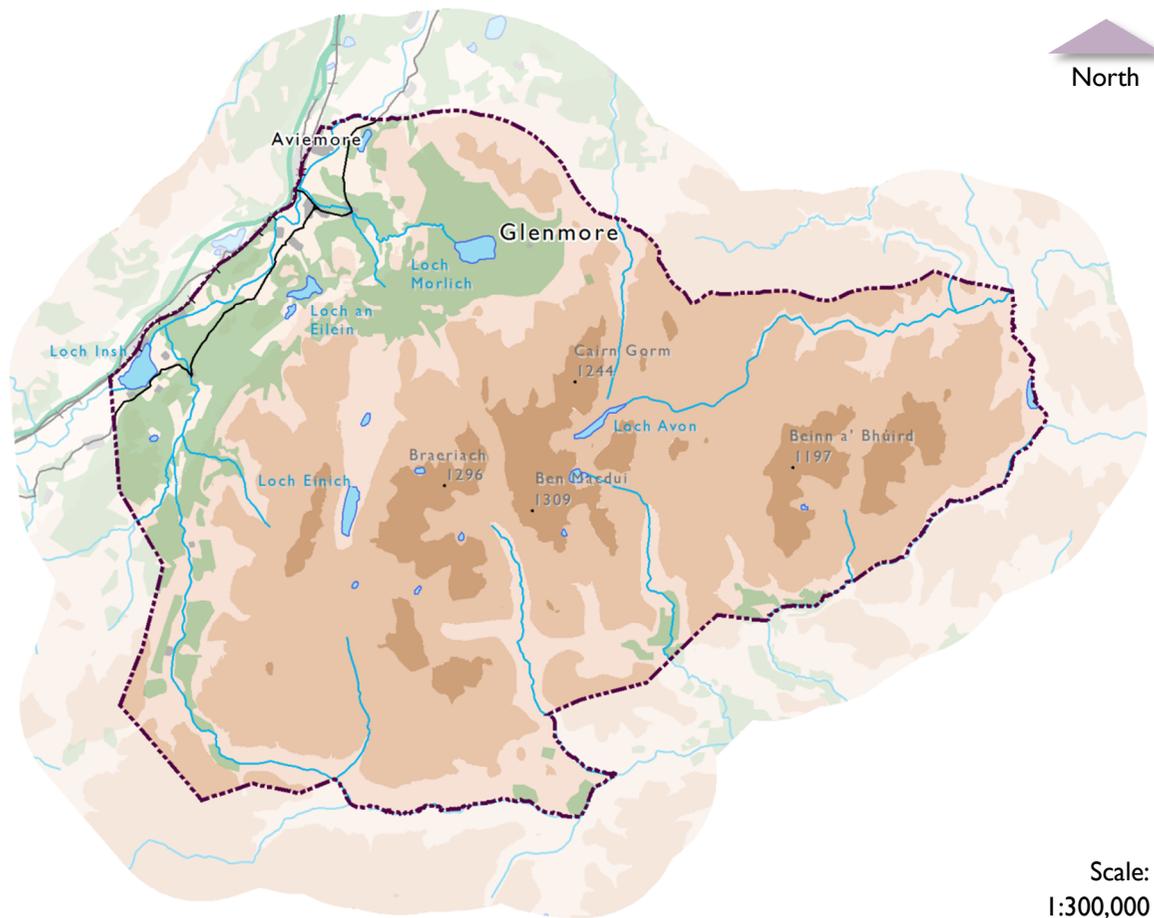


Figure 65 Cairngorm Mountains National Scenic Area.

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The Special Landscape Qualities of the Cairngorms National Park (Scottish Natural Heritage & Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2010):

www.snh.gov.uk/publications-data-and-research/publications/search-the-catalogue/publication-detail/?id=1520

Wild Land

‘Wild land’ is land defined by its perceived naturalness, rugged or challenging terrain, remoteness from public mechanised access and lack of built modern artefacts (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2014). Five areas have been identified within the National Park with one area, namely Cairngorms (**Figure 66**) overlapping around 21km² of the Cairngorm and Glenmore area.

