

### 3. CULTURAL RESOURCES



Photo: David Gowans.



## 3. CULTURAL RESOURCES

### 3.1 Introduction

The cultural resources of the Park include a wide range of physical as well as less tangible resources. They all reflect the past and current lives of people living in and enjoying the area.

Culture and cultural heritage is essentially about the relationship between people and place in the Cairngorms over time. People and place continue to interact to create the rich cultural resource that ranges from the landscape and built environment to the artefacts and traditions of local communities.

The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 defines cultural heritage to include 'structures and other remains resulting from human activity of all periods, language, traditions, ways of life and the historic, artistic and literary associations of people, places and landscapes'.



To reflect these diverse cultural interests, this chapter is divided into four broad sections, which in practice include a degree of overlap:

- The Historic Environment;
- The Built Environment;
- Culture and Traditions;
- Material Resources.

While there is a general awareness of many sites or features of cultural heritage interest,

there is little systematic identification and recording across the Park. The information presented in this chapter draws together the best available data, but it also highlights the need for more audit work to develop a fuller picture of the cultural resources of the Park.

### 3.2 The Historic Environment

The Natural Resources chapter of this report identifies the physical characteristics of the landscape and its role in shaping the identity of the Park. The landscape is also shaped by the cultural history of the area and the interactions of people and land-use. The landscape provides a context in which to consider the cultural heritage of the Park. It contains a record of land-uses, settlement history, built heritage and social development; and it influences our understanding and experience of the cultural heritage of the Cairngorms.

This section considers the activities that have shaped the working landscape of the Cairngorms which we see today, and considers some of the traditional skills and products associated with the land.

#### 3.2.1 Historic Landscapes Landscape Character

The unique and special character of the area derives from the combination of the wild land character of the plateaux and mountains; the mix of upland management by large sporting estates and lowland agriculture; the extensive woodland mosaic; and the distinctive vernacular building traditions of the 19th century.

#### Historic Land-Use Assessment

'The Historic Landscapes' of the Cairngorms, published in 2001, is based on the Historic Land Use Assessment undertaken by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and Historic Scotland. This report identifies general patterns of land-use

at various historical periods; indicates the relationship between land-use change and the distribution of archaeological monuments; outlines the history of settlement in the area; and discusses the human influences shaping the landscape from the earliest time to the present.

### Historic Landscape Development

The historic development of the landscape and the surviving heritage can be grouped into three main periods: prehistoric monuments; pre-improvement remains mostly of the 17th and 18th centuries; and improvement remains, spanning the late 19th century to the present.

### The Prehistoric Landscape

Prehistoric monuments survive largely beyond the fringes of the pre-improvement and improvement landscape and represent the period of highest density of settlement within the Park. Evidence of Mesolithic hunter gatherers of 5,000BC has been recorded in Upper Deeside; later Neolithic ritual and funerary monuments, such as chambered cairns and stone circles, have survived on some of the low-lying ground; as well as some cup and ring markings on boulders.

Photo: David Gowans.



In the Bronze Age, 2,000BC, burial monuments were built as large round cairns and evidence of settlement in the form of hut circles became more common. This building tradition is thought

to have continued until the early centuries AD. Surrounding stone clearance heaps and field banks provide some of the earliest evidence of cultivation. From about 700BC a range of settlements occurred alongside hut circles, suggesting a hierarchy of sites that lasted through the Iron Age to the middle of the first millennium AD. The enclosures included timber stockades, the majority of which are only visible as crop-marks but also included the fort at Dun-da-lamh, Laggan.

Little is known about settlement during the first millennium AD, but surveys and excavations have established that some buildings of a sub-rectangular plan date to the 7th and 11th centuries. Cemeteries have been discovered as both earthworks and crop-marks, as well as sculpted stones.

### Pre-Improvement Landscape

The agricultural improvements swept away a system of multiple tenancy farms, within which houses were usually clustered together in townships, with ridged field systems, sometimes bounded by a head dyke and grazing grounds beyond.

The remains of these field systems and settlements are generally sited along the floors and sides of the main valleys and are the most extensive archaeological remains in the Park. They survive best in areas used for rough grazing during the improving period. The scatter of sites at higher altitudes is largely shieling huts and associated with summer grazing. This pattern reflects a peak in the rural population which declined in the 19th century with changing patterns of employment, land-use and increasing industrialisation.

While Pre-improvement remains survive in niches created by subsequent land-use regimes, medieval rural settlement appears to have been located in areas which have been most intensively

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used. Little evidence survives beyond the ruins of castles, towers and churches associated with this period, although further research could reveal more information.

#### Landscape of Improvement

The present character of the Park's landscape was largely established during the late 18th and 19th centuries. In the agricultural areas regular fields were laid out, farms amalgamated into larger units and steadings replaced. New cropping regimes, underground drainage and liming were introduced to increase yields. Shelter belts and decorative clumps of trees were planted adjacent to policies created around grand houses. In the upland areas, settlements were depopulated to make way for sheepwalks and shooting estates. The general character of rural settlements, farm steadings, cottages, estate buildings and planned villages was established. Stone was increasingly used and distinctive architectural features came to characterise the locality or estate. The expansion of the railway enabled local markets to develop as well as supporting the growth of the tourism market and the building of large hotels.

#### Contemporary Landscape and Land-use

The current pattern of land-use was established during the Improvement period of the mid-18th to mid-19th centuries. It can be characterised in three zones: a lowland zone comprising settlements, enclosed arable farming and grazing; an upland zone of moorland and rough pasture; and an intermediate zone of woodland and forestry.

The lowland zone has been the most intensely occupied and cultivated of the three, leaving fewer traces of earlier cultures. The full extent of the archaeology beneath the ground surface is not known, although aerial photography and excavations continue to reveal some of this resource.

The uplands were never intensely cultivated, and their current use for grazing and sport has preserved the relatively small evidence of earlier periods and peoples. While there is little evidence of human impact on the highest ground because of the altitude, isolated finds indicate that early people travelled through and hunted in the Park area at least 7,000 years ago. The distribution of shieling huts over 800 metres in altitude also demonstrates that this upland zone continued to be significant in the post-medieval period.

#### Trends and Observations

- The historic landscape has been vulnerable to insensitive development pressures and management, including some forestry and agriculture practices;
- There is currently no statutory protection for historic landscapes;
- Little information is available about the condition of the historic landscape, and there are no mechanisms for monitoring its status and identifying landscapes and features at risk;
- There is increasing recognition of the opportunity to increase public awareness of the significance of historic landscapes through education, interpretation and actively involving residents and visitors;
- Increasing interest in integrating policies and practices aimed at protecting and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage including historic landscapes with land management practices and incentives.

#### Monitoring

The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Scotland, Historic Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage have been developing approaches to historic landscape assessment. There is not yet any full assessment or ongoing monitoring of the historic landscape of the Park.



