



# Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2017 – 2022

## ISSUES REPORT



June 2016

## LANDSCAPE SCALE CONSERVATION ISSUES REPORT

### I. POLICY CONTEXT

Scotland's National Parks are national assets that showcase the very best of Scotland's natural environment and the multiple benefits of landscape scale habitat management. Partnership working across land-use sectors, across management boundaries and with the public, private and third sectors provides a common vision and focus for the conservation and restoration of healthy, functioning ecosystems that deliver public benefits and sustainable land use.

#### I.1 Scottish Biodiversity Strategy

*The 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity* updates and complements the *Scottish Biodiversity Strategy 2004*. Together they set out Scotland's response to the Aichi Targets set by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. Public agencies, Local Authorities and NGOs have each set out their commitments in *Scottish Biodiversity Strategy 2020 Challenge Delivery Agreements*.

*Scotland's Biodiversity a route map to 2020* identifies six 'Big Steps for Nature' and a number of priority projects through which outcomes and key steps in *The 2020 Challenge* will be met. Those most relevant to the Cairngorms National Park (CNP) are:

<b>SBS 2020 Challenge Outcome</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scotland's ecosystems are restored to good ecological health so that they provide robust ecosystem services and build our natural capital</li> <li>2. Natural resources contribute to stronger sustainable economic growth in Scotland and we increase our natural capital to pass onto the next generation.</li> </ol>
<b>Big Steps for Nature</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ecosystem restoration – to reverse historical losses of habitats and ecosystems, to meet the Aichi target of restoring 15% of degraded ecosystems</li> <li>2. Investment in Natural Capital – to ensure the benefits which nature provides are better understood and appreciated, leading to better management of our renewable and non-renewable natural assets.</li> <li>4. Conserving wildlife in Scotland – to secure the future of priority habitats and species</li> <li>5. Sustainable management of land and freshwater – to ensure that environmental, social and economic elements are well balanced</li> </ol>
<b>Priority Projects</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Restoration of peatlands</li> <li>2. Restoration of native woodland</li> <li>3. Restoration of freshwaters</li> <li>4. Securing economic benefits from, and investments in, natural capital</li> <li>8. Protected areas in good condition</li> <li>9. Conservation of priority species e.g. Wildcat Action Plan, Pearls in Peril, saving Scotland's Red Squirrels</li> <li>10. Improving ecological connection</li> <li>11. Support sustainable land management via CAP</li> </ol>

## **I.2 Cairngorms Nature Action Plan (CNAP)**

Cairngorms Nature is a wide and open partnership of agencies, individuals and organisations with an interest in conservation in the National Park. *The Cairngorms Nature Action Plan 2013 – 2018* describes the priorities for action over the next five years and is the primary mechanism for focussing and coordinating partners' activities.

Delivery of the CNAP and development of the partnership is overseen by a Strategy Group comprising representatives from: CNPA, a community development officer, Dee Fisheries Trust, Forestry Commission Scotland, National Farmers Union Scotland, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Scottish Land & Estates, Scottish Gamekeepers' Association, Scottish Natural Heritage, and Wildland Ltd.

The four aims of the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan are to:

1. Improve the quality and connectivity of woodlands and wetlands for biodiversity
2. Implement priority actions for other habitats (e.g. peatlands restoration)
3. Conserve and enhance key species through focused conservation action
4. Encourage, support and provide opportunities for people to realise the benefits from and help to look after nature

The Cairngorms Nature Action Plan includes targets for

- 5,000ha new native woodland
- 2,000ha peatland restoration
- 100km river restoration
- 25ha new wetland and natural flood management
- 300ha developing mountain woodland

## **I.3 Scottish Land Use Strategy**

The *Scottish Land Use Strategy* is a strategic framework bringing together proposals for getting the best from Scotland's land resources. Public sector bodies are expected to take a leading role by utilising its principles for sustainable land use. Those principles most relevant to landscape scale habitat restoration in CNP are:

c) Where land is highly suitable for a primary use (for example food production, flood management, water catchment management and carbon storage) this value should be recognised in decision-making

d) Land use decisions should be informed by an understanding of the functioning of the ecosystems which they affect in order to maintain the benefits of the ecosystem services which they provide.

## **I.4 Water Framework Directive (WFD)**

*The Water Framework Directive* is the operational tool for delivering the European Water policy, setting the objectives for achieving good ecological status, including water quality and river morphology, and for management by river basin. The WFD requires a River Basin Management Plan to be established and updated every 6 years. The Water Environment Fund aims to restore rivers, lochs and their catchments which have been damaged by historical activities.

## **I.5 Scottish Forestry Strategy**

The vision of the *Scottish Forestry Strategy* is that, by the second half of the 21st century, woodlands will have expanded to around 25% of Scotland's land area. This will mean the

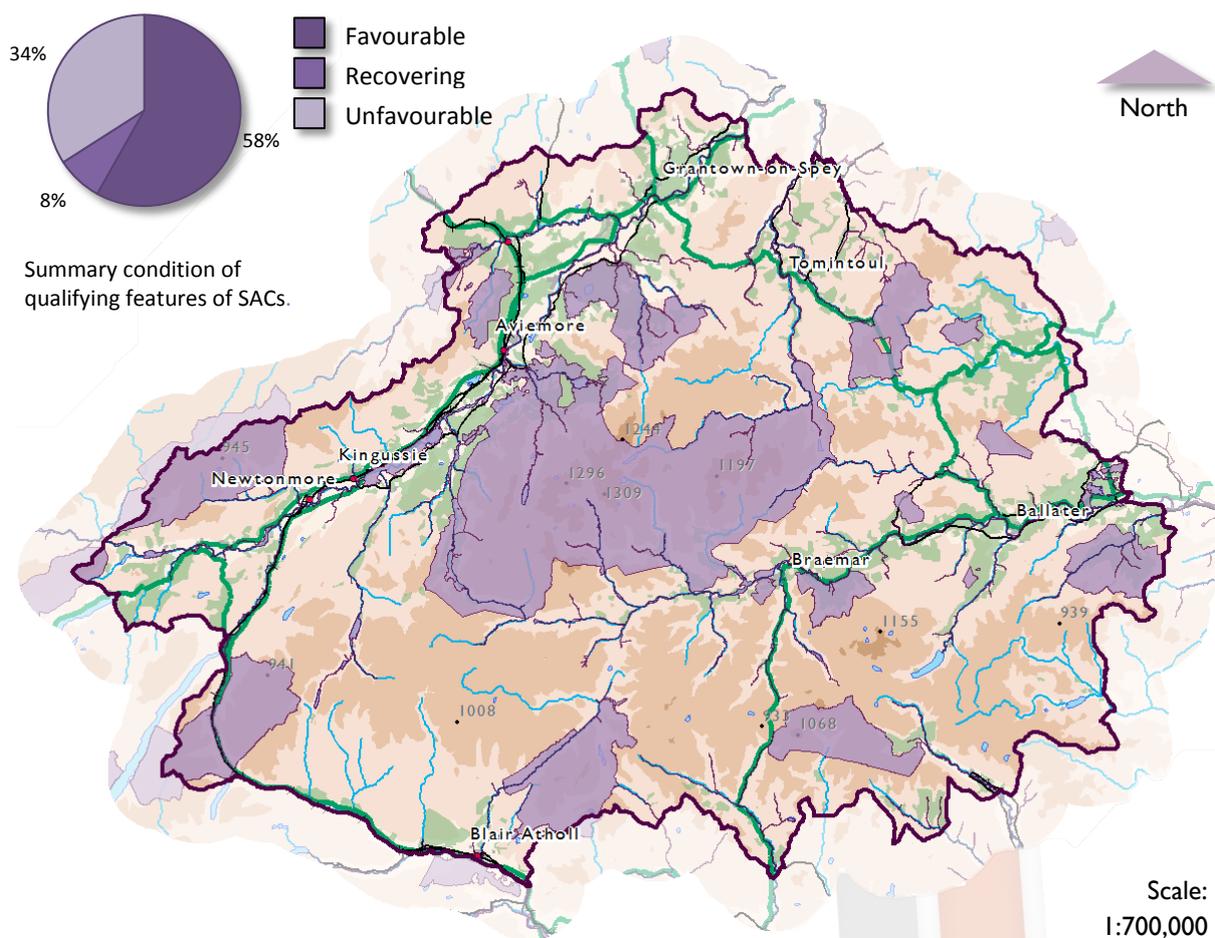
creation of between 10,000 and 15,000ha of new woodland per year including 2,000ha on the national forest estate. It is also intended that at least 4,500ha of native woodland will be created - or restored from woodland planted with non-native species - per year, to help develop habitat networks.

