Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan
2017-2022

Final Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report

Appendix 2: Environmental Baseline
Topic 7: Landscape and Cultural Heritage

April 2017

Topic 7: Landscape and Cultural Heritage

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 domination 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 Areas

The whole of the National Park is divided into landscape character areas, which can be categorised as belonging to either its Uplands or Glens and Straths (**Figure 114**). These areas are all different but within each one there is a consistency of character formed by the topography, land use, history, settlement and development and the way the landscape is experienced. Within the glens and straths there is more diversity of landscapes in a smaller area, whereas in the uplands the landscape tends to be similar over much larger areas (Grant *et al.* 2009).

The character areas provide a spatial framework for the delivery of the National Park's responsibilities, duties and policies. 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

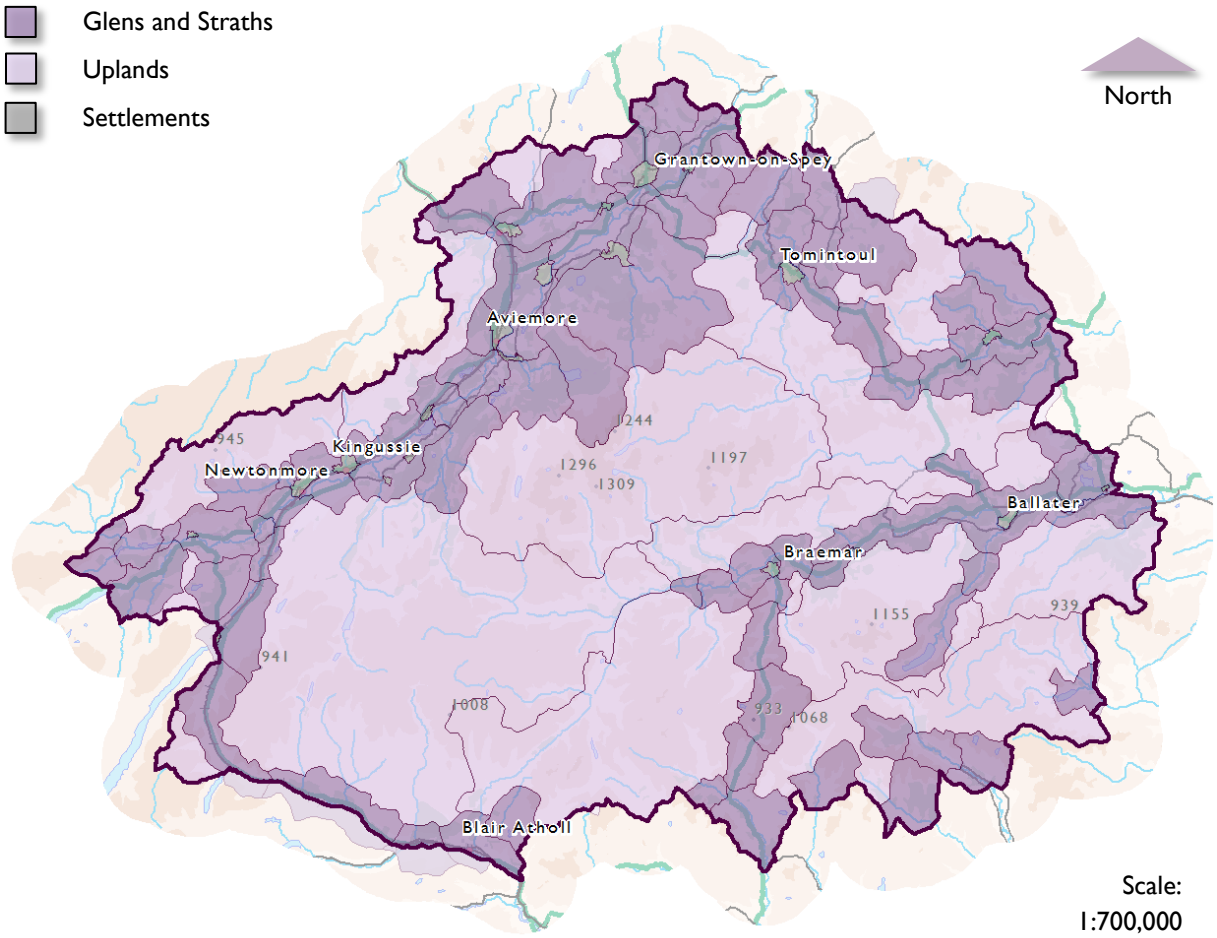


Figure 114 Broad categories of Landscape Character Areas of the Cairngorms National Park.

National Scenic Areas

The landscapes of the Cairngorms National Park have long been regarded as worthy of protection, with three National Scenic Areas (NSAs) being designated in 1980/1981 (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2010). Two, namely the Cairngorm Mountains NSA and Deeside and Lochnagar NSA, are located entirely within the National Park boundary and are largely centred on the highest mountain plateau at its core (see **Figure 115**), but also include lower hills and areas of moorland, woodland and inhabited strath (Scottish Natural Heritage & Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2010). Combined, the two NSAs cover an area of around 1,072 square kilometres, which equates to just under 25% of the National Park's land area. The third designation is the Loch Tummel NSA which very slightly overlaps the National Park's boundary at Killiecrankie, near Blair Atholl. The area of this NSA within the National Park is insignificant when considering its full dimensions.

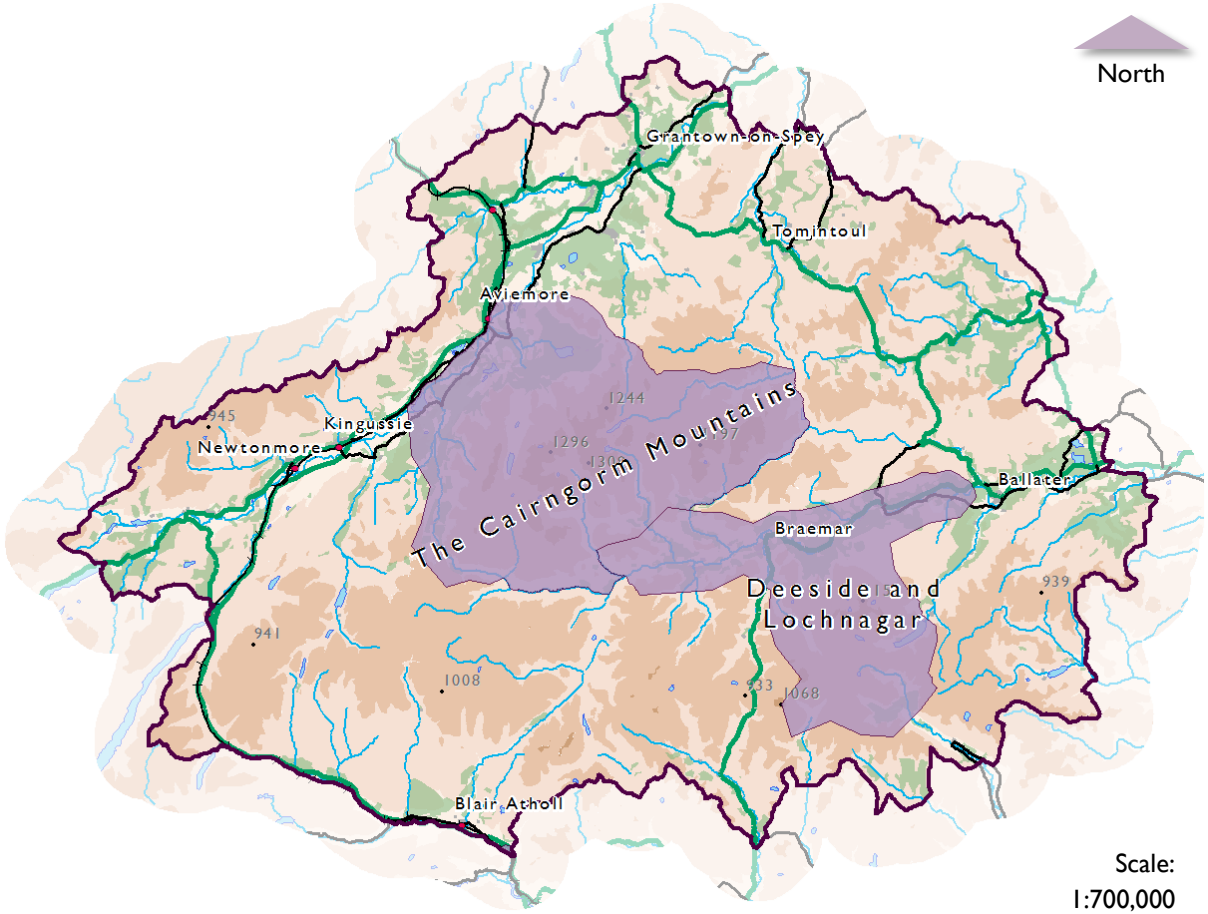


Figure 115 National Scenic Areas of the Cairngorms National Park.

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 descriptions given in the 1978 report *Scotland's Scenic Heritage* (Countryside Commission for Scotland, 1978), which lead to the designation of NSAs, may be found in the appendices of *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

Special Qualities

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). 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 28 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

Table 28 Summary of the special landscape qualities of the Cairngorms National Park (Scottish Natural Heritage & Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2010).

General Qualities
➢ 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.
The Mountains and Plateaux
➢ 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.
Moorlands
➢ Extensive moorland, linking the farmland, woodland and the high tops. ➢ A patchwork of muirburn.
Glens and Straths
➢ Steep glens and high passes. ➢ Broad, farmed straths. ➢ Renowned rivers. ➢ Beautiful lochs.

Trees, Woods and Forests
➢ Dark and venerable pine forest. ➢ Light and airy birch woods. ➢ Parkland and policy woodlands. ➢ Long association with forestry.
Wildlife and Nature
➢ Dominance of natural landforms. ➢ Extensive tracts of natural vegetation. ➢ Association with iconic animals. ➢ Wild land. ➢ Wildness.
Visual and Sensory Qualities
➢ 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.
Culture and History
➢ 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.
Recreation
➢ A landscape of opportunities. ➢ Spirituality.

Wildness

Wildness is a quality experienced by people when visiting places of a certain character. Measuring wildness is inherently difficult, as people respond differently according to their personal experience and their expectations of a place. However, an exercise carried out by SNH considered wildness through four physical attributes being present, which they measured and mapped. These attributes were:

- The perceived naturalness of the land cover (**Figure 117**);
- The ruggedness of the terrain which is therefore challenging to cross (**Figure 118**);
- Remoteness from public roads, ferries or railway stations (**Figure 119**); and
- The visible lack of buildings, roads, pylons and other modern artefacts (**Figure 120**).