### 3.2.2 Designed Landscapes and Gardens

Gardens and designed landscapes form a relatively small part of the Park's landscape. The majority of the designed landscapes identified within the Park are country house grounds and policies. Components include woodlands, parklands, meadows, water features, glass houses, pinetums, kitchen gardens, formal gardens, avenues, drives and approaches, architectural features, statuary and vistas.

'The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland', published by the predecessor bodies to Historic Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage in 1987, lists nine gardens and designed landscapes in the Park. Within the Aberdeenshire area of the Park there are four entries (Balmoral Castle, Candacraig House, Glen Tanar and Invercauld). In the Highland area there are five entries (Aultmore, Castle Grant, Doune of Rothiemurchus, Inshriach Nursery and Kinrara). With the exception of Inshriach Nursery, which is a specimen nursery, all the other Inventory gardens and designed landscapes in the Park relate to country houses. Some were designed by professional designers and architects, others by owners and amateurs. A number of the country house gardens and policies in the Park show evidence of several layers of landscape relating to different periods of development.

While all the Inventory sites are in private ownership, several are open to the public on certain days or by appointment, either through

Scotland's Gardens Scheme, or through separate arrangement.

#### Trends and Observations

- The condition of the gardens is usually closely entwined with the condition of the main house;
- Multiple ownership can hinder a co-ordinated approach to the management of a unified landscape design;
- Disease, particularly in the elm population (for example the avenues of golden elms at Aultmore), is a significant problem.

#### Monitoring

There is no regular framework for monitoring the condition of designed landscapes and gardens.

### 3.2.3 Land Ownership and Management

The working landscape that we see today largely reflects changes which arose as a result of the Agricultural Improvements in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and the development of large sporting estates. These had a profound influence on land tenure and management, which moved away from community-based forms of tenure and management to larger scale farming and from a focus on subsistence to productivity to feed growing populations. More recent policy to deliver food security and now current European policy has continued to influence land ownership and management. The pattern of land ownership and tenure in the Park area is distinctive to Highland Scotland. A significant proportion of the land is owned by



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large estates with interests including agriculture, woodlands and sport. This is reflected in the extensive moorland and rough grazing. Crofting continues in Badenoch and Strathspey where records show there to be 105 crofts in total. Their average size of 40 hectares is much larger than the crofting units further north and west in Scotland. They are largely owner occupied (70 per cent compared with the crofting average of 20 per cent) and are often held in conjunction with other owner occupied or tenanted farmland. The area only has a small number of common grazings, and as such few of the current occupiers work on a collective community or traditional township basis.

Recent developments in land ownership have seen an increasing role for conservation charities and organisations, some of which have purchased large estates such as Mar Lodge and Abernethy. There is also an increasing trend towards community involvement and ownership of land following the Scottish Executive's Land Reform agenda.

#### **Trends and Observations**

- Estates and farms have diversified their activities into recreation, tourism and conservation sectors;
- Livestock farming continues to predominate;
- Farms have increased farm size and traditional farm buildings have deteriorated or been converted to other uses;
- Changes in farm support such as the Single Farm Payment are likely to see shifts in management and ownership patterns emerge;
- Crofting has become restricted both in numbers and distribution.

#### **Monitoring**

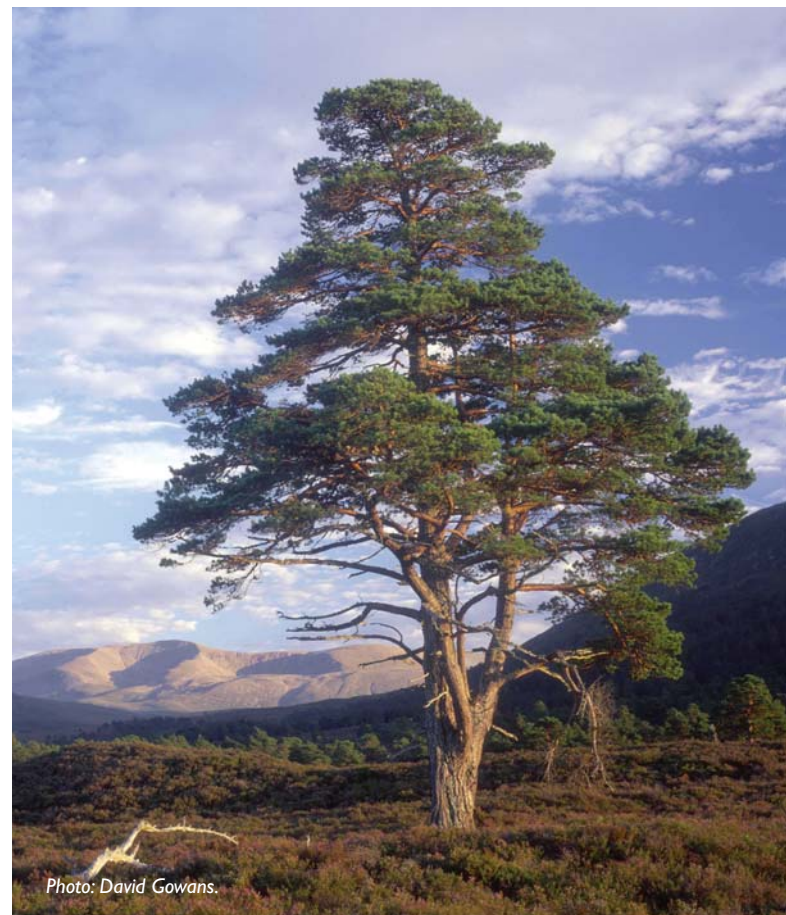
Land-use may be addressed through the annual agricultural census or the land cover map series. Field boundaries can also be monitored through the land cover map series. Buildings can be monitored through Historic Scotland, and archaeological

sites by local authority archaeological services and the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Scotland.

#### **3.2.4 Forestry and Woodland**

Human involvement in woodlands has developed over time alongside agriculture and the associated settlements. From early time areas were cleared for cultivation in the valley bottoms, with trees also providing timber for housing and fuel. There is evidence of sustainable management practices and skills being developed as part of an integrated approach to land management involving a regulated system of grazing and woodland husbandry.

By the mid-20th century, woodland cover in the Cairngorms had reached its lowest level with the extensive felling caused by the two world wars. The need for reforestation was recognised by governments, the Forestry Commission and landowners. Extensive reforestation, principally through planting, took place in the 40 year period





up to 1990. Species were planted according to soil type, with the more productive non-native species such as Sitka spruce and larch on the better land in the south of the Park, and Scots pine in the poorer soils of Deeside and Strathspey.

Historical impacts of woodland development on archaeological sites and historic buildings are recognised, with their contribution to the wider cultural heritage and historic landscape. Modern and historic woodland activity is interpreted at a number of sites in the Park area such as the Forest Enterprise centre at Glenmore, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds centre at Abernethy and the Highland Folk Museum near Newtonmore.

