



Cairngorms
National Park Authority

Ùghdarras Pàirc Nàiseanta a'
Mhonaidh Ruaidh

Formal Board Paper 1 Annex 1.7

13 March 2026

Paper 1

Annex 1.7



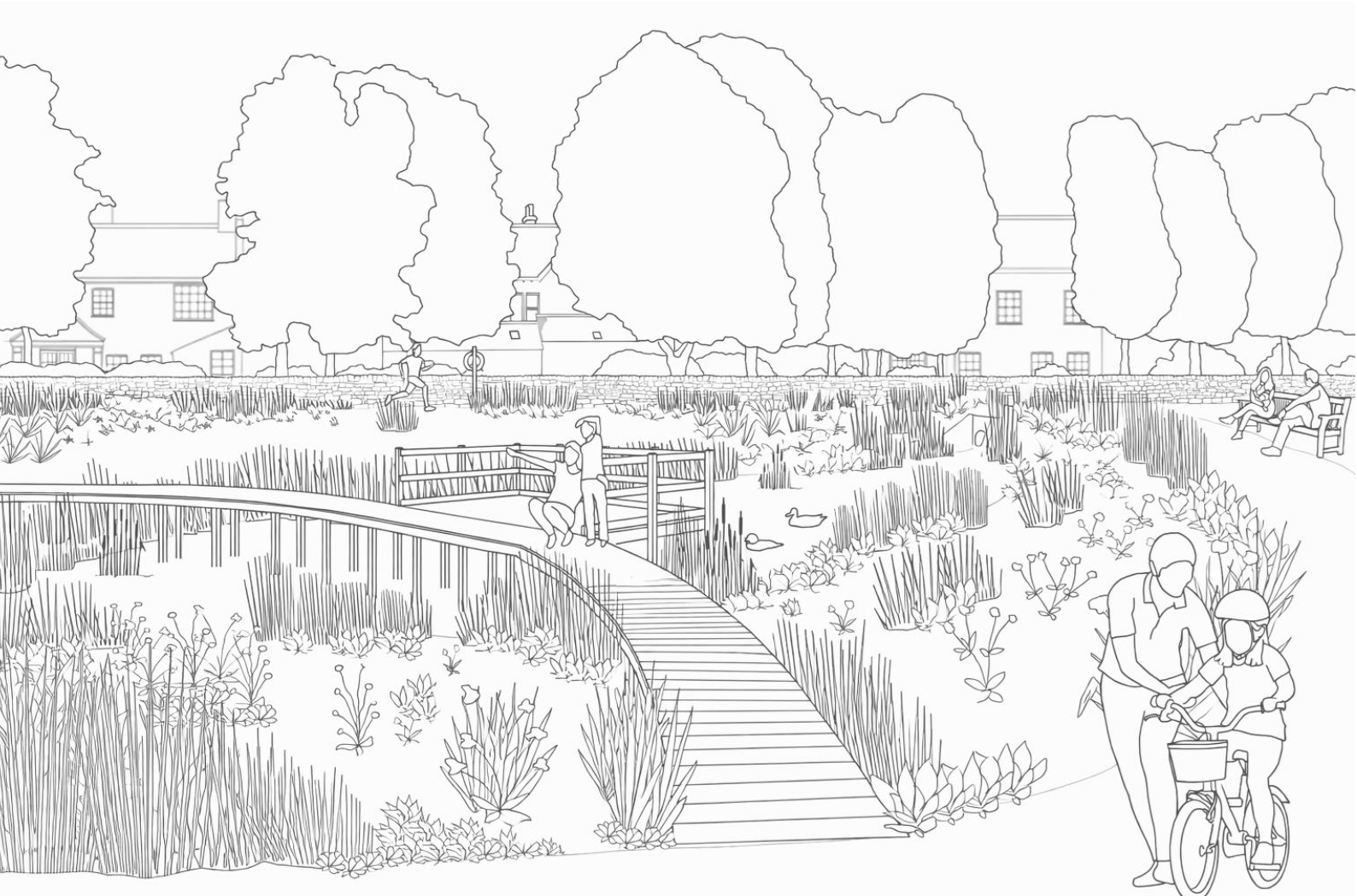
Cairngorms
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Sustainable places

Schedule 7: Historic and cultural heritage

Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan: Evidence Report

March 2026





Schedule 7: Historic and cultural heritage

March 2026

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Requirements addressed in this schedule

Table 1 Information required by the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended (CNPA003), regarding the issue addressed in this schedule.

Section	Requirement
Section 15(5)	The principal physical, cultural, economic, social, built heritage and environmental characteristics of the district.
Section 15(5)(ch)	the desirability of maintaining an appropriate number and range of cultural venues and facilities (including in particular, but not limited to, live music venues) in the district,
Section 15(5)(f)	Any change which the planning authority think may occur in relation to any of the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (eb).
Section 16(2)(a)	to take into account— <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. The National Planning Framework andii. Any local outcomes improvement plan (within the meaning of section 6 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015) for the part of their district to which the local development plan relates,iii. Any registered local place plan (see schedule 19) that is for the part of their district to which the local development plan relates.
Section 16(2)(b)	Are to have regard to such information and considerations as may be prescribed.
Section 16(2)(c)	May have regard to such other information and considerations as appear to them to be relevant.
Section 16B(3)(a)	The evidence report is to set out the planning authority's view on the matters listed in section 15(5) for land in the part of the authority's district to which the local development plan will relate,
Section 16B(3)(e)	Include such other matters as are prescribed.
Section 16B(4)(c)	The evidence report is also to include a statement on the extent to which the views expressed under paragraphs (a) and (b) have been taken into account in the report.
Section 264A	In the exercise, with respect to any land in a National Park, of any power under the planning Acts, special attention shall be



Section	Requirement
	paid to the desirability of exercising the power consistently with the National Park Plan as adopted under section 12(7)(a) of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 (asp 10).

Links to evidence

International documents

- CNPA690 - IUCN Management Categories of Protected Areas

Legislation

- CNPA003 - Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
- CNPA004 - National Park (Scotland) Act 2000
- CNPA719 - Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

National documents

- CNPA008 - National Planning Framework 4

Key agency documents

- CNPA025 - People, Place and Landscape: A position statement from NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland
- CNPA177 - Our Past, Our Future: The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment
- CNPA031 - Historic Environment Scotland: Climate and Nature Crises Statement
- CNPA032 - Historic Environment Scotland Designation Policy and Selection Guidance
- CNPA045 - Guidance on Conservation Areas Designation of Conservation Areas and Conservation Area Consent
- CNPA053 - Buildings at Risk Register Review 2024

National Park Authority documents

- CNPA010 - Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 - 2027
- CNPA017 - Cairngorms Special Landscape Qualities
- CNPA026 - Cairngorms Local Development Plan Interactive Map Engagement Report
- CNPA027 - Cairngorms Youth Action Team Place Standard Tool Engagement Report



- CNPA028 - Cairngorms National Park Gypsy / Traveller Engagement Report 2024
- CNPA054 - Draft Cairngorms National Park Gaelic Language Plan 2024 - 2028
- CNPA055 - Cairngorms National Park Gaelic Language Plan 2025 -2029
- CNPA056 - Place names of the Cairngorms National Park
- CNPA058 - Cairngorms Grantown Grammar School Place Standard Tool Engagement Report
- CNPA528 - Heritage Horizons – Cairngorms 2030
- CNPA681 - Kingussie High School Higher Criminology Students Place Standard Tool Engagement 2024
- CNPA682 - Kingussie High School S1 Geography Students Place Standard Tool Engagement 2024
- CNPA683 - Kingussie High School S3 Geography Students Place Standard Tool Engagement 2024
- CNPA833 - Cairngorms Local development plan place standard tool engagement with Kingussie High School Youth Forum 2025
- CNPA834 - Local development plan place standard tool engagement with the Cairngorms National Park Junior Rangers 2025
- CNPA835 - Cairngorms Local development plan place standard tool engagement with Aviemore Neurodiversity Support Youth Group 2025
- CNPA836 - Highland Council Place Planning engagement - Aviemore and Grantown-on-Spey 2025
- CNPA1104 - Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan engagement - gamification approach 2025
- CNPA1105 - Local Development Plan engagement – Planning Power with Cairngorms 2030
- CNPA1347 - Topic: Historic and cultural heritage - engagement version

Local authority documents

- CNPA046 - Blair Atholl Conservation Area Appraisal
- CNPA047 – Grantown-on-Spey Conservation Area Appraisal
- CNPA048 – Grantown-on-Spey Conservation Area Management Plan
- CNPA638 - 2024 – 2027 Highland Outcome Improvement Plan
- CNPA636 - Aberdeenshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017 – 2027 (website)
- CNPA637 - Angus Community Plan 2022 – 2030
- CNPA639 - Moray Local Outcomes Improvement Plan v2
- CNPA640 - Perth and Kinross Community Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan) 2022 – 2032



- CNPA1091 – 2024 – 2027 Highland Outcome Improvement Plan – Delivery Plan

Community action plans

- CNPA011 - Community action plans
- CNPA064 - Blair Atholl and Struan Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA065 – Grantown-on-Spey Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA066 - Kingussie Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA119 - Ballater and Crathie Community Action Plan 2023
- CNPA121 - Braemar Community Action Plan 2017
- CNPA122 - Carrbridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA123 - Cromdale and Advie Community Action Plan 2013
- CNPA125 - Dalwhinnie Community Action Plan: Looking forward to 2030
- CNPA129 - Laggan Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA130 - Mount Blair Community Action Plan 2013 – 2018
- CNPA131 - Nethy Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA132 - Newtonmore Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA133 - Strathdon Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Data sources

- CNPA029 - Pastmap
- CNPA033 - Trove
- CNPA034 - Historic Environment Records – Scotland
- CNPA035 - Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record
- CNPA036 - Angus Historic Environment Record
- CNPA037 - Highland Historic Environment Record
- CNPA038 - Moray Historic Environment Record
- CNPA039 - Perth and Kinross Historic Environment Record
- CNPA040 - Scheduled Monuments
- CNPA041 - Historic Environment Scotland search facility
- CNPA042 - National Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes
- CNPA043 - Cairngorms National Park Historic Designed Landscapes Project
- CNPA044 - Inventory Battlefields
- CNPA049 - Listed buildings
- CNPA050 - Historic Land-Use Assessment
- CNPA051 - Properties in Care
- CNPA052 - Buildings at Risk
- CNPA057 - Scotland Census 2011 - Linguistic heritage



Consultation material

- CNPA609 - Historic and cultural heritage - Interim Consultation Response - Historic Environment Scotland
- CNPA1340 - Evidence report engagement responses

Summary of evidence

Policy context

National Planning Framework 4

National Planning Framework 4 (CNPA008) recognises Scotland's rich heritage, culture and outstanding environment as national assets which support our economy, identity, health and wellbeing.

The identification and protection of nationally important landscape assets and special landscape qualities are provided in Policy 4 Natural Places with the intent to protect, restore and enhance landscapes and to ensure they are managed in a sustainable way. The protection Policy 4 affords applies to both National Parks and the National Scenic Areas (National Scenic Areas) that sit within them.

Policy 4 c) as two stages of the policy test for managing change from development proposals and has a high level of protection, where development will only be supported where:

- The objectives of designation and the overall integrity of the areas will not be compromised: or
- Any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance.

There are currently six special landscape qualities which have been identified in relation to the culture and history of the Cairngorms National Park (see page 14).

Policy 7 Historic assets and places requires Local Development Plans, including through spatial strategies, to support the sustainable management of the historic environment. They should identify, protect and enhance valued historic assets and places. Protection and management include both designated (Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Historic Battlefields, Buildings at Risk) and non-designated assets. For the latter this includes, the asset, place and / or



setting. Policy 7 also states that development proposals should be informed by reference to Historic Environment Records.

Policy 31 Culture and creativity encourages, promotes and facilitates development which reflects the diverse culture and creativity of the National Park and supports associated industries to this. The development plan should recognise and support opportunities for jobs, investment in the creative sector, culture, heritage and the arts, within the National Park.

The National Park has a strong cultural identity drawn from the appreciation of its landscapes and history. In this context development proposals are encouraged which draw upon this in the temporary use of vacant spaces and properties for creative workspaces and the delivery of public art. Policy 31 aims to ensure the retention of existing arts or cultural venues where sustainable. Proposed new development in the vicinity of existing venues should not impede the full use of these venues and resources.

Policy 14 Design, Quality and Places requires that Local Development Plans be place-based and underpinned by the six qualities of successful places. This policy places expectations of design, quality and place (taking account of the local context, characteristics and connectivity of the areas), on development plan policy. This would draw on Information gathered through approaches including Place Standard assessments and community engagement for example through the Community Action Plans.

Policy 30 Tourism requires the recovery, growth and long-term resilience of the tourism sector, with the spatial strategy Identifying suitable locations reflecting opportunities for tourism development. Of relevance, the strategy should also Identify areas of pressure where existing tourism provision is having adverse impacts on the environment or the quality of life and health and wellbeing of local communities, and where further development is not appropriate.

Policy 31 Culture and creativity requires recognition and support of opportunities for jobs and Investment In the creative sector, culture, heritage and the arts.

Legislation and national documents

National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000)

The National Park has four distinct aims as set out in The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 (CNPA004). As outlined in Schedule 1: Plan outcomes, these will be amended by



the Natural Environment Scotland (Scotland) Bill (CNPA634) once enacted. These are, as to be amended by the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill:

- To conserve and enhance the area's natural and cultural heritage.
- To promote sustainable management and use of the area's natural resources.
- To promote public understanding and enjoyment of the area's natural and cultural heritage.
- To promote sustainable economic, social and cultural development of the area's communities.

All of the aims are relevant to the matters discussed in this schedule. The aims are all to be pursued collectively. However, if there is conflict between the first aim and any of the others, greater weight is given to the first aim (as set out in Section 9(6) of the 2000 Act).

Our Past Our Future

Our Past our Future (CNPA177) is Scotland's National Strategy for the Historic Environment for the 5-year period 2023 – 2028.

The historic environment is considered a national asset which will help to enable local places to thrive and contribute to the transition to net zero. The approach sets out 3 priorities targeting activity to where the historic environment can deliver most benefit to the people of Scotland:

- Priority 1 Delivering the transition to net zero
- Priority 2 Empowering resilient and inclusive communities and places
- Priority 3 building a wellbeing economy

From these priorities a series of 9 outcomes have been identified to focus delivery, using an inclusive and transparent approach engaging stakeholders. In particular for the next Development Plan, it is considered that Outcomes to empower local communities and enhance the historic environment, are especially relevant to the National Park given the strong correlation between the spatial arrangement of communities and historic assets along the straths and glens. The historic environment plays a key role in both the creation of cultural identity and distinctiveness for the communities of place and interest which in turn are reflected in a number of Special Landscape Qualities across the National Park. A number of Outcomes across the 3 priorities are of particular relevance at this stage of evidence gathering for the next development plan:

- Organisations that care for the historic environment have the right skills and are more resilient both socially and climatically.



- Communities have more opportunities to participate in decision-making about the historic environment.
- The historic environment makes a responsible contribution to Scotland's economy.
- Increased engagement with the historic environment, with a focus on activities that enhance well-being.

The importance of the contribution that the maintenance, reuse and adaptation of our historic environment can make in preventing waste and reducing carbon emissions is recognised under the transition to net zero priority.

Key agency documents

People, Place and Landscape: A position statement from Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland

This Position Statement (CNPA025) sets out the vision and approach of NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland for managing change in Scotland's landscapes. Their shared vision is:

'All Scotland's landscapes are vibrant and resilient. They realise their potential to inspire and benefit everyone. They are positively managed as a vital asset in tackling climate change. They continue to provide a strong sense of place and identity, connecting the past with the present and people with nature, and fostering wellbeing and prosperity.'