### 1.6 Scotland's Wild Deer: a National Approach (WDNA)

The impacts of deer can have a major influence on habitat restoration: trampling and grazing are two of the biggest pressures on the condition of uplands and the successful establishment and regeneration of woodlands. Developed by land managers and public bodies, WDNA guides action on the ground and informs strategic thinking to manage deer as an integral and essential part of biodiversity. Deer Management Plans must now ensure that deer management delivers public benefit, as set out in 14 prescribed actions.

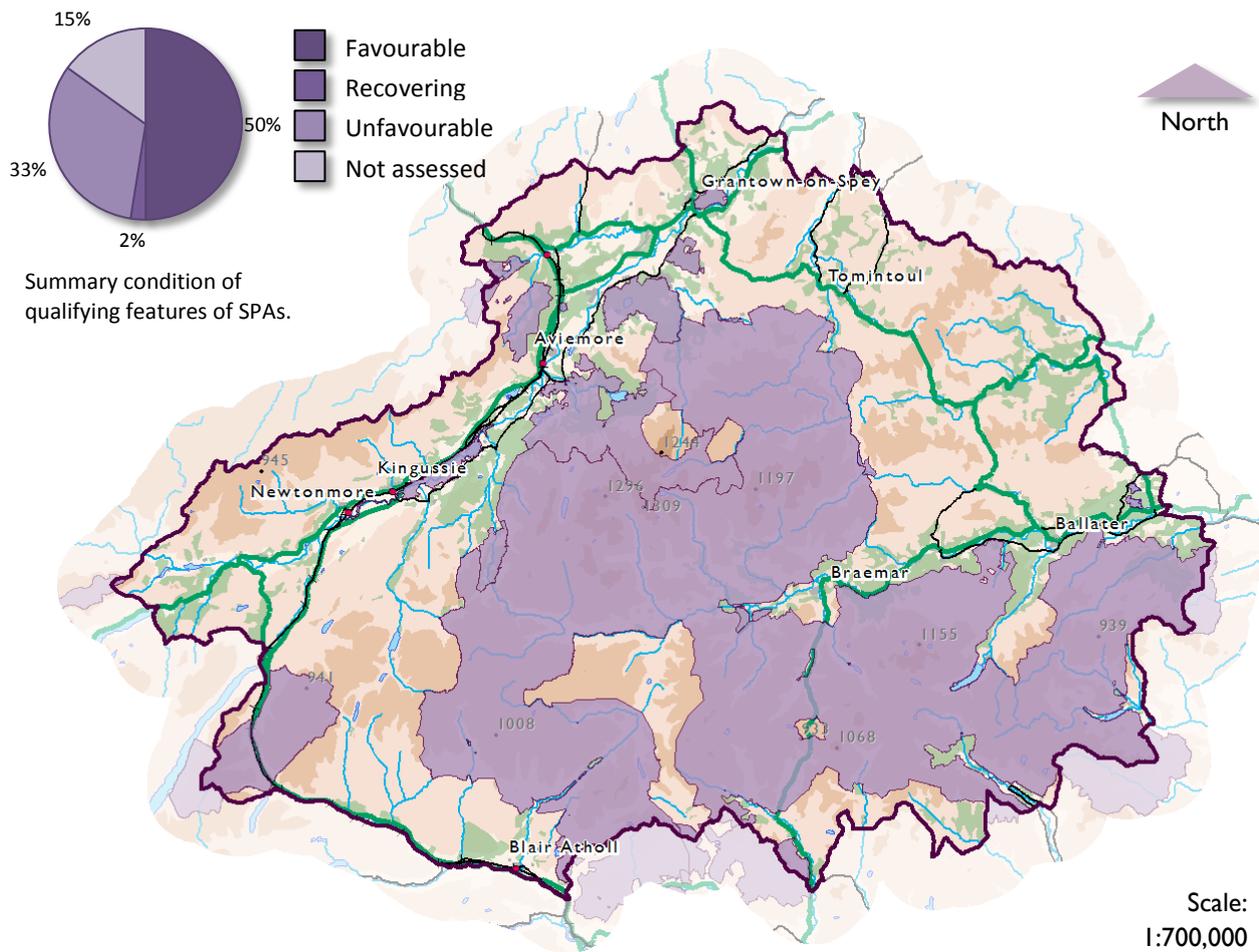
### 1.7 Natura 2000

The National Park is of extremely high importance for nature conservation. Almost half of the Park is designated under Europe's nature conservation legislation: the *Habitats Directive* and the *Birds Directive*; which together form the *Natura 2000* network of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA). The National target is to bring 80% of designated sites into favourable condition by 2016.



**Figure 1** Special Areas of Conservation within the Cairngorms National Park.

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**Figure 2** Special Protection Areas within the Cairngorms National Park.

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## 2. OTHER DRIVERS OF CHANGE

### 2.1 Protected areas review

In May 2014 Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) convened a panel to investigate how the role and purpose of protected areas might be developed to better secure public benefits within the context of wider thinking on land use and ecosystem services. The panel concluded that protected areas have become increasingly isolated from each other and from wider land use, focussing more on rarity and perpetuating the *status quo* than responding to dynamic natural systems. The panel recommended protected areas should have a new purpose which is more forward looking and adaptive: “to maintain good examples of habitat types as core components of a wider pattern of healthy functioning landscapes that are resilient to change, and meet the needs of people now and in the future.”

### 2.2 Climate change adaptation

Healthy, functioning ecosystems and landscapes can build resilience to the impacts of a changing climate, for example through carbon sequestration and providing habitat networks that will aid lateral and altitudinal species migration. Climate change models suggest that rainfall in the autumn months will increase. This may lead to an increase in flash flooding. Natural flood management using natural river processes to slow the flow of water upstream

and increase water storage in the whole catchment could provide wide-ranging benefits for nature and people.

### **2.3 Natural Capital**

There is widespread and building interest in recognising the value of nature and the public benefits that landscapes and ecosystems provide.

### **2.4 Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016**

The Act aims to set out a clear basis for the ownership and management of land in the public interest. It includes specific measures to strengthen delivery of the public interest through deer management.

### **2.5 Capercaillie Framework**

National capercaillie populations have decreased from approximately 20,000 birds in 1970 to approximately 1,000 today – 80% of which are in the Cairngorms National Park. The Capercaillie Framework brings together existing knowledge on the state of capercaillie and the various pressures they face across the Cairngorms National Park, and will inform future decisions about deployment of management measures. The framework necessarily guides management at a landscape scale and encompasses the issues surrounding recreation, habitat management, development and designation.

### **2.6 Species as components of habitats and ecosystems**

The long-term aim for Scotland's species is for thriving and, where possible self-sustaining and self-regulating populations of native species, distributed throughout their natural range. It follows that biodiversity outcomes are usually better achieved not by managing individual species but by improving the habitats and ecosystems on which they depend. Much action for biodiversity, in protected areas as well as the wider countryside, is promoted through broader management.