#### **Trends and Observations**

- There has been an increasing recognition of multi-functional forestry, following the focus on timber production in the early 20th century;
- There are increasing opportunities for community ownership and involvement in woodlands.

#### **Monitoring**

The monitoring of forestry and woodlands is the responsibility of the Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage. Geographical Information System datasets and the land cover map series (which was designed to provide detailed information about the habitats and landscape features of the UK countryside) are of value.

#### **3.2.5 Sporting Management**

Game has been hunted in the Cairngorms since prehistoric times with archaeological evidence dating back 7,000 years. There is documentary evidence of large-scale hunting from the 12th century onwards. Deer stalking and game bird shooting have long been an important element of the culture and economy of the Cairngorms,

together with fishing, particularly for salmon.

A number of factors combined in the first half on the 19th century to result in the development of the fieldsports culture which continues today. Lairds and wealthy sporting tenants built or upgraded mansions, castles and shooting lodges such as Mar Lodge, Invermark, Balmoral and Invercauld. The status associated with this type of sport for members of the late



19th century elite encouraged participation.

This fashion was reinforced by the purchase of the Deeside estate of Balmoral by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert following their 1848 holiday there. Thus, the heyday of the sporting estates in the Cairngorms came into being with their defining contribution to much of the landscape and land-based culture of the Cairngorms.

Sporting estates remain important to the economy, environment and culture of the Park today. The Game Conservancy Trust estimates that there are 44 sporting estates with at least two sporting activities in the Park, with between 80 and 90 per cent of the Park having some form of sporting interest.

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#### *Trends and Observations*

- Sport has continued to be a major influence on the landscape and culture of estates;
- Sport has become more accessible to a greater part of the population and is no longer as dominated by lengthy leases of large beats or shoots;
- There is now greater opportunity for individuals to take part in sport, including fishing or shooting by the day, the rod or gun.

#### **Monitoring**

Monitoring of fieldsports is the responsibility of the respective national organisations. In particular the Deer Commission for Scotland and the Game Conservancy Trust hold valuable data. Individual estates also monitor numbers of game and fishing stocks.

#### **3.2.6 Food and Drink**

The area's food production potential is limited by the soils, climate and terrain. While agricultural production is livestock oriented, with a limited range of finished saleable product of local origin, good quality meat is a particular feature of the area.

A survey undertaken in 2004 identified 21 food and drink processors who are based in the Park area. These included seven butchers and six distilleries, but also a brewery, fish farm, game dealer, smoke house, sweet manufacturer and two mineral water bottlers. Most sell directly to the public.



Photo: Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Over the last 25 years there has been a significant increase in the worldwide interest and market for single malt whiskies. With Speyside said to be home to more than half of Scotland's distilleries, whisky production is strong in the Cairngorms area. There are currently seven whisky distilleries operating in the Park, a number of which are of world renown as good quality single malts, while others contribute to premium blended whiskies.

#### *Trends and Observations*

- There is an increasing interest amongst Cairngorms visitors and food producers in local or indigenous food and drink products;
- Over the last 25 years there has been a significant increase in worldwide interest in and the market for single malt whiskies.

#### **Monitoring**

There is no standard monitoring undertaken in this area.

#### **3.2.7 Traditional Land-based Skills**

There is a range of traditional skills that have been key to the development of the historic landscape, such as dyking and thatching, but which in recent years have declined. Dyking and thatching both have considerable historical relevance to the Cairngorms, and have professional registers of qualified practitioners. At present there is only one professionally qualified dyker listed in the Park and no thatcher.

Industry lead-bodies, when considering the development of a rural skills Scottish Vocational Qualification focusing on the new skills and specialisations in countryside management, conclude that there is little provision of these skills locally. Additional specialist training would need to be introduced.

Voluntary conservation bodies such as the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers are





heavily involved in rural skills through their conservation work. They list 170 organisations with whom they are involved in Scotland, although only two of these are in the Park.

### Trends and Observations

- Modern technology has meant that many of the traditional rural skills have become lost, and the associated knowledge has been forgotten;
- There is limited or niche market demand, which in many cases is now constrained by the cost and availability of craftsmen with knowledge of traditional rural skills.

### Monitoring

The monitoring of land-based and construction skills are the responsibility of the Sector Skills Councils responsible for land-based and construction skills, Lantra and Construction Industry Training Board respectively.

### 3.2.8 Information Gaps – Historic Environment

- Cultural Heritage audit;
- Historic Environment audit;
- Historic Landscape Assessment.

## 3.3 The Built Environment

### 3.3.1 Introduction

This section considers the built heritage, including archaeology, buildings with their associated gardens and settings, and settlements.

The full extent of the historical physical resource within the Park has never been quantified. The National Monuments Record of Scotland holds information relating to some 4,778 individual sites within the Park as at February 2005, but this is unlikely to represent the total number of structures. These records are not all derived from comprehensive area surveys, and the figures include monuments, archaeology, and other structures. Most sites remain outside the various statutory systems that have been set up to protect the most important elements, but many are still significant.

This section devotes more space to statutory sites because more is known about their number and condition. Some elements, such as historic field patterns, cannot be easily quantified and protection through designation is unlikely to be appropriate. Further research is required to identify and record non-statutory sites.

**Table 3.3.1a: Historic built environment – national records in Park**

Designation	Former Tourist Board Areas			Total
	Aberdeen and Grampian	Angus and Dundee	Highlands of Scotland	
Listed Buildings	247	18	159	424
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	31	2	27	60
Gardens and Designed Landscapes	4	0	5	9
National Monument Record of Scotland	2,824	235	1,719	4,778
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,106</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>5,271</b>

Source: Historic Scotland and The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Scotland 2005.

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**Table 3.3.1b: Historic built environment – data sources**

Resource	Data Source
Listed Buildings	Historic Scotland
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	Historic Scotland
Gardens and Designed Landscapes	Historic Scotland / Scottish Natural Heritage
Buildings at Risk	Scottish Civic Trust (on behalf of Historic Scotland)
Sites and Monuments Record (Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray)	Archaeology Service, Aberdeenshire Council
Sites and Monuments Record (Highland)	Archaeology Unit, Planning and Development Service, Highland Council
National Monuments Record of Scotland	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

#### 3.3.2 Archaeological Sites and Scheduled Ancient Monuments

A large and diverse range of archaeological evidence for past human activity survives within the Park. The vast majority of this legacy remains unrecorded in any detail, and the potential for future discoveries is enormous.

The distribution of recorded sites shows that settlement has concentrated in the major glens and straths. This lower-lying ground is also more subject to change as the result of 18th-19th century settlement patterns, 'Improvement' forestry and farming methods and modern crops and mechanisation. Therefore the potential for upstanding archaeology here is less.

