



Topic: Historic and cultural heritage

Engagement version June 2024

Requirements addressed in this section

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

Section	Requirement
Section 15(5)	The principal physical, cultural, economic, social, built heritage and environmental characteristics of the district.

Links to evidence

- National Park (Scotland) Act 2000
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2000/10/contents>
- National Planning Framework 4
<https://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk/LibraryDocument.aspx?id=2094>
- Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan
<https://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk/LibraryDocument.aspx?id=2147>
- Historical datasets
<https://pastmap.org.uk>
- Cairngorms Special Landscape Qualities
<https://www.nature.scot/snh-commissioned-report-375-special-landscape-qualities-cairngorms-national-park>.
- Our Past, Our Future: The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/our-past-our-future/#:~:text=Our%20Past%2C%20Our%20Future%20is,Scotland's%20story%20to%20the%20world.>
- Historic Environment Scotland: Climate and Nature Crises Statement



<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationid=e9bd5276-9423-492b-9f3b-b04600b9c798>

- Historic Environment Scotland Designation Policy and Selection Guidance
<https://app-hes-pubs-prod-neu-01.azurewebsites.net/api/file/f9a77f4d-3365-403f-917e-aca90095786b>
- People, Place and Landscape: A position statement from NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=13053e28-f83a-464d-90d9-aae100f92c3b>
- National Monuments Record of Scotland (CANMORE)
<https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/downloads/canmore>
- Scheduled Monuments
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/scheduled-monuments/>

HES Search facility for SMs is found here:

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/scheduled-monuments/search-for-a-scheduled-monument/>

- HES National Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=7c365ace-e62d-46d2-8a10-a5f700a788f3>
- Cairngorms National Park Historic Designed Landscapes Project
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Cairngorms-National-Park-Designed-Landscapes-Summary-Report-2013.pdf>
- Inventory Battlefields
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/battlefields/>



- Conservation Areas
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=e4800852-69da-46fd-bd49-aa3a0108bb80>
- Blair Atholl Conservation Area Appraisal
https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/37617/Blair-Atholl-appraisal/pdf/Blair_Atholl_appraisal.pdf?m=1475145087080
- Grantown on Spey Conservation Area Appraisal
https://her.highland.gov.uk/api/LibraryLink5WebServiceProxy/FetchResourceFromStu b/1-2-2-5-0-8_d88f5522f651305-122508_b8de4120f7f71fd.pdf
- Grantown on Spey Conservation Area Management Plan
https://her.highland.gov.uk/api/LibraryLink5WebServiceProxy/FetchResourceFromStu b/1-2-7-9-3-1_8305522d9b1f8f5-127931_04f61975b013921.pdf
- Listed buildings
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/listed-buildings/search-for-a-listed-building/>
- Historic Land-Use Assessment
<https://hlamap.org.uk/>
- Properties in Care
<https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/downloads/propertiesincare>
- Buildings at Risk
<https://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/>
- Draft Cairngorms National Park Gaelic Language Plan 2024 - 2028
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/draft-Gaelic-Language-Plan-2024-28-ENGLISH-version.pdf>
- Cairngorms National Park Gaelic Language Plan 2018 -2022
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/working-together/publications/publication/266/>



- Place names of the Cairngorms National Park
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/resource/docs/publications/23062006/CNPA.Paper.275.Place-Names%20Leaflet.pdf>
- Community action plans
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/working-together/publications/publication/496/>
- Scotland Census 2011 - Linguistic heritage
<https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/census-results/at-a-glance/languages/>

Summary of evidence

Policy context

National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000)

The National Park has four distinct aims as set out in The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000). The first aim is 'to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area'. 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).

National Planning Framework 4

National Planning Framework 4 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 10).

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 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.

Our Past Our Future

Our Past our Future 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.

Pointing the Way to the Future

Historic Environment Scotland's climate and nature crisis statement 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 Partnership Plan 2022

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 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 Park Authority's current Gaelic language plan was adopted in 2018. However, in March 2024 a new plan was consulted on. At the time of writing the responses to the consultation are being considered by the Authority and the final version of the plan is due to be adopted later in 2024.

The draft plan contains three strategic priorities:

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

Community action plans

There are currently 18 community action plans in place across the National Park. 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, Glenbuchat and Corgarff Castles along Strathdon, Castle Roy and the Telford Bridges at Nethy Bridge, Dalwhinnie Distillery and Braemar Castle).
- Characterful historic centres of traditional stone-built houses, many from the Georgian and Victorian eras.
- Several planned settlements with strong grid character (including Ballater and Grantown on Spey).
- Unusual historic buildings, features and structures impart a strong distinctive sense of place and identity to settlements (Ballater Old Railways Station, Blair Atholl watermill, St Andrews Church Braemar, the Old Packhorse Bridge at Carrbridge, the Piper's Stone at Cromdale, the YMCA building at Grantown on Spey, Strathspey Steam Railway connections to Grantown on Spey, Thomas Telford Bridges at Nethy Bridge).
- Strong links to and influence of the clans and estates which surround and extend across the settlements (including Blair Atholl and Atholl Estates; Invercauld and Mar and Mar Lodge Estates at Braemar; Ben Alder Estate at Dalwhinnie; Grant family connections at Grantown on Spey; Atholl Estates and Invercauld Estates at Mount Blair and Glenshee; Clan MacPherson at Newtonmore, and the estates of Candacraig, Edinglassie, Allargue, Tornashean, Inverarnan and Newe at Strathdon 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, and the cattle market and cattle driving heritage which was the inspiration for the CATERAEN Trail near Mount Blair and Glenshee).



- Long tradition of annual highland shows and games Annual Highland Games and Gatherings (including the Lonach Gathering at Strathdon, Braemar gathering, Nethy Bridge Highland Games).
- 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).

Baseline of historic and cultural matters

National Park Special Landscape Qualities

This section has strong links with and is largely directed by the information provided within the Landscape section of the Evidence Report.

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. 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

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

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.

National Monuments Record of Scotland - CANMORE

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:

- Canmore, the database element (Figure 1)
- 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:
<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.

Canmore Records

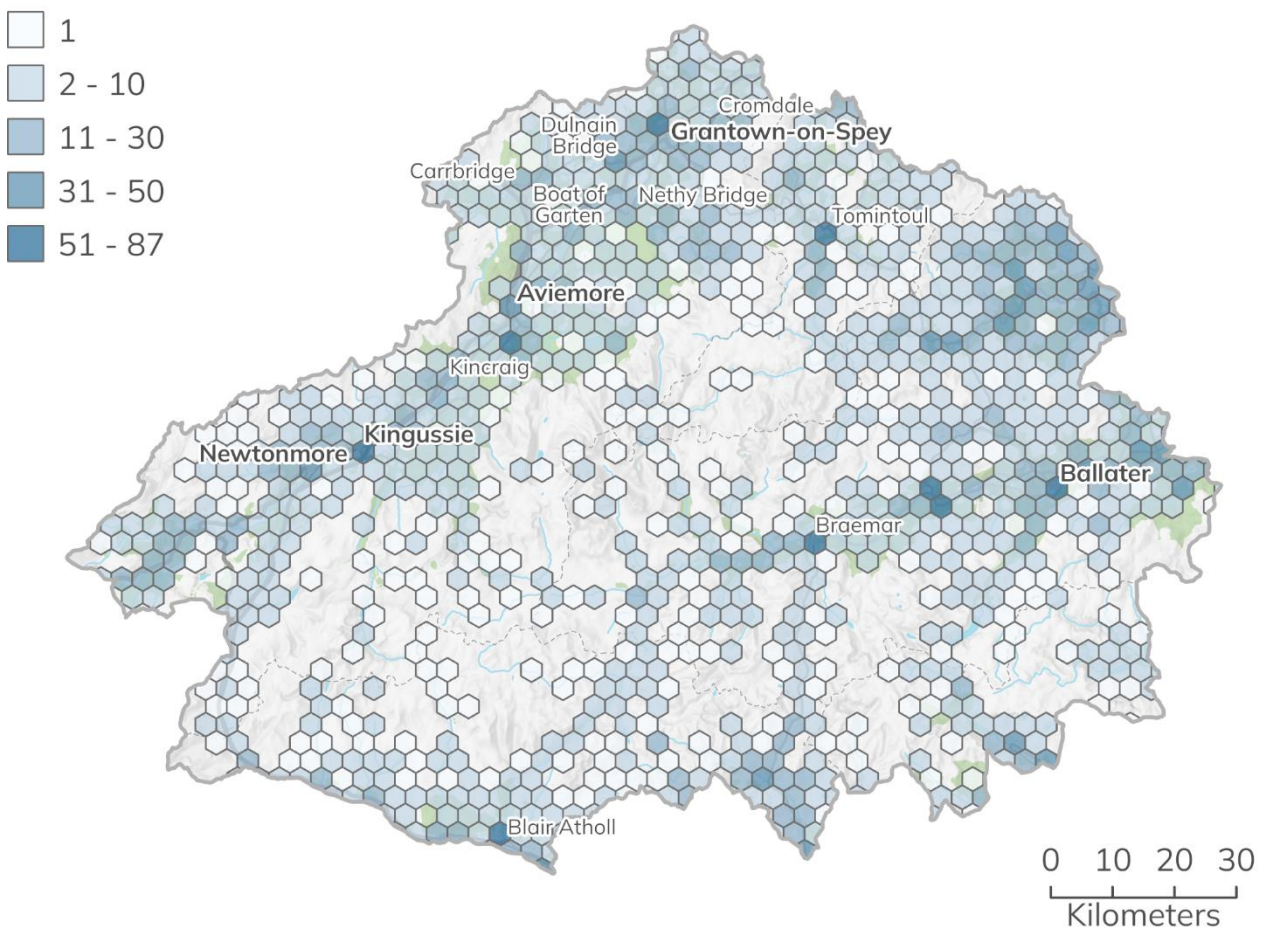


Figure 1 Density of National Monuments Record of Scotland records held on the Canmore database. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of His Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright and database right 2024. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000821810, Cairngorms National Park Authority. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2024.

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.

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.

Historic land-use assessment

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 2 and Figure 3).

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.

