



Cairngorms
National Park Authority

Ùghdarras Pàirc Nàiseanta a'
Mhonaidh Ruaidh

Formal Board Paper 1 Annex 1.17

13 March 2026

Paper 1

Annex 1.17



Cairngorms
National Park Authority
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Mhonaidh Ruaidh

Liveable places

Schedule 17: Play, recreation and sport

Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan: Evidence Report

March 2026





Schedule 17: Play, recreation and sport

March 2026

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Requirements addressed in this schedule

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

Section	Requirement
Section 3G	A planning authority is to prepare and publish an open space strategy. However, Section 3G(6) states that a national park authority is not a planning authority for the purposes of this section.
Section 15(5)(a)	the principal physical, cultural, economic, social, built heritage and environmental characteristics of the district.
Section 15(5)(c)	the size, composition, health and distribution of the population of the district.
Section 15(5)(d)	the infrastructure of the district (including communications, transport and drainage systems, systems for the supply of water and energy, and health care and education facilities),
Section 15(5)(e)	how that infrastructure is used,
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	Requirement
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 16D(1)	A planning authority must assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in its area for children in preparing an evidence 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 paid to the desirability of exercising the power consistently with the adopted National Park Plan.

Table 2 Information required by the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (CNPA684), regarding the issue addressed in this schedule.

Section	Requirement
Regulation 9(2)(c)	Any local development plan prepared for an area adjoining the local development plan area,
Regulation 9(2)(e)(x)	Any open space strategy published under section 3G of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.



Links to evidence

Legislation

- CNPA003 - Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
- CNPA004 - National Park (Scotland) Act 2000
- CNPA005 – Planning (Scotland) Act 2019
- CNPA664 - Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
- CNPA684 - Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023
- CNPA702 - The Town and Country Planning (Play Sufficiency Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023

National documents

- CNPA007 - National Performance Framework
- CNPA008 - National Planning Framework 4
- CNPA009 - Local Development Planning Guidance 2023
- CNPA665 - Play vision statement and action plan 2025 to 2030 2025
- CNPA666 - Progress Review of Scotland's Play Strategy 2021
- CNPA667 - Play Strategy for Scotland: Our Action Plan 2013
- CNPA668 - Physical Activity for Health: Scotland's National Framework 2024
- CNPA669 - A More Active Scotland: Scotland's Physical Activity Delivery Plan 2018

National Park Authority documents

- CNPA010 - Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027
- CNPA016 - Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021
- CNPA026 – Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan interactive map engagement report 2024
- CNPA027 - Cairngorms Youth Action Team Place Standard Tool Engagement 2024
- CNPA028 - Cairngorms National Park Gypsy and Traveller 2024
- CNPA058 - Grantown Grammar School Place Standard Tool Engagement 2024
- CNPA280 - Cairngorms National Park Play Sufficiency Assessment 2025
- CNPA833 - Cairngorms Local development plan place standard tool engagement with Kingussie High School Youth Forum 2025
- CNPA1104 - Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan engagement - gamification approach 2025
- CNPA1105 - Local Development Plan engagement – Planning Power with Cairngorms 2030



- CNPA1357 - Topic: Play, recreation and sport - engagement version

Local authority documents

- CNPA636 - Aberdeenshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017 – 2027 (website)
- CNPA637 - Angus Community Plan 2022 – 2030
- CNPA638 - 2024 – 2027 Highland Outcome Improvement Plan
- CNPA639 - Moray Local Outcomes Improvement Plan v2
- CNPA640 - Perth and Kinross Community Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan) 2022 – 2032
- CNPA671 - Aberdeenshire Open Space Audit 2024
- CNPA672 - Aberdeenshire Play Sufficiency Assessment 2024
- CNPA673 - Live Life Aberdeenshire Pitch and Outdoor Physical Activity Space Strategy 2022
- CNPA674 - The Moray Play Sufficiency Assessment 2023
- CNPA675 - Moray Community Planning Partnership Physical Activity, Sport and Health Strategy 2023
- CNPA676 - Perth and Kinross (Draft) Play Sufficiency Assessment 2025 (web site)
- CNPA677 - Perth and Kinross Physical Activity and Sports Strategy 2023 – 2028
-
- CNPA1091 – 2024 – 2027 Highland Outcome Improvement Plan – Delivery Plan
- CNPA1106 - The Highland Council Play Park Strategy and Action Plan 2023 - 2033
- CNPA1129 – Aberdeenshire Participation Statement with issues from the youth engagement for the Play Sufficiency Assessment 2024
- CNPA1152 – Aberdeenshire Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2010
- CNPA1153 – Perth and Kinross The Big Conversation 2023 Highland ward summary
- CNPA1154 – Perth and Kinross The Big Conversation 2023 Blair Atholl and Struan community council summary

Community action plans

- CNPA063 - Aviemore, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Action Plan 2024
- CNPA064 - Blair Atholl and Struan Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA065 - Grantown-on-Spey Community Action Plan 2025
- 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
- CNPA127 - Kincaig and locality Community Action Plan: Looking 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 2025
- CNPA331 - Dulnain Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
- CNPA374 - Boat of Garten Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Data sources

- CNPA851 - Active Scotland Outcomes Framework
- CNPA670 - SportScotland Sports Facilities dataset (2024)
- CNPA865 - Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer

Consultation material

- CNPA1017 - Scottish Environment Protection Agency response to Play, recreation and sport topic paper
- CNPA1016 – Scottish Forestry response to consultation on blue green infrastructure, play sport and recreation and policy monitoring
- CNPA1340 - Evidence report engagement responses

Summary of Evidence

Policy Context

National Planning Framework 4

National Planning Framework 4 (CNPA008) sets out the national spatial strategy for Scotland, replacing both National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy. Its focus on the three main policy themes of sustainable, liveable and productive places aligns with Scotland's aim of delivering on the United Nations Sustainable Goals.

The national spatial strategy (page 11) states that:

‘we want to make better use of our spaces to support physical activity, relaxation and play, to bring people together and to celebrate our culture, diversity and heritage.’



The importance of play, recreation and sport in creating sustainable, liveable and productive places is emphasised throughout National Planning Framework 4 and it is one of 11 topics under the liveable theme (Policy 21). Its policy intent is to encourage and facilitate the need for opportunities for play, recreation and sport.

Local development plans are required, under this policy, to identify sites for sports, play and outdoor recreation for all age groups. This process needs to be based on an understanding of community needs and demand and informed by the planning authority's Play Sufficiency Assessment and Open Space Strategy¹. These identified sites can be incorporated as part of enhancing and expanding blue and green infrastructure, taking account of relevant agencies' plans or policy frameworks.

The Scottish Government's 'Local development planning guidance' (May 2023) (CNPA009) provides further explanation on the requirements of local development plans. It advises that the spatial strategy should seek to identify and maximise the opportunities for play in the community, in the neighbourhood and in the natural environment. It explains that apart from identifying specific sites for sports, play and outdoor recreation, the spatial strategy should address the wider concept of play and playability, in the form of informal play spaces, in the built and natural environment. It should recognise that accessible blue and green infrastructure may provide outdoor opportunities for formal and informal play and recreation.

Policy 21 aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Improved natural and built environments with equitable access to play and recreation.
- Improved physical and mental health through provision of, and access to, outdoor recreation and sports facilities.

The policy covers both the loss and creation of play, recreation and sport facilities as well as the incorporation of formal and informal play opportunities within new developments:

- Existing facilities are protected - proposals resulting in the loss of outdoor sports facilities or play provision must demonstrate no ongoing demand or provide better quality replacements.

¹ Under Section 3G(6) of Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, the Cairngorms National Park Authority is not required to prepare and publish an Open Space Strategy. This evidence paper refers to Open Space Strategies where they have been published by the National Park's five constituent authorities.



- New, replacement and improved facilities – there is support for new or improved play and sport facilities, ensuring they are well-designed, accessible, and inclusive.
- Opportunities for informal and incidental play are maximised – development proposals likely to be occupied by children and young people should incorporate well designed provision for play, recreation and relaxation and streets and public realm that are inclusive and enable safe, independent play.
- Temporary Use of Land - there is ongoing support for temporary or informal play spaces on unused or underused land.

Good quality provision is emphasised with a requirement for inclusive, stimulating and integrated environments with a range of safely accessible play experiences suitable for children and young people of different ages. Effective management and maintenance plans of facilities are required to ensure there are funding arrangements for their long-term delivery and upkeep

National Planning Framework 4 is committed to fostering environments that support active lifestyles and community wellbeing through well planned and maintained play, recreation, and sport facilities.

The following National Planning Framework 4 policies are listed as key connections to Policy 21 and are relevant to this evidence base:

Sustainable Places

- Policy 1 Tackling the climate and nature crisis
- Policy 2 Climate mitigation and adaptation
- Policy 3 Biodiversity
- Policy 4 Natural places
- Policy 6 Forestry, woodland and trees
- Policy 7 Historic assets and places
- Policy 9 Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings
- Policy 13 Sustainable transport

Liveable Places

- Policy 14 Design, quality and place
- Policy 15 Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods
- Policy 16 Quality homes
- Policy 17 Rural homes
- Policy 18 Infrastructure first
- Policy 20 Blue and green infrastructure



- Policy 22 Flood risk and water management
- Policy 23 Health and safety

Productive Places

- Policy 27 City, town, local and commercial centres
- Policy 31 Culture and creativity

Policy 15 Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods mentions playgrounds and informal play opportunities, parks, green streets and spaces, community gardens, opportunities for food growth and allotments, sport and recreation facilities and how access to these facilities help improve local living.

Policy 20 Blue and green infrastructure, while primarily focused on environmental aspects, also supports play and recreation by enhancing natural and built environments to improve access to outdoor spaces and through integrating blue and green infrastructure into developments to provide multifunctional areas that can be used for recreation and sport.

Policy 23 Health and safety underscores the role of planning in promoting health and well-being by supporting developments that positively impact health, including those that provide opportunities for physical activity and recreation. This policy also links to natural environment, housing, transport and blue and green infrastructure to create healthier places.

Annex D on the six qualities of successful places is relevant to this topic. The two with the most relevance are –

- Number 2 – Pleasant: supporting attractive natural and built spaces which ensures designing for variety and quality of play and recreation spaces for people of all ages and abilities.
- Number 5 – Sustainable: Supporting the efficient use of resources that will allow people to live, play, work and stay in their area, ensuring climate resilience and integrating nature positive biodiversity solutions which ensures designing for community and local living including access to local services and facilities, education, community growing and healthy food options, play and recreation and digital connectivity.



Legislation and National documents

National Park (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, the four aims will be amended by the Natural Environment Scotland (Scotland) Bill (CNPA634) once enacted. The aims, once amended, will be:

- 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).

National Performance Framework

The Scottish Government's National Performance Framework (CNPA007) sets out eleven National Outcomes that aim to get everyone in Scotland working together, including 'national and local government, businesses, voluntary organisations and people living in Scotland'. There are a few outcomes which are relevant to play, recreation and sport which include communities, environment, children and young people and health.

The National Outcome for Communities sets out the following vision:

'We believe that access to greenspace, nature and other leisure activities positively enhances our lives and health...'

The National Outcome for Environment sets out the following vision:

'We ensure all communities can engage with and benefit from nature and green space. We live in clean and unpolluted environments and aspire to being the greenest country in the world...'

The National Outcome for Children and Young People sets out the following vision:



'Our communities are safe places where children are valued, nurtured and treated with kindness. We provide stimulating activities and encourage children to engage positively with the built and natural environment and to play their part in its care. We provide the conditions in which all children can be healthy and active...'

The National Outcome for Health sets out the following vision:

'We are active and have widespread engagement with sport and exercise...'

Each outcome is directly linked to the Scottish Government's response to addressing United Nations Sustainable Goals. The most relevant of these for play, recreation & sport are Good Health and Wellbeing [3], Quality Education [4], Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure [9], Reduced Inequalities [10] and Sustainable Cities and Communities [11].

Local development planning guidance 2023

The guidance (CNPA009) advises on page 134 that local development plans should identify sites for sports, play and outdoor recreation for people of all ages. It advises this should be based on an understanding of the needs and demand in the community and informed by the planning authority's Play Sufficiency Assessment and Open Space Strategy. Sports pitch strategies may inform the needs and demand for outdoor sports provision, and where relevant suitable provision should be considered through the spatial strategy.

The Cairngorms National Park has produced a play sufficiency assessment. It is not required to produce an open space strategy or sports pitch strategy, instead relying on the strategies produced by the constituent local authorities.

The guidance advises that open spaces can be incorporated as part of enhancing and expanding blue and green infrastructure, taking account of relevant agencies' plans or policy frameworks, such as flood risk and / or water management plans.

It advises that consideration should be given to key policy connections and other opportunities for play, recreation and sports such as within natural places, forestry and woodlands, appropriate water environments and in the public realm and civic spaces.

Play Strategy for Scotland 2013 and Progress Review 2021

This document (CNPA667) seeks to improve the play experiences of all children and young people, including those with disabilities or from disadvantages backgrounds. It



aims to ensure all children and young people can access play opportunities in a range of settings which offer variety, adventure and challenge. They must be able to play freely and safely while learning to manage risks and make choices about where, how and when they play according to their age, stage, ability and preference.

The strategy aims to make Scotland the best place to grow up, valuing play as a life enhancing daily experience. It emphasizes the importance of play in homes, nurseries, schools, and communities.

The need for sufficient time and space for play within communities, including access to nature is highlighted throughout. This is particularly relevant for areas like the Cairngorms National Park, where natural environments can be leveraged for outdoor play.

The strategy for implementation involves collaboration across sectors, including health, education, and local authorities, to create environments that support play. This could involve partnerships with organisations operating within the Cairngorms National Park.

Overall, the strategy's focus on community involvement, access to nature, and collaborative efforts aligns well with the goals of enhancing play opportunities within the Cairngorms National Park.

A review of this document was undertaken in 2020 and updated in 2021 (CNPA666) to reflect the Covid 19 context. It includes a summary of a Play Scotland consultation with children and young people on their views on play and the pandemic. It makes the following eight recommendations to progress and refresh Scotland's Play Strategy:

1. Refresh the Play Strategy and ensure national and local leadership supports a child's right to play.
2. Renew and develop the national and local commitment to outdoor play.
3. Listen to children and young people and act on what they say.
4. Ensure the inclusion of all children and young people.
5. Ensure cross sectoral and inter professional approaches to play are in place.
6. Sustain and support play provision through adequate funding.
7. Maintain a focus on playful learning and play in schools.
8. Strengthen the play sector nationally and locally.

It concludes that at a time of major change and disruption, it is more important than ever to maintain and strengthen a focus on children's right to play.



Play vision statement and action plan 2025 to 2030

The Play: vision statement and action plan 2025 to 2030 (CNPA665) builds on the Play Strategy from 2013, setting out the vision for the future and the actions to be taken in partnership with public and third sector partners.

The statement advises that the 2013 strategy ensured that Scotland became the first country in the United Kingdom to incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into its domestic law, including the right to play enshrined in Article 31. This meant that play was being fully incorporated into the planning system through the requirement of Play Sufficiency Assessments.

Working in collaboration with partners, ten main actions have been identified which will support the delivery of the drivers within the Play Theory of Change and, ultimately, the aim and vision for play in Scotland.

The strategic goals and actions included in this document include:

- Strengthening support for parents to encourage play, including through the Baby Box Programme and health visitor guidance.
- Developing inclusive, safe, and accessible play spaces, particularly in low-income areas and for children with specific needs.
- Supporting educators and childcare providers in promoting play, including through training and resources.