The higher areas of rough grazing and managed moorland provide better conditions for archaeological survival. However, fewer structures are likely to have been built here in the first place. Relatively few structures have been discovered from the pre-mediaeval period. However, there is a widespread distribution of artefacts across all zones of the Park, from prehistoric stone tools in the lowland areas to flint arrowheads on the Cairngorm plateau. Mesolithic evidence was found recently at Mar Lodge Estate, indicating at least 7,000 years of use of the mountains for hunting.

#### Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Scheduled Ancient Monuments are nationally important sites, buildings and other features of artificial construction. There are 60 Scheduled Ancient Monuments recorded within the Park covering six of the seven periods recorded (there are no Roman remains). They include three examples of chambered burial cairns and associated stone circles thought to be late Neolithic; examples of prehistoric domestic and defensive remains such as the unusually massive ramparts of Dun-da-lamh Fort near Dalwhinnie; Pictish remains such as the 8th century Loch Kinnord Pictish Stone; and industrial remains such as the mid-19th century ironstone mine-crushing mill at the Well of Lecht.

All Scheduled Ancient Monuments are assessed against a standard of national importance. A number of the finest examples of Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the Park are in the care of Scottish Ministers. These include:

- Corgarff Castle – a tower house built as a hunting-lodge in the mid-16th century in a





wild and remote location to the south of the River Don and converted into a Hanoverian garrison in 1748;

- Glenbuchat Castle – a ruined Z-plan tower built by John Gordon in 1590 as a mock-military country house;
- Bridge of Dee, Invercauld – a remarkable 6-arch, hump-backed, rubble bridge built in 1752 by military engineer Major Edward Caulfield to link Blairgowrie with Corgarff and Inverness;
- Ruthven Barracks, by Kingussie – prominently sited on an artificially scarped hill guarding the flat floor of the Spey valley, this is the best preserved of the four infantry barracks built by the Hanoverian government after the Jacobite rising of 1715 and is also a listed building.

#### **Trends and Observations**

- Apart from natural decay, one of the main threats to the archaeology is new development in the form of housing and roads;
- Erosion caused by increased visitor numbers and associated recreational activities may have a severe and detrimental impact on some sites;
- Disturbance from land management activities including forestry is also a threat, particularly where the archaeological interest is unknown or unrecorded.

#### **Monitoring**

All Scheduled Ancient Monuments are visited as part of a rolling programme of condition monitoring by Historic Scotland, undertaken on a three to five year frequency.

#### **3.3.3 Built Heritage – Architectural and Historical Interest**

The Park contains 424 buildings which are protected through the listing system and The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments holds 1,409 records for architectural sites.



The two national bodies responsible for the recording and protection of the built heritage, The Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments and Historic Scotland, hold a significant number of site records in relation to the Park. However, these records are likely to represent a fraction of the overall number of historic building sites, and there are limitations to the consistency and quality of the data held. Similarly local authorities' Sites and Monuments Records hold a variety of site information.

#### **Types of Building**

The Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments and Historic Scotland are working together on a joint approach to the classification of architectural records and listed building types. High quality examples of some of the principal building types are located in the Park:

- **Residential** – Castle Grant, a 15th-16th century tower house enlarged and re-cast as a severe classical mansion for Sir Ludovick Grant by the architect John Adam in 1765;
- **Religion** – Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Chapelton, Braes of Glenlivet, built by Edinburgh architect John Kinross for the Marquis of Bute in 1896-1897;
- **Funerary** – Mitchell-Forbes Mausoleum, Strathdon Parish Church, 1829, probably by the Aberdeen architect Archibald Simpson for Mary Forbes, wife of Daniel Mitchell;

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- **Public** – Speyside Home, The Square, Granttown-on-Spey, an orphanage of 1824 endowed by Lady Grant of Monymusk;
- **Farming/Fishing** – Ballantruan, Kirkmichael, Moray, a mid-18th century farmhouse, notable for its panelled interior;
- **Defence** – Ruthven Barracks near Kingussie, constructed after the 1715 Jacobite rebellion to house Hanoverian soldiers;
- **Industrial** – Dalwhinnie Distillery and Bonded Warehouse, circa 1890, with pagoda-roofed malt kilns typical of architect Charles Doig;
- **Transport and Communications** – Broomhill Bridge over the River Spey near Nethy Bridge, built in 1894 by the Kingussie engineer J Alexander Mackenzie, is described by Historic Scotland as the finest surviving timber bridge in Scotland.

#### Numbers of Buildings

In the Park 424 buildings or structures of special architectural or historic interest are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997. The lists of listed buildings are compiled and maintained by Historic Scotland on behalf of Scottish Ministers and administered by the local planning authorities. There are over 47,000 listings throughout Scotland.

#### Building Characteristics and Styles

The area covered by the Park is large, and the distinctive building traditions and settlement distribution were frequently determined by local conditions of geology (materials) and land-use. While it is not possible to detail every local characteristic throughout the whole area, some general trends are apparent.

A large proportion of structures relate to farming and land-use activity. The agricultural improvement of the mid to late 18th and 19th centuries consequently had a significant impact including the enclosure of fields; provision of



Photo: Paul Tomkins, VisitScotland/Scottish Viewpoint.

drainage; amalgamation of smaller farms; construction of new farmhouses and steadings; improved communication routes to carry produce; depopulation of large areas to create sheepwalks and hunting/shooting estates; new planned settlements, enlarged or replacement churches; and enlargement or replacement of old tower houses with new mansions. Such was the impact of the Improvement era that very few structures of pre-18th century date survive, apart from some of the major houses such as Muchrach, Braemar and Abergeldie Castles.

Classical country houses on the Anglo-Dutch model of plain piend (or hipped) roofed boxes are relatively rare within the Park, but the largest and most 'elegantly austere' is the four-storey, ashlar-fronted north block at Castle Grant, designed by John Adam in 1753. Forty years later, Adam's brothers, Robert and James designed Balavil House (near Kingussie) in a more sophisticated classical style for the author James Macpherson.

Until the late 19th century, the transportation of heavy building materials over long distances was difficult and expensive. Consequently local materials, such as earth, granite and quartz, have been widely used, even in the grandest of buildings. Wood was widely available, and many structures including game larders and seasonal workers cottages, such as Mar Lodge and the station at Ballater (1886), were faced in timber. Throughout the area, rustic tree-trunks have often been used to picturesque effect as supports for porches, overhanging roofs, verandahs, and balconies. Following the installation of the



prefabricated ballroom at Balmoral (purchased by Prince Albert after the Great Exhibition), corrugated-iron also gained in popularity. Recreations of 19th century, vernacular, thatched cottages can be found at the Highland Folk Park in Kingussie.