One of its outcomes is that landscape approaches make a stronger contribution to the planning, management and design of built development and other land uses, and that decision makers will 'integrate the natural and cultural dimensions of landscape better into national and local planning and land use policy and strategies'

Pointing the Way to the Future: The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment

Historic Environment Scotland's climate and nature crisis statement (CNPA031) recognises that the historic environment is part of a just transition to net zero. It contributes to our places, communities and identities and the reuse of historic assets is central to sustainable development. Historic Environment Scotland therefore encourage the holistic consideration of the role that the resource plays in delivering multiple benefits across numerous policy areas.



National Park Authority documents

Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027

The first aim of the National Park is to 'to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area' and therefore the Local Development Plan will have to carefully consider its potential effects on these assets. This is reflected in the following Partnership Plan (CNPA010) objectives:

- B8. Encourage greater use of Gaelic in the National Park.
- C10. Safeguard and promote the National Park's cultural heritage and provide opportunities for everyone to experience and learn about the National Park's outstanding historic environment, history and culture.

In addition, the aim and objectives are supported by a number of policies, of which A4, B1, B4 and C5 are of particular relevance to this topic.

Policy A4 aims to conserve and enhance the special landscape qualities of the National Park, of which there are currently six that have a particular focus on the experience of the cultural and historic assets.

Policy B1 seeks to strengthen existing business sectors, supports diversification and the circular economy and maintains the number of workers employed in the National Park. This has strong links through to National Planning Framework 4 Policy 31 and supporting of delivery of jobs in the cultural and creative sector (also links through to Tourism policy).

Policy B4 provides opportunities for inspiration, learning and understanding through engaging with people, with a particular focus on a number of aspects including the celebration of Gaelic culture and language.

Safeguarding and promoting the National Park's cultural heritage is predominantly delivered through Policy C5, which aims to conserve and enhance the cultural heritage. In turn this helps to create sense of place and identity for communities within the National Park, by a number of measures, including the protection and enhancement of archaeological sites, the built heritage and designed landscapes, with the promotion of opportunities to enjoy and celebrate the cultural heritage of the National Park.

The National Park also has a significant role to play in delivering the policy ambitions of Scottish Government and is pursuing a number of ambitious projects like Heritage Horizons: Cairngorms 2030. Across these projects Heritage Horizons will bring about



transformational change in the Cairngorms, benefiting people's health and wellbeing, delivering on proposals to tackle climate change and enhancing nature across the National Park. Whilst all the projects are relevant to the appreciation of the landscapes in the National Park, in particular two projects have direct or significant implications:

- Landscape and Communities
- Community arts and culture programme

Cairngorms National Park Gaelic Language Plan

Under The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 the National Park Authority has a duty to prepare a Gaelic language plan. This is designed to ensure that the public sector in Scotland plays its part in creating a sustainable future for Gaelic by raising the status and profile of the language and creating practical opportunities for its use.

The Plan contains three strategic priorities (CNPA055):

- Increasing the use of Gaelic
- Increasing the learning of Gaelic
- Promoting a positive image of Gaelic

The Proposed Plan will not have a direct role in achieving these priorities, however it may support them through the naming of sites and through by highlighting Gaelic as a integral part of place within place based information within the Plan. See page 41 for further information on the linguistic heritage of the National Park.

Local authority documents

Local outcome improvement plans

Local outcome improvement plans outline key priorities for each community board area that have been identified through a range of engagement processes and are based on the needs of local communities. They set out an approach to working with and empowering our local communities, enabling them to contribute to, influence and shape locally identified actions around the priorities to achieve improved outcomes for their areas. The five local authorities which overlap the Cairngorms National Park all have individual Local outcome improvement plans (in some cases referred to as community plans).

While the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan (CNPA010) is the source of the vision for the local development plan (as explained in Schedule 1: Plan outcomes) the local development plan may support the delivery of the vision and priorities of local



outcome improvement plans. A summary of issues relating to this schedule for each local authority are set out below.

Aberdeenshire Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017 – 2027

The Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership's Local outcomes improvement plan (CPNA636) sets a 10 year vision. One of two current priorities agreed in September 2024 is place based community planning. While there are no Local Place Plans registered covering any areas in the National Park, the proposed plan will have regard to the community action plans.

Angus Community Plan 2022 – 2030

The Angus Partnership's community plan (CPNA637) has a vision for 2030 that Angus is a great place to live, work and visit. 'Caring for our Place' is one of three priorities to achieve the vision. Under this priority, the plan notes that ANGUSalive and the Angus Place Partnership commissioned the Angus Cultural Strategy which sets out a forward plan and additional support for Angus' local culture and heritage sector as it emerged from lockdown. The plan commits to monitor the implementation of the Angus cultural and sports strategies.

2024 – 2027 Highland Outcome Improvement Plan

Historic and cultural issues are not considered in the Highland outcome improvement plan (CNPA638). There are no references to historic and cultural heritage issues in the Highland outcome improvement plan delivery plan (CNPA1091).

Moray Local Outcome Improvement Plan v2 (2016 - 2026)

Historic and cultural heritage issues are not considered in the Moray Planning Partnership's local outcome improvement plan (CNPA639).

Perth and Kinross Community Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan) 2022 – 2032

Historic and cultural heritage issues are not considered in the Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership's community plan (CNPA640).

Community action plans

There are currently 18 community action plans in place across the National Park (CNPA011). Whilst there is some variation in content and style, all the action plans included some level of community engagement, through a survey and / or workshop days ('Big Conversations'). Most of the Action Plans used the approach outlined in the



Place Standard and the National Standards for Community Engagement to assist in involving the community and shaping the action plan. This improved inclusivity and representation of views and helped to generate a dialogue about what is important in their community and what actions to take.

The majority of the action plans recognised the importance of the local cultural heritage and townscape character and valued them as such. Key factors that are relevant to many of the communities outlined in the action plans are:

- The location of the communities within the mountainous setting and within the scenic Cairngorms National Park.
- Long history of settlement along straths and glens many settlements dated back to prehistoric times.
- Iconic cultural landmark buildings and structures (including Blair Castle, old packhorse bridge at Carrbridge (CNPA122), Glenbuchat and Corgarff Castles along Strathdon (CNPA133), Castle Roy and the Telford Bridges at Nethy Bridge (CNPA131), Dalwhinnie Distillery (CNPA125) and Braemar Castle (CNPA121)).
- Characterful historic centres of traditional stone-built houses, many from the Georgian and Victorian eras (CNPA065, CNPA066, CNPA119 and CNPA121).
- Several planned settlements with strong grid character (including Ballater and Grantown-on-Spey) (CNPA065 and CNPA119).
- Unusual historic buildings, features and structures impart a strong distinctive sense of place and identity to settlements (Ballater Old Railways Station (CNPA119), Blair Atholl watermill (CNOA064), St Andrews Church Braemar (CNPA121), the Old Packhorse Bridge at Carrbridge (CNPA122), the Piper's Stone at Cromdale (CNPA123), the YMCA building at Grantown-on-Spey, Strathspey Steam Railway connections to Grantown-on-Spey (CNPA065), Thomas Telford Bridges at Nethy Bridge (CNPA131).
- Strong links to and influence of the clans and estates which surround and extend across the settlements (including Blair Atholl and Atholl Estates (CNPA064); Invercauld and Mar and Mar Lodge Estates at Braemar (CNPA121); Ben Alder Estate at Dalwhinnie (CNPA125); Grant family connections at Grantown-on-Spey (CNPA065); Atholl Estates and Invercauld Estates at Mount Blair and Glenshee; Clan MacPherson at Newtonmore (CNPA132), and the estates of Candacraig, Edinglassie, Allargue, Tornashean, Inverarnan and Newe at Strathdon (CNPA133) and long associations with the Forbes Family).
- The presence of many drover's routes and historic passes that provide access along straths and glens and through the adjacent mountainous terrain (Wades Road over the Corrieyairack Pass near Laggan (CNPA129), and the cattle market and cattle



driving heritage which was the inspiration for the Catearaen Trail near Mount Blair and Glenshee (CNPA130).

- Long tradition of annual highland shows and games Annual Highland Games and Gatherings (including the Lonach Gathering at Strathdon (CNPA133), Braemar Gathering (CNPA121), Nethy Bridge Highland Games (CNPA 131)).
- Inspiring cultural landscape influencing poetry, songs, storey telling and art and latterly television and film (including Ardverikie House on Loch Laggan featured in Monarch of the Glen (CMPA129)).

Baseline of historic and cultural matters

This section provides baseline information on the historic environment and cultural heritage of the National Park. This includes information on the Special Landscape Qualities of the Cairngorms National Park, the Historic Environment Record, built heritage, such as listed buildings and conservation areas and linguistic heritage.

There are links between this policy area and:

- Schedule 1: Plan outcomes
- Schedule 3: Site assessment methodology
- Schedule 4: Climate change
- Schedule 6: Landscape
- Schedule 8: Land use, soil and resources
- Schedule 13: Housing
- Schedule 21: Economic development
- Schedule 22: Town centres and retail
- Schedule 23: Tourism

The Cairngorms National Park

The National Park is an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Category V protected area, which is a protected landscape 'where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant, ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value: and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values' (CNPA690). Therefore, this schedule has strong links with the information provided within Schedule 6: Landscape.

National Park Special Landscape Qualities

In 2010 work was conducted to identify the Special Landscape Qualities of the Cairngorms National Park landscape, carried out by NatureScot and the Park Authority



(CNPA017). The special qualities identified drawn on the distinct landscape and visual character of the National Park, but it is in particular, how these qualities are experienced and valued by communities within, and visitors to the National Park that make them important to our understanding of the National Park's place and identity.

As well as contributing to other special landscape qualities (e.g. Parkland and Policy Woodland) specific cultural and historic qualities are identified as:

- 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.

See Schedule 6: Landscape for further information on the Special Landscape Qualities of the National Park and their implications for the Proposed Plan.

Cairngorms 2030 – Landscape and communities project

This project explores how communities of place and interest perceive, experience and value the landscapes of the National Park, and establishes these community preferences for landscape change. The current suite of special landscape qualities was devised through the application of a technical methodology by professional consultants. Community engagement on this work was not undertaken at that time. However, this Project seeks to engage communities directly into the development of an updated suite of special landscape qualities (that may draw on the existing work) with a programme of engagement extending over the next 5 years.

This innovative work has significant implications for how the special landscape qualities are presented going forward. Work has already begun considering how to spatially map some of the special landscape qualities, providing a more rigorous and transparent evidence base on which to draw from and in turn to inform the Local Development Plan. This thinking will be developed throughout the next 5 years of the delivery phase of this Project.

Draft spatially mapped special landscape qualities are being tested, which illustrate where special landscape qualities are located, and where these qualities are particularly strongly represented or 'enhanced'. The special landscape qualities include:

- Designed historic landscape features



- Historic rural land use and castles, with strong sense of the past
- Heritage path and bridges

See Schedule 6: Landscape for information on the whole project as it relates to landscape.

Cairngorms 2030 – Community arts and culture programme

This project brings together the National Park's creative sector to identify and develop activities that create a greater connection to our landscapes and foster a sense of place. They will encourage people to get involved in community-based activity and take action to reduce climate change impacts in the National Park. This is an opportunity for the National Park's creative community to articulate a vision for arts and culture in the Cairngorms, and to highlight the key role arts and culture will play in achieving transformational change. This work builds on the Creative Cairngorms project initiated by GrowBiz in 2021, which helped establish a collaborative network for the creative sector in the National Park.

There are no specific implications arising for the Proposed Plan, although some of the projects may inform for the drafting of place based information.

National Monuments Record of Scotland

The National Record for the Historic Environment is a Scotland-wide online catalogue of archaeological and historical sites spanning a variety of media. It is compiled and managed by Historic Environment Scotland and contains information and collections from all its survey and recording work, as well as from a wide range of other organisations, communities and individuals who make available a proportion of the record digitally via the internet:

- Trove, the database element (Figure 1) (CNPA033).
- Provision of a map index to over 320,000 site locations and a related archive of over 1.3m items.
- PastMap, a map-based search facility that brings together Canmore, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings and Designed Landscapes and Gardens as well as local Historic Environment Records and Sites and Monuments Records (CNPA029):
<https://pastmap.org.uk>
- HLAMap, a map-based assessment of Scotland's historic landscape.
- AirPhotoFinder, a map-based search facility for finding and displaying aerial photograph coverage.



The National Monuments Record covers:

- Archaeology – records of excavations, surveys and research into human activity from the Mesolithic era to the present day.
- Architecture – records and images of our monuments and buildings, including their design, construction and evolution.
- Industrial sites – records of industrial buildings and processes and their impact on Scotland’s historic environment.
- Maritime – records relating to Scotland’s marine historic environment, including shipwrecks.

Canmore Records

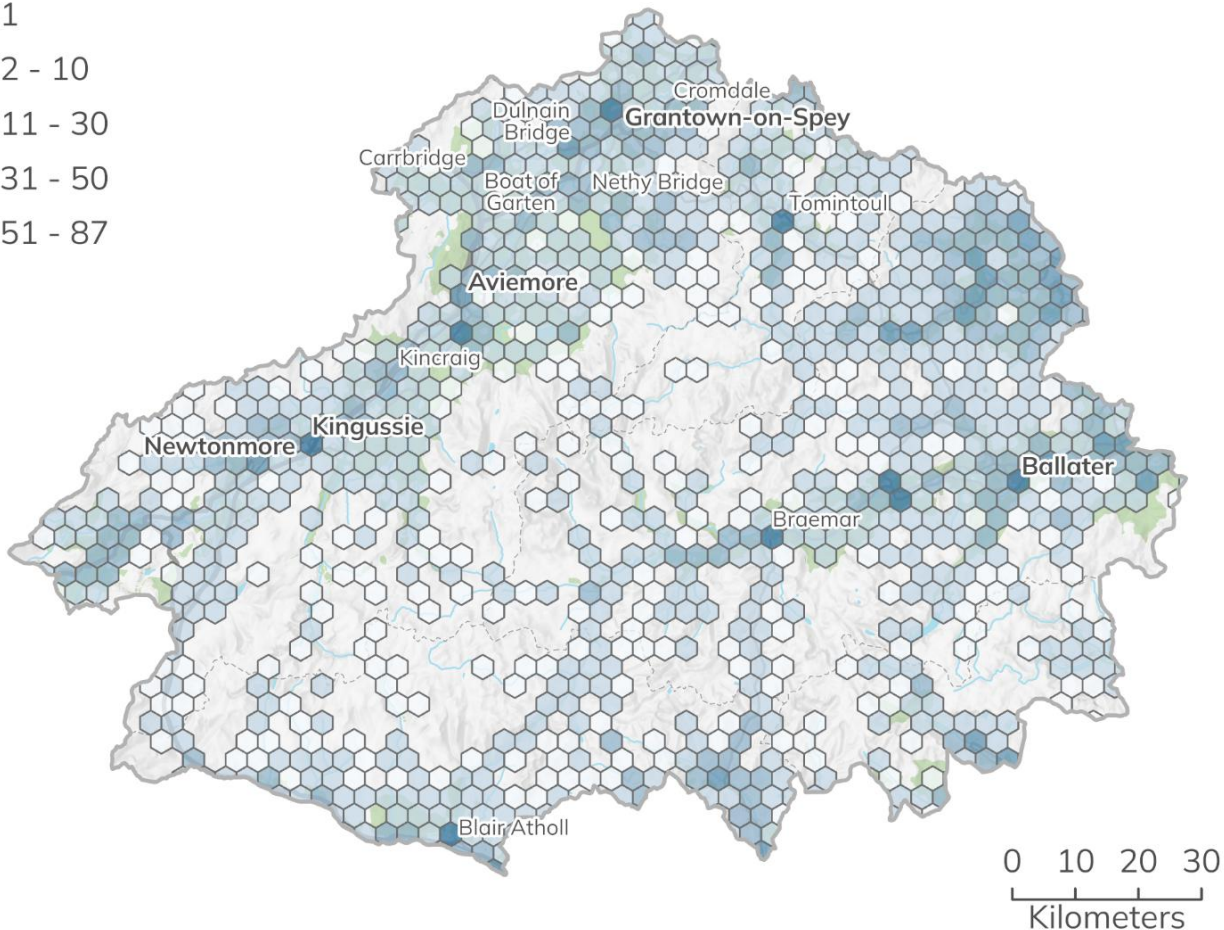
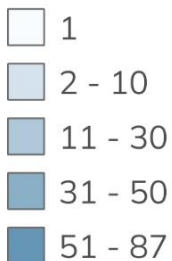


Figure 1 Density of National Monuments Record of Scotland records held on the Trove database (CNPA033). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2026.