These four attributes were then combined to produce a map of relative wildness of the whole of Scotland (**Figure 116**).

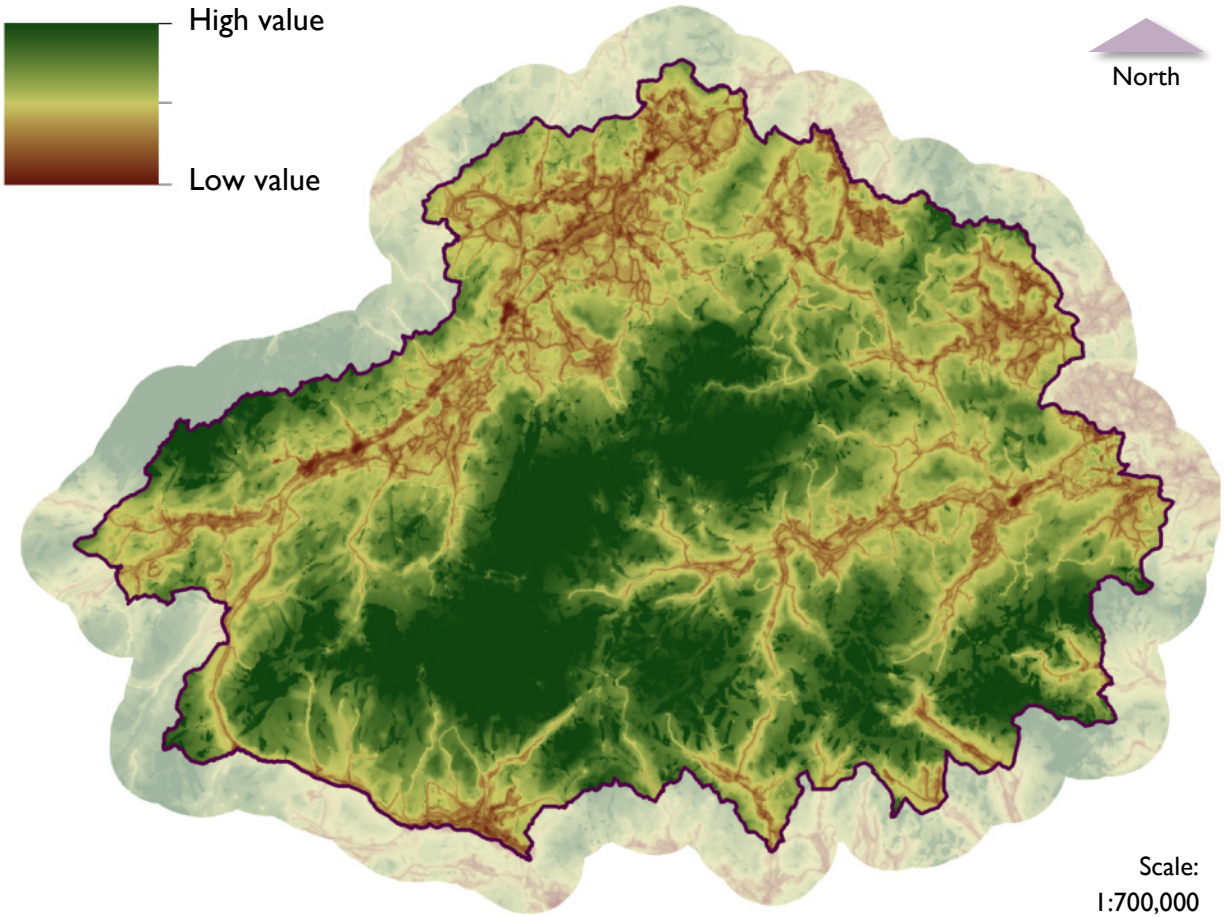


Figure 116 Relative wildness of Scotland (composite of Figures 114, 115, 116 and 117).

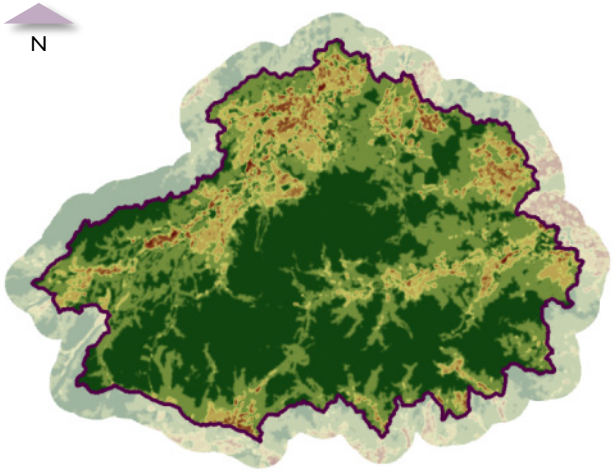


Figure 117 Perceived naturalness of land cover

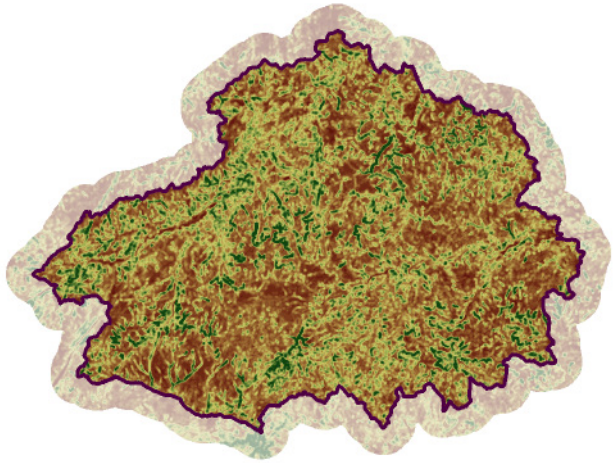
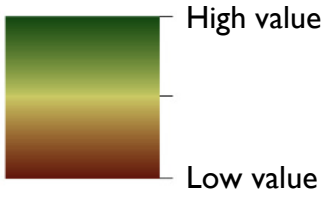


Figure 118 Ruggedness of terrain



All maps are at a scale of 1:1,400.000.

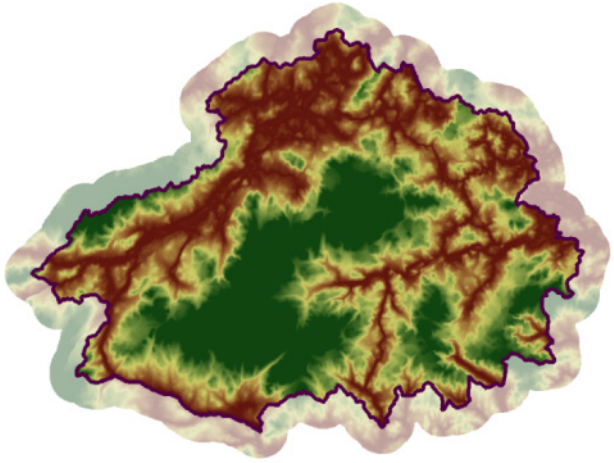


Figure 119 Remoteness from public roads, ferries or railway stations

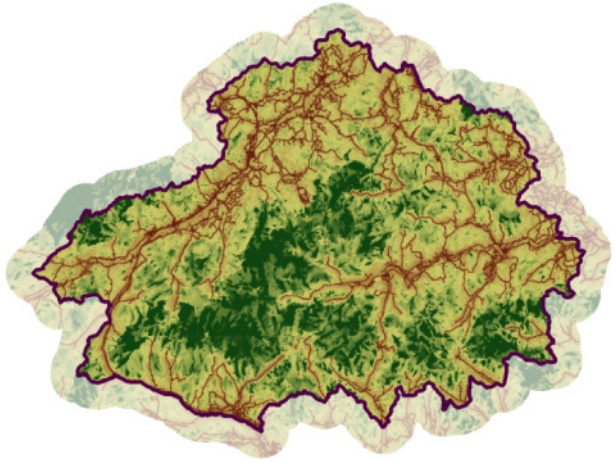


Figure 120 Lack of built modern artefacts

Wild Land

Based on the work carried out to measure relative wildness, SNH published a new map of wild land areas, which represent the most extensive areas of high wildness in Scotland.

Around 2,100 km^2, or 46%, of the Cairngorms National Park has been identified as 'wild land' as 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 (**Figure 121**), namely:

14. Rannoch - Nevis - Mamores - Alder;
15. Cairngorms;
16. Lochnagar – Mount Keen;
19. Braeroy - Glenshirra - Creag Meagaidh; and
20. Monadhliath.