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 whole area, heralding the age of tourism and the sporting estate. The romantic Balmoral style spread through neighbouring

estates, such as Invercauld, where the old house was remodelled with crowstepped gables and pepperpot towers in 1875. At a more modest scale, the villas of Braemar and Ballater also adopted baronial characteristics, together with hotels, shooting lodges, entrance lodges, banks and police stations.

There is a need for improved understanding and recording of the distinctive characteristics and styles across the Park to inform future material and skill requirements and contribute to design guidance.

**Table 3.3.3a: Number of listed buildings in the National Park**

Category	Former Tourist Board Areas			Total
	Aberdeen and Grampian	Angus and Dundee	Highlands of Scotland	
Category A	16	1	14	31
Category B	121	6	88	215
Category C	110	11	57	178
<b>Total</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>424</b>

Source: Historic Scotland 2005.

**Listing Categories and Examples**

Listed Buildings are divided into three categories to identify the level of importance of an individual property. These are described by Historic Scotland as:

*Category A: Buildings of national or international importance.*

For example: Aultmore House and garden pavilions, terrace walls and walled garden at Nethy Bridge. Built from 1912-1914, the house was designed in the late 17th century classical style and was furnished with every modern convenience of its day.

*Category B: Buildings of regional or more than local importance.*

For example: Tomintoul Parish Church. Designed by Thomas Telford in 1826, this building has been altered significantly, and the alterations reduce the interest to Category B.

*Category C(S): Buildings of local importance.*

For example: 127 and 129 High Street, Grantown-on-Spey. This pair of modest cottages, dating from around 1800, is listed for their contribution to the overall plan of Grantown, laid out by the local laird, Sir Ludovick Grant in 1765.

**Buildings At Risk**

The Scottish Civic Trust maintains a database of Buildings at Risk on behalf of Historic Scotland. 'At risk' is defined as:

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

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Table 3.3.3b: Buildings at risk in the National Park

Former Tourist Board Area	Name	Listed	Degree of Risk
Aberdeen and Grampian Highlands	Great North of Scotland Omnibus Depot, Braemar;	B	Low
	Aberarder Free Church, Knockan;	C(S)	Low
	Derry (shooting) Lodge, Mar Lodge;	C(S)	Low
	Victoria (entrance) Lodge, Mar Lodge.	B	Low
Angus and Dundee	None		
Highlands of Scotland	127-129 High Street, Grantown-on-Spey;	C(S)	Low
	Braeruthven, near Ruthven Barracks, Kingussie;	Unlisted	Moderate
	Croft Cottage, Blaragie, Laggan, near Newtonmore;	Unlisted	High
	Garvamore Barracks, Garva Bridge, near Newtonmore;	A	Minimal
	Gladstone House, Castle Road, Grantown-on-Spey;	C(S)	Moderate
	Glenballoch, near Newtonmore;	Unlisted	Moderate
	Glenbanchor, near Newtonmore;	Unlisted	High
	House and kennels, Glen Tromie, near Kingussie;	Unlisted	Low
	Upper Tullochgrue Farm Steading, near Aviemore.	Unlisted	Moderate

Source: Scottish Civic Trust 2005.

#### Trends and Observations

- The use of modern farm practices and machinery has led to the abandonment of a great many 19th century farm steadings and associated vernacular buildings, many of which are not statutorily protected;
- Improvements in access to remote areas have made the more remote shooting lodges less necessary, and a number of these are also under threat;
- Apart from natural decay and dereliction, development pressures constitute a further threat to the historic buildings of the Park.

#### Monitoring

The condition of listed buildings is monitored by Historic Scotland. 'Buildings at Risk' are monitored by the Scottish Civic Trust, although there is at present no comprehensive system of recording and monitoring for buildings at risk.

#### 3.3.4 Built Heritage – Settlements and Conservation Areas

Settlements in the area consist mainly of hamlets, villages and small towns of up to 2,400 adults. Aviemore, Ballater (planned 1770), Braemar, Grantown-on-Spey (planned 1765), Kingussie (planned 1799) and Newtonmore are the largest settlements in the Park. Of these, Grantown, Ballater, Inverey and Braemar are designated conservation areas.

#### Trends and Observations

- Quite minor changes, such as changes in glazing or replacement/repair of features in non-traditional materials, can have a cumulative and permanently damaging effect on the quality, appearance, performance and value of the historic building stock in historic settlements;



- New development is not always of the highest design quality, and incremental erosion of the character of an area can take place through poor infill.

### Monitoring

Conservation Areas are monitored through the local planning authorities.

### 3.3.5 Military Buildings and Battlefields

The Park contains a network of castles and barracks with associated roads designed to control the Jacobites in the 18th century as well as battlefields of significance. Several regiments are historically associated with the area.

The Cairngorms military barracks, such as Ruthven and Garvamore, and castles, such as Corgarff, formed part of a network stretching across the Highlands with its centre at Fort George. The network as a whole has international significance as a unique example of an 18th century military control structure over a potentially rebellious area.

The main regiments of historical importance include the Seaforth, Cameron and Gordon Highlanders. In 1994 the Gordon Highlanders

were amalgamated with the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) to become a new regiment for the north of Scotland – The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons).

Significant battles of the area include: Culblean (1335); Invernahavon (1370); Glenlivet (1594); Cromdale (1690).

### Trends and Observations

- Very few stretches of military road are in their original condition, while the military barracks are now in a ruinous state.

### Monitoring

There is no standard monitoring undertaken in this area.

### 3.3.6 Roads, Railways and Drove Roads

The development of villages and towns brought connecting routes and tracks. These formed the basic infrastructure for the transport of animals and trade. They also allowed the cultural assimilation of highland and lowland people as well as the deployment of military personnel. Through the course of time, many of these ancient paths, tracks, drove and military roads have become the template for the roads and



Photo: Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

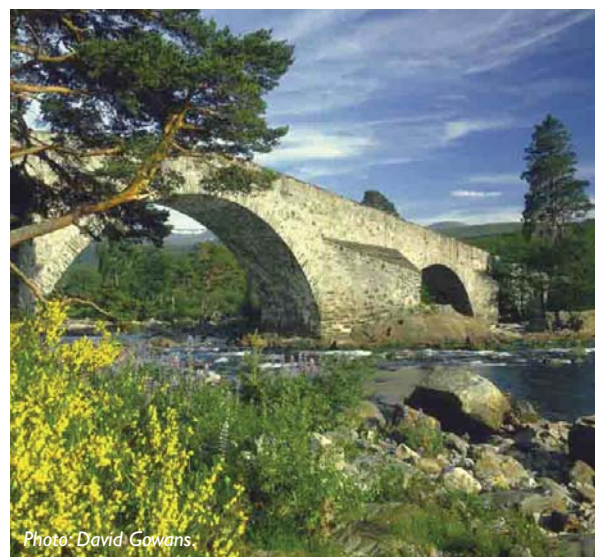


Photo: David Gowans.