## **3. TRENDS & DATA**

Legislation and guidance in recent years has emphasised the need for land to deliver public benefit. The advantages of, and need for, a landscape scale approach are well recognised and gaining higher profile.

### **Woodland**

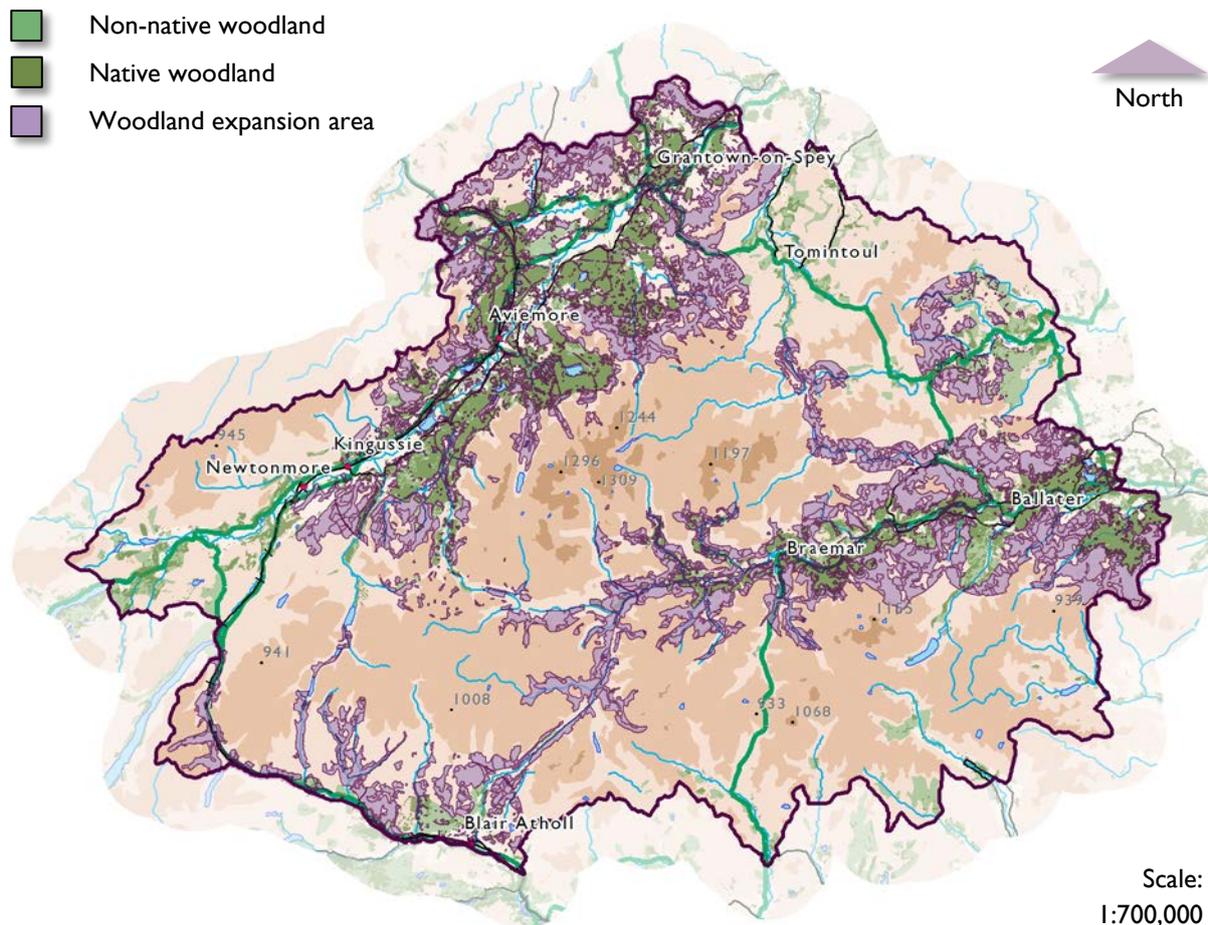
Scotland has a very low percentage of woodland cover compared with other countries in Europe, although it has increased over the last century. In 1900 only 5% of Scotland was covered in forest, but by 2007 this had increased to 17%. Over the last 25 years there has been an increased awareness of the multiple benefits that native woodland can deliver and an upsurge in action to restore and expand native woods.

The woodlands of the Cairngorms are of national and international importance. They contain the largest remaining areas of semi-natural woodland habitats and the most extensive area of boreal forest in Britain. The Cairngorms National Park occupies just less than 6 percent of Scotland's land mass, yet contains nearly 25 percent of the entire Scottish resource of native woodlands. Associated with these woodlands are a number of species found nowhere else in Great Britain.

Improved connectivity through woodland expansion combined with good management is crucial to enhance habitat that supports species of high conservation value. The CNPA Woodlands Expansion programme (Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2008) actively

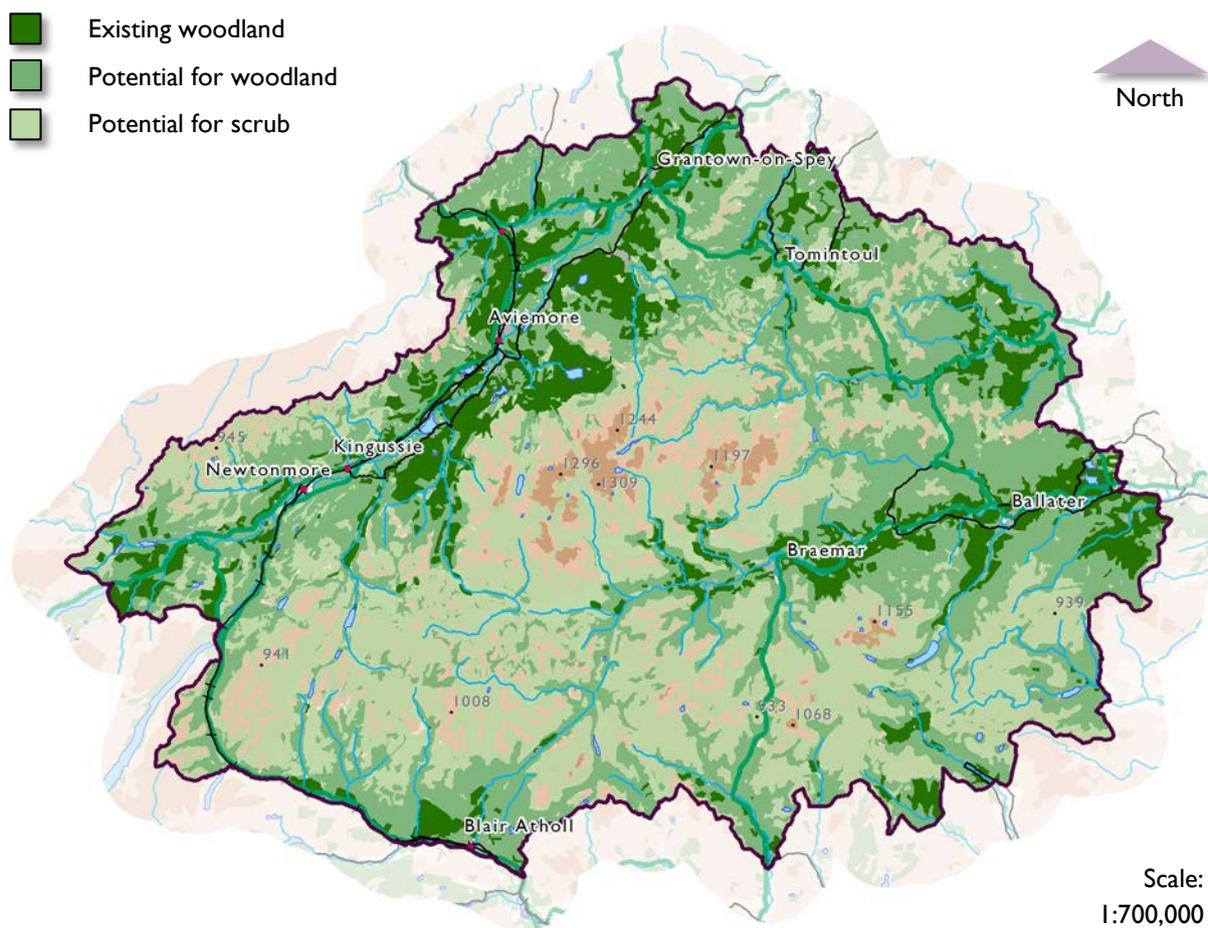
promotes this and in combination with the Cairngorms Deer Management Framework (Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2011) aims to ensure greater connectivity and management.