A More Active Scotland: Scotland's Physical Activity Delivery Plan

This document (CNPA669) sets out the importance of physical activity and sport; how active people in Scotland are; and aims and objectives to ensure more people are active, more often. This is measured using a set of indicators reported on the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework website (CNPA851). The plan emphasises a need for Community Engagement to help encourage the development and maintenance of active spaces.

The Guiding Principles in this document include:

- Human Rights based approach: Engaging and empowering individuals and communities to actively participate.
- Equity across the Life Course: Providing opportunities for all ages and abilities, prioritizing those facing disparities.
- Evidence based practice: Utilizing robust evidence to inform actions.
- Reducing Inequality: Focusing on reducing inequality in opportunities to participate.
- Empowerment: Encouraging participation in policy and intervention development.
- Joined up policy: Enhancing policy coherence across sectors.



- Multi-sectoral partnerships: Fostering collaboration across stakeholders.

The plan advises that it aligns with the World Health Organisation Global Action Plan on Physical Activity which aims to reduce physical inactivity by 15% by 2030. The overall aim is to create a healthier, more active Scotland by addressing physical activity across all ages and communities.

Physical Activity for Health: Scotland's National Framework

The purpose of this document (CNPA664) is to provide a framework for improving physical activity levels in Scotland, based on evidence from the World Health Organization and other global partners. This should be achieved at both national and local levels.

Since the publication of the Active Scotland Delivery Plan in 2018, international evidence on the impact of physical inactivity on health has developed significantly. New evidence based approaches to improving physical activity have emerged and the pandemic and the cost of living crisis has had dramatic impacts on society, further reinforcing the imperative need to focus even more on addressing inequalities.

There are key overarching public health principles, adapted from the World Health Organisation Global Action Plan for Physical Activity and the characteristics of a whole systems approach advocated by Public Health Reform in Scotland which are to be used to improve levels of physical activity in Scotland. These include:

- Collaborative leadership
- Clear governance and resourcing
- Multisectoral partnerships
- Engagement and empowerment of policymakers, practitioners and communities
- A Human rights based approach
- Equality and inclusion
- Policy coherence
- Equity across the life course
- Proportionate universalism
- Evidence based policy and practice
- Place based approaches

Within this document, eight evidence based strategic outcomes have been created. For each, a brief description has been provided of national actions which are contribution to the delivery of that outcome.



These strategic delivery outcomes are:

1. Active Systems: Strengthening leadership, governance, and multisectoral partnerships.
2. Active Places of Learning: Promoting physical activity in schools, colleges, and universities
3. Active Travel: Prioritizing walking, wheeling, and cycling and the infrastructure required for these activities.
4. Active Places and Spaces: Improving access to public parks, green spaces, and recreational facilities.
5. Active Health and Social Care: Integrating physical activity into healthcare and rehabilitation.
6. Active Communications: Using mass media to promote physical activity.
7. Active Sport and Recreation: Providing inclusive sport and recreation opportunities.
8. Active Workplaces: Encouraging physical activity in workplace environments.

The overall target for this report and its proposed actions is to achieve a 15% relative reduction in physical inactivity by 2030, aligned with World Health Organisation targets. Progress will be tracked through national surveys and indicators, with a focus on reducing inactivity and improving overall physical activity levels.

National Park Authority documents

Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027

This plan (CNPA010) outlines the strategic vision and priorities for the National Park over a five year period. It aims to balance conservation efforts with sustainable development, ensuring the park remains a vibrant and resilient natural area for future generations.

One of the Cairngorms National Park's four distinct aims, as set by Parliament, is to 'to promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public'. This is supported by the Partnership Plan in its overarching Outcome for People: 'a wellbeing economy that works for all the people of the Cairngorms'.

This outcome is supported by a number of objectives which are relevant to the topic play, recreation and sport:

- Objective B9: Mental and Physical Health, which aims to improve mental and physical health through greater connection with nature and the outdoors.
- Objective B10: A Park for All, which aims that there will be better opportunities for everyone to enjoy the National Park and the visitor profile will be more diverse,



especially with regards to people who are disabled, from lower socio-economic backgrounds, LGBTQ+ and from minority and ethnic groups.

Local authority documents

Aberdeenshire Council

Aberdeenshire Play Sufficiency Assessment 2024

This assessment (CNPA672) excludes settlements in the Cairngorms National Park. However, formal and informal play spaces in Ballater and Braemar have been audited and the views of children and other stakeholders on needs and demand compiled. This audit and engagement inform the Cairngorms National Park's Play Sufficiency Assessment (CNPA280). Note that Cairngorms National Park officers have audited play areas in Dinnet and Strathdon for Cairngorms National Park's Play Sufficiency Assessment.

Aberdeenshire Open Space Audit 2024

The Aberdeenshire Open Space Audit (CNPA671) is a compilation of open spaces across 92 settlements in Aberdeenshire. It contains a summary of key findings in Marr, which includes commentary on Ballater and Braemar. Dinnet and Strathdon have not been audited. The Marr summary states that:

- Nine of the 12 settlements (including Ballater and Braemar) have less amenity space than the Aberdeenshire average.
- Over half the settlements (including Ballater and Braemar) have more than the Aberdeenshire average of sports areas – with golf courses, bowling greens and fields used for Highland Games.
- Wheelchair access to play spaces is particularly poor or not possible in many settlements including Ballater and Braemar.
- A play area in each of Ballater and Braemar lack play facilities for all ages or are in a poor condition.

Across the Aberdeenshire Council administrative area, the potential needs identified are:

- Improve allotment provision.
- Maintain cemetery provision.
- Enhance biodiversity of sites.
- Opportunities for climate change adaptation and mitigation (trees for shade and natural spaces with trees for flood mitigation).
- Improve play area provision – 23% of settlements fall 50% below the Aberdeenshire average (only Aboyne in Marr).



- Improve the scale and connectivity of play spaces (play spaces in new housing developments are either small, on a slope, are for single use, fractured, isolated, or don't link well to other open spaces. National Planning Framework 4 (CNPA008) Policy 21 should ensure this is not the case in future).
- Continued maintenance of play areas and sports areas.

The raw data identifies that there are:

24 open spaces in Ballater:

- Five amenity areas
- Four natural areas
- Four play areas
- Four public parks or gardens
- Four sports areas (golf course, bowling green, tennis court, curling pond)
- One caravan park
- One playing field (Monaltrie recreation ground), which is also a public park or garden
- One school grounds (Ballater primary school)

24 open spaces in Braemar:

- 10 natural areas
- Four amenity areas
- Three play areas (two with play equipment)
- Two sports areas (curling pond and bowling green)
- One caravan park
- One cemetery
- One playing field
- One public park or garden (Highland Games Centre)
- One school ground (Braemar School)

Live Life Aberdeenshire Pitch and Outdoor Physical Activity Space Strategy 2022

The strategy (CNPA673) sets out a series of actions to improve access to formal playing pitches and open spaces. It aims to create a network of pitch forums – with 18 forums (based around Academy catchments) across Aberdeenshire and to designate each pitch as either 'competitive sports pitch'; 'community sports pitch'; or 'public space'. Seven networks had been established. Alford (which includes Strathdon) is ranked third in terms of pitch provision per head. Aboyne (Ballater, Braemar and Dinnet) is ranked ninth.



Aberdeenshire Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2010

The strategy (CNPA1152) aims to 'provide high quality multi-functional open space that is easily accessible, safe, welcoming, rich in biodiversity and sustainably managed for the future, which encourages a sense of belonging and enhances the quality of life of those people who live, work in and visit Aberdeenshire'. It provides open space assessment sheets for each administrative area and settlement summaries. This includes the settlements of Ballater and Braemar.

The Highland Council

The Highland Council produced a Greenspace Audit in 2010. However, this did not include the area covered by the Cairngorms National Park. The Highland Council is currently working on a new audit, but no data is yet available.

The Highland Council is also producing a Play Sufficiency Assessment. All formal play spaces within Badenoch and Strathspey have been audited and this work informs the Cairngorms National Park's Play Sufficiency Assessment (CNPA280). Note that Cairngorms National Park officers have audited a recently created play area at Dulicht Court for Cairngorms National Park's Play Sufficiency Assessment.

Moray Council

Moray Council published an Open Space Strategy in 2018. However, it only covers seven main settlements, all of which are outwith the National Park (and therefore does not include Tomintoul).

An updated Moray Open Space Strategy is currently being prepared. An audit of open spaces was completed in 2023. However, the audit was limited to the main towns in Moray (Aberlour being the closest to the National Park boundary). It is understood that the strategy itself will be Moray wide and that a draft open space strategy will be consulted on alongside the proposed Moray Council Local Development Plan. The consultation period was programmed to take place between May and August 2026 at the time of writing.

The Moray Play Sufficiency Assessment

Published in 2023, the assessment (CNPA674) evaluates the availability, quality and accessibility of formal and informal play spaces for children in the Council's administrative area. It also provides details of two online surveys which targeted children and adults, and feedback sessions held at local schools. Four play spaces in the National Park have been audited – two in Tomintoul, one at Glenlivet Primary School and one in Tomnavoulin. The assessment informs the Cairngorms National Park's Play



Sufficiency Assessment. Note that the Tomnavoulin play area was at end of life when audited and Cairngorms National Park officers have audited the new equipment for Cairngorms National Park's Play Sufficiency Assessment.

Moray Community Planning Partnership Physical Activity, Sport and Health Strategy Published (CNPA675) in 2023, the strategy seeks to inspire people of all ages to participate in physical activity. It includes no place based audit or strategy.

Perth and Kinross Council

Perth and Kinross Council are preparing an open space audit, but it is not yet publicly available. Only sites within or adjacent to settlements designated in Perth and Kinross Council's local development plan have been included in the assessment, meaning no sites within the Cairngorms National Park, or the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, are being assessed.

Perth and Kinross (Draft) Play Sufficiency Assessment

Perth and Kinross Council published a draft Play Sufficiency Assessment (CNPA676) in December 2025. It audits sites managed by Perth and Kinross Council. It also provides community feedback with positive and negative views on the sufficiency of play spaces within Perth and Kinross. It audits an equipped area of play in Blair Atholl. The assessment informs the Cairngorms National Park's Play Sufficiency Assessment.

Perth and Kinross Physical Activity and Sports Strategy 2023 – 2028

The Strategy's (CNPA677) overarching vision for the future of physical activity and sport in Perth and Kinross is 'we will support everyone's physical and mental wellbeing through physical activity and sport'.

To support and help deliver on the strategy's vision, the following priorities are identified:

- We will improve everyone in Perth and Kinross's health through increased participation in physical activity.
- We will increase the levels of activity for children and young people, particularly those who currently don't meet the recommended levels of participation.
- We will reduce the inequalities which prevent people participating.
- We will make physical activity central to our climate change response.
- We will support our community led physical activity and sport to grow and flourish and strengthen collaboration between all partners.
- We will make physical activity and sport part of placemaking, so our public spaces are activity friendly, inclusive and fun.



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 (CNPA636) 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 (CNPA637) 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 commits to monitor the implementation of the Angus cultural and sports strategies.

2024 – 2027 Highland Outcome Improvement Plan

The Highland Community Planning Partnership's outcome improvement plan (CNPA638) vision is to maximise opportunities and tackle inequality to build a thriving Highlands for all. Three strategic priorities - people, place and prosperity - have been identified. One of five outcomes the partnership wishes to achieve under the prosperity priority is that 'young people have access to employment, education, training and recreational opportunities to retain them in Highland.'



2024 – 2027 Highland Outcome Improvement Plan Delivery Plan

The Highland outcome improvement plan delivery plan (CNPA1091) introduces cross cutting themes to deliver the three priorities (people, place, prosperity). Under the 'whole family and community based approaches' cross cutting theme, the delivery plan states that the partnership will 'explore opportunities to maximise natural capital through the built environment lens'. A stated deliverable is to 'apply a natural capital approach by mapping and quantifying natural capital assets to identify existing provision of benefits and mapping where there is demand for more benefits from nature to identify opportunities which have multiple benefits for both people and nature'.

Moray Local Outcome Improvement Plan v2 (2016 - 2026)

Play, recreation and sport 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

Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership's community plan (CNPA640) has an ambition to be the best place in Scotland for everyone to live life well, free from poverty and inequality. Five priorities are identified, all of which focus on inequalities. One of the priorities is physical and mental wellbeing and the actions include to establish a Tayside physical activity and green health network to 'support people to be active in their own community' and to 'work with communities to establish path network groups'. One of the performance indicators for the physical and mental health priority is to measure 'percentage of adults that live within a five minute walk of their local green or blue space'. The 2019 figure was 66%, which is the same as the percentage across Scotland.

Community action plans

Many of the community action plans highlight the need to upgrade or expand their existing playparks to better cater to children of all ages. The following references are relevant.

Aviemore, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Action Plan 2024

Published in November 2024, this action plan (CNPA063) looks beyond the two to three year timespan of their previous plan to consider where the community wanted to be by 2030.

- Upgrade play parks / areas, especially Burnside play park.
- Develop Dalfaber site – bike park / pump track / bouldering park.
- Maintain and have more use of the village green.



- Turn grass and hardstanding next to retail park into community green space / recreation space.

Ballater and Crathie Community Action Plan 2023

The community action plan (CNPA119) is a five year plan with strategic projects, a vision and seven focus areas.

- Define a plan to consistently maintain and ensure relevance of our outdoor recreation space (The Greens).
- Ensure sufficient provision of benches to ensure inclusivity and access for a diverse population.

Blair Atholl and Struan Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Compiled in 2023, the community action plan (CNPA064) sets out three themes – a socially connected community, a climate conscious community; and an economically thriving community.

- Invest in Memorial Park through accessible paths, upgrade of activity areas and planting.
- Explore with park users to map out where all suggestions might be sited in the park.

Boat of Garten Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Published in spring 2025, the community action plan (CNPA374) sets out the community's vision for the longer term (up to 10 years) with suggestions and possible actions grouped across five specified themes.

- Improve and extend play park facilities and football field.
- Identify playpark upgrades as a youth priority.

Braemar Community Action Plan 2017

This refreshed version (CNPA121) of the 2013 plan has five themes.

- The village's natural setting and the sport and recreational options it offers are recognised as a big draw.
- The need to improve and link paths is recognised.
- There are plans to construct two tennis courts.
- A new play park was designed and funded and opened in 2017.

Carrbridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Compiled in spring 2022, the community action plan (CNPA112) contains a vision and priority activity set across four themes.

- Plan for a multi-use sports facility including tennis courts, skate park and covered all weather pitch.



- Pupils prioritised developing a pump track.
- Identify playpark upgrades as a youth priority.

Cromdale and Advie Community Action Plan 2013

The community action plan (CNPA123) sets out a number of priorities divided into high, medium and low priority.

- A village shinty pitch, a bike / skate park, improve the picnic area and an upgrade to the football pitch (to include shinty) are medium priorities.

Dalwhinnie Community Action Plan: Looking forward to 2030

Compiled in summer 2023, three themes are identified in the community action plan (CNPA125).

- Identify playpark upgrades as a youth priority.

Dalnain Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Published in 2025, the community action plan's (CNPA331) vision is set across the three themes of a social connected community; a climate conscious community; and a community for our young people.

- Improve the picnic bench area.
- Improve the play park through taking forward an upgrade project, fencing and replacement football goal nets.
- Improve informal place space with fencing and traffic calming.
- Explore site options, funding and feasibility for a pump track.
- Add seating on walking routes around the village.

Grantown-on-Spey Community Action Plan 2025

Published in 2025, the community action plan's (CNPA065) vision is set across the five themes of a social connected community; a climate conscious community; an economically thriving community; supporting our young people; and a culturally vibrant community.

