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

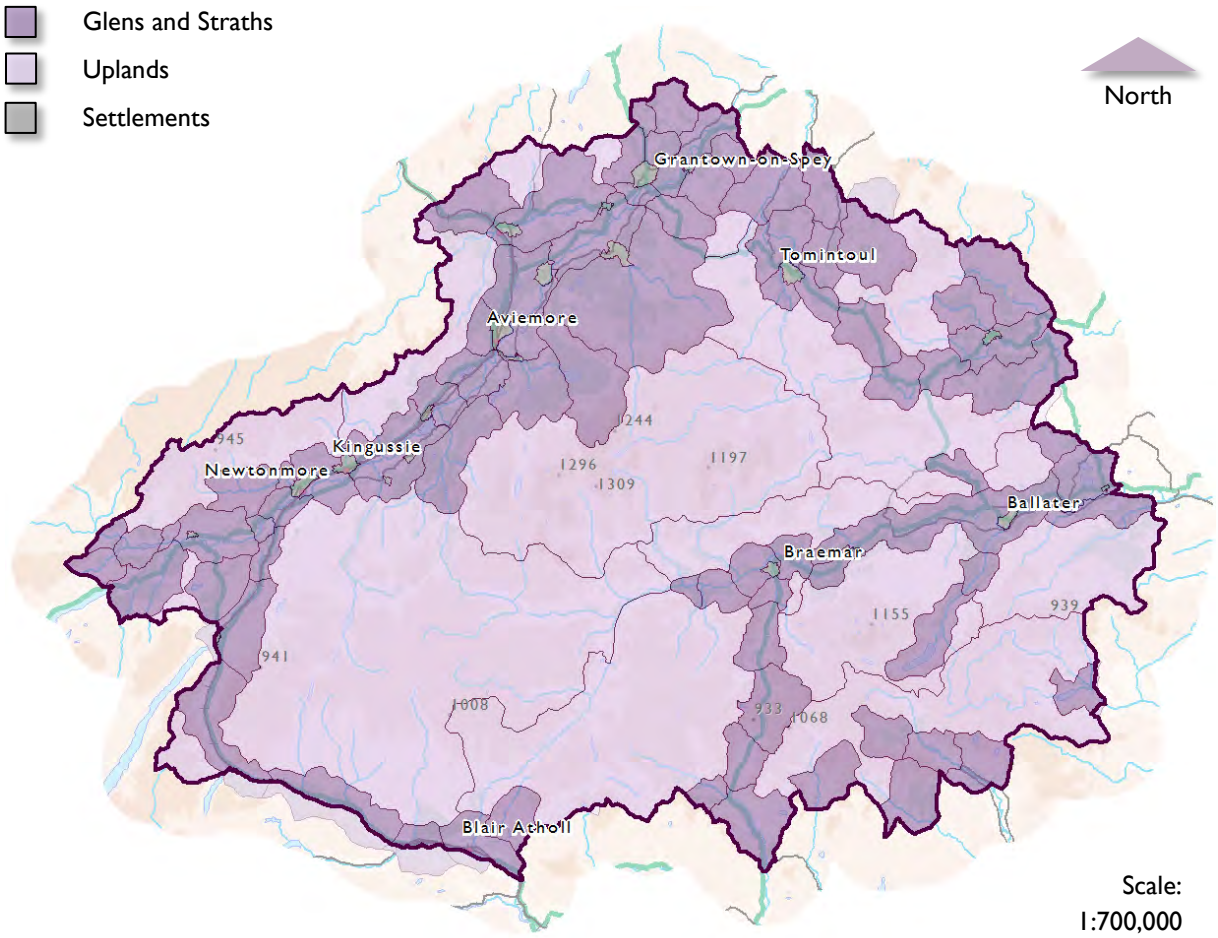


Figure 114 Broad categories of Landscape Character Areas of the Cairngorms National Park.

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.

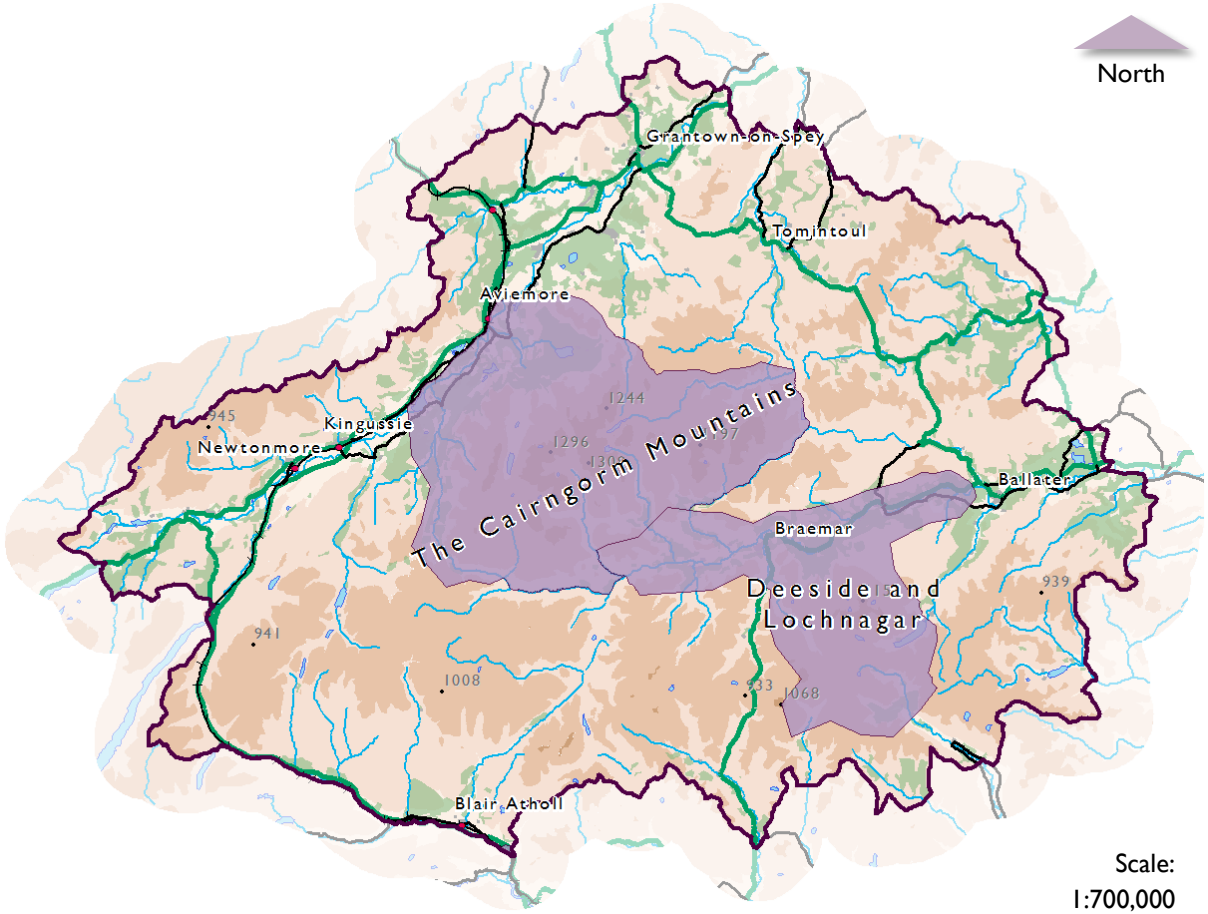


Figure 115 National Scenic Areas of the Cairngorms National Park.

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**).

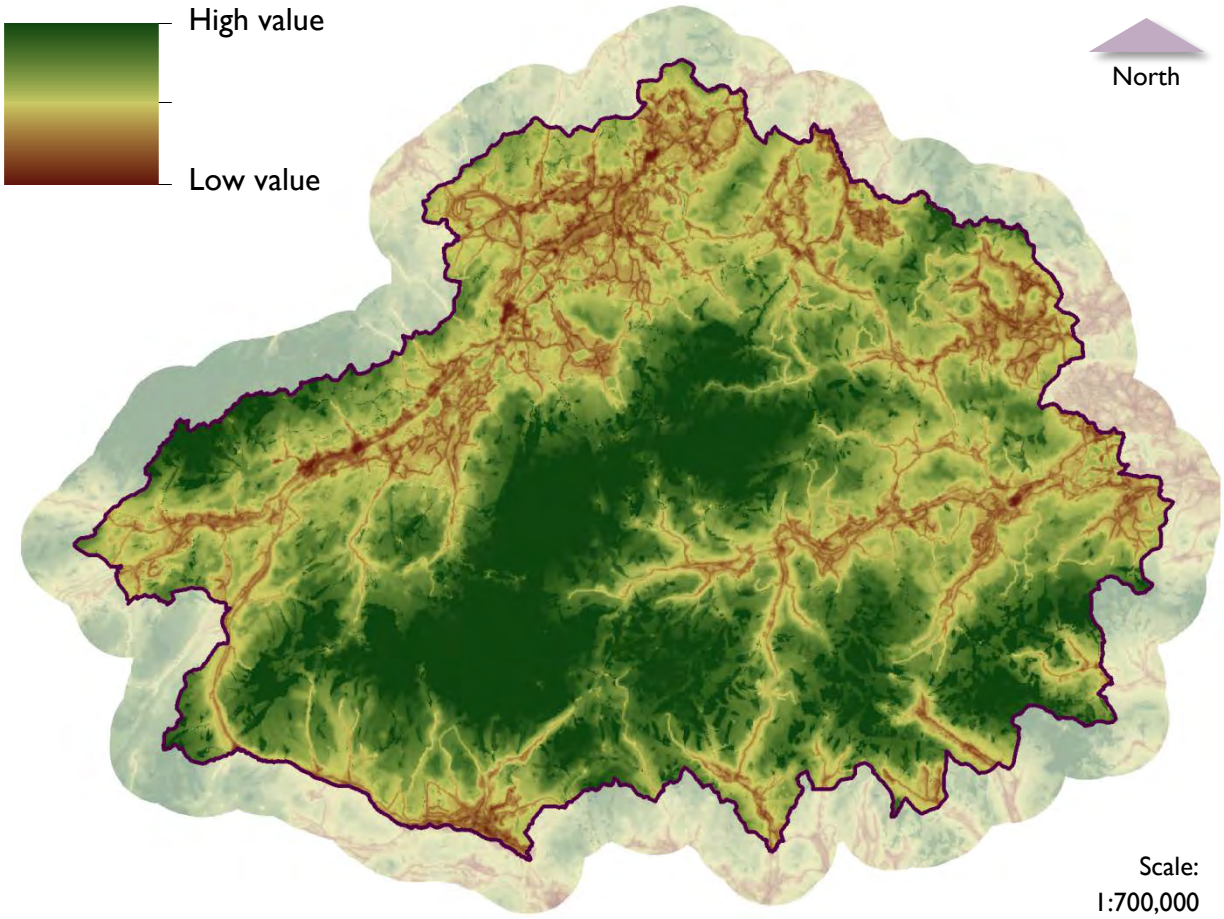


Figure 116 Relative wildness of Scotland (composite of Figures 114, 115, 116 and 117).

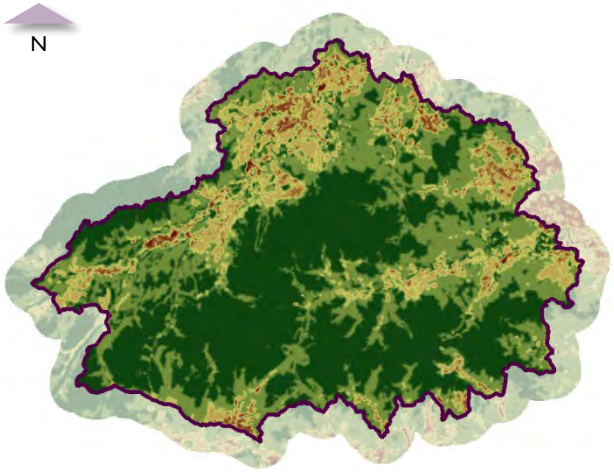


Figure 117 Perceived naturalness of land cover

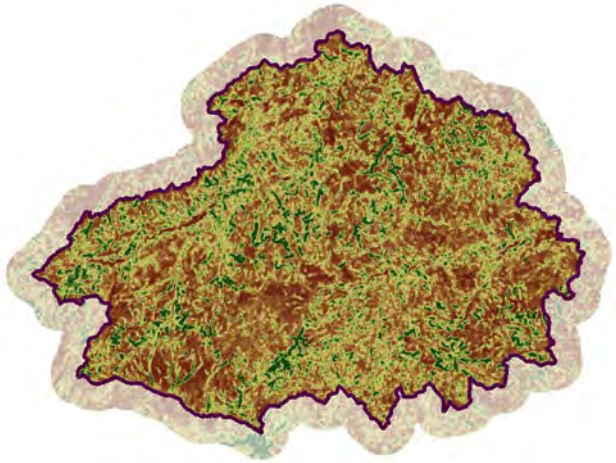
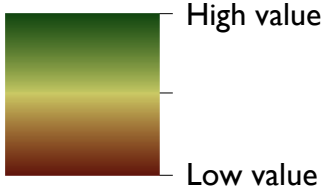


Figure 118 Ruggedness of terrain



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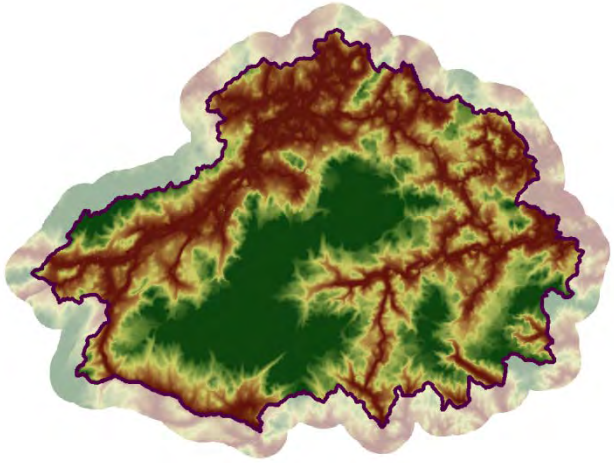


Figure 119 Remoteness from public roads, ferries or railway stations

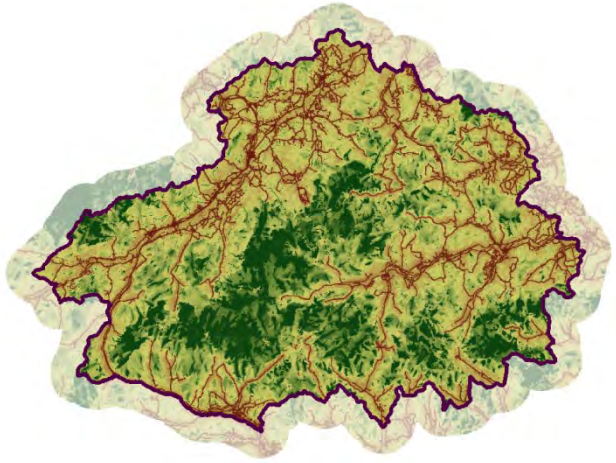


Figure 120 Lack of built modern artefacts

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.

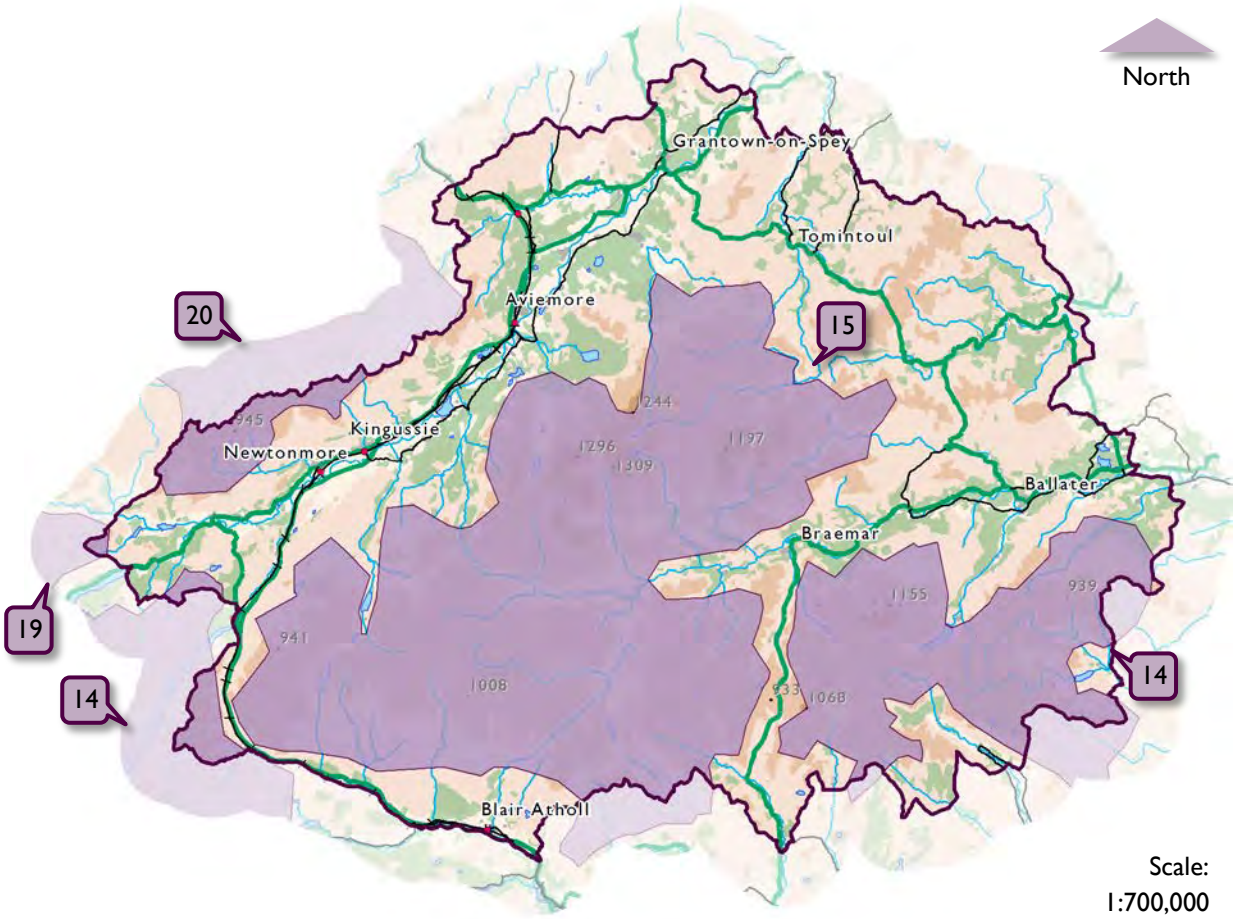


Figure 121 Wild land areas in the Cairngorms National Park.

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

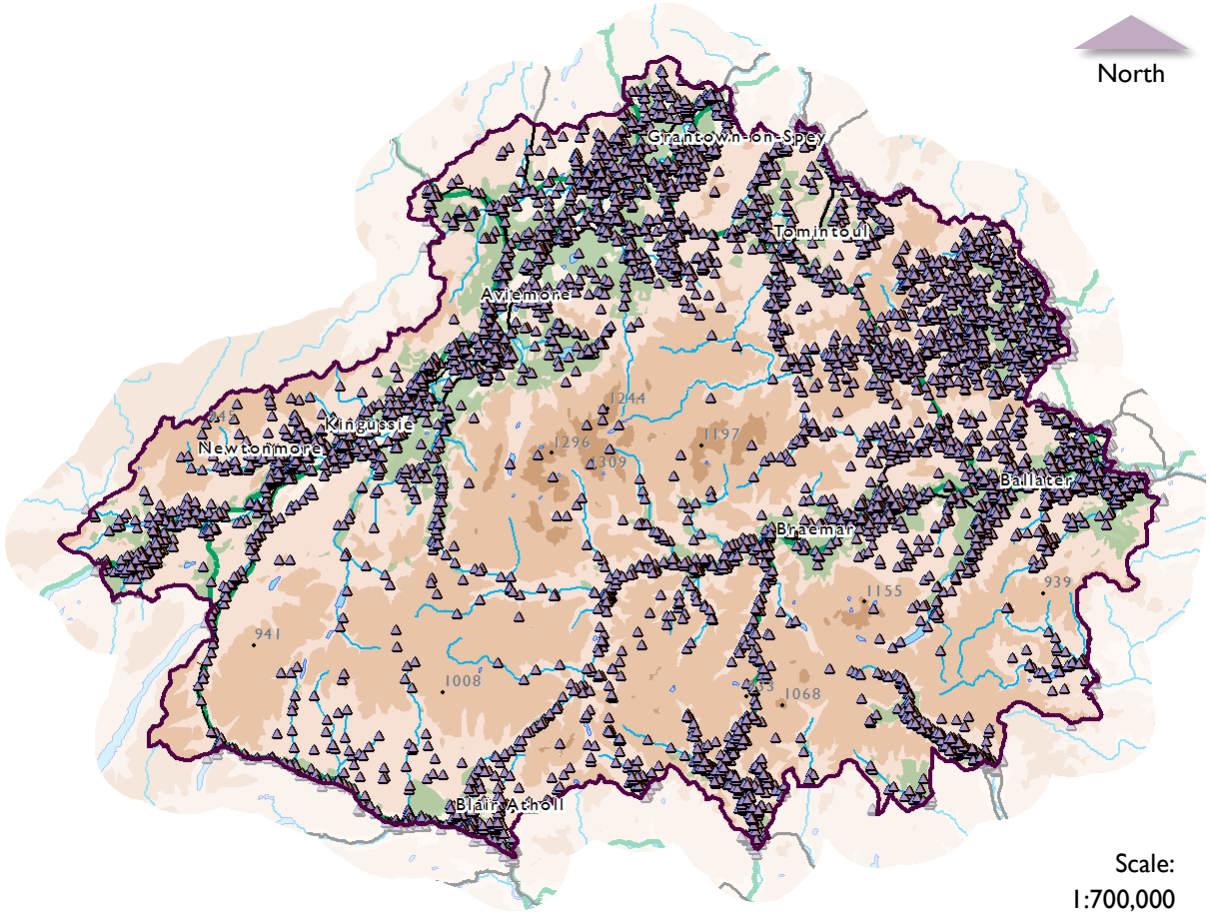


Figure 122 Distribution of National Monuments Record sites in the Cairngorms National Park. See www.canmore.org.uk for further information.

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

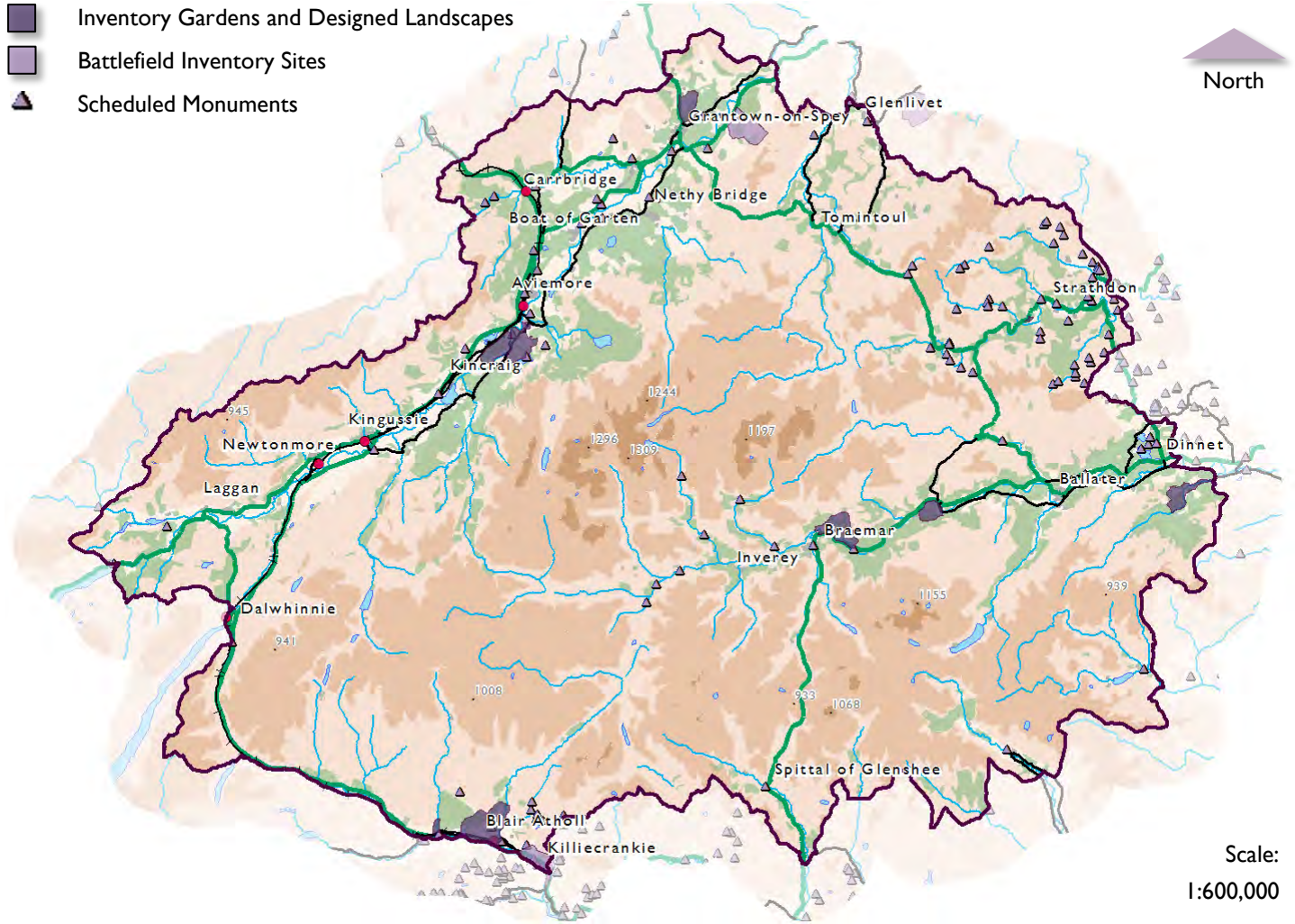
- Balmoral Castle
- Candacraig House
- Glen Tanar
- Invercauld

Highland

- Aultmore
- Castle Grant
- Doune of Rothiemurchus
- Kinara

Perth and Kinross

- Blair Castle
- Falls of Bruar



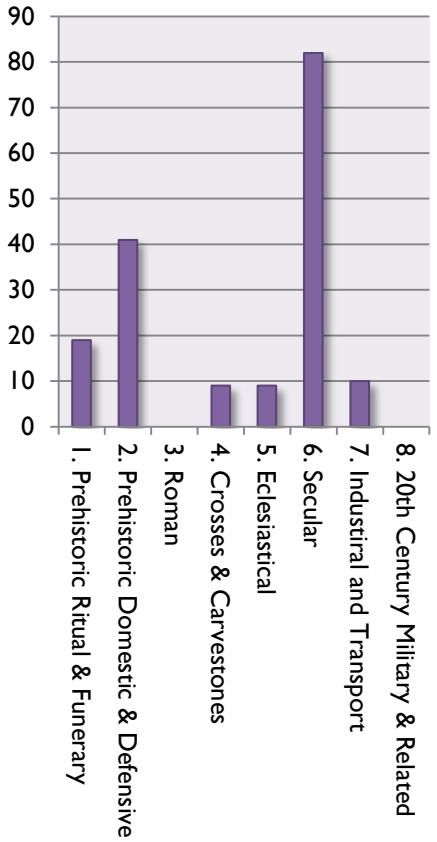


Figure 123 Number of Scheduled Monument types in the Cairngorms National Park.