### 3. CULTURAL RESOURCES...cont

railways that we travel on today, while others have been allowed to revert to their natural state and are difficult to see in the modern landscape.

Little information exists about the condition and distribution of roads until 1617 when the Scottish Parliament made the justices of the peace responsible for maintenance of the highways which connected villages and townships. Main routes north of the Tay were said to be impassable by wheeled vehicles in the mid-17th century, and local routes were focused on travel across or between estates.

Traditionally used to drive cattle to markets, drove roads are today more commonly used by long distance walkers. Drove roads commonly used include Lairig Ghru, Lairig an Laoigh, Fungle Road, Firmouth Road and the Capel Mounth. While modern roads tend to skirt around the massif, a number of drove roads, such as the Lairig Ghru and the Lairig an Laoigh, cut through the central massif.

In practical terms it is difficult to distinguish military roads from other roads, as many routes had multiple uses. Some are now the routes of modern roads. Very few stretches of military road are in their original condition. The best example is to be found in the Corrieyairack Pass, where the original construction details can still be clearly seen.

Bridge-building has been fundamental to the accessibility of the area, and this is another of the principal legacies of the Improvement period. There is a particularly rich legacy of military and other mid-18th century masonry bridges including: Sluggan Bridge over the River Dulnain (General Wade, 1729-1730); Old Spey Bridge (1754); Gairnshiel Bridge over the River Gairn (1750) and Old Invercauld Bridge over the River Dee (1753).

The introduction of rail travel to the Cairngorms area in the mid-19th century improved the comfort and speed of travel to such an extent it opened up the area as a fashionable holiday destination. Over the following century rail travel was to prove a vital and popular form of transport within rural areas and was of high social and economic value. However, with the construction of modern-day roads and the increasing use of other forms of transport, a number of these were closed as a result of the Beeching cuts. The Inverness to Perth railway line remains well-used, with several stations along the route.

#### *Trends and Observations*

- Some modern roads follow routes previously marked by drove roads and military roads;
- Railway lines which were previously closed, such as The Royal Deeside Line and The Strathspey Railway, have been redeveloped as visitor attractions;
- Former drove roads are now popular walking routes.

#### **Monitoring**

There is no standard monitoring of the condition of drove roads.

#### **3.3.7 Information Gaps – The Built Environment**

- Survey of non-statutory sites;
- Audit of local building styles and characteristics;
- Comprehensive audit of buildings at risk;
- Condition of designed landscapes and gardens.

## 3.4 Culture and Traditions

### **3.4.1 Introduction**

By the nature of its geography, centred on a mountain massif, the Park is a meeting point of several cultural traditions influencing language,



folklore and the arts. At times the mountains have acted as a barrier, resulting in significant differences in areas of the Park. However, historical transport routes tended to connect east and west, rather than our present-day north-south focus. This created important links for trade, community contact and cultural interaction.

The resulting diverse cultures reflect the influence of broader areas beyond the Park boundary, as well as the more local influences of the mountains. Many sources of information and data are not available at a Park level or rest outside the Park.

### 3.4.2 Language

Several dialects of Gaelic were formerly spoken throughout the Park area. This has changed over time, principally in response to external influences with English, Scots and Doric becoming predominant.

The 2001 Census data showed that within the Park, 290 people spoke Gaelic; 649 were able to speak, read or write Gaelic; and 805 people were able to speak, read, write or understand Gaelic. It also showed that the trend of Gaelic decline has almost halved by comparison with the decline of the previous decade of 1981-1991.

Currently Gaelic is taught at Newtonmore Primary School and Kingussie High School. In 2004/5, some 29 primary school children spoke Gaelic, and there were 11 fluent speakers attending the High School. Highland Council records show that there were five speakers registered at Partner Centres, but no Gaelic speakers attending nursery.

The use of Gaelic is therefore very limited and the language must be considered to be at risk in the Park area. Its social value is high in terms of the distinctive heritage of the area, and there are clear links to the promotion of the area's gaelic heritage in the tourism sector.

In a broader cultural context, the influence of Gaelic extends beyond those who speak, read, write or understand the language. This is particularly evident in the number of Gaelic place names throughout the area.

There are other local language traditions within the Park, particularly Doric in the north eastern part of the Park. However, while there are questions about Gaelic in the Census, there are no questions about other local language or dialects. There is therefore little available data regarding these dialects which are of relevance to the Park.

The Doric Festival, which has run for 12 years, is a programme of events in Aberdeenshire (but outside the Park) that celebrates the singing, dancing and story-telling traditions of the North East of Scotland.

### Trends and Observations

- By 1850 English was the preferred language of the young, and by 1870 only the very old conversed in Gaelic;
- By early 1840s almost all the indigenous people in Braemar spoke in English;
- Rate of decline in Gaelic speakers reducing.

### Monitoring

Other than the decennial Census question there is no standard monitoring.



### 3. CULTURAL RESOURCES...cont

#### 3.4.3 Folklore Sites and Tales

There is no definitive list of folklore sites and tales relating to the Cairngorms, and information about the resource is therefore dispersed and diffuse. Known sites of interest include holy wells such as those at Inverallan, Kinrara, Chapleton of Deishar Auchnahannet. Notable trees include Craobh an Oir (Tree of the Gold) in the Forest of Mar, and Craobh na Croiche (the Gallows Tree) of Inverey. Well-known folk tales include the Big Grey Man of Ben MacDhui, The Gallows Tree, The Ghost's Testimony and the Magic Bible.

#### *Trends and Observations*

- With the ongoing Gaelic revival and increasing popularity of cultural festivals such as Fèis Spè, it appears that folklore and traditional tales and beliefs are becoming better identified and recorded, and therefore increasingly appreciated.

#### **Monitoring**

Cairngorms folklore and the distribution of folklore-related sites are not recorded on any systematic basis.



#### 3.4.4 Dress

The kilt and its predecessors were once an everyday item of clothing and are still strongly identified with the area, particularly through the Royal Deeside connection.



There is no separate or distinctive style of dress associated with the Cairngorms. However, Highland Dress is popular at Highland Games and Gatherings and other social occasions throughout the Park.

#### *Trends and Observations*

- The Cairngorms area played a significant role in the formalising of Highland Dress and as such this may be regarded as of national social significance. There is, however, no data with regard to current trends or condition of the resource.

#### **Monitoring**

There is no basis for monitoring dress.

#### 3.4.5 Music and Dance

The Park area has made a significant contribution to the development and popularisation of aspects of traditional Scottish music and dance.

Dating back to the 11th or 12th century, the Highland dances of Scotland tended to be highly athletic male celebratory dances of triumph or joy, or warrior dances performed over swords and spiked shield. Today, Highland dance is an important element of the traditional Highland Games throughout the area.