- Improve / redesign Mossie Park with a different offering from Dulaig playpark, maybe themed and designed for more natural and imaginative play. Suggestions include a shelter, apple trees and brambles, a balance trail, roundabout and in-ground trampoline.
- Support a sports hub at the scout hut at Seafeld Park.
- Work with the YMCA community centre to develop sports facilities at the rear.
- Improve pavements throughout the town.
- Create green network and community growing opportunities.
- Clear Grant Park skating pond for community use and ecological health.



- Improve Grant Park and revive the community orchard, install wildflower meadow, lant fruit trees and vegetables for community use.

Kincraig and locality Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Published in November 2024, the community action plan (CNPA127) looks beyond the next two to three-year timespan, focusing on what the community wanted to be by 2030. The community includes the villages and settlements of Kincraig, Insh, Dalnavert, Alvie, Feshiebridge, Lynchat, Drumguish, Speybank and Inveruglas.

- A facility for teenagers to meet up and socialise and an upgrade to the play park are listed as priorities to support young people.

Kingussie Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Published in spring 2025, the suggestions and actions collated from the community are categorised into the community action plan's (CNPA066) four themes.

- Improve what's available locally for young people including revitalise pump track project and exploring the creation of a mountain bike skills area.

Laggan Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Compiled in autumn 2022, there are three themes in the community action plan (CNPA129).

- Consider sport and exercise opportunities for all ages.

Mont Blair Community Action Plan 2013 – 2018

Note that the majority of the community action plan (CNPA130) area is outwith the Cairngorms National Park.

- Develop and promote the local paths network.
- Develop local forests for recreational use.
- Marketing and promotion of the area as a hub for outdoor recreation (lay-bys, picnic areas, signage, leaflets, events).
- Develop infrastructure to support outdoor recreation.

Nethy Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Compiled in autumn / winter 2023. There are four themes in the community action plan (CNPA131) - a socially connected community; a climate conscious community; an economically thriving community; and a culturally vibrant community.

- Upgrade play parks and facilities for young people including equipment for different ages in the park behind the community hall, a pump track, a well designed and weatherproof skate park.



- Make other play parks more space efficient play parks, including upgrade and add new goals at Lynstock and liaise with Abernethy Trust on the use of some facilities.

Newtonmore Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

Compiled in spring 2022, the community action plan (CNPA132) has four themes.

- Create a gathering space (indoor and outdoor) for young people to socialise, be safe and carry out leisure activity.
- Upgrade Clune Terrace play park.
- Upgrade school playing field.

Strathdon Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

This community action plan (CNPA133) is arranged under four themes

- One of four themes is 'A community for our young people'.
- The priority is to deliver more activities for young people including a youth club, log play area, climbing wall, ball pit / soft play area and community bunk house.

Baseline play, recreation and sport matters

This section summarises the Cairngorms National Park Authority's play (through the Play Sufficiency Assessment (CNPA280)); recreation (through an open space audit); and sport (through a sports facilities audit) evidence.

The implications for play, recreation and sport are set out at the end of each section and the overall implications for the proposed plan are summarised on page 122.

There are links between this policy area and the following schedules:

- Schedule 1: Plan outcomes
- Schedule 3: Site assessment methodology
- Schedule 11: Sustainable transport
- Schedule 12: Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods
- Schedule 13: Housing
- Schedule 16: Blue and green infrastructure
- Schedule 18: Health and safety
- Schedule 21: Economic development
- Schedule 22: Town centres and retail
- Schedule 23: Tourism



Play Sufficiency Assessment

The Cairngorms National Park Authority has prepared a Play Sufficiency Assessment, as required by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 (CNPA005) and The Town and Country Planning (Play Sufficiency Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (CNPA702). This section summarises the findings of the Play Sufficiency Assessment (CNPA280) and the full report may be accessed here:

- <https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Local-Development-Plan-Evidence-Report/Supporting-Documents/CNPA280-Cairngorms-National-Park-Play-Sufficiency-Assessment-2025.pdf>

The Cairngorms National Park Play Sufficiency Assessment uses audits of play spaces carried out by each constituent planning authority. Each local authority used a distinct set of quality assessment criteria for their audit, reflecting their own approaches to both the play spaces that they manage and those owned by others. Each audit approach is consistent across the whole of each local authority area – whether the site and settlement are within or outwith the National Park.

The Cairngorms National Park play sufficiency assessment does not reassess the formal play spaces within the National Park, as this would create two conflicting audits of the same sites. Instead, the assessment works with and accepts the differences.

The play sufficiency assessment considers:

- Formal play spaces – equipped areas of play and play parks, such as pump tracks and multi-games areas designed specifically for play.
- Informal play spaces – amenity areas, playing pitches and other outdoor sports areas, public parks or gardens, woodland, and the protected open spaces in the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016)

It measures the quantity and quality of the play spaces at a National Park level, for each constituent local authority area and within each settlement. The audits consider the accessibility of the formal play spaces for young people with mobility challenges. Walking access to each formal play space is considered by creating a five minute catchment centred on each play space, using network analysis to measure actual, rather than straight line, distance using paths and streets. The average distance a healthy adult can walk in five minutes is around 400 metres. It is recognised that this produces a general guide to walkability, not an exact prediction and that young children and those with push chairs or mobility challenges will not be able to travel as far. This mapping



process counts those homes within and outwith a five minute walking accessibility threshold.

Consultation on play space suitability has been conducted by each constituent authority as well as the National Park and this is summarised in the play sufficiency assessment.

A summary of the outcomes of the play sufficiency assessment, for the formal play areas, is set out in Table 4. It sets out:

- For each play area its:
 - quality rating and age group suitability.
- For each settlement:
 - The number of play spaces and, for each strategic settlement, the population per equipped area of play.
 - The percentage of formal play spaces that are sufficient (rate good or very good)
 - The percentage of formal play spaces that are suitable for nursery, primary and secondary school aged children.
 - The number of properties, and the percentage within the settlement, which are within 5 minutes walk of a formal play space.

The quality rating used in Table 4 for each play area and the average quality rating for each settlement are colour-coded as set out in Table 3. This uses the rating system applied by each local authority, which varies as set out.

Table 3 Colour coding for the quality rating for each equipped area of play in the Cairngorms National Park used in Table 4.

	The Highland Council	Aberdeenshire Council	Moray Council	Perth and Kinross Council
Very Good	Very good	Very good	Very good	Very good
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Satisfactory	Fair	Fair	Reasonable	Fair
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor



Table 4 Summary of formal play area outcomes of the Cairngorms National Park Play Sufficiency Assessment 2025 by settlement (source: Cairngorms Play Sufficiency Assessment 2025) (CNPA280).

Settlement	Location	Quantity		Quality		Age group suitability			Walking Catchments	
		Number of equipped areas of play in settlement	Population per equipped area of play in settlement	Rating	Percentage that rate as sufficient	nursery	primary	secondary	Number of properties within 5 minutes walk	Percentage of settlement within 5 minutes walk
Strategic Settlements										
Aviemore	Newlands Road			Fair		yes	no	no		
Aviemore	Roberts Road			Fair		yes	yes	yes		
Aviemore	High Burnside			Good		yes	yes	yes		
Aviemore	Braeriach Court			Poor		yes	yes	no		
Aviemore	Burnside Road			Fair		yes	yes	no		
Aviemore	Morlich Court			Good		yes	yes	Yes		
Aviemore	Rathad Creagan Mor			Fair		yes	yes	yes		
Aviemore totals		7	405	Fair	29%	100%	86%	57%	1,106	55%



Settlement	Location	Quantity		Quality		Age group suitability			Walking Catchments	
		Number of equipped areas of play in settlement	Population per equipped area of play in settlement	Rating	Percentage that rate as sufficient	nursery	primary	secondary	Number of properties within 5 minutes walk	Percentage of settlement within 5 minutes walk
Ballater	Monaltrie Park courts			Good		no	yes	yes		
Ballater	Monaltrie Park			Good		yes	yes	no		
Ballater	Ballater Caravan park			Good		yes	yes	yes		
Ballater	Northeast of Caravan Park			Very good		no	no	yes		
Ballater totals		4	345	Good	100%	50%	75%	75%	315	34%
Grantown	Dulicht Court			Fair		yes	no	no		
Grantown	Dulaig Court			Very Good		yes	yes	yes		
Grantown	Mossie Road			Very good		yes	yes	yes		
Grantown-on-Spey totals		3	776	Good	66%	100%	66%	66%	528	42%
Kingussie	Ardvonie Park			Good		yes	yes	yes		



Settlement	Location	Quantity		Quality		Age group suitability			Walking Catchments	
		Number of equipped areas of play in settlement	Population per equipped area of play in settlement	Rating	Percentage that rate as sufficient	nursery	primary	secondary	Number of properties within 5 minutes walk	Percentage of settlement within 5 minutes walk
Kingussie	Campbell Crescent			Fair		yes	yes	yes		
Kingussie totals		2	680	Good	50%	100%	100%	100%	383	51%
Newtonmore	Clune Terrace	1	1,115	Good	100%	100%	100%	100%	205	32%
Intermediate Settlements										
Blair Atholl	Recreation Park	1	-	Reasonable	0%	0%	100%	100%	74	32%
Boat of Garten	Woodland Wheels Pump Track			Fair		yes	yes	yes		
Boat of Garten	Craigie Avenue			Good		yes	yes	yes		
Boat of Garten totals		2	-	Good	100%	100%	100%	100%	147	45%
Braemar	Braemar Caravan Park			Good		yes	yes	no		
Braemar	Village			Good		yes	yes	yes		
Braemar totals		2	-	Good	100%	100%	100%	50%	100	32%



Settlement	Location	Quantity		Quality		Age group suitability			Walking Catchments	
		Number of equipped areas of play in settlement	Population per equipped area of play in settlement	Rating	Percentage that rate as sufficient	nursery	primary	secondary	Number of properties within 5 minutes walk	Percentage of settlement within 5 minutes walk
Carrbridge	Carrbridge Playing Field			Very Good		yes	yes	yes		
Carrbridge	Ellanwood Road			Fair		yes	yes	no		
Carrbridge totals		2	-	Good	50%	100%	100%	50%	146	38%
Cromdale	Cromdale Football Field	1	-	Fair	50%	100%	100%	0%	46	42%
Dalnain Bridge	School Place	1	-	Good	100%	100%	100%	100%	59	55%
Kincraig	Macrae Crescent No.1			Fair		yes	no	no		
Kincraig	Macrae Crescent No.2			Fair		yes	yes	no		
Kincraig totals		2	-	Fair	0%	100%	50%	0%	80	41%



Settlement	Location	Quantity		Quality		Age group suitability			Walking Catchments	
		Number of equipped areas of play in settlement	Population per equipped area of play in settlement	Rating	Percentage that rate as sufficient	nursery	primary	secondary	Number of properties within 5 minutes walk	Percentage of settlement within 5 minutes walk
Nethy Bridge	Braes of Balnagowan			Poor		Yes	No	No		
Nethy Bridge	Craigmore Crescent			Good		Yes	Yes	No		
Nethy Bridge	Lynstock Crescent South			Fair		Yes	Yes	No		
Nethy Bridge	Nethy Bridge Football Field			Good		yes	yes	Yes		
Nethy Bridge totals		4	144	Fair	50%	100%	75%	25%	240	61%
Tomintoul	Play area			Good		yes	yes	no		
Tomintoul	Adventure playground			Good		yes	yes	no		
Tomintoul totals		2	-	Good	100%	100%	100%	0%	169	79%



Settlement	Location	Quantity		Quality		Age group suitability			Walking Catchments	
		Number of equipped areas of play in settlement	Population per equipped area of play in settlement	Rating	Percentage that rate as sufficient	nursery	primary	secondary	Number of properties within 5 minutes walk	Percentage of settlement within 5 minutes walk
Rural Settlements										
Dinnet	Village centre	1	-	Very good	100%	100%	100%	0%	33	85%
Glenlivet ²	Glenlivet Primary School			Reasonable		no	yes	no		
Glenlivet	Tomnavoulin housing			Good		yes	yes	no		
Glenlivet		2	-	Good	50%	50%	100%	0%	-	-
Laggan	Laggan	1	-	Good	100%	100%	100%	100%	28	85%
Strathdon	Village centre	1	-	Good	100%	100%	100%	100%	21	41%

² Glenlivet covers the villages of Tomnavoulin, Castletown, Minmore, Chapelton, Clashnoir, Drumin, and Authnarrow. As a dispersed community, the number of properties within a five minute walking catchment has not been calculated.



Implications

The implications of the play sufficiency assessment for the proposed plan are as follows:

- There are 39 formal place spaces in the Cairngorms National Park. 37 of these are equipped areas of play. There is also a pump track in Boat of Garten and a multi-use games area in Ballater. Figure 1 shows the locations of all formal play spaces in the Cairngorms National Park.
- 87% of the formal play spaces have been assessed as suitable for 0 – 4 year olds (categorised as nursery aged children in Highland). 87% are also considered suitable for 5 – 11 year olds (primary aged children in Highland and categorised as 4 – 8 year olds in Perth and Kinross). Provision is less comprehensive for 12 – 15 year olds (8 – 14 year olds in Perth and Kinross, secondary-aged children in Highland). 56% of the play spaces are considered suitable for this age group. Only Aberdeenshire Council specifically considered the suitability of formal play spaces for 16 – 17 year olds.
- The lack of opportunities for older children and young adults reduces the sufficiency of the formal play spaces across the Cairngorms National Park, which ideally would be suitable for all children and young people. It also reflects the consultation responses of young people and adults.
- 59% of the formal play spaces in the Cairngorms National Park can be considered to be sufficient, in terms of their quality. This means they have been rated as good or very good in the audits. Consistently across the National Park, play spaces rate highly for their location and environment (also categorised as their appearance, design or value). Often it is the range of facilities themselves, including limited access for those with mobility issues; the opportunities for a wider range of ages; or the potential for creative play which reduce the overall quality of play parks. It would therefore be possible to improve the quality of the equipped areas of play in their current locations in most instances.
- 46% of residential properties within settlements that have a formal play space are within a five minute walk of their nearest play space. This indicates a lack of sufficiency in all parts of the National Park that can only be solved by introducing more formal play areas. The settlement summaries include maps which show where there are gaps in walkable provision.