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

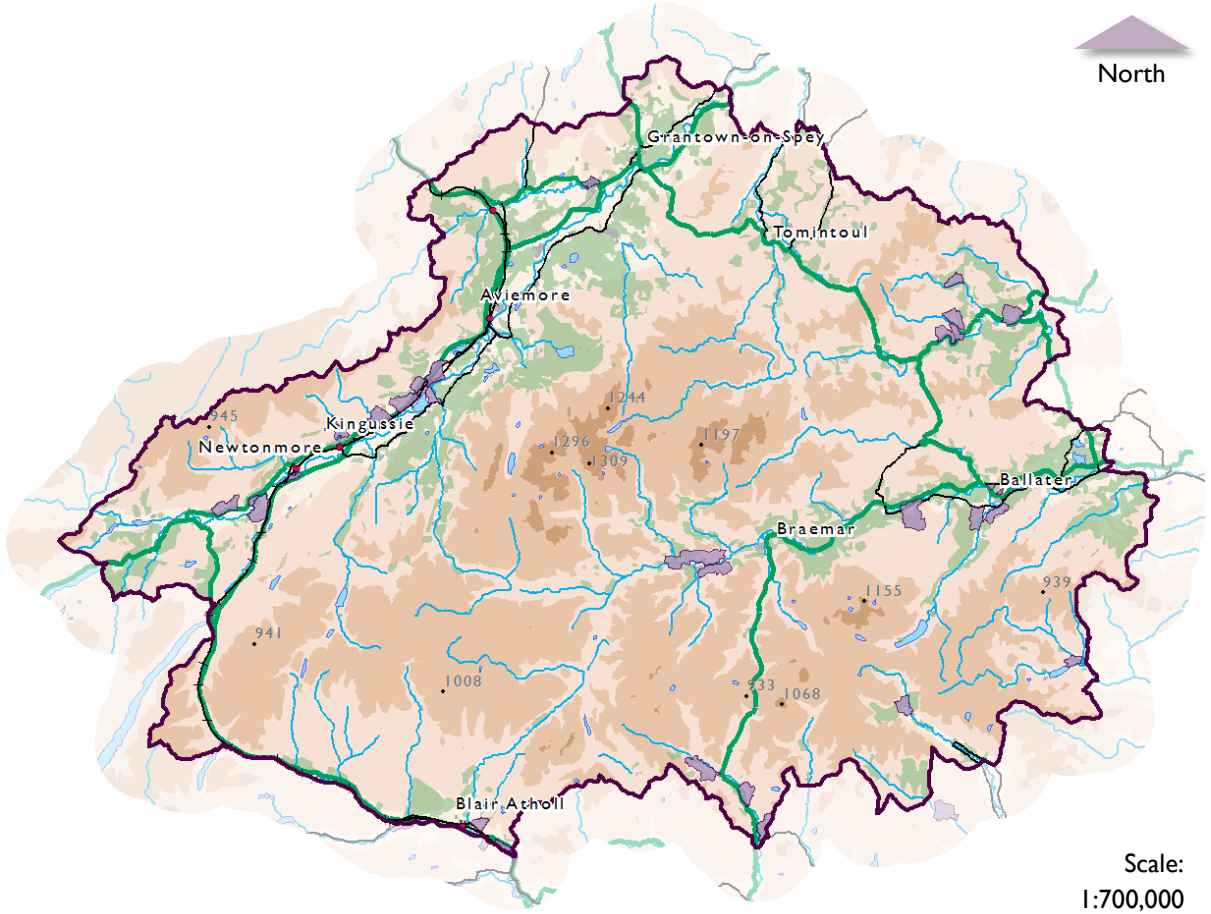


Figure 125 Historic and designed landscapes within the Cairngorms National Park (Peter McGowan Associates, 2013).

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).

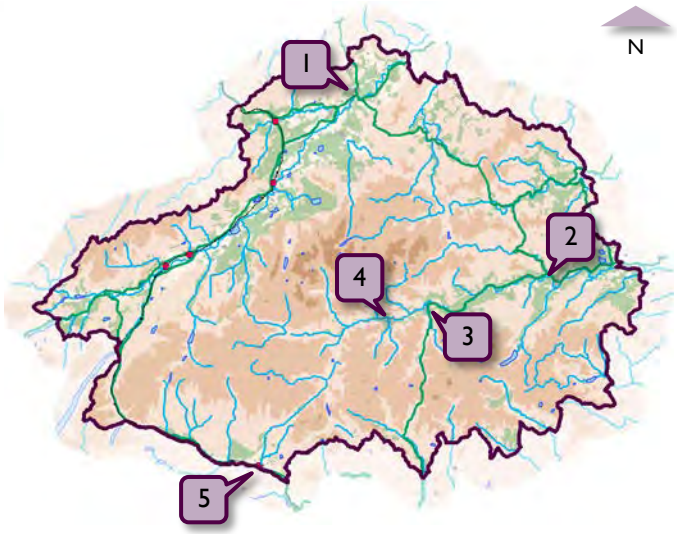
Towns and Conservation Areas

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

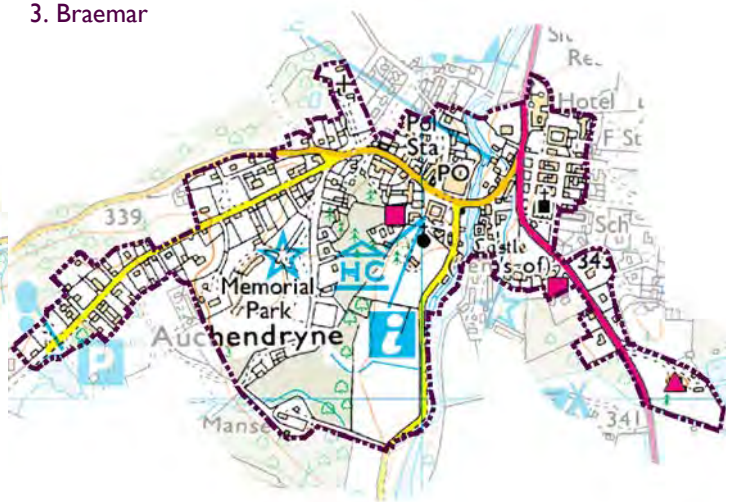


2. Ballater

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

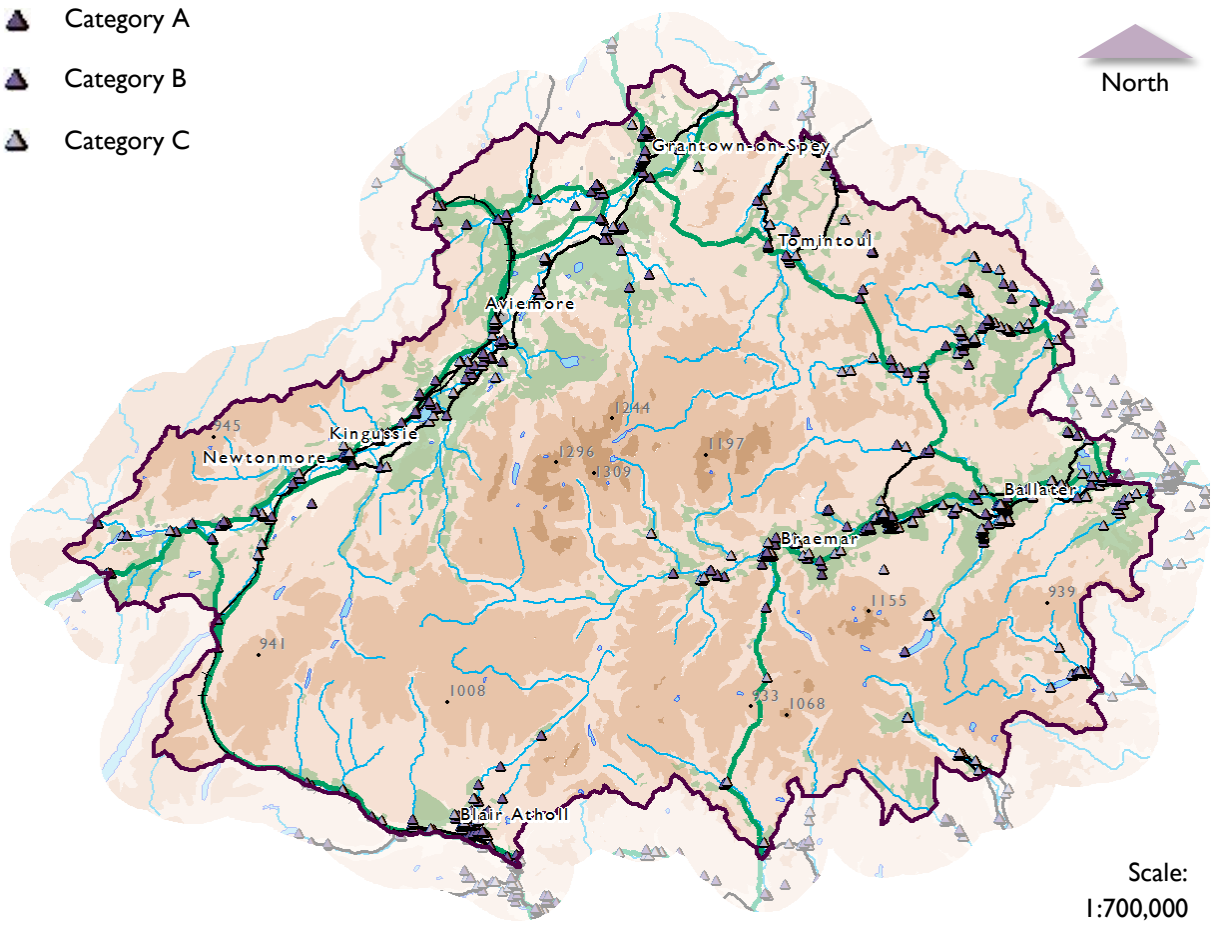


Figure 127 Listed Buildings in the Cairngorms National Park.

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.

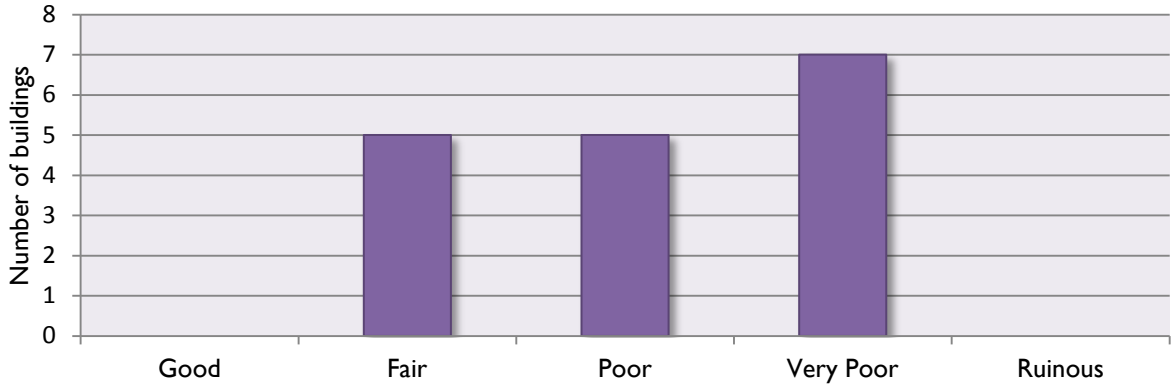


Figure 128 Condition of Buildings at Risk in the National Park in 2015 (Historic environment Scotland, 2015).

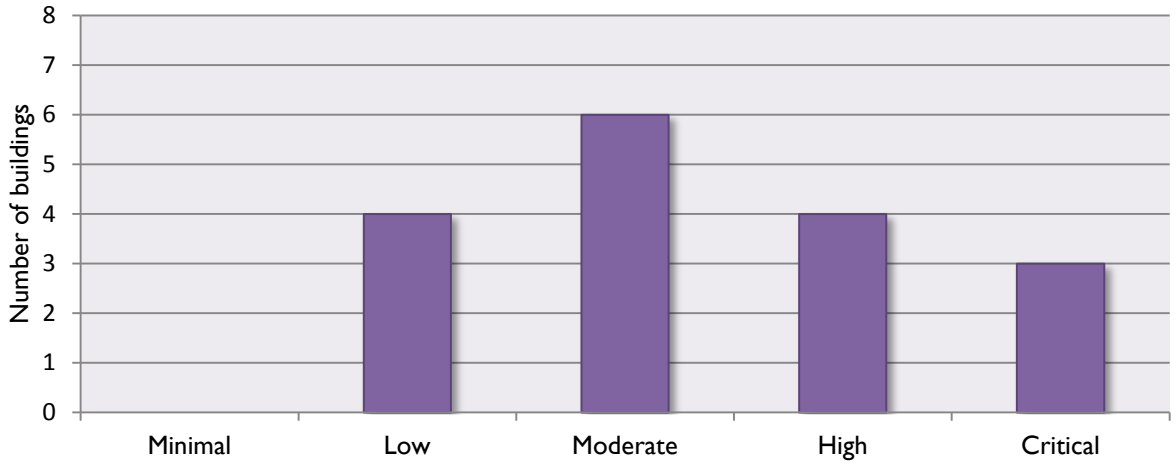


Figure 129 Category of risk of Buildings at Risk in the National Park in 2015 (Historic Environment Scotland, 2015).

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

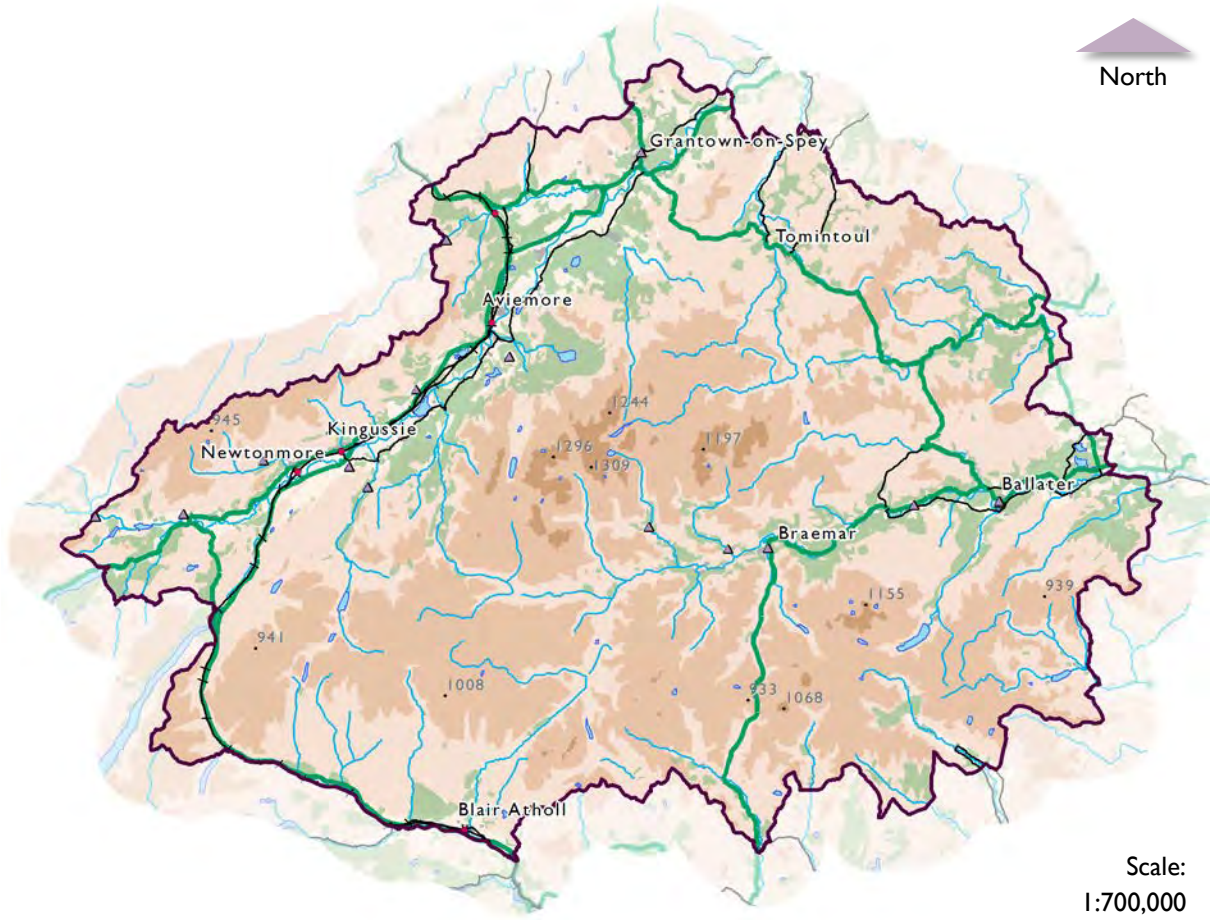


Figure 130 Location of Buildings at Risk as of 2015 in the Cairngorms National Park.

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.

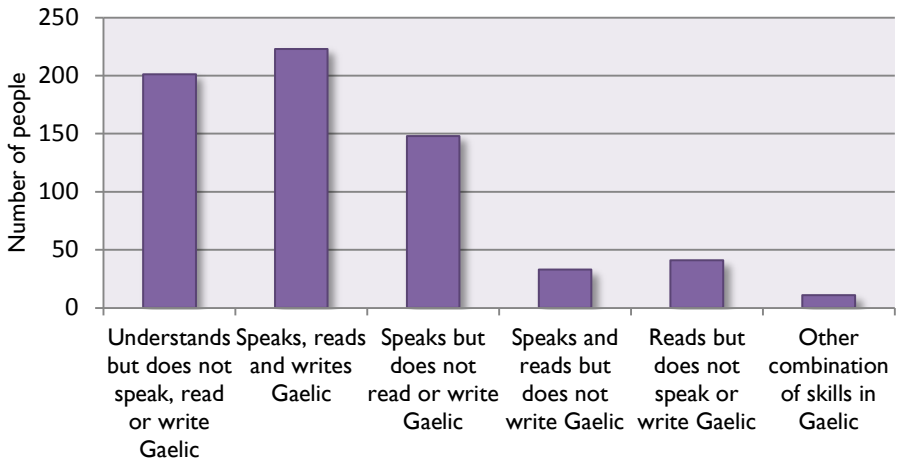


Figure 131 Gaelic language skills for all people aged 3 and over in the Cairngorms National Park (Census table QS211SC).

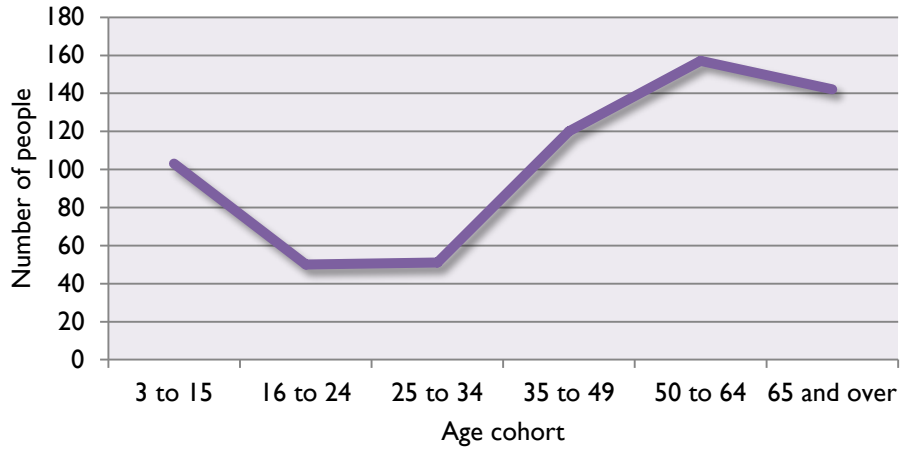


Figure 132 Age profile of the Cairngorms National Park population who can understand, speak, read or write Gaelic (Census table LC2120SCdz).

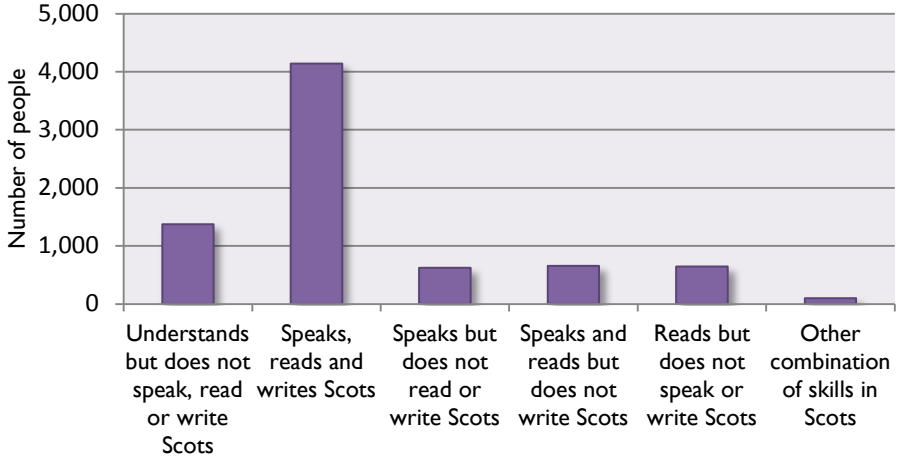


Figure 133 Scots language skills for all people aged 3 and over in the Cairngorms National Park (Census table QS212SC).

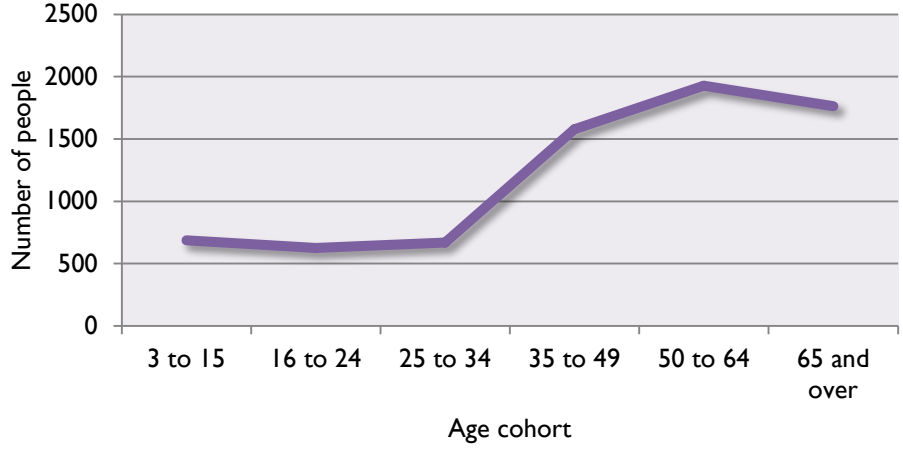


Figure 134 Age profile of the Cairngorms National Park population who can understand, speak, read or write Scots (Census table LC2121SC).