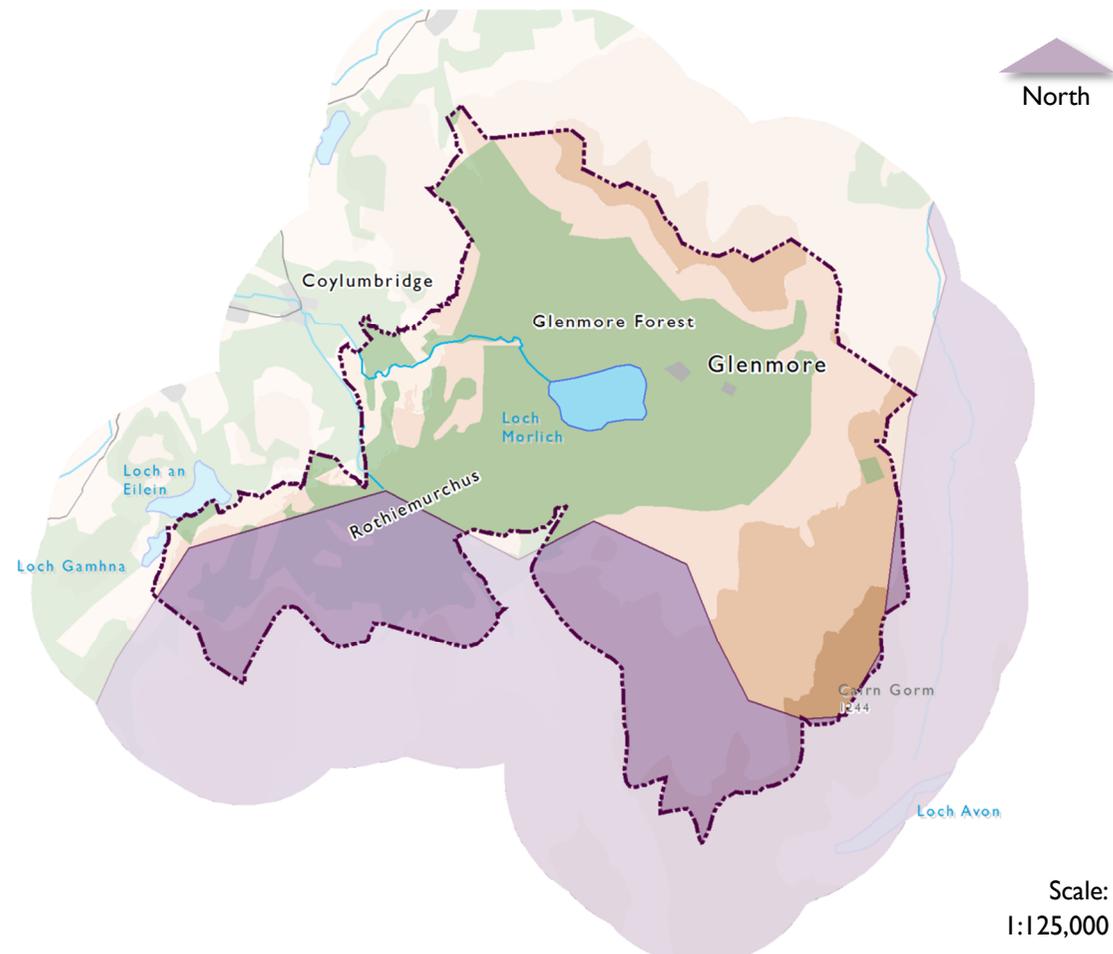


Figure 66 Wild land areas in the Cairngorm and Glenmore area.

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These wild and remote areas have a distinct and special character, which is increasingly rare to find. A key component of Scotland's identity, they bring significant economic benefits, attracting visitors and tourists. Many people derive psychological and spiritual benefit from their existence, and they provide increasingly important havens for Scotland's wildlife (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2014).

Wild land is described in the National Planning Framework (NPF) (Scottish Government, 2014) as a "...nationally important asset" (p. 42) and according to SPP (Scottish Government, 2014), "plans should identify and safeguard the character of areas of wild land...". The Strategy will therefore need to take account of these areas.

Cultural Heritage

Historic Landscape

"The context or setting in which specific historic features sit and the patterns of past use are part of our historic environment. The historical, artistic, literary, linguistic, and scenic associations of places and landscapes are some of the less tangible elements of the historic environment. These elements make a fundamental contribution to our sense of place and cultural identity."

Historic Scotland (2011).