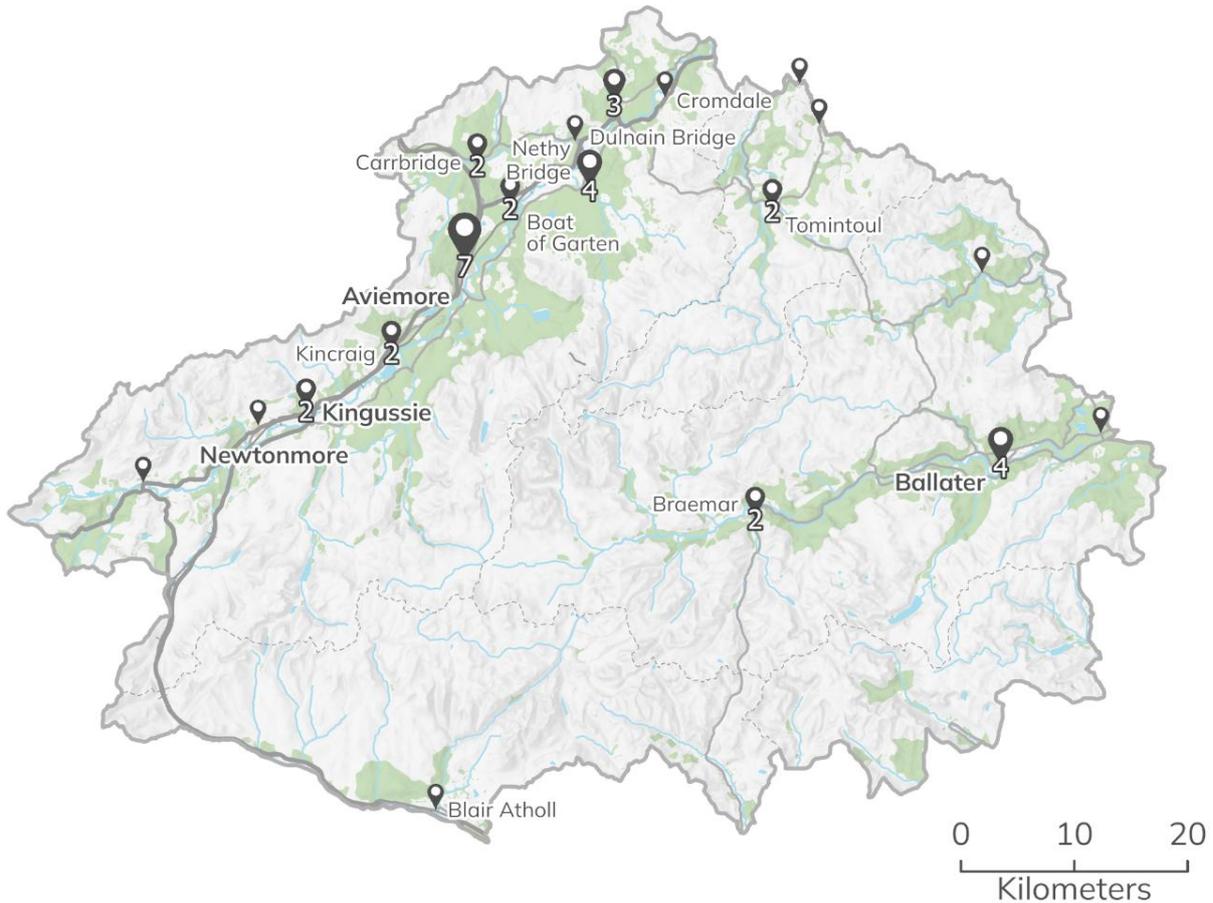


Figure 1 Locations and numbers of formal play spaces in the Cairngorms National Park (source: Cairngorms National Park Play Sufficiency Assessment). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA280).

- There are 67 protected open spaces within the Cairngorms National Park. These are identified in the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016). They provide a variety of open spaces suitable for informal play. There are also public parks and playing fields in many settlements and great access to woodland. It is not considered that there is insufficient informal play space across the Cairngorms National Park. Further details on open space provision across the National Park is provided in this Schedule.

The Play Sufficiency Assessment and its indication of play sufficiency forms part of our understanding of the wider infrastructure implications for each settlement. It does not identify any significant infrastructure constraints and reflects the spatial strategy. This spatial evidence will inform the proposed plan's site assessment process and the policy and allocation requirements for each settlement.



Open space audit

The Cairngorms National Park covers an area of 4,528km² all of which is classified as accessible rural or remote rural according to the Scottish Government's six fold urban rural classification. A core consideration of the scope of the open space audit is the amount of this land potentially accessible as open space.

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (CNPA664) sets out the rights of the public to access most land and inland water for recreational purposes. Section 6 of the act lists the types of land over which these are not exercisable:

- A building or other structures³ or works, plant or fixed machinery.
- Curtilage of buildings other than houses, works compounds, schools.
- Around houses, sufficient adjacent land for a reasonable measure of privacy, and for the enjoyment of the house not to be unreasonably disturbed.
- Land developed or set out as a sports or playing field, or for a particular recreational purpose.
- Land excluded by virtue of past entry by payment (the 90 day rule).

Based on Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography data it is estimated that around 99% of the National Park's land and waters are accessible under the framework set out by the Act. This does not mean that it is desirable or practical to access every piece of that land or water for recreational purposes, however it demonstrates that there is an abundance of open space, both formal and informal, within the National Park.

This presents a challenge for an audit of open space for the purposes of the preparing the local development plan and so a proportional approach has been undertaken in the collection of evidence, focussing on the settlements identified within the National Park Partnership Plan's spatial strategy (CNPA010) and the types of open space that are principally used for recreation.

The level of information available regarding open space in each constituent local authority varies and is limited in some cases. During preparation of the Proposed Plan, regard will be had to any available open space strategy. The current situation is as follows:

³ 'Structures' is later defined in the Act as not including bridge, tunnel, causeway, launching site, groyne, weir, boulder weir, embankment of canalised waterway, fence or wall or anything designed to facilitate passage.



- Angus Council – An open space strategy is being prepared and is expected to be published in January – March 2026. It is unlikely to include the small rural area of Angus Council within the National Park.
- Aberdeenshire Council – Open space audit 2024 approved and published in October 2025 (CNPA672). This includes the settlements of Ballater and Braemar within the National Park.
- The Highland Council – An open space strategy is being prepared and will be published in 2026. It will include the area of The Highland Council within the National Park.
- Moray Council – Open space strategy 2018. There is an open space strategy dating from 2018, which covers the main towns in Moray only and does not include any settlements in the National Park. It is anticipated that a revised draft open space strategy will be consulted on alongside the proposed plan in summer 2026, however this will also only cover the main towns in Moray.
- Perth and Kinross Council – An open space strategy is currently being prepared. It is anticipated that it will be published for consultation in 2026. It will include an audit of Blair Atholl in the National Park.

For this reason, a desk based audit has been undertaken, based on Ordnance Survey open data greenspace (CNPA865), the Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016). This is presented as a National Park wide overview and on a settlement by settlement basis.

National Park-wide overview

According to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer (CNPA865), there are the following number of different types of greenspace in the settlements within the Cairngorms National Park⁴:

- Allotments in three settlements⁵
- Bowling greens in ten settlements
- Cemetery or religious grounds in 18 settlements
- Golf courses in ten settlements
- Other sports facilities in 13 settlements
- Play spaces in 18 settlements
- Playing fields in 13 settlements

⁴ Open spaces are described as being within the settlement if they are either within the settlement boundary designated by the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan or within an 800m buffer surrounding the settlement.

⁵ There are also two therapy gardens, a community garden and 18 community or school orchards within the Cairngorms National Park. These are discussed in Schedule 18: Health and safety.



- Public parks or gardens in ten settlements
- Tennis courts in five settlements

In total these equate to 1,112 hectares of open space distributed across the Cairngorms National Park. This is set out in Table 5.

There are 6,022 hectares of woodland either within or within 800 metres of a settlement in the Cairngorms National Park. Some of the woodland in this dataset is also included in the Ordnance Survey greenspace data. The woodland is distributed as set out in Table 5.

The adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016) identifies protected open spaces where they are important to the amenity, setting and overall fabric of settlements. They are protected from development. Some provide locally important habitat or landscape features, while others are important recreational resources within settlements. In total, 161 hectares of protected open space are identified by the Local Development Plan in settlements across the National Park. This is distributed as set out in Table 5.

The Local Development Plan recognises that outwith of these protected open spaces, many settlements also have networks of open spaces, paths and recreational spaces that are not specifically identified but will be material considerations in the determination of planning applications. Many of these are captured by the Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer (CNPA865).

Table 5 Total amount of open space within each settlement in the Cairngorms National Park and total amount of woodland both within each settlement and within 800m of each settlement boundary in the Cairngorms National Park (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021) (CNPA016, CNPA865).

Settlement	Total amount of greenspace (hectares)	Total amount of woodland (hectares)	Total amount of protected open space ⁶ (hectares)
Strategic settlements			
Aviemore	107.30	637.10	51.73
Ballater	46.37	345.69	8.54
Grantown-on-Spey	54.87	454.40	9.52

⁶ As identified.



Settlement	Total amount of greenspace (hectares)	Total amount of woodland (hectares)	Total amount of protected open space ⁶ (hectares)
Kingussie	39.21	183.47	15.82
Newtonmore	49.78	167.68	18.30
Intermediate settlements			
Blair Atholl	20.93	177.62	4.92
Boat of Garten	40.94	312.92	7.87
Braemar	46.09	220.84	7.27
Carrbridge	19.46	497.89	1.23
Cromdale	2.11	102.91	1.27
Dalnain Bridge	0.36	171.95	0.57
Kincraig	4.44	201.83	1.20
Nethy Bridge	22.4	445.23	17.86
Tomintoul	4.60	119.34	8.37
Rural settlements			
Clova	0.08	32.22	-
Coylumbridge	-	292.97	-
Dalwhinnie	-	157.13	-
Dinnet	0.74	239.45	0.65
Glenlivet	1.48	52.29	-
Glenmore	2.57	505.60	3.06
Glenshee	0.23	38.00	-
Insh	-	205.25	-
Inverdrue	0.18	165.51	2.18
Killiecrankie	-	140.88	0.76
Laggan	0.5	37.08	-
Strathdon	2.95	116.59	
Totals	1,112.49	6,021.87	161.13

Figure 2 shows the data for greenspace graphically. The strategic settlements are presented on the left hand side of the graph, then intermediate settlements and then rural settlements.

Figure 3 includes the data for woodland within 800 metres of each settlement boundary (including woodland within the settlement) and the protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021.

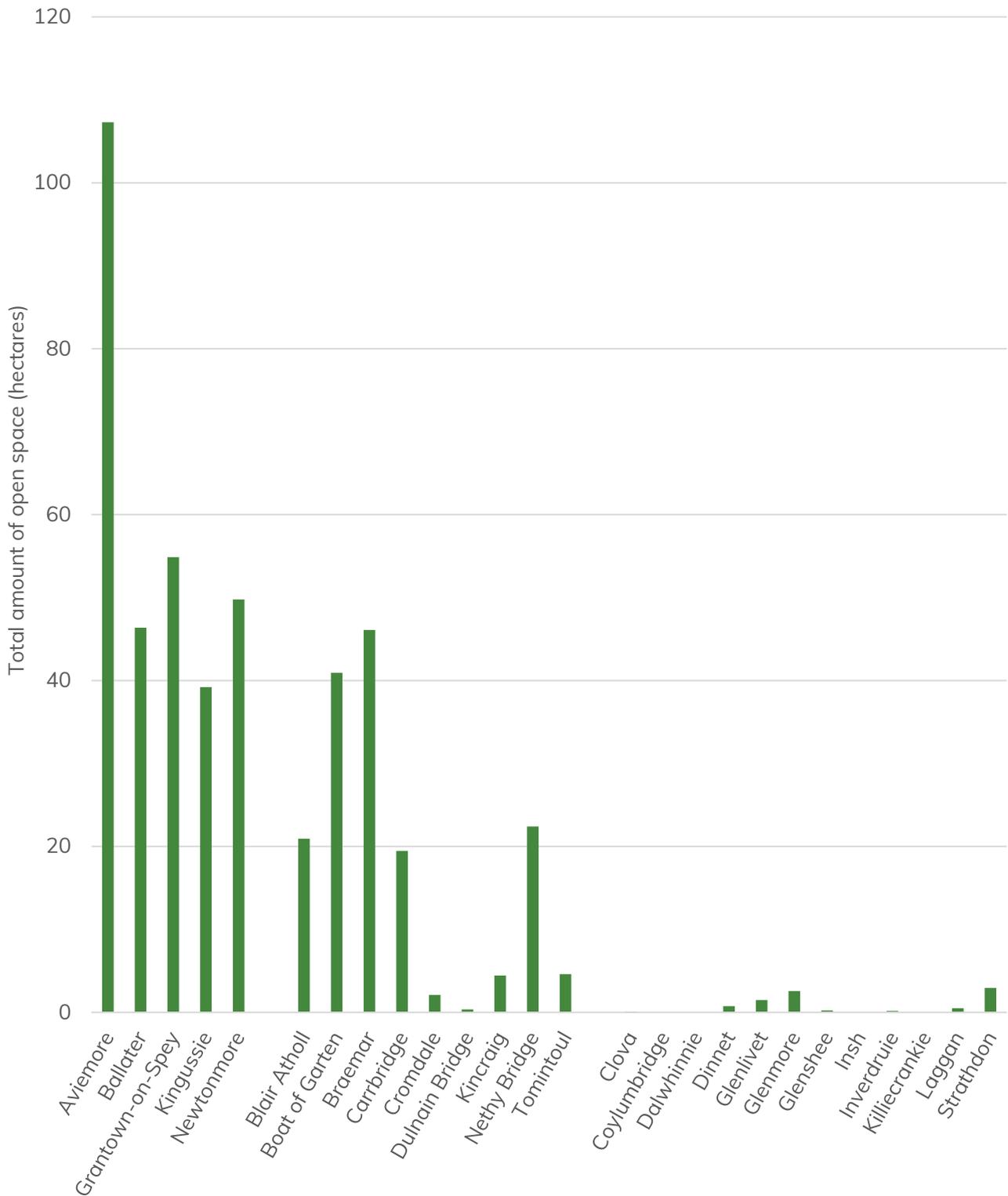


Figure 2 Total amount of open space within each settlement in the Cairngorms National Park (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

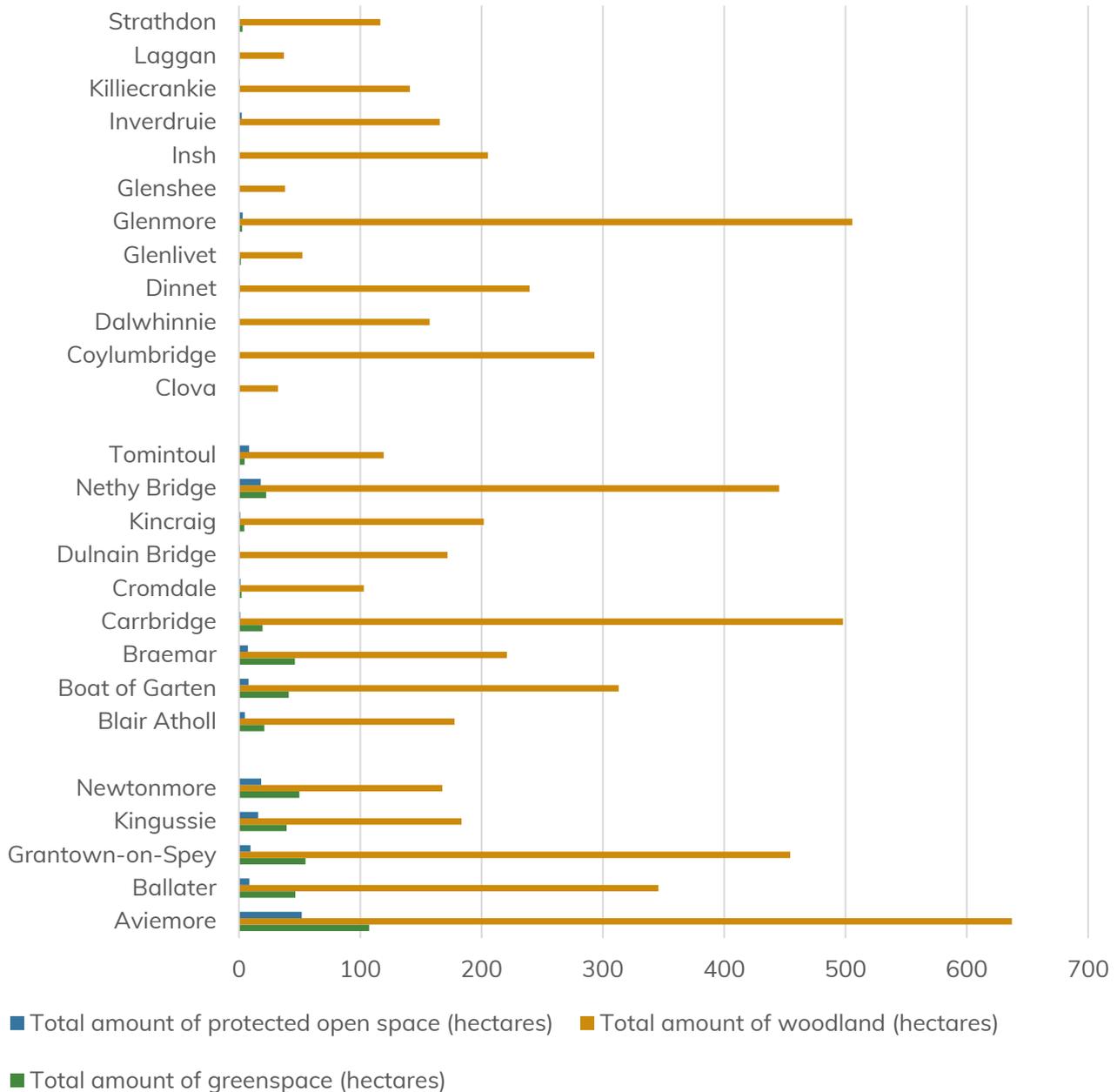


Figure 3 Total amount of protected open space⁷ within each settlement, total amount of open space⁸ and total amount of woodland within each settlement and within 800m of each settlement boundary in the Cairngorms National Park (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021) (CNPA865, CNPA016).