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

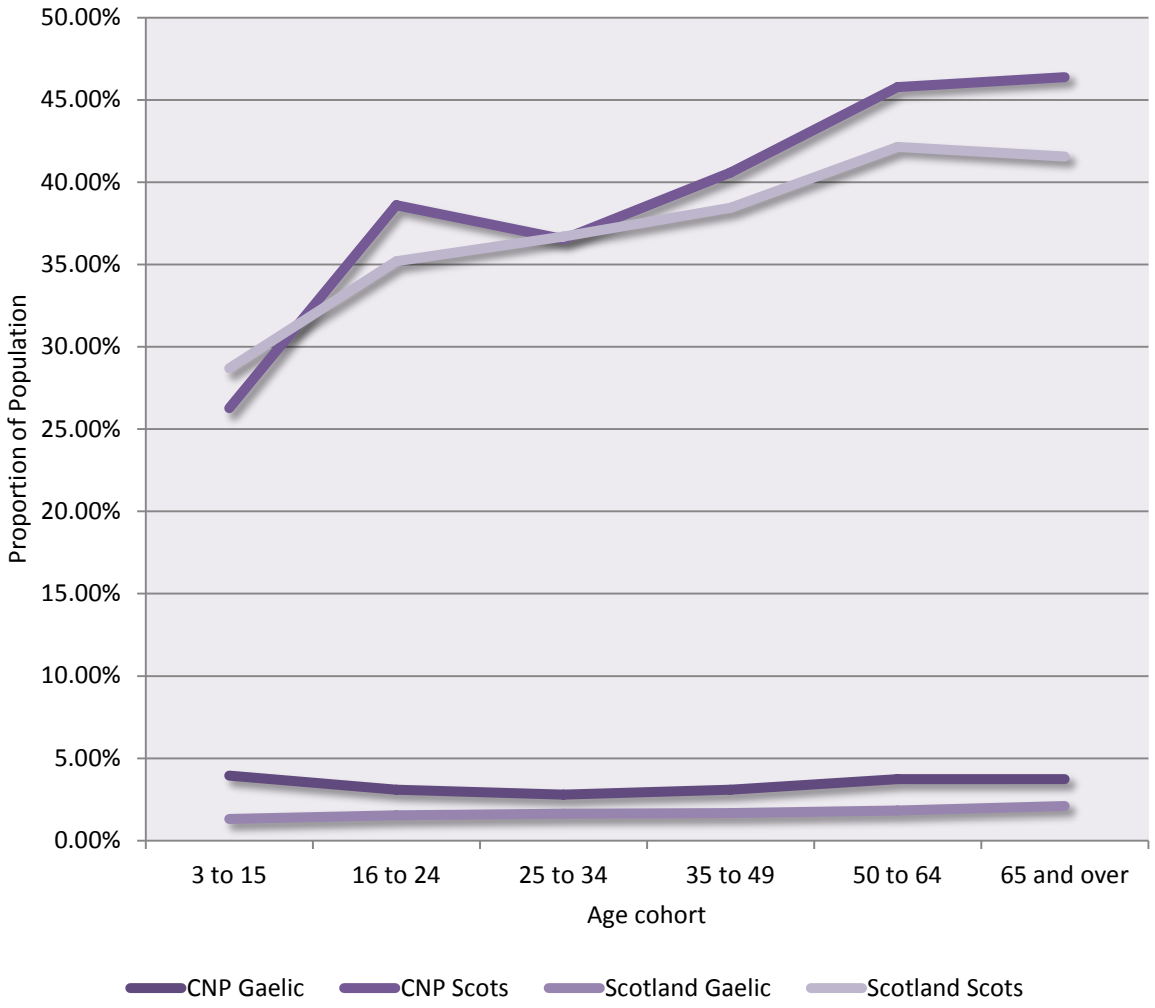


Figure 135 Proportionate age profiles of the Cairngorms National Park and Scottish populations who can understand, speak, read or write Gaelic or Scots (Census tables LD2120SCdz and LC2121SC).

[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

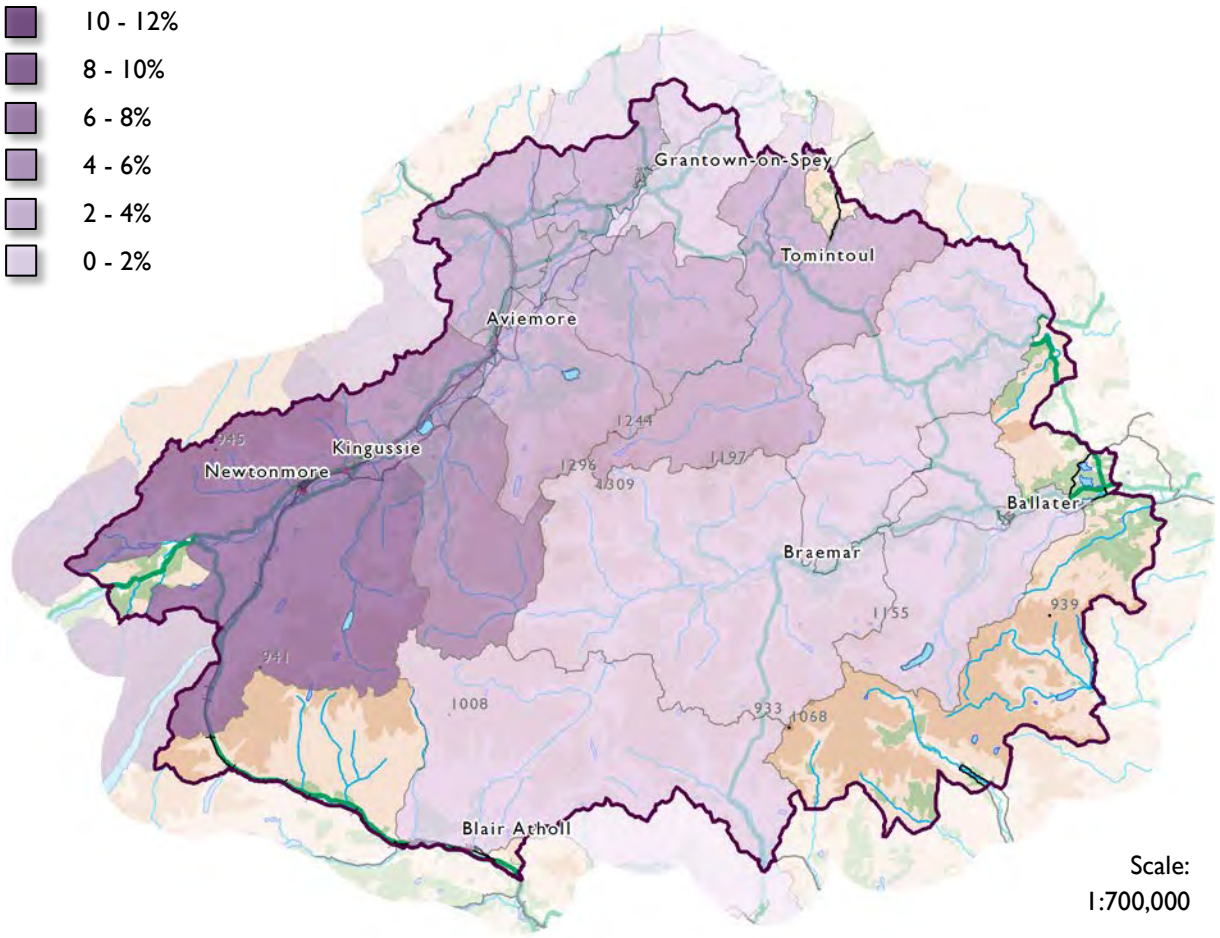


Figure 136 Proportion of people aged 3 and over who understand, speak, read or write Gaelic (Census table QS211SC).

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-

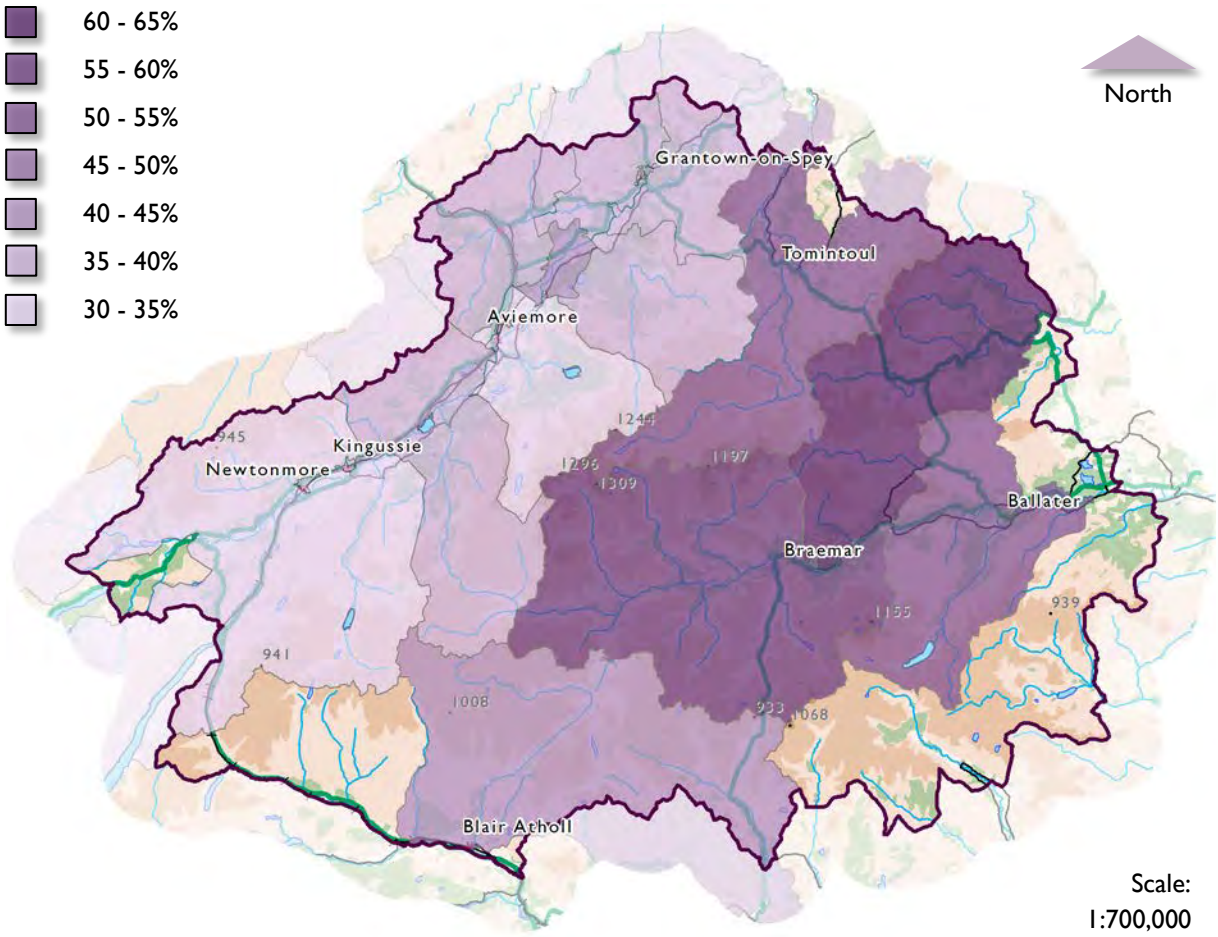


Figure 137 Proportion of people aged 3 and over who understand, speak, read or write Scots (Census table Q212SC).

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

- Topic 1: Climatic Factors 88
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Topic 8: Population and Human Health

Population

Population statistics within the Cairngorms National Park are calculated using an aggregate of data zones that roughly correspond with its boundary. For full details on how these data zones are collected, see **Appendix 3** (p. 289).

Population and Household

In 2014[14] the estimated population of the National Park was 18,594, with 9,186 males and 9,408 females.

The National Park has a distinctly different population profile to the national (**Figure 138** and **Figure 139**), with a higher proportion of people falling within the 55 to 74 age cohorts. When compared to other rural parts of Scotland, the Cairngorms National Park also has a relatively high proportion of residents

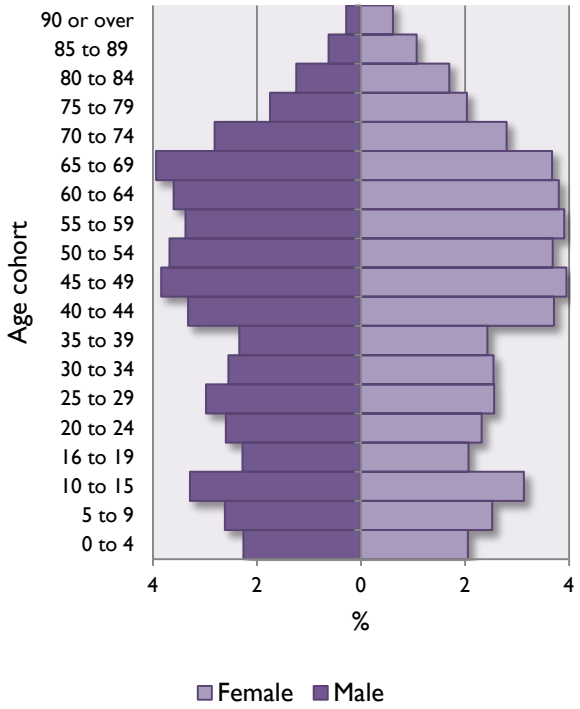

Figure 138 Estimated population profile by age and sex in the Cairngorms National Park in 2014.

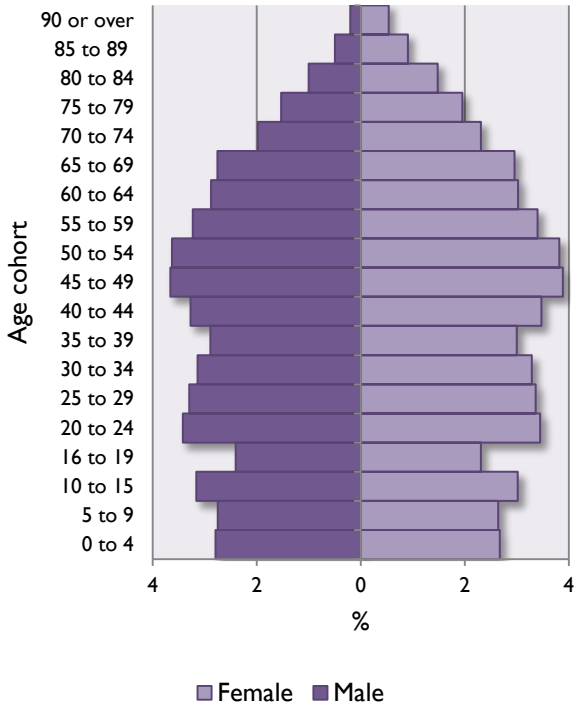

Figure 139 Estimated population profile by age and sex in Scotland in 2014.

Source: www.sns.gov.uk

[14] 2014 Mid-year estimates represent the most recent set of population statistics at a data zone level at time of writing.

within the 10 to 29 age cohorts (see NRS (2014). This is thought to be due to the relatively high number of opportunities for employment in the outdoor and tourism sectors. There is also a spike in the 10 to 15 year cohort, which is replicated across Scotland as a whole.

Although mid-year estimates suggest a slowdown in the rate of growth between 2011 and 2014, during the 21st century[15], the National Park has experienced a significant net increase in its resident population, rising by approximately 2,261 persons (a growth of 13.8%) (**Figure 140**). This growth is well above the overall Scottish rate, which saw a net increase of around 5.6% over the same period.

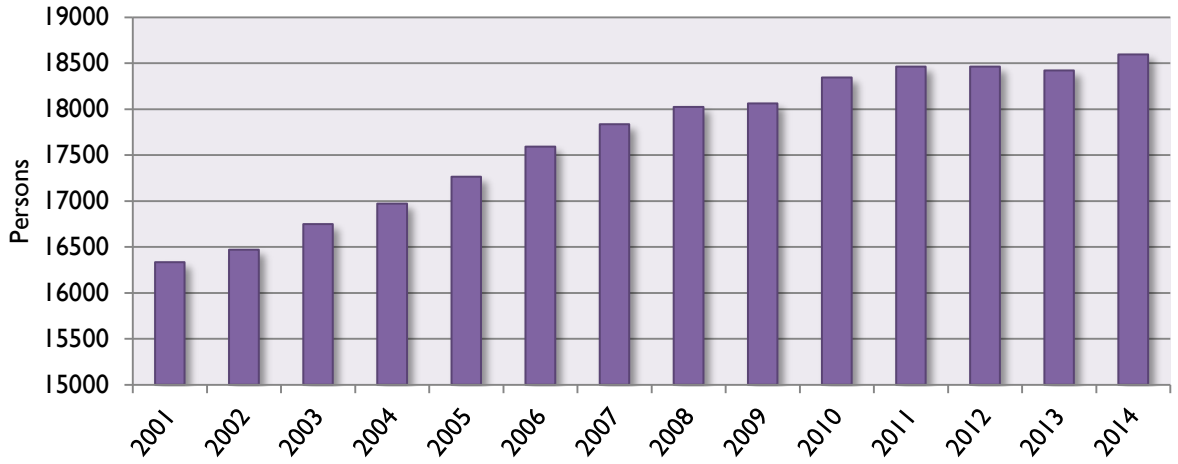

Figure 140 Mid-year estimates of total population for the Cairngorms National Park. Source: www.sns.gov.uk

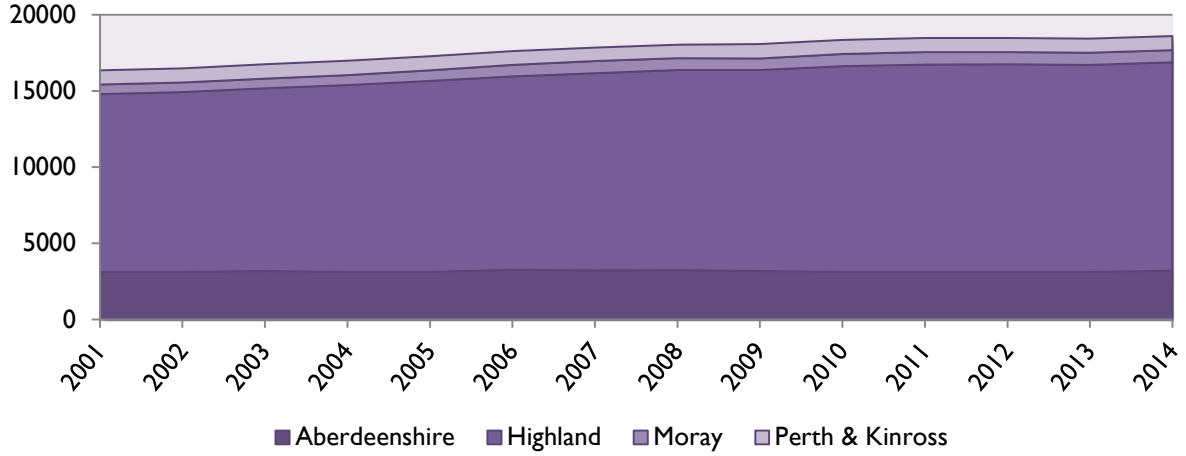

Figure 141 Mid-year estimates of total population for the Cairngorms National Park distributed by Local Authority Area. Source: www.sns.gov.uk

[15] Figures between 2001 and 2009 include people living in the area of Perth and Kinross which did not become part of the National Park until 2010.

This growth has not been evenly distributed throughout the National Park (**Figure 141** and **Figure 142**). Indeed, the overall population in data zones within Aberdeenshire and Perth and Kinross has remained relatively stable.

The greatest increase occurred within Aviemore, which is estimated to have grown by around 1,009 people. Proportionally this represents a growth of around 142%. Most of Badenoch and Strathspey also experienced growth, gaining an estimated 1,014 people. Taken together, this addition of 2,023 persons resulted in the Highland area of the National Park growing by 17.4%.

Although net population change within the National Park has been positive, certain areas experienced a reduction in the population. For example, the population of datazone S01000312, which represents part of Ballter, lost around 93 persons (-14.5%). It is unclear if this represents a genuine trend or is a result of methodical or sampling changes to the mid-year estimate methodology.

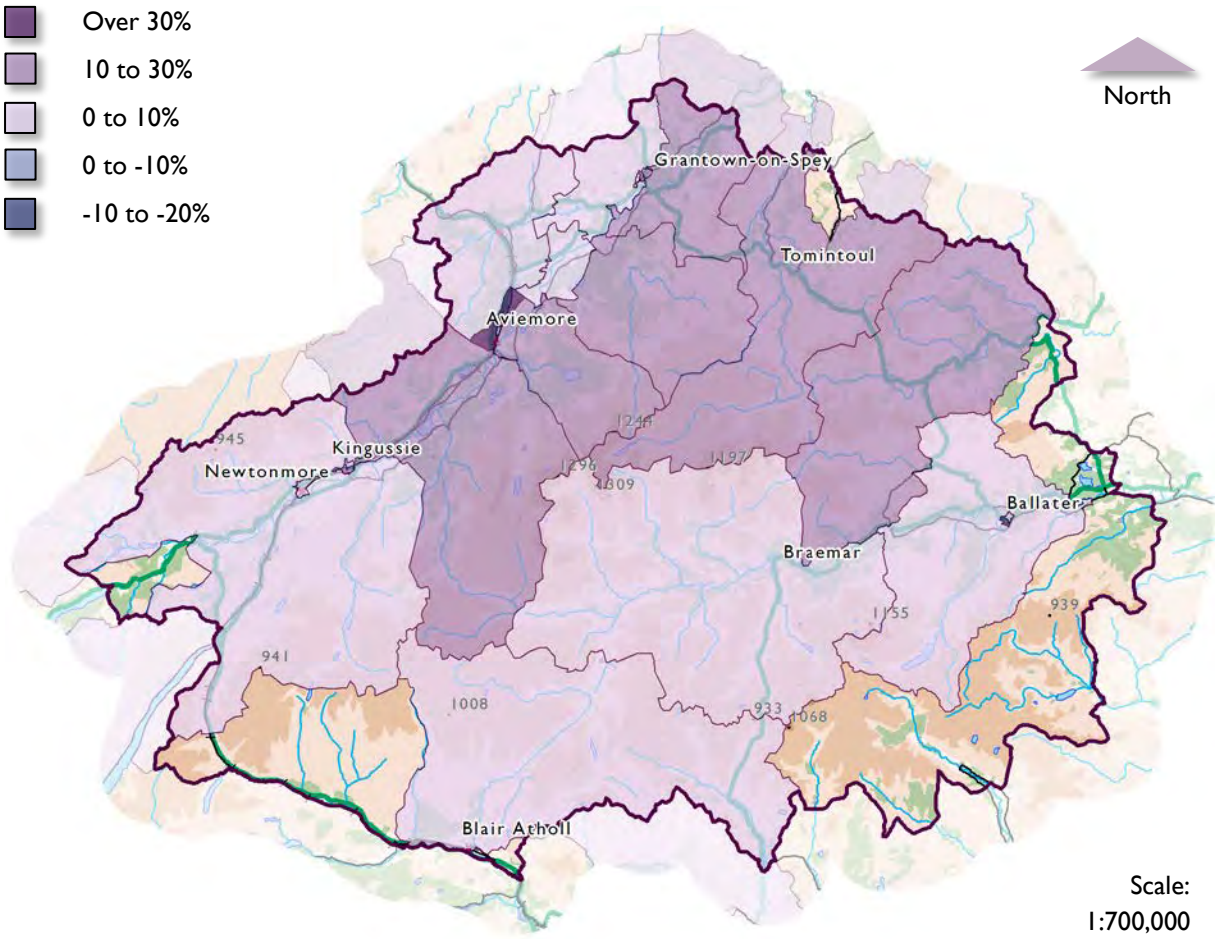

Figure 142 Population change within the Cairngorms National Park between 2001 and 2014 (based on mid-year estimates).

National Park Projections

Population projections for the National Park are produced by National Records of Scotland (NRS), with the most recent being 2014 based projections, published in October 2016. NRS's (2016) principal projection is that between 2014 and 2039, the population of Cairngorms National Park will drop from 19,010 to 18,337 (a decrease of around 4%) (**Figure 143**).

This projection is in contrast to the level of growth experienced previously and indeed NRS' 2012 based principle projection, which projected a growth in the population of around 1%.

Population projections are calculations showing what happens under certain assumptions about future fertility, mortality and migration. Household projections also incorporate information on trends of household formation.

The assumptions in NRS' projections continue these past trends in local fertility, mortality, migration and household formation. They do not take account of any

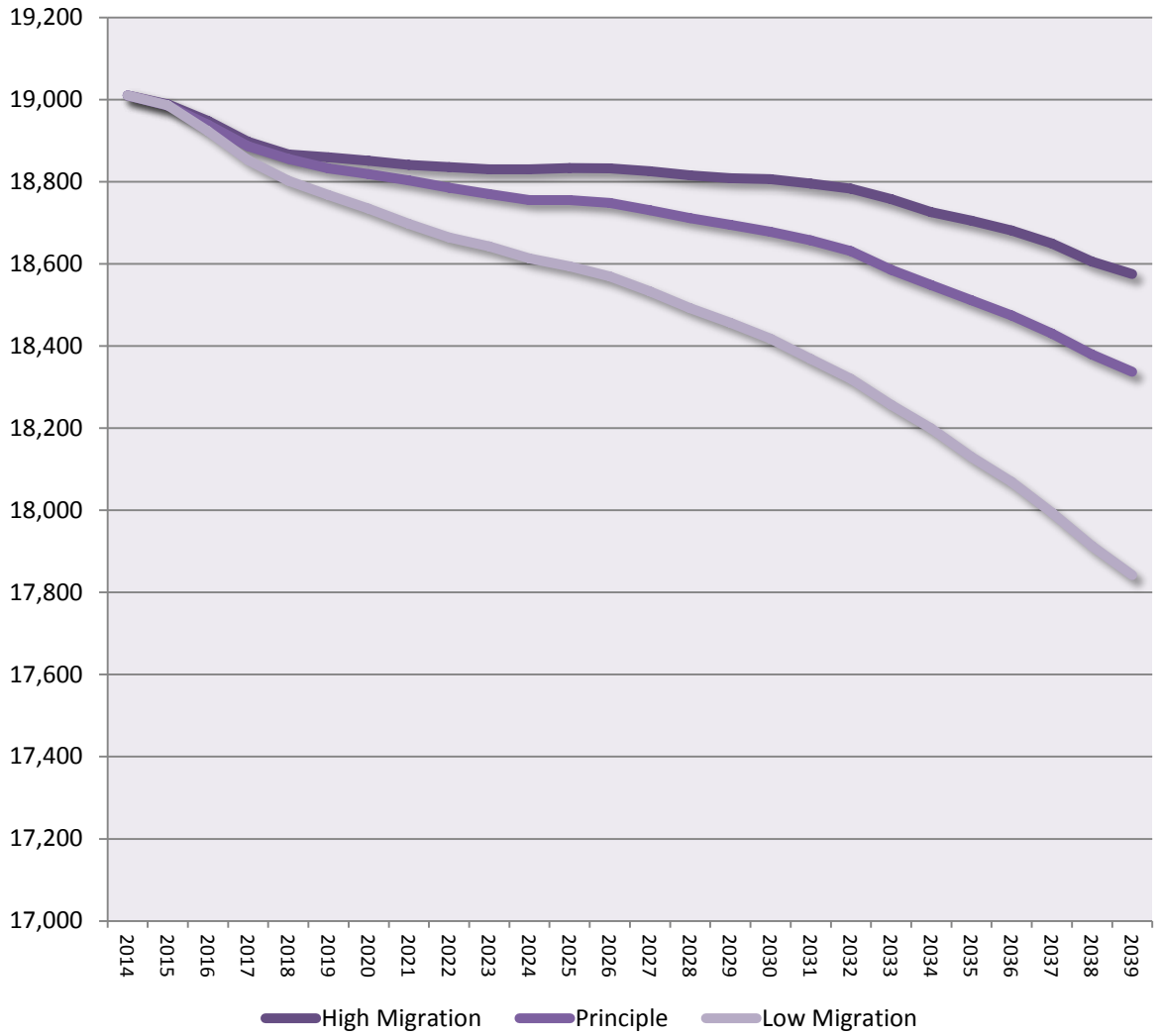

Figure 143 Estimated and projected total population of the National Park, 2002-2037 (NRS, 2016).

future changes that may occur as a result of policy initiatives, social or economic change. They will reflect past policy changes and trends in house building, but they do not incorporate information on planned future policy changes or house building. For example, an area may have had a high level of house building over the last few years, which is now coming to an end, but the projections would show a continuation of the past trends. These projections are not, therefore, forecasts of what the government expects to happen.