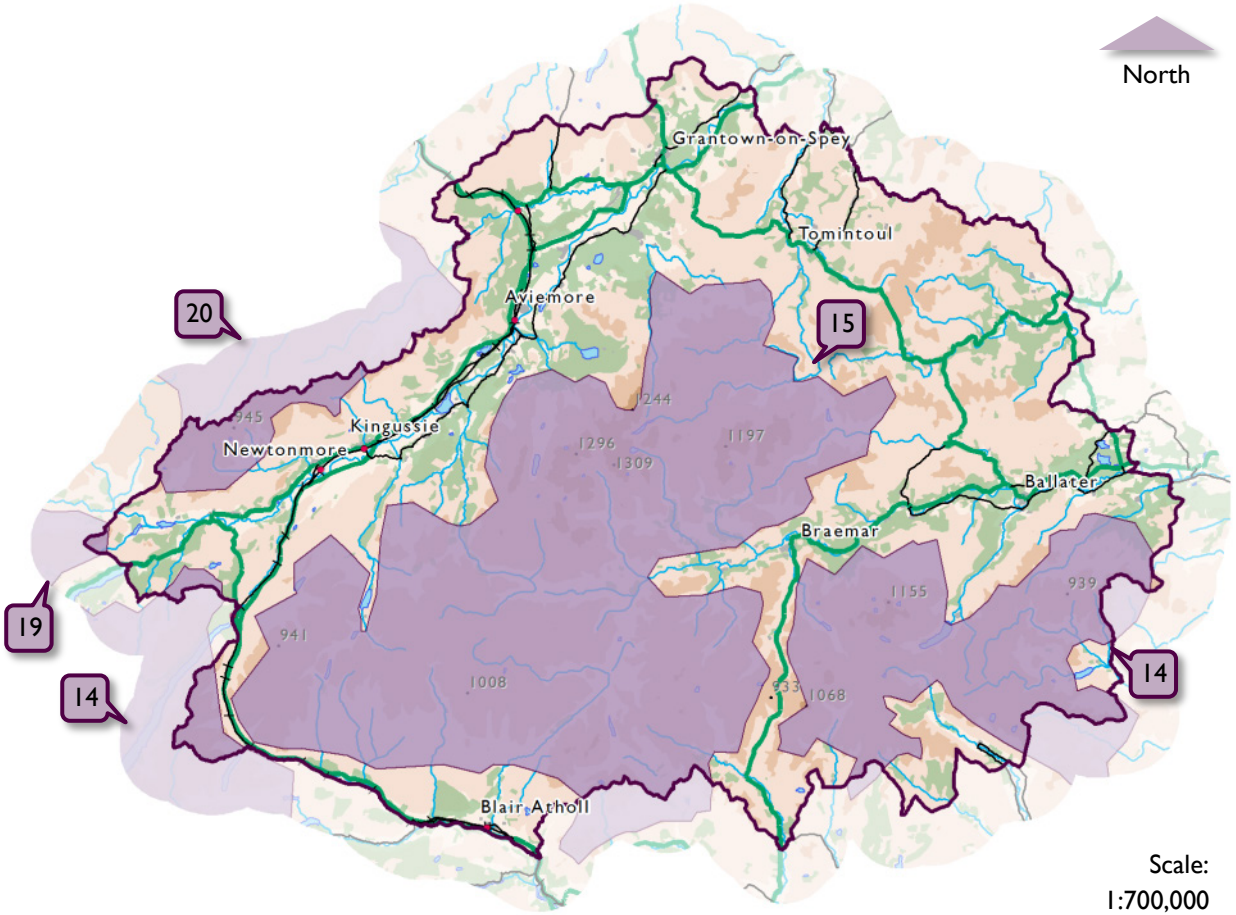


Figure 121 Wild land areas in the Cairngorms National Park.

Areas 15 and 16 are almost entirely located within the National Park, while the other three only just overlap its boundary.

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 NPPP 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 (see **Figure 122**). 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).

Similar to the rest of rural Scotland, the landscape of the National Park was transformed during the late-18th and 19th centuries, and its present character was established at this time. The Improvement, as this period was known, resulted in a revolution in the agricultural practices of the area, with the landscape reorganised as regular fields were laid out, farmsteadings replaced, farms amalgamated into larger units and improved cropping regimes were introduced alongside other measures to improve productivity, such as underground drainage. In the uplands, the reorganisation saw the wholesale depopulation of the large areas to create extensive sheepwalks and shooting estates (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland & Historic Scotland, 2001) (Dalglish & Tarlow, 2012).

Prior to this the pattern of settlement was dominated by multiple-tenancy farms, within which houses were usually clustered

together in small townships, with ridged fields, which had grazing grounds beyond. These townships and their field systems are by-far the most extensive archaeological remains in the National Park, and reflect the zenith in the area's population during the 18th century (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland & Historic Scotland, 2001) (Dalglish & Tarlow, 2012).

There is very little remaining evidence across the National Park for settlement pre-dating the 18th or perhaps the 17th century. Indeed beyond the few castles, towers and churches for which medieval dates can be suggested, evidence for medieval settlement is almost non-existent. It is likely that the pattern of medieval settlement largely followed that of the present day and therefore, much is likely to have been lost due to development and intrusive agricultural practices, such as ploughing (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland & Historic Scotland, 2001) (Hall & Price, 2012). This does not mean however that

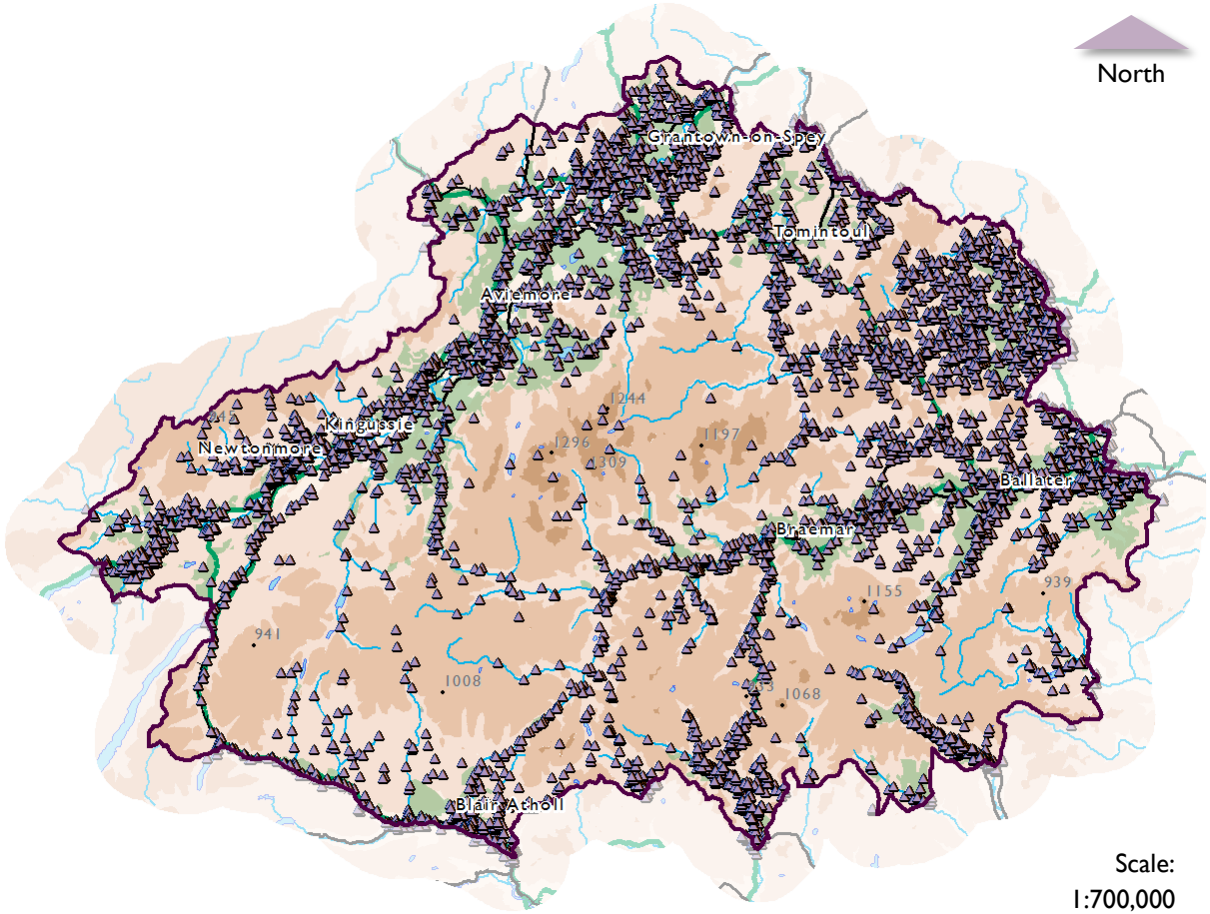


Figure 122 Distribution of National Monuments Record sites in the Cairngorms National Park. See www.canmore.org.uk for further information.

further evidence does not exist, and appropriate measures should be taken to investigate sites prior to the commencement of future land-use changes.

The distribution of prehistoric monuments largely lies in a zone of survival beyond he fringes of the Improvement and pre-Improvement remains. The episodes of settlement are difficult to differentiate within the National Park, and therefore the term 'Prehistoric' is often used to describe a period starting around 9,000 years ago in the Mesolithic to around AD 1000. Overall there was a spread of human activity across the area during this period, though evidence suggests that the focus of settlement was in the main Glens and a cycle of expansion and contraction in the uplands as the prevailing climate fluctuated (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland & Historic Scotland, 2001).

Owing to the transitory nature of the Mesolithic populations, evidence of occupation during this period is scarce. It is not until the Neolithic, beginning around 4,000 BC, that people began to build the structures, such as chambered cairns and stone circles, that we still see today. Bronze Age burial monuments from after 2000 BC can also be found, and evidence of settlement from this period is more common. From around 1000 BC Bronze age patterns of settlement a burial and ritual monument cease and the primary evidence for occupation takes the form of settlement and landuse. Fortified enclosures such as Dun-da-lamh near Laggan, date from this period (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland & Historic Scotland, 2001) (Saville & Wickham-Jones, 2012).

Archaeological evidence from around AD 500 to AD 1000 is rare, although some buildings of a subrectangular plan, cemeteries, cropmarks and earthworks thought to date from this period have been identified. Other more visible monuments of this period are the sculptured stones, in particular the cross-slabs, which illustrate the establishment of Christianity in the area (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland & Historic Scotland, 2001) (Sheridan & Brophy, 2012) (Downes, 2012) (Hunter & Carruthers, 2012)

This archaeological evidence is of great cultural significance because it relates to areas or periods for which there are no written records and is therefore of fundamental value in understanding the development of the current landscape. The historic environment makes a special contribution to the landscape of the National Park through the story it tells of past history, through providing a human scale to the dramatic natural environment and through vividly demonstrating the tenacity and strength of the human spirit in the face of difficult circumstances. This evidence of historic land use is consequently an important quality of the landscape of much of the National Park (Scottish Natural Heritage & Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2010).

Information about the National Park's historic environment is available from Historic Environment Scotland's (HES) (formerly Historic Scotland and the Royal

Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland)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

Scheduled Monuments

Scheduled Monuments (SMs) are nationally important sites, buildings and other features of artificial construction given legal protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (Historic Scotland, 2013). There are 110 SMs recorded within the National Park (**Figure 123** and **Figure 124**), covering 6 of the 8 periods recorded. They include chambered burial cairns and associated stone circles of late Neolithic age; examples of Iron Age defensive remains such as the aforementioned Dun-da-lamh hill fort; Pictish remains such as the 8th century Loch Kinnord Cross Slab; military structures such as the 18th century Hanoverian fort of Ruthven; and industrial remains such as the 18th / 19th century ironstone mine-crushing mill at the Well of Lecht (Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2006).

Further information on SMs may be found on HES's website:

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/searchmonuments.htm

Designated Landscapes and Gardens

Designed gardens and landscapes form a relatively small part of the National Park's landscape, with the majority being country house gardens and policies. Components include woodlands, parklands, meadows, water features, glass houses, pinetums, kitchen gardens, formal gardens, avenues, dirves and approaches, architectural features, statuary and vistas (Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2006).