While music and dance are popular at the regional Highland Games throughout the summer, there appear to be few traditional music or dance clubs. The most notable contribution from the Cairngorms area to the tradition of country dancing is the Strathspey. This slow style of dance, with its characteristic 'dotted' rhythm, is uniquely Scottish, and emerged around the middle of the 18th century. There is a growth in festivals and events linked with traditional music and dance, and a number of organisations involved in their support and promotion.

James Scott Skinner (1843-1927) was a prominent figure in Scottish traditional music. Born in the village of Arbeadie in the parish of Banchory-Ternan he became known as the Strathspey King and took the art of Scottish fiddle music to a wider audience and gained much recognition through his playing and his compositions. Credited with publishing some 600 compositions including The Cairngorms Series, Scott Skinner was an exponent of Strathspeys and Reels.

#### **Trends and Observations**

- There is no definitive list of music or dance clubs within the Park area, and it has therefore not been possible to identify the extent or the current situation of the resource;
- Traditional music and dance is currently popular at Highland Games and Gatherings.

#### **Monitoring**

While there is no formal monitoring of the resource, a number of festivals have been established throughout the Park area.

#### **3.4.6 Games and Sport**

The terrain of the Park offers many opportunities for a variety of outdoor games and sport. The area is a popular destination for hillwalkers,

climbers, mountain bikers, as well as those involved in Highland Games, shinty and curling. This section addresses the cultural significance of games and sport, while their relevance to the visitor experience is addressed in the Visitor and Recreation Resources chapter.

#### **Highland Gatherings and Games**

These have a long history within the Park. Banned following the Jacobite rebellion of 1745, they were resurrected during the reign of Queen Victoria and are of high social significance as part of the cultural heritage of the Cairngorms. Throughout the summer Gatherings and Games take place across the Park on different weekends. They contribute seasonally to the tourism product of the area and are of moderate economic significance. In an attempt to ensure the next generation of Highland Games' competitors, a junior version of the Braemar Gathering took place for the first time in July 2005.



#### **Shinty**

Although now played across Scotland, shinty's roots lie in Badenoch with records going back to the 18th century. Of the 35 shinty teams which are in existence throughout Scotland, three teams are based in the Park at Kingussie, Kincaig and Newtonmore. Since the inception of the game, both Kingussie and Newtonmore have dominated the sport, and it is therefore of high social significance in that area.



### 3. CULTURAL RESOURCES...cont

In an attempt to reduce the number of match call-offs as a result of bad weather, the Camanachd Association has recently moved to a summer season. It is also hoped that the change will allow greater participation levels, thereby sustaining the number of new players involved in the game. The Camanachd Association has introduced a development programme which concentrates on introducing shinty in local primary schools and creating under 12, under 14 and under 17 levels.

#### Curling

Although once popular with estate and farm workers, the traditional sport of curling has faced significant decline over the last 50 years with the reduction in the number of farm and other rural workers and the onset of milder winters (and thereby lack of frozen lochs or outdoor curling ponds). There are currently three curling clubs within the Park at Braemar, Carrbridge and Newtonmore.

#### Hillwalking

With five peaks above 4,000 feet, the Park is a popular destination for walkers of all standards, both residents and visitors to the Park. The Visitor and Recreation Resources chapter contains more detail on outdoor access.

#### Snowsports

Three of the five Scottish ski centres offering formal skiing and other snowsport activities are based within the Park at Cairngorm, Glenshee and The Lecht. The number of downhill skiers in the Cairngorms area has declined substantially since the late 1980s.

#### Trends and Observations

- Highland Gatherings and Games remain popular, attracting locals and visitors alike. The need for a new generation of young competitors has been identified;
- Shinty is also seeking to increase participation particularly amongst the young;
- Curling is restricted by the availability of indoor ice.

#### Monitoring

Participating levels are recorded by the governing bodies of each of the sports, and individual ski centres record the number of ski passes sold.

#### 3.4.7 Crafts

This section considers traditional handcrafts that are relevant to the area and modern craft producers located in the Park. These local craft traditions relate principally to spinning and weaving, while modern crafts are more varied and less derivative of the area.

There was formerly a strong home-working tradition of spinning and weaving in the area, with 1760-1780 seeing the development of spinning machines – the 'jenny', the water frame and finally the 'mule' of Samuel Crompton. The period to 1850 saw a steep increase in handweavers to accommodate the glut of yarn, together with strong resistance to the development of power looms which only gained ascendancy after 1850 in the Highlands. The carder and dyer of wool could also usefully employ his water source for the washing and shrinking (or 'waulking') of woven cloth. Washing and drying tasks were happily relinquished to a local mill, spinning and weaving were guarded in their home setting, but inevitably factories came to encompass all trades.

From 1850 onwards the small Highland mills took in machines and working practices from England which would provide a relatively stable trade for a few generations – until the 1930s, the local mills were widespread and viable. This viability was often reliant on the dual income

derived from farming alongside the mill work and a strong pattern of self-sufficiency. Some small Highland mills grew into large 'vertical' concerns, incorporating all aspects of manufacture. By the 1930s, small mills were dwindling and by the 1950s, very few remained.

There appears to be little or no record of current activity locally or with the relevant craft guilds. There are six craft businesses listed on the Craftscotland website that are located within the Park. These businesses provide a flavour of the range of current activity in the area, including hand-crafted dolls houses, jewellery and pottery. More research is needed to establish the levels of current craft activity across the Park.



Photo: CNPA.

#### Trends and Observations

- Available data suggests that activity levels in traditional handcrafts such as spinning and weaving are low, while commercial level activity appears to be absent;
- A small number of modern craft businesses are active in the Park area.

#### Monitoring

Craftscotland has a database of craft producers by area. The Grampian Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers and the Highland Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers maintain membership records.

#### 3.4.8 Gemstone, Pearls and Precious Metals

The Cairngorm area has a history of metalworking and jewellery-making using indigenous resources, particularly the Cairngorm semi-precious gemstone and the freshwater pearl.

In the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, lead, iron and silver was mined or prospected for in various parts of the Park with few people succeeding. Digging for the Cairngorm stone was popular on Lochnagar and the Cairngorms in the 19th century, and precious stones are recorded in 1795. 'Smoky Quartz' is a traditional gem in the area and was at one time found in the Cairngorms. It ranges from the lightest to darkest of greys, but when it is yellow brown in colour it is called a 'Cairngorm' and is generally faceted and set in jewellery. It has been used in traditional jewellery such as Sgian Dubhs, dirks and brooches.

Scotland is still home to over half the world's stocks of freshwater pearl mussels. At one time freshwater pearl mussels were to be found in as many as 160 Scottish rivers. Today, as a result of a combination of factors, the mussels are in danger of becoming extinct and their locations are closely guarded. The rivers Dee, Spey and South Esk are important habitats for the freshwater pearl mussel.