Table 30 shows the principle projected percentage population change for the National Park and compares the projected rates of natural change and migration across areas between 2014 and 2039.

The population of the National Park is projected to decrease despite positive projected net migration to the area over the projection period. This is because the number of deaths is projected to exceed the number of births. This is largely due to the age structure of the population in these areas.

Table 30 Components of projected population change for the Cairngorms National Park, Principle projection 2014 to 2039 (NRS, 2016).

Natural Change (per thousand people)	Net migration (per thousand people)	Population change (percentage)
-71.8	52.8	-3.5

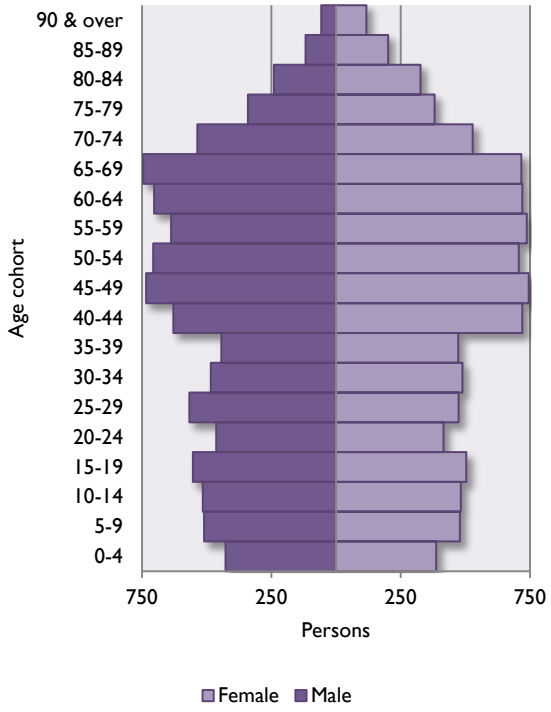

Figure 144 Estimated population profile by age and sex in the Cairngorms National Park in 2014 (NRS, 2016).

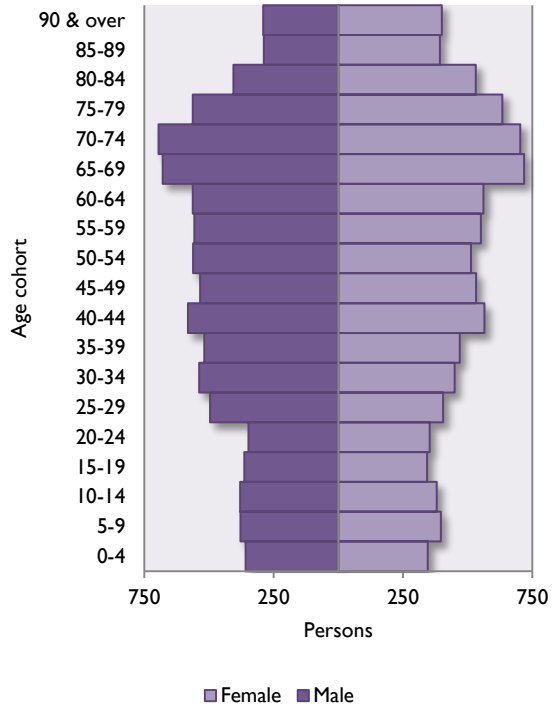

Figure 145 Projected population profile by age and sex in the Cairngorms National Park in 2039 (NRS, 2016).

NRS (2014) also give an indication of how the age structure of the population might change (**Figure 144** and **Figure 145**). According to the principal migration scenario, the number of children aged under 16 is projected to decrease by 21% over the projection period from 3,030 in 2014 to 2,383 in 2039. The number of people of working age is projected to decrease from 11,250 in 2014 to 10,178 in 2039, a decrease of 10%. The population of pensionable age is projected to rise by 23% from 4,730 in 2014 to 5,776 in 2039. However, the number of people aged 75 and over is projected to from 1,782 in 2014 to 3,505 in 2039, an increase of 97%. By 2039 the population is projected to be more heavily distributed at older ages.

Household projections for the National Park remain to be 2012 based (National Records Scotland, 2014) until new projections are released in May 2017. These suggest that households are set to increase from 7,870 in 2012 to 8,780 in 2037, an increase of 12% (**Table 31** and **Figure 146**).

Table 31 Household projections for the Cairngorms National, by type of household, 2012 to 2037 (NRS, 2014).

Household Type	2012	2017	2022	2027	2032	2037	Average annual change 2012-2037	Overall Change 2012-2037	
1 adult	2,632	2,776	2,937	3,091	3,213	3,314	27	682	26%
2 adults	2,869	3,027	3,125	3,211	3,240	3,212	14	342	12%
1 adult with children	403	428	459	484	503	519	5	116	29%
2+ adults with children	1,420	1,386	1,369	1,337	1,325	1,318	-4	-102	-7%
3+ person all adult	542	529	497	467	438	416	-5	-126	-23%
All households	7,866	8,146	8,387	8,590	8,719	8,779	37	912	12%

Given the limited nature of the projected population growth associated with these, it is clear that it does not entirely explain the projected change in the number of households. Indeed, the difference between the household and population projections is due to the trend in more people living alone or in smaller households. In the Cairngorms National Park, the average household size is projected to drop from 2.15 people in 2012 to 1.93 people in 2037 (**Figure 147**).

Sub-council Area Projections

In 2016 the National Records of Scotland published the results of a one-off research project to produce population and household projections for sub-council areas (**Figure 148**).

Additional caution should be taken for sub-council area projections because small areas show more short-term change than larger areas and in the projections, these trends are continued for the length of the projection. As the process of change is cumulative, the reliability of projections decreases over time and for this reason

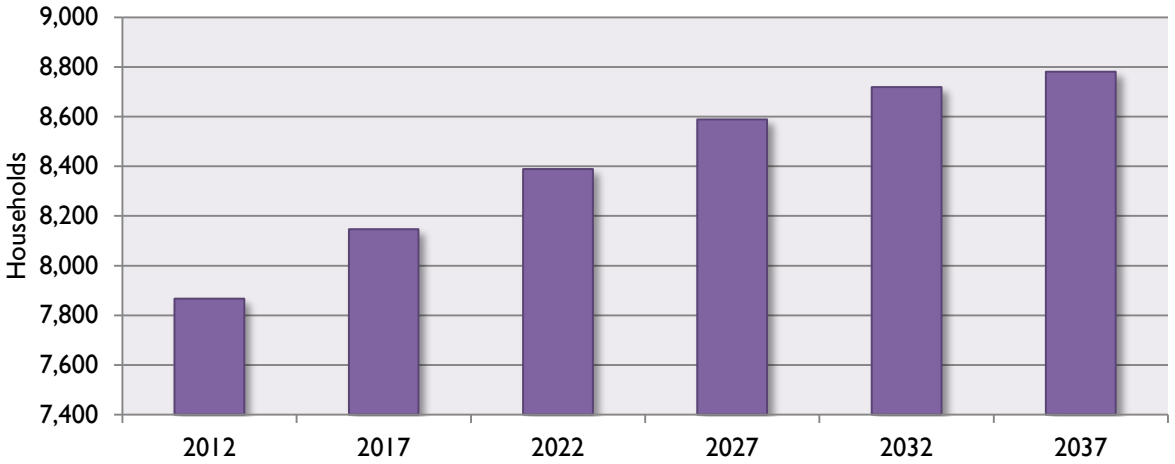

Figure 146 Overall household projections for the Cairngorms National Parks, 2012 to 2037 (NRS, 2014).

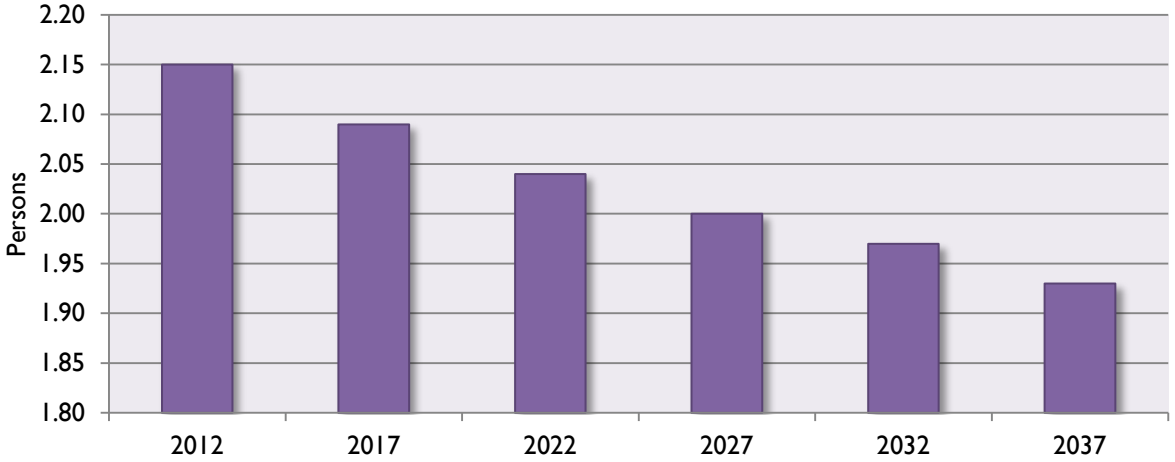

Figure 147 Projected household size for the Cairngorms National Park, 2012 to 2037 (NRS, 2014)

caution should be used when considering these projections in the longer-term.

Therefore, although projections have been prepared to 2037 (25 years ahead), in line with the sub-national projections at council area and National Park level, the main results are reported to 2026. Projections become more uncertain the further ahead they project, especially for smaller areas, as these populations are affected more by the migration assumptions, therefore the results to 2026 are considered more reliable than the longer-term projections and are presented in this report (**Table 32**).

The sub-council areas are not consistent in size, varying from base populations of 2,100 to 79,000; with the average area having a population at mid-2012 of 17,700. The larger areas tend to be in urban areas and the smallest in rural areas.

The only sub-council area that is contiguous with the National Park boundary is Badenoch and Strathspey. Due to the very small populations within them, the other

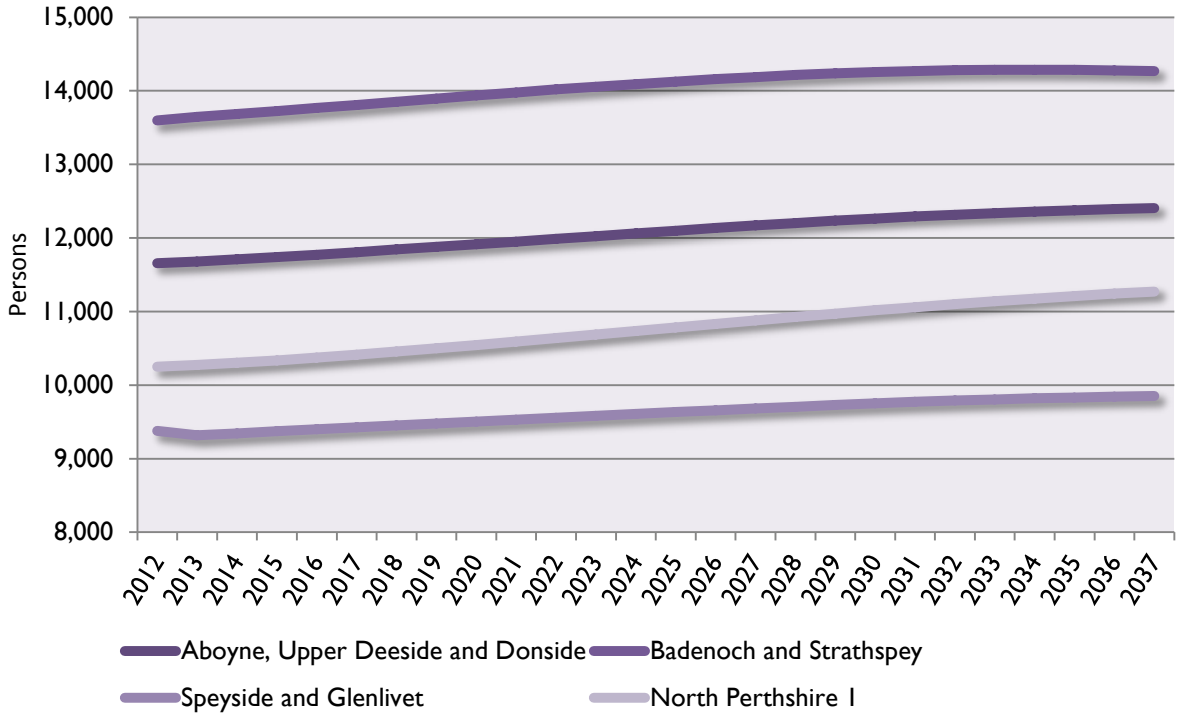

Figure 148 Population projections for sub-council areas within and overlapping the National Park (NRS, 2016).

Table 32 Projected population change for sub-council areas within and overlapping the National Park (NRS, 2016)

Local Authority	Sub-council Area	2012	2026	Change
Aberdeenshire	Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside	11,656	12,134	4.1%
Highland	Badenoch and Strathspey	13,597	14,158	4.1%
Moray	Speyside and Glenlivet	9,377	9,657	3.0%
PKC	North Perthshire 1	10,249	10,831	5.7%

local Authority areas of the National Park form part of larger statistical areas:

- The Aberdeenshire part of the National Park forms part of a larger area that includes Aboyne;
- The Moray part of the National Park forms part of a larger are that includes most of Speyside, including Aberlour and Dufftown;
- The Perth & Kinross are of the National Park forms part of a large rural area that includes towns such as Pitlochry and Aberfeldy;
- The Angus part of the National Park forms part of a large rural area that includes Kirriemuir and Dean.

Because the Angus part of the National Park only contains 20 occupied dwellings, the cub-council projections for the area will not be considered within this report.

Figure 148 and **Table 32** indicate that the level of population change will differ between the different sub-council areas. Caution should however be exercised when drawing conclusions about the National Park, particularly when the majority of area's population is located outside the National Park. For example, according to 2012 mid-year estimates only around 27% of Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside's, 9% of Speyside and Glenlivet's and 9% of North Perthshire 1's population live within the National Park. It is likely therefore that the projections for these areas are not representative of the National Park's population.

The projections for Badenoch and Strathspey are however useful, since according to the Highland Council (2015), only 97.6% of the area's housing stock is located within the National Park. We may therefore take a closer look at the projections for this area.

NRS (2016) project that between 2012 and 2026 the population of Badenoch will rise from 13,597 to 14,158. The projections also give an indication of how the area's age structure might change (**Figure 149**, **Figure 150** and **Figure 151**). The number of children aged under 16 is projected to decrease by 12% over the projection period from 2,270 in 2012 to 2,001 in 2026. The number of people of working age is projected to decrease from 8,583 in 2012 to 8,538 in 2026, a decrease of 1%.The population of pensionable age is projected to rise by 32% from 2,744 in 2012 to 3,618 in 2026.

Household projections for the sub-council areas are available on the basis of seven household types, based on the number of adults and children living in the household, and sixteen age groups. This is equivalent to the main household projections.

This combination of household types, age groups and areas means that the figures for some individual groups are extremely small. For example, there are very few households in the whole of Scotland which contain one adult aged 75-79 and one child. Therefore, in every sub-council area some combinations of household type and age group have extremely small figures, or zeros.

This information is not considered 'disclosive' as the projections do not refer to individual households. However, recognising that projections for small

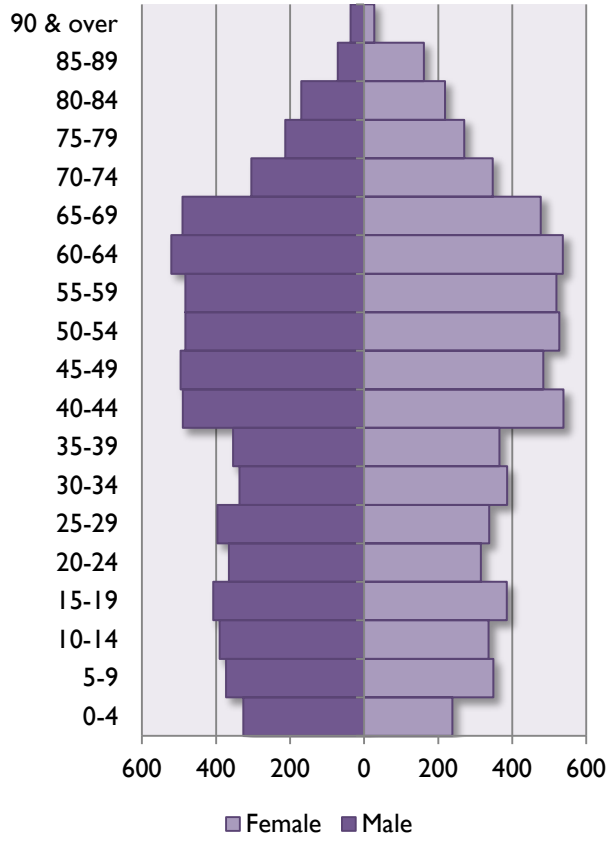

Figure 149 Estimated population profile by age and sex in Badenoch and Strathspey in 2012 (NRS, 2016).

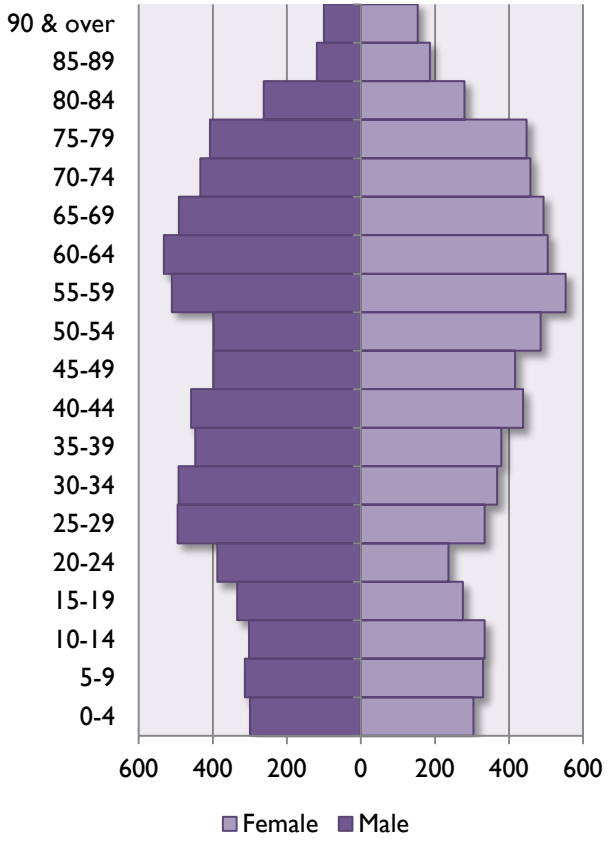

Figure 150 Projected population profile by age and sex in Badenoch and Strathspey in 2026 (NRS, 2016).

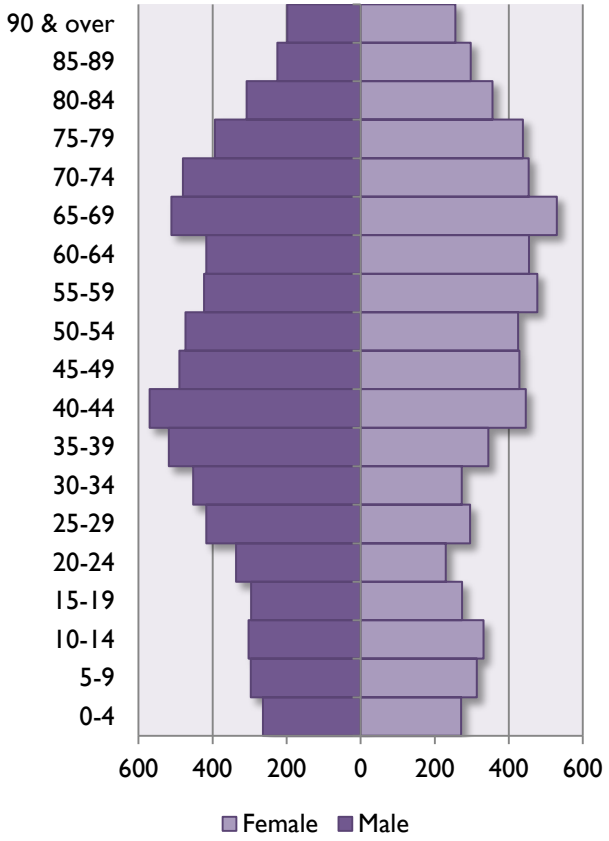

Figure 151 Projected population profile by age and sex in Badenoch and Strathspey in 2037 (NRS, 2016).

groups are likely to be less reliable than those for larger groups, the projections within this report have been grouped into broader household types.

In geographical terms, the same caveats apply to the household projections as the population projections. That is, since most households within the Aberdeenshire, Moray and Perth and Kinross areas are located outwith the National Park, caution should be taken when considering their projections within the National Park context. Therefore, while **Figure 152** and **Table 33** provide useful information about broader demographic changes, only the Badenoch and Strathspey area deserves greater analysis.

The projections suggest that households in Badenoch and Strathspey are set to increase from 5,-82 in 2012 to 6,688 in 2026, an increase of around 12% (**Figure 152**). During this period households with 2 adults with children are set to fall from around 1,117 to 1,094, a drop of around 2%. Households with three adults or more are also projected to fall, from 429 to 378,

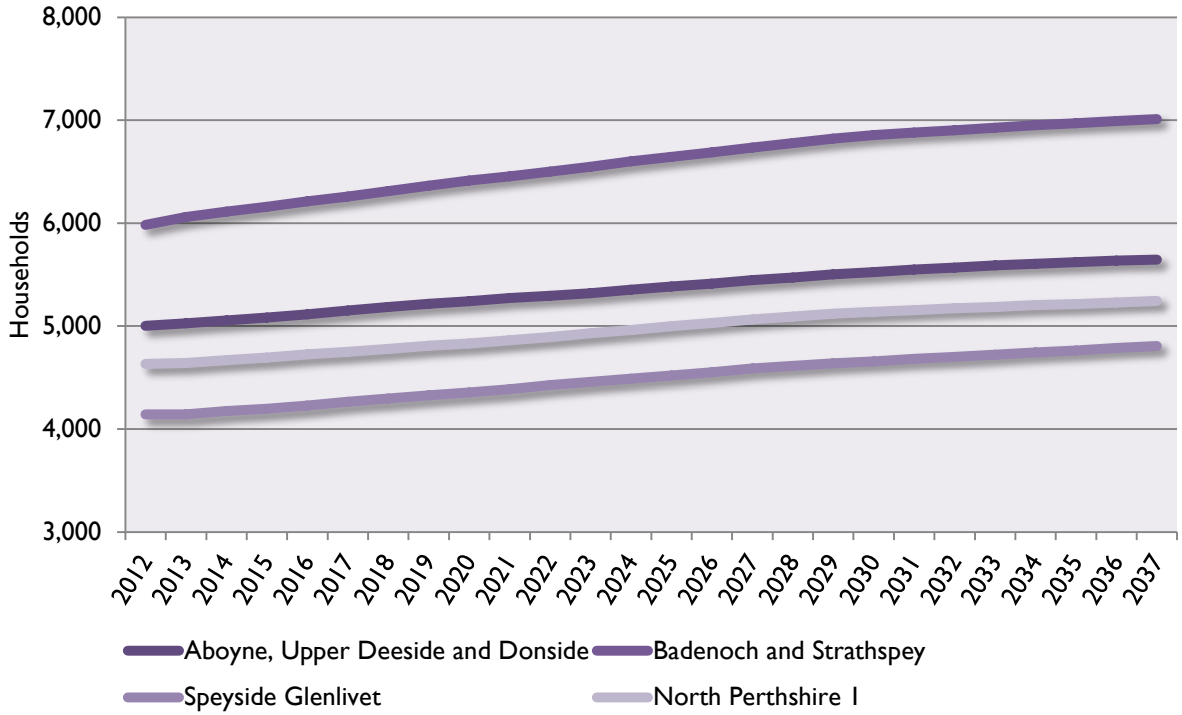

Figure 152 Overall household projections for sub-council areas within and overlapping the National Park (NRS, 2016).