'*The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland*', which is maintained by HES, lists 10 gardens and designed landscapes within the National Park (**Figure 124**):

Aberdeenshire

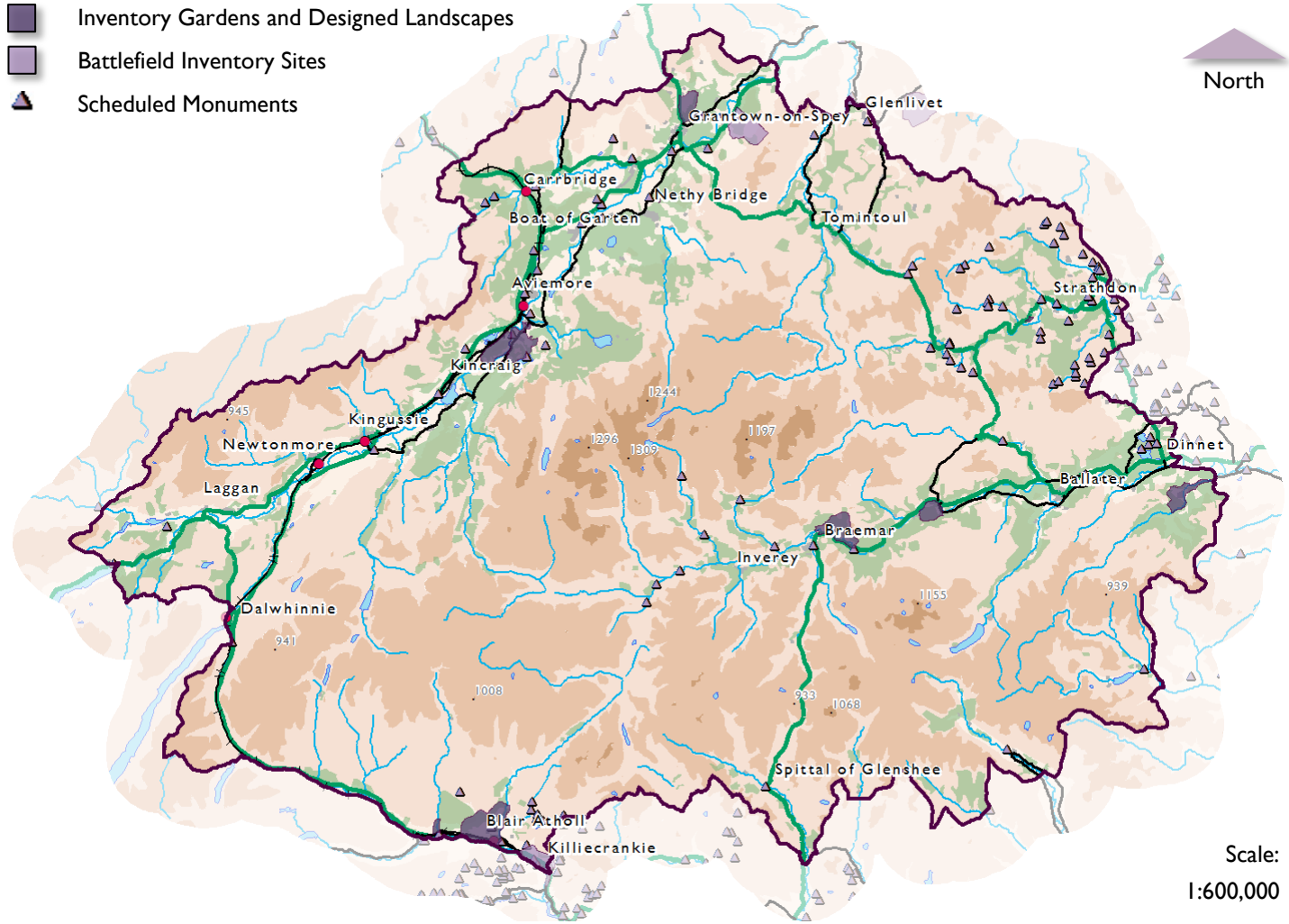
- Balmoral Castle
- Candacraig House
- Glen Tanar
- Invercauld

Highland

- Aultmore
- Castle Grant
- Doune of Rothiemurchus
- Kinara

Perth and Kinross

- Blair Castle
- Falls of Bruar



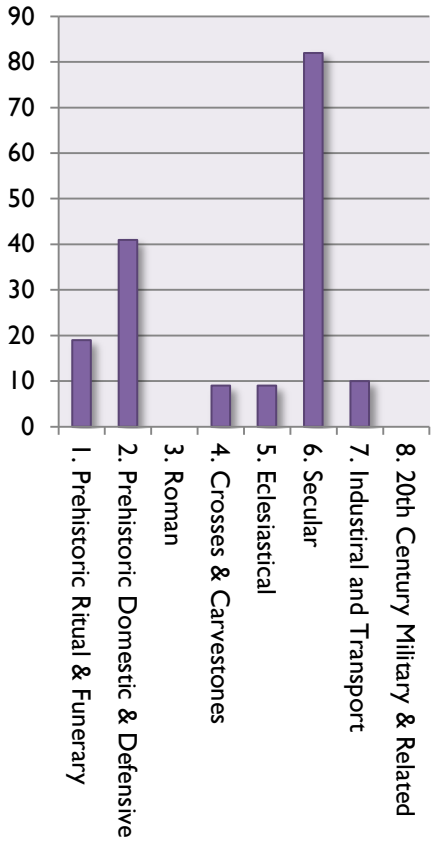


Figure 123 Number of Scheduled Monument types in the Cairngorms National Park.

Figure 124 Historic Designations in the Cairngorms National Park.

The Inventory is a list of sites that meet the criteria for defining national importance, as published in the Scottish Historic Environment Policy (Historic Scotland, 2011, pp. 81-82). The effect of proposed development on a garden or designed landscape is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

Up until December 2016 Inshriach Nursery, was also in the Inventory, however this was removed as it no longer meets the criteria. This does not however mean that the Nursery is lacking in importance and it remains to be of high historical, horticultural and arboricultural value.

While the Inventory is concerned with historic landscapes of national importance, there are other historic landscapes that are of more local significance. The Cairngorms National Park Historic Designed Landscapes Project (Peter McGowan Associates, 2013) identifies 33 historic and designed landscapes within the National

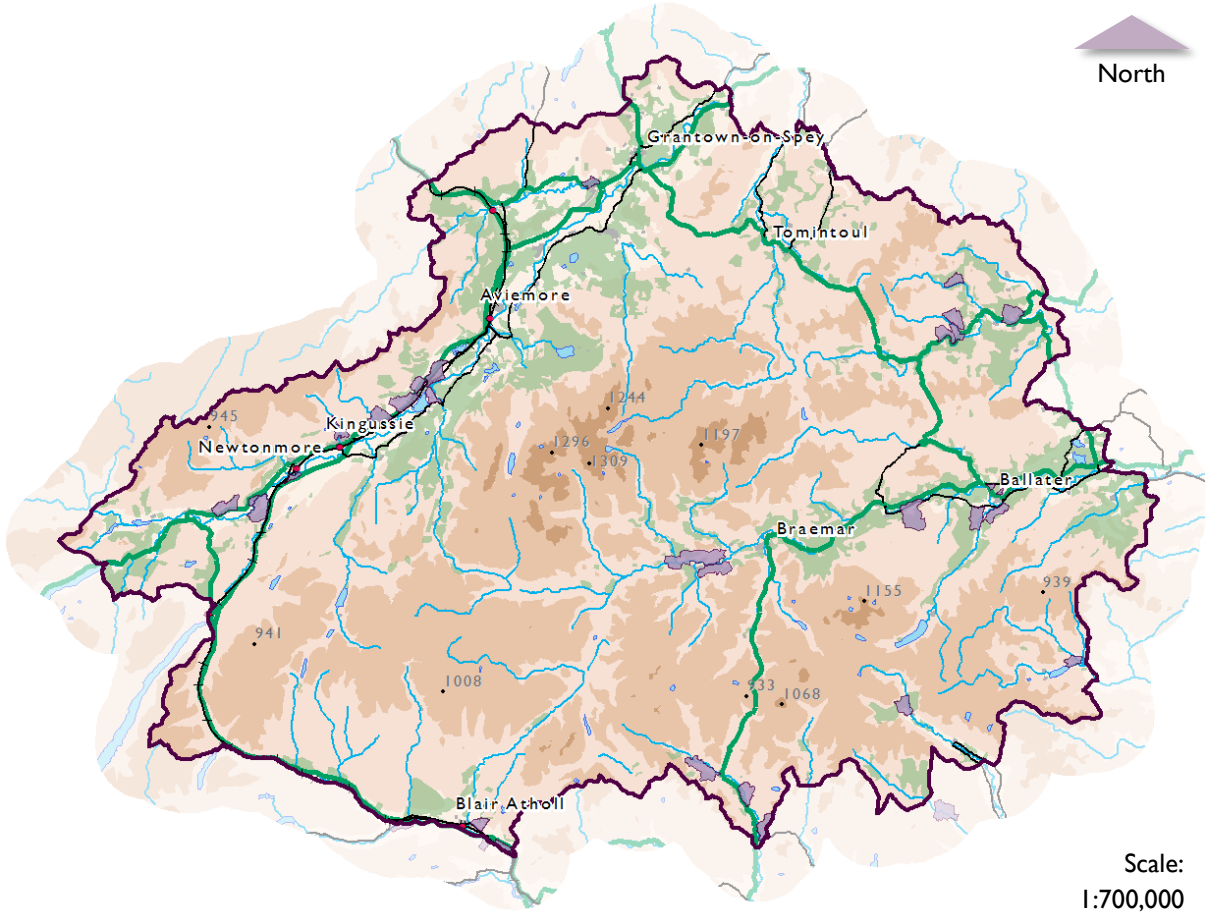


Figure 125 Historic and designed landscapes within the Cairngorms National Park (Peter McGowan Associates, 2013).

Park and provides information about the history and context of each (**Figure 125**).

Although not statutory designations and localised in their impact, the designed landscapes in the National Park can be seen to make a significant contribution to landscape character through their buildings, policy woodlands, parkland, surrounding plantations and fields. While some are comparatively isolated, and stand out in the landscape through their contrast with their mountainous setting, others benefit from their proximity to neighbouring landscapes, as Strathdon and around Kingussie, where they can be seen to have a group value. Although the landscapes can be categorised to some extent by their period, style or other characteristics, each one has a different story to tell, depending on the circumstances of its creation (Peter McGowan Associates, 2013).