There are over 6,800 records on the Canmore database within the Cairngorms National Park. Of these, around 2,000 may be characterised as architectural, 5,000 as archaeological and 200 may be categorised as both.

While Canmore data may provide useful information that can inform the Proposed Plan, it is important to note that Canmore data is not equivalent to Historic Environment Record data. Historic Environment Record data are spatially defined and dynamically curated to be relevant to land use management and historic change over time, while Canmore at its core is a spatial index to the archive holdings of Historic Environment Record in various formats. Therefore, Canmore-derived data should not be used in lieu of Historic Environment Record data for land management or planning purposes due to its fundamental difference from Historic Environment Record data.

Historic Environment Records

Historic Environment Records (CNPA034) have been developed to encompass a wide range of information about the historic environment, including all aspects of our surroundings that have been built, formed, or influenced by human activities from earliest to most recent times. The Historic Environment Records covering the National Park are maintained by the following bodies:

- Aberdeenshire Council (covering Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray local authority areas) (CNPA035, CNPA036 and CNPA038)
- The Highland Council (CNPA037)
- Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (CNPA039)

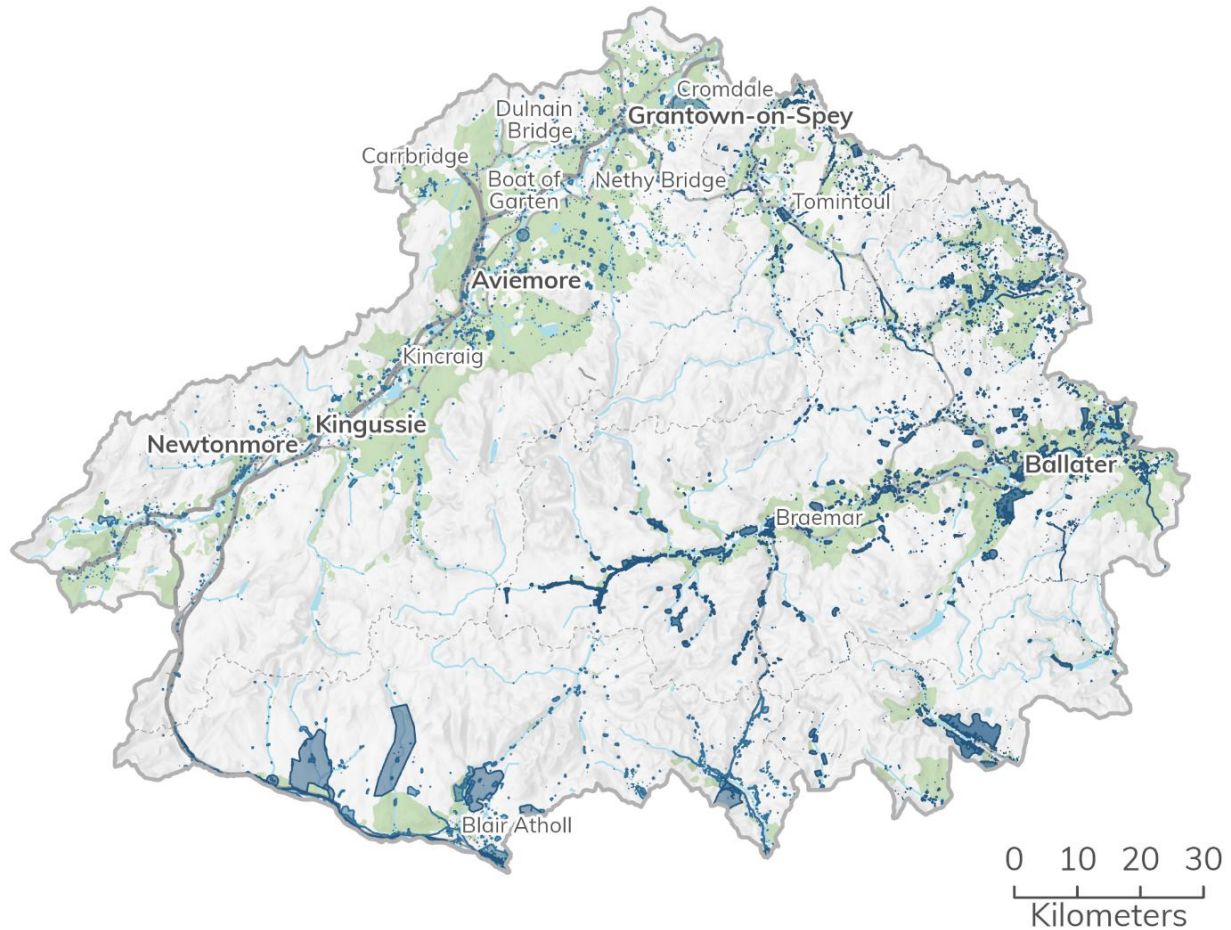


Figure 2 Historic Environment Record sites and events in the Cairngorms National Park as of August 2024 (CNPA034). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810. Contains data © Aberdeenshire Council, Highland Council, Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust 2026.

There are over 15,300 records within the Cairngorms National Park, encompassing both site¹ and event² data types (Figure 2). These records will help inform the preparation of the Proposed Plan, in particular through the site assessment process and the drafting of place based information.

¹ Known locations and extents of archaeological monuments, features, historic buildings, and findspots, as well as Areas of Archaeological Interest; places known, or likely, to be particularly rich in archaeological features etc.

² Archaeological investigations and excavations, historic building surveys, environmental impact assessments etc.



Historic land-use assessments

Historic Environment Scotland has provided a Scotland-wide view of land-use in modern and past times, called the Historic land use map. The work relevant to the Cairngorms depicts how the landscape has changed over time, enabling an understanding of the elements of the historic environment (Figure 3 and Figure 4) (CNPA050).

Within the National Park, as expected layers of historic land-use are focussed along the straths, in particular Strathspey, Deeside, Strathdon and Glenbuchat, and Strath Avon and Glenlivet. Narrow linear mosaics of land-use change also extend up the Angus Glens to the south.

The Assessment reflects that much of the major areas of change along the Strath are associated with more contemporary change from managed and plantation woodland and commercial forestry. Greater historic diversity stems from the planned settlements, designed landscapes, routes and agricultural patterns, that are captured in the special landscape qualities and Identity of the straths.

Typically, the extent and range of land uses can be related back to the size (in particular width) of the straths and glens that extend into and across the Cairngorms and the estates that own the land. This creates an intimacy of historic character along these narrow landscapes, that contrast markedly with the extensive open tracts of relatively uniform character of plateau and mountainous uplands. Spanning between these two extremes, typically on the enclosing slopes to the glens and straths are blocks of plantation forestry and woodland, interspersed with irregular pockets of managed woodland.

Most of the smaller narrower dead-end glens (the Angus Glens to the south and tributary glens off the large straths of the rivers Spey, Dee and Don) comprise primarily a mosaic of rectilinear fields and farms on the flatter glen floors and strath, with pockets of rough grazing on the immediate lower slopes. Further pockets of rough grazing extent further up and into the more hidden remote part of the glens.

Where the glens begin to widen out at Glen Garry and the upper heads of Deeside and Donside, this mosaic is interspersed with unenclosed improved pasture and from the 19th century small holdings, adding to the variety and richness of land use.

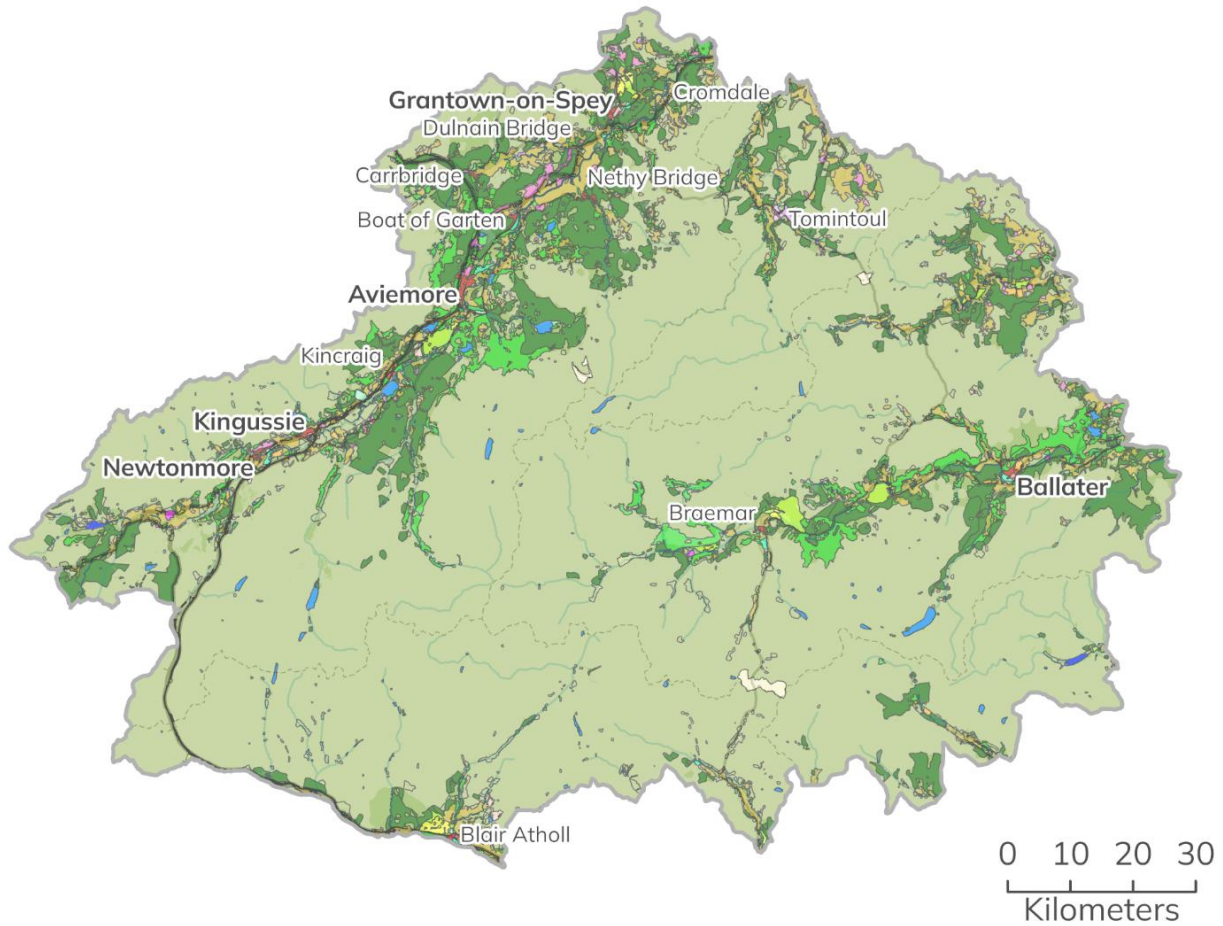


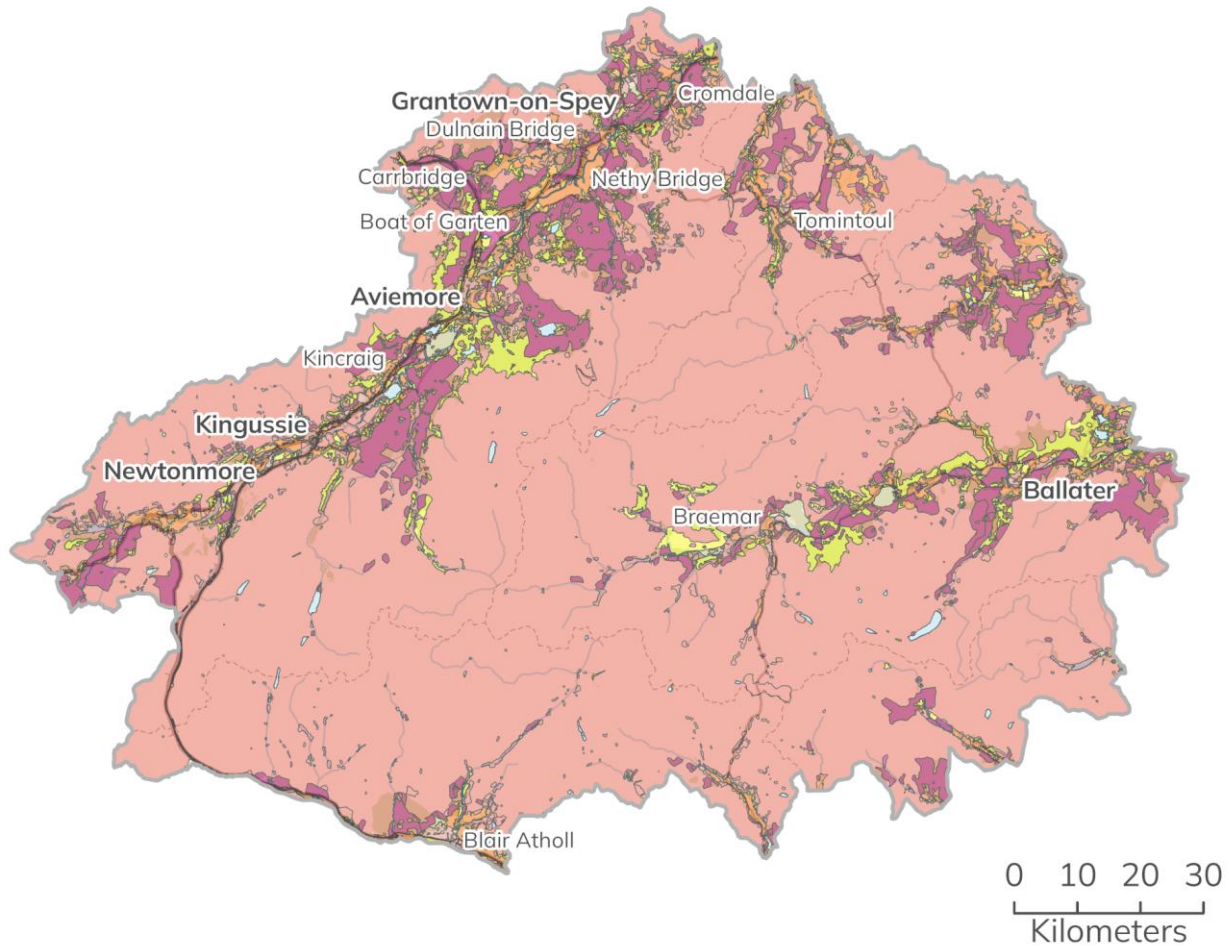
Figure 3 Type of historic land use according to the Historic land-use assessment (CNPA050). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2026.