The landscape we see today is the endpoint of a long period of evolution, involving a complex interplay of the natural elements of climate, geology, geomorphology, soil development, vegetation succession and herbivore impact – and with a rich overlay of human elements linked to settlement, transport, farming and forestry. Similarly, it should be expected that the landscape will continue to evolve in future in response to on-going social, economic and

environmental change (Scottish Natural Heritage & Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2010).

Cairngorm Lodge youth hostel originated as a hunting lodge, which was named Glenmore Lodge. It is seen on the 1867 OS map, occupying a position above open land, prior to construction of the ski road. At that time the shape of the building was different to that seen today, and the old photograph displayed in the hostel shows a building with extended wings and only 2 gabled projections to the front (rather than the 3 now present) (**Figure 67**). By 1902 the collection of service buildings that now make up the main part of the visitor centre were present, alongside the road that continued on towards Ryvoan. The open character of the immediate landscape seen in the photograph reflects more intensive agricultural use and greater control over the natural vegetation generally than currently is the case.



Figure 67 Photograph of the Lodge from around the turn of the 19th/20th centuries (from Scottish Youth Hostel Association).

The lodge was requisitioned during the war by the Special Operations Executive as a Special Training School SPS26 for the Norwegian commando unit Kompani Linge. After the war it was taken over by the Central Council for Physical Education and then became the Loch Morlich youth hostel in 1966 when the National Outdoor Training Centre was opened at the new Glenmore Lodge.

The Kompani Linge memorial was dedicated by the King of Norway in 1973, in memory of those who trained in the area and lost their lives in the war.

The visitor centre was developed using the old out-buildings of the lodge. A purpose-built extension was added in recent years.

The forest at Glenmore was host to a different wartime occupier during the First World War, when the Canadian Forestry Corps worked the forest for timber, much of it used as pit-props for trench construction on the western front. There is no memorial signifying this interesting period in the history of the forest.

National Monuments Record

The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) is the term used for the archive of the sites, monuments and buildings of Scotland's past formerly maintained by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and now under the oversight of the new lead public body for Scotland's

historic environment, Historic Environment Scotland (HES).

There are 54 records within the Cairngorm and Glenmore area (**Figure 68** and **Table 19**) and include a diverse range of sites, including shieling huts, townsteads, farmsteads, dams and sills. There are also records of possible Bronze Age finds, which include a sword and a spearhead found on the slopes of Cairn Gorm.

Further information about the area's historic environment is available from the HES' Historic Land Use Map:

www.hla.rcahms.gov.uk

The map uses simple annotations to show how the landscape has changed over time, giving the user a tool to decipher the broad elements of the historic environment.

HES also offer an interactive map of archaeological and architectural sites in Scotland, which acts as a portal to more detailed information held by various partners:

www.pastmap.org.uk

Historic Designations

Within the area to be covered by the Strategy, there are no:

- Scheduled Monuments,
- Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes,
- Inventory Battlefield Sites,
- Conservation Areas,
- Listed Buildings or structures, or
- Buildings at Risk.

These features of the historic environment can therefore be scoped out of the assessment.