The modern social value of the Cairngorm stone lies principally in its link to Highland dress, which is of moderate significance. The value of freshwater pearl mussels today is principally environmental.

### 3. CULTURAL RESOURCES...cont

#### *Trends and Observations*

- Surface deposits of the semi-precious 'Cairngorm' are now largely worked out, and local producers of jewellery now use imported stone;
- Pearl mussels are protected.

#### **Monitoring**

There is no monitoring of the production of jewellery.

#### **3.4.9 Information Gaps – Culture and Traditions**

- Audit of local events celebrating culture and traditions;
- Audit of craft producers;
- Status of languages other than Gaelic;
- Recording of local folklore.

### **3.5 Material Resources**

#### **3.5.1 Introduction**

Within the Park material resources are sited at the various museums, heritage and interpretation centres and libraries. They include works such as literature and poetry, written materials, maps and digital and oral materials.

Some relevant material resources outside the Park are held in national collections, and it is not known how much of the overall resource is held in private collections. The location and collections of material resources need further research.

#### **3.5.2 Museums, Heritage and Interpretation Centres and Libraries**

The many museums, heritage and interpretation centres and libraries throughout the area include significant local collections. Together they represent the rich diversity of the social and cultural heritage of the area.

There are currently five museums within the Park registered with the Scottish Museums Council. There are a smaller number of museums which are not registered with the Scottish Museums Council.

Many of the museums, such as the Highland Fold Museum, have elements of education and interpretation built into their design, layout and material available. A number of museums on the periphery of the Park, such as The Retreat in Glen Esk, hold collections of significant and direct relevance.

Local public libraries in the Park can be found in Aviemore, Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore, while mobile library services operate throughout the Angus Glens, Badenoch, Braemar and Strathspey areas. These contain a selection of written materials which have direct reference to the Cairngorms area.

Other libraries which contain manuscripts, archival indexes, maps and photographs pertaining to the Cairngorms include Inverness Public Library, National Library of Scotland, University of Aberdeen (Special Collections and Archives), Robert Gordon University and the University of St Andrews Library.

#### *Trends and Observations*

- Museums in the public sector are not thought to be at risk; however, there are significant risks to some museums in the private sector which depend on volunteers and visitor numbers for their sustainability.

#### **Monitoring**

There is no systematic monitoring of these resources.



### 3.5.3 Literature and Poetry

There is a wealth of literary works relating to the Cairngorms area, some of which are regarded to be of national significance.

Significant literary works include:

- James MacPherson, Poet and Translator (1736-1796). Born in Ruthven, a teacher and tutor who tried to make his name as a poet. Published 'Fragments of Ancient Poetry' and his main works, Fingal and Temora, which purported to be pre-Christian verse translations and were subject to controversy. He became an historian and government propagandist in London before returning in later life to Deeside. Of national significance;
- Elizabeth Grant of Rothiemurchus (1797-1885). The daughter of a landed gentleman who owned large estates near Aviemore, Elizabeth Grant wrote an account, for her family, of the first 33 years of her life. Entitled 'Memoirs of a Highland Lady', it provided insights into life on Rothiemurchus Estate in the early 19th century. Of national cultural significance;
- Lord Byron (1788-1824). As a child, Lord Byron lived for a short time on a farm just off the South Deeside Road to the east of Ballater. It appears that his stay had a profound effect on him and his work as local landmarks feature prominently in several of his poems. The best known of these in this context is 'Dark Lochnagar'. Regarded as being of national or international significance.

Other literary works regarded as being of national significance include:

- The Big Grey Man of Ben Macdhui – Affleck Grey;
- Legends of the Cairngorms – Affleck Grey;
- In the Shadow of Cairngorm – Rev Dr W. Forsyth (1900);

- The Old Man of Lochnagar – HRH The Prince of Wales (1991);
- Gaelic in Strathspey – Neil McGregor (private publication, extract from Transactions of The Gaelic Society of Inverness Vol 59 1995).

#### *Trends and Observations*

- There is no data with regard to trends or condition of the literary resource.

#### **Monitoring**

There is no formal monitoring in this area.

### 3.5.4 Written Records

Although there is a considerable body of written material pertaining to the Park, much of this is held in collections outside the area.

The National Archives of Scotland is the main archive for sources of Scottish history. It holds records spanning the 12th to the 21st centuries, encompassing most aspects of Scottish life. However, it is not known how many of these records relate to the people of the Cairngorms.

Other collections are held by Aberdeenshire and Highland Councils, the University of Aberdeen, the National Library of Scotland, The National Register of Archives (Scotland) and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. It is not known how many of these records relate to the people of the Cairngorms.

#### *Trends and Observations*

- There is no data with regard to trends or condition of the resource.

#### **Monitoring**

There is no definitive list of written records or monitoring of the state of these resources.

### 3. CULTURAL RESOURCES...cont

#### 3.5.5 Maps, Digital and Oral Records

The mapping of counties began in the 1760s when new detailed maps were created across Scotland. A number of factors motivated the interest in mapping including advances in agricultural practices, the enclosure of common land and political stability. There is a wealth of material available relating to the Park area. The value, importance and significance varies on a case by case basis. The extent of the resource is not fully established, with much material thought to be in private hands.

Historical maps of significance include those by Timothy Pont in the late 16th century and Robert Gordon in the mid-17th century which refer directly to the Cairngorms area, military maps of the 18th century and Ordnance Survey maps. Other maps of interest include the Topographical and Military Map of the Counties of Aberdeen, Banff and Kincardine by James Robertson in 1822. Historical maps can also be used to identify past settlement and infrastructure patterns and sources of traditional building materials such as quarry sites.

The origins of Ordnance Survey maps can be traced back to the years following the failure of the Jacobite uprising at Culloden in 1746 when General William Roy was given the task of making a survey of the Highlands. The largest map collection in Scotland is held by the National Library of Scotland. Included in their collections are Ordnance Survey Maps of Counties and Regions of Scotland, Military Maps of Scotland

and Ordnance Survey Town Plans 1847-1895. Ordnance Survey has one of the largest collections of historical mapping in Great Britain.

Digital recordings have allowed researchers to hear and see recordings of testimonies and events, although there does not appear to be a large number of collections directly relevant to the Cairngorms. The most noteworthy is the oral testimony which was collected from 70 informants through the Badenoch Local History Project in the early 1980s. Additional miscellaneous recordings relate to specific topics including the railway, Kingussie Station and the First World War. These recordings are housed at the Highland Folk Museum.

#### *Trends and Observations*

- With recent developments in information and communications technology, it has become increasingly easy for materials to be viewed by large numbers of people. This has revolutionised the way in which archivists and researchers conduct their work.

#### **Monitoring**

There is no systematic monitoring of these resources.

#### **3.5.6 Information Gaps – Material Resources**

- Material resources held in private collections;
- Recording of literary and written resources.