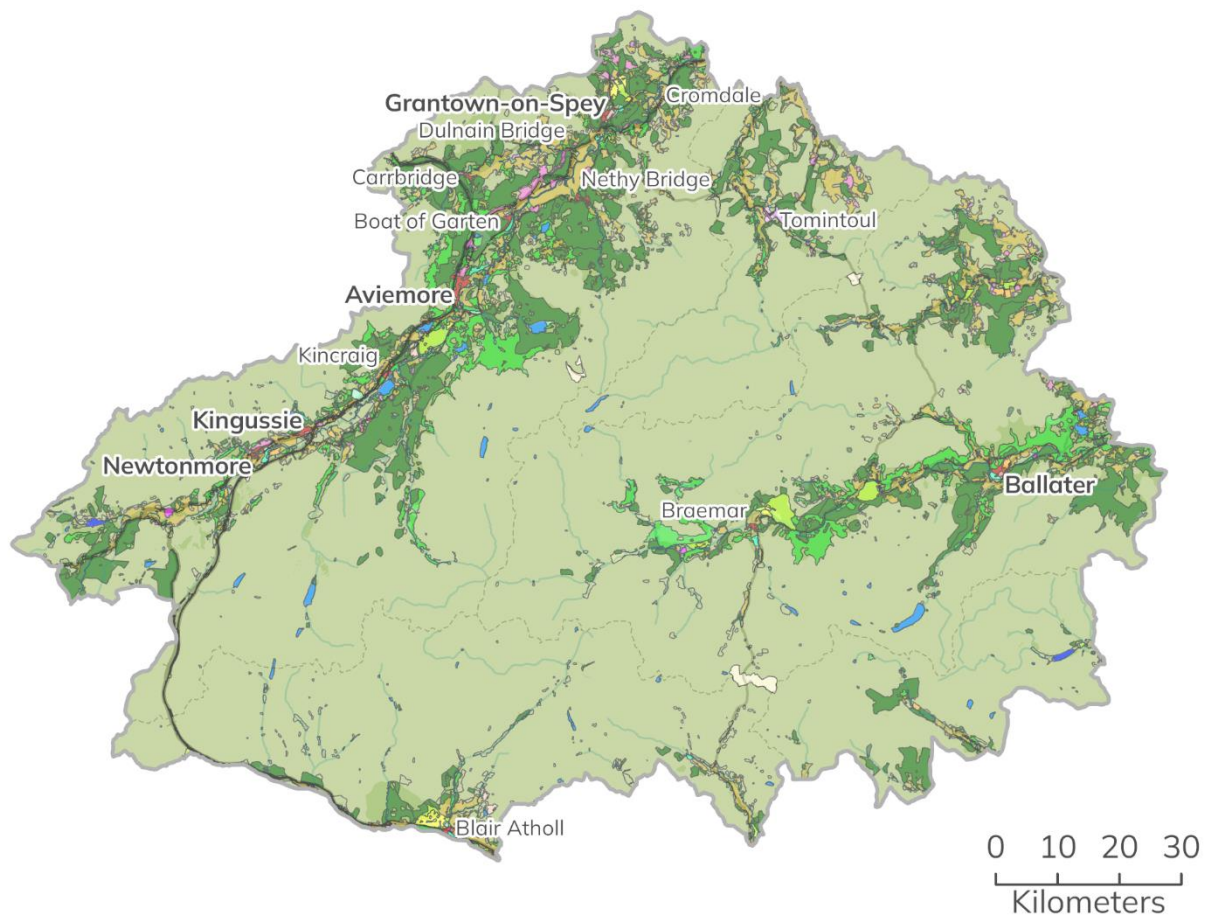




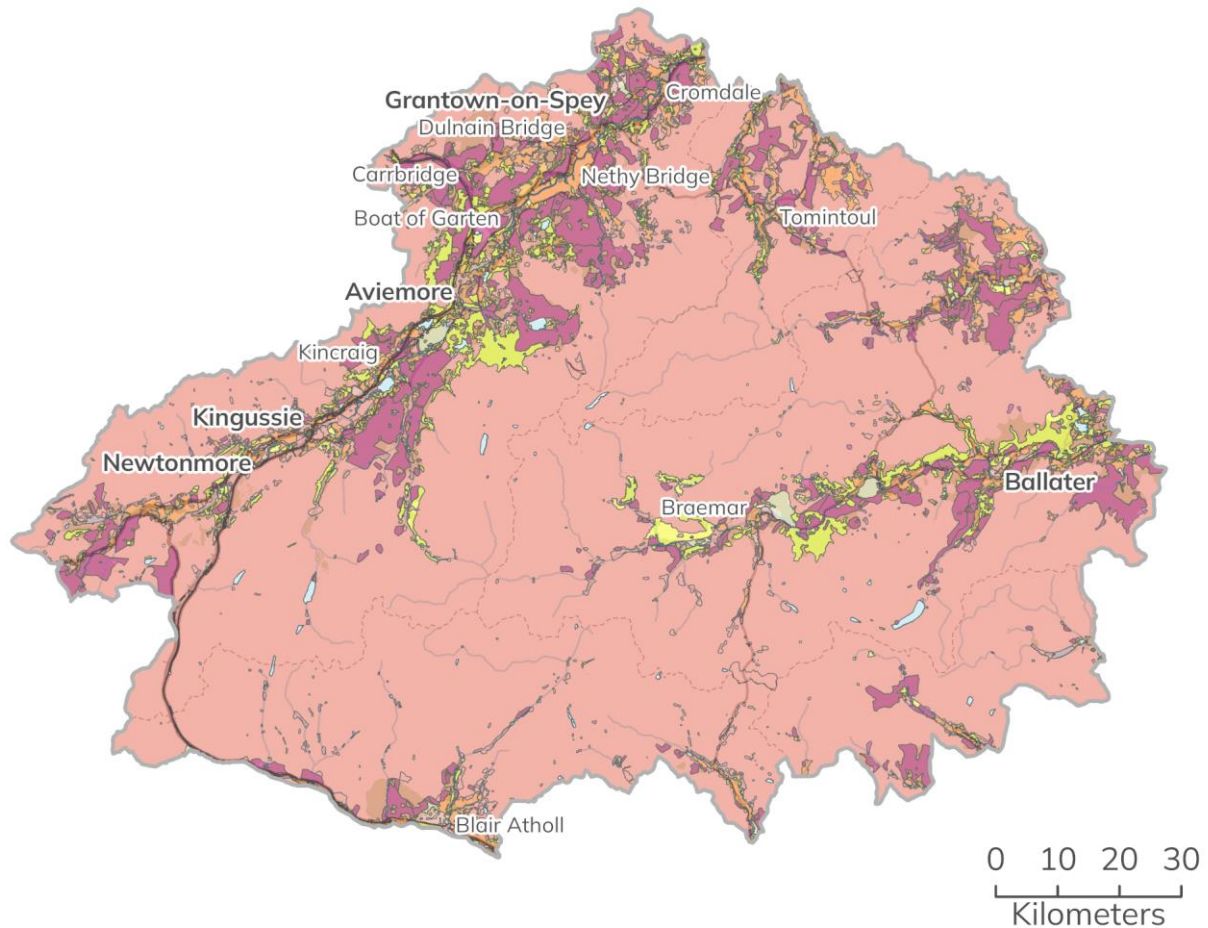
Figure 2 Type of historic land use according to the Historic land-use assessment. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of His Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright and database right 2024. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000821810, Cairngorms National Park Authority. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2024.

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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

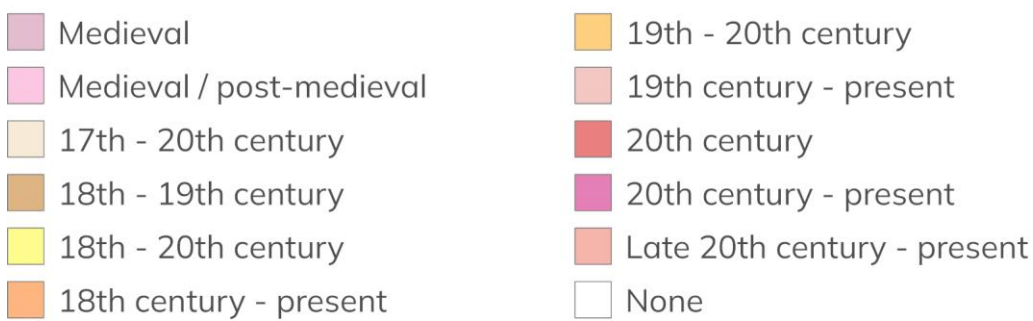


Figure 3 Historic land use period according to the Historic land-use assessment. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of His Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright and database right 2024. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000821810, Cairngorms National Park Authority. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2024.



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.

Scheduled Monuments

Scheduled Monuments (Figure 4) are nationally important sites, buildings and other features of artificial construction given legal protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. 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 Dun-da-lamh hill fort; Pictish remains such as the 8th century Loch Kinnord Cross Slab; military structures such as the 18th century Hanoverian fort of Ruthven; and industrial remains such as the 18th / 19th century ironstone mine-crushing mill at the Well of Lecht.