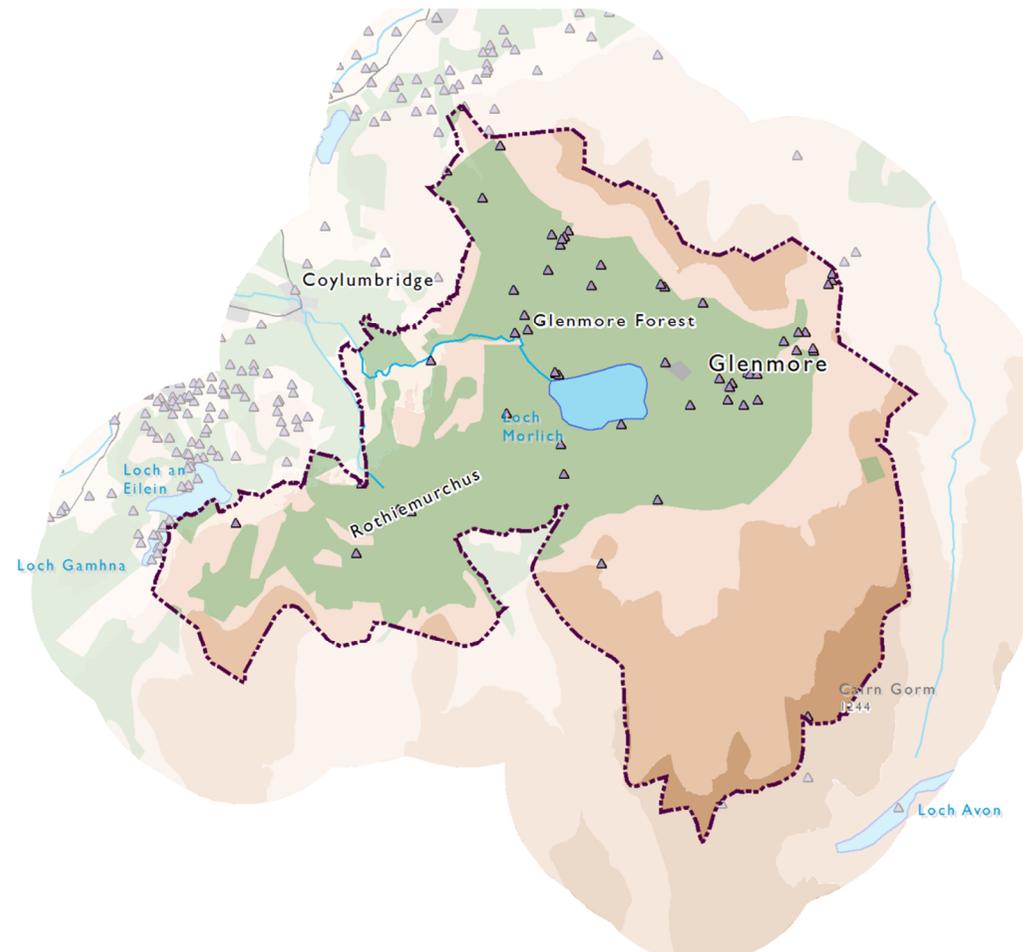


Figure 68 National Monuments Record sites in the Cairngorm and Glenmore area.

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Table 19 National Monuments Record sites in the Cairngorm and Glenmore area.

| Site Number | Canmore ID ¹ | NMR Name | Alternative Name | Classification |
|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| NH90NE 1 | 15377 | Glen More, Glenmore Lodge | Loch Morlich Youth Hostel; Glenmore Lodge; Glenmore Youth Hostel | Hostel, House |
| NH90NE 10 | 218022 | Loch Morlich Canal | - | Canal |
| NH90NE 11 | 240802 | Glenmore, Caochan Na Criche | - | Railway (20th century) |
| NH90NE 12 | 240804 | Glenmore, Caochan Na Criche | - | Shieling Hut |
| NH90NE 13 | 240810 | Loch Morlich | - | Bridge |
| NH90NE 14 | 240815 | Glenmore Lodge | - | Shieling Hut |
| NH90NE 15 | 240816 | Glen More, Allt Na Feithe Duibhe | - | Pen, Shieling Hut |
| NH90NE 16 | 240822 | Glen More, Ryvoan Pass | - | Shieling Hut |
| NH90NE 17 | 240823 | Glen More | - | Structure |
| NH90NE 18 | 240928 | Loch Morlich | - | Bothy |
| NH90NE 19 | 240930 | Loch Morlich | - | Structure(s) |
| NH90NE 2 | 116152 | Glenmore Lodge | - | Building |
| NH90NE 20 | 240931 | Loch Morlich | - | Commemorative Monument |
| NH90NE 3 | 116153 | Glenmore Lodge | - | Building |
| NH90NE 4 | 116154 | Glenmore Lodge | - | Building |
| NH90NE 5 | 116155 | Glenmore Lodge | - | Building |
| NH90NE 6 | 116195 | Rieunachan | Rieaonachan | Lodge |
| NH90NE 7 | 116213 | Glenmore Lodge | Ruigh An T Sluichd | Farmstead |
| NH90NE 8 | 109241 | Glen More, National Outdoor Training | Aviemore, Glen More, National | Training Centre |