Between 2013 and 2015 890ha of new native woodland has been created in the National Park, 704ha of which is adjacent to the existing resource. The most widespread single factor inhibiting native woodland recovery is high levels of browsing and grazing impacts.



**Figure 3** Areas of woodland and woodland expansion in the Cairngorms National Park.

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**Figure 4** Current woodland and land with potential for woodland and scrub in the Cairngorms National Park.

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Recent changes in the administration of **Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP)** and the **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** have directly influenced the level of grazing by livestock. In particular, **sheep grazing** has reduced in a number of areas with a marked increase in scrub and woodland regeneration.

80% of designated woodland features in the Cairngorms National Park are in favourable condition. This is higher than the national average of 68.2% (SNH Site Condition Monitoring, March 2015).

The Cairngorms Nature Action Plan species which have been selected for targeted action and are dependent on woodland habitats are:

Species	Status in the CNP
Capercaillie <i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	Capercaillie are found almost exclusively in Caledonian Pine Forest. Including Anagach, Rothiemurchas and Abernethy woods. Capercaillie chicks feed on moth caterpillars feeding on blueberry plants, adults and older chicks feed on leaves and berries, during winter they feed on pine needles.
Scottish Wildcat <i>Felix sylvestris</i>	The Scottish wildcat is a rare, elusive and largely nocturnal species confined to the most thinly populated parts of the UK. Main threats to the survival of

Species	Status in the CNP
	the species in Scotland were: hybridisation with feral or domestic cats, being inadvertently killed during feral cat control operation and disease.
One-flowered Wintergreen <i>Moneses uniflora</i>	This plant used to be called St Olaf's Candlestick. It has a single nodding white flower at the top of a stem, and a rosette of leaves at the base. Key threats are the loss of the old Caledonian Forest and the harvesting of commercial forests.
Twinflower <i>Linnea borealis</i>	Twinflower is an Arctic-alpine flower which is a relic of the ice age it has a stronghold in Strathspey. It is dependent on the open canopy of Caledonian Pinewoods.
Green Shield-moss <i>Buxbaumia viridis</i>	The Green Shield-moss is a rare and endangered species which grows on decaying wood. The loss of woodland cover over the centuries and, more recently, the intense management of woodland areas has led to a significant loss of habitat for this bryophyte species.
Pine Hoverfly <i>Blera fallax</i>	The Pine Hoverfly is found in only two locations in the UK in Strathspey. It needs rotten tree stumps that are more than 40 cm in diameter to breed. The lack of these large stumps in pinewoods – especially stumps with the necessary rot conditions – has been the cause of the decline.
Pearl-bordered fritillary <i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>	Changes in woodland management over recent years have led to the decline of the species. Woodland practices such as coppicing and thinning are in decline, and many areas have been planted with conifers. Woodland rides and clearings have become increasingly shady and overgrown. Bracken habitats are no longer managed through grazing.
Dark bordered beauty <i>Epione vespertaria</i>	A small yellow- orange moth with brown bordered wings. The caterpillar feeds on young suckering aspen, which requires particular levels of grazing. Only found in a handful of locations in the CNP.
Scarlet splash fungus <i>Cytidia salicina</i>	This fungus appears as a bright red splash on the underside of dead willow branches, especially those lying close to the ground. It has only been recorded 14 times in Scotland most of these records are in the CNP.
Kentish Glory <i>Endronis versicolora</i>	<b>Kentish Glory, a large day flying moth is found in open birch woodlands. Both sexes are brown with white markings on the forewings.</b>
Wood Ants	There are four species considered for action: <i>Formica aquilonia</i> , <i>F. lugubis</i> , <i>F. exsecta</i> and <i>Formicoxenus nitidulus</i> . They perform a number of important roles in the forest ecosystem, earning them the status of "keystone" species; these are species which play critical roles in the structure of their ecological community. Changes in woodland management, deforestation, inappropriate afforestation, urban expansion, human disturbance and agriculture are all linked to the loss of suitable habitat for woodland ant species.

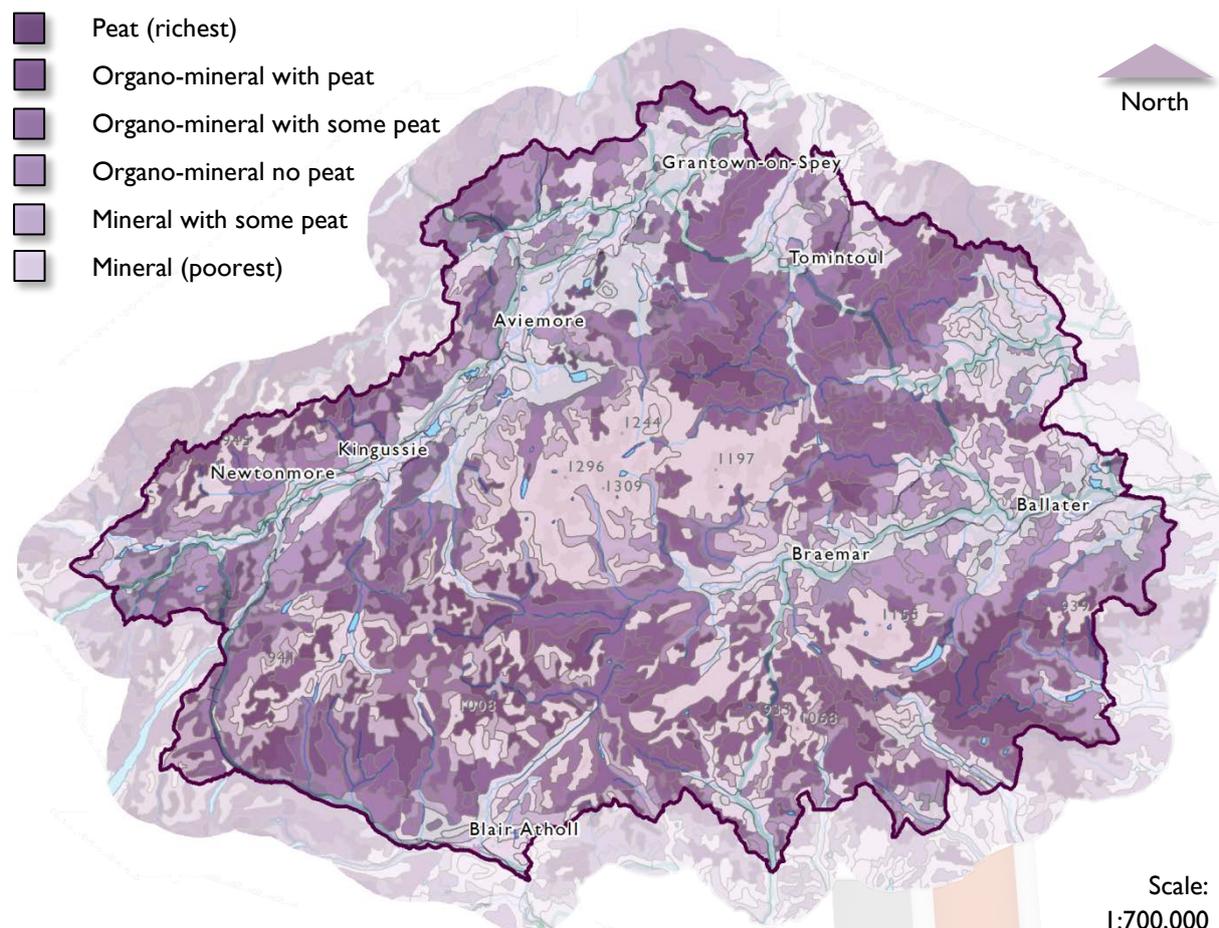
## Uplands

The Cairngorms have the largest area of high ground and the most extensive tract of montane (or Alpine) habitats in the UK above 900m. The montane zone also supports the largest and highest tracts of montane bog in the UK. And the Cairngorms include the largest area of upland forms of wet heath in the UK which, exceptionally, extend up into the

montane zone. The links between montane, heath and bog habitats and other habitats are extremely important for many species.