Scheduled monuments

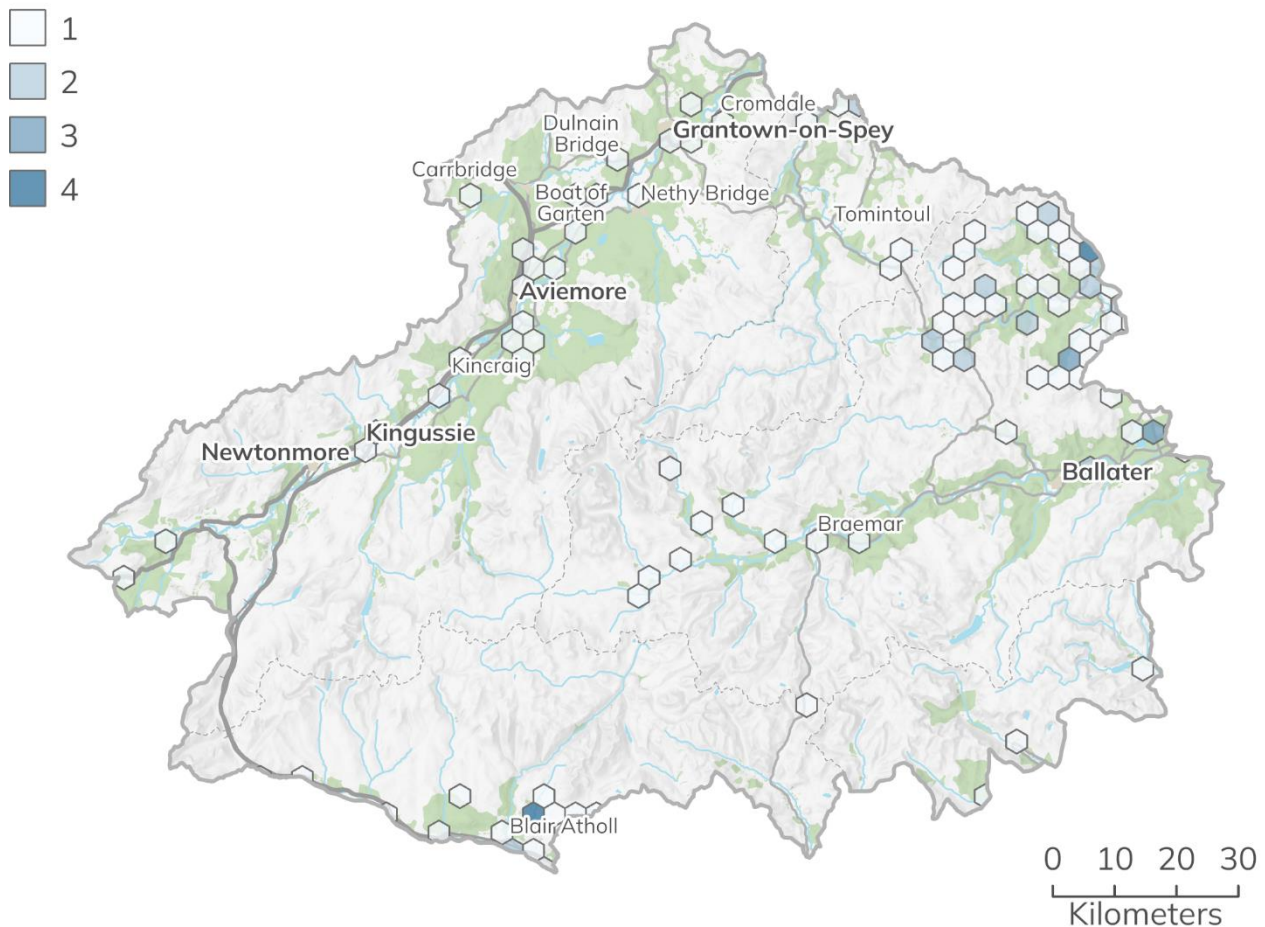


Figure 4 Density of Scheduled Monuments within the Cairngorms National Park. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of His Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright and database right 2024. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000821810, Cairngorms National Park Authority. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2024.

Gardens and Designed Landscapes

Designed gardens and landscapes (Figure 5) 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', 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

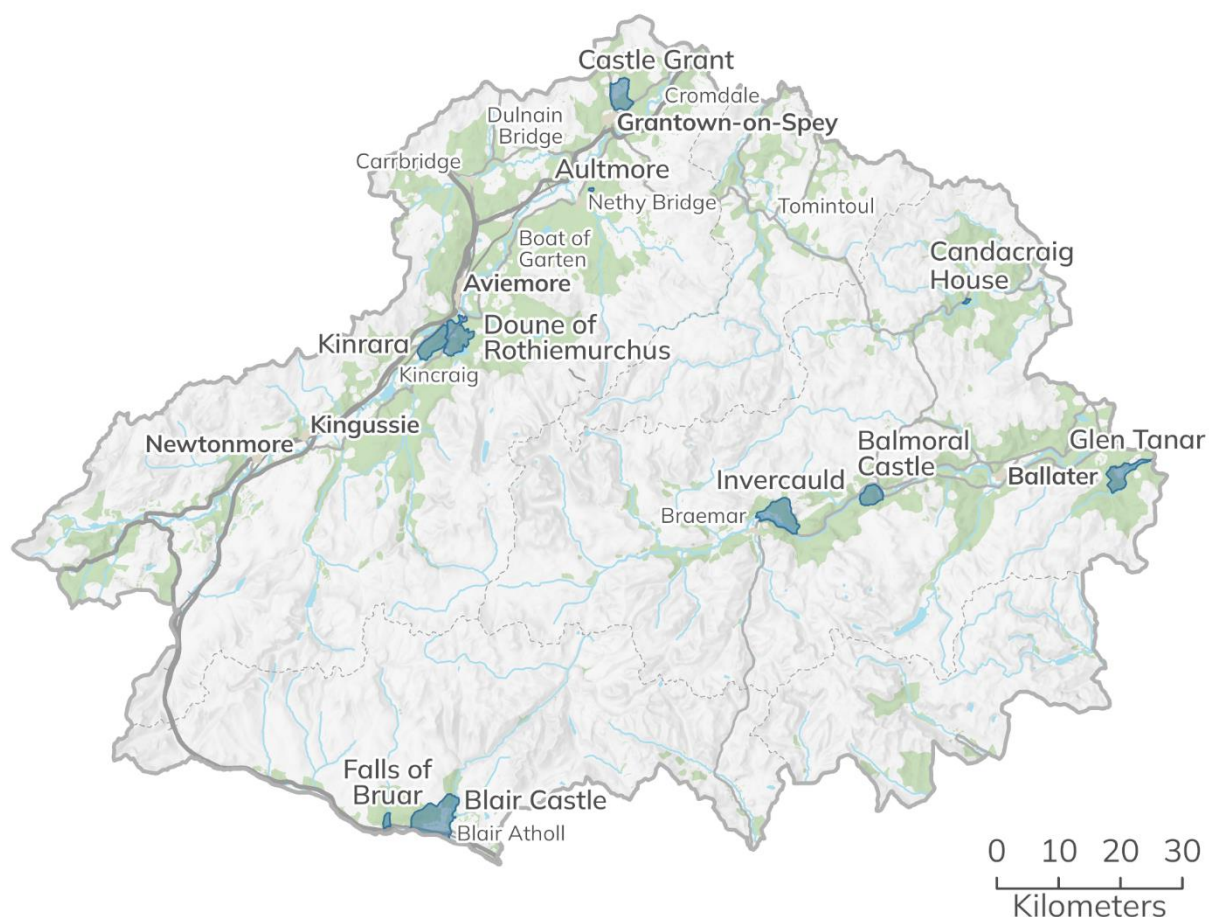


Figure 5 Inventory gardens and designed landscapes within the Cairngorms National Park. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of His Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright and database right 2024. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000821810, Cairngorms National Park Authority. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2024.

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 6) identifies 33 historic and designed landscapes within the National Park and provides information about the history and context of each.

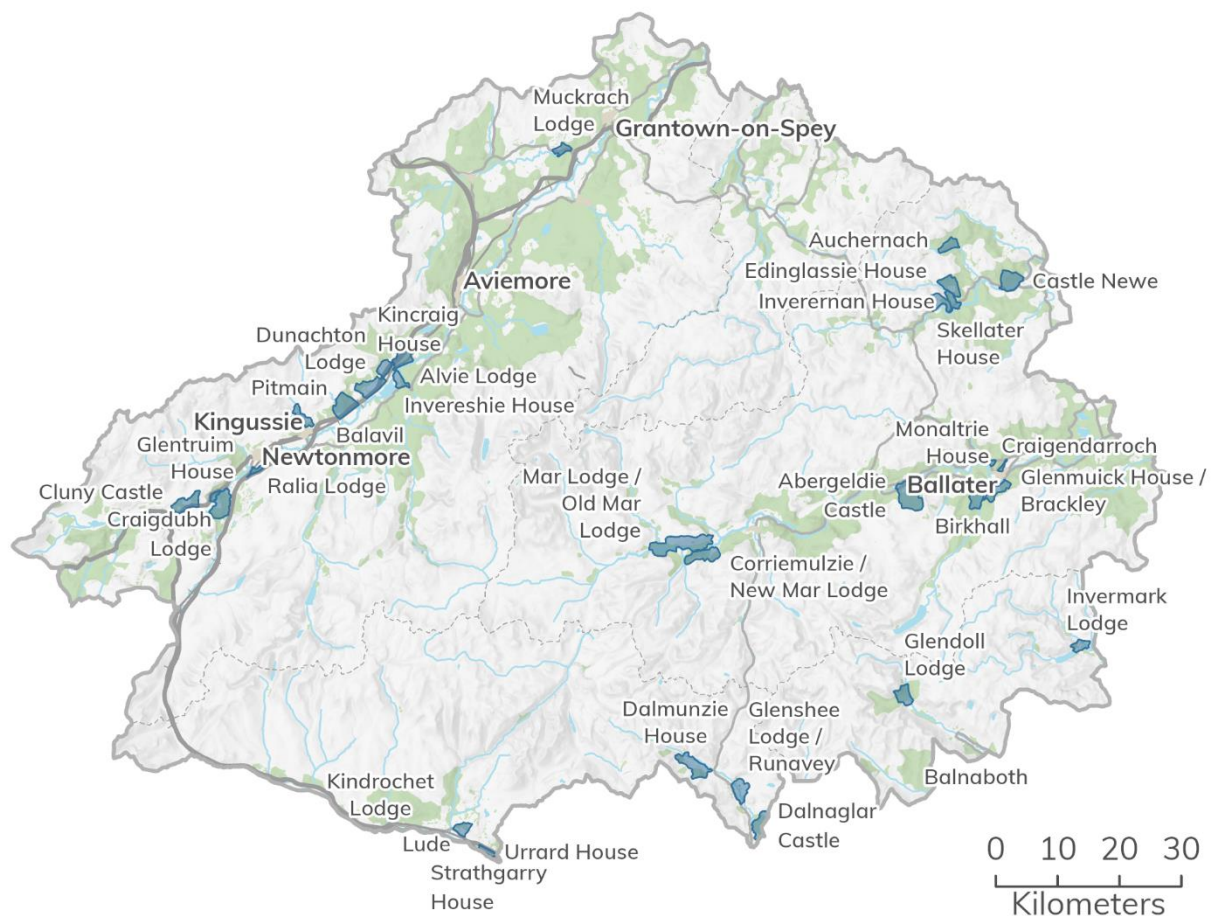


Figure 6 Location of designed Landscape identified through the Cairngorms National Park Historic Designed Landscape Project. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of His Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright and database right 2024. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000821810, Cairngorms National Park Authority.