⁷ Protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016).

⁸ Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer (CNPA865).



Implications

The implications of the open space evidence for the Proposed Plan are as follows:

- 99% of the National Park's land and waters are accessible.
- There are high levels of accessible greenspace, including protected open space and woodland within each settlement, or within 800m of its boundary.
- There is a greater amount and variety of open space in the strategic settlements, where the populations are larger.
- There is no shortage of accessible formal and / or informal open space and woodland within any settlement in the Cairngorms National Park.

The open space evidence forms part of our understanding of the wider infrastructure implications for each settlement. It does not identify any significant infrastructure constraints and reflects the spatial strategy. The spatial evidence (set out below) will inform the Proposed Plan's site assessment process and the policy and allocation requirements for each settlement.

Settlement summaries

Aviemore

Table 6 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Aviemore, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there are approximately 107 hectares of greenspace.

Table 6 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Aviemore (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Bowling green	0.23
Cemetery or religious grounds	0.54
Golf course	100.20
Other sports facility	0.12
Play space	0.53
Public park or garden	5.68
Total	107.30 hectares

There are 637 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800 metres of the settlement boundary.

There are nine areas of protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016). These total 52 hectares.



The greenspace, woodland and protected open space are shown on the map of Aviemore (Figure 4).

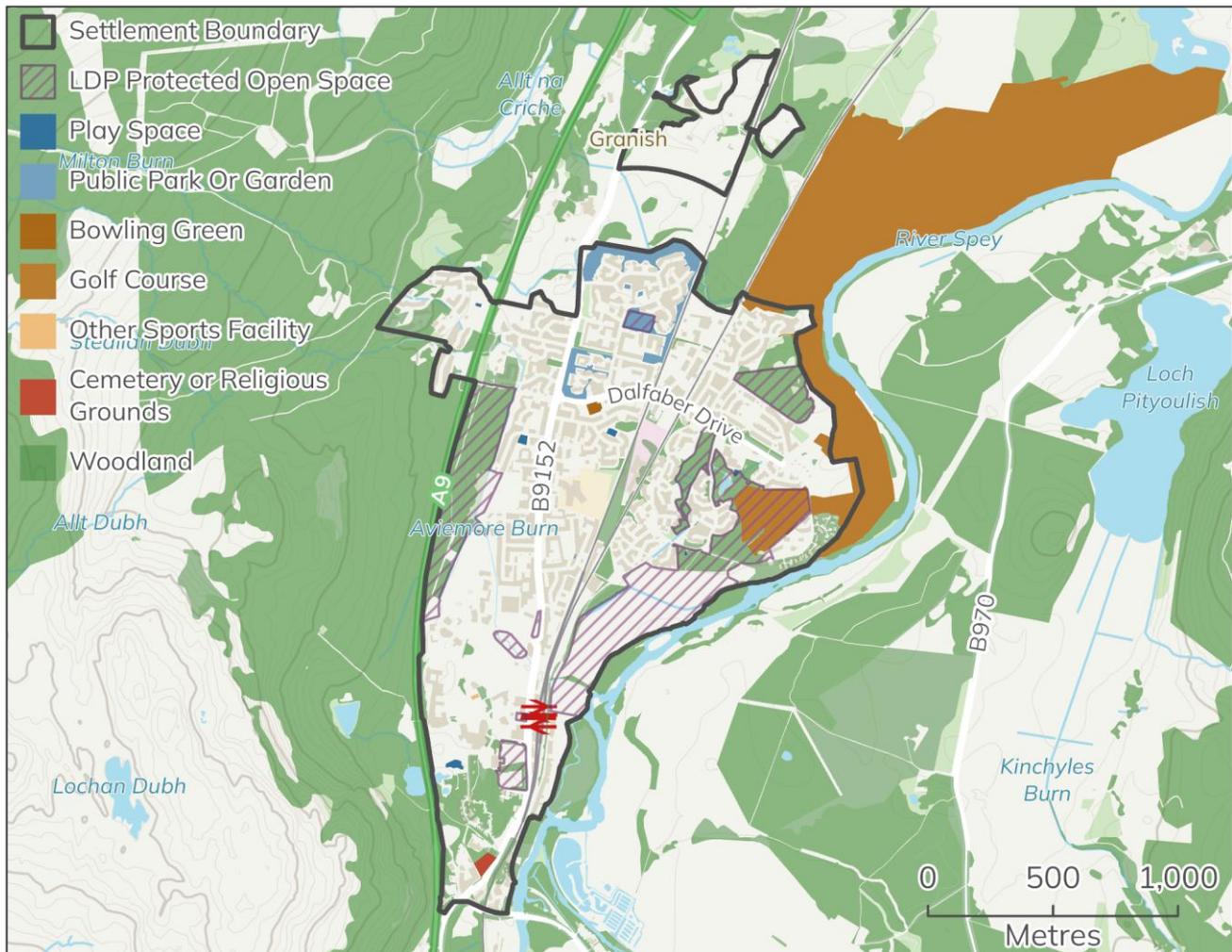


Figure 4 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Aviemore (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Ballater

Table 7 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Ballater, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there are approximately 46 hectares of greenspace.

Table 7 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Ballater (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Bowling green	0.21
Cemetery or religious grounds	0.65
Golf course	41.78
Other sports facility	0.07
Play space	0.03
Playing Field	2.20
Public park or garden	1.23
Tennis Court	0.20
Total	46.37

There are 346 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800 metres of the settlement boundary.

There are seven areas of protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016). These total 8.5 hectares.

The greenspace, woodland and protected open space are shown on the map of Ballater (Figure 5).



Figure 5 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Ballater (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Blair Atholl

Table 8 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Blair Atholl, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there are approximately 21 hectares of greenspace.

Table 8 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Blair Atholl (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Bowling green	0.20
Cemetery or religious grounds	0.88
Golf course	16.90
Play space	0.02
Playing Field	2.68
Public park or garden	0.17
Tennis Court	0.08
Total	20.93

There are 178 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800 metres of the settlement boundary.

There are two areas of protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016). These total five hectares.

The greenspace, woodland and protected open space are shown on the map of Blair Atholl (Figure 6).

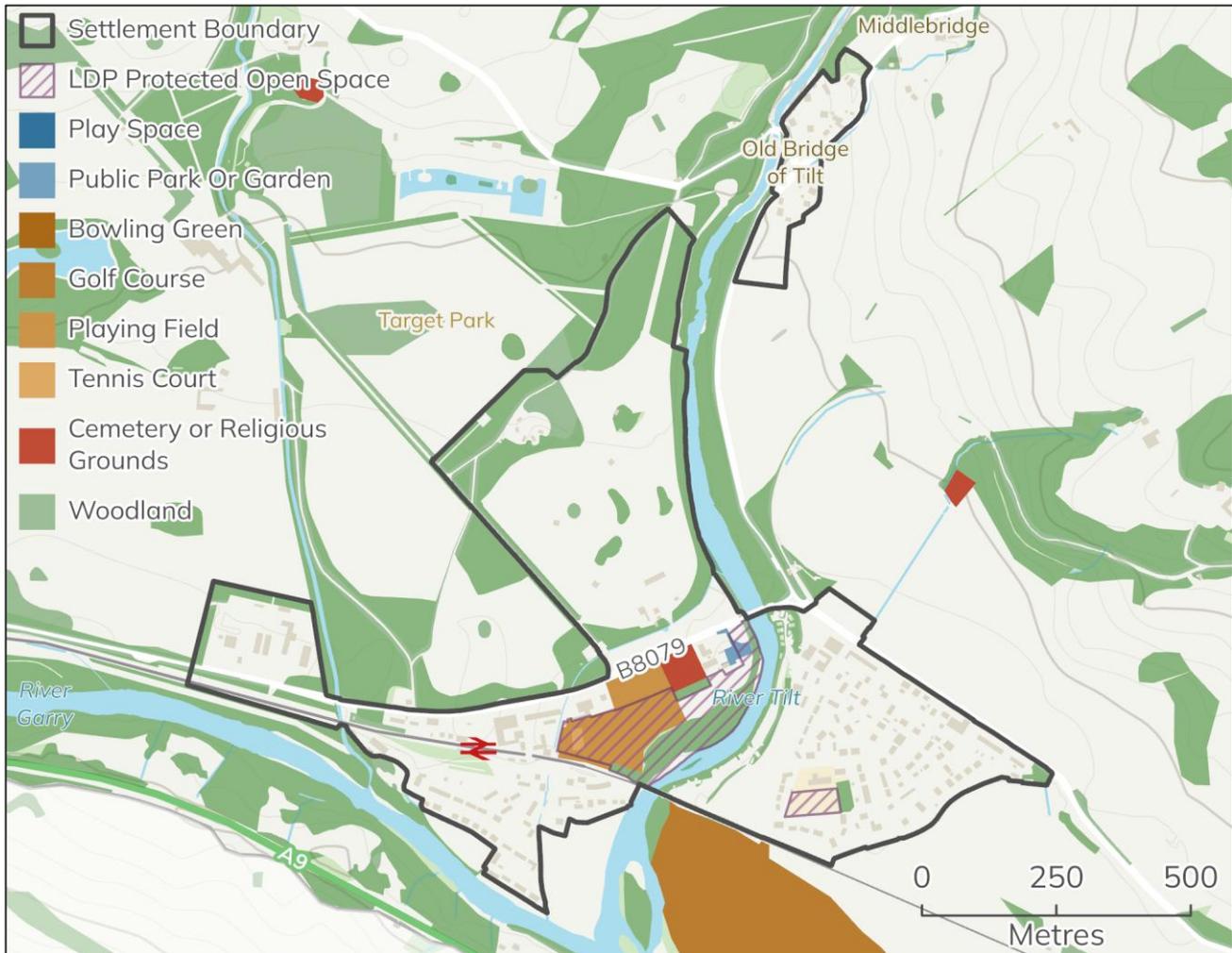


Figure 6 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Blair Atholl (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Boat of Garten

Table 9 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Boat of Garten, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there are approximately 41 hectares of greenspace.

Table 9 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Boat of Garten (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Bowling green	0.13
Golf course	39.74
Other sports facility	0.19
Play space	0.05
Playing Field	0.84
Total	40.94

There are 313 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800 metres of the settlement boundary.

There are two areas of protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016). These total eight hectares.

The greenspace, woodland and protected open space are shown on the map of Boat of Garten (Figure 7).



Figure 7 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Boat of Garten (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Braemar

Table 10 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Braemar, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there are approximately 46 hectares of greenspace.

Table 10 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Braemar (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Bowling green	0.17
Cemetery or religious grounds	1.22
Golf course	43.76
Play space	0.81
Tennis court	0.13
Total	46.09

There are 221 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800m of the settlement boundary.

There are four areas of protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016). These total seven hectares.

The greenspace, woodland and protected open space are shown on the map of Braemar (Figure 8). Figure 9 shows the open space within 800m of the settlement boundary of Braemar.

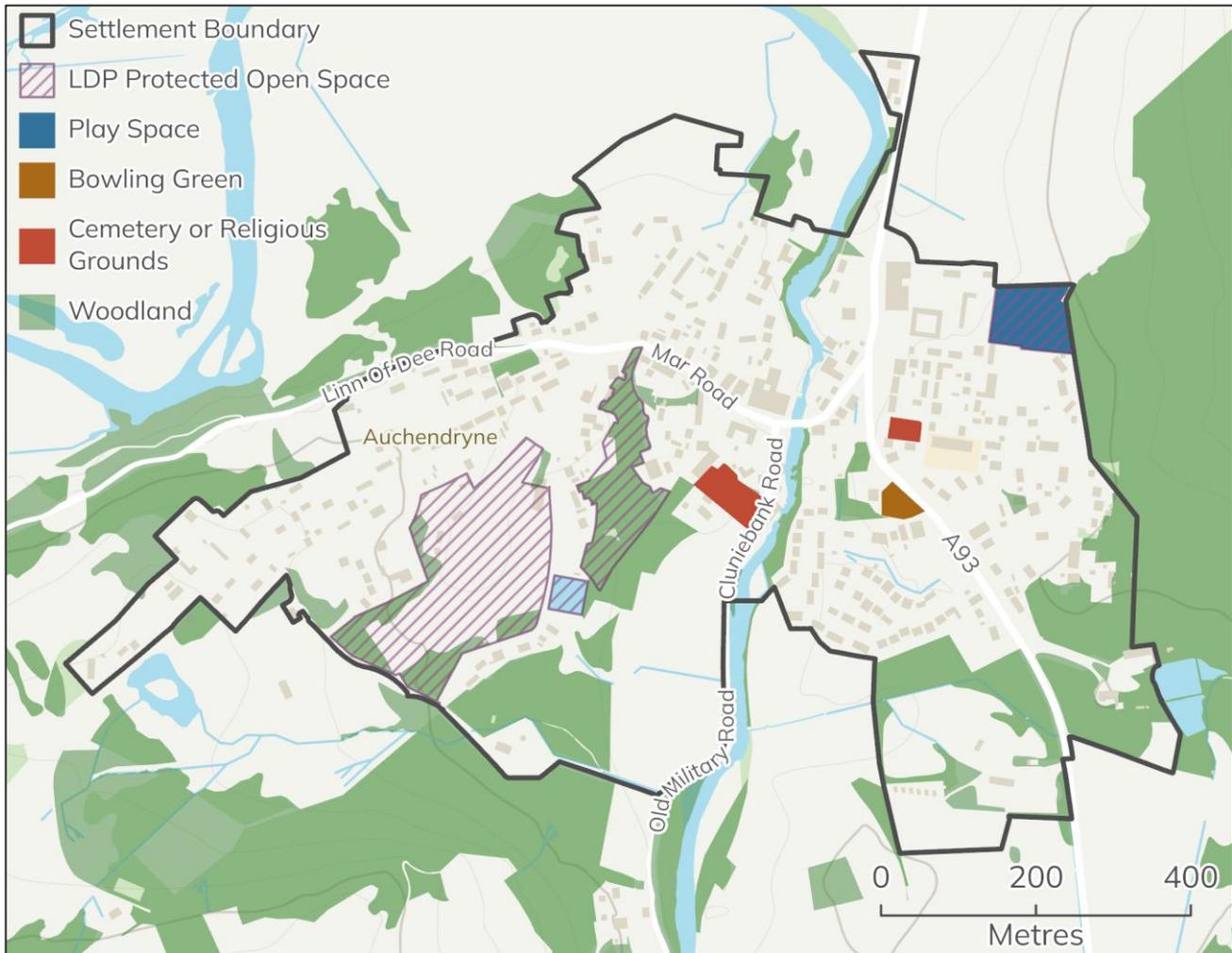


Figure 8 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Braemar (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Figure 9 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space within 800m of the settlement boundary of Braemar (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Carrbridge

Table 11 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Carrbridge, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there are approximately 20 hectares of greenspace.