Table 33 Projected household change for sub-council areas within and overlapping the National Park (NRS, 2016)

Local Authority	Sub-council Area	2012	2026	Change
Aberdeenshire	Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside	5,002	5,413	8.2%
Highland	Badenoch and Strathspey	5,982	6,688	11.8%
Moray	Speyside and Glenlivet	4,142	4,550	9.9%
PKC	North Perthshire 1	4,631	5,030	8.6%

representing a more significant proportional decrease of 12% (**Figure 153**). All other household types are projected to grow, with 1 adult households (1,965 to 2,351; 20%) and single parent households (320 to 378; 18%) seeing the greatest proportional increases.

Housing Deprivation

The relationship between the availability of good quality housing and the health and well-being of people is now well recognised (National Housing Federation, 2014; Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, 2011).

For example, children who are brought up in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, in poor quality housing or insecure accommodation are more likely to be exposed to avoidable health risks such as damp, cold, accidents, community safety concerns, inadequate pre-school and early-years provision, poor schools, and a lack of safe play areas

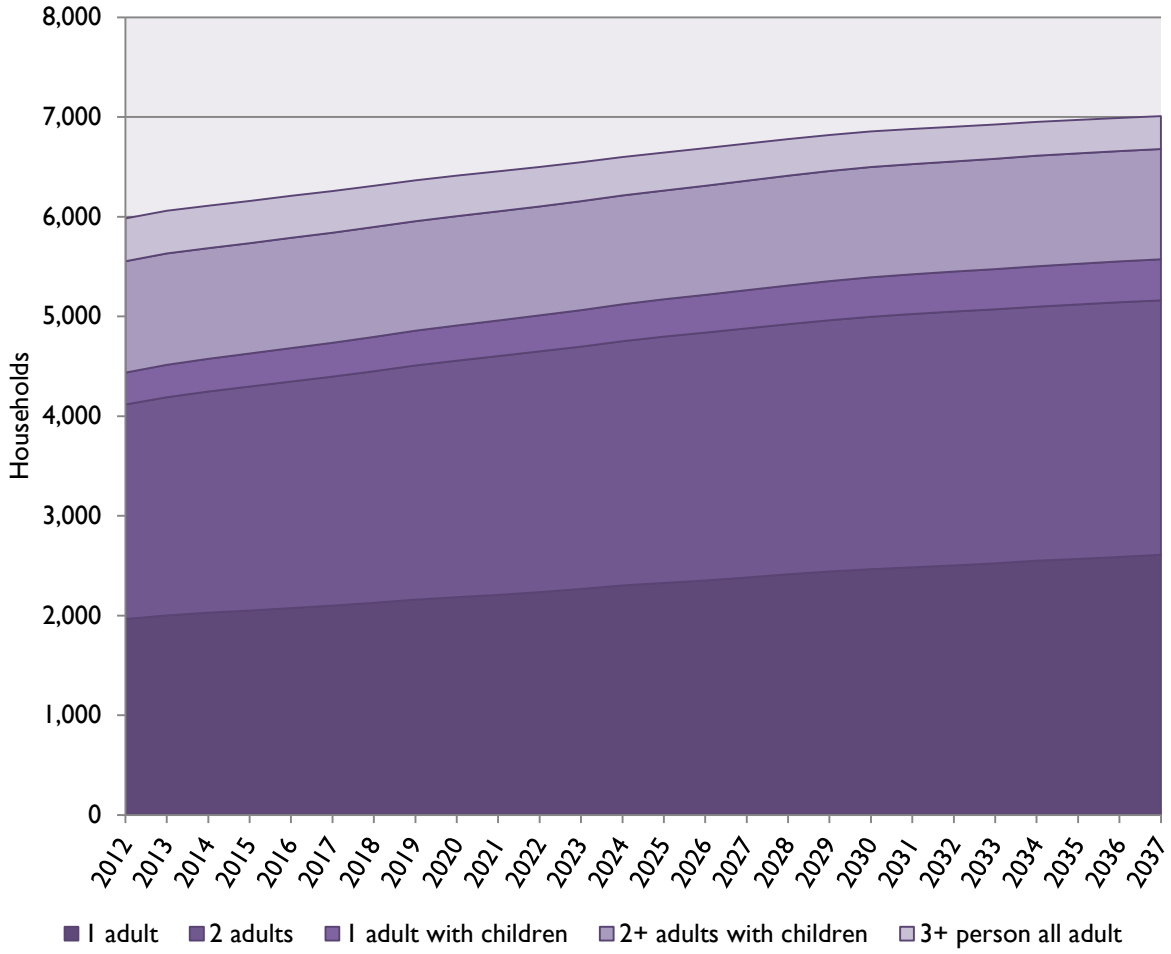

Figure 153 Household projections for Badenoch and Strathspey, by type of household, 2012 to 2037 (NRS, 2016).

(Shelter, 2006). Similarly, growing older in poor quality, unaffordable or inappropriate housing has a negative impact on quality of life the maintenance of independence in retirement (The Housing and Ageing Alliance, 2013). Research carried out in England, showed an average life expectancy gap of seven years between the richest and poorest areas of the country. People living in poorer areas and households with the lowest incomes spend a greater proportion of their lives (an additional 17 years on average) coping with the impact of long-term illness and associated disability (Marmot, 2010).

Fortunately, there is not a high level of housing related deprivation within the National Park, with no data zones falling within the 20% most deprived (see **Figure 154**). There are however areas of the National Park where certain indicators of housing deprivation exceed the national average.

In particular, many areas of the National Park have relatively high proportions of the

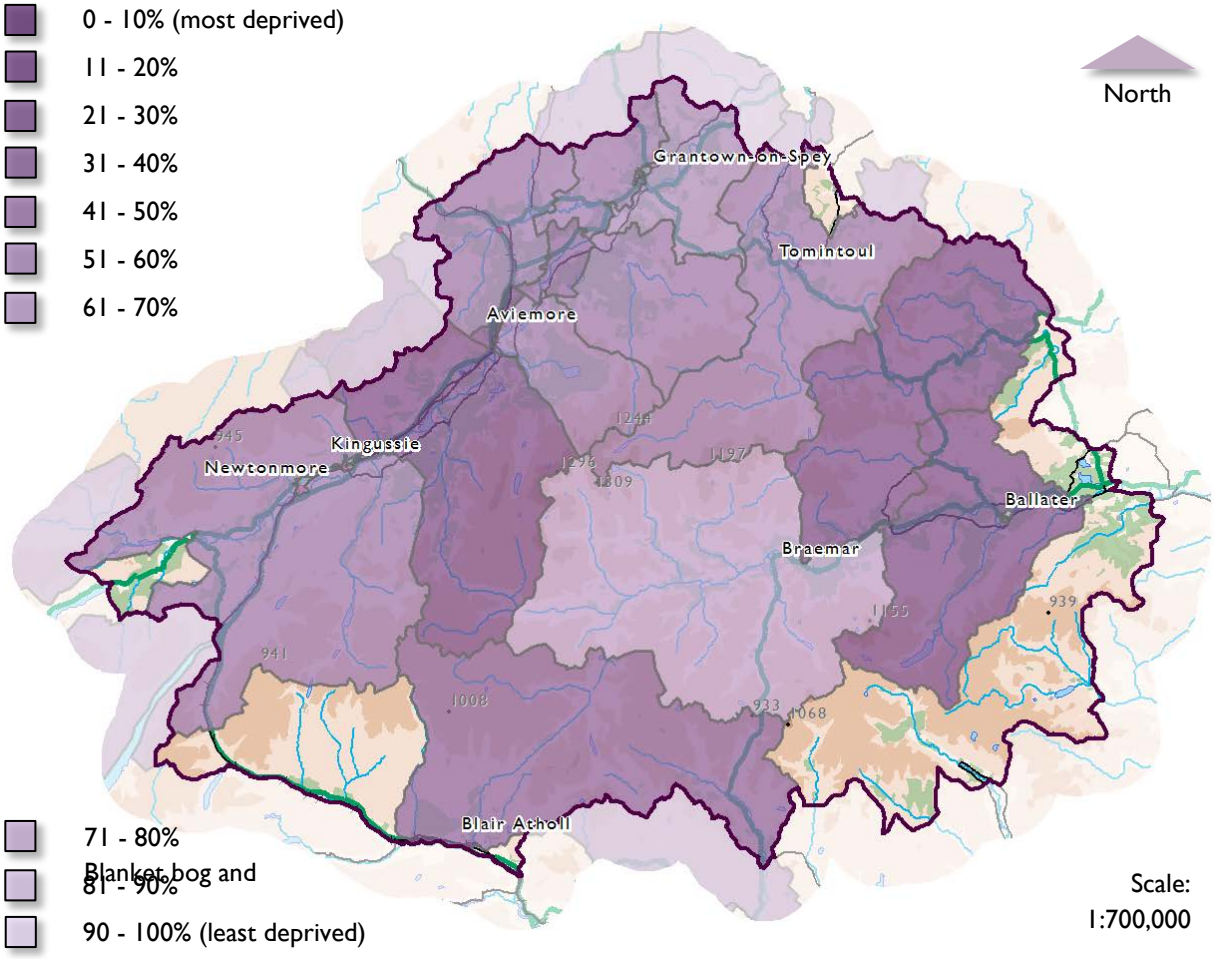

Figure 154 Housing deprivation by decile according to the SIMD (2016).

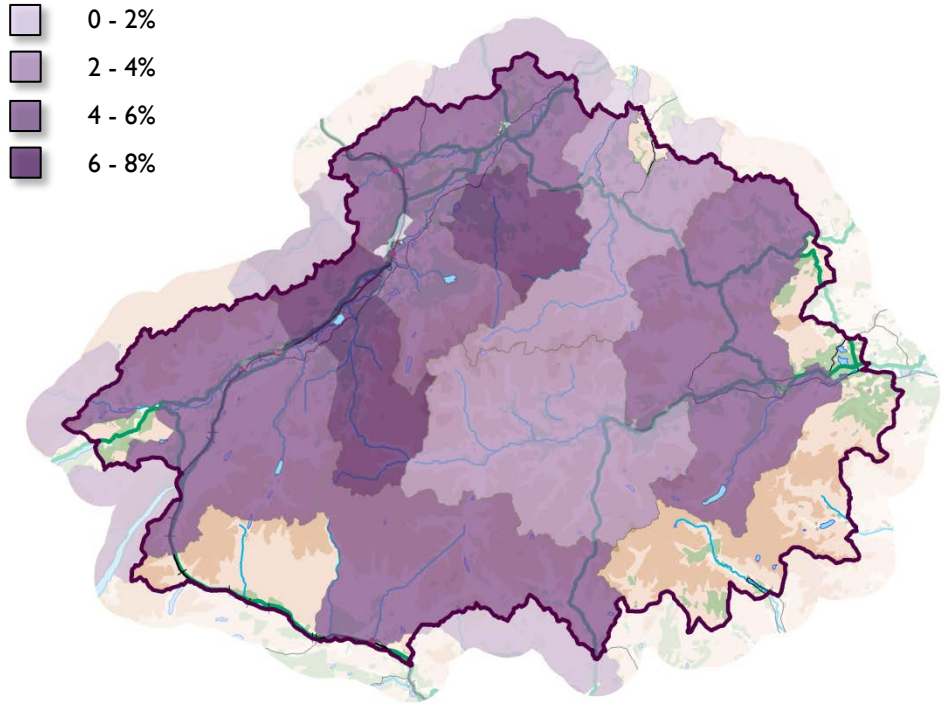

Figure 155 Proportion of household population without central heating (SIMD, 2016).

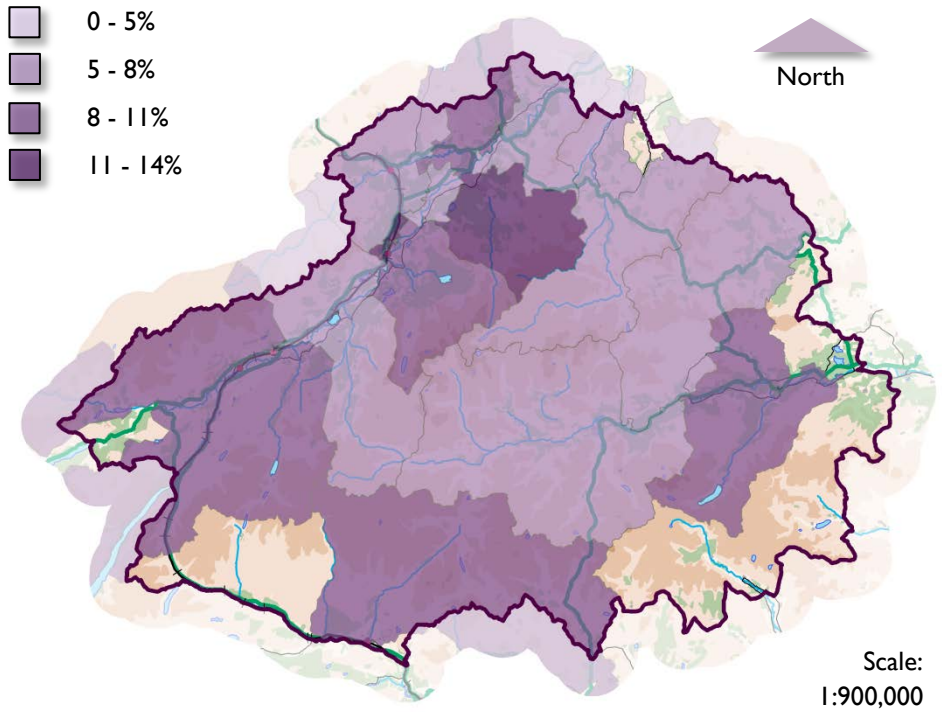

Figure 156 Proportion of household population living in overcrowded households (SIMD, 2016).

In order to protect against disclosure of personal information, some records have been swapped between different geographic areas. Some cell values will be affected, particularly small values at the most detailed geographies.

household population living in homes with no central heating, equating to around 4.3% across the whole area (Scotland 2.3%) (**Figure 155**). Levels of household overcrowding are relatively low within the National Park (**Figure 156**), with the vast majority of data zones falling below the Scottish average of around 13.9%.

Overcrowding statistics may be skewed by the fact that compared to the Scottish average, there is higher proportion of large dwellings within the National Park and a lower proportion of small ones (**Table 34** and **Table 35**). This may therefore mask significant instances of overcrowding suffered by those unable to afford larger properties (see pages 267 to 269).

Table 34 Number of dwellings by size in the Cairngorms National Park in 2014 (Source: www.sns.gov.uk/).

Area of National Park	All Dwellings	One Room	Two Rooms	Three Rooms	Four Rooms	Five Rooms	Six Rooms	Seven Rooms	Eight Rooms	Nine Rooms	Ten or more rooms	Unknown
ABD	1908	46	215	287	440	393	239	127	75	36	50	0
Highland	7198	27	704	1682	1868	1181	700	424	176	83	144	209
Moray	421	5	38	53	121	94	51	26	16	5	12	0
PKC	539	1	27	90	164	104	51	40	11	15	32	4
CNPA	10066	79	984	2112	2593	1772	1041	617	278	139	238	213
Scotland	2,546,383	22,294	302,046	743,641	676,468	417,148	191,232	86,524	39,333	16,625	14,172	36,900

Table 35 Proportion of dwellings by size in the Cairngorms National Park in 2014 (Source: www.sns.gov.uk/).

Area of National Park	All Dwellings	One Room	Two Rooms	Three Rooms	Four Rooms	Five Rooms	Six Rooms	Seven Rooms	Eight Rooms	Nine Rooms	Ten or more rooms	Unknown
ABD	100%	2.4%	11.3%	15.0%	23.1%	20.6%	12.5%	6.7%	3.9%	1.9%	2.6%	0.0%
Highland	100%	0.4%	9.8%	23.4%	26.0%	16.4%	9.7%	5.9%	2.4%	1.2%	2.0%	2.9%
Moray	100%	1.2%	9.0%	12.6%	28.7%	22.3%	12.1%	6.2%	3.8%	1.2%	2.9%	0.0%
PKC	100%	0.2%	5.0%	16.7%	30.4%	19.3%	9.5%	7.4%	2.0%	2.8%	5.9%	0.7%
CNPA	100%	0.8%	9.8%	21.0%	25.8%	17.6%	10.3%	6.1%	2.8%	1.4%	2.4%	2.1%
Scotland	100%	0.9%	11.9%	29.2%	26.6%	16.4%	7.5%	3.4%	1.5%	0.7%	0.6%	1.4%

A significant barrier in reducing household deprivation is the availability of enough new housing to replace existing poor quality stock while also meeting projected growth in households. The number of new homes completed in the National Park fell following the 'credit crunch' in 2008 and has resulted in an average annual completion rate of around 60 new dwellings (**Figure 157**). The planned ending of the Government's Help to Buy Scheme (Scotland) in 2016, combined with continued constraints on mortgage availability, may further dampened confidence in the housing market and limit the development of new homes.

Being the area of the National Park in which most development takes place, completions in Badenoch and Strathspey heavily influence this trend with development peaking in 2006, and falling to a nadir in 2013 (**Figure 158**).

Affordability is a further barrier. Between 1993 and 2015, the median price of a property in the Cairngorms National Park

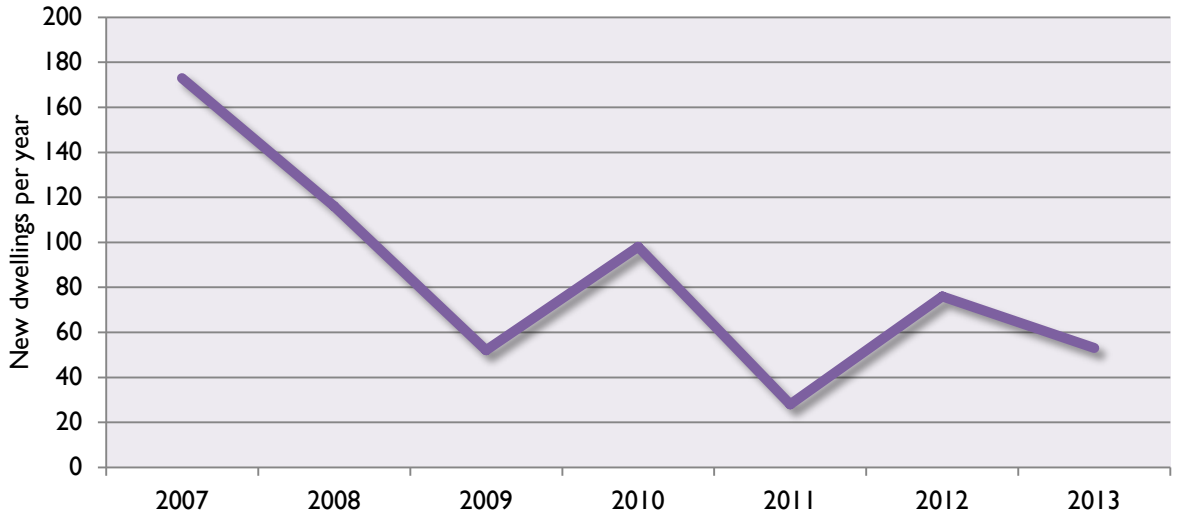

Figure 157 Number of new dwelling per year in the Cairngorms National Park (Source: www.sns.gov.uk/).

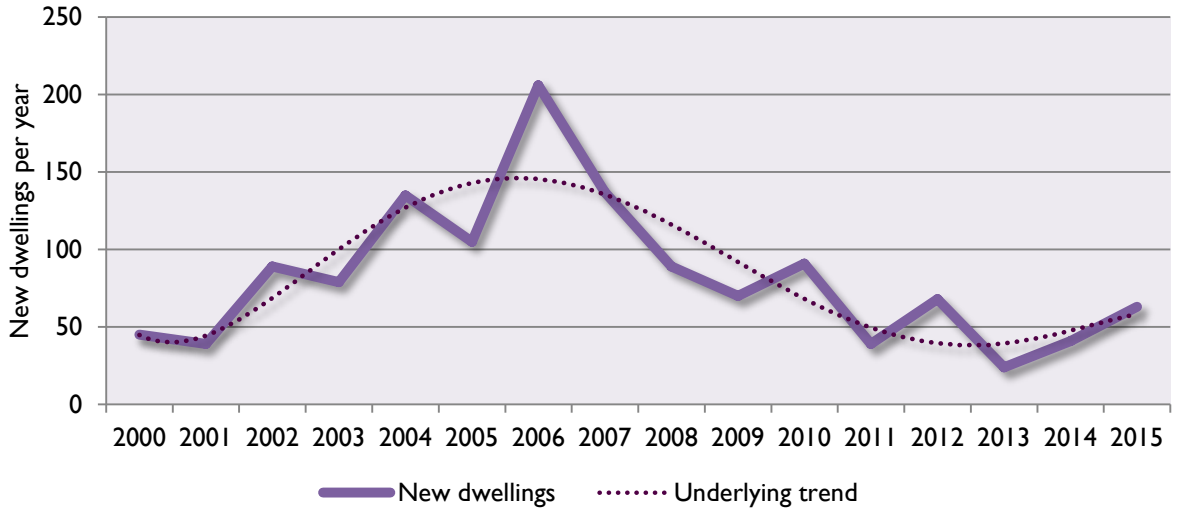

Figure 158 Number of new dwelling per year in Badenoch and Strathspey (Highland Council, 2015)

saw a net rise of almost 230%, with a peak in 2015 of £192,500 (**Table 36**). The 'credit crunch' does not appear to have had much of an immediate impact on prices, although it seems to have resulted in a lower level of sales since a peak in 2007. The 'credit crunch' does not appear to have had much of an immediate impact on prices, although it seems to have resulted in a lower level of sales between 2007 and 2014. The growth in house prices has also been lower and more variable since 2007 and while 2015 represents an all-time high, it is difficult in the current economic climate to tell whether this marks the beginning of a longer term trend..

Between 2007 and 2015, the median house price to median household income/earnings ratio in the National Park fell from over 8 times income to around 6 (see page 274 for information on income). However, despite this improvement, the lower availability of mortgage finance for first time buyers means that many aspiring households still cannot afford to buy.

Table 36 Median House Prices in the Cairngorms National Park (Source: http://www.sns.gov.uk/).

Year	Median Sale Price	Annual Change in Sale Price	Number of Sales	Annual Change in Number of Sales
1993	£56,000	N/A	237	N/A
1992	£58,500	4.5%	222	-6.3%
1995	£60,000	2.6%	234	5.4%
1996	£59,000	-1.7%	233	-0.4%
1997	£65,500	11%	274	17.6%
1998	£57,000	-13%	276	0.7%
1999	£68,876	20.8%	301	9.1%
2000	£75,000	8.9%	258	-14.3%
2001	£75,000	0%	344	33.3%
2002	£87,000	16%	338	-1.7%
2003	£93,250	7.2%	334	-1.2%
2004	£125,000	34%	306	-8.4%
2005	£146,000	16.8%	328	7.2%
2006	£175,000	19.9%	392	19.5%
2007	£180,500	3.1%	414	5.6%
2008	£181,000	0.3%	287	-30.7%
2009	£175,000	-3.3%	229	-20.2%
2010	£190,000	8.6%	289	26.2%
2011	£191,000	0.5%	251	-13.1%
2012	£176,500	-7.6%	230	-8.4%
2013	£165,000	-6.5%	294	-27.8%
2014	£182,500	10.5%	402	36.7%
2015	£192,500	5.5%	377	-6.2%

There is also considerable variation in the median house prices across the National Park, ranging from £100,000 in part of Badenoch and Stathspey, to £355,000 in part of Deeside (**Figure 159** and **Figure 160**. However, it should be noted that statistics for these individual data zones can represent only a small number of sales year on year and therefore annual changes in these areas can be significant.

Figure 159 offers an insight into the evolution of median house prices across the National Park. It indicates that not only have median house prices risen dramatically since 1993, but that the difference between the most and least expensive data zones has also grown considerably. Indeed, the distribution of median prices has broadened across all quartiles, further indicating significant variations between localities.