¹ Canmore is compiled and managed by Historic Environment Scotland and contains more than 320,000 records and 1.3 million catalogue entries for archaeological sites, buildings, industry and maritime heritage across Scotland. See more: <http://canmore.org.uk/>

| Site Number | Canmore ID ¹ | NMR Name | Alternative Name | Classification |
|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| | | Centre | Outdoor Training Centre | |
| NH90NE 9 | 180974 | Eag A' Chait | Glenmore | Animal Trap (post Medieval) (possible) |
| NH90NW 18 | 104455 | Loch An Eilein | - | Building(s) |
| NH90NW 3 | 77384 | Rothiemurchus Doune | Doune Of Rothiemurchus | Motte (possible) |
| NH90NW 32 | 116118 | Rinraoich | - | Farmstead |
| NH90NW 33 | 116119 | Auldrue | - | Farmstead |
| NH90NW 34 | 116120 | Auldrue | - | Township |
| NH90NW 35 | 116121 | Cairngorm Club Footbridge | - | Building |
| NH91SE 10 | 240739 | Queens Forest, Coire Bogha Choinnich | - | Saw Mill |
| NH91SE 11 | 240742 | Queens Forest, Coire Bogha Choinnich | - | Cairn |
| NH91SE 12 | 240745 | Queens Forest, Coire Bogha Choinnich | - | Building |
| NH91SE 13 | 240750 | Queens Forest, Bochoinnich | - | Corn Drying Kiln |
| NH91SE 14 | 240757 | Queens Forest, Bochoinnich | - | Township |
| NH91SE 15 | 240759 | Queens Forest, Allt Na Doire | - | Still |
| NH91SE 16 | 240762 | Queens Forest, Badaguish | - | Boundary Marker |
| NH91SE 17 | 240769 | Queens Forest, Badaguish | - | Boundary Marker |
| NH91SE 18 | 240777 | Queens Forest, River Luineag | - | Boundary Marker |
| NH91SE 19 | 240784 | Creagan Dubh | - | Shieling Hut |
| NH91SE 20 | 240785 | Creagan Dubh | - | Shieling Hut |
| NH91SE 21 | 240792 | Coire Chondalaich | Rea Coire Chondlaich | Shieling Hut |
| NH91SE 22 | 240846 | Ryvoan Pass | Rea Chonachat | Shieling Hut |
| NH91SE 23 | 240847 | Ryvoan Pass, Allt Na Feithe Duibhe | - | Dam |

| Site Number | Canmore ID ¹ | NMR Name | Alternative Name | Classification |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| NH9ISE 24 | 240849 | Ryvoan Pass | - | Shieling Hut |
| NH9ISE 25 | 240852 | Ryvoan Pass, Allt Na Feithe Duibhe | - | Dam |
| NH9ISE 26 | 240912 | Badaguish | Badaguish Outdoor Centre | Farmstead, Training Centre |
| NH9ISE 7 | 116196 | Allt Coire Beag-ghleann | - | Township |
| NH9ISE 8 | 116115 | The Queens Forest | - | Farmstead |
| NH9ISW 61 | 240726 | Glenmore Forest, Allt Garbh | | Still |
| NH9ISW 62 | 240727 | Glenmore Forest, Allt Feithe Moire | An Slugan; Sluggan | Dam, Sluice |
| NJ00SW 2 | 15671 | Cairn Gorm | - | Spearhead (bronze) |
| NJ00SW 5 | 306376 | Cairn Gorm | Cairngorm National Park | Sword (bronze Age) |
| NJ01SW 11 | 240829 | Tom Da Choimhead | Tam Da Choimhead; Creag Nan Gall | Structure |
| NJ01SW 12 | 240831 | Tom Da Choimhead | Sithean Dubh Da Choimhead | Still |
| NJ01SW 13 | 240857 | Ryvoan | - | Structure |
| NJ01SW 14 | 240882 | Ryvoan | - | Stone |
| NJ01SW 4 | 116971 | Allt Na Feithe Duibhe | - | Farmstead (possibly) |

Linguistic Heritage

Cultural heritage does not simply manifest itself in the physical remains of past actions or in the evolving morphology of the built form. It also exists as a shared consciousness, which is consumed and reproduced in the mundane interactions of everyday life. Language, be it spoken, or as an elemental feature of the cultural landscape, is a potent vessel in which this heritage is maintained and reproduced. Ultimately, it is a driving force in shaping the way we see the world and the way the world sees us.