Detailed information on the landscapes and gardens may be found on HES' website:

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/gardens.htm

Battlefields

Historic battlefields make a distinctive contribution to an area's sense of place and history, both locally and nationally. They are a superb resource for education, helping us understand why significant events in history unfolded as they did and providing a tangible link to some of the key figures of history. The ground on which the battles were fought has enormous potential for attracting tourists, as well as for general recreation, allowing visitors to experience the site of a dramatic historical event for themselves and imagine the past (Historic Scotland, 2011).

'*The Inventory of Historic Battlefields*', which is maintained by HES, lists 2 designated battlefield sites within the National Park (**Figure 124**):

- Battle of Cromdale (1st May 1690)
- Battle of Killiecrankie (27th July 1689)

The former battlefield is in Highland, while the latter falls within Perth and Kinross. The site of the Battle of Glenlivet (3rd October 1595) in Moray, falls just outside of the National Park's boundary. It should be noted that not all battlefields within the National Park are listed in the Inventory, with the sites of the Battle of Invernhavon (1370 or 1386) and Battle of Culblean (30th November 1335) being important examples.

The Inventory is a list of nationally important battlefields in Scotland that meet the criteria published in Scottish Historic Environment Policy (Historic Scotland, 2011, pp. 83-85). It provides information on the sites in it to raise awareness of their significance and assist in their protection and management for the future. It is a major resource for enhancing the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of battlefields, for promoting education and stimulating further research, and for developing their potential as attractions for visitors. The effect of proposed development on an Inventory Battlefield is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications (Historic Scotland, 2011).

Detailed information on Inventory Battlefields may be found on HES' website:

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/battlefields.htm

Built Heritage

Historic structures are a highly visible and accessible element of the Cairngorms National Park's rich heritage. The National Park is home to a wealth of historic buildings which cover a wide range of functions and periods and together chart the history of the nation. They cross all boundaries of life, from education to recreation, defence, industry, homes and worship. Much of the area's social and economic past and its present are expressed in these exceptional buildings (Historic Scotland, 2007).

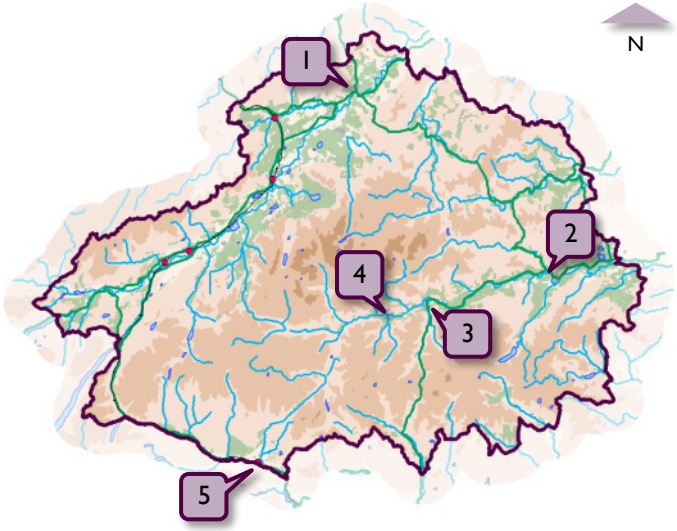
Towns and Conservation Areas

Planned towns are a feature of 18th and 19th century Scotland, and the National Park is home to five of importance, namely Ballater, Blair Atholl, Tomintoul, Grantown-on-Spey and Kingussie. The latter three were created as market towns for the surplus food that resulted from higher productivity on the increasingly sophisticated farms. Town plans were drawn up and often specified the type of house which the landowner wished to encourage. Commodious permanent houses built of stone with slated roofs, glazed windows and usually comprising a single storey and attic with three or five rooms were often indicated, all placed within a rational and carefully thought out street plan. This is in direct contrast to the ad hoc dark, single-storey, single-room dwellings made from turf or rubble with a thatched roof, which would have been more typical in villages at this time (Historic Scotland, 2007).

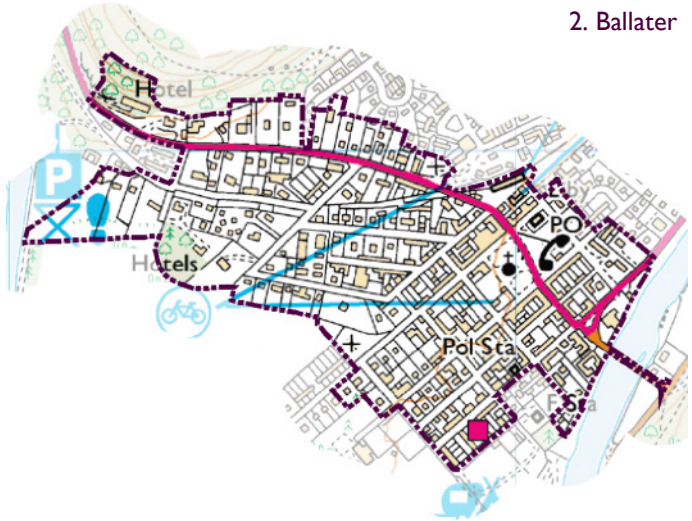
Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey and Blair Atholl have been designated as Conservation Areas, which are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997. The National Park also has a further two Conservation Areas within its boundary at Braemar and Inverey (**Figure 126**). Of these, only Blair Atholl benefits from a Conservation Area Appraisal (Perth and Kinross Council, 2007), which is available on the Council's website:

www.pkc.gov.uk/blairathollconservationarea

1. Grantown-on-Spey



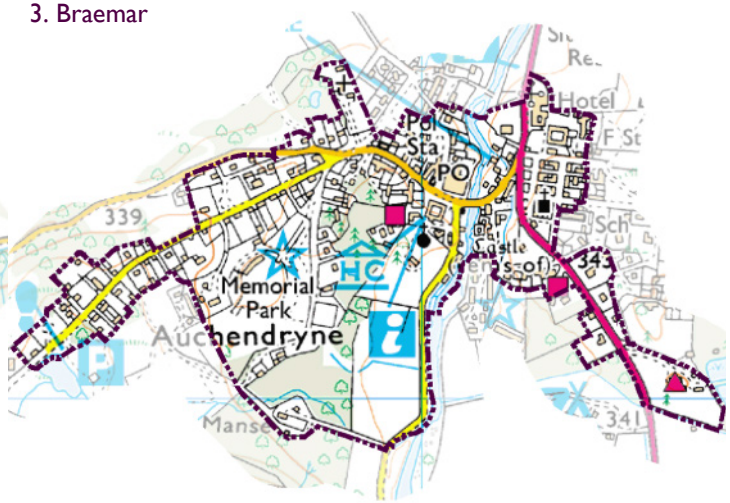
2. Ballater



5. Blair Atholl

4. Inverey

3. Braemar



All Conservation Area maps are at a scale of 1:15,000

Figure 126 Conservation Areas in the Cairngorms National Park.

Listed Buildings

Listing buildings and structures recognises their historic importance and this in turn helps ensure that their potential is not only for the study of history but for wider issues such as sustainability, community identity, local distinctiveness and social and economic regeneration.

Listed buildings can include structures from great country houses to modest croft houses, tenements to toll houses, and post boxes to primary schools. They can date from the early medieval period up until the 1980s. They need not necessarily be 'buildings' but could be bridges, railings, mileposts or statues. Whether urban, rural, industrial, public or residential they all contribute to their particular area and to Scotland as a whole. They are integral to Scottish culture and provide a unique record of our economic and social history (Historic Scotland, 2007).

The National Park contains around 753 buildings or structures of special historic or architectural interest, which are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 (**Figure 127**); 56 of these are within Category A, 341 in Category B and 356 in Category C. The size of the National Park means that it is home to a number of distinctive building traditions, which were frequently determined by local conditions of geology and land-use. While it is beyond the remit of this document to describe every local characteristic throughout the area, some overarching trends are apparent.

A large proportion of structures relate to the agricultural revolution that took place during the Improvement of the 18th and 19th centuries. The period saw the establishment of the aforementioned planned towns, the creation of new more compact farmsteads, the enlargement or replacement of churches and the enlargement or replacement of old tower houses with new mansions. Such was the scale of change, that with the exception of a few of the major houses such as Muckrach, Braemar, Corgaff and Abergeldie Castles, few pre-Improvement buildings now survive (Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2006) (Historic Scotland, 2007).

Classical country houses on the Anglo-Dutch model of plain piend roofed boxes are rare within the National Park, although some notable examples exist in the 1753 north block at Castle Grant near Grantown-on-Spey and the 1790-96 Balavil House near Kingussie (Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2006).

Until the late 19th century buildings were mostly constructed of locally available materials, such as earth, granite and quartz. Wood was also widely available and many structures, such as Mar Lodge and Ballater Station, were faced in timber. This has however lead to issues over their preservation as both have been severely damaged by fires, the former in 1991 and the latter in 2015. Throughout the area, tree-trunks have been used as picturesque supports for porches, overhanging roofs, verandas and balconies. Following the construction of the prefabricated ballroom at Balmoral, corrugated iron also gained in

popularity (Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2006).

The purchase of the Balmoral Estate by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1852, and the subsequent arrival of the railway, had a major impact on the area, particularly in the settlements along the River Dee. Balmoral Castle was rebuilt in the Baronial vernacular in 1856 and its influence spread throughout the area, with neighbouring estates such as Invercauld, where the old house was remodelled, imitating its style. Buildings in Braemar and Ballater also adopted Baronial characteristics, together with hotels, shooting lodges, entrance lodges, banks and police stations.