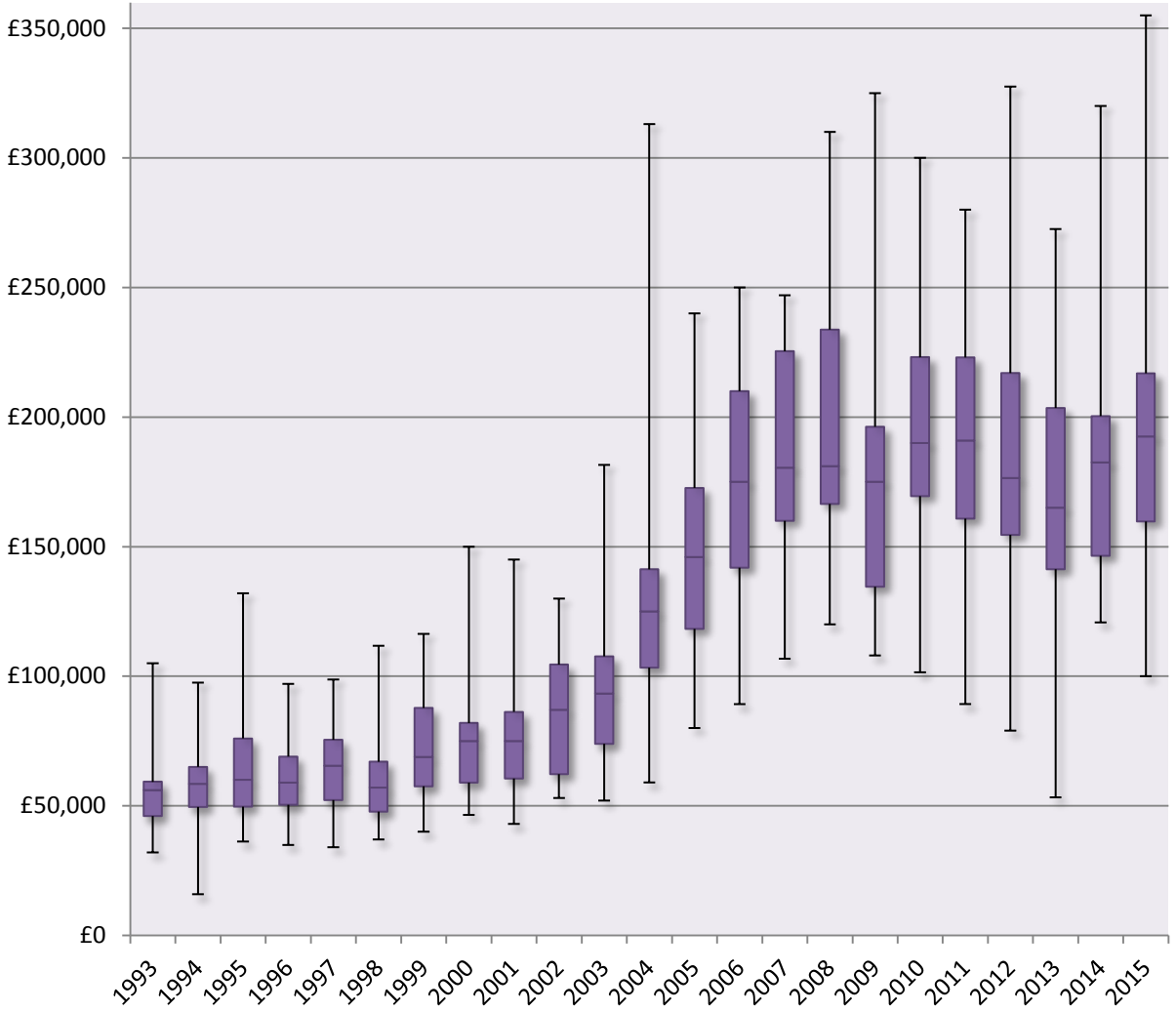

Figure 159 Box plots of Median house prices of data zones within the Cairngorms National Park (Source: http://www.sns.gov.uk/).

Between the 17th and 18th September 2015 the CNPA undertook a study of the current asking price for property within the National Park based on a search of Estate Agent and property marketing websites. It was found that there were 169 properties for sale within the National Park on these dates, mostly within Badenoch and Strathspey.

According to this sample the median asking price within the National Park was £225,000, which is around 8 times greater than median income/earnings. While this figure is considerably higher than the median sale price achieved in 2013, it is unlikely to equate to the current median sale price, given that negotiation tends to result in a drop in price at the point for sale. It is probable that median prices have risen since 2013, probably sitting somewhere between the median sale and asking prices quoted in this paper. The high median asking price quoted in this study is likely to be in part due to the current dominance of large and / or detached units within the sample (**Figure 161** and

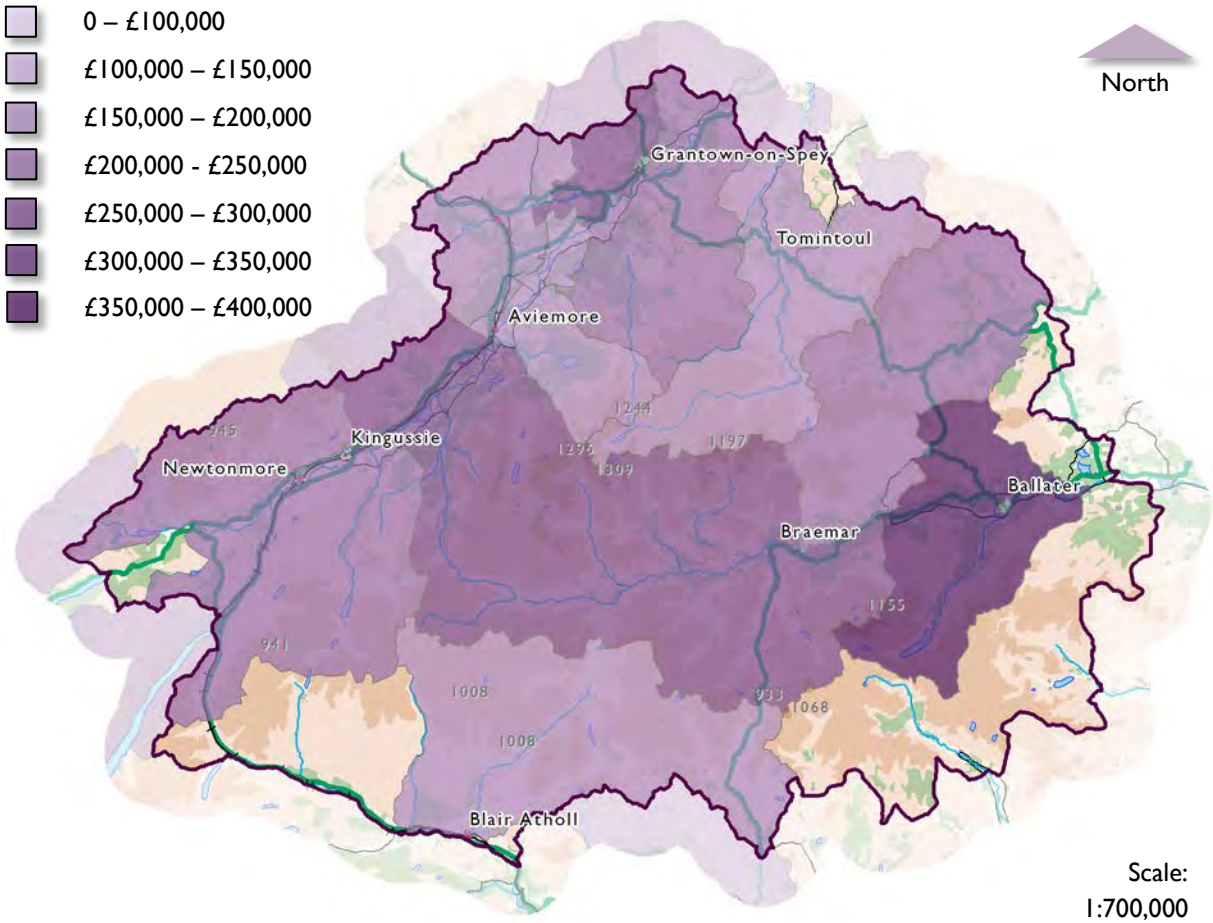

Figure 160 Median House Prices of data zones within the Cairngorms National Park in 2015.

Figure 162) as the median asking price for detached properties is around twice that of terraced and semi-detached properties and around three times that of flats.

The relatively low numbers of small units in the sample may be due to a number of reasons. Firstly, it is likely that such units are sold quicker than larger units and therefore the number of properties counted in a sample such as this is always likely to be low. Secondly, based on information derived from Council Tax payments, it is evident that the National Park contains a lower proportion of smaller houses than the Scottish average (see **Table 34** and **Table 35**).

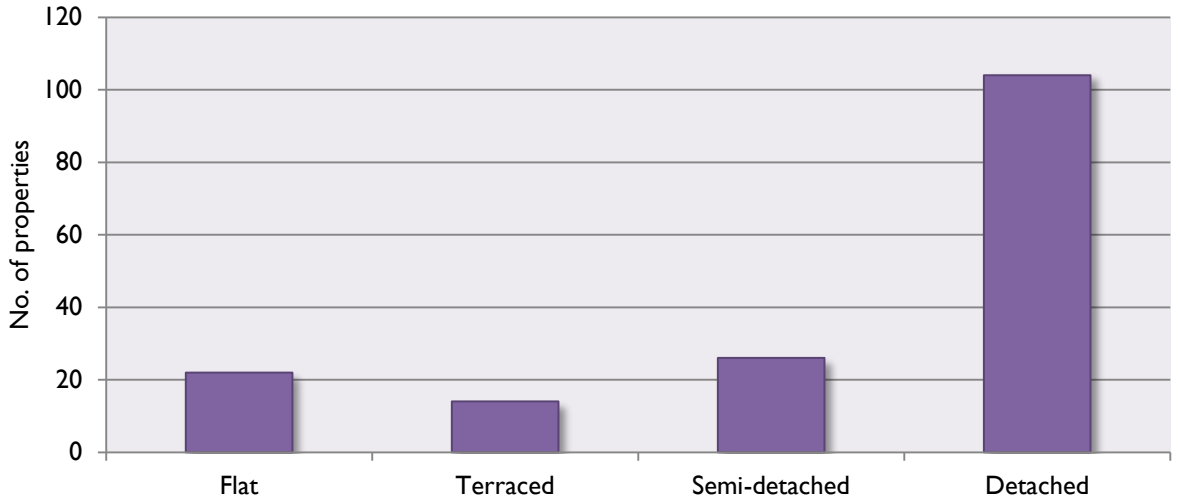

Figure 161 Property types on sale within the Cairngorms National Park, September 2015.

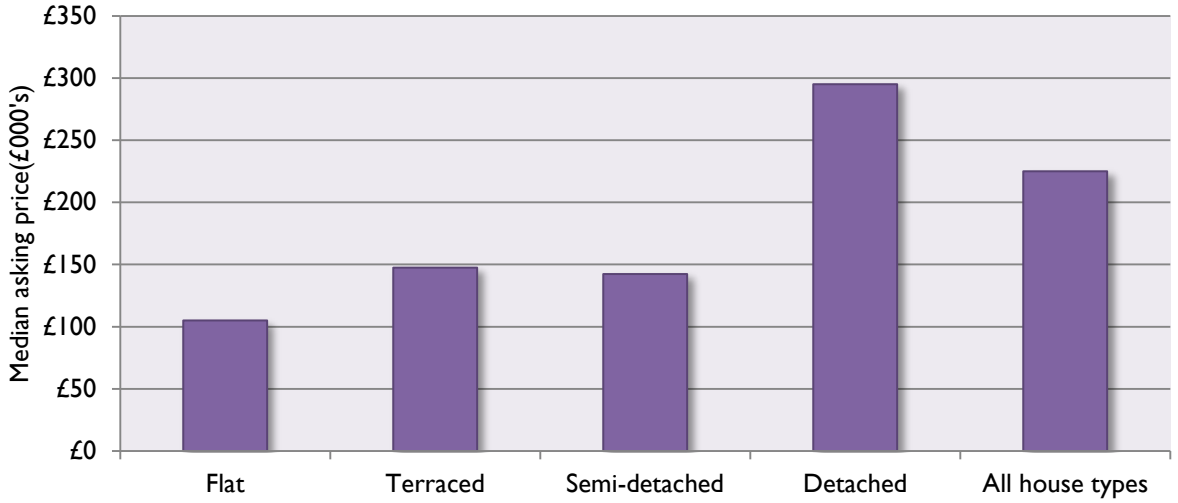

Figure 162 Median asking price by property type the Cairngorms National Park, September 2015.

Economic Activity

At the time of writing 2014 estimates of working age population were not available at a data zone level and therefore this report draws upon data from the 2013 mid-year estimates. These indicate that the National Park had a working age population of 10,909 people (51.9% of total population), with 5,666 males and 5,243 females. Those of pensionable age numbered 4,539 (24.6% of total population) with 1,911 males and 2,628 females.

Educational achievement within the National Park is a little higher than the Scottish average. In terms of qualifications, the 2011 Census (Table LC5102SC) suggests that around 76.8% of the 16+ Census population had NVQ1 level and above (Scotland 73.2%), and around 30.8% had NVQ4 and above (Scotland 26.1%).

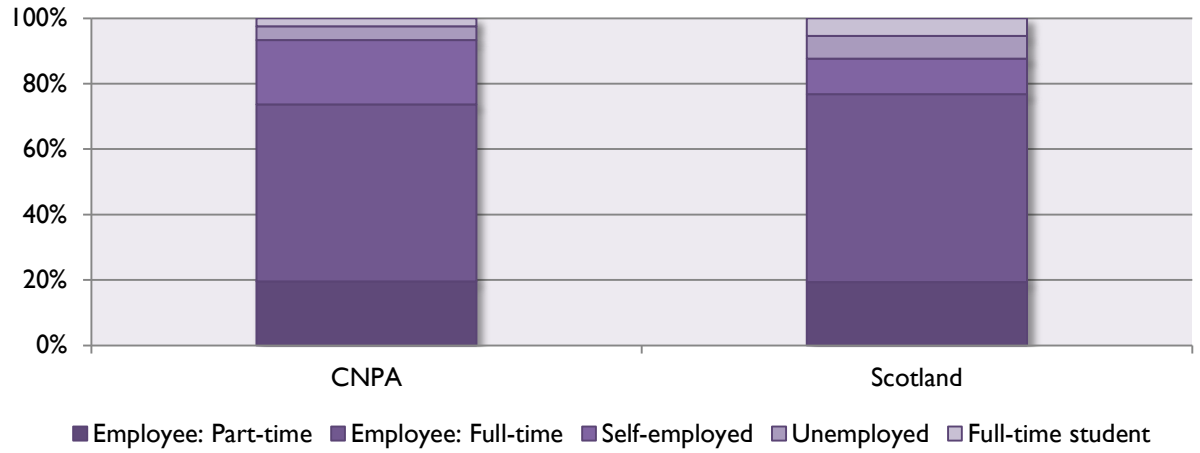

Figure 163 Occupations of the economically active population (Census table KS601SC).

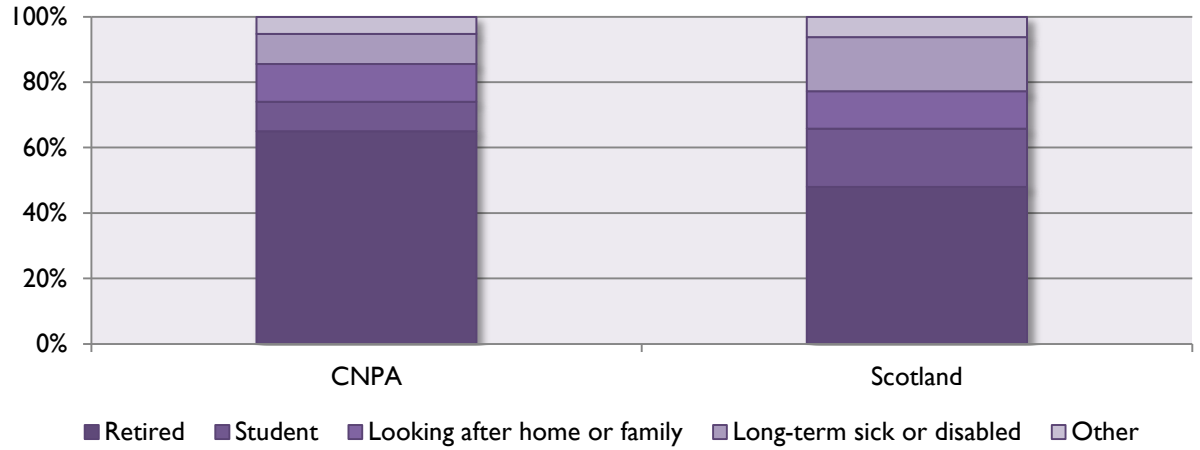

Figure 164 Occupations of the economically active population (Census table KS601SC).
For further information on variables, see www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/variables
In order to protect against disclosure of personal information, some records have been swapped between different geographic areas. Some cell values will be affected, particularly small values at the most detailed geographies.

According to the Census (Table LC6107SC) of the economically active in 2011 (around 10,487 individuals, or 66% of the 16+ population), around 95% were classed as being in employment, which is slightly higher than the Scottish level of 91.9% (**Figure 163** and **Figure 165**). Of the inactive, who numbered 5,377 (around 33.9% of the 16+ population), around 75% were inactive due to retirement. This is much higher than the Scottish retirement level of approximately 60% (**Figure 164**). There are two reasons for this. Firstly, as shown by **Figure 138** the National Park has a higher proportion of those over the age of 55 than the national average, and secondly, owing to the absence of a higher education facility within the National Park, there are relatively few full time students residing within its boundary.

The Census profile of full time (72.8%) and part time (27.2%) employee jobs (excludes self-employed, government, trainees and HM Forces) (Table LC6109SC) is generally consistent with Scotland as a whole.

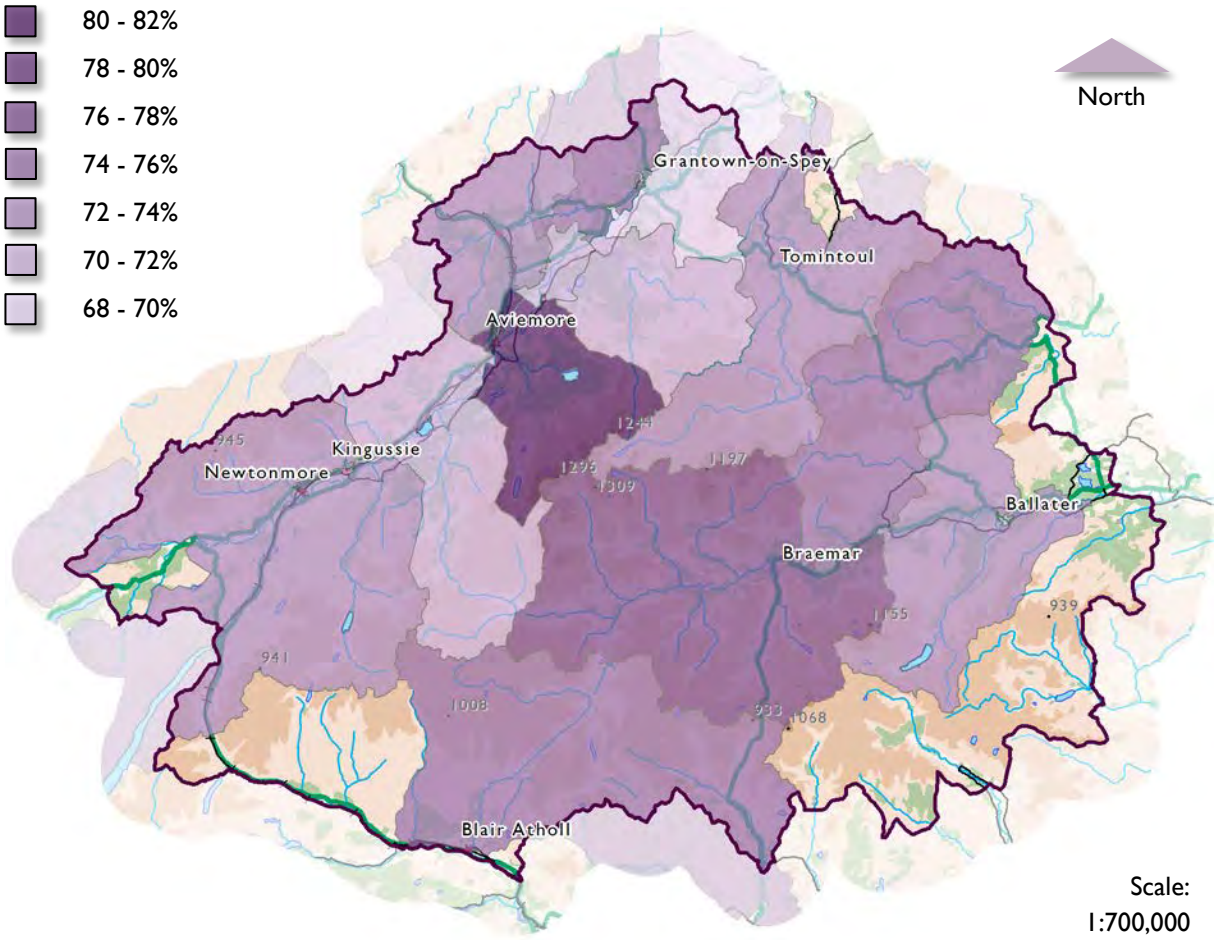

Figure 165 Proportion of the population aged 16-75 that are economically active. (Census table KS601SC).

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

The significance of certain employment sectors differs quite significantly however, with the proportion of those employed in agriculture, forestry and fishery, accommodation and food and 'other' forms of work far exceeding the Scottish average (**Figure 166**).

According to SIMD 2012 data, the National Park has relatively low levels of employment related deprivation, which it rates using indicators such as Working Age Unemployment Claimant Count, Working Age Incapacity Benefit recipients and Working Age Severe Disablement Allowance recipients. None of the data zones within the National Park fall into any of the most deprived categories, with 10 out of the 23 falling within the 20% least deprived.

Indeed, unemployment levels within the National Park are relatively low, with the Census suggesting that in March 2011 only around 445 of the population aged 16-74 (3.2% compared to the Scottish 4.8%)

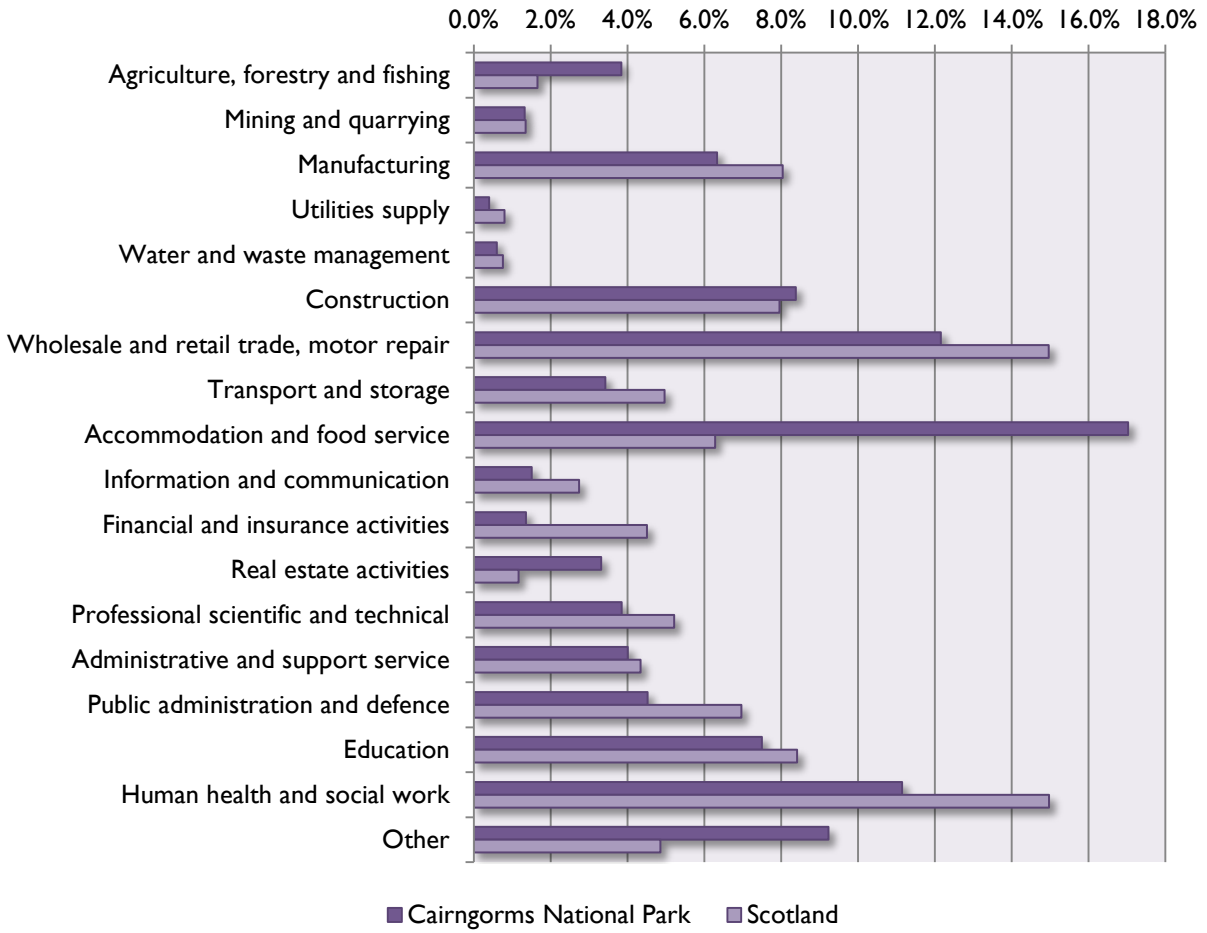

Figure 166 Proportion of all people aged 16 to 74 in employment the week before the census by industry (Census table KS605SC). Crown copyright 2013.

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

In order to protect against disclosure of personal information, some records have been swapped between different geographic areas. Some cell values will be affected, particularly small values at the most detailed geographies.

were unemployed, of which around 150 were in long term unemployment, while only around 35 had never worked at all (Table KS601SC). There is however some geographical variation across the area, with the Moray part of the National Park experiencing the highest unemployment level, at around 6.2% (**Figure 167**).

Data on Out of work benefits issued to those of working age in the area supports this , with those claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) in quarter 4 of 2012 standing at 225 (1.7%), below the Scottish figure of 4%. The nature of employment within the National Park is however extremely seasonal, with JSA claimants peaking in the winter months (**Figure 168**). Unemployment is at its lowest in July, which coincides with Scottish school and public holidays.