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.

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.

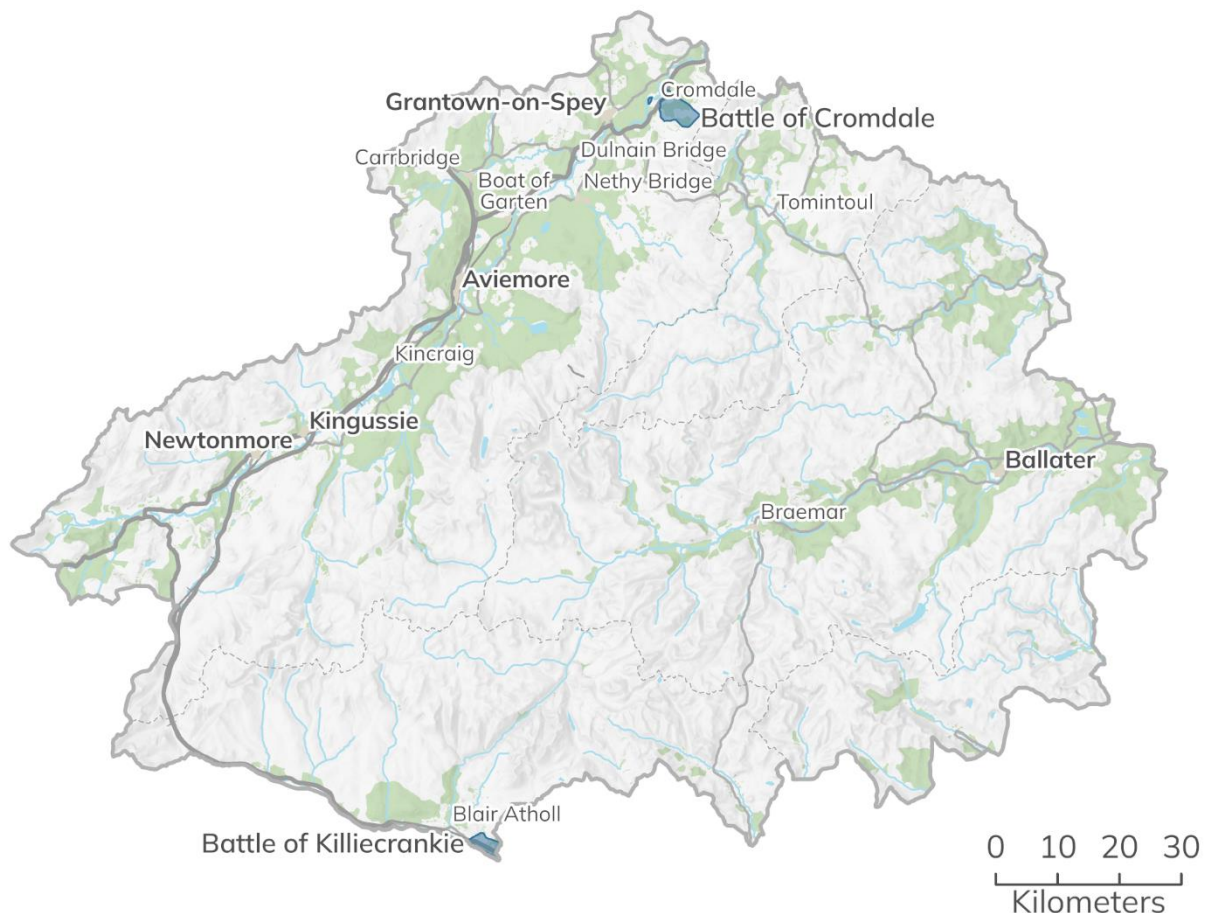


Figure 7 Inventory battlefields within the Cairngorms National Park. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of His Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright and database right



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There are two battlefields identified on the Inventory of Historic Battlefields within the National Park (Figure 7):

- 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. 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.

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, Grantown 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 dwellings 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 productive on the surrounding farms.



Parts of Ballater (Figure 10), Grantown on Spey (Figure 9) and Blair Atholl (Figure 13) have been designated as Conservation Areas (Figure 8), which are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997. The National Park also has a further two Conservation Areas within its boundary at Braemar (Figure 11) and Inverey (Figure 12). Only Grantown on Spey and Blair Atholl have conservation area appraisals and Grantown on Spey conservation area also has a management plan.

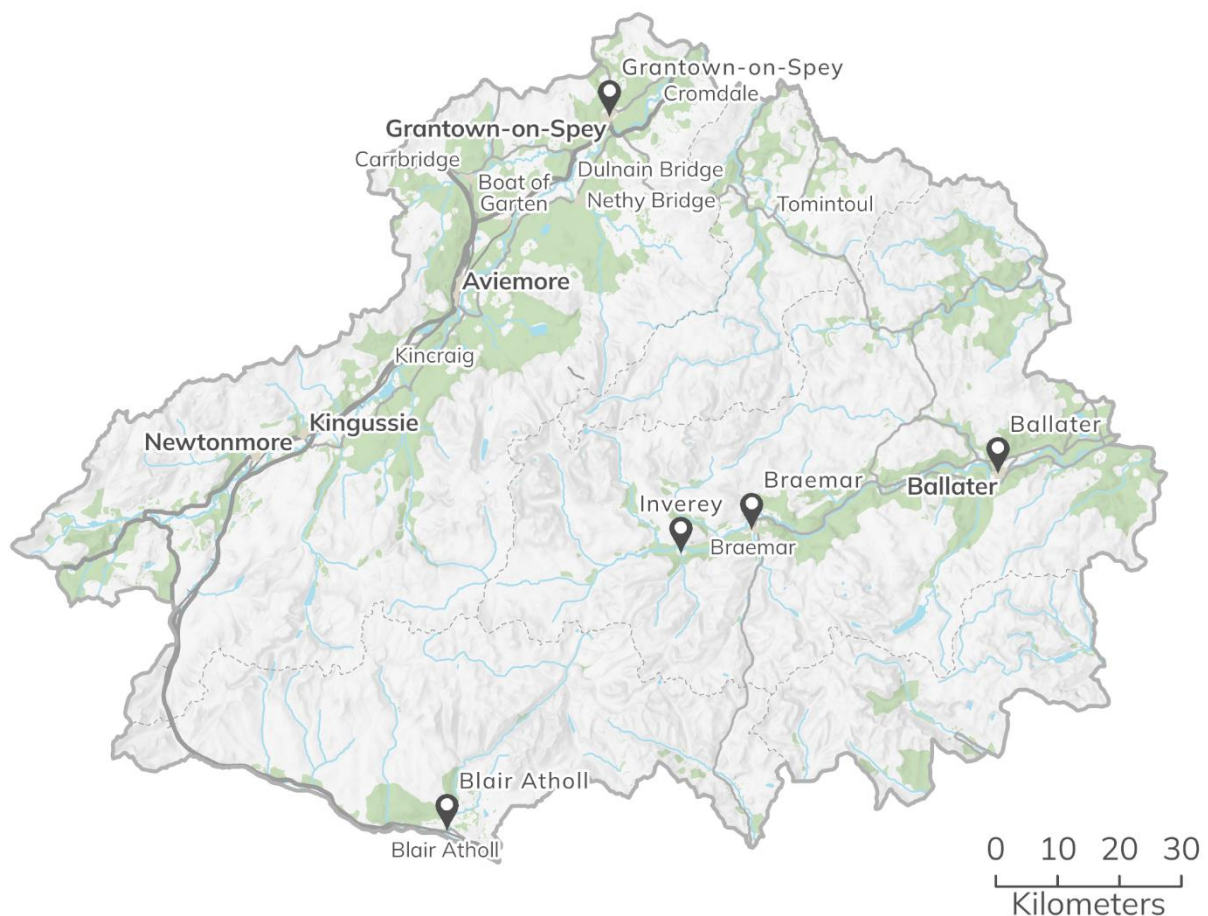


Figure 8 Location of Conservation Areas within the Cairngorms National Park. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of His Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright and database right 2024. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000821810, Cairngorms National Park Authority. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2024.



Figure 9 Granttown-on-Spey Conservation Area.

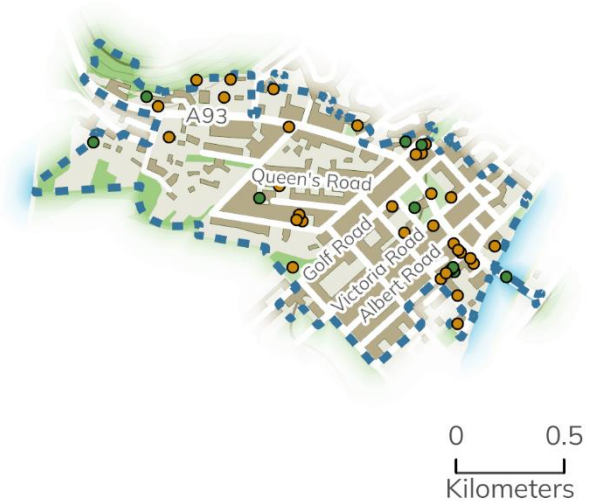






Figure 10 Ballater Conservation Area.



Figure 11 Braemar Conservation Area.

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

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Figure 12 Inverey Conservation Area.