Detailed information on Listed Buildings in Scotland may be found on HES' website:

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/historicandlistedbuildings

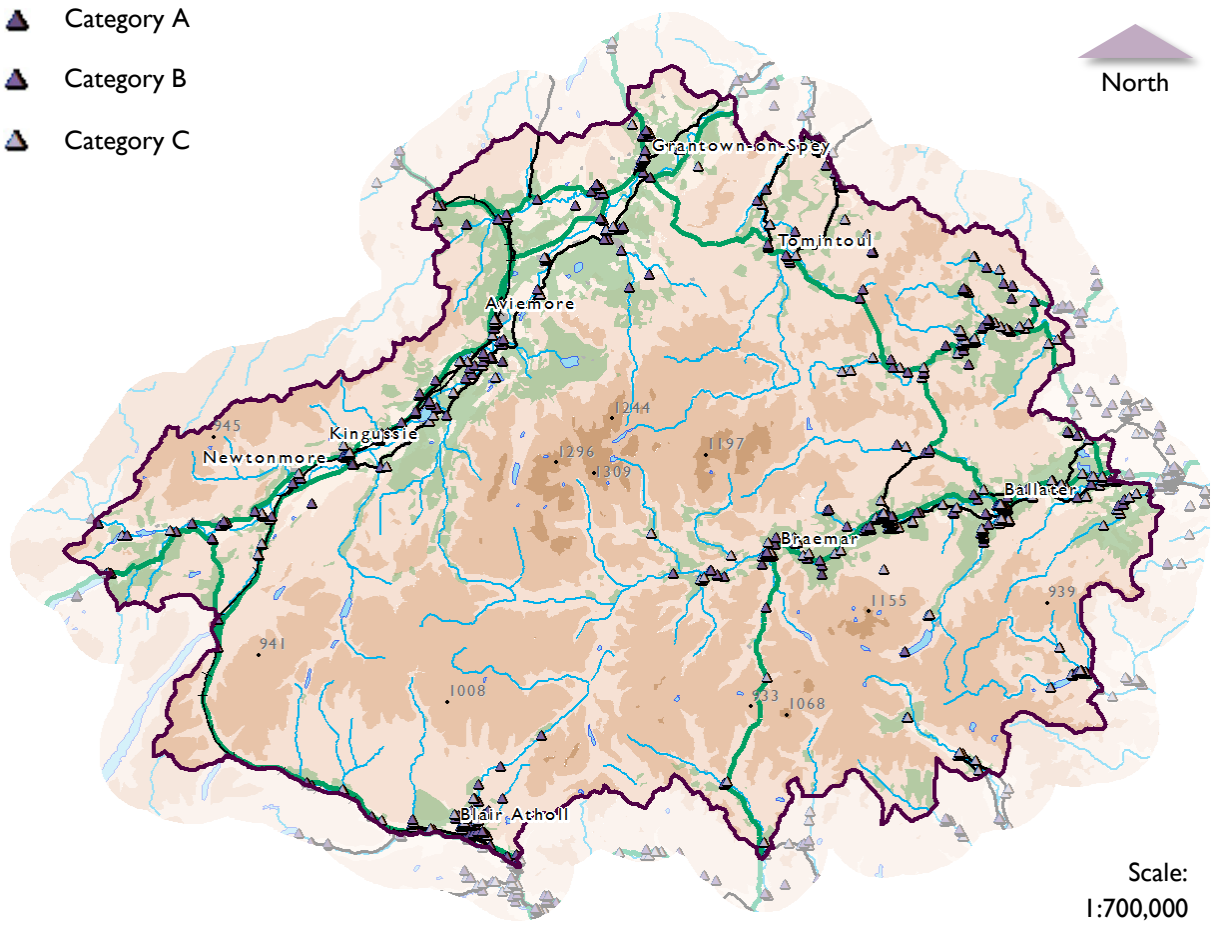


Figure 127 Listed Buildings in the Cairngorms National Park.

Buildings at Risk

The Buildings at Risk Register (BARR) for Scotland highlights properties of architectural or historic merit throughout the country that are considered to be at risk or under threat.

A Building at Risk is usually a listed building, or an unlisted building within a conservation area, that meets one or several of the following criteria:

- Vacant with no identified new use,
- Suffering from neglect and/or poor maintenance,
- Suffering from structural problems,
- Fire damaged,
- Unsecured,
- Open to the elements, and / or
- Threatened with demolition.

To be at risk, a building does not necessarily need to be in poor condition, it may simply be standing empty with no clear future use. Many buildings at risk are in this latter category.

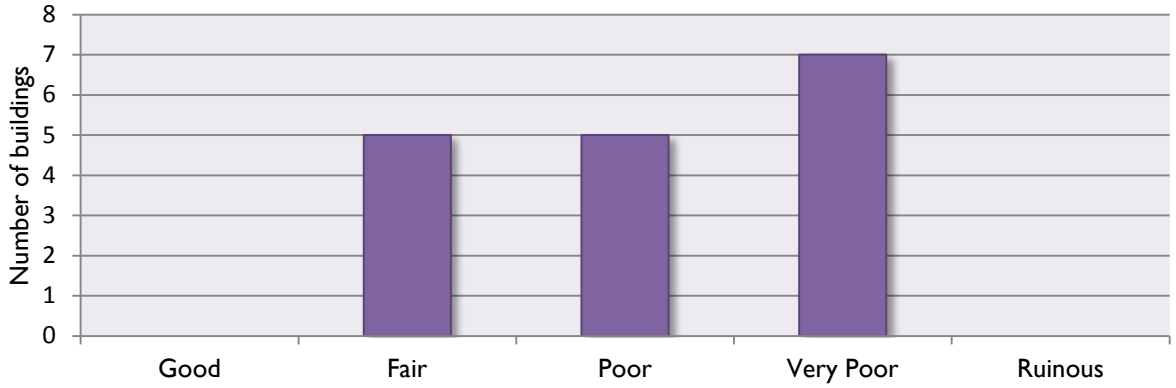


Figure 128 Condition of Buildings at Risk in the National Park in 2015 (Historic environment Scotland, 2015).

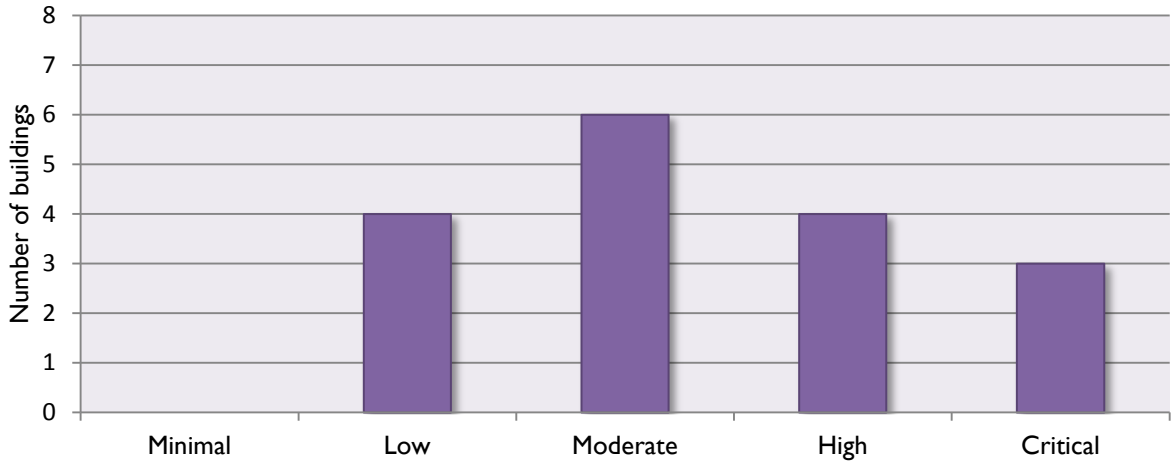


Figure 129 Category of risk of Buildings at Risk in the National Park in 2015 (Historic Environment Scotland, 2015).

Table 29 Buildings at risk in the National Park (Historic Environemnt Scotland, 2015).

Name		Listing	Condition	Category of Risk	Date of Assessment
Highland	Badden Cottage; Thatched Cottage, Kincraig	C	Very poor	High	13 November 2013
	Cottage at Dalnahaitnach, Carrbridge	Unlisted	Poor	Moderate	28 June 2013
	Cottage at Glenbanchor, Newtonmore	Unlisted	Very poor	Moderate	6 July 2012
	Cottage & Kennels, Woods of Glen Tromie, near Kingussie	Unlisted	Fair	Low	July 2001
	Braeruthven, near Ruthven Barracks, Kingussie	Unlisted	Very poor	Critical	20 July 2009
	Croft Cottage, Blaragie, Laggan	Unlisted	Very poor	High	20 July 2013
	Upper Tullochgrue Farm, Aviemore	Unlisted	Very poor	High	28 June 2013
	Old Cromdale Church of Scotland Manse Steading, Cromdale	B	Very poor	Critical	28 June 2013
	17-19, Castle Road, Grantown-on-Spey	C	Poor	Low	28 June 2013
	Garva Barracks; King's House, Garva Bridge	A	Fair	Low	20 June 2013
Aberdeenshire	55 Golf Road, Ballater	Unlisted	Fair	Low	7 August 2013
	The Old School, School Lane, Ballater	C	Fair	Moderate	7 August 2013
	Queen Victoria's Picnic Lodge, Mar Lodge Estate, Braemar	C	Poor	High	6 August 2013
	Derry Lodge, Mar Lodge Estate, Braemar	C	Fair	Moderate	6 August 2013
	Abergeldie Bridge, Crathie	B	Very poor	Critical	7 August 2013
	6 Castleton Terrace, Braemar	C	Poor	Moderate	6 August 2013
	St Margaret's Episcopal Church (Former), Castleton Terrace, Braemar	A	Poor	Moderate	6 August 2013

The BARR was established in 1990 and is funded and managed by HES.

The BARR lists seventeen Buildings at Risk within the Cairngorms National Park (see **Figure 128**, **Figure 129**, **Table 29** and **Figure 130**). Three of these are in Critical condition, which is the most serious category awarded by the BARR. Critical status is awarded to buildings that are either threatened with demolition, and a real or perceived conservation deficit now makes rescue unlikely or are suffering from an acute structural problem that could lead to full or partial collapse. The status is also awarded to A-listed properties in poor or very poor condition or B-listed properties in very poor condition.