In employment terms, claimant data suggests that the recession began in the National Park in March 2008. It continued to get worse at the rate of about two jobs per week until July 2009 when the position

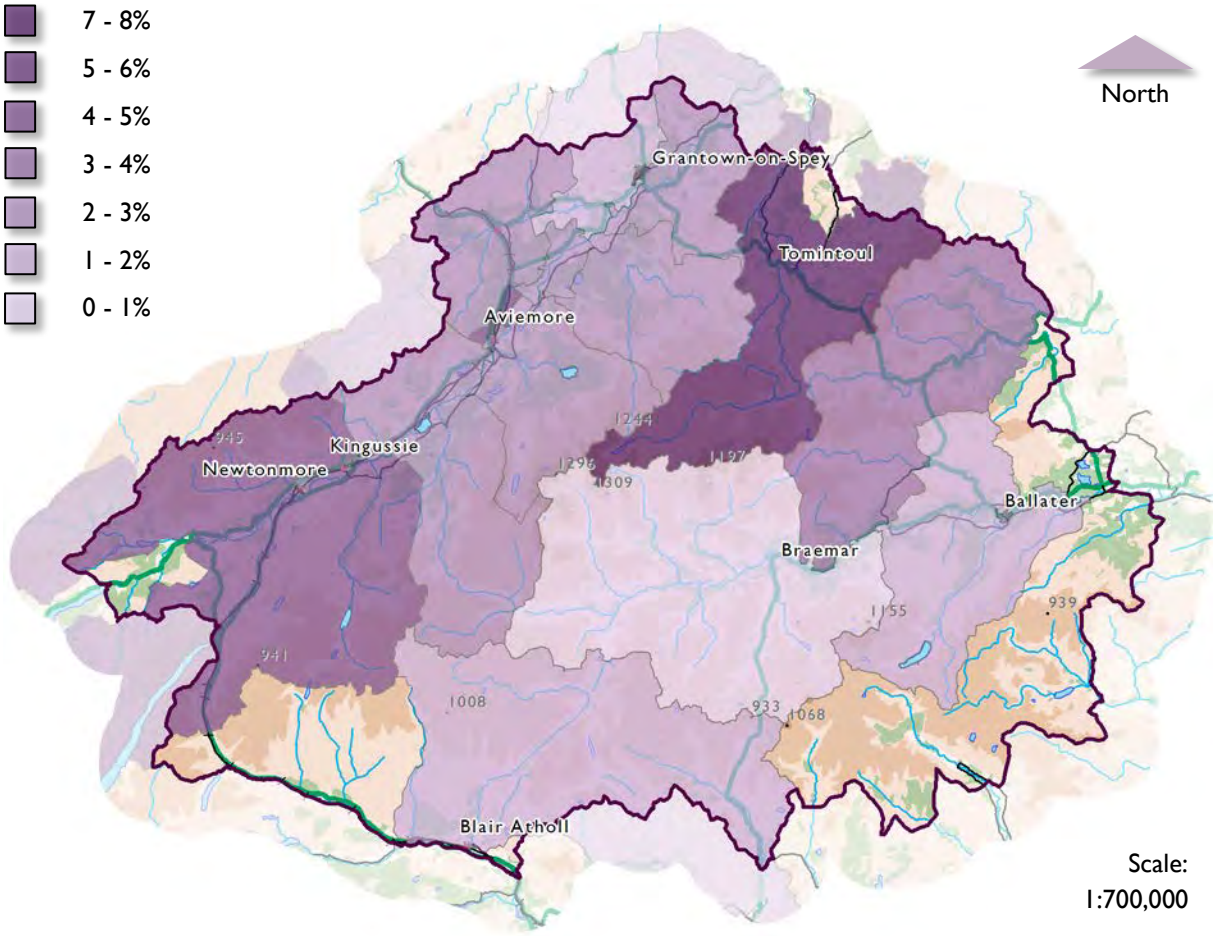

Figure 167 Proportion of the population aged 16-75 that are unemployed. (Census table KS601SC).

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

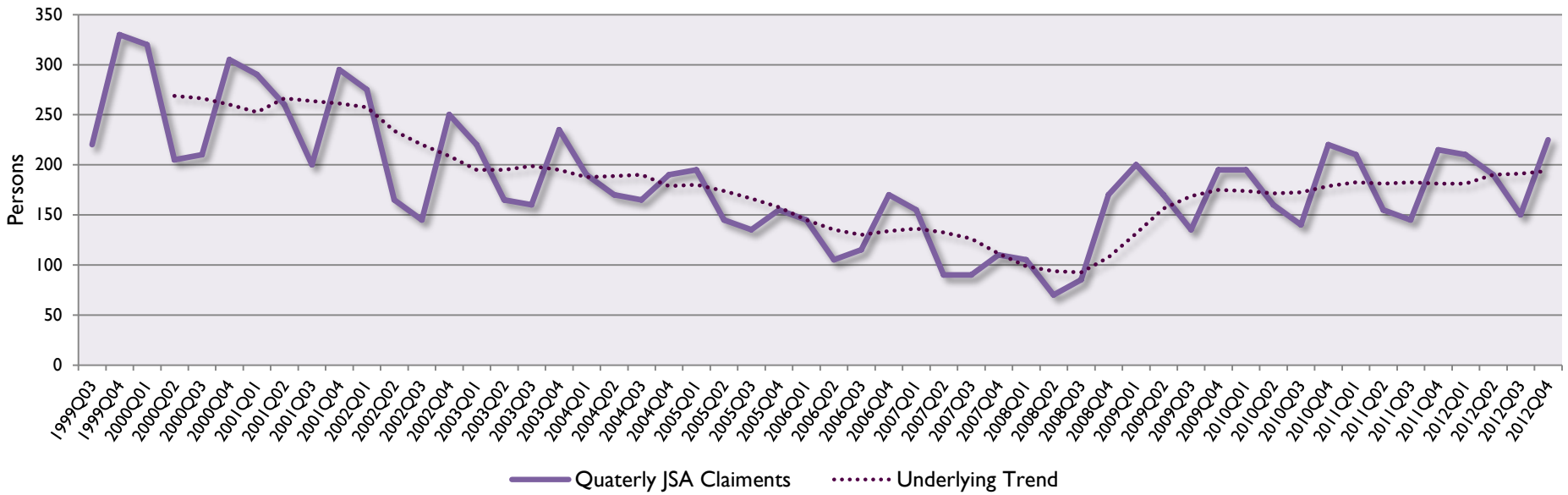

Figure 168 Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimants within the Cairngorms National Park (Source: http://www.sns.gov.uk/default.aspx).

began to improve, with a stabilisation in the level of those claiming JSA. Most recent data suggests that claimant numbers are beginning to fall, though it is still too soon say whether this represents the beginnings of a durable recovery (CogentSi, 2010; CogentSi, 2013).

Wages and Income

Due to the low level of unemployment within the National Park, levels of income deprivation are relatively low according to the SIMD 2012. However, this masks the fact that there is strong evidence to suggest that average earnings within the National Park are well below the Scottish and British averages.

There is no official up-to-date data available for earnings specifically in the National Park, however an idea may be gained from the Local Authorities that contribute towards the National Park's area. Of these, only Aberdeenshire is above to the Scottish median income (**Table 37**). However, the shire figures will be heavily influenced by high earners living near and working in or near the city of Aberdeen, which is by far the best-paying Council area in Scotland. Therefore, Aberdeenshire residents who are actually living within the Park are likely to have smaller incomes more in line with

the figures for other parts of the National Park.

Table 37 Median gross weekly earnings by residence, 2014 (Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - resident analysis; www.nomisweb.co.uk).

Area	Median Gross Weekly Earnings
Great Britain	£520.2
Scotland	£519.4
Aberdeenshire	£509.8
Angus	£467.7
Highland	£487.9
Moray	£434.3
Perth & Kinross	£481.2

The likelihood is that the nature of earnings for National Park residents is closer to the Moray and Angus figures than it is to Highland and Perthshire, because both the industrial and urban structure in the National Park is much closer to the first two Local Authorities. Indeed, there is evidence that it is likely to be below the Moray and Angus figures.

To aid understanding of the incomes of residents within the National Park, CongestSi (2010) calculated earnings by industry in each of its contributing NUTS3[16] areas. With the exception of utilities and distilling, the National Park tends to focus on the lower paying industries, notably the hospitality industries and retailing. Using these estimates of employee compensation industry-by-industry, annual earnings levels per head for National Park residents for 2006 were estimated at significantly lower levels than the contributing NUTS3 areas. One factor behind this is the relatively light representation of the public sector in the National Park's economy. Since they pay according to national scales, public authorities in rural areas tend to be amongst the better payers.

Average annual compensation of (non-agricultural) employees in the National Park in 2006 was estimated at £18,370, which is 74% of the Scottish average of £24,840 (CogentSi, 2010).

Another indicator of the income of National Park's residents may be found in research carried out by Herriot-Watt University on developing local and small area estimates of income distribution, poverty and deprivation (Bramley & Watkins, 2013). This study offers a snap shot of household incomes at a data zone level in 2008 / 2009. It should be noted that the figures presented in this study are not directly comparable to those in **Table 37**, since the Herriot-Watt figures represent household income rather than individual worker pay. The Herriot-Watt figures also include welfare payments (e.g. pensions, tax credits, JSA etc.) within their figures, which are also not present within the **Table 37** figures. It is not possible to use the figures to create an aggregate of the National Park either since it is not appropriate to sum the median figures or percentages for individual data zones. Therefore analysis must take place at a data zone by data zone level.

What the data presents in **Table 38** and **Figure 169** therefore is an idea of the variation in median household incomes

[16] NUTS is the standard statistical geography of the European Union. The National Park consists of part of four of Scotland's 23 NUTS3 areas.

across the National Park. An analysis of these figures (**Figure 170**) shows that the National Park's median gross household income (£503) is above that of Scotland (£467) and, with the exception of Aberdeenshire, is comparable with all of its constituent Local Authorities. It also shows that the distribution of incomes is much narrower than these areas, with the maximum income being lower and the minimum income being higher.

The figures also demonstrate a great deal of variation between the proportions of households on low incomes. For example, 20% of households in S01000303 have a gross income of less than £300 per week, while the figure is 38% for households in S01004233 (see **Figure 179** (p. 290) for location of data zones). Most are however around the median of 25%, which is below the Scottish 28%.

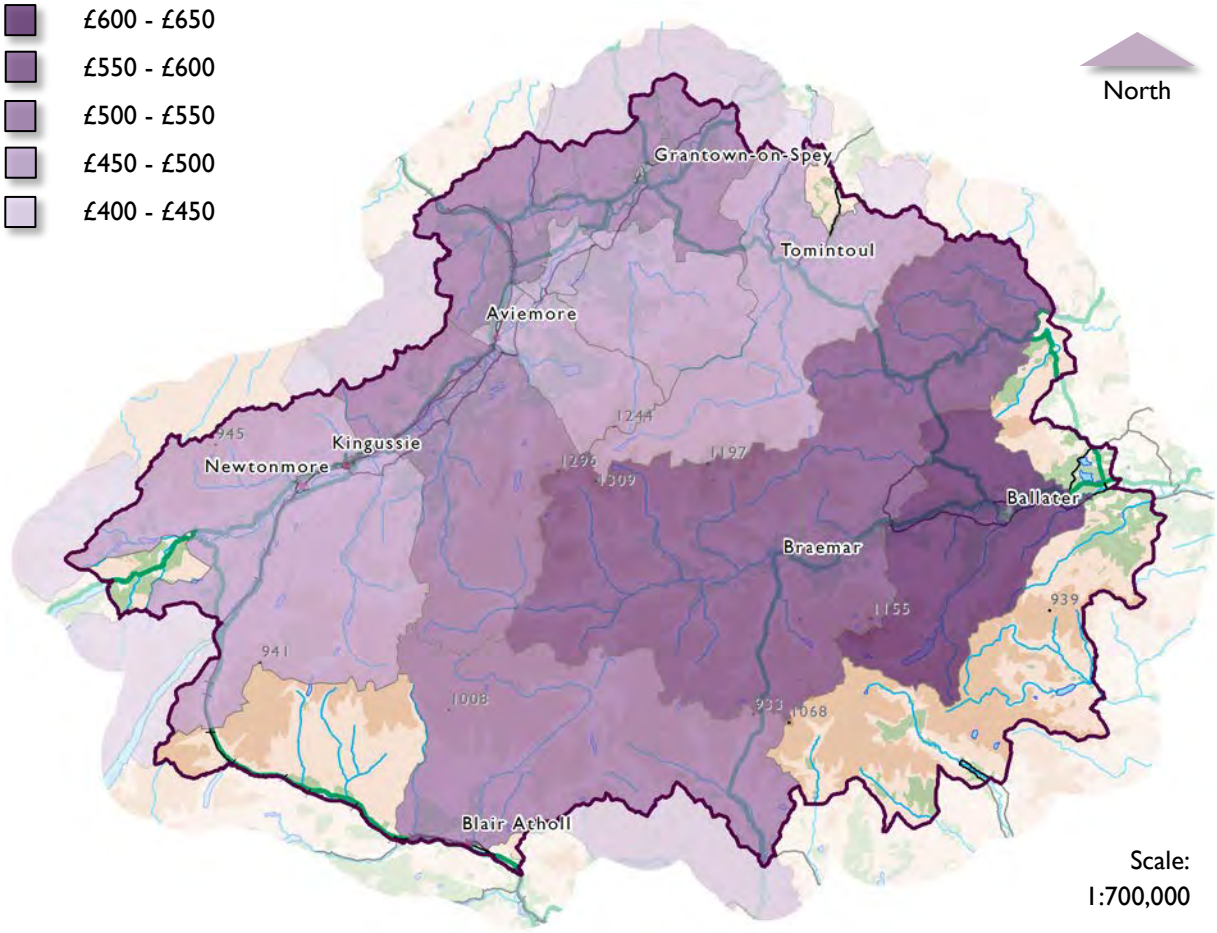

Figure 169 Estimated median weekly gross household income of data zones within the Cairngorms National Park 2008 /2009 (based on Bramley & Watkins, 2013).

Table 38 Estimated household income for data zones within the Cairngorms National Park 2008 / 2009 (Bramley & Watkins, 2013).

Local Authority	Data Zone (2001)	Median weekly net[17] household income	Median weekly median gross[18] household income	Households with a gross income of less than £300 per week	Households with a gross income of less than £400 per week	Households with a gross income of less than £500 per week	Households with a gross income of less than £600 per week	Households with a gross income of less than £800 per week
Aberdeen-shire	S01000301	£476	£586	22%	31%	42%	49%	65%
	S01000303	£510	£625	20%	28%	37%	44%	60%
	S01000312	£470	£573	23%	33%	45%	49%	64%
	S01000316	£405	£510	29%	42%	53%	58%	71%
	S01000360	£459	£560	26%	34%	45%	51%	67%
Highland	S01003743	£451	£495	27%	35%	43%	52%	69%
	S01003747	£415	£487	24%	37%	49%	57%	76%
	S01003748	£441	£511	23%	35%	45%	52%	70%
	S01003749	£428	£517	23%	36%	44%	53%	71%
	S01003750	£437	£515	26%	36%	45%	53%	70%
	S01003751	£401	£473	25%	37%	49%	57%	77%
	S01003754	£338	£430	29%	44%	54%	62%	78%
	S01003755	£364	£460	26%	40%	49%	58%	74%
	S01003756	£391	£457	30%	41%	52%	59%	76%
	S01003759	£414	£484	27%	38%	49%	56%	74%
	S01003760	£446	£525	22%	33%	42%	51%	70%
	S01003764	£396	£485	26%	39%	49%	59%	77%
	S01003766	£341	£432	31%	45%	55%	61%	75%
	S01003767	£412	£484	25%	37%	49%	56%	73%

[17] Net income covers income from all sources (as in Gross Income) but after the deduction of income taxes and national insurance contributions.

[18] Gross income is income from all sources (wages, salaries, pensions, benefits, rent, interest, maintenance) before the deduction of tax and national insurance contributions.

Local Authority	Data Zone (2001)	Median weekly net[19] household income	median weekly gross[20] household income	Households with a gross income of less than £300 per week	Households with a gross income of less than £400 per week	Households with a gross income of less than £500 per week	Households with a gross income of less than £600 per week	Households with a gross income of less than £800 per week
Highland	S01003771	£469	£513	24%	32%	39%	49%	66%
	S01003772	£460	£503	25%	34%	41%	50%	66%
Moray	S01004233	£388	£484	38%	46%	58%	61%	78%
PKC	S01005147	£443	£549	25%	33%	45%	53%	69%

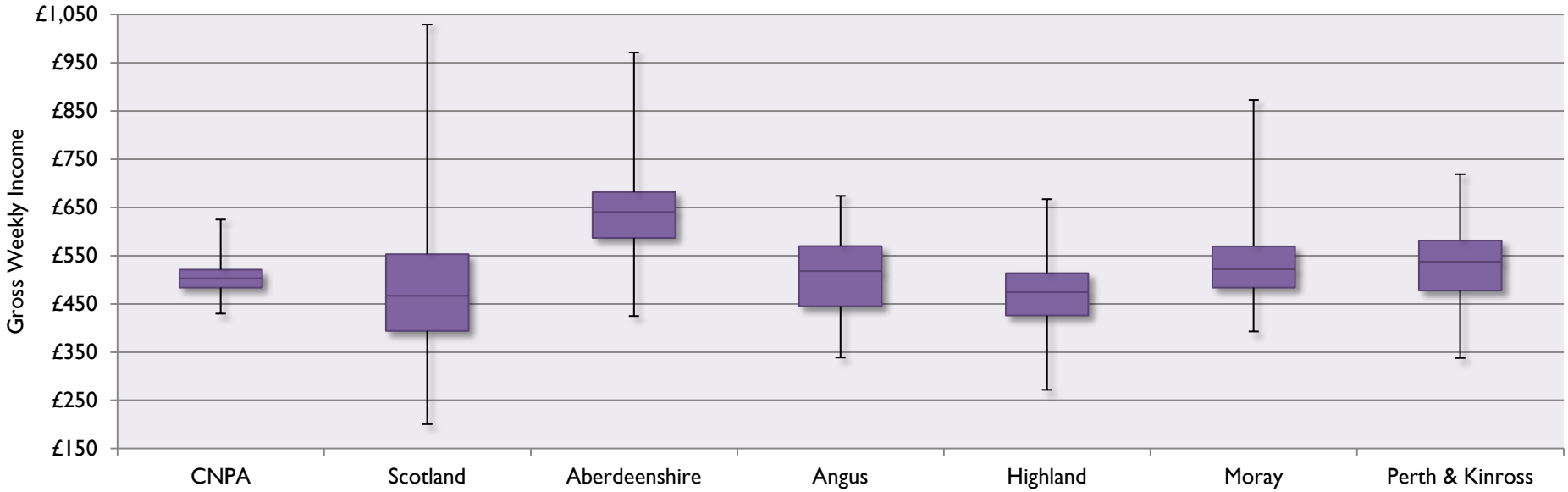

Figure 170 Box plots of median weekly gross household income for data zones in 2008 / 2009 (based on Bramley & Watkins, 2013).

[19] Net income covers income from all sources (as in Gross Income) but after the deduction of income taxes and national insurance contributions.

[20] Gross income is income from all sources (wages, salaries, pensions, benefits, rent, interest, maintenance) before the deduction of tax and national insurance contributions.

Commuting

The 2011 Census indicated that of the 9,700 people aged 16 -74 in employment around 4,771 (49.2%) of them commuted to work via car, van or motor cycle (Census table LC7101SC) (**Figure 171**). This is lower than the Scottish level of 56%, a reflection of the fact that the National Park has a relatively high level of home working (22.9%). The use of public transport is particularly low within the National Park, a reflection of the difficulties of providing good service in such a rural area.

Most commuting occurs within the National Park, since most of its population is too far from major centres of employment for commuting out to be a very large scale phenomenon. In fact, over half of workers travel less than 10km to their place of work (**Figure 172**). Even with improved connectivity bought about by the A9 Dualling Strategy (see **Topic 5: Material Asset**, p. 129), there is very little chance of the Cairngorms National Park becoming a

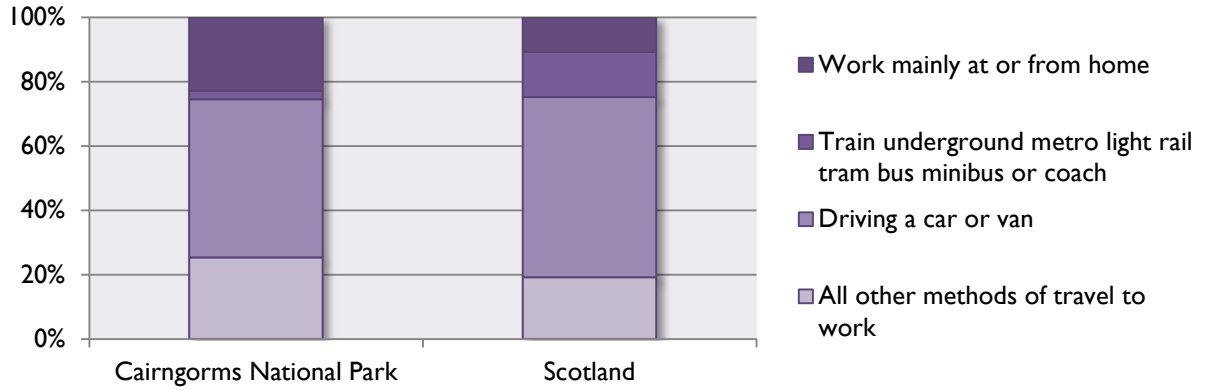

Figure 171 Method of travel to work, 2011 (Census table LC7101SC).

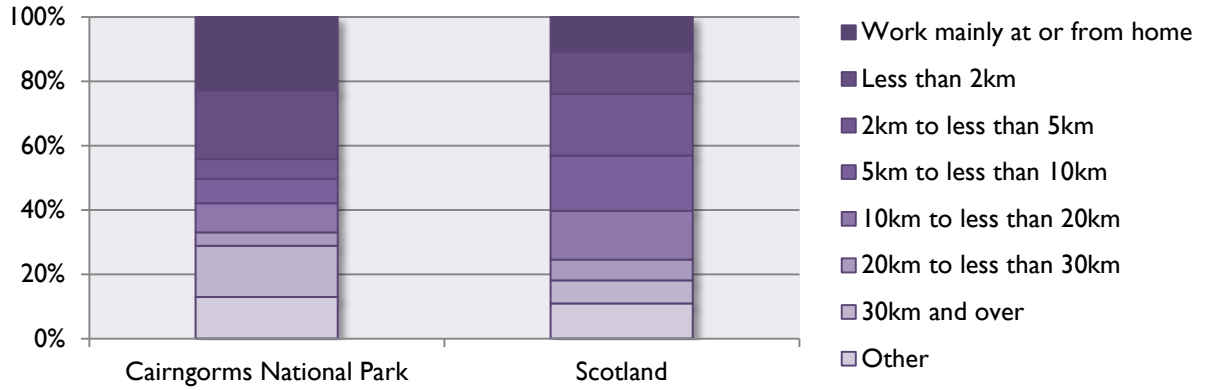

Figure 172 Distance travelled to work, 2011 (Census table LC7102SC)[21][22]. Crown copyright 2014.
For further information on variables, see www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/variables
In order to protect against disclosure of personal information, some records have been swapped between different geographic areas. Some cell values will be affected, particularly small values at the most detailed geographies.

[21] The distance travelled is a calculation of the straight line between the postcode of place of residence and postcode of workplace.
[22] 'Other' Includes no fixed place of work, working on an offshore installation and working outside the UK

dormitory suburb to any significant extent (CogentSi, 2010).

Nevertheless, within the National Park the range of employment opportunities which are not tied to visitors, the land, or local services is only limited, and so people with special skills who want to live in the National Park may need to travel outwith the area to work. According to the 2011 Census, some 287 people were commuting out of the Badenoch and Strathspey Travel to Work Area (TTWA) and into the neighbouring Inverness and Dingwall TTWA for work (Highland Council, 2015). Correspondingly, the National Park does not have so many jobs that it attracts commuters in from long distances, but nevertheless there are small communities and isolated residences around the National Park, but outwith its boundaries; for example the Badenoch and Strathspey TTWA had around 6 workers commuting in from the neighbouring Lochaber TTWA (Highland Council, 2015). For these surrounding residents the National Park offers the best job prospects available (CogentSi, 2010).

Human Health

Life Expectancy

Human Health covers a wide range of issues, many of which have strong relationships with other topic areas. Life expectancy is a good indicator of the overall health of a population. While there is no official data available for life expectancy specifically within the National Park, quantitative reasoning, based on statistics available for Local Authorities, Health Board Areas, SIMD 2012 deciles and Urban / Rural Categories, may be used to gain a reasonable estimate. This data is based on that presented in NRS (Life Expectancy for Areas within Scotland 2011-2013, 2014), while work is currently underway to provide updated estimates based on SIMD 2016 data (National Records Scotland, 2016).

Taking the Local Authorities and Health Board areas that cover the National Park's area (**Table 39**) as a starting point, it can be seen that all have life expectancies that are above the Scottish average. Estimates range from 77.6 to 79.3 for males and 81.4 to 82.8 for females and it is not unreasonable to assume that the National Park's overall life expectancy falls somewhere within this range.

Table 39 Life expectancy at birth in Scotland, 2011-2013, by Local Authority and NHS Board area (National Records of Scotland, 2014).

Area	Male	Female
Scotland	76.9	81.0
Local Authority		
Aberdeenshire	79.2	82.2
Angus	78.5	81.6
Highland	77.7	82.2
Moray	77.9	81.7
Perth & Kinross	79.3	82.8
Health Board		
Grampian	78.3	81.8
Highland	77.8	82.0
Tayside	77.6	81.4

Estimates may also be derived from the SIMD 2012; according to NRS (2014), male and female life expectancy increases and the gap between male and female life expectancy decreases as the level of deprivation decreases. Consequently, NRS have estimated life expectancy according to SIMD decile. Based on the position of the National Park's data zones within the SIMD therefore, an estimate of its life expectancy may be derived. Furthermore, because data zones represent discreet geographies, potential variations in life expectancy across the National Park may be mapped (**Figure 173**).