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Type of historic land use

 Agricultural planned village	 Major roads
 Airfield	 Opencast site
 Canal features	 Planned rectilinear fields and farms
 Cemetery	 Planned village allotments
 Commercial peat extraction	 Plantation
 Country park	 Power generation
 Crofting township	 Quarry
 Cultivated former parkland	 Railway features
 Deer lawn	 Recreation area
 Designed landscape	 Rectilinear fields and farms
 Freshwater area	 Reservoir
 Golf course	 Restored agricultural land
 Holdings	 Rough grazing
 Industrial or commercial area	 Ski area
 Industrial planned village	 Smallholdings
 Industrial-scale farming unit	 Sub-rectangular fields and farms
 Managed woodland	 Summer huts
 Medieval town	 Traditional peat cutting
 Medieval village	 Unenclosed improved pasture
 Medieval / post-medieval curvilinear-shaped fields	 Urban area



Period of historic land use

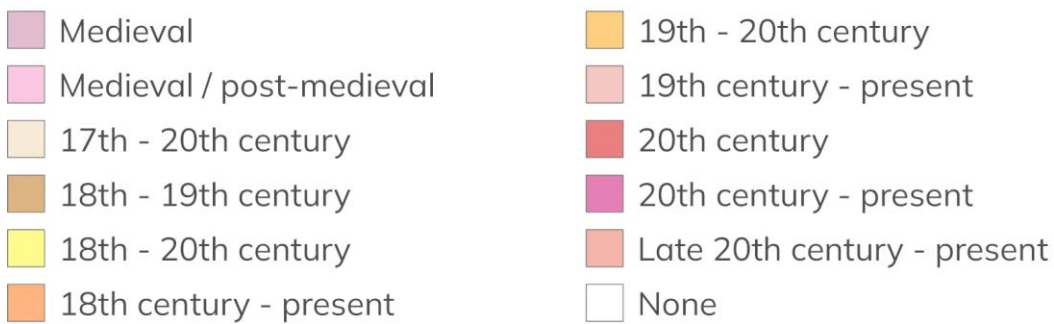


Figure 4 Historic land use period according to the Historic land-use assessment (CNPA050). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2026.



The association of more varied landcover in the larger and wider Strath Spey and Deeside, is interspersed with a wider variety of land use, surrounding the larger settlements. Planned Agricultural Villages established between the late 1700s and early 1800s including Newtonmore and Kingussie in Strath Spey and Ordie and Ballater in Deeside as well as the settlement of Strathdon are surrounded by these various types of pasture and rough grazing as well as having Planned Village Allotments for growing food.

Designed landscapes both larger including those along Deeside and the Doune of Rothiemurchus near Aviemore, and smaller provide important wooded settings to adjacent settlements as well as richness and diversity of landcover and pattern. Whilst not typically associated with the Cairngorms, several small pockets of crofting township land use exist at locations including Newtonmore and Skye of Curr.

The assessment provides useful contextual information for informing the preparation of the Proposed Plan, in particular through the drafting of place based information.

Scheduled Monuments

Scheduled Monuments (Figure 5) (CNPA040 and CNPA041) are nationally important sites, buildings and other features of artificial construction given legal protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (CNPA719). There are 110 scheduled monuments recorded within the National Park 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 remain such as the aforementioned Dunda-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.

This information will inform the preparation of the Proposed Plan, particularly through the site assessment process.



Scheduled monuments

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

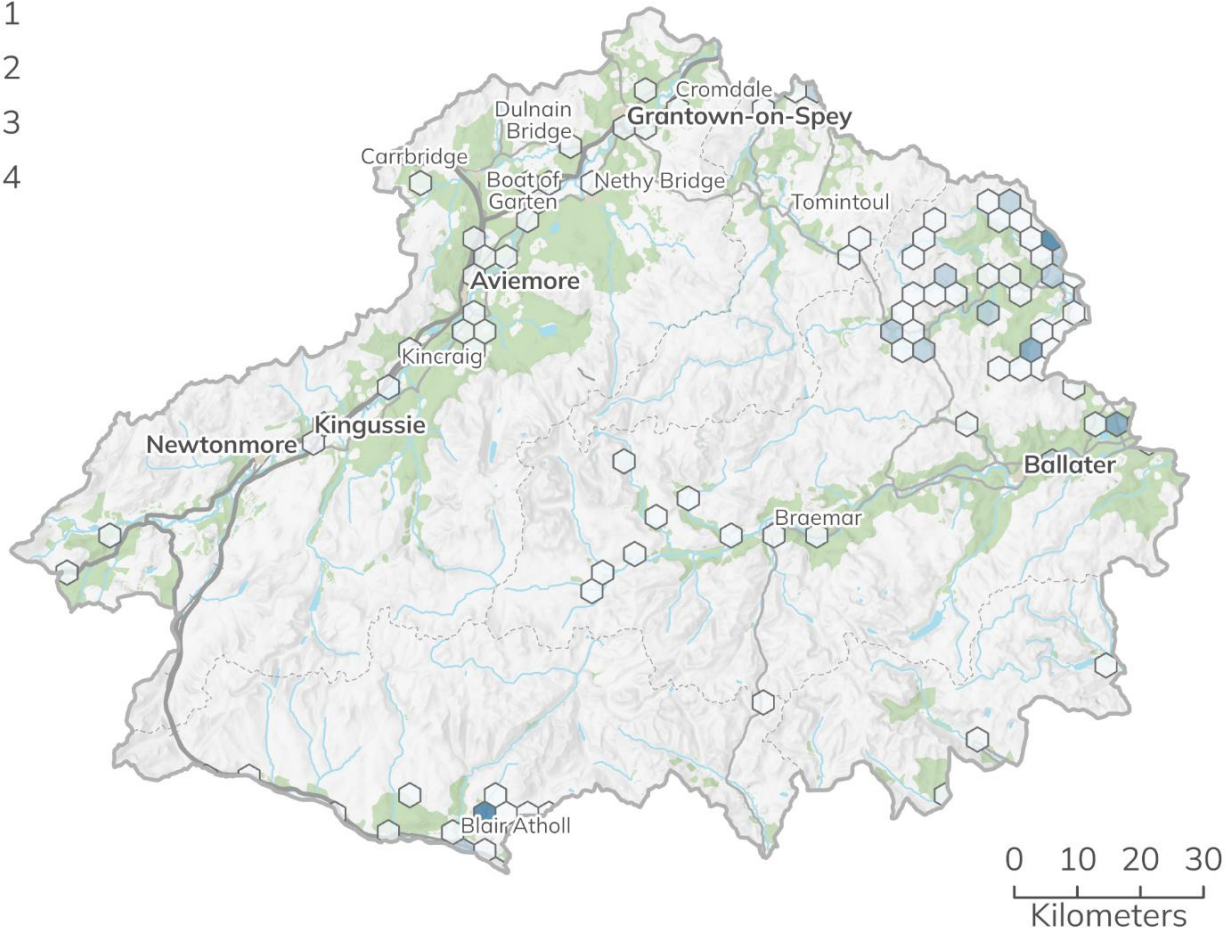


Figure 5 Density of Scheduled Monuments within the Cairngorms National Park (CNPA040 and CNPA041). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2026.

Gardens and Designed Landscapes

Designed gardens and landscapes (Figure 6) form a relatively small part of the Cairngorms 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, drives and approaches, architectural features, statuary and vistas.



'The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland' (CNPA042), which is maintained by Historic Environment Scotland, lists 10 gardens and designed landscapes within the National Park:

Aberdeenshire

- Balmoral Castle
- Candacraig House
- Glen Tanar
- Invercauld

Highland

- Aultmore
- Castle Grant
- Doune of Rothiemurchus
- Kinrara

Perth and Kinross

- Blair Castle
- Falls of Bruar

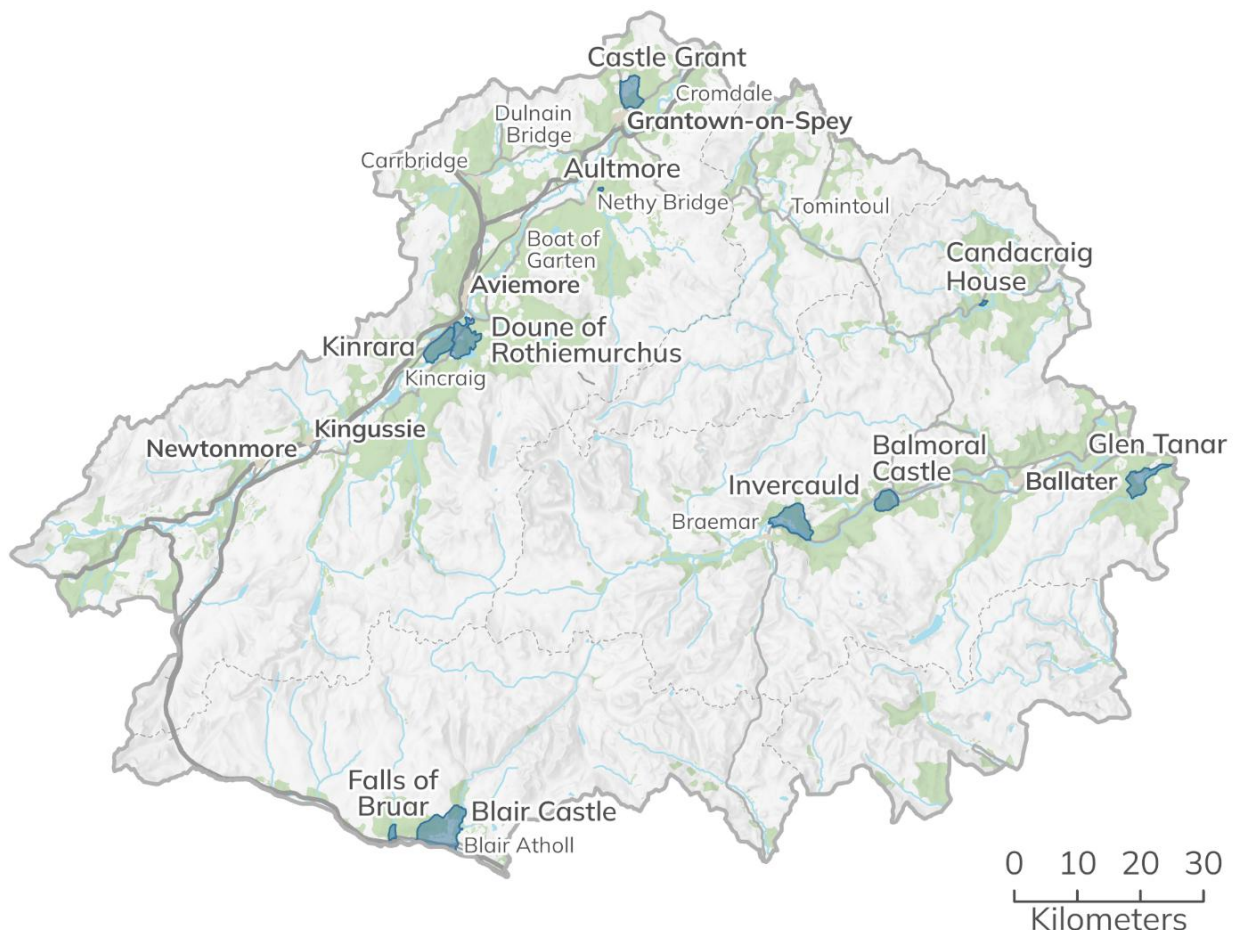


Figure 6 Inventory gardens and designed landscapes within the Cairngorms National Park (CNPA042). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2026.

The inventory is a list of sites that meet the criteria for defining national importance. The effect of proposed development on a garden or designed landscape is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications (whether the proposed



development is within the garden or designed landscape, or outside its boundary but proximal to it).

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 (Figure 7) (CNPA043) identifies 33 historic and designed landscapes within the National Park and provides information about the history and context of each.

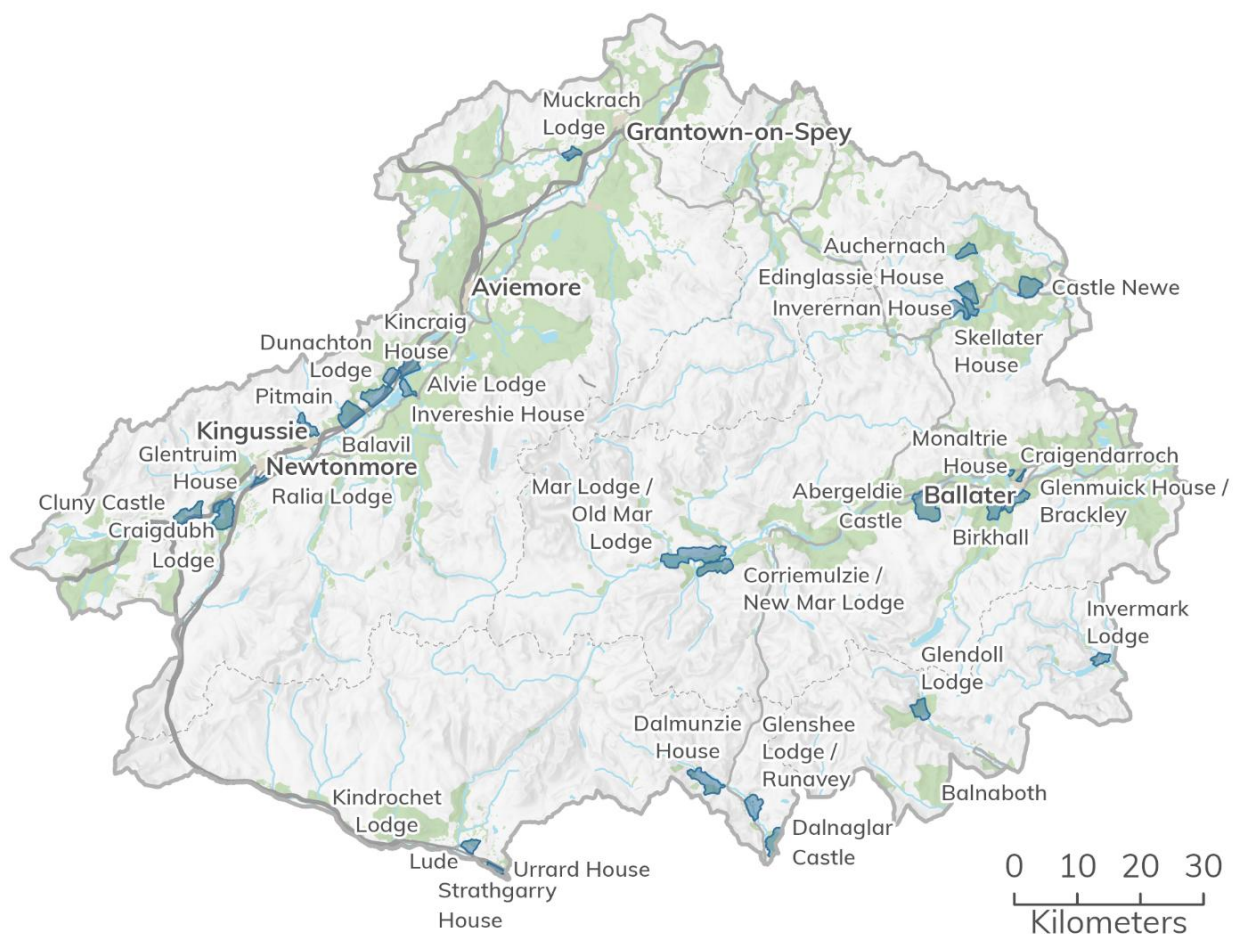


Figure 7 Location of designed Landscape identified through the Cairngorms National Park Historic Designed Landscape Project (CNPA043). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.

Although not statutory designations and localised in their influence, these designed landscapes can be seen to make a significant contribution to landscape character through their buildings, policy woodlands, parkland, surrounding plantations and fields, and in turn the rich diversity of the special landscape qualities, especially within the straths and glens. 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 for example at 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.

This information will inform the preparation of the Proposed Plan, particularly through the site assessment process.

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.

There are two battlefields identified on the Inventory of Historic Battlefields (CNPA044) within the National Park (Figure 8):

- The site of the battle of Cromdale on 1st May 1690, Highland.
- The site of the battle of Killiecrankie on 27th July 1689 in Perth and Kinross.

It should be noted that not all battlefields within the National Park are listed in the Inventory, with the sites of the Battle of Invernavon (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 Historic Environment Scotland's Designation and Selection Guidance 2019 (CNPA032). 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. This information will therefore inform the preparation of the Proposed Plan, particularly through the site assessment process and the drafting of place based information.