Table 11 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Carrbridge (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Bowling green	0.22
Cemetery or religious grounds	0.63
Golf course	16.41
Other sports facility	0.86
Play space	0.10
Playing field	1.17
Public park or garden	0.07
Total	19.46

There are 498 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800 metres of the settlement boundary.

There are two areas of protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021(CNPA016). These total just over one hectare.

The greenspace, woodland and protected open space are shown on the map of Carrbridge (Figure 10).



Figure 10 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Carrbridge (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Clova

Clova has a cemetery, identified on Ordnance Survey open data greenspace. There are 32 hectares of woodland within 800m of the settlement boundary. There are no protected open spaces in Clova. The greenspace and woodland are shown on the map of Clova (Figure 11).

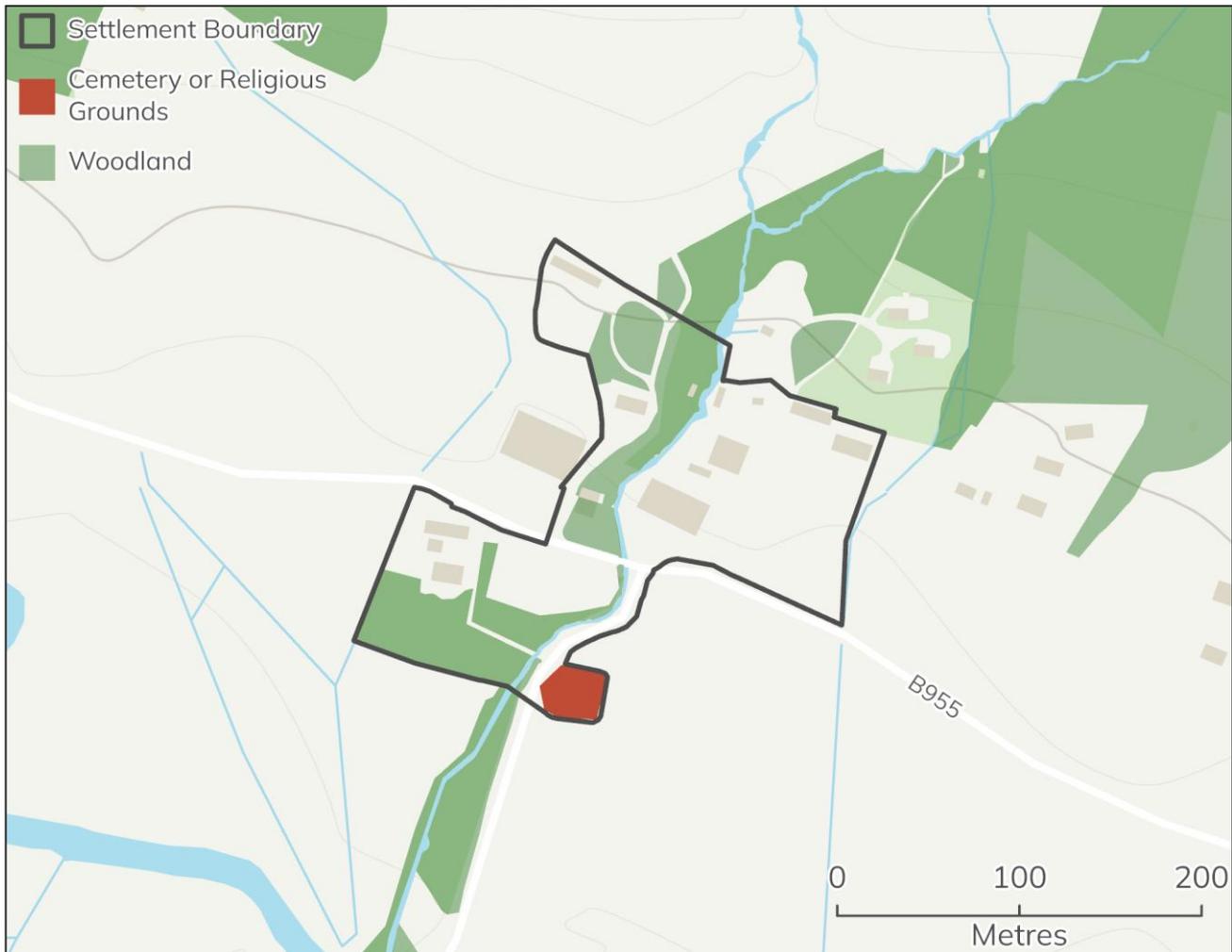


Figure 11 Greenspace and woodland in and adjacent to Clova (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer and Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Coylumbridge

Coylumbridge has 293 hectares of woodland either within or within 800 metres of its settlement boundary. There are no identified greenspaces or protected open space in Coylumbridge. The woodland is shown on the map (Figure 12).



Figure 12 Woodland in and adjacent to Coylumbridge (source: Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Cromdale

Table 12 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Cromdale, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there are approximately two hectares of greenspace.

Table 12 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Cromdale (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Cemetery or religious grounds	0.47
Other sports facility	0.19
Play space	0.22
Playing field	1.22
Total	2.11

There are 103 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800 metres of the settlement boundary.

There are two areas of protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016). These total just over one hectare.

The greenspace, woodland and protected open space are shown on the map of Cromdale, which includes the area within 800m of the settlement boundary, to show the church and its cemetery (Figure 13).

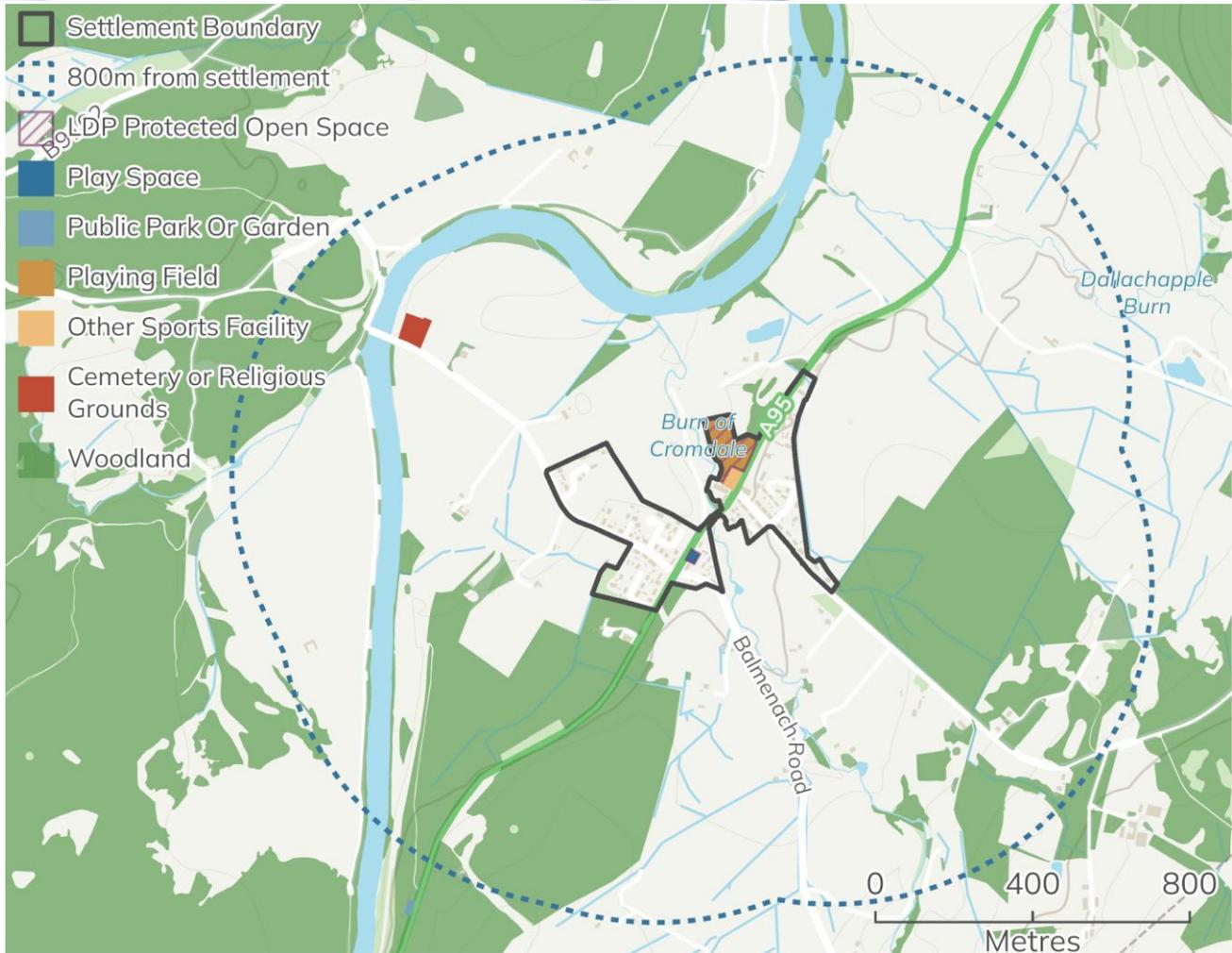


Figure 13 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and within 800m of the settlement boundary of Cromdale (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Dalwhinnie

Dalwhinnie has 157 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800 metres of the settlement boundary. There are no identified greenspaces or protected open spaces. The woodland is shown on the map of Dalwhinnie (Figure 14).

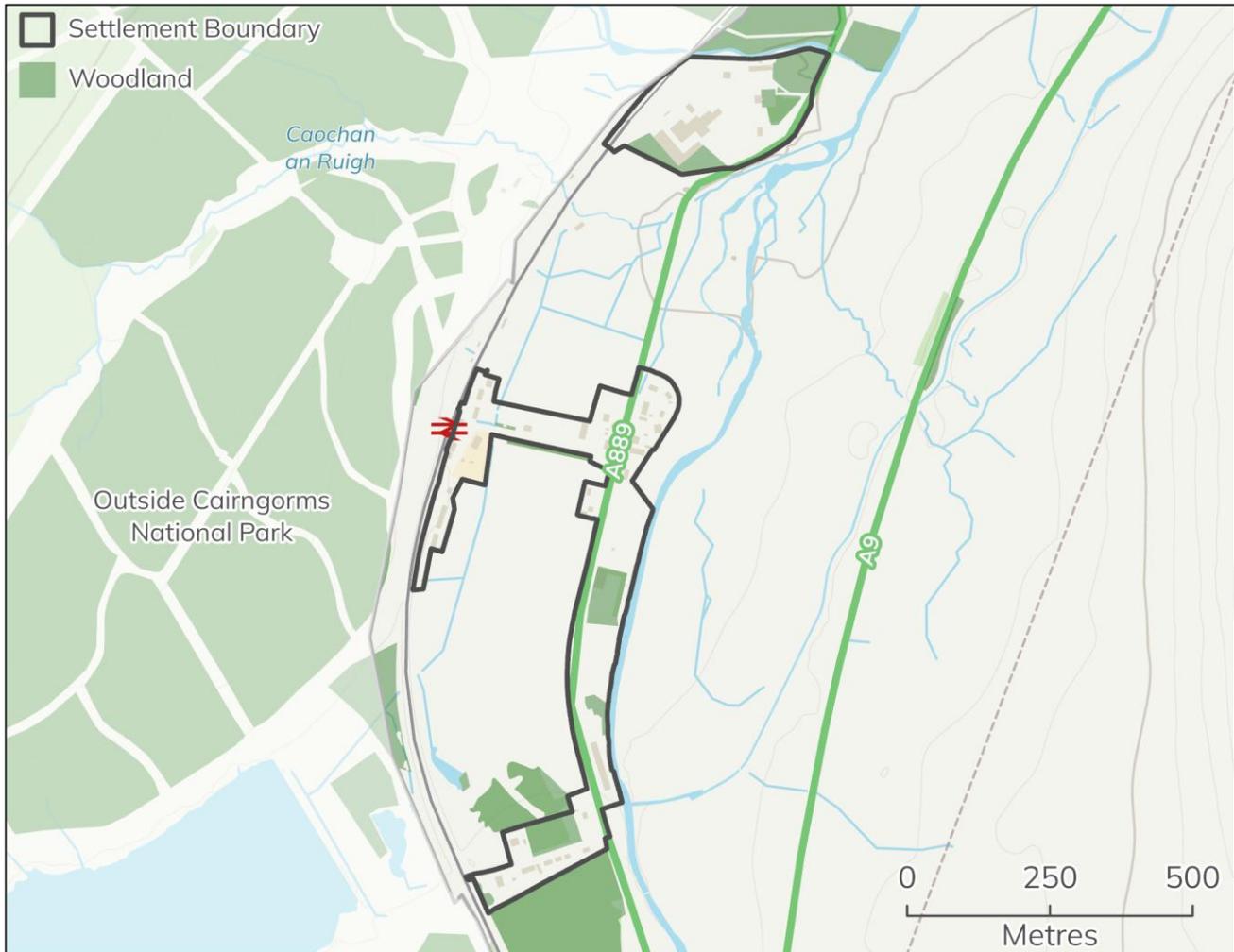


Figure 14 Woodland in and adjacent to Dalwhinnie (source: Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Dinnet

Table 13 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Dinnet, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there is approximately three quarters of a hectare of greenspace.

Table 13 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Dinnet (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Cemetery or religious grounds	0.50
Other sports facility	0.12
Play space	0.12
Total	0.74

There are 239 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800 metres of the settlement boundary.

There are two areas of protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016). These total just over half a hectare.

The greenspace, woodland and protected open space are shown on the map of Dinnet (Figure 15).



Figure 15 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Dinnet (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Dalnain Bridge

According to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer, Dalnain Bridge has one greenspace, which is a play space. It has a size of 0.36 hectares.

There are 172 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800 metres of the settlement boundary.

There is one area of protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016), which is the play space and a surrounding playing field. These total just over half a hectare.

The greenspace, woodland and protected open space are shown on the map of Dalnain Bridge (Figure 16).



Figure 16 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Dulnain Bridge (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey Mastermap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865)



Glenlivet

Glenlivet covers the villages of Tomnavoulin, Castletown, Minmore, Chapelton, Clashnoir, Drumin, and Authnarrow.

Table 14 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in the Glenlivet area, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there is approximately one and a half hectares of greenspace. Note that a portion of this greenspace is outwith the Cairngorms National Park (north of the River Livet).

Table 14 Total amount of each greenspace typology in the Glenlivet area (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Cemetery or religious grounds	0.27
Play space	0.06
Playing field	0.98
Public park or garden	0.17
Total	1.48

There are significant areas of woodland in the Glenlivet area. The greenspace and woodland are shown on the map of Glenlivet (Figure 17).



Figure 17 Greenspace and woodland in the Glenlivet area (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer and Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Glenmore

Table 15 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Glenmore, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there are approximately two and a half hectares of greenspace.

Table 15 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Glenmore (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Other sports facility	0.46
Public park or garden	2.11
Total	2.57

There are 506 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800 metres of the settlement boundary.