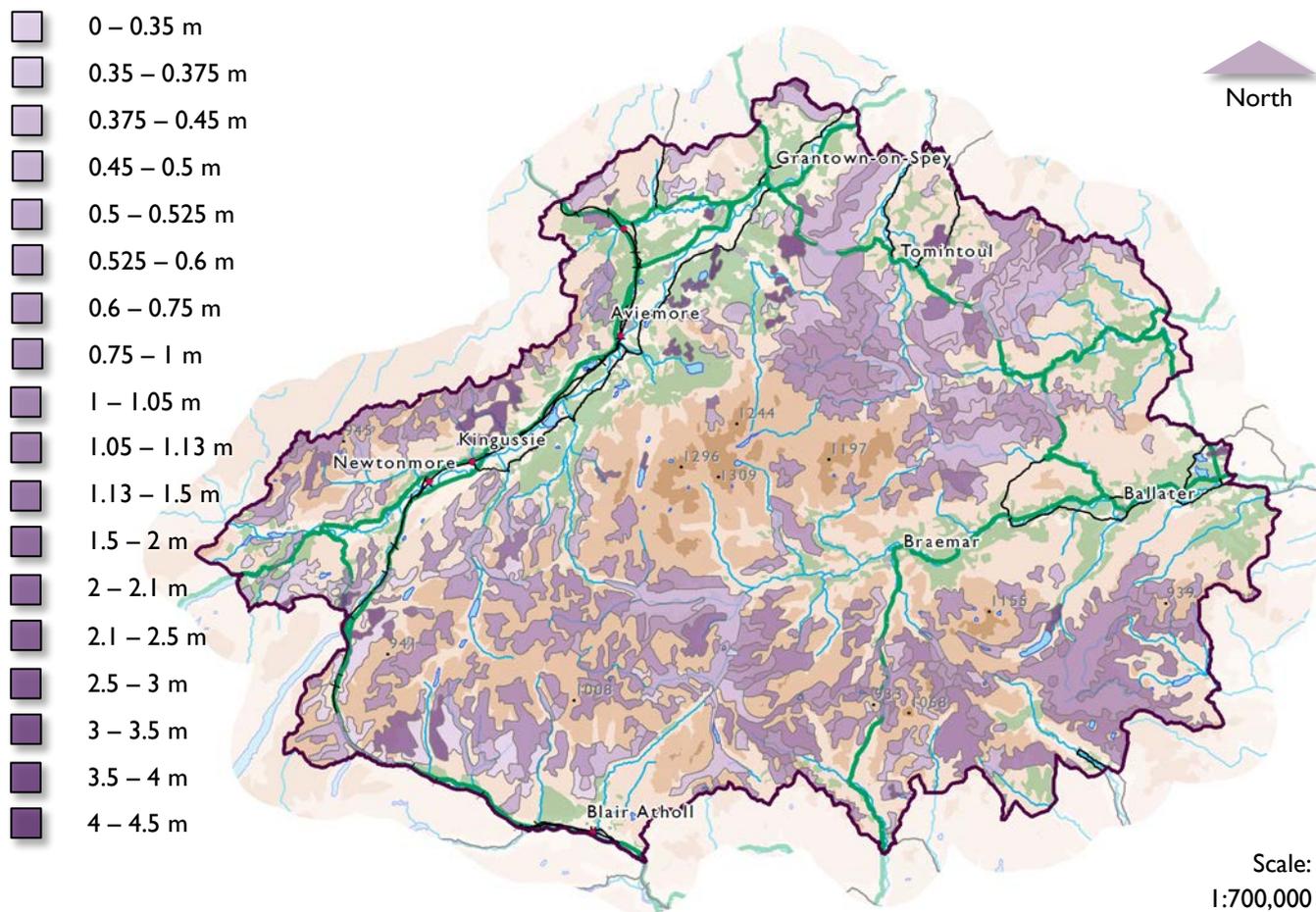
Montane scrub, which can be defined as the habitat on mountains in which trees and shrubs grow at altitudes higher than the treeline, is now confined largely to isolated, remnant patches on remote and inaccessible cliffs in Scotland. Montane scrub is present in no more than a few hundred sites across the UK, nearly all of which are less than one ha. It most usually occurs as scattered trees well above any woodland on the open hill, showing the upper limits of tree growth but not forming a continuous treeline. Fragments in the Cairngorms National Park offer some of the best opportunities to demonstrate landscape-scale restoration of the UK's rarest and most threatened of native habitat types.

Much of Scotland's 2 million ha peatland resource is in poor condition. It is estimated that 70% of blanket bog and 90% of raised bog has been damaged to some degree. In November 2012 the Scottish Government allocated Scottish Natural Heritage a **peatland restoration fund** of £1.7 million for spend 2013 – 2015 in order to maintain carbon storage, increase sequestration and improve biodiversity and ecosystem function. In June 2015 Scottish Government announced a further £3m funding for peatland restoration. There is currently 350ha of peatland restoration underway in the National Park, with a target of 2,000ha by 2018.



**Figure 5** Carbon Richness of Soil (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2012).

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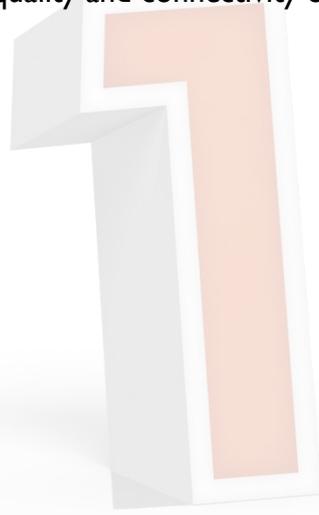


**Figure 6** Depth of peat (m) in the Cairngorms National Park (Soil Survey of Scotland Staff, 1981).

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65% of designated upland features in the Cairngorms National Park are in favourable condition. This is lower than the national average of 81.2% (SNH Site Condition Monitoring, March 2015).

The last few years have seen significant improvement in the economic viability of driven grouse shooting. **Land use intensification and modification** has altered the ecology and landscapes and could result in a reduction of diversity, quality and connectivity of habitats.



