

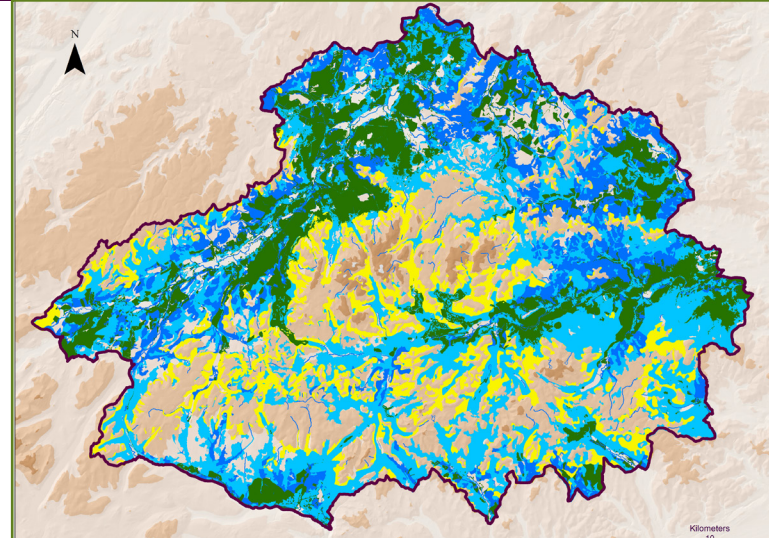
WOODLAND

Planning and encouraging woodland expansion

With a bold target of 5,000 ha of new native woodland for the period 2013-2018, there was a need to both identify where this could bring about the biggest ecological gains, and to encourage landowners and managers to make space for woodland creation.

Using various datasets relating to soil type, capercaillie activity, breeding wader birds, designated sites, watercourses etc, the Cairngorms National Park Authority created a Target Areas map, which identified those areas where woodland creation in the next few years could best strengthen a native woodland habitat network across the Park. It was agreed with Forestry Commission Scotland that native woodland creation in these areas would be incentivised by increasing grant rates by 12.5%.

The most recent version of the map incentivises woodland creation in areas across the Park with soils suitable for a wide range of native woodland type, including riparian and montane woodland.



Category	Description
Existing Forests and Woodlands	All existing woodlands and forests
Preferred Areas	Areas within which woodland creation of a range of woodland types would achieve multiple benefits. Suitability for planting would need to be confirmed at a site level and may require surveys.
Potential Areas (with known sensitivities)	Areas within which native woodland creation would achieve multiple benefits through restoration, enhancement and expansion of the existing woodland resources, but where there are known sensitivities eg Natura designation, peatland habitat, and arable and improved grassland. Suitability for planting would need to be confirmed at a site level and may require surveys.
Montane Woodlands	Areas where there is potential for higher altitude woodlands consisting largely of low density birch, dwarf birch, montane willows and juniper. Suitability for planting would need to be confirmed at a site level and may require surveys.
Non-target Areas	Areas where woodland creation is of lower priority, highly sensitive, inappropriate or impractical. However even in non-target areas some small scale woodland planting may be appropriate.



Mark Hamblin/2020VISOIN/CNPA