There is one protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016) – the Hay Field. The protected area totals just over three hectares.

The greenspace and woodland are shown on the map of Glenmore (Figure 18).



Figure 18 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Glenmore (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Glenshee

Glenshee has 38 hectares of woodland either within or within 800 metres of its settlement boundary. It also has a cemetery, which is 0.2 hectares. There is no other identified or protected open space. This is shown on Figure 19.



Figure 19 Woodland in and adjacent to Glenshee (source: woodland Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Grantown-on-Spey

Table 16 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Grantown-on-Spey, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there are approximately 55 hectares of greenspace.

Table 16 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Grantown-on-Spey (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Bowling green	0.14
Cemetery or religious grounds	2.44
Golf course	47.91
Other sports facility	2.88
Play space	0.37
Playing field	0.69
Tennis court	0.44
Total	54.87

There are 454 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800 metres of the settlement boundary.

There are five protected open spaces identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016). The protected areas total 9.5 hectares.

The greenspace and woodland are shown on the map of Grantown-on-Spey (Figure 20). Figure 21 shows the open space within 800m of the settlement boundary of Grantown-on-Spey.

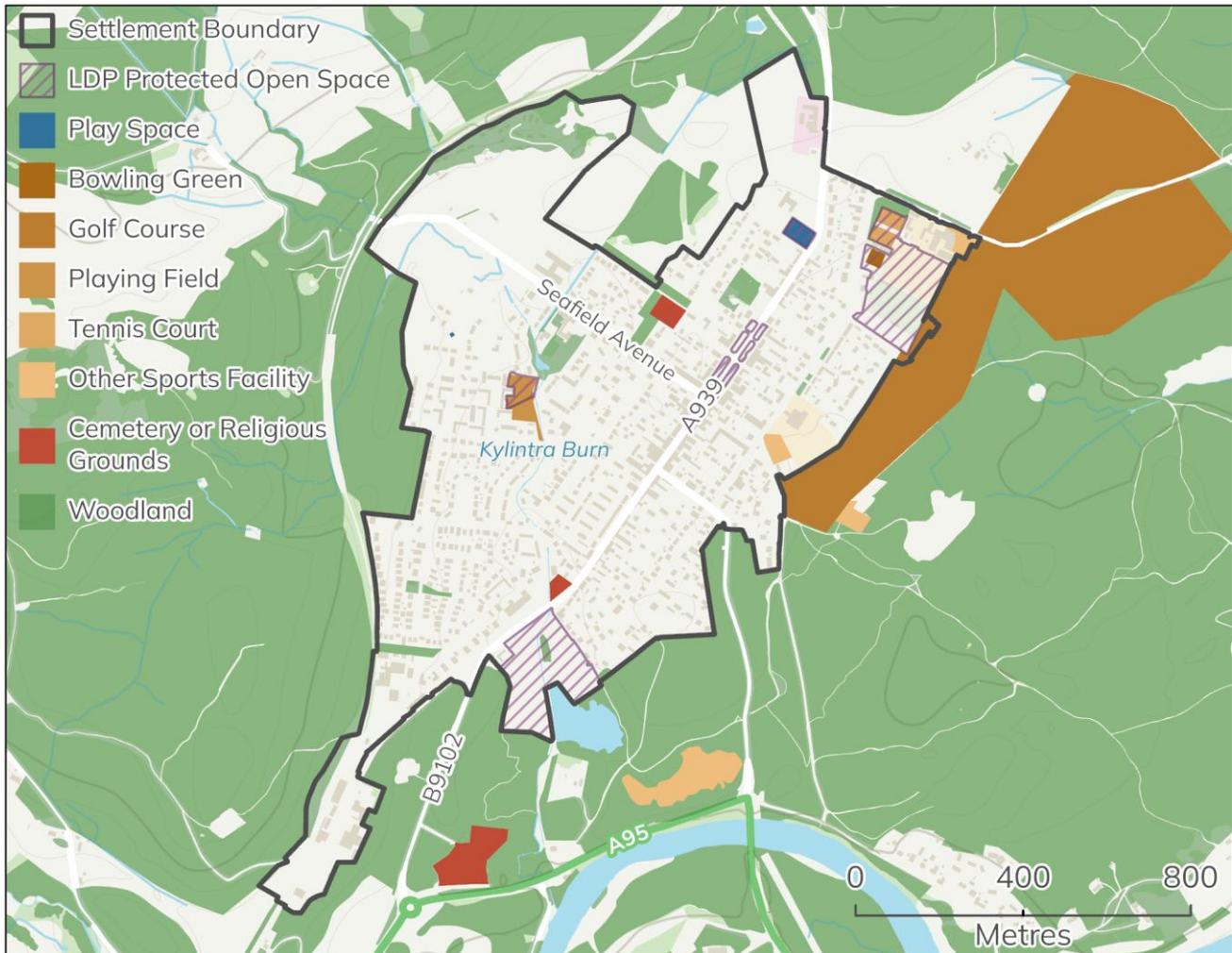


Figure 20 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Granttown-on-Spey (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).

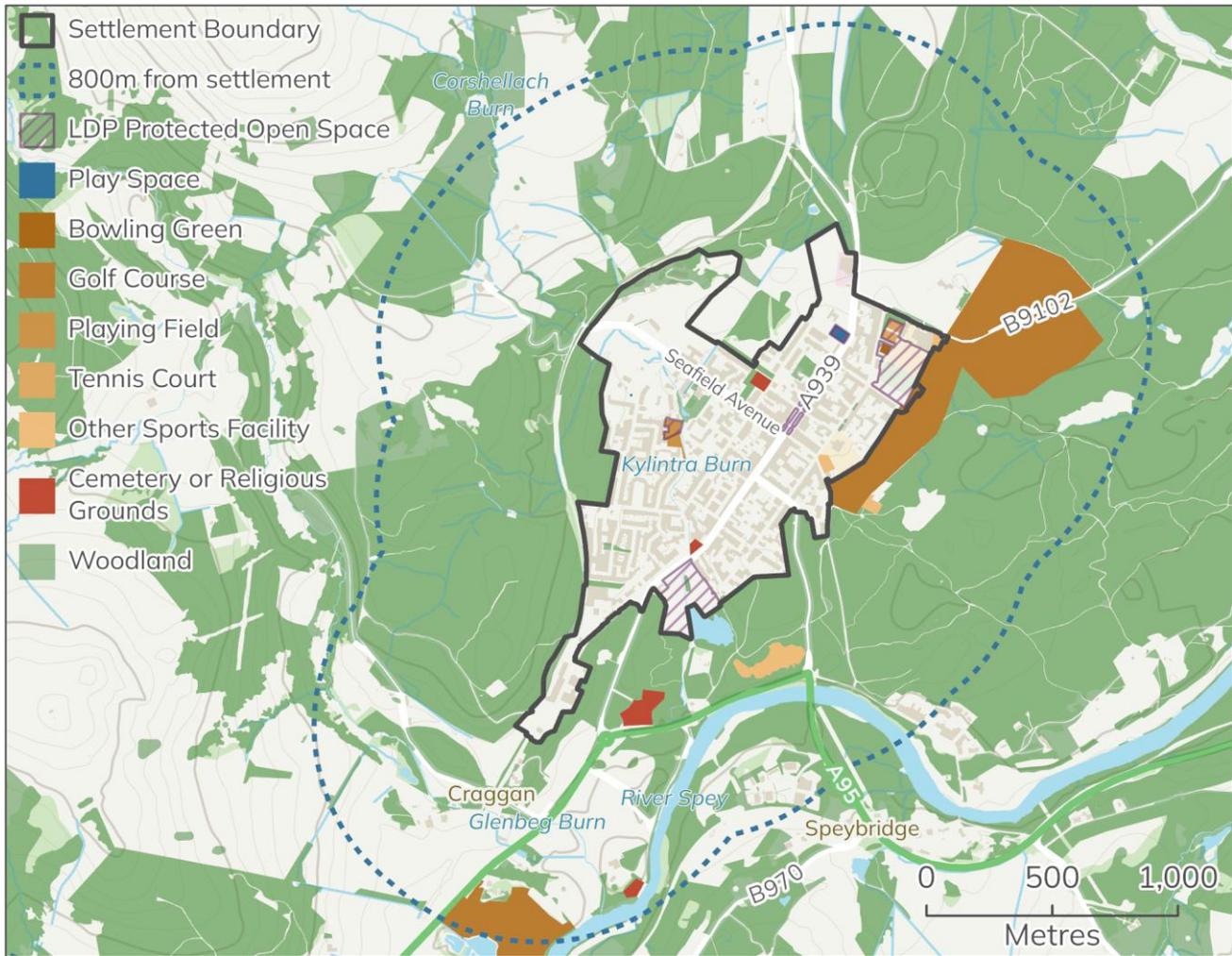


Figure 21 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and within 800m of the settlement boundary of Granttown-on-Spey (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Insh

Insh has 205 hectares of woodland within 800 metres of the settlement boundary. It has no identified greenspace or protected open space.



Figure 22 Woodland in and adjacent to Insh (source: Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer).
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Inverdrueie

Table 17 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Inverdrueie, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, it identifies only 0.18 hectares of greenspace.

Table 17 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Inverdrueie (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Cemetery or religious grounds	0.10
Other sports facility	0.07
Total	0.18

There are 166 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800 metres of the settlement boundary.

There is one protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016). The protected area totals 2.18 hectares. The greenspace and woodland are shown on the map of Inverdrueie (Figure 23).



Figure 23 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Inverdrue (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Killiecrankie

There are 141 hectares of woodland within or within 800 metres of Killiecrankie's settlement boundary. There is one area of protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016) boundary. It totals three quarters of a hectare. The woodland and protected open space is shown on the map of Killiecrankie (Figure 24).

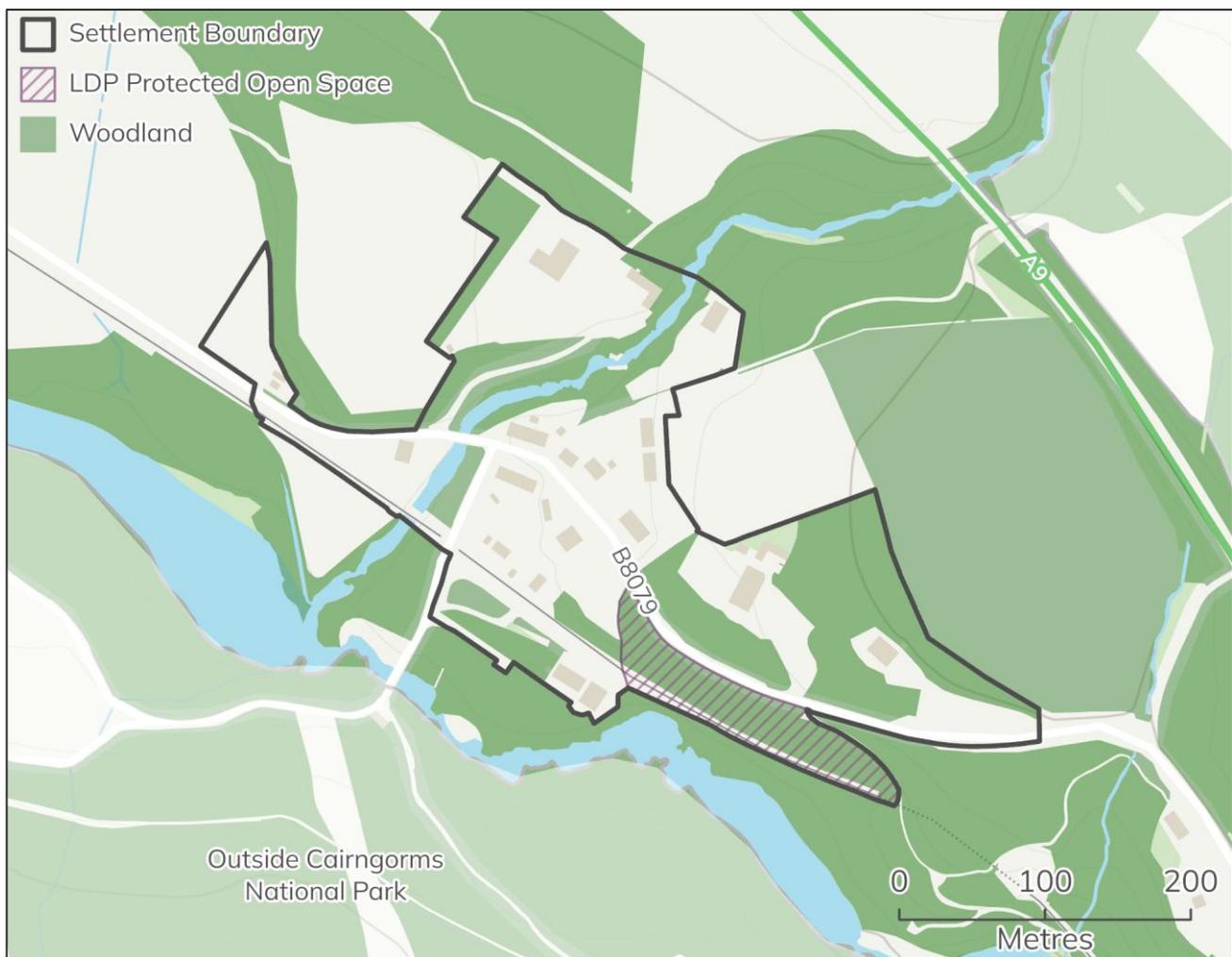


Figure 24 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Killiecrankie (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Kincraig

Table 18 Table 13 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Dinnet (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Kincraig, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, it identifies approximately four and a half hectares of greenspace.

Table 18 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Kincraig (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Cemetery or religious grounds	0.44
Play space	0.11
Playing field	1.28
Public park and garden	2.62
Total	4.44

There are 141 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800 metres of the settlement boundary.

There is one protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016). The protected area totals 1.2 hectares. The greenspace and woodland are shown on the map of Kincraig (Figure 25).



Figure 25 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Kinraig (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Kingussie

Table 19 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Kingussie, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, it identifies approximately 39 hectares of greenspace.

Table 19 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Kingussie (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Allotments or community growing spaces	0.38
Bowling green	0.19
Cemetery or religious grounds	1.67
Golf course	30.65
Other sports facility	0.47
Play space	0.23
Playing field	3.89
Public park and garden	1.72
Total	39.21

There are 183 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800m of the settlement boundary.

There are ten protected open spaces in Kingussie identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016). The protected area totals 16 hectares. The greenspace and woodland are shown on the map of Kingussie (Figure 26). Figure 27 shows the open space within 800m of the settlement boundary of Kingussie.

