

# The Spey Catchment Initiative

- Delivering river restoration schemes for multiple objectives

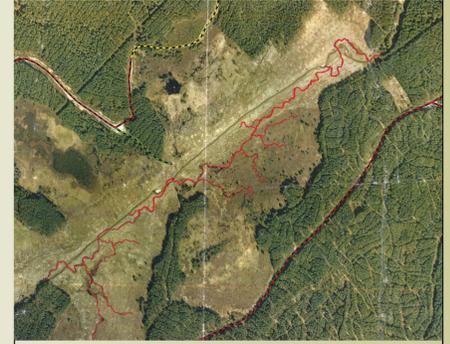


The project site lies within the Invereshie and Inshraich National Nature Reserve in the western Cairngorms, which has many designations for wildlife interest at UK & European level. Designated as a SSSI, SAC, SPA and Natura site, it covers 3600 Ha of ancient Caledonia pinewood and scot pine woodland and is a refuge for many of Scotland's rarest species.

## The Allt a' Mharcaidh at the Invereshie & Inshraich National Nature Reserve

(near Kinraig, Scottish Highlands)

River restoration and floodplain reconnection works of an artificially canalised watercourse were undertaken in 2014 in association with peatland stabilisation and wet woodland regeneration activities. The aim was to instigate holistic restoration at a sensitive site of which the river was a part, delivering on diverse multiple objectives in the process. Tackling challenges associated with river morphology, bog woodland drainage and exposed peat will, in time, lead to improved river functioning and in stream habitats, increased carbon sequestration and an enhanced wet woodland environment.



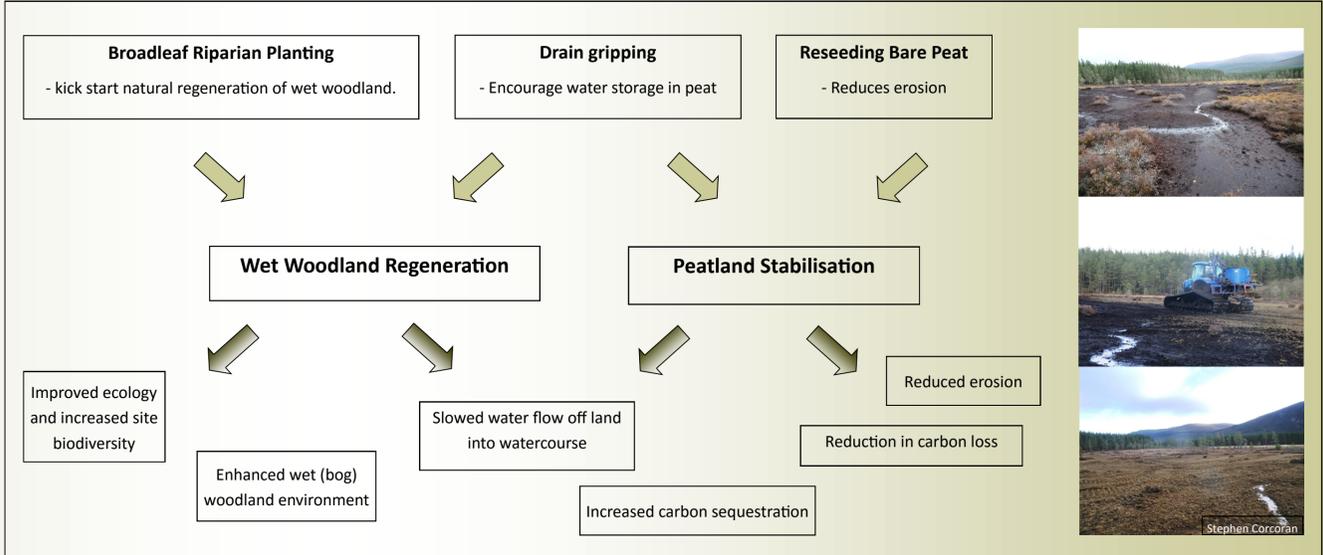
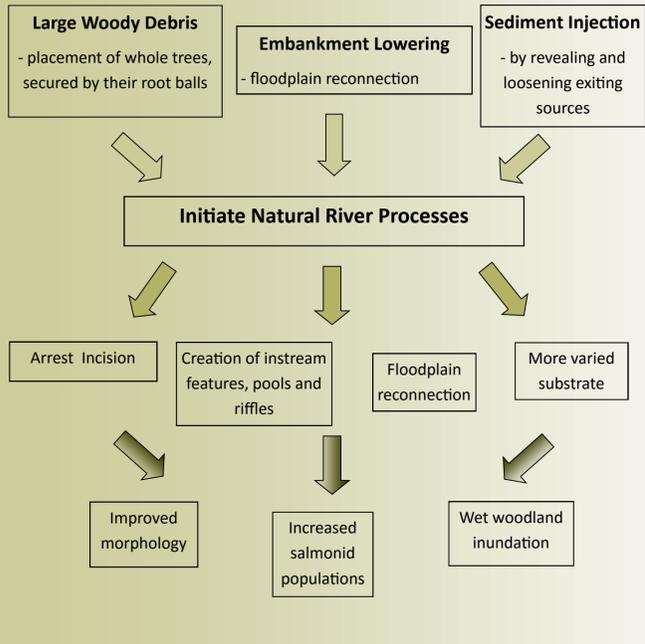
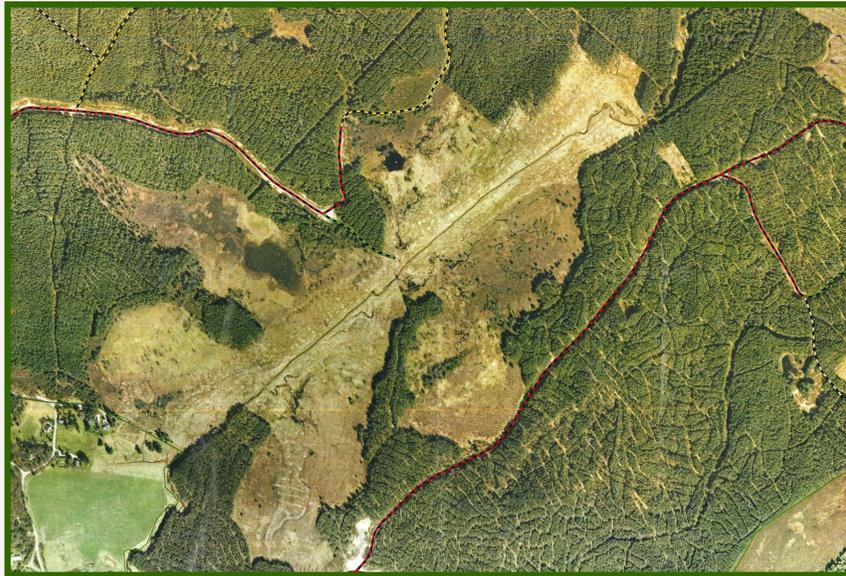
Original pre 1800s channel marked in red.