Over the past few decades, concern about the global scale and speed of language loss has emerged as a strong theme in the work of a growing number of socio-linguists (Crystal, 2000; Romaine & Nettle, 2000; Skutnabb-Kangas, 2000). UNESCO estimates that there are currently around 3,000 endangered languages in the world (Moseley, 2010). Many of these are undergoing '*language shift*', as speakers cease using a minority language and choose to use a majority language in its place

(Fishman, 1991). While intergenerational transmission is typically seen as the most significant means of language transmission, there are many other factors that may play a part, including economic benefit, perceived status, educational provision and so on (Clyne, 2004; Grin, 2007). As such, the matter of language change has found its way into the policy streams of many tiers of many governments (Ager, 2001; Wright, 2004). Biological and ecological metaphors abound within the field of socio-linguistics, so to say that the emphasis has moved from the *lassaiz-faire* stance of 'survival of the fittest' to the more interventionist stance position of 'preservation of the species' (Edwards & Newcombe, 2005) describes the evolving state of Scottish language policy and legislation well.

Scotland's linguistic history is complex (MacKinnon, 2000) with the current situation resulting from hundreds of years of population movement and cultural interaction. Located near the centre of the country, and owing to the restrictive nature of its mountainous terrain, the Cairngorms

National Park occupies a position where many of these linguistic and cultural differences intersect.

Within the National Park two minority languages, both of which have undergone significant language shift towards English, are still spoken, namely Scottish Gaelic and Scots (MacKinnon, 1991; Withers, 1984; Smith, 2000). The languages belong to contrasting linguistic families, the former being a member of the Goidelic branch of the Insular Celtic family (Price, 2000), the latter being a part of the same dialect continuum as English (Smith, 2000).

Due to the small number of speakers across the Cairngorms, statistical analysis at a data zone level becomes meaningless. Therefore, the languages are considered across the National Park. When considering minority languages, such an approach is usually the most robust, as people rarely confine their lives to the boundaries of statically defined small area geographies.

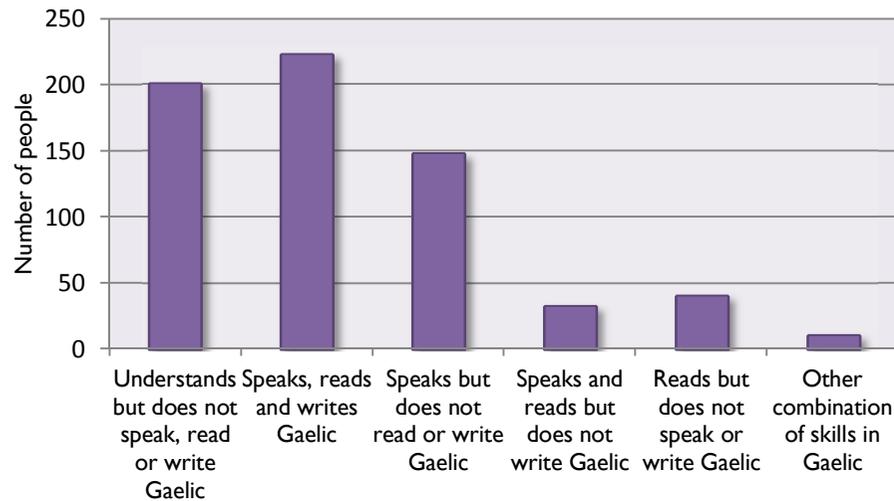


Figure 69 Gaelic language skills for all people aged 3 and over in the Cairngorms National Park (Census table QS21 ISC).

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For further information on variables, see www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/variables.