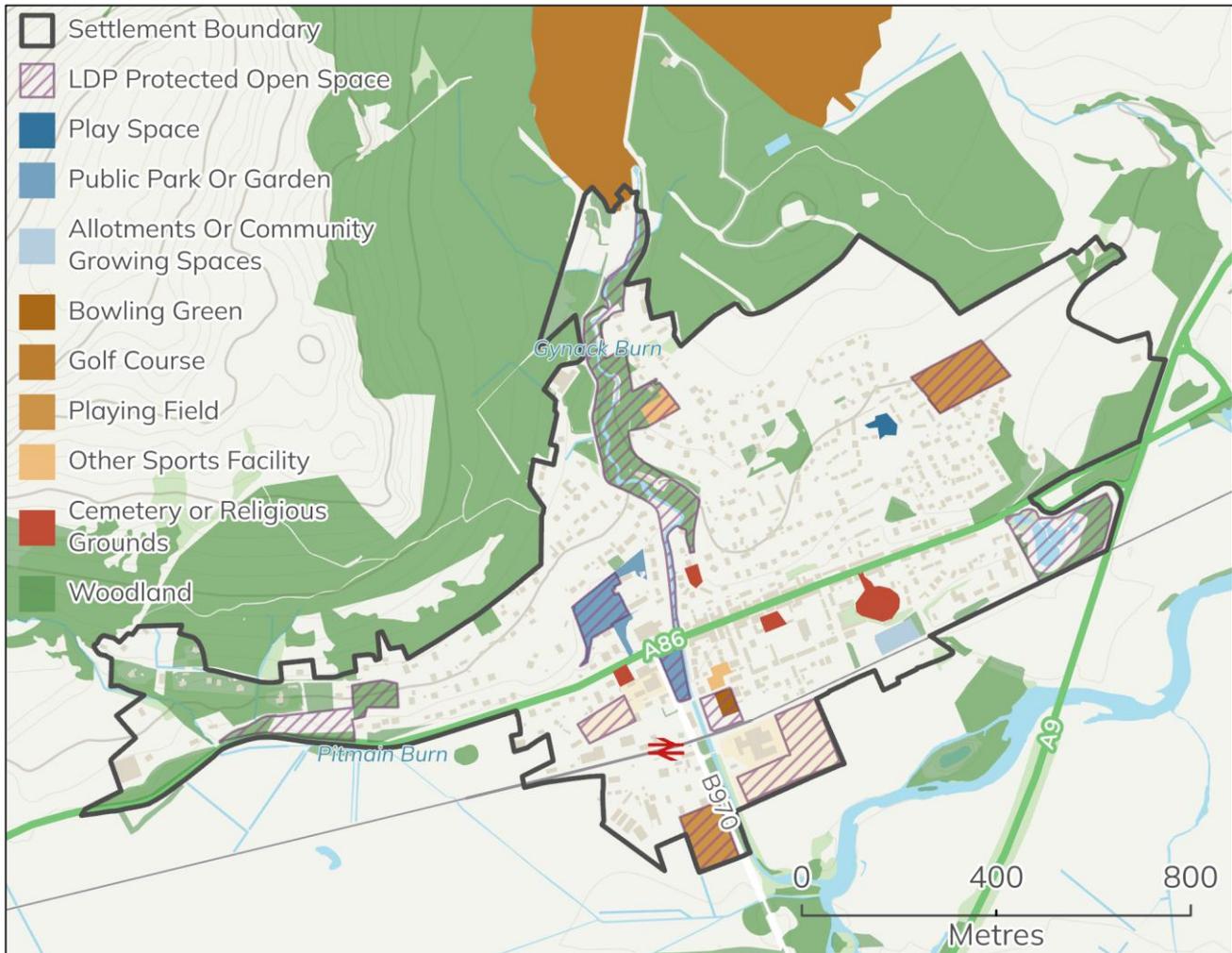


Figure 26 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Kingussie (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).

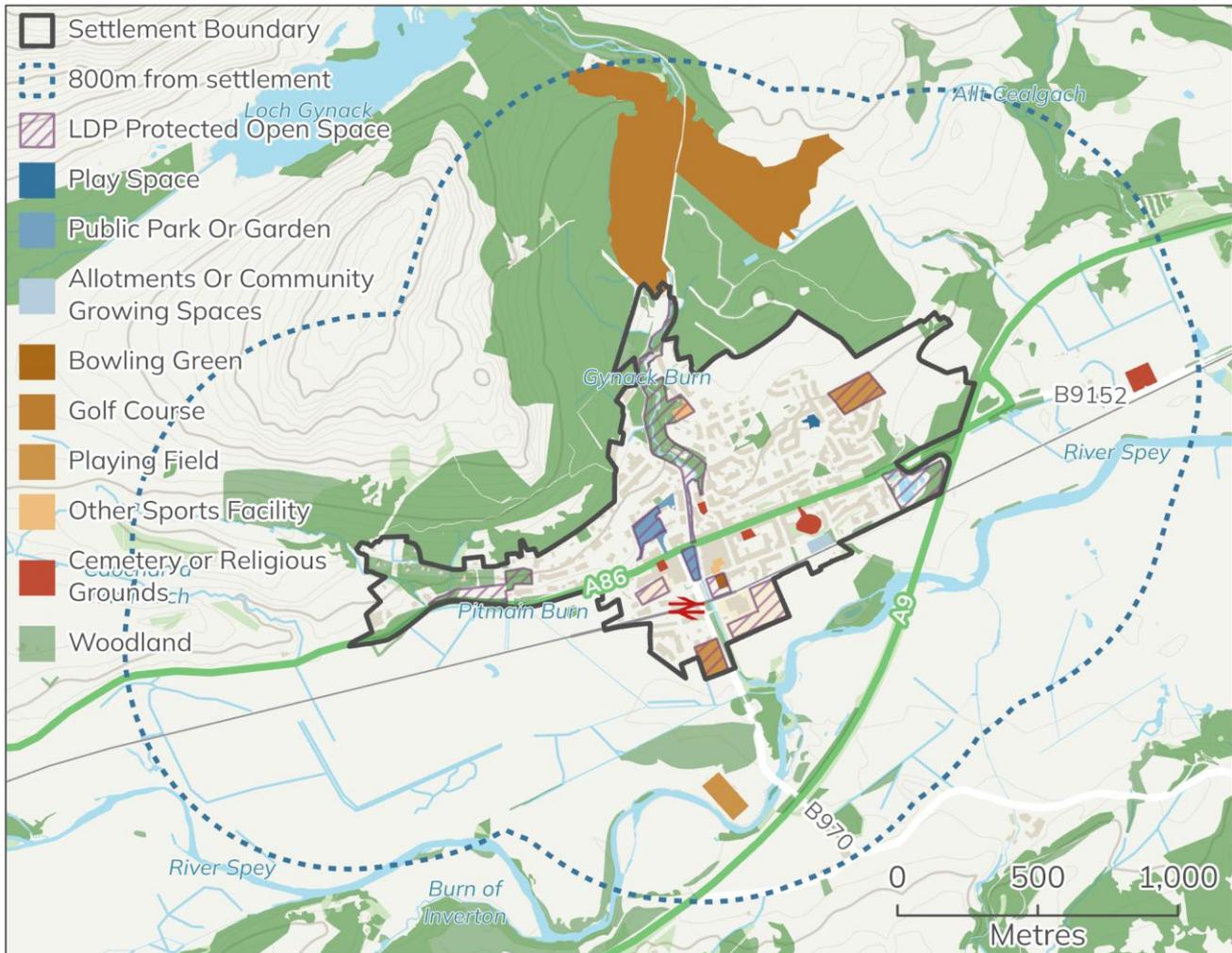


Figure 27 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and within 800m of the settlement boundary of Kingussie (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Laggan

Table 20 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Laggan, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, it identifies half a hectare of greenspace. However, it is of relevance that the entrance to Laggan Wolftrax, a purpose built, singletrack mountain bike centre, which totals 365 hectares is only just over 800m from Laggan's settlement boundary.

Table 20 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Laggan (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Cemetery or religious grounds	0.43
Play space	0.01
Public park and garden	0.05
Total	0.50

There are 37 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800 metres of the settlement boundary.

There are no protected open spaces identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016). The greenspace, woodland and the edge of Laggan Wolftrax are shown on the map of Laggan (Figure 28).

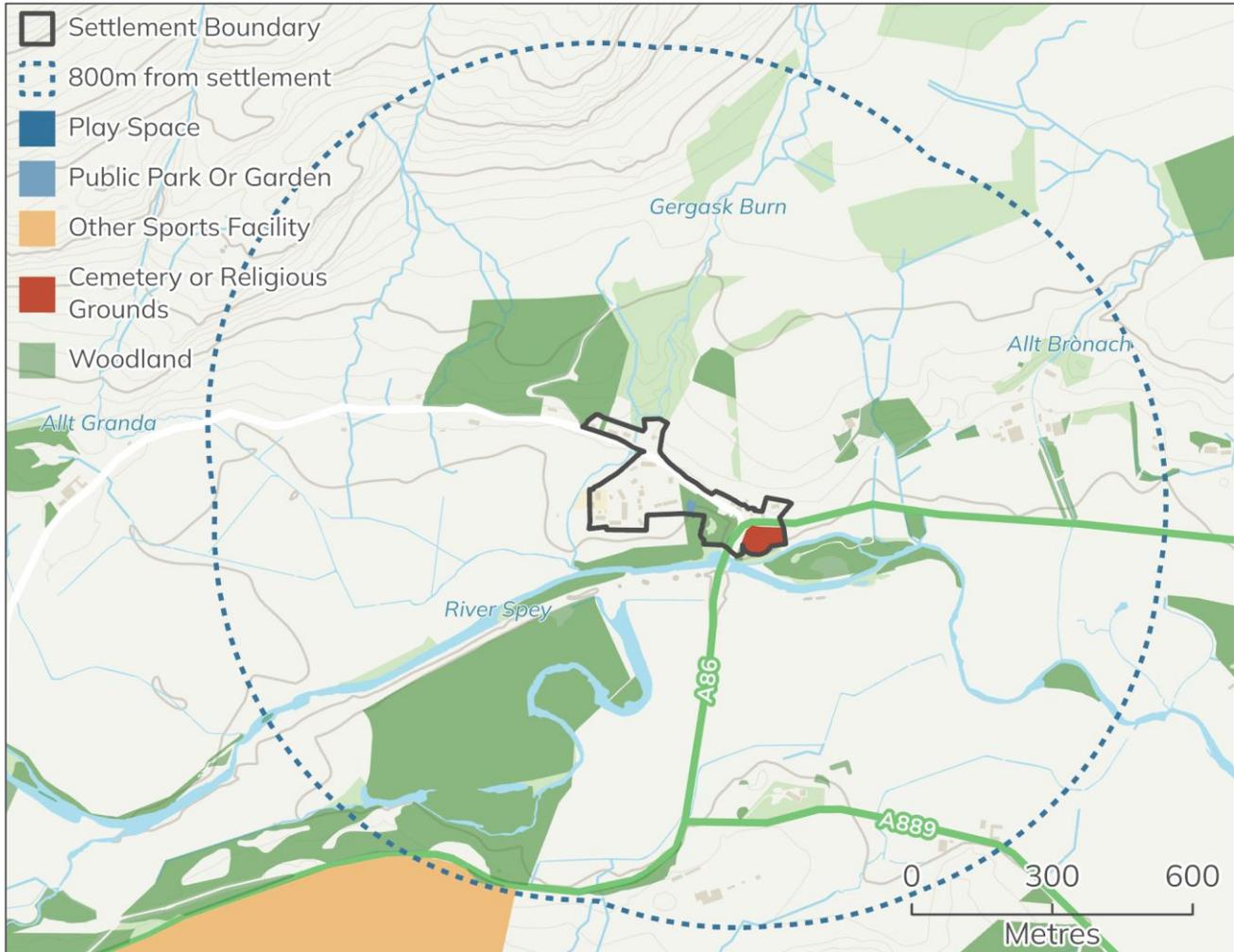


Figure 28 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and within 800m of the settlement boundary of Laggan (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Nethy Bridge

Table 21 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Nethy Bridge, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, it identifies approximately 22 hectares of greenspace.

Table 21 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Nethy Bridge (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865)

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Bowling green	0.18
Cemetery or religious grounds	0.55
Golf course	15.10
Other sports facility	4.19
Play space	0.20
Playing field	2.06
Tennis court	0.11
Total	22.40

There are 445 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800 metres of the settlement boundary.

There are eight protected open spaces identified in Nethy Bridge the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016). They total 17.85 hectares of open space. The greenspace, woodland and protected open space are shown on the map of Nethy Bridge (Figure 29). Figure 30 shows the open space and woodland in the wider area 800m beyond the settlement boundary of Nethy Bridge.

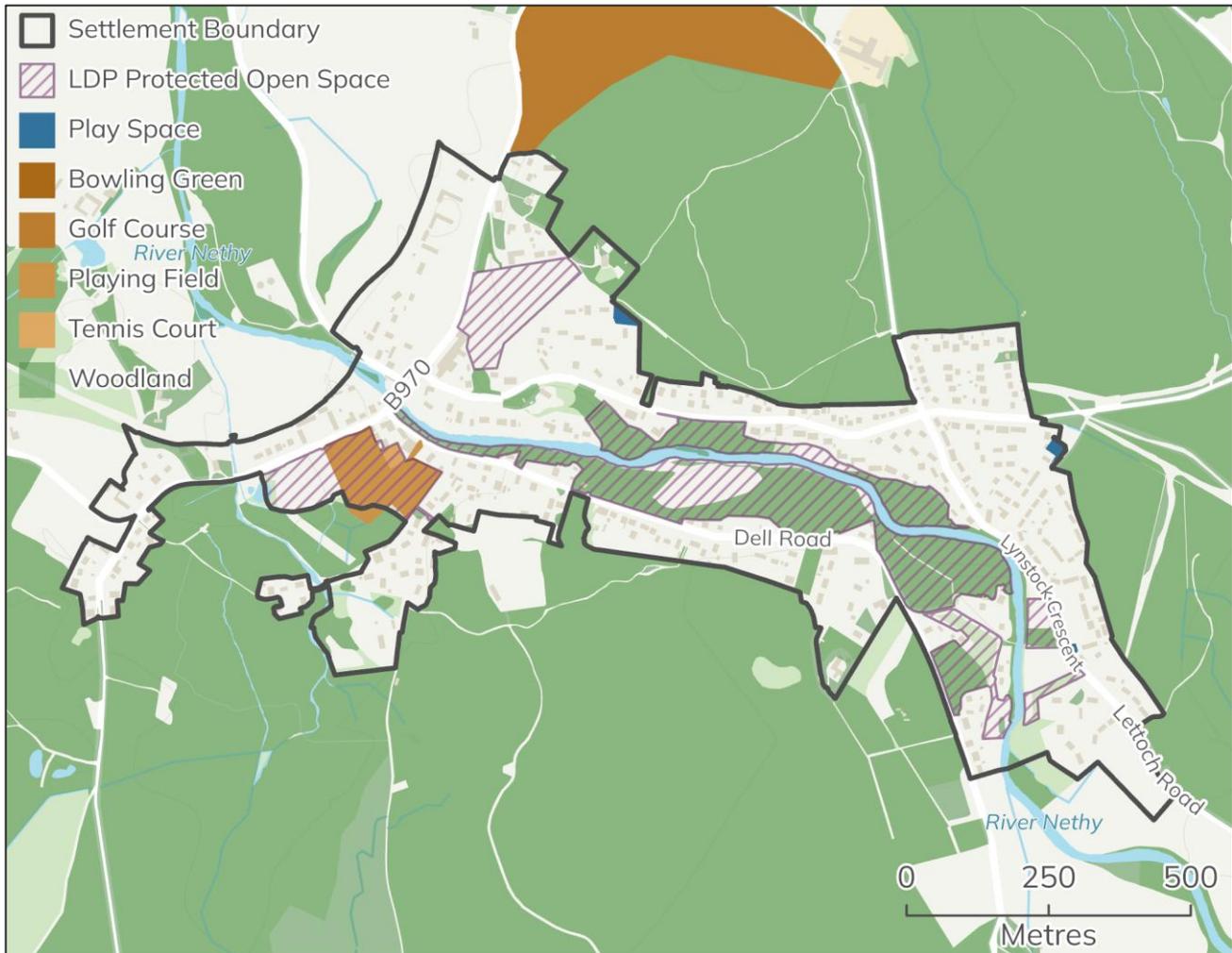


Figure 29 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Nethy Bridge (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA865).