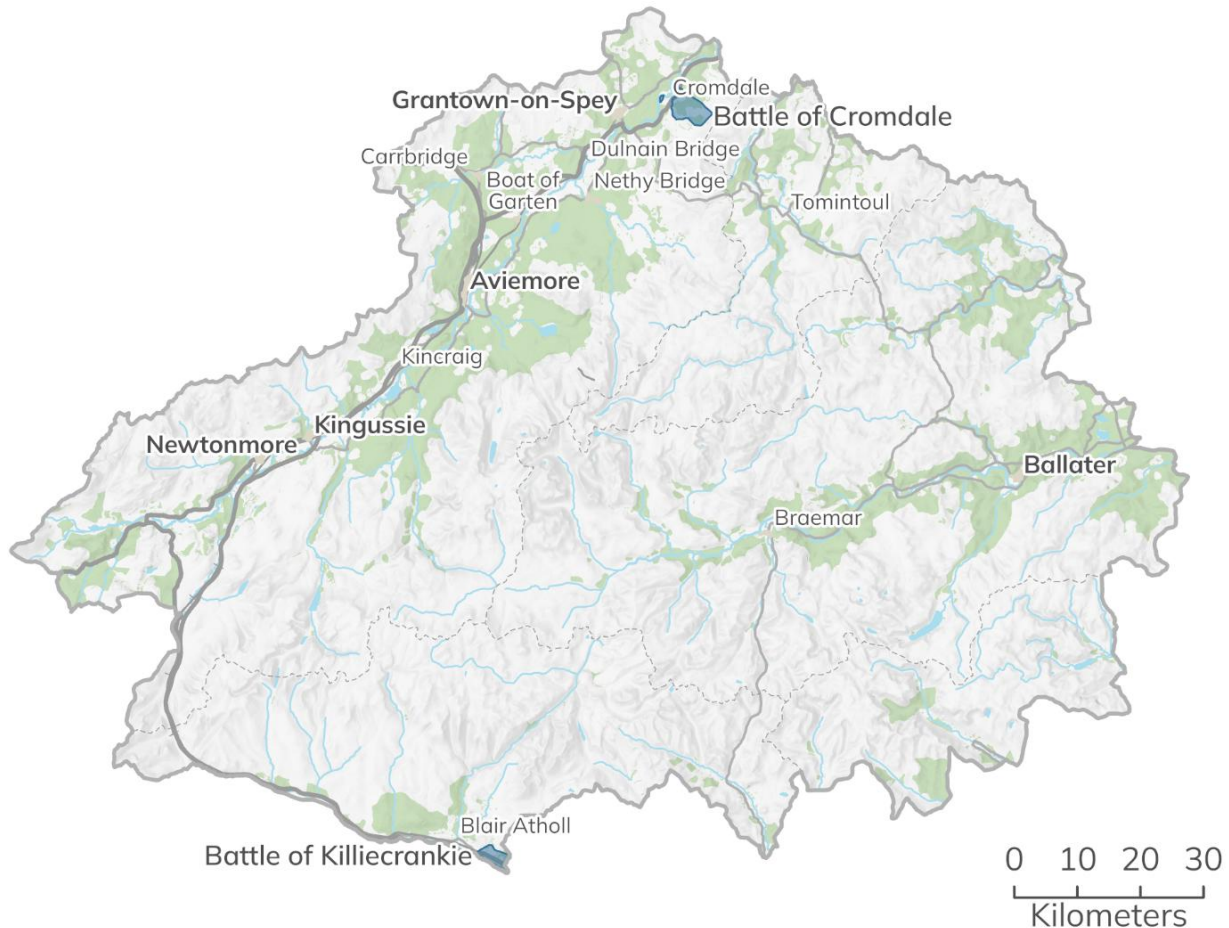


Figure 8 Inventory battlefields within the Cairngorms National Park (CNPA044). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2026.

Planned towns and conservation areas

Planned towns are a feature of 18th and 19th century Scotland and the National Park contains 5 of importance: Ballater, Blair Atholl, Tomintoul, Granttown-on-Spey and Kingussie.

Town plans were drawn up and often specified the type of house that the landowner wished to encourage, which create a distinctive architectural style and character to these settlements. Comparatively spacious permanent houses built of local stone with slated roofs, glazed windows and usually comprising a single story with attic. Of particular note the dwellings were all placed within a rational and carefully thought-out street plan, with attention given to outdoor market areas and access. This formal planned structure is in direct contrast to the ad hoc, dark single-storey, single-roof



dwelling made from turf or rubble with a thatched roof, that would have been more typical in villages at this time.

Tomintoul, Grantown on Spey and Kingussie in particular, were planned as market towns, with a purpose designed wider street-scape, for the surplus food that resulted from the increasing productivity on the surrounding farms.

Parts of Ballater (Figure 11), Grantown on Spey (Figure 10) and Blair Atholl (Figure 14) have been designated as Conservation Areas (Figure 9), which are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 (CNPA045). The National Park also has a further two Conservation Areas within its boundary at Braemar (Figure 12) and Inverey (Figure 13). Only Grantown-on-Spey and Blair Atholl have conservation area appraisals (CNPA046 And CNPA047) and Grantown-on-Spey conservation area also has a management plan (CNPA048).

This information will inform the preparation of the Proposed Plan, particularly through the site assessment process and in the drafting of place based information.

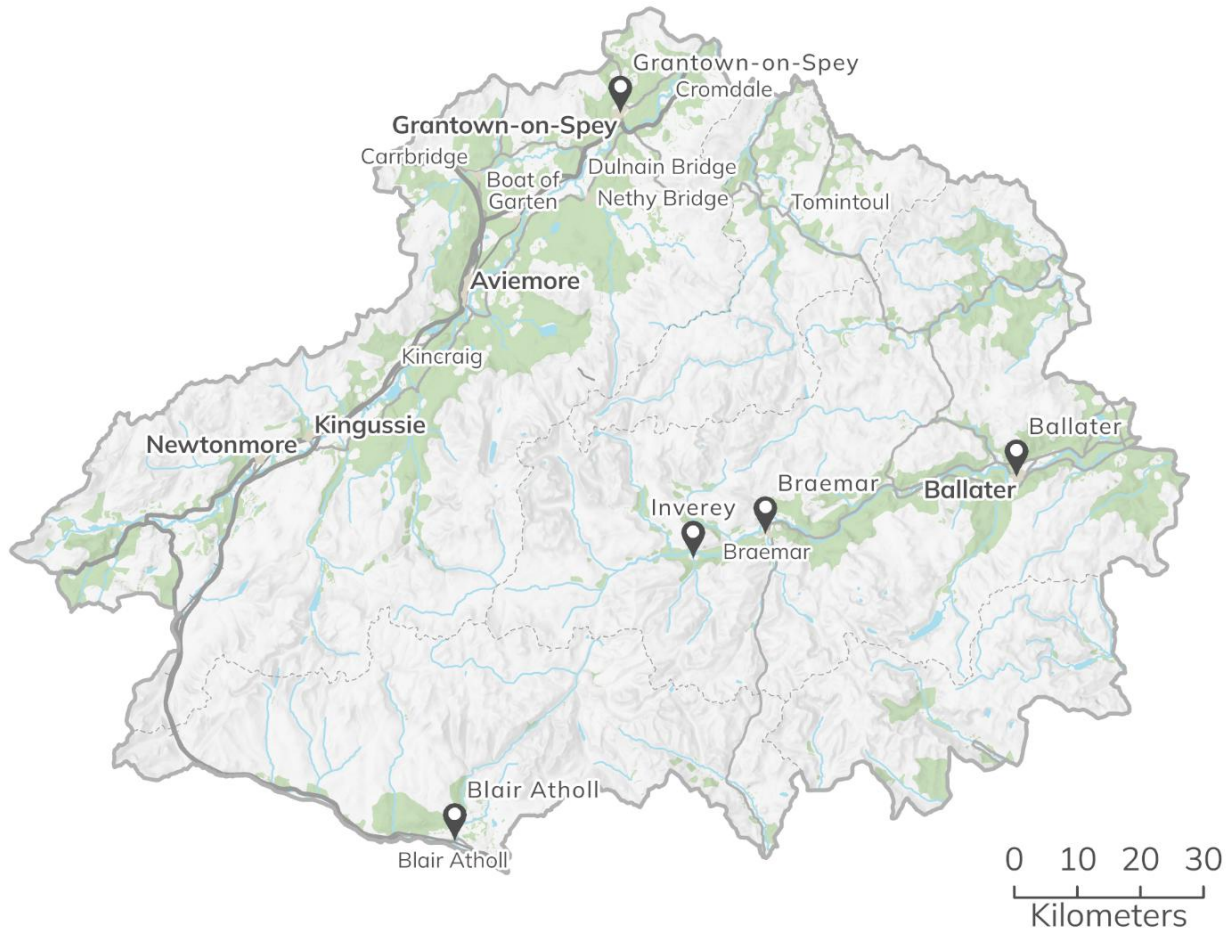


Figure 9 Location of Conservation Areas within the Cairngorms National Park. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2026.

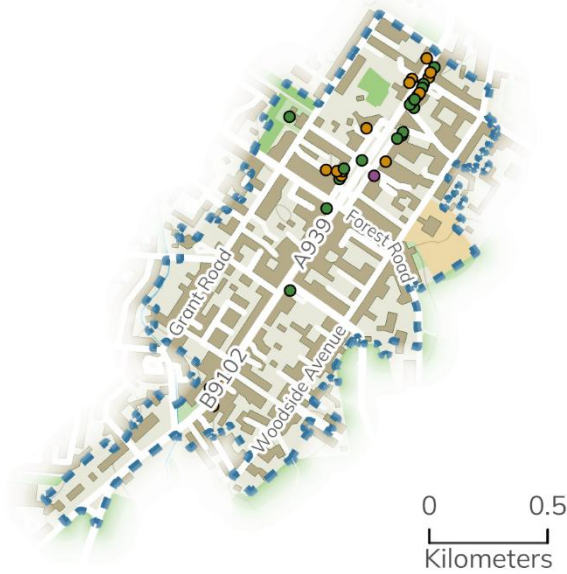


Figure 10 Granttown-on-Spey Conservation Area.

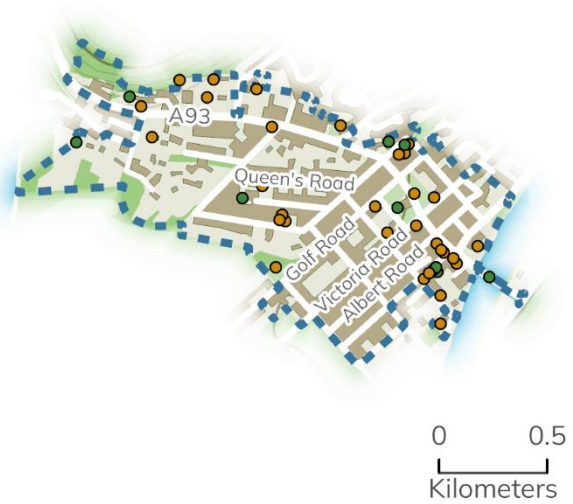


Figure 11 Ballater Conservation Area.



Figure 12 Braemar Conservation Area.

- Conservation area boundary
- Category A listed building
- Category B listed building
- Category C listed building

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Figure 13 Inverey Conservation Area.



Figure 14 Blair Atholl Conservation Area.

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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.



Listed Buildings

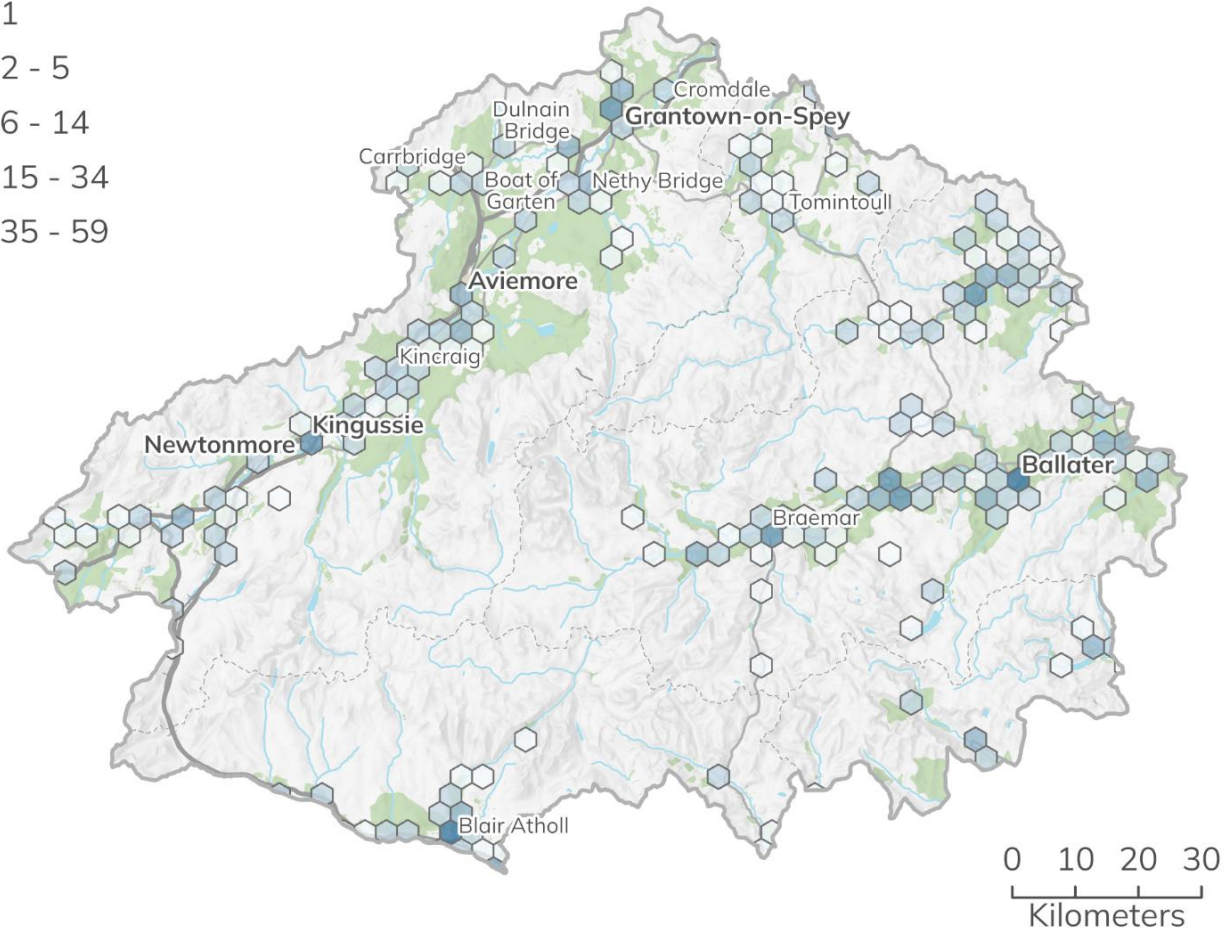
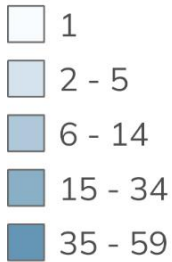


Figure 15 Concentration of Listed Buildings within the Cairngorms National Park (CNPA049). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2026.

The National Park contains 595 buildings or structures of special historic or architectural interest (CNPA049), which are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 (Figure 15); 40 of these are within Category A (Figure 16), 258 in Category B and 297 in Category C. The size of the National Park means that it is home to several 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.