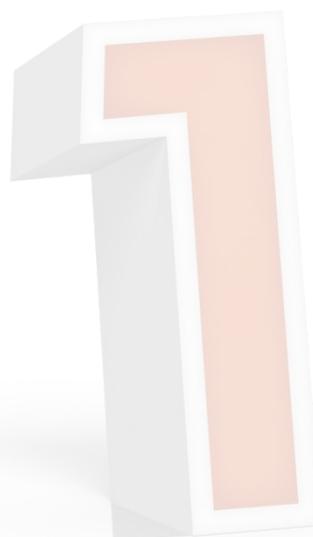
The Cairngorms Nature Action Plan species dependent on upland features are:

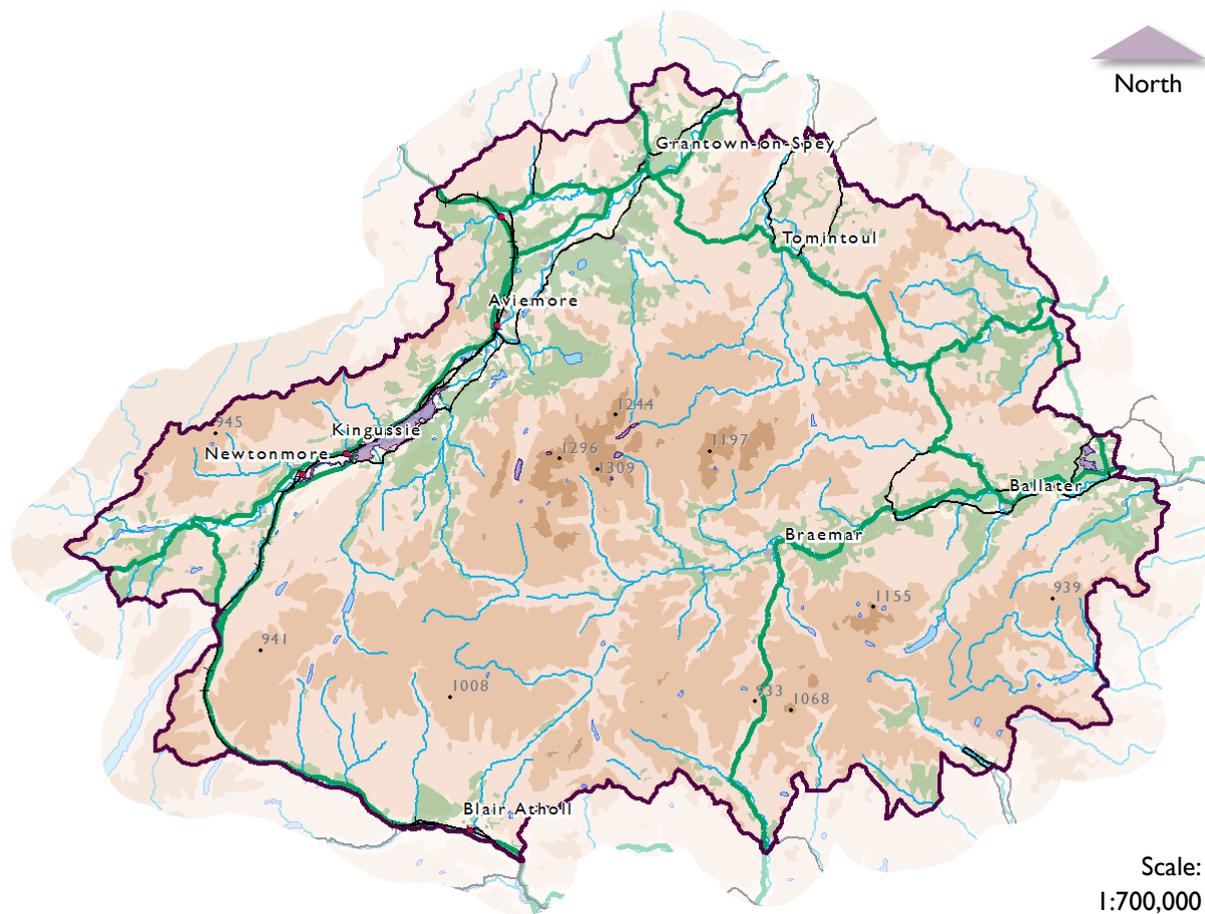
Species	Status in the CNP
Golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Breeds in high altitude areas of the CNP. At threat from persecution and disturbance.
Alpine blue sow thistle <i>Cicerbita alpina</i>	Alpine blue-sow-thistle is a very rare plant in the UK; it grows on only four rocky ledges sites on the Cairngorm Massif. It was once part of a more widely distributed mountain flora that is today restricted by changing land management practices and increased levels of grazing.
Tufted saxifrage <i>Saxifraga cespitosa</i>	A cushion-forming, perennial herb of well-drained base-rich rocks. It is found on mossy ledges, in crevices and on boulder-scrub slopes, it is in decline in the Cairngorms.
Powdered sunshine lichen <i>Vulpicida pinastri</i>	Records exist for the Eastern and Southern Cairngorms.

### Rivers and Wetlands

The Cairngorms National Park’s mosaic of wetland habitats with fens, bogs, wet grassland and open water provides a home to a rich array of wildlife. The National Park is one of the most important UK mainland sites for breeding wading birds due to its combination of wetlands, wet grasslands and low-intensity mixed farming. The Cairngorms are also the source of internationally designated rivers Spey, Dee, Tay and South Esk, which support Atlantic Salmon, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Otter and Lamprey. The lochs support fish including Arctic Charr.

Wetlands have historically been drained for agriculture, suffered water shortages as a result of over abstraction and impoundment and been subject to pollution pressure from diffuse and point sources. The remaining wetlands are now often small and fragmented. 862ha are currently managed as wetland and floodplain under SRDP schemes. River re-naturalisation, connecting rivers with their floodplains and creating more natural flood management systems is encouraged and supported by the Water Environment Fund. The ecological status of many water bodies is very high compared with the rest of Scotland. In some ways this makes it more challenging to access the Water Environment Fund for restoration.

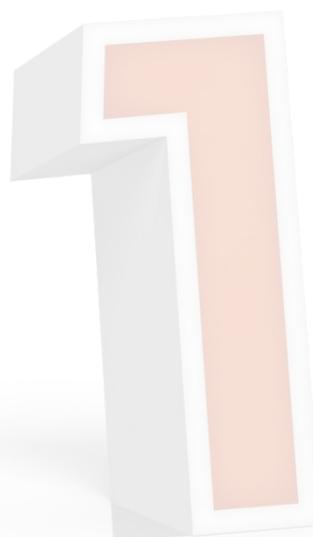




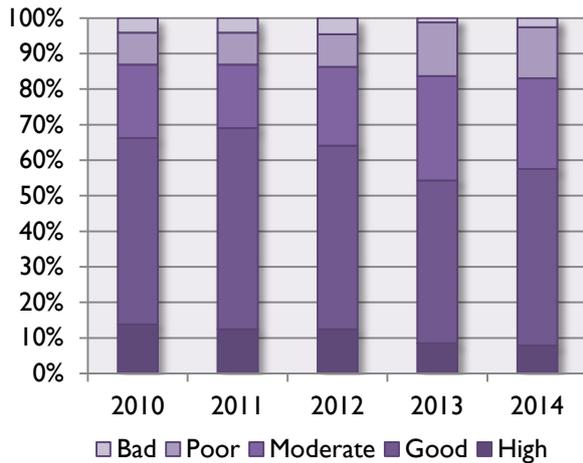
**Figure 7** Ramsar Sites within the Cairngorms National Park.

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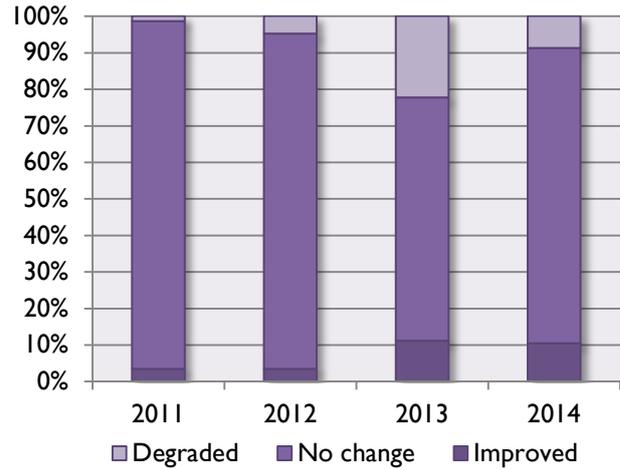
**Water quality** is relatively high within the National Park. In 2014 the overall status of waterbodies within and overlapping the Cairngorms National Park was 7.8% High, 49.7% Good, 25.5% Moderate, 14.4% Poor, and 2.6% Bad. In 2014 10.4% of waterbodies improved in overall status, 80.9% remained the same, and 8.7% degraded in overall status.