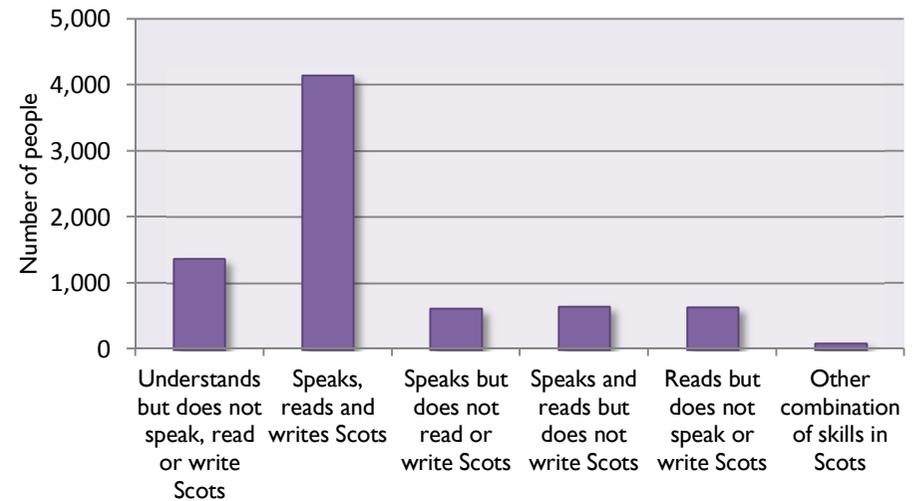


Figure 70 Scots language skills for all people aged 3 and over in the Cairngorms National Park (Census table QS212SC).

Gaelic, which was brought to Scotland from Ireland in around AD 500, was once spoken throughout the area. Though the language is now spoken by but a minority (around 370 or 2.2%; down from around 3.1% in 2001²) (see **Figure 69** for an overview of Gaelic language skills) in the National Park, it is a visible and inseparable part of the area's

² The samples that these statistics are drawn from are too small to allow any robust analysis of the Gaelic speaking population.

identity, as it continues to dominate the names of places, both built and natural. Nevertheless, it is classified by UNESCO as being 'Definitely endangered'³ (Moseley,

³ UNESCO has established six degrees of endangerment that 'may be distinguished with regard to intergenerational transmission', namely, 'Safe', 'Stable yet threatened', 'Vulnerable', 'Definitely endangered', 'Severely endangered', 'Critically endangered' and 'Extinct'. In the case of Gaelic's status as a 'Definitely endangered' language, this means it is predominantly no longer being learned as

2010). Currently, the CNPA seeks to support the Gaelic language through its

a mother tongue by children in the home. The youngest speakers are thus of the parental generation. At this stage, parents may still speak their language to their children, but children do not typically respond to the language. In the case of Scots as a 'Vulnerable' language, this means that most, but not all children of families of a particular community speak their parental language as a first language, but this may be restricted to specific social domains (UNESCO, 2003).

Gaelic Language Plan (Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2013).

Scots, which takes the form of its Northern / North-eastern dialect, Doric (McColl Millar, 2007), is also spoken throughout the National Park, but is stronger in the east where the influence of the lowlands is greatest. The language has also seen a fall in use since its apex in the Medieval period (Smith, 2000), with around 5,400 (29.3%) of the National Park's population claiming to be able to speak it in 2011 (see **Figure 70** for an overview of Scots language skills). It is classified by UNESCO as being 'Vulnerable'.

The number and proportion of both Gaelic and Scots speakers is therefore low within the Cairngorms National Park and it should be recognised that the CNPA is extremely limited in its ability to influence language use and acquisition. However, the Strategy may play an indirect role in language maintenance through its ability to shape the National Park's sense of place.

A sense of place may be defined at its simplest as the human interpretation of space (Tewdwr-Jones, 2002) and therefore the linguistic landscape, be it in the form of visible displays on advertisements or signage, or interpreted through the names written on maps or in literature, may form a strong part of this interpretation (Coupland, 2012). Place-names, for example, can offer a strong insight into the culture, history, environment and wildlife of an area. Public displays of language, which may be framed within the context of bilingualism, and which may form part of the broader cultural landscape, can play an important role in generating cultural norms such as the use of a minority language, effectively creating an environment in which the language is a prominent day to day feature of the environment (Adam, 1998; Urban, 2001; Shein, 1997; Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, 2004; Coupland & Garrett, 2010; Bauman & Briggs, 1990).

In turn, there is a perception that in the case of Gaelic at least, there is an economic benefit in the public use and display of the

language. It is estimated that the potential economic value of Gaelic to the Scottish economy is in the region of between £82 million and £149 million (DC Research, 2014).

Key Messages

Cairngorm and Glenmore occupy one of the National Park's best known landscapes, being the gateway for many into the area's forests and mountains. It is a large scale landscape defined by its native pine forest and open granite mountains. It is a landscape admired for its scenic grandeur and beauty, containing an essentially wild character despite the attentions of human management. The value of this landscape is recognised by its designation within the Cairngorm Mountains NSA.

The area does not possess any statutory historic designations. However, this does not mean that the area's historic environment is without value. Glenmore has a rich history, which is well represented in its buildings and landscapes.

Inter-relationships with other topics

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