The Allt a' Mharcaidh is a tributary of the River Feshie. During the Napoleonic wars in the early 1800s, 1.2km of its lower reach was artificially canalised to power water driven saw mills and transport timber. Over time the channel has incised, undercut its banks, been scoured of sediment and has become disconnected from its floodplain.

The bog woodland was drained and planted with non native pine species. These were removed as part of a LIFE Wet Woods project in the late 1990s aimed at restoring the wet woodland of the area.



River restoration works undertaken in 2014 to sympathetically address morphological pressures and create a more naturally functioning watercourse whilst also improving its in stream habitat.



- By end of 2015:
- Inshraich NNR in better condition
  - Enhanced wet woodland environment developing
  - Improved river functioning - improved WFD status
  - Contributing to localised Natural Flood Management
  - More diverse ecology and ecosystems developing
  - Improved in stream biodiversity and habitats—increasing salmonid populations
  - Increased carbon sequestration and reduction in carbon loss
  - Education and awareness opportunities - site visits, media
  - Monitoring programme established with University College London (student field training)



For further information on the Invereshie and Inshraich National Nature Reserve visit [www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/invereshie-and-inshraich/](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/invereshie-and-inshraich/)



This project which was a joint initiative between the Spey Catchment Initiative and the Cairngorms Peatland Restoration Officer, was made possible by the generous support of Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural heritage, The Spey Fishery Board, The Water Environment Fund and the Green Stimulus Peatland Restoration Fund.

The SCI is supported by

The Spey Catchment Initiative is a public/private partnership that delivers environmental enhancement projects throughout the River Spey catchment. Its strength lies in its ability to facilitate partnership working in order to get things done, enabling multi-faceted multiple benefit projects to be undertaken and tackling restoration issues that may not otherwise be addressed.



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