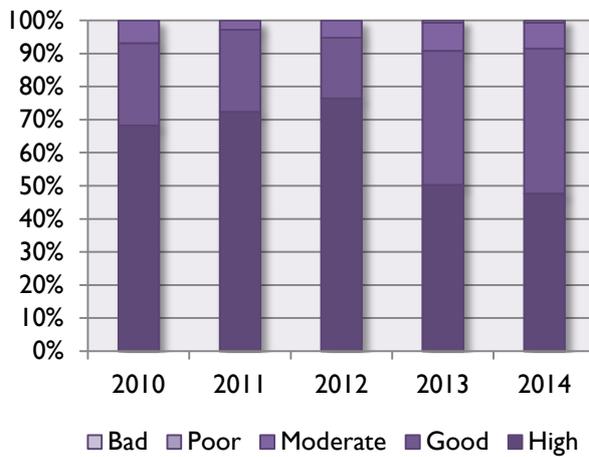
**LANDSCAPE SCALE CONSERVATION ISSUES REPORT**



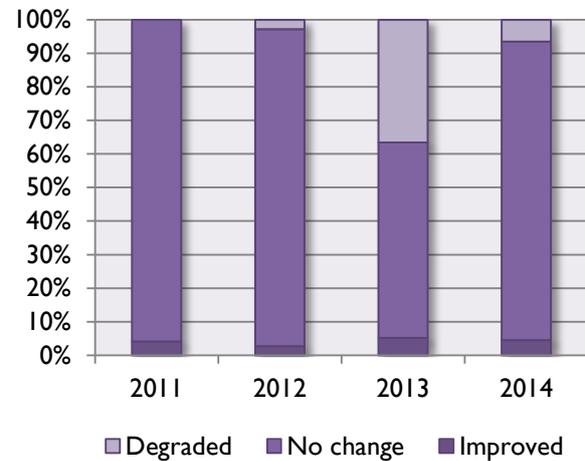
**Figure 8** Overall status of waterbodies within and overlapping the Cairngorms National Park.



**Figure 9** Change from previous year in the overall status of waterbodies within or overlapping the Cairngorms National Park



**Figure 10** Water quality classification of waterbodies within and overlapping the Cairngorms National Park.



**Figure 11** Change from previous year in the water quality of waterbodies within or overlapping the Cairngorms National Park

**Source:** [www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/water-body-classification/](http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/water-body-classification/)

A recent survey by SNH (Sime, 2014) recorded 50% fewer **fresh water pearl mussels** in the River Spey than a previous survey in 2000. The reasons for this are still under investigation, however water quality and low river levels in the middle and lower Spey are thought to be key factors in the decline, and **abstraction** from the Spey catchment is often cited as playing a key role.

The Cairngorms Nature Action Plan species which have been selected for targeted action and are dependent on river and wetland habitats are:

Species	Status in the CNP
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Breeding lapwings are in decline in Strathspey, the Waders and Wetlands Project aims to research reasons for the decline and work with landowners to encourage sympathetic land management.
Northern damselfly <i>Coenagrion hastulatum</i>	This is a very rare and localised species with almost all known lochan locations within the CNP. It is very similar to Common blue damselfly but has a distinctive ‘ace of spades’ marking.
Northern silver-stiletto fly <i>Spiriverpa lunulata</i>	Stiletto larvae are long, thin, white and worm-like. They are ferocious predators with a glossy hard skin that lets them slither through dry sand as they chase their insect prey. Habitat needs – exposed sand and shingle on river banks
Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>	The freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> grows to 140 mm in length, and burrows into sandy substrates, often between boulders and pebbles, in fast-flowing rivers and streams. It is sensitive to heavy siltation and requires high water quality.
Northern February red stonefly <i>Brachyptera putata</i>	The Northern February red is a freshwater species endemic to Britain, found mainly in Scottish upland streams. Due to its rarity and decline in numbers this insect has been made a Priority Species on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

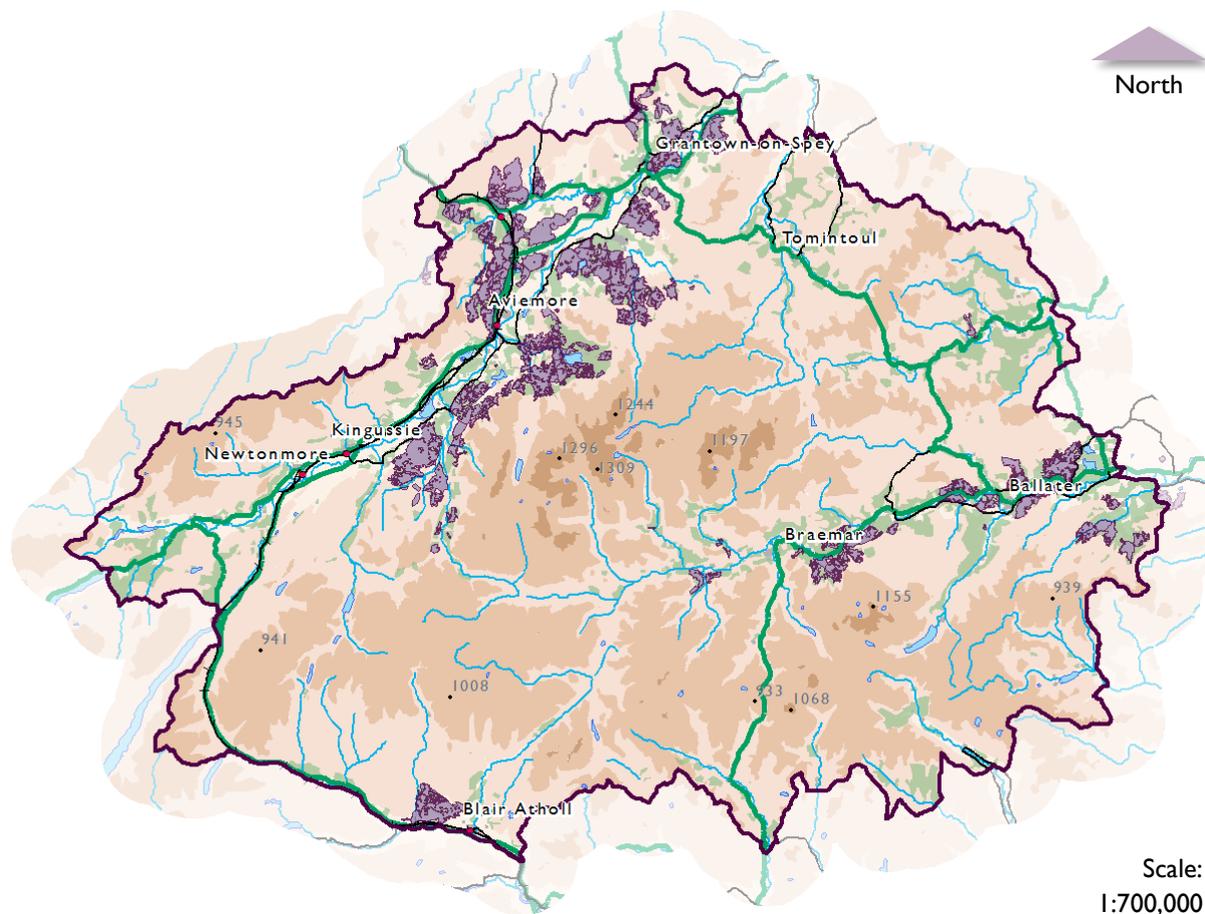
#### 4. WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

- 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 sites 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
- Meet Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 woodland expansion targets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions

#### 5. MECHANISMS

**Cairngorms Nature** is now well established as a partnership delivering an ambitious agenda for nature conservation in the Cairngorms. It brings together organisations and individuals delivering conservation on the ground through delivery of the *Cairngorms Nature Action Plan 2013-2018* as the partnership document.