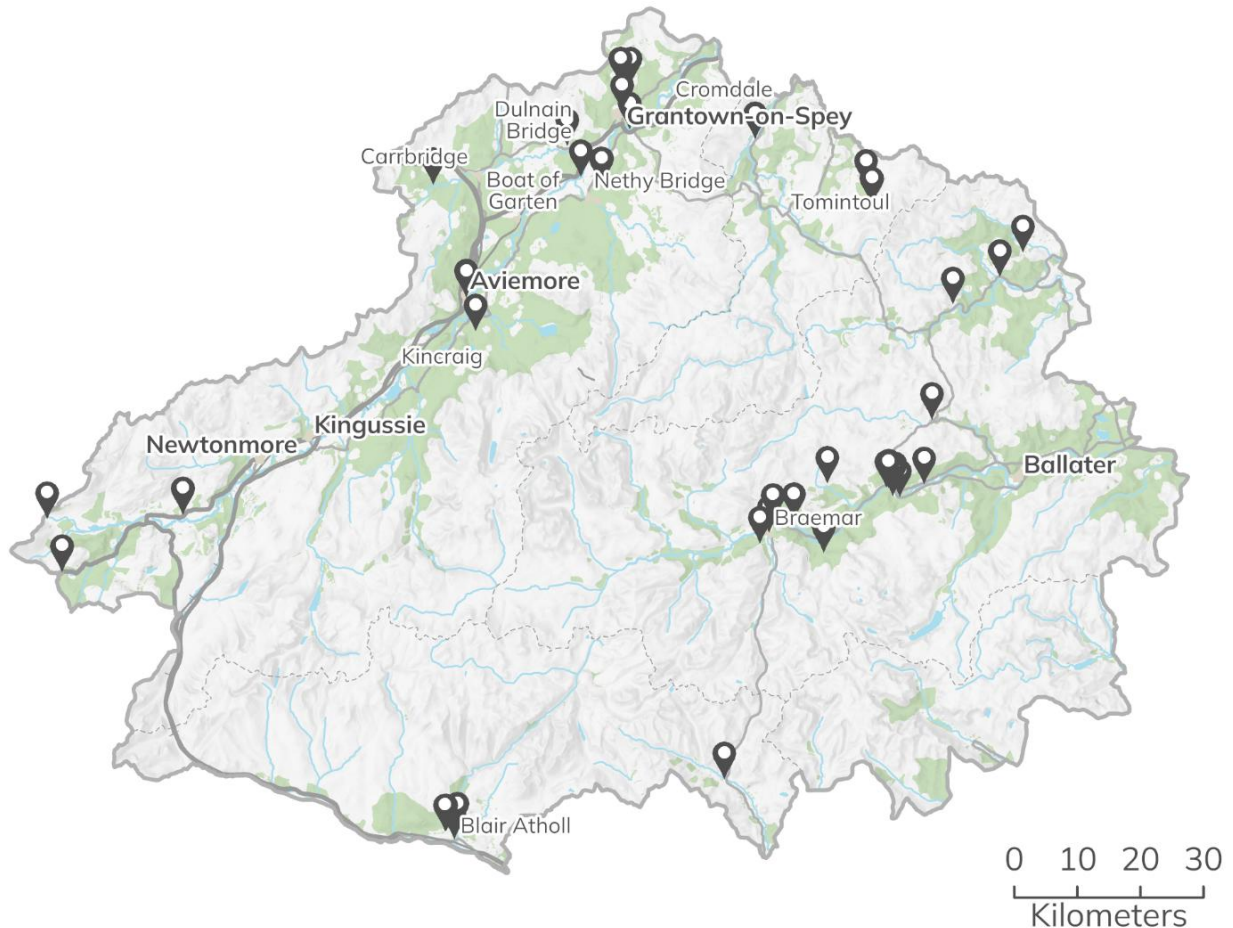


Figure 16 Location of Category A Listed Buildings within the Cairngorms National Park (CNPA049). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2026.

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.

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 Granttown on Spey and the 1790-96 Balavil House near Kingussie.



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 led 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.

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.

There is a pressure to adapt certain historic and listed buildings and structures to support their continued use. These include:

- Network Rail are seeking to make their train stations accessible, which would involve the removal of metal lattice footbridges at two listed stations in the National Park, Aviemore (Category A) and Kingussie (Category B).
- The estate review by the Church of Scotland will likely lead to a number of buildings, not all of which will be listed, being disposed of as set out in the emerging presbytery plans. This provides challenges and opportunities for the communities within which they sit.
- The significant number of cases for the conversion of old buildings, not all of which will be listed, to holiday lets, reflecting the significant role of tourism in the National Park's economy.
- The pressures to significantly extend existing old buildings particularly in rural areas in the National Park.
- The need to upgrade and / or retrofit listed buildings with the aim of improving energy efficiency and climate resilience.
- Proposals for the demolition of both listed and unlisted buildings in conservation areas which are of interest or contribute positively to the character of the conservation area. This is contrary to the policy direction from National Planning Framework 4 on repair and reuse taking priority with demolition seen as a last option.



While these pressures provide challenges, it is recognised that the maintenance, reuse and adaptation of listed buildings, and more broadly the historic environment as whole, can make an important contribution to sustainable development, the reduction and prevention of waste and the reduction of carbon in the transition to net zero.

This information will inform the preparation of the Proposed Plan, particularly through the site assessment process and in the drafting of place based information.

Properties in care

This dataset presents the collection of monuments within the National Park, brought into care for their long-term preservation and public benefit (CNPA051). The portfolio of monument, which define significant aspects of Scotland's history are managed by Historic Environment Scotland, on behalf of the Scottish Ministers. Within the National Park there are 5 such properties in care (Figure 17), all of which form prominent foci and impart a strong sense of place in the local landscape:

- Glenbuchat Castle, Strathdon
- Corgarff Castle, Upper Strathdon
- Ruthven Barracks, Strathspey
- Old Brig O' Dee, Deeside
- Knock Castle, Ballater, Deeside

This information will inform the preparation of the Proposed Plan, particularly through the site assessment process and in the drafting of place based information.

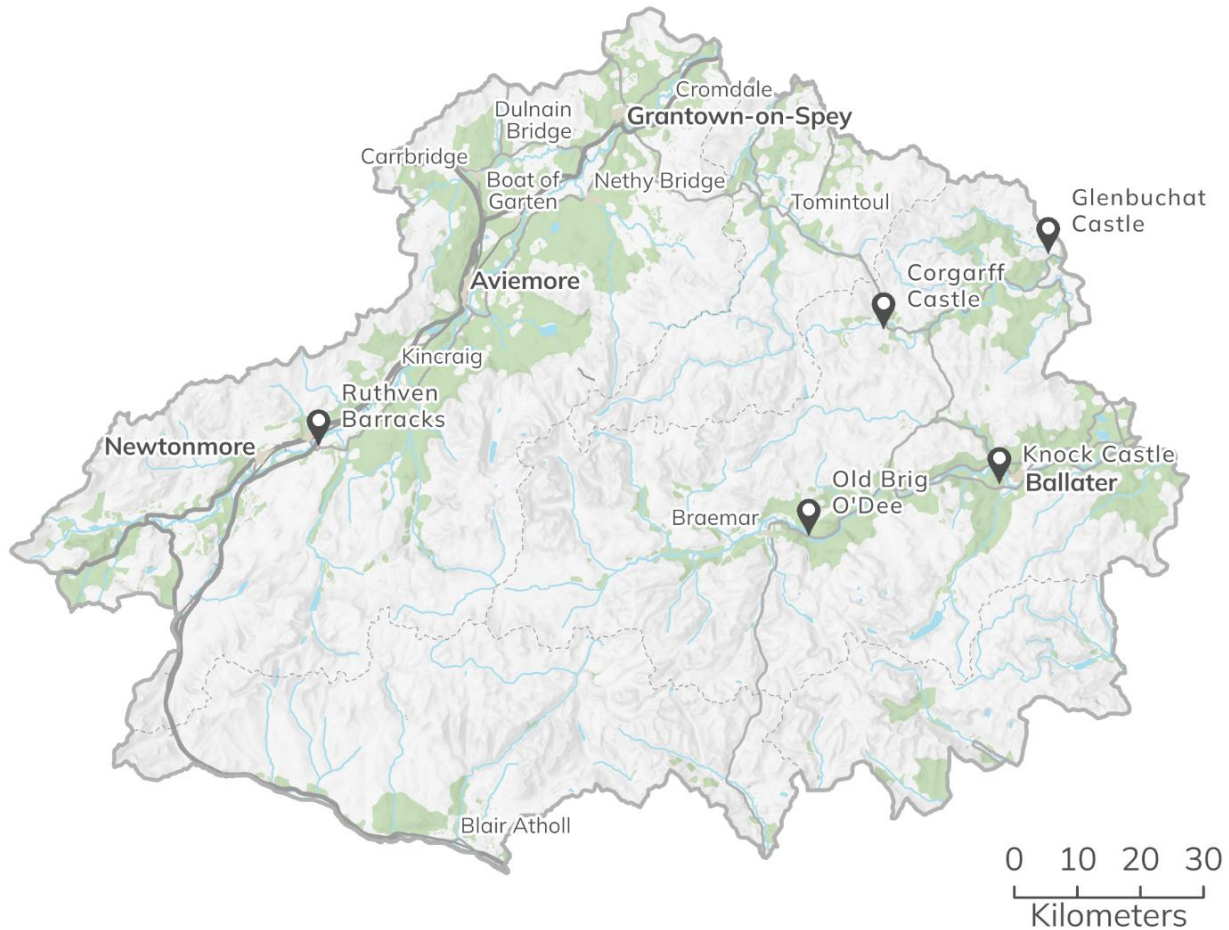


Figure 17 Properties in Care within the Cairngorms National Park (CNPA051). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2026.

Buildings at risk

The Buildings at Risk Register³ (CNPA052) for Scotland highlights properties of architectural or historic merit throughout the country that are at risk or under threat. A building at risk is usually a listed or unlisted building within a conservation area, which 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,

³ It should be noted that as of September 2024, Historic Environment Scotland has taken the decision to pause the Buildings at Risk Register in order to consider long-term options for its future (CNPA053).



- Open to the elements, and
- 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. From the latest available data, 27 buildings were recorded as being at risk in the Cairngorms National Park (Figure 18, Figure 19 and Figure 20). Of these buildings, 15 are located within Aberdeenshire and the remaining 12 in Highland. The Old School, School Lane, Ballater has been removed from the list as construction is complete on its renovation.

Condition

- Fair
- Poor
- Very poor

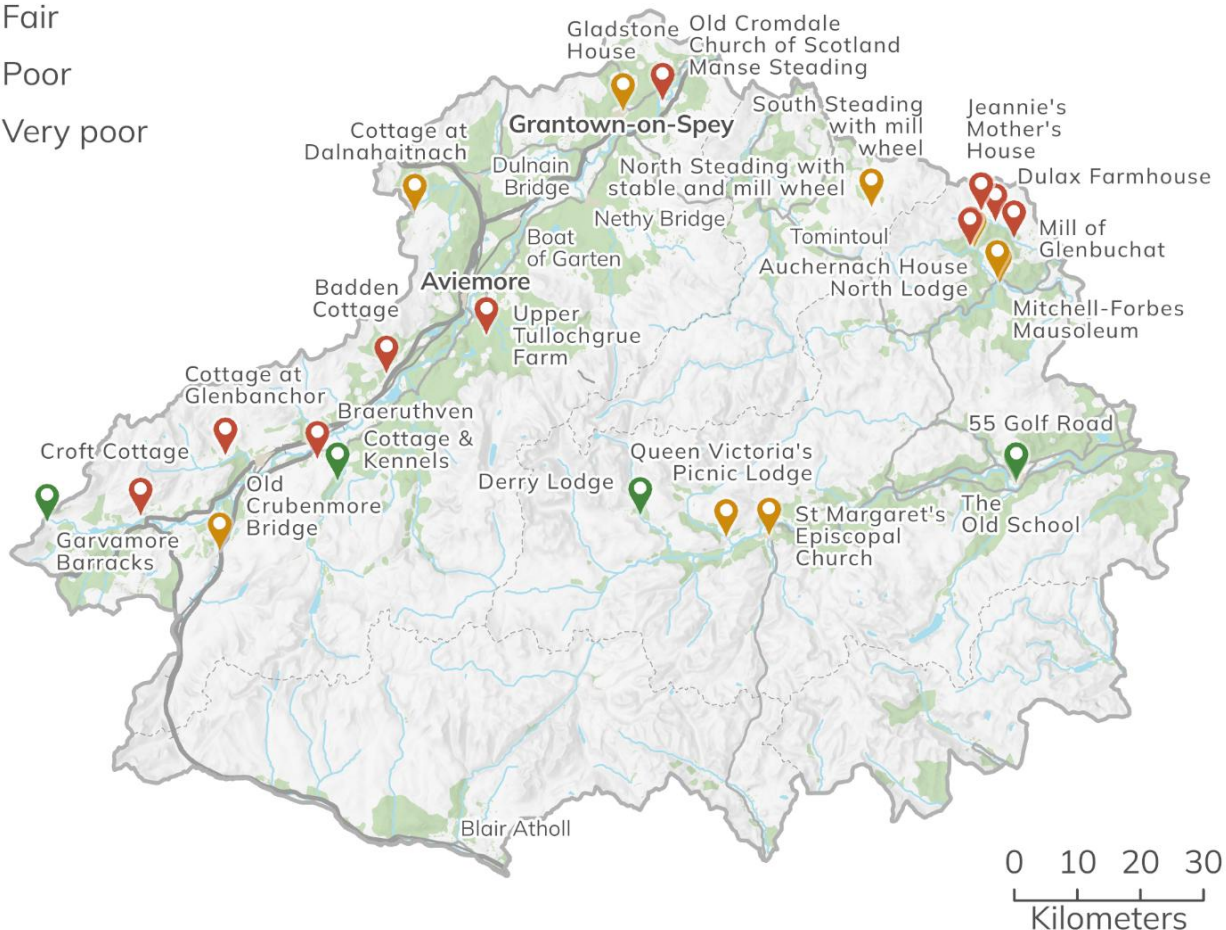


Figure 18 Buildings at Risk within the Cairngorms National Park (CNPA052). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2026.

Two of the buildings on the register are in critical condition, which is the most serious category awarded by the register (Figure 20). 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. However, it should be noted that the Buildings at Risk Register does not include all buildings at risk in the National Park, just those that have been reported to or identified by Historic Environment Scotland. Some buildings that may be of historical merit and would otherwise fall under the register's criteria, but have not been reported or recorded, are not included.

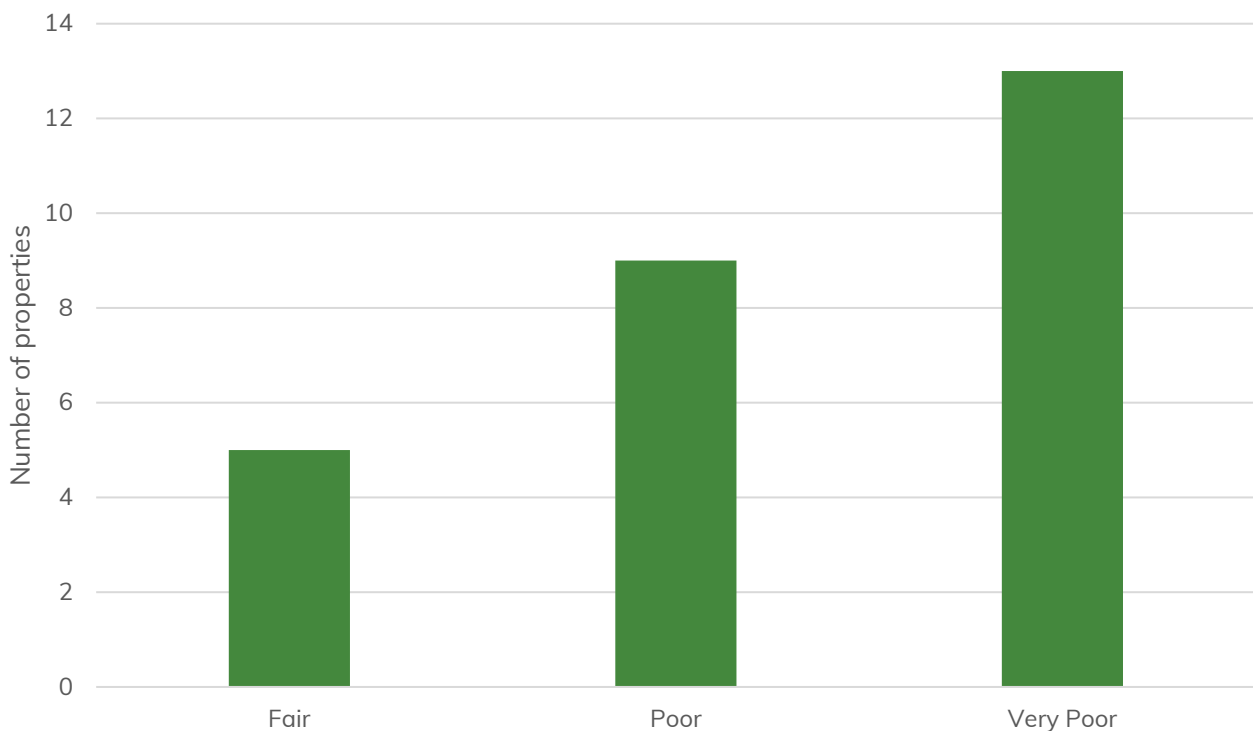


Figure 19 Condition of Buildings at Risk in the Cairngorms National Park in 2023 (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, 2023) (CNPA052).