The BARR can be consulted on the Buildings at Risk website:

www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk

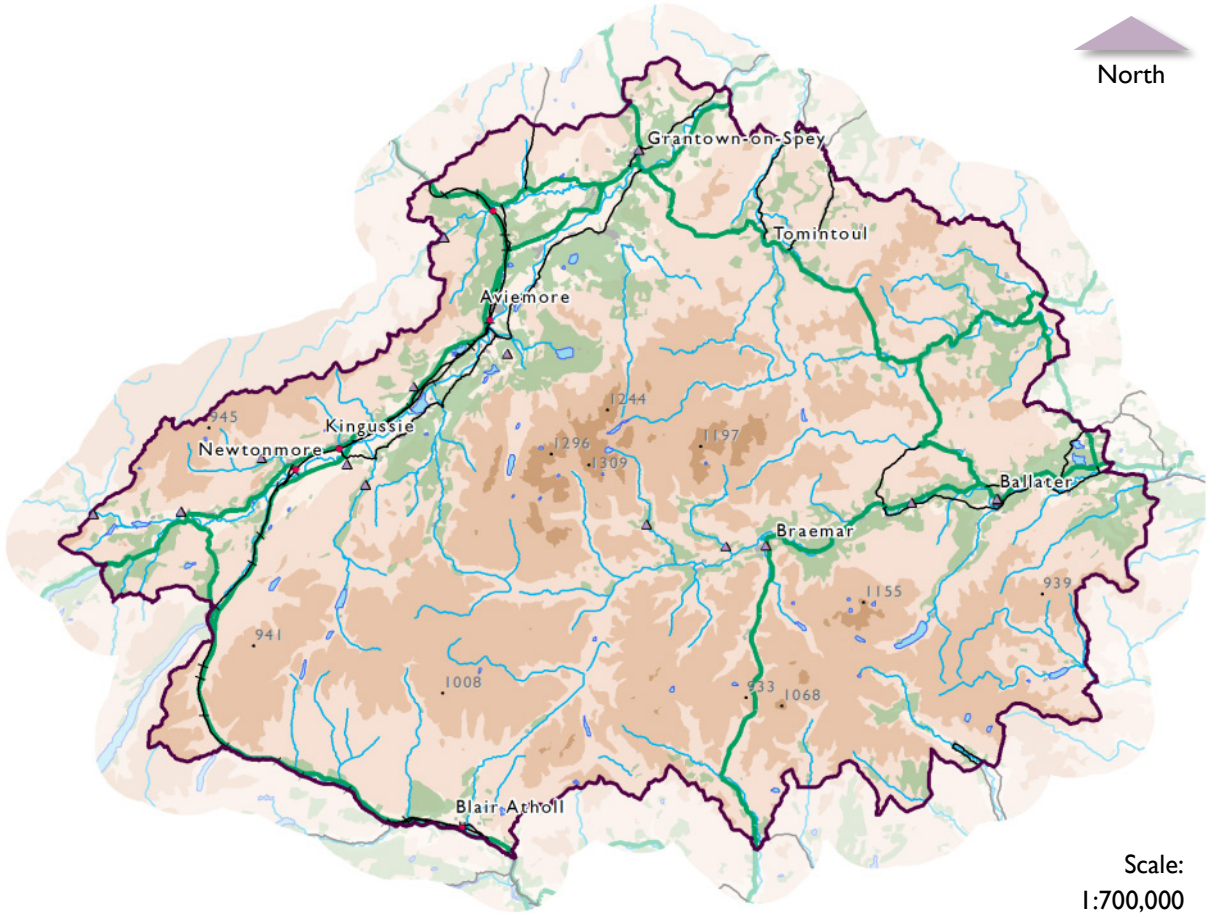


Figure 130 Location of Buildings at Risk as of 2015 in the Cairngorms National Park.

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; Skutnubb-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 dialectical continuum as English (Smith, 2000).

Gaelic, which was bought 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 2001[12]) (see **Figure 131**, **Figure 132**, **Figure 135** and **Figure 136** for an overview of Gaelic language skills) in the National Park, it is a visible and inseparable part of the area's

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

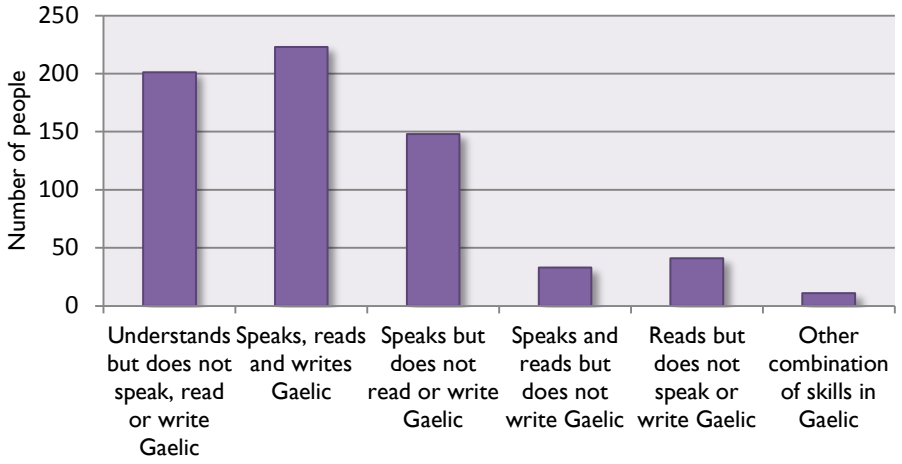


Figure 131 Gaelic language skills for all people aged 3 and over in the Cairngorms National Park (Census table QS211SC).

Figure 132 Age profile of the Cairngorms National Park population who can understand, speak, read or write Gaelic (Census table LC2120SCdz).

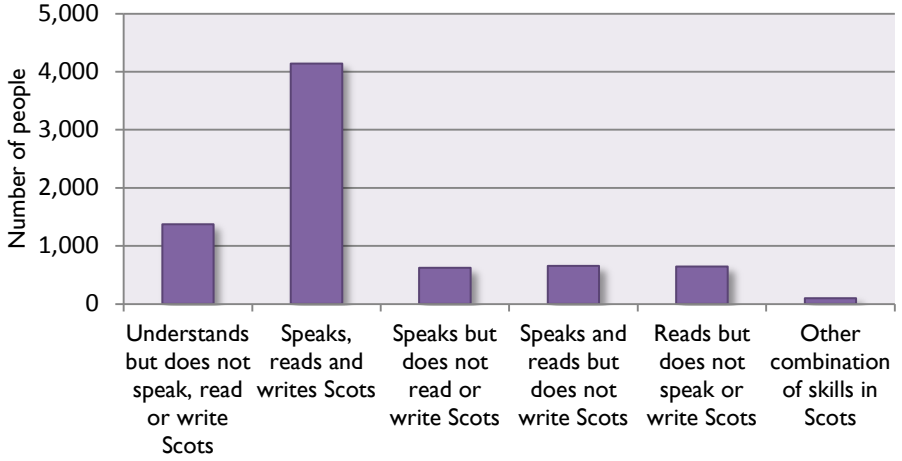


Figure 133 Scots language skills for all people aged 3 and over in the Cairngorms National Park (Census table QS212SC).

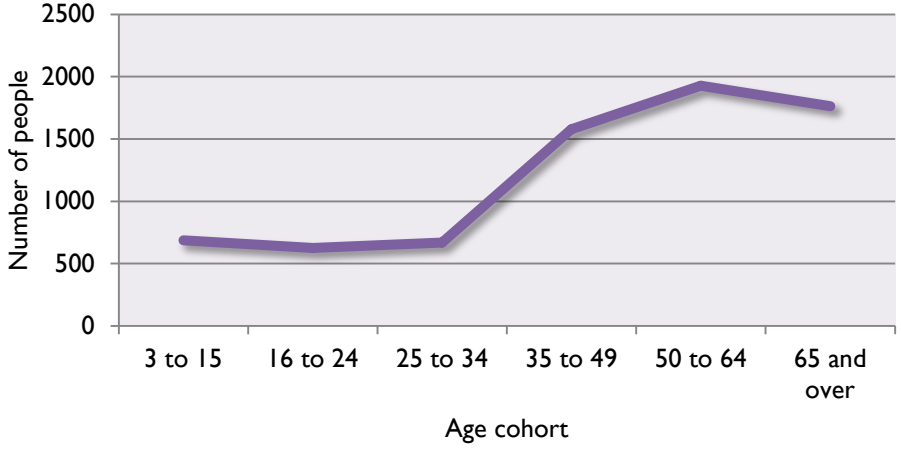


Figure 134 Age profile of the Cairngorms National Park population who can understand, speak, read or write Scots (Census table LC2121SC).

identity, as it continues to dominate the names of places, both built and natural. Nevertheless, it is classified by UNESCO as being 'Definitely endangered'[13] (Moseley, 2010). Currently, the CNPA seeks to support the Gaelic language through its 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

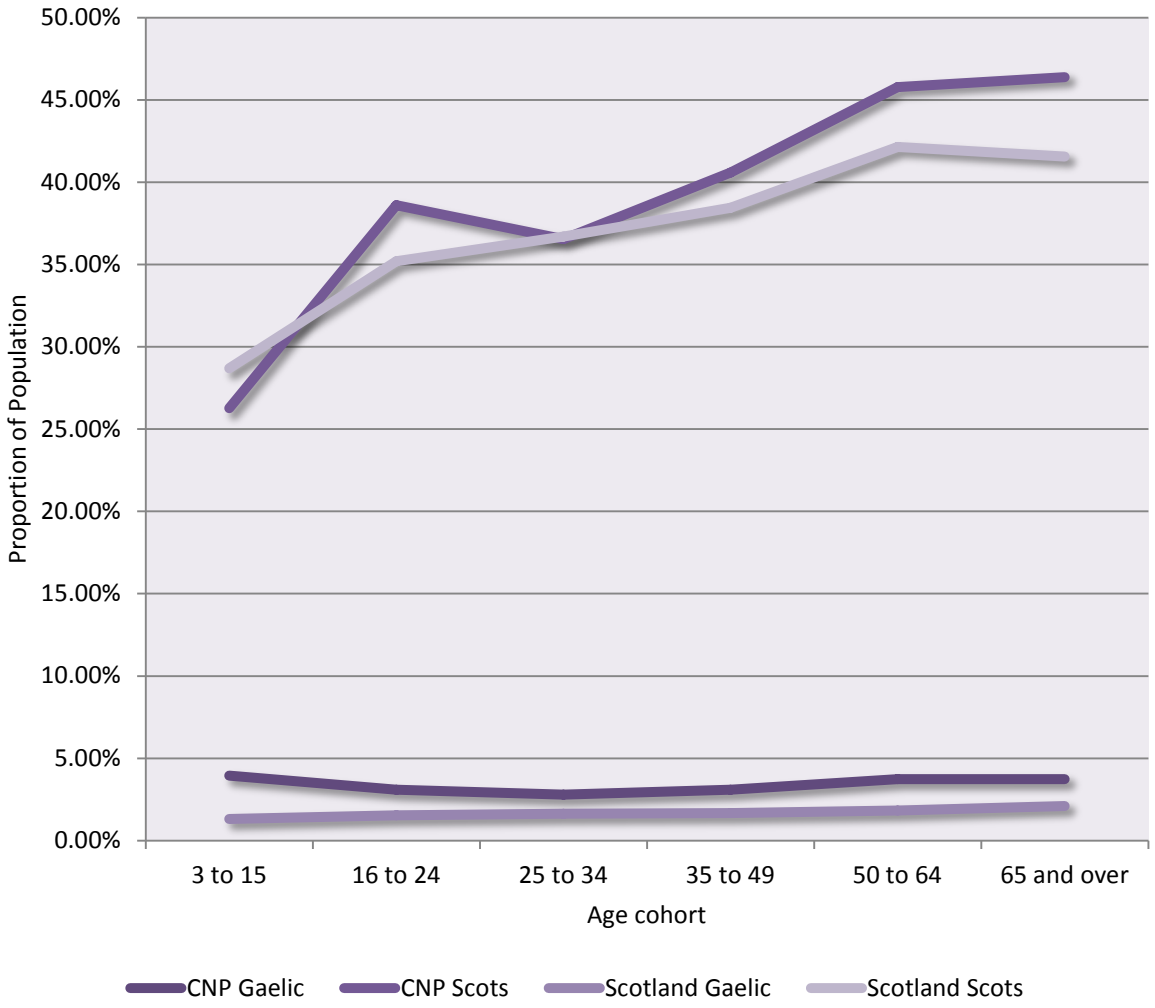


Figure 135 Proportionate age profiles of the Cairngorms National Park and Scottish populations who can understand, speak, read or write Gaelic or Scots (Census tables LD2120SCdz and LC2121SC).