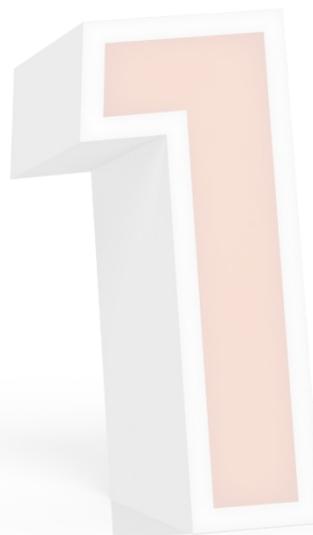
**Spatial planning** can greatly assist in identifying where maximum benefit can be derived from targeted input. The ‘*Indicative priority areas for Pinewood expansion in the Park*’ map highlights areas where woodland expansion would have greatest benefits in creating a more robust habitat network and support delivery of landscape-scale projects and initiatives such as the **Capercaillie Framework**, strongly supported by a 12.5% increased **funding incentive** under SRDP woodland planting options.

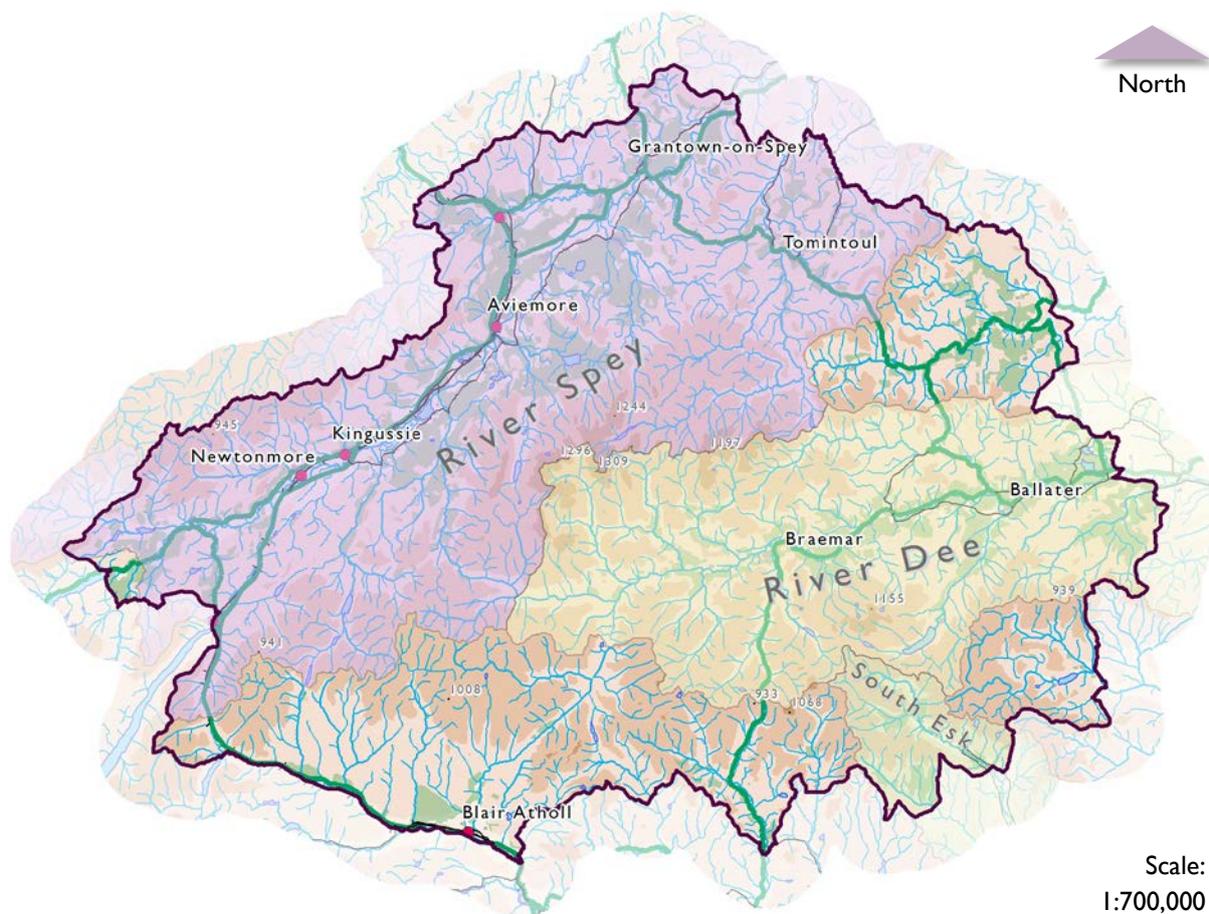


**Figure 12** Areas where Capercaillie have been sighted in the Cairngorms National Park since 2007.

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**River Basin Management Plans** drawn up and overseen by **Fisheries Boards and Trusts**. RBMPs summarise the state of the water environment; pressures affecting the water environment where it is in less than good condition; objectives for protection and enhancement and actions to implement them. **Catchment Initiatives** have been very successful as a delivery mechanism, engaging with stakeholders and communities.





**Figure 13** Watersheds covered by River Basin Management Plans within the Cairngorms National Park.

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Run by representatives of the landholdings in each group's area, **Deer Management Groups** produce **Deer Management Plans** that ensure there is a population of deer suitable for the landscape in terms of the environment and compatible with land uses such as sporting interest, farming, forestry, tourism and recreation and which makes a contribution to the local economy.

Research into the value of ecosystem services can be coordinated through the **Cairngorms Research Strategy**, established to promote and coordinate opportunities for collaborative research across disciplines that directly influence management in the National Park and wider agendas in Scotland and internationally. Natural capital and the need for a partnership between business and nature is an identified theme in the **Cairngorms Economic Strategy**.

A key aim of the 2014 – 20 SRDP (**Scottish Rural Development Programme**) is to help fund the delivery of natural heritage benefits including biodiversity, landscape, climate change, water and soil quality, and public access. The SRDP is delivered by the Scottish Government in partnership with other public bodies including SNH and Forestry Commission Scotland.

## 6. 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?

## 7. REFERENCES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

### **Cairngorms Nature Action Plan 2013-2018**

<http://cairngorms.co.uk/working-partnership/national-park-strategies/cairngorms-nature-action-plan/>

### **Scottish Land Use Strategy 2016-2021**

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/03/5773>

### **Water Framework Directive**

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html)

### **Scottish Forestry Strategy 2006**

<http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/corporate/pdf/scottish-forestry-strategy-2006.pdf>

### **Scotland's Wild Deer: A National Approach 2014 Review**

<http://www.snh.gov.uk/land-and-sea/managing-wildlife/managing-deer/wdna/>

### **Protected Areas for Nature Review 2014**

<http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/protected-areas/notices/protected-areas-review/>

### **Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2016/18/contents/enacted>

### **Capercaillie Framework**

<http://cairngormsnature.co.uk/capercaillie-framework>

### **Report of Site Condition Monitoring Survey of Freshwater Pearl Mussels in the River Spey during 2013 & 2014 (Sime, 2014)**

<http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A1478200.pdf>

### **Cairngorms Economic Strategy 2015-2018**

<http://cairngorms.co.uk/working-partnership/national-park-strategies/economic-strategy/>

### **The River Basin Management Plan for the Scotland River Basin District 2015-2027**

<http://www.sepa.org.uk/media/163445/the-river-basin-management-plan-for-the-scotland-river-basin-district-2015-2027.pdf>