This information will inform the preparation of the Proposed Plan, particularly through the site assessment process and in the drafting of place based information. The Proposed Plan may also support the sustainable use of Buildings at Risk.

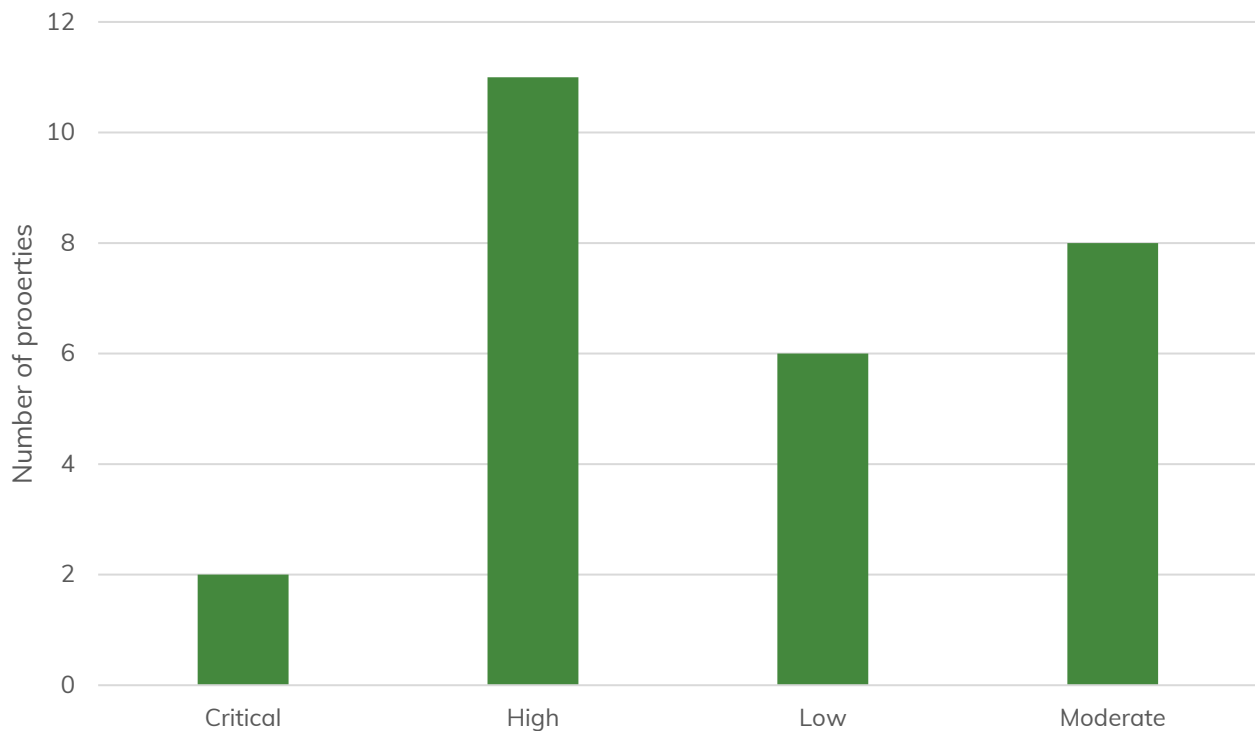


Figure 20 Category of risk of Buildings at Risk in the Cairngorms National Park in 2023 (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, 2023) (CNPA052).

Linguistic heritage

Cultural heritage does not simply manifest itself in the physical remains of past actions. Language, be it spoken, or as an elemental feature of the cultural landscape, is fundamental to the maintenance and reproduction of this aspect of cultural heritage and distinctiveness. Language is a driving force in shaping the way we see the world and the way the world sees us.

Scotland's linguistic history is complex 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 spoken, namely Scottish Gaelic (Figure 21) and Scots (which includes the prevalence of Doric in the northeast) (Figure 24).



Proportion of people aged 3 and over who understand, speak, read or write Gaelic

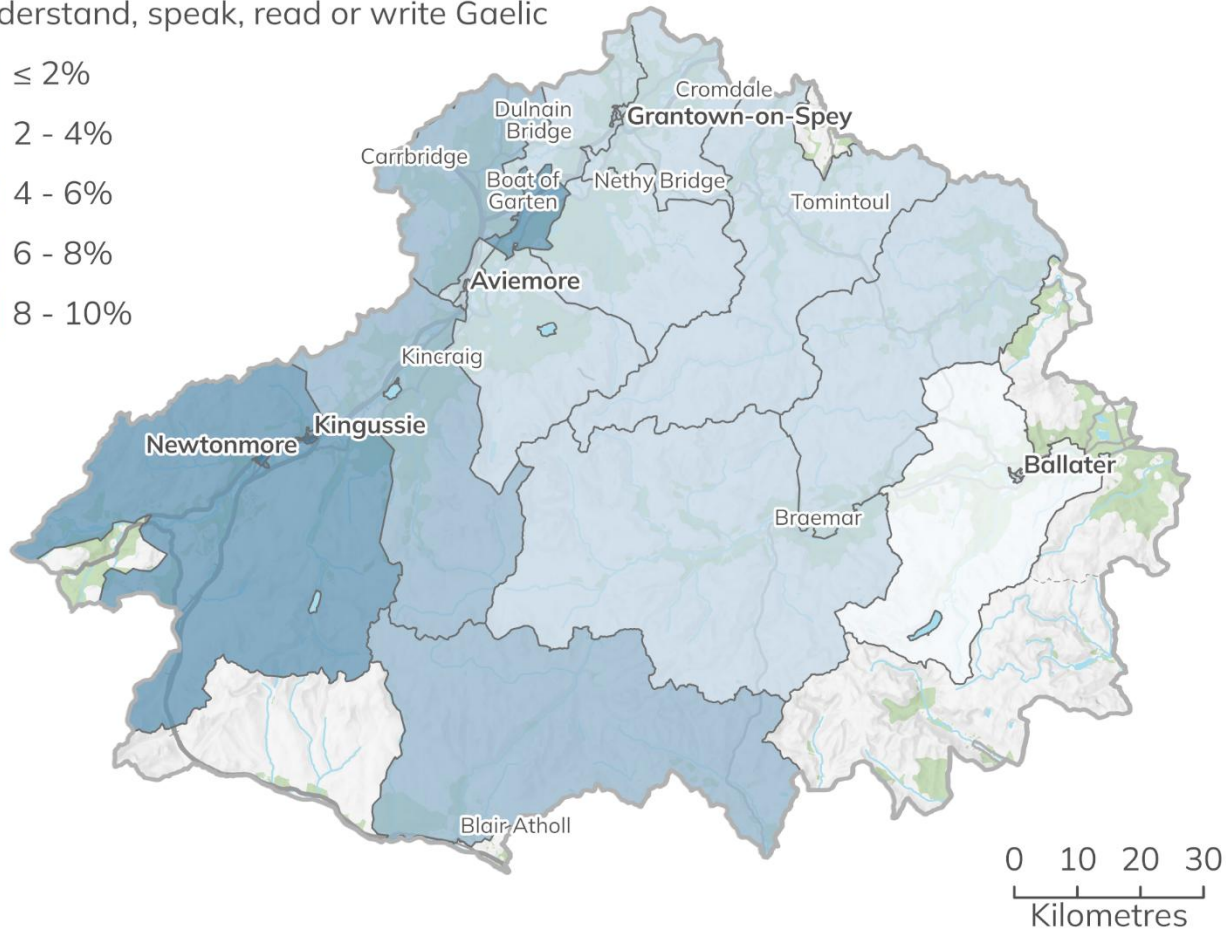
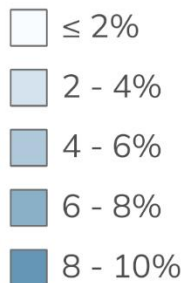


Figure 21 Proportion of people aged 3 and over who understand, speak, read or write Gaelic in Cairngorms National Park in 2022 (Scotland Census 2022) (CNPA057). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.

Place-Names of the Cairngorms National Park provides a useful overview and further evidence of the origins of place names and linguistic heritage within the National Park (CNPA056):

- <https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Local-Development-Plan-Evidence-Report/Supporting-Documents/CNPA056-Place-names-of-the-Cairngorms-National-Park.pdf>

According to the 2022 Census around 394 people accounting for approximately 2.3% of people living in the National Park speak Gaelic (Figure 22 and Figure 23) (CNPA057). This is less people than was recorded in 2011 (404 people, 2.3%), however the overall population recorded in the 2022 Census was lower, 17,182 people in 2022 compared to 18,499 in 2011. Despite the low numbers of speakers, it is a visible and inseparable part



of the area's identity, as it continues to dominate the names of places, both built and natural. The Park Authority seeks to support the Gaelic language through its Gaelic Language Plan. As an example of programmes aimed at developing Gaelic language education at Bun-Sgoil Bhaile Ùr an t-Slèibh (Netwonmore Primary School) 40 pupils have enrolled in Gaelic Medium Education in 2022.

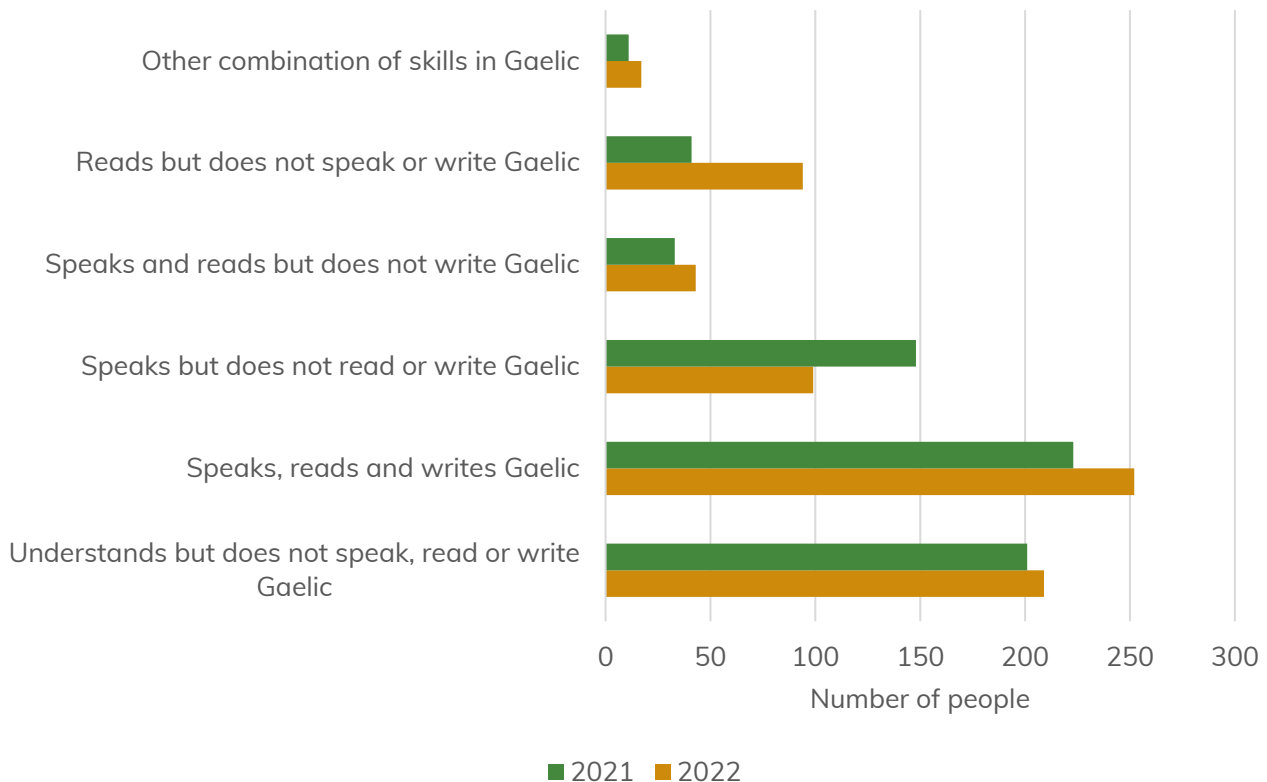


Figure 22 Gaelic language skills for all people aged three and above within the Cairngorms National Park in 2011 and 2022 (Census tables; QS211SC: 2011 and UV208a: 2022) (CNPA057).



Figure 23 Age profile of the Cairngorms National Park population aged 3 and above who can either understand, speak, read or write Gaelic 2011 and 2022 (Census tables LC2120SCdz: 2011, UV208b) (CNPA057).

Figure 23 shows that in 2022 more young people in the Cairngorms National Park under the ages of 34 years could either understand, speak, write or read Gaelic, a positive result in terms of increasing the use of the language. This is more significant given the total number of people over 3 years old recorded in the National Park fell from 18,499 in 2011 to 17,182 in 2022. Overall, the total number of people in the National Park able to either understand, speak, write or read Gaelic increased from 623 (3.4%) in 2011 to 706 (4.1%) in 2022 (Census tables LC2120SCdz: 2011, UV208b)

There are a number of Gaelic companies and voluntary groups operating in or near to the National Park offering services in Gaelic language and culture (a number of which have been supported and / or part-funded by the Park Authority). Gaelic voluntary groups in the National Park include Sinne (Strathspey and Badenoch Gaelic Group), which provides learning and sharing events for Gaelic learners and fluent speakers and Gàidhlig anns a' Phàirc, a Gaelic action group. A number of national groups are also active in the National Park, including Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Spòrs Gàidhlig and An Comunn Gàidhealach.



Scots, which takes the form of its Northern / North-eastern dialect, Doric, is also spoken throughout the National Park, but is stronger in the east where the influence of the lowlands is greatest. According to the 2022 Census around 4,148 people accounting for approximately 24.1% of people living in the National Park speak Scots (Figure 25 and Figure 26). This is less people than was recorded in 2011 when 5,413 (29.3%) people were recorded as speaking Scots in the National Park.