Figure 13 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

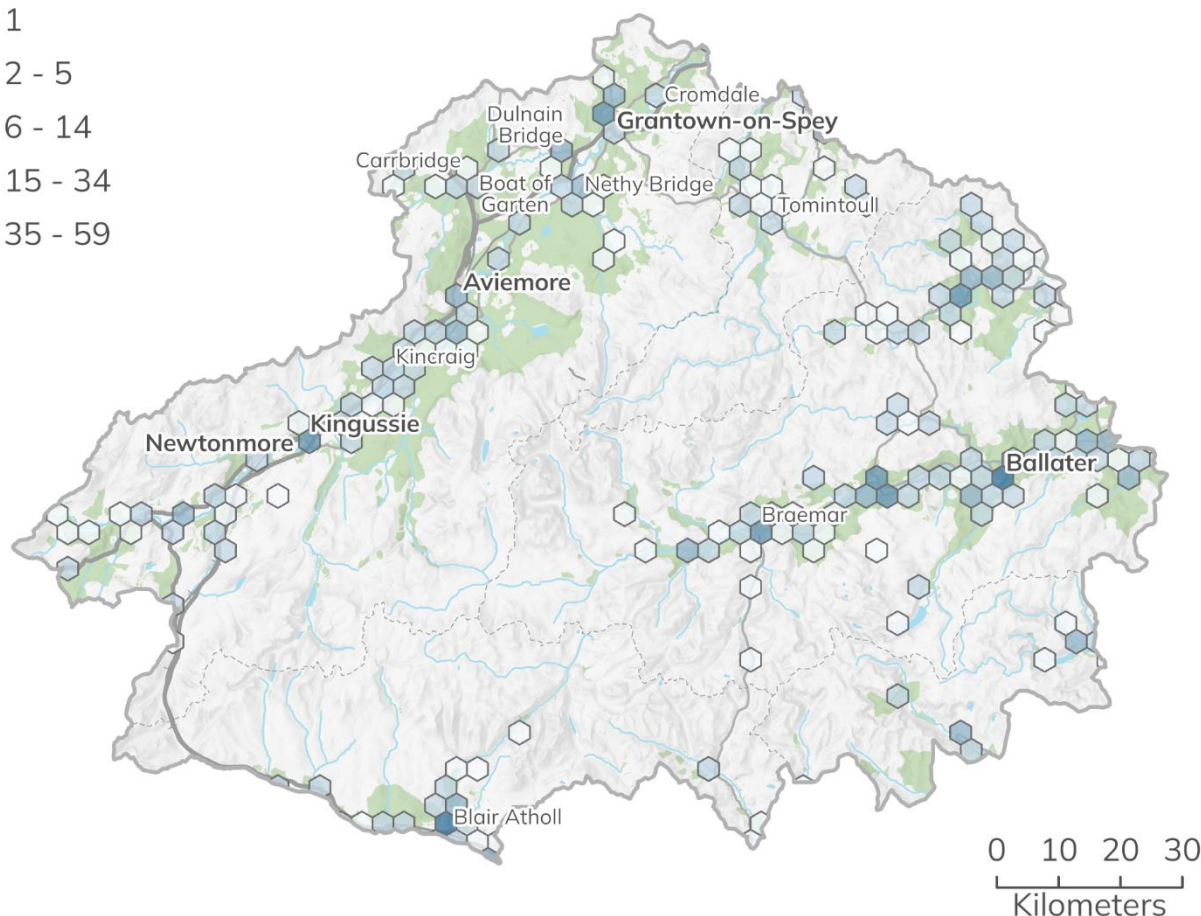
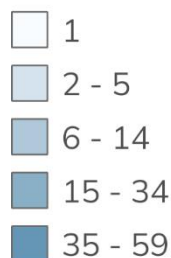


Figure 14 Concentration of Listed Buildings within the Cairngorms National Park. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of His Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright and database right 2024. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000821810, Cairngorms National Park Authority. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2024.

The National Park contains 595 buildings or structures of special historic or architectural interest, which are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 (Figure 14); 40 of these are within Category A (Figure 15), 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.

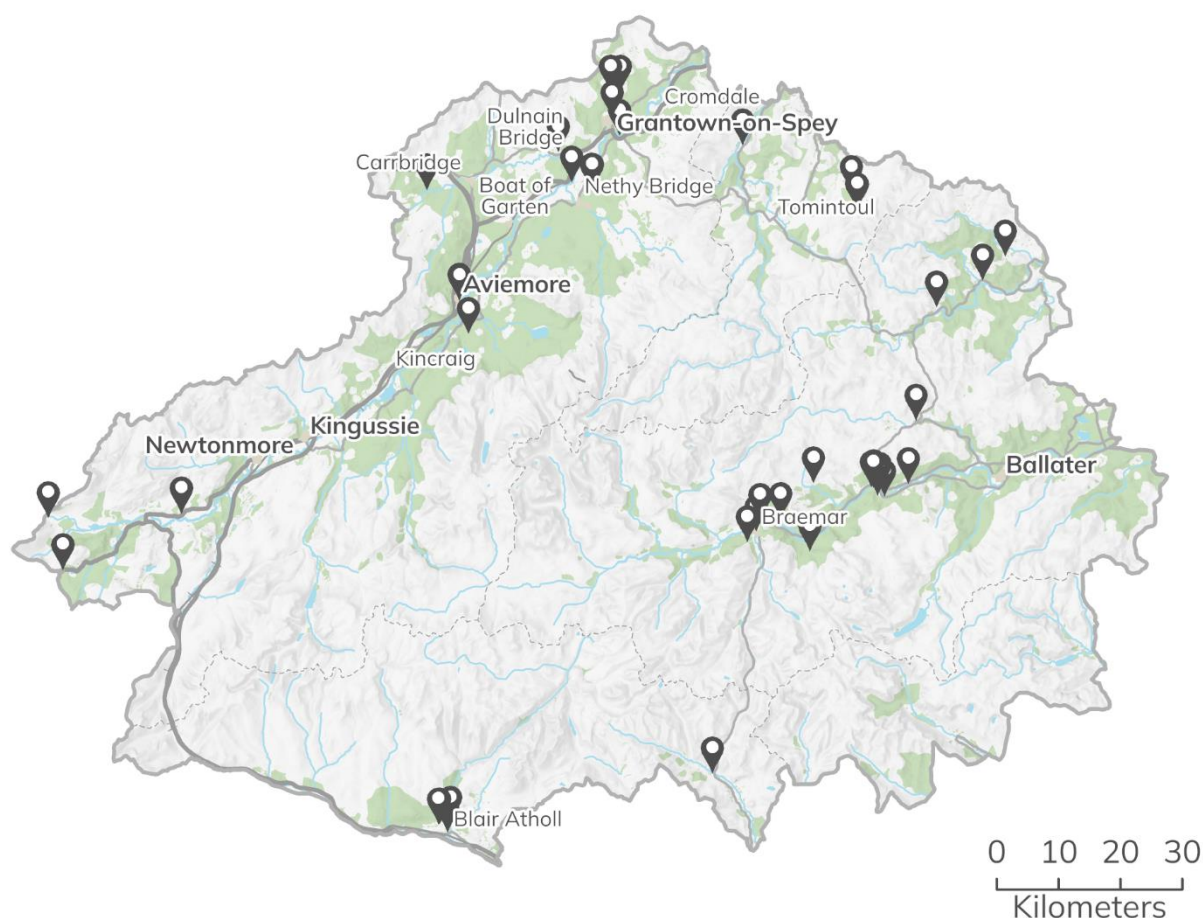


Figure 15 Location of Category A Listed Buildings within the Cairngorms National Park. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of His Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright and database right 2024. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000821810, Cairngorms National Park Authority. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2024.

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.

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. 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 16), 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

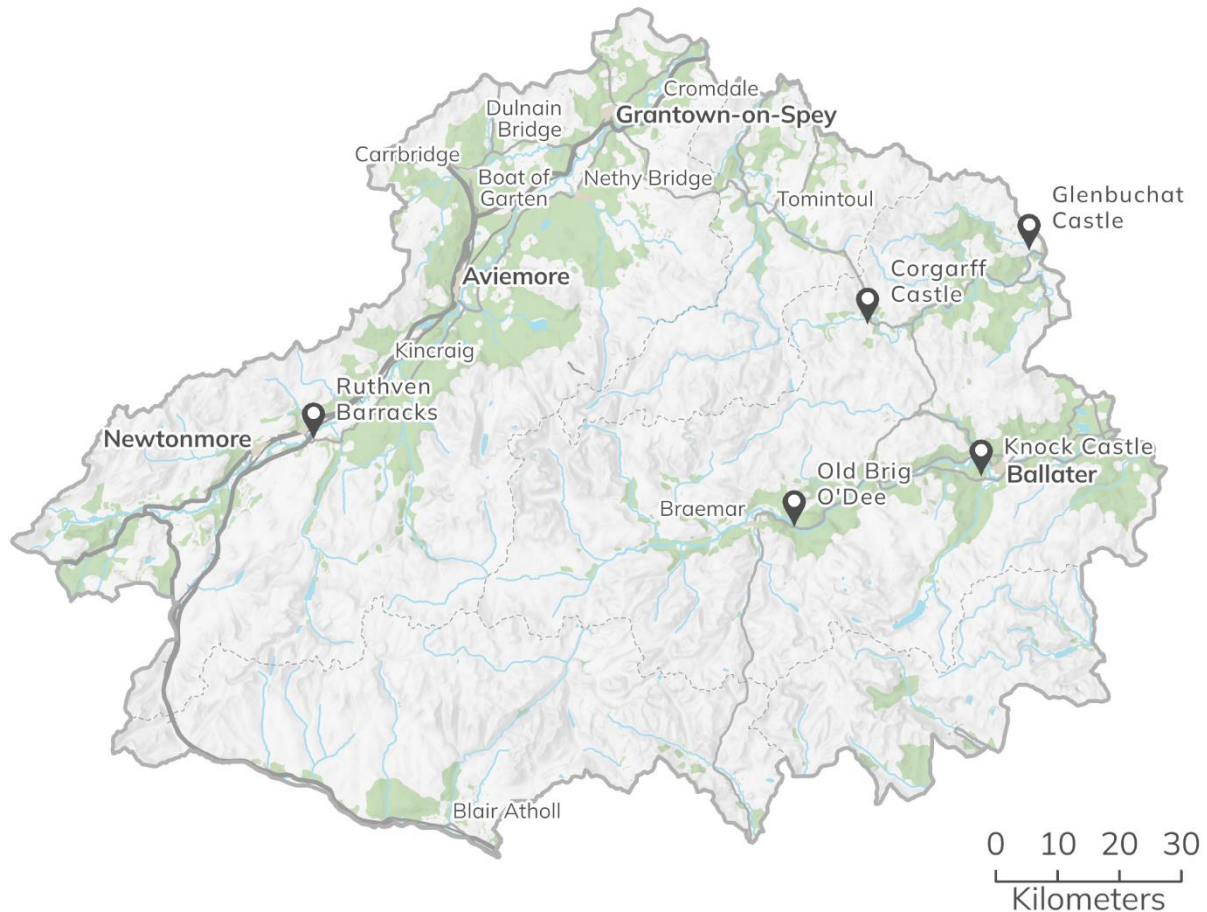


Figure 16 Properties in Care within the Cairngorms National Park. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of His Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright and database right 2024. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000821810, Cairngorms National Park Authority. Contains data © Historic Environment Scotland 2024.