It should be noted that the SIMD measures deprivation and not affluence, therefore the data displayed by **Figure 173** should not be translated as 'life expectancy of the rich versus that of the poor'. It should also be noted that NRS estimates are generalised and the criteria that result in an overall SIMD rank may vary greatly between data zones. The life expectancies presented therefore should not be viewed as geography specific absolutes, but as rough

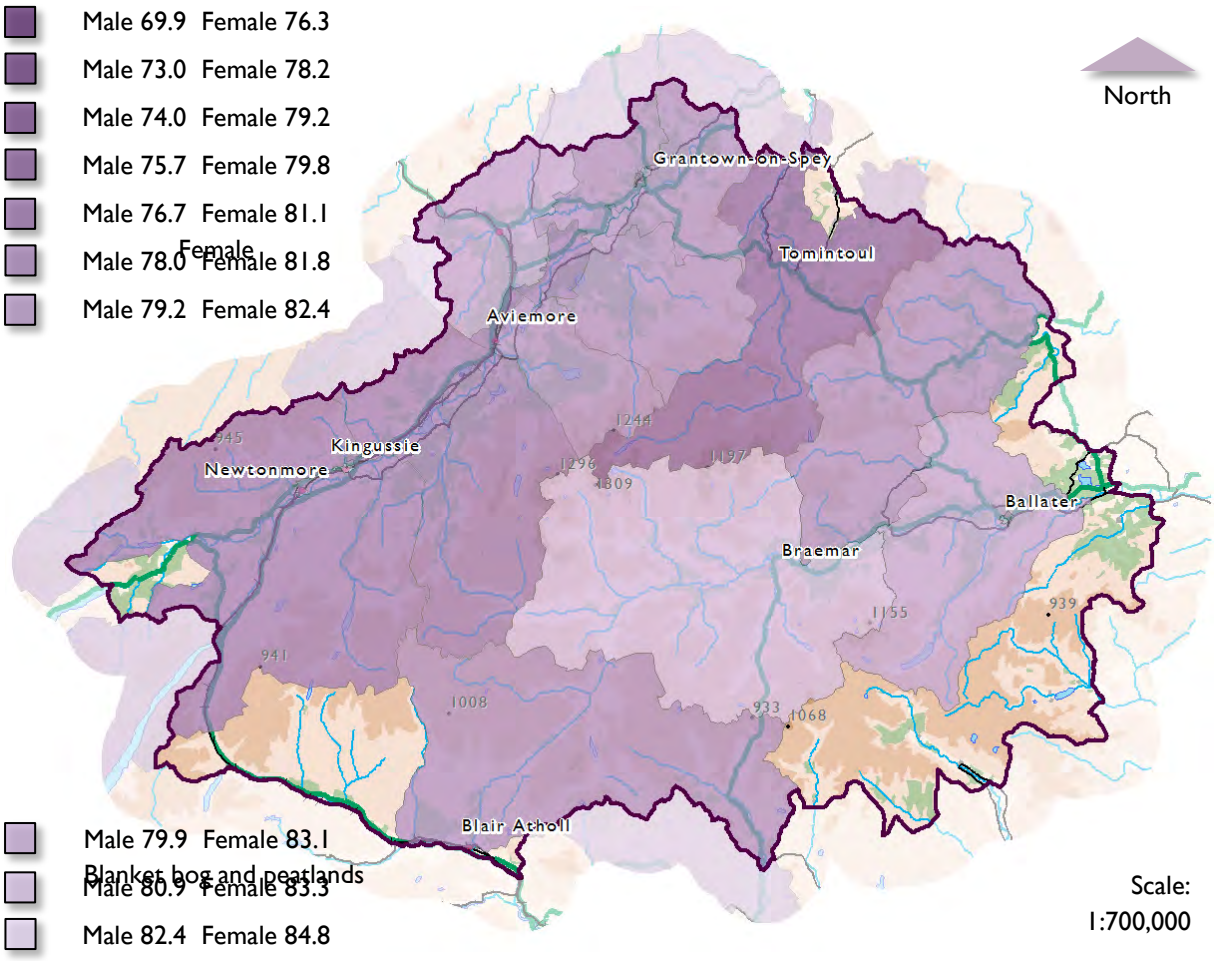

Figure 173 Life expectancy within the Cairngorms National Park by SIMD Decile. Based on NRS (2014).

approximations based on national data.

Estimating life expectancy via this means offers a range of 76.7 to 80.9 for males and 81.1 to 83.3 for females living within the National Park. This is a broader range than the estimate based on the Local Authorities and Health Boards, but is close enough to support the theory that the life expectancy falls within this initial estimate.

If the deprivation based estimates are weighted according to the population of the National Park's data zones, then the estimated life expectancy of the National Park is 79 for males and 82.3 females. This estimate is not unreasonable as it falls within 1% of figures for the Scottish Government's Urban Rural Classification areas, which estimates life expectancy for males to be 79.2 and females to be 82.6 in remote rural areas[23] (National Records of Scotland, 2014), which the whole of the Cairngorms National Park is identified as.

[23] Defined as "areas with a population of less than 3,000 people, and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more."

Irrespective of the exact figures, it is possible to say with some confidence that the residents of the Cairngorms National Park have a greater life expectancy than the Scottish average and live around 6 to 9 years longer than people living in the most deprived parts of Scotland.

Health

Evidence suggests that the population in the National Park is healthier than the Scottish average. According to the 2011 Census, the proportion of people with long term health problems whereby their day-to-day activities are limited a lot was only 6.8% (Scotland 9.6%) while the proportion of people claiming very good to fair health was higher (96.6% compared to Scotland's 94.4%) and the proportion claiming bad to very bad health lower (3.4% compared to Scotland's 6.1%) (**Table 40**). This is supported by evidence from the proportion of Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disability Allowance claimants within the National Park, which in 2012 ranged between 1.1 and 1.8% of the 16+ population, compared to Scotland's 2.7 to 4.1%.

Table 40 Census health indices, 2011.

Indicator	CNP	Scot.
Long-term health problem or disability (Table LC3101SC)		
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	6.8%	9.6%
Day-to-day activities limited a little	10.2%	10.1%
Day-to-day activities not limited	83.0%	80.4%
General health (Table LC3102SC)		
Very good health	55.6%	52.5%
Good health	30.7%	29.7%
Fair health	10.3%	12.2%
Bad health	2.7%	4.3%
Very bad health	0.7%	1.3%
Provision of unpaid care (Table LC3301SC)		
Provides no unpaid care	90.9%	90.6%
Provides 1 to 19 hours unpaid care a week	5.7%	5.2%
Provides 20 to 34 hours unpaid care a week	0.8%	0.9%
Provides 35 to 49 hours unpaid care a week	0.6%	0.8%
Provides 50 or more hours unpaid care a week	2.0%	2.5%

The Health Domain of the SIMD also provides an indication of the relative healthiness of the National Park, with 5 of its 23 data zones falling within the 10% least deprived. The SIMD does however demonstrate an element of geographical variation, with 6 data zones, mostly in Badenoch and Strathspey falling within the 41 to 50% most deprived range. This is not necessarily an indication of poor health within these areas, but rather an indication that health related deprivation is closer to the Scottish median in these locations.

Index of Multiple Deprivation

SIMD domains (see **Figure 174** for summary) have been drawn upon throughout this report and since the level of deprivation experienced by an area can have significant influence on the health and wellbeing of its population, it is also worth considering the SIMD's overall ranking of data zones within the National Park as well as briefly summarising the factors that have led to this situation.

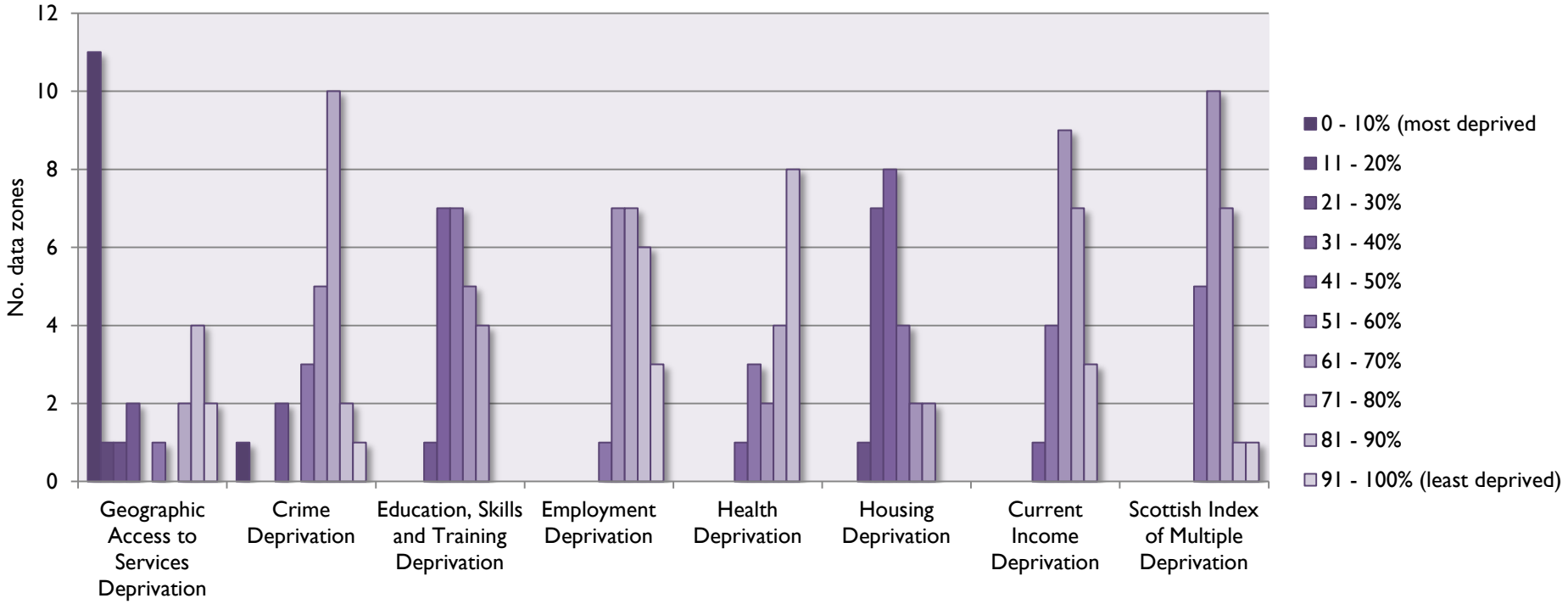

Figure 174 Distribution of SIMD 2016 deciles by domain acoording to data zones within the Cairngorms National Park.

According to the SIMD 2012, overall deprivation levels within the National Park are relatively low (**Figure 175**). Two data zones (S01006789 and S01006793) fall within the 20% least deprived, while no data zones are ranked within the most deprived 50% (see **Figure 179** (p. 290) for location of data zones).

Most domains possess a low level of deprivation, and it is only the domains relating to drive times, public transport and access to services that show any signs of significant deprivation. This is consistent with the rest of remote rural Scotland, where the sparse nature of settlement makes long distances between services inevitable.

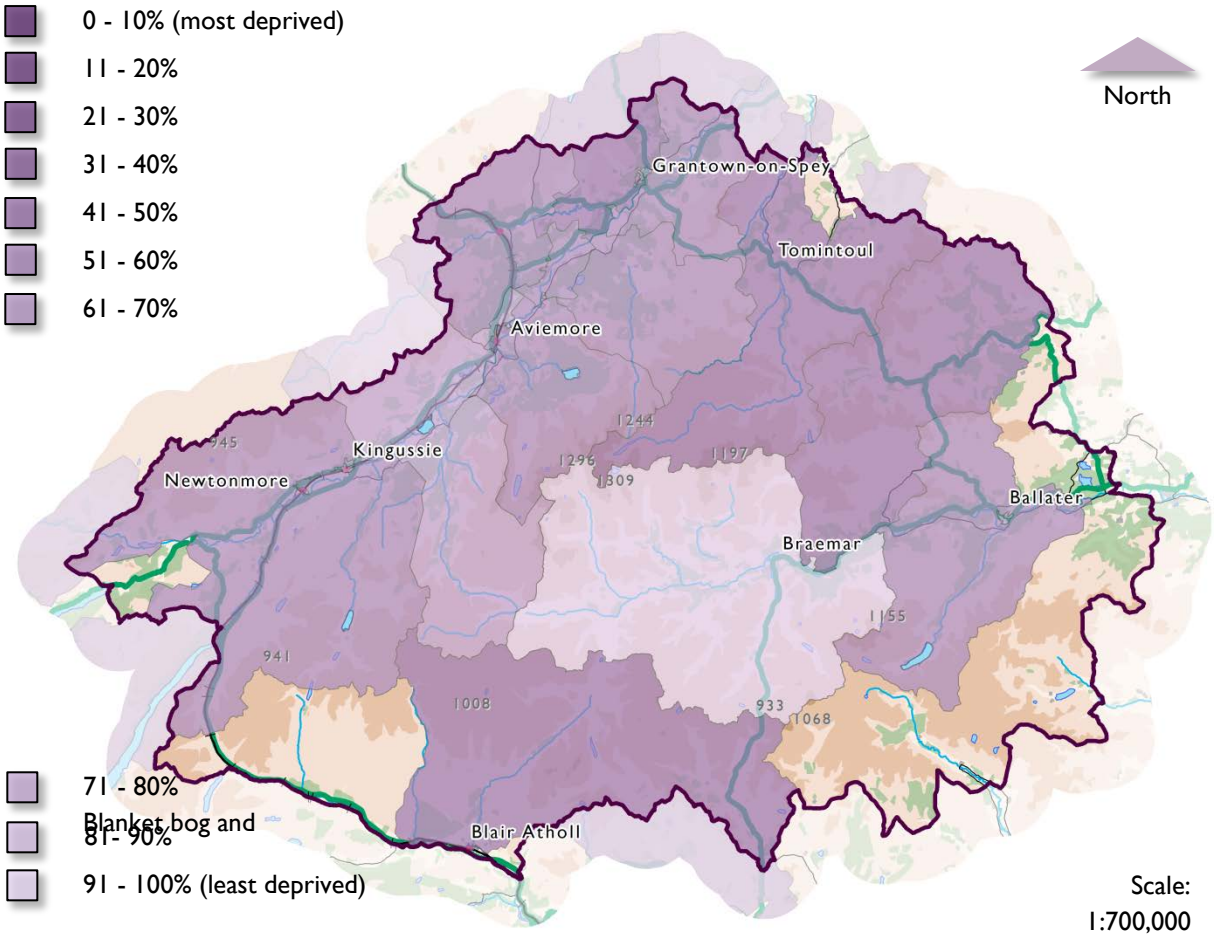

Figure 175 Overall SIMD 2016 deciles according to data zones within the Cairngorms National Park (SIMD, 2016).

The 2016 SIMD is the fifth version of the index. However, because SIMD is a relative measure (it ranks Scotland's data zones relative to each other), it is not straightforward to interpret any change in a data zone's rank from one version of the index to another. Additionally, analysis of change over time is complicated because there have been changes to the methodology and changes to some of the indicators used. Disclosure control methods can also complicate analysis of change over time for some SIMD indicators because when cell values are suppressed, this may lead to data zones having empty cells for one or more of the versions of the SIMD.

Bearing in mind the cautions expressed above, there are ways of undertaking a limited amount of analysis of change over time. **Figure 176** and **Figure 177** offer two different means of measuring relative change, the former showing changes in overall rank and distribution of data zones and the latter showing the number of people falling within an overall SIMD decile.

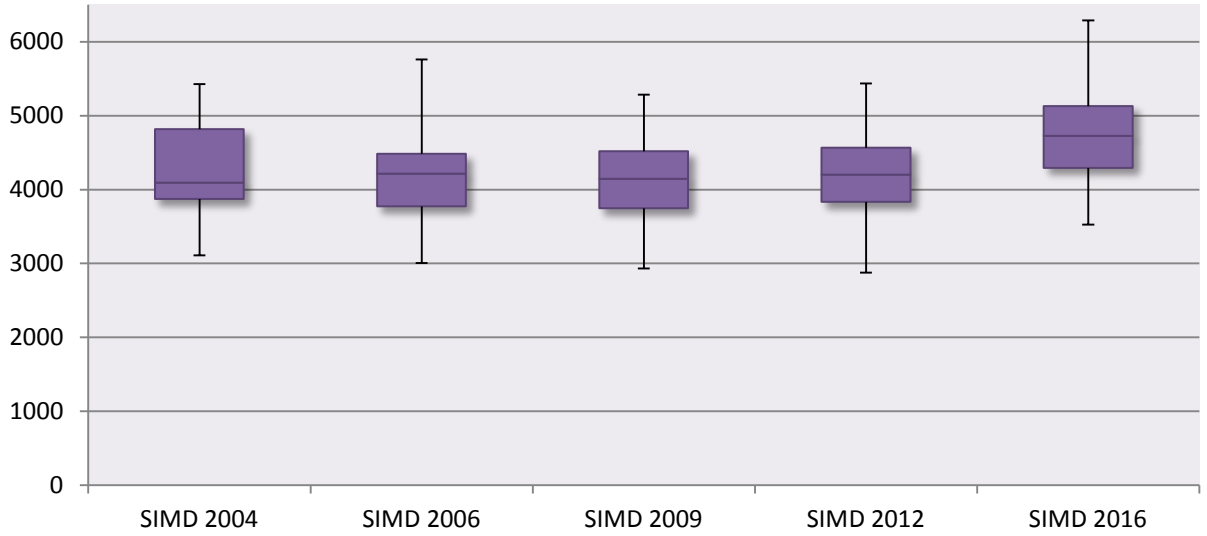

Figure 176 Boxplots showing the distribution of data zones in the Cairngorms National Park by their overall SIMD rank.

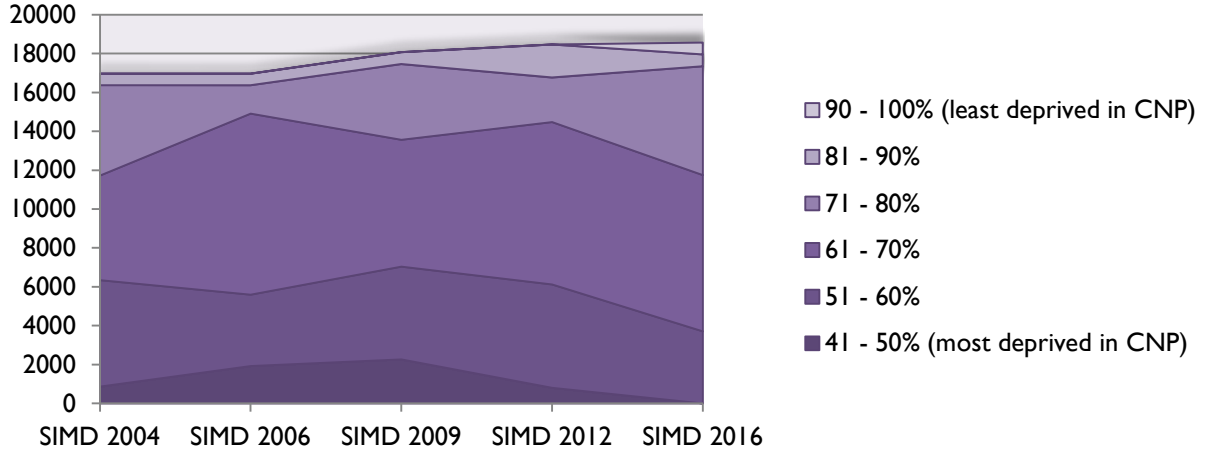

Figure 177 Population distribution by the overall SIMD decile for data zones in the Cairngorms National Park.

Outdoor Recreation

Standardised measures of deprivation aside, there are many factors that can have an influence on a population's health and it is probable that the high quality environment described in this report is a contributory factors. Another factor is likely to be the ability of the population to easily access this environment for leisure and recreational purposes.

Significantly, the Cairngorms National Park is a world renowned area where both residents and visitors can enjoy an unparalleled range of outdoor recreation opportunities. People are able to explore the area on foot, in a wheelchair, on horse-back, on a bicycle or even in a boat or canoe, as long as they do so in a responsible manner, with respect for other people and for the environment, and in accordance with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

One important means of access is via the National Park's public footpath network, of which the Core Paths network plays a

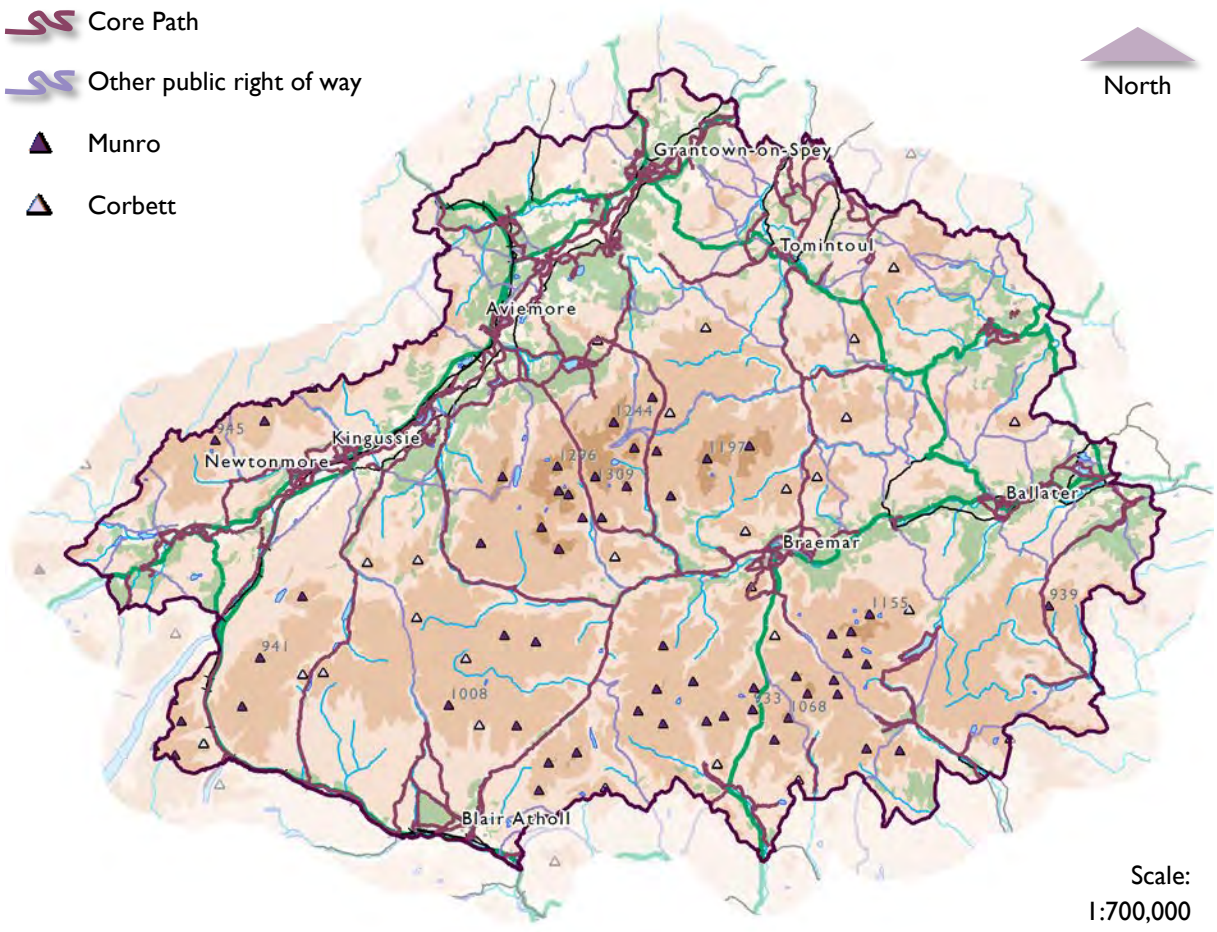

Figure 178 Public footpath network and 'listed' mountains of the Cairngorms National Park.

significant role (see **Figure 178**). The CNPA has a duty under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 to prepare a Core Paths Plan. Section 17 (1) Act states that the core paths network should be: '… *sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout the area*'.

The CNPA has recently published its Core Paths Plan (2015), which was developed in Partnership with the Local Outdoor Access Forum and Inclusive Cairngorms. The aim of the Plan is to help people enjoy and understand the special qualities of the National Park through the identification of outdoor access opportunities. The path network should satisfy the needs of visitors and local people to get around, and link to the wider path network and beyond.

The network is made up of a mixture of existing and new paths, which together provide a cohesive system. The National Park now has a network that totals 1,073km of core path, 88km of which is on water (River Spey). Furthermore, over 300km of the network has been signed and promoted with a further 100 or so km to be developed and improved.

Visitors

There has been an overall increase in the number of visitors to the Cairngorms National Park since 2009 with 1.64 million visitors in 2014. Between 2012 and 2014, visitor numbers have increased by 8.6% and visitor days by 9.6% (STEAM, 2015).

Whilst the overall numbers have increased, there is still a strong seasonal trend in tourism, with the highest numbers of visitors in the summer months. A continuing challenge for the National Park is creating a more year round tourism economy, and the 2014 data shows some slight improvement in that area with a greater increase in visitors at off-peak times.

The Cairngorms Visitor Survey 2014/15 gathered a range of information about how visitors interact with the National Park. The survey has been repeated every five years since 2003/04 using the same methodology of 2,500 face to face interviews over a 12 month period in a range of locations across the National Park.

The survey found that the area's status as a National Park was of high importance for those deciding to visit the area, particularly for overseas visitors. This also varies considerably between the National Park areas where status is of greater importance to those visiting the Moray area.

Key Messages

The Cairngorms National Park has seen significant population growth over its lifetime, although this is now projected to decrease over the next 25 years. The population change will result in a particular set of needs to be addressed by the Plan, including the need to provide accommodation for at least 910 households over this period.

Unemployment is low although the median wage remains below that of Scotland. Gross household incomes, are however slightly higher. The National Park retains a high proportion of its workforce with the most commuting via private motor vehicle.

Overall, deprivation levels are low and the life expectancy of the population is estimated to be above Scotland's as a whole. Instances of life limiting conditions are low and claimants of related benefits few.

The National Park has an extensive and well maintained public footpath network and many man-made and natural features that provide attractive objectives and encourage healthy recreational activities.

Inter-relationships with other topics