Proportion of people aged 3 and over who understand, speak, read or write Scots

- ≤40%
- 40 - 50%
- 50 - 60%
- 60 - 70%

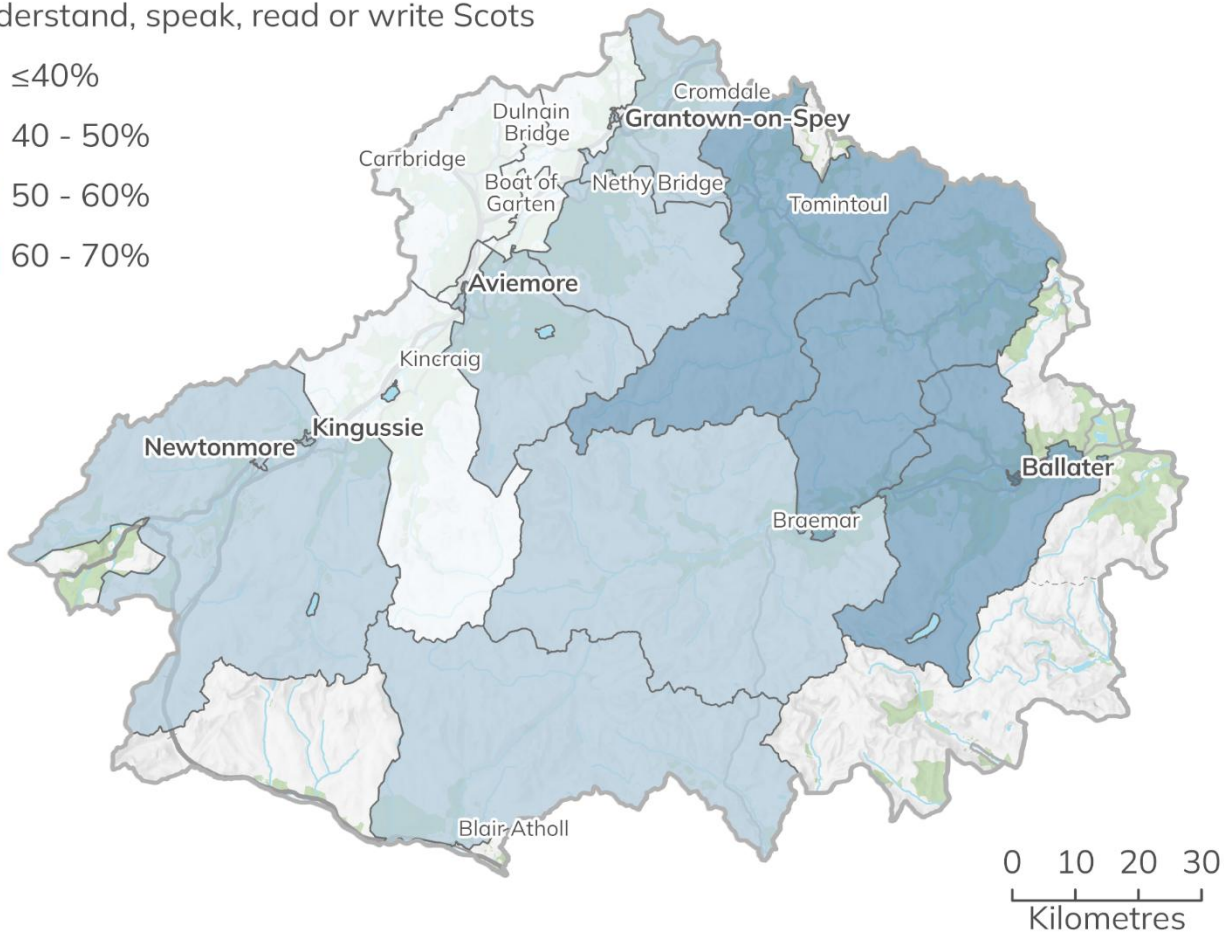


Figure 24 Proportion of people aged 3 and over who understand, speak, read or write Scots in Cairngorms National Park in 2022 (Scotland Census 2022) (CNPA057). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.

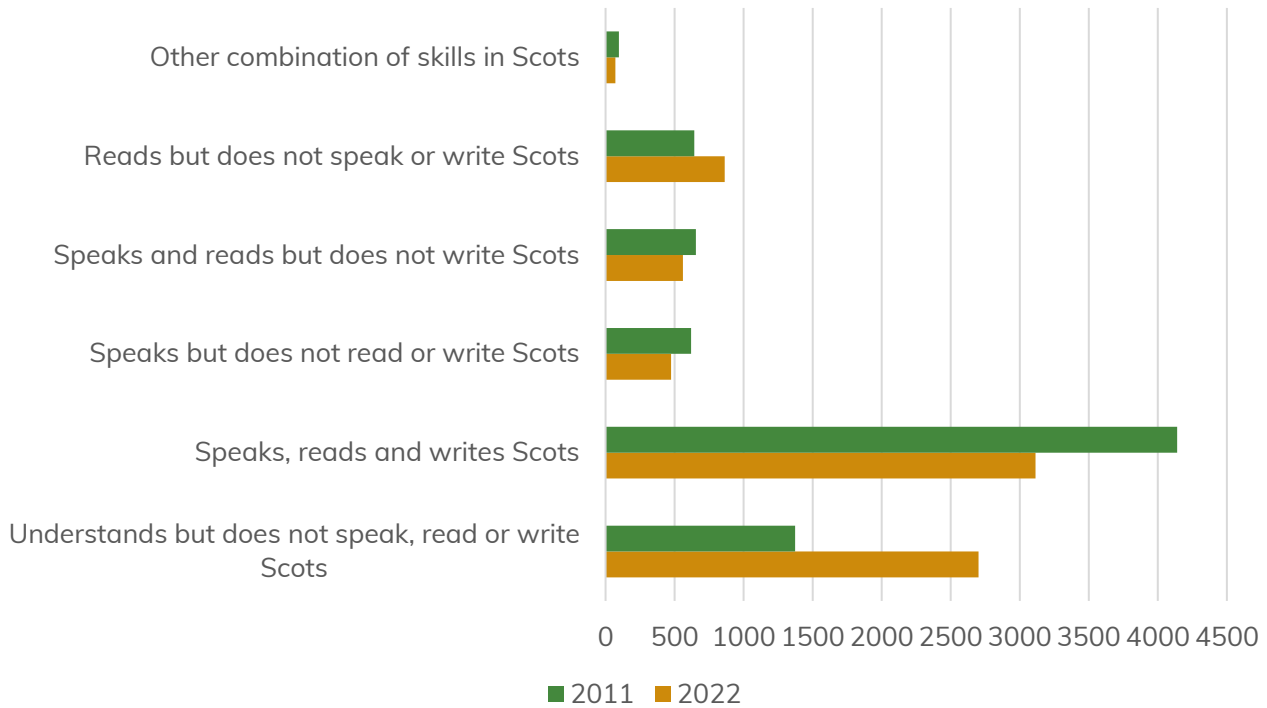


Figure 25 Scots language skills for all people aged three and above within the Cairngorms National Park in 2011 and 2022 (Census tables; QS212SC: 2011 and UV209: 2022) (CNPA057).

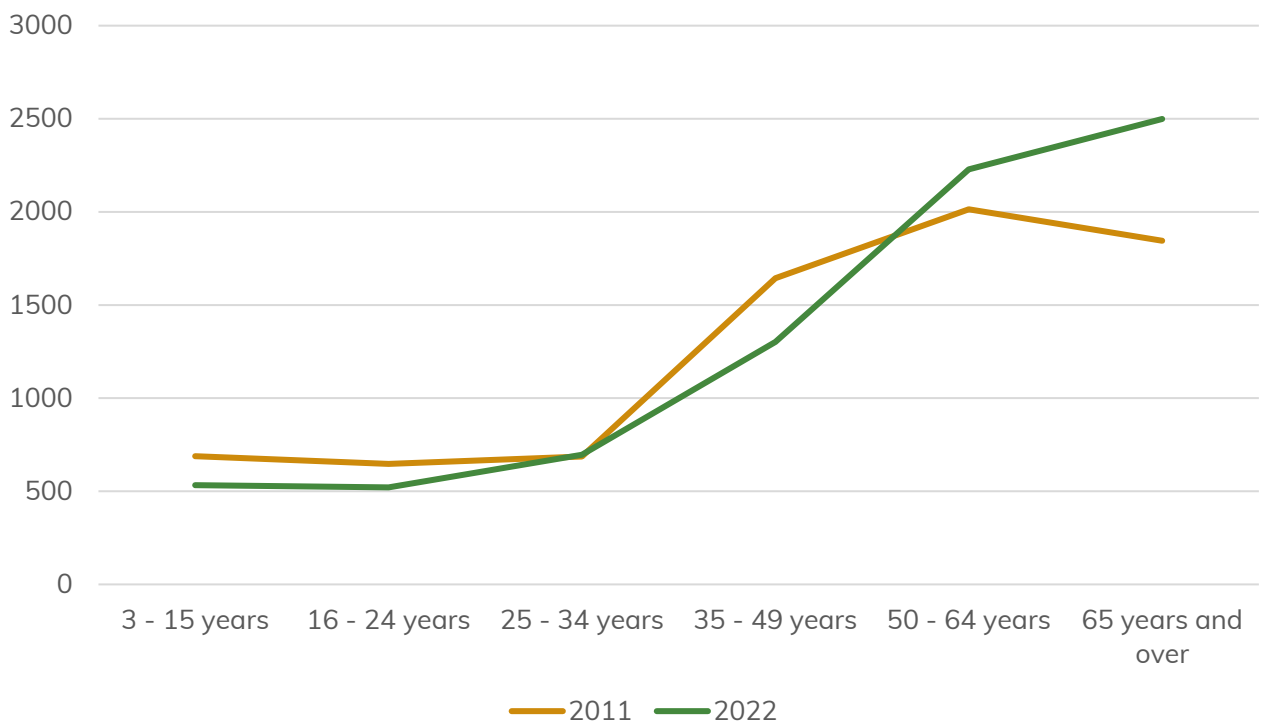


Figure 26 Age profile of the Cairngorms National Park population aged 3 and above who can understand, speak, read or write Scots 2011 and 2022 (Census tables LC2121SC: 2011, UV209b: 2022) (CNPA057).



Despite 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's interpretation of what is meant by 'Scots' varies considerably. As such it is therefore likely that the census statistics reflect an overly broad definition of the language. This includes Doric, which is the popular name for Mid Northern Scots or Northeast Scots and refers to the Scots language as spoken in the northeast of Scotland. There is an extensive body of literature, mostly poetry, ballads, and songs, written in Doric.

This information will inform the preparation of the Proposed Plan, particularly through the drafting of place based information.

Evidence gaps

There are no identified evidence gaps in this schedule.

Summary of stakeholder engagement

Early online public engagement carried out from 9 August – 9 October 2023. Historic and cultural heritage did not feature as a theme (CNPA026).

Engagement with children and young people highlighted the importance of historical monuments to the quality of National Park's character (CNPA027, CNPA058, CNPA681, CNPA682, CNPA683, CNPA833, CNPA834, CNPA835 and CNPA836).

The Planning Power game did not result in much discussion on historic and cultural heritage; however some participants noted the cultural significance of the Cairngorms, emphasising its rich local heritage. One participant, a long-time resident of Aviemore, argued that 'history and culture are what make the Park feel alive,' highlighting the importance of preserving old buildings and Gaelic traditions. Another mentioned that tourism related to historical sites could support economic development (CNPA1104 and CNPA1105).

Engagement with Gypsy / Traveller communities within the National Park was undertaken between October 2023 and March 2024 (CNPA028). The engagement highlighted a number of matters relating to history and culture:

- More needs to be done to highlight Gypsy / Traveller culture and heritage in the area. It was noted that whilst there is an exhibition at the Highland Folk Museum, there



isn't any other permanent exhibit to their heritage in the National Park. This was felt to be an area of priority particularly for the sense of belonging for young Gypsy / Travellers.

- Many Gypsy / Travellers ancestral stopping places have been blocked off in the National Park. This has had a significant impact on the ability of families travelling through to explore their oral heritage in the area.
- It was felt that while built heritage has been conserved and supported in the area, intangible heritage has not received the same level of protection.
- Elders in the community highlighted that their knowledge of the landscape should be better used by conservation efforts

The following actions / recommendations were suggested, not all of which fall within the remit of the local development plan:

- Development of a heritage centre for Gypsy / Traveller communities in the east of the National Park.
- Increased communication with Gypsy / Traveller communities to protect and highlight areas of oral heritage, particularly ancestral stopping place, from development.
- More work to recognise where barriers to land have been placed in the landscape, working in partnership with landowners and communities to remove these wherever possible.

Focused early engagement on landscape matters was held with Historic Environment Scotland in 2023 and their recommendations were incorporated into the schedule of the evidence report prior to undertaking wider public engagement (CNPA609).

Public engagement on this schedule (see CNPA1347 for engagement version) was carried out from 10 June – 16 August 2024. Eleven completed responses were received (CNPA1340).



Summary of implications for Proposed Plan

Based on the available evidence and engagement with key agencies and other interested parties, the Park Authority consider this schedule to provide a sufficient evidence base on which to prepare the Proposed Plan.

The Proposed Plan needs to be prepared in accordance with:

- The four aims of the National Park as set out in The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000).
- Section 9(6) of the 2000 Act, which states that while the aims are to be pursued collectively, if there is conflict between the first aim and any of the others, greater weight is given to the first aim.
- The spatial strategy and principles of National Planning Framework 4.

In its preparation, and in particular through the assessment of sites for allocation⁴ and the drafting of place based information, the Proposed Plan should seek to:

- Support the sustainable management of the historic environment.
- Protect and enhance the Special Landscape Qualities identified for historic and cultural heritage. This may also be achieved through a policy approach⁵.
- Identify, protect and enhance valued historic assets and places.
- Protect and enhance important local historic and cultural assets and landscapes.
- Support the sustainable use of Buildings at Risk.
- Support the delivery of community action plan and local place plan priorities and actions through the placemaking process.
- Engage with Gypsy / Traveller communities to protect areas of oral heritage particularly ancestral stopping place, from inappropriate development.

Statements of agreement

The following people / organisations agree that the evidence presented is sufficient to inform the preparation of the Proposed Plan:

- Historic Environment Scotland (C002)
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (C010)
- ScotWays (C055)
- Ann Wakeling (C069)

⁴ See Schedule 3: Site assessment process for further information.

⁵ See Schedule 6: Landscape for further information on the consideration of the Special Landscape Qualities and their implications for the Proposed Plan.



- Ann Miles (C068)
- Michael Cuff (C099)

Historic Environment Scotland (C002)

Historic Environment Scotland request that reference be made to draft guidance on the Assessment of Effects on Special Landscape Qualities being consulted on by NatureScot, the Cairngorm National Park Authority and the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority.

Park Authority response

This guidance was not in the public domain when engagement began on Schedule 6: Landscape. It has been added to the final version of the Schedule.

Aberdeenshire Council (C018 and Ann Wakeling (C069)

To be sufficient, Aberdeenshire Council require reference be made to each Local Authority's Historic Environment Record, as this is the primary mechanism for assessing impact and mitigation requirements for the historic environment within the planning system. Ann Wakeling also suggests including reference to Historic Environment Records.

Park Authority response

Historic Environment Record data for the Cairngorms National Park has been added to the schedule. Aberdeenshire Council have confirmed that with this change, the Evidence Report's information on the historic environment is sufficient to prepare the Proposed Plan.

Statements of dispute

Agroecosystems Ltd (C030)

Agroecosystems Ltd suggest assessing the patterns of land occupancy and management over the years and that it may be valuable to look at change and potential present and future change to see what implications this is having on the character, natural value and cultural value of the area, for example farm statistics on occupancy, amalgamation of farm units, viability of small units, etc.

Park Authority response



Community engagement on potential landscape change, including its implications for natural and cultural characteristics of the National Park, is being carried out through the Cairngorms 2030 landscape and community project. This engagement is informing work on reviewing and mapping the Cairngorms Special Landscape Qualities, which the Local Development Plan will seek to protect and enhance.

Further information on land occupancy and management, including changes in farm holdings over time, is presented in Schedule 8: Land use, soil and resources. Since they are not publicly available and would require extensive bespoke surveys to gather commercially sensitive information, the Park Authority does not consider compiling statistics on the occupancy and amalgamation of farm units or the viability of small farm units to be proportionate. They are therefore not included in the Evidence Report.