[13] 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 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).

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 133**, **Figure 134**, **Figure 135** and **Figure 137** for an overview of Scots language skills). It is classified by UNESCO as being 'Vulnerable'.

Despite apparently having a greater number of speakers than Gaelic, an analysis of the Scots language skills remains difficult. Firstly, the 2011 Census was the first to collect information on the Scots language and therefore no detailed information on trends is available. Secondly, research carried out prior to the census suggested that people vary considerably in their interpretation of what is meant by "Scots" and that it is therefore likely that the census statistics reflect a very broad definition of the language (National Records Scotland, 2015).

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

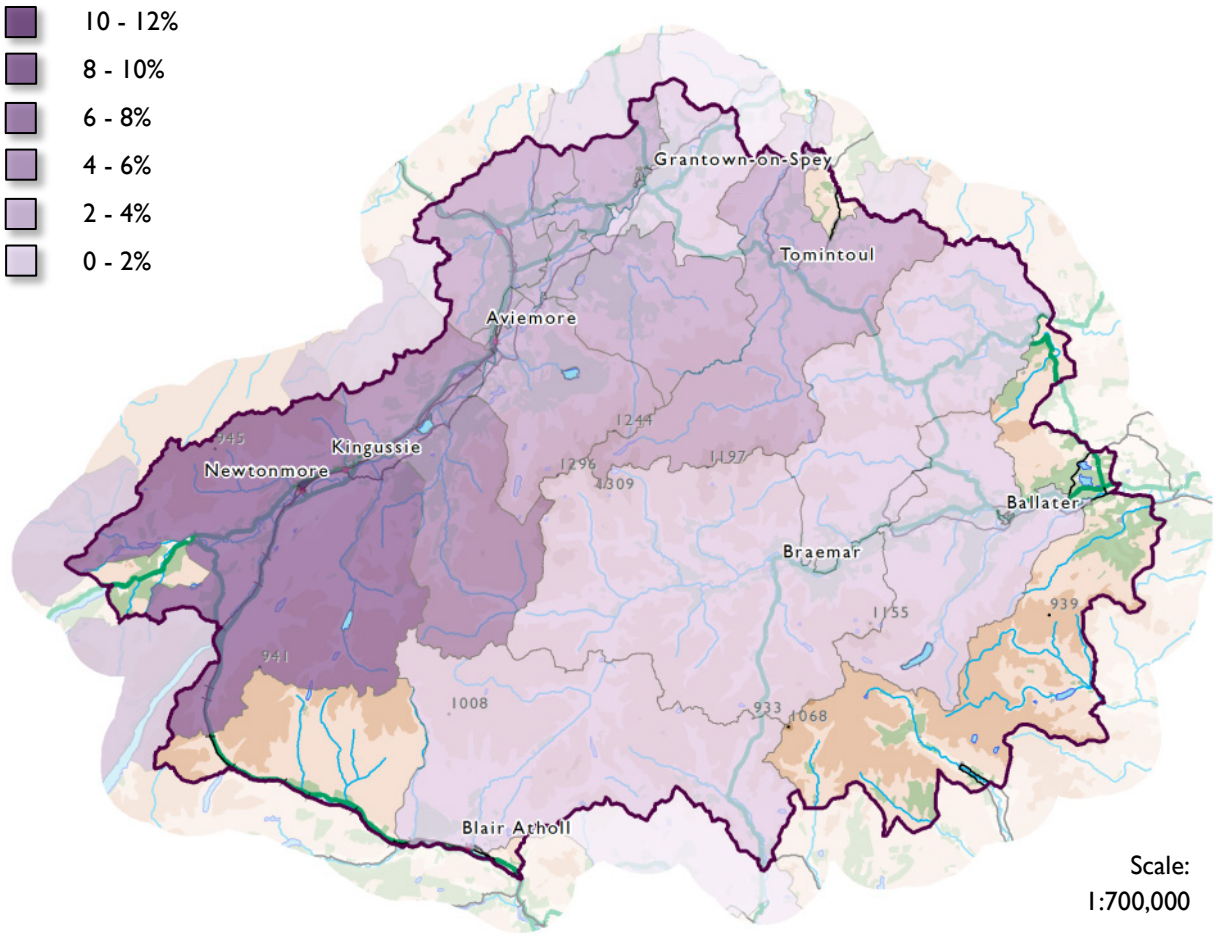


Figure 136 Proportion of people aged 3 and over who understand, speak, read or write Gaelic (Census table QS211SC).

limited in its ability to influence language use and acquisition. However, the NPPP 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-

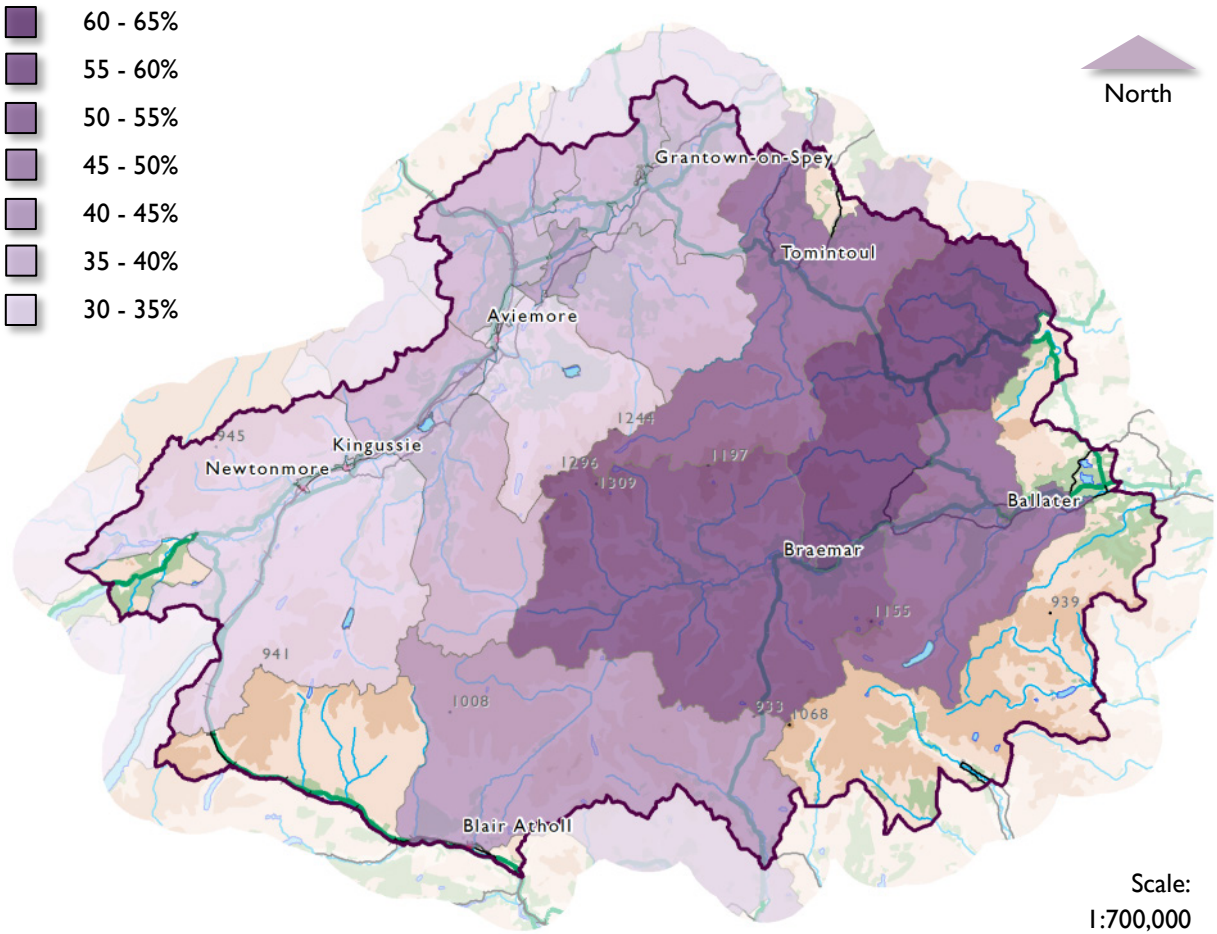


Figure 137 Proportion of people aged 3 and over who understand, speak, read or write Scots (Census table Q212SC).

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

At 4,528 square kilometres, and comprising 6% of Scotland's land area, the Cairngorms National Park is the UK's largest protected landscape. It is without doubt one of the UK's finest environments and possess a range of special qualities, often unique to the area. Furthermore, nearly half of the National Park's land area is classified as being 'wild land'.

The cultural heritage of the National Park is also rich, with it being home to thousands of historic structures, buildings and archaeological remains. There are numerous areas protected by some form of historic designation, including Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Designated Landscapes and Gardens and Battlefield Inventory Sites.

The National Park also possesses less tangible cultural assets, such as the 370 Gaelic and 5,400 Scots speakers.

One of the National Park's aims is to "to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area" and therefore the NPPP will have to carefully consider its potential effects on these assets.

Inter-relationships with other topics

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