Buildings at risk




The Buildings at Risk Register 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,
- 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 17, Figure 18 and Figure 19). 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

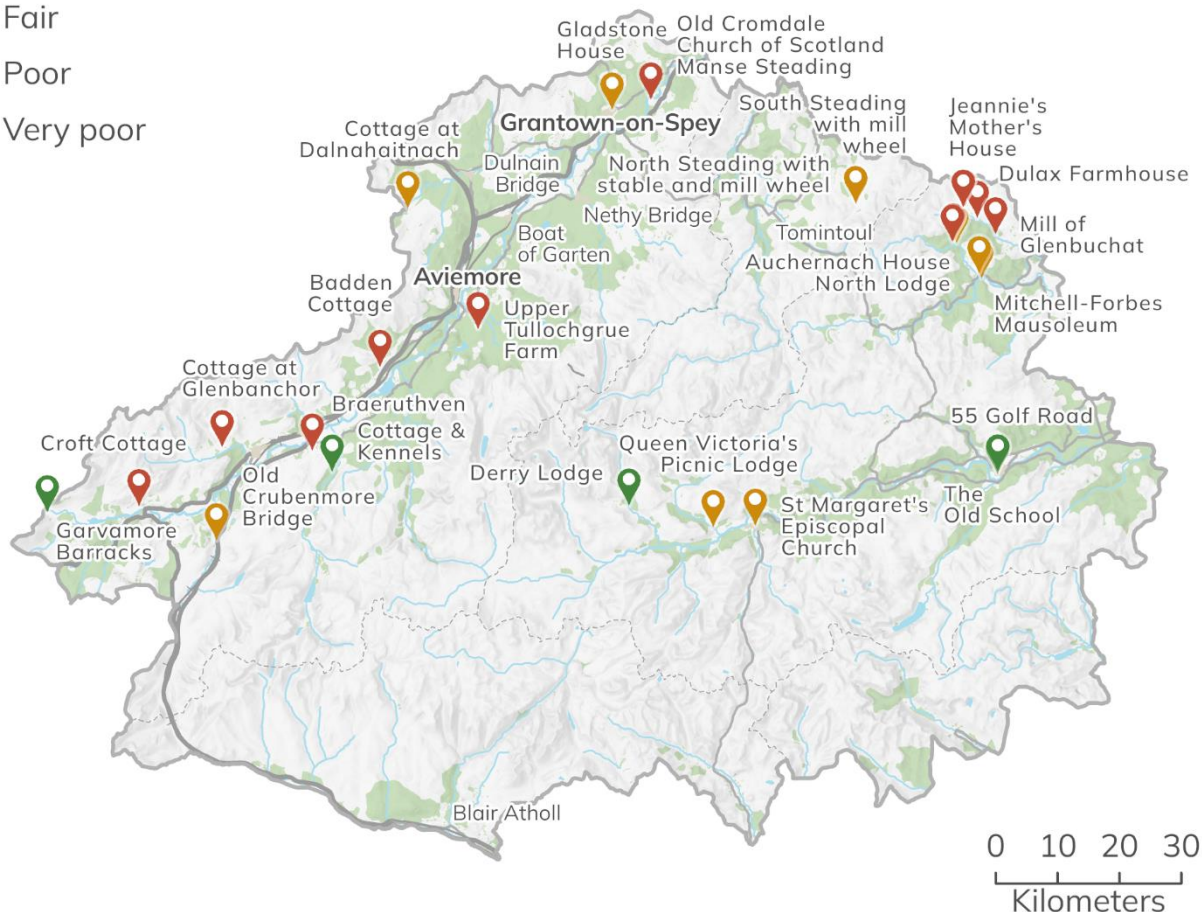


Figure 17 Buildings at Risk within the Cairngorms National Park. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of His Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright and database right 2024. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000821810, Cairngorms National Park Authority.

Two of the buildings on the register are in critical condition, which is the most serious category awarded by the register (Figure 19). 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.

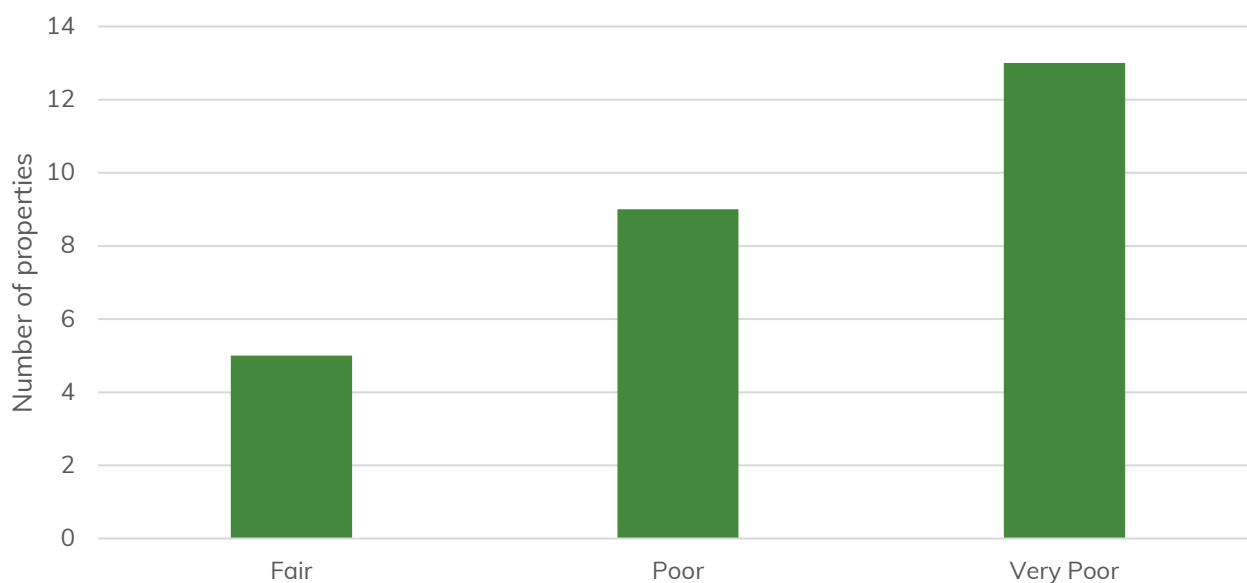


Figure 18 Condition of Buildings at Risk in the Cairngorms National Park in 2023 (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, 2023).

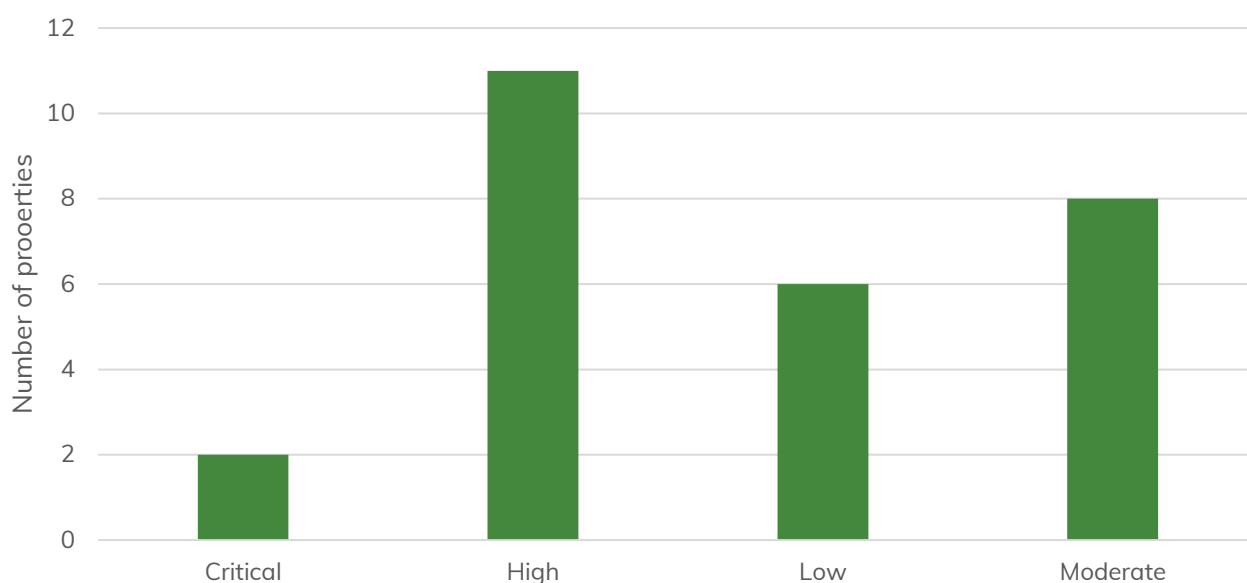


Figure 19 Category of risk of Buildings at Risk in the Cairngorms National Park in 2023 (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, 2023).



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.

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

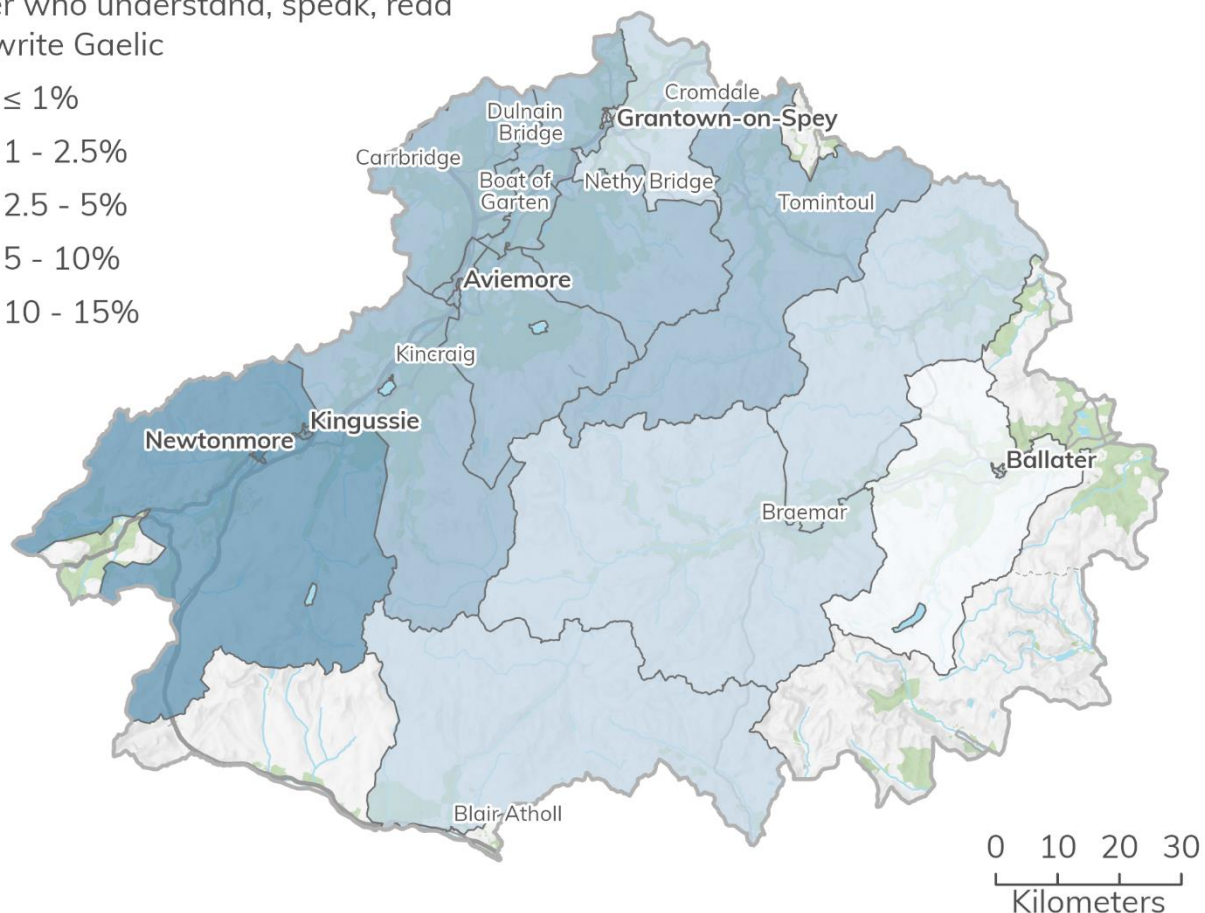
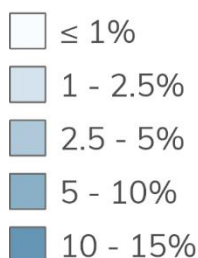


Figure 20 Proportion of people aged 3 and over who understand, speak, read or write Gaelic in Cairngorms National Park in 2011 (Scotland Census 2011). Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of His Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright and database right 2024. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000821810, Cairngorms National Park Authority.

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 20) and Scots (which includes the prevalence of Doric in the northeast) (Figure 23).

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.

- <https://cairngorms.co.uk/guide-to-place-names-of-the-cairngorms-published/>

According to the 2011 Census around 370 (2.2% of the total population) people living in the National Park speak Gaelic (Figure 21 and Figure 22). This is a reduction from around 3.1% in 2001. Despite the dwindling 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.

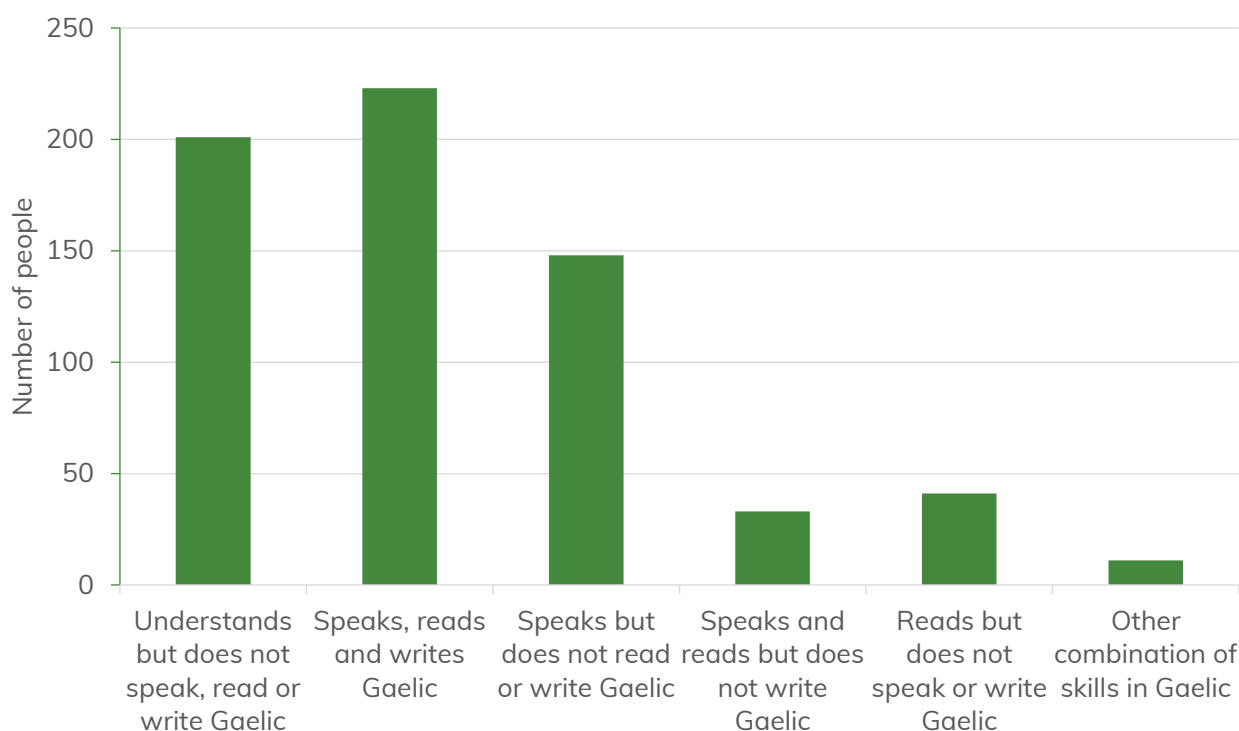


Figure 21 Gaelic language skills for all people aged 3 and above within the Cairngorms National Park 2011 (Census table QS211SC).

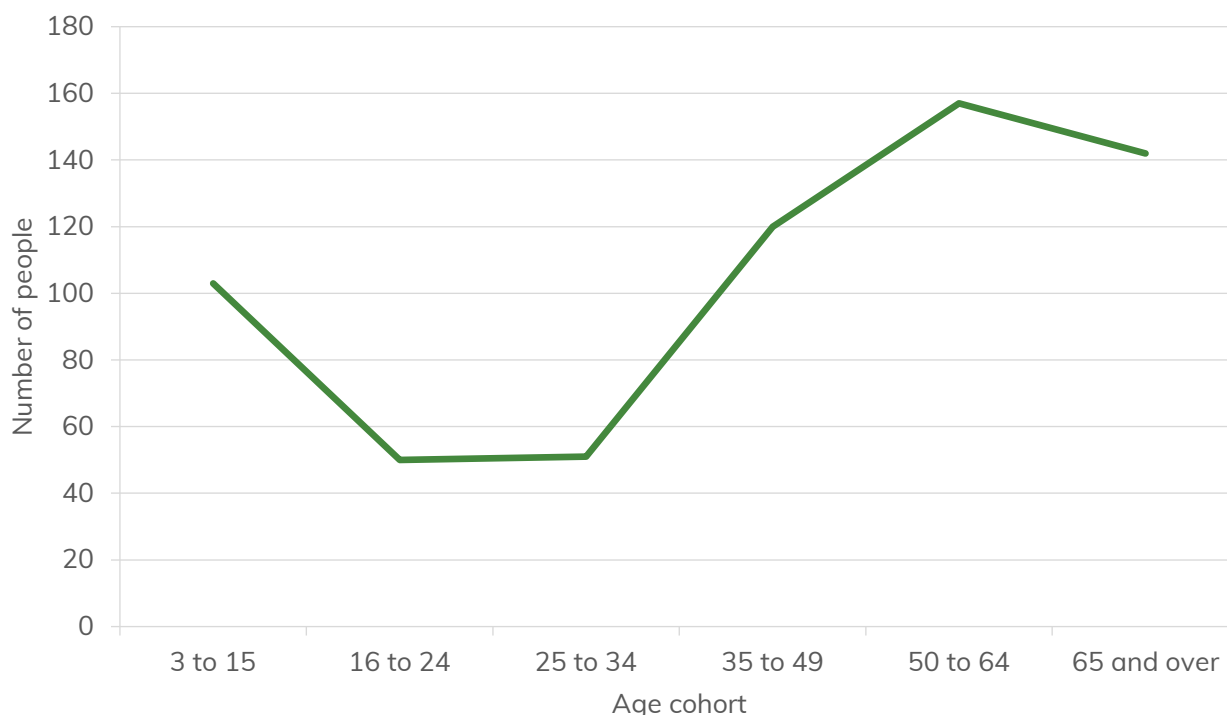


Figure 22 Age profile of the Cairngorms National Park population aged 3 and above who can understand, speak, read or write Gaelic 2011 (Census table LC2120SCdz).

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. Around 5,400 (29.3%) of the National Park's population claim to be able to speak Scots in 2011 (Figure 24 and Figure 25).

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

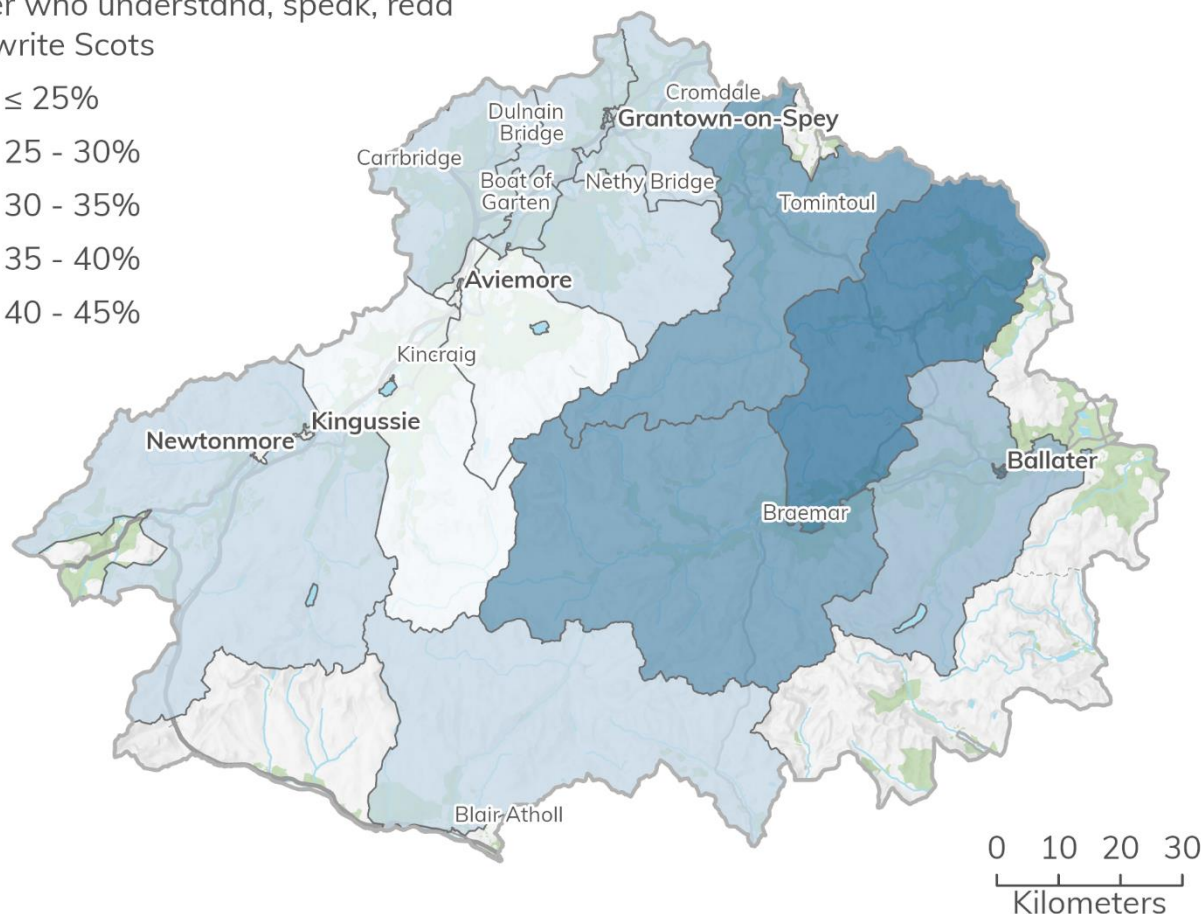
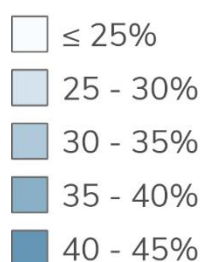


Figure 23 Proportion of people aged 3 and over who understand, speak, read or write Scots in Cairngorms National Park in 2011 (Scotland Census 2011). Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of His Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright and database right 2024. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000821810, Cairngorms National Park Authority.

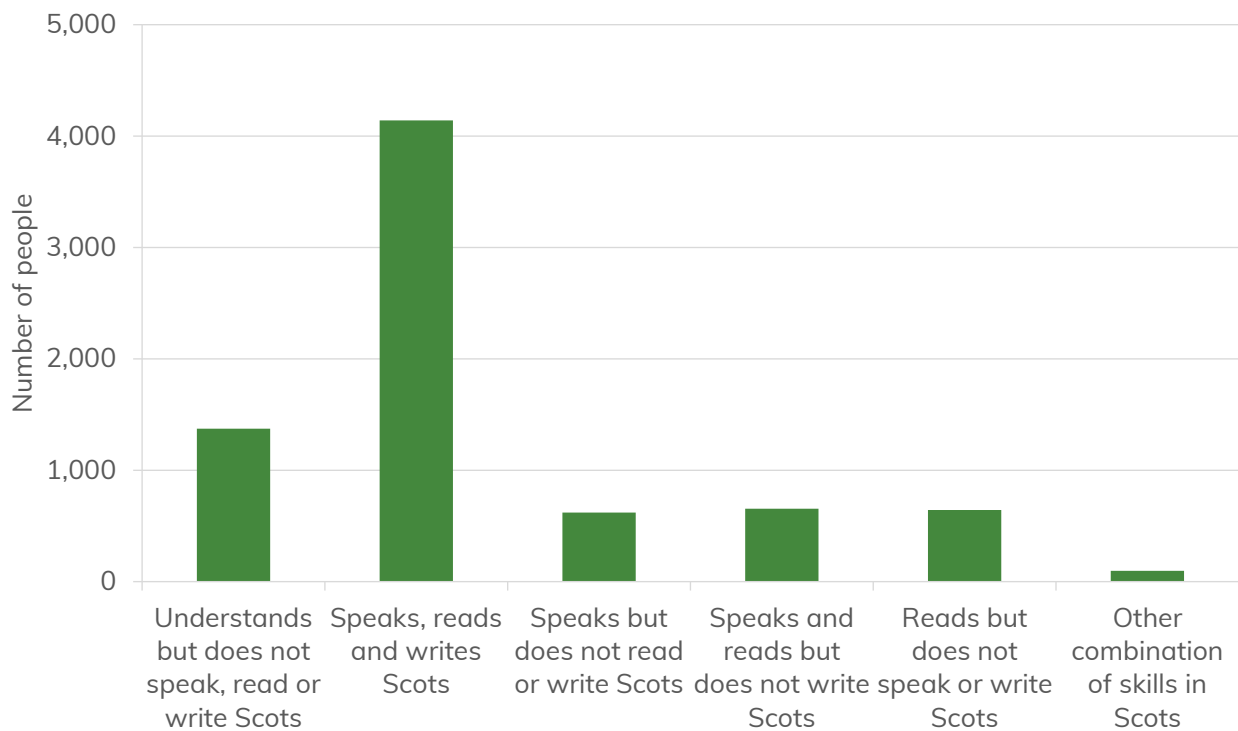


Figure 24 Scots language skills for all people aged 3 and over in the Cairngorms National Park 2011 (Census table QS212SC).

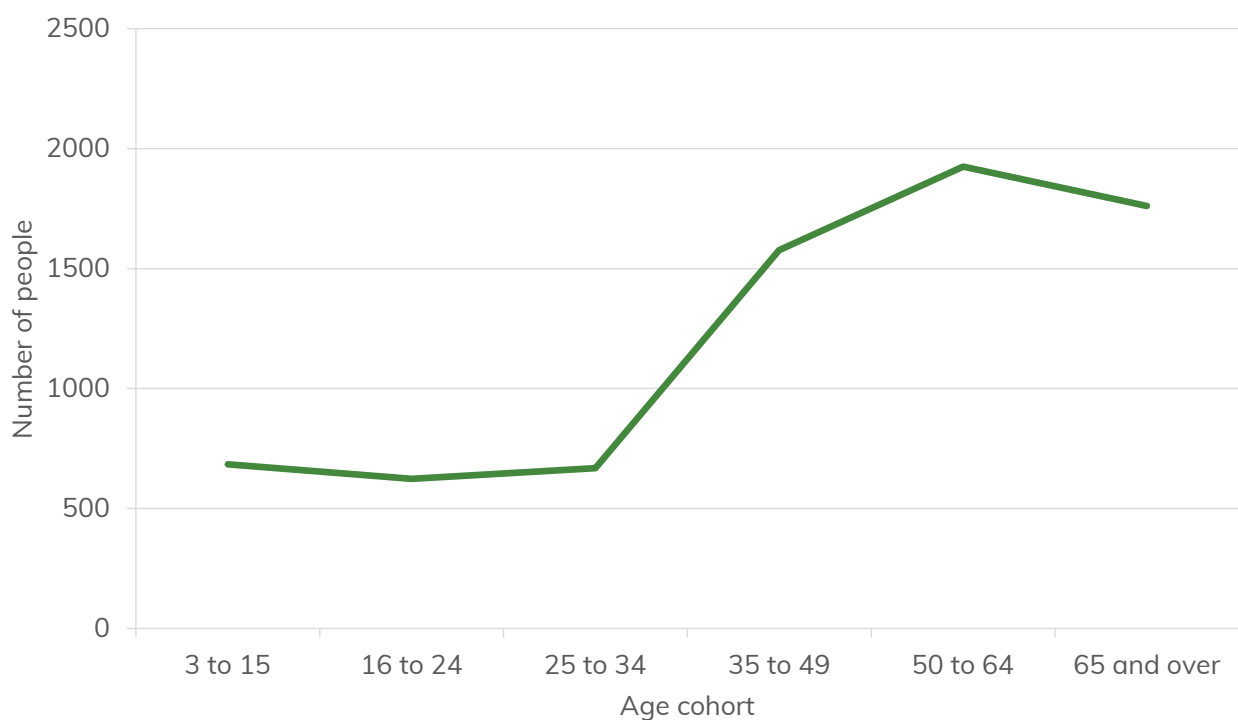


Figure 25 Age profile of the Cairngorms National Park population aged 3 and above who can understand, speak, read or write Scots 2011 (Census table LC2121SC).



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.

Summary of implications for 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), in particular the first aim 'to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area'.
- The spatial strategy and principles of National Planning Framework 4.

In its preparation 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.
- Identify, protect and enhance valued historic assets and places.
- Protect and enhance important local historic and cultural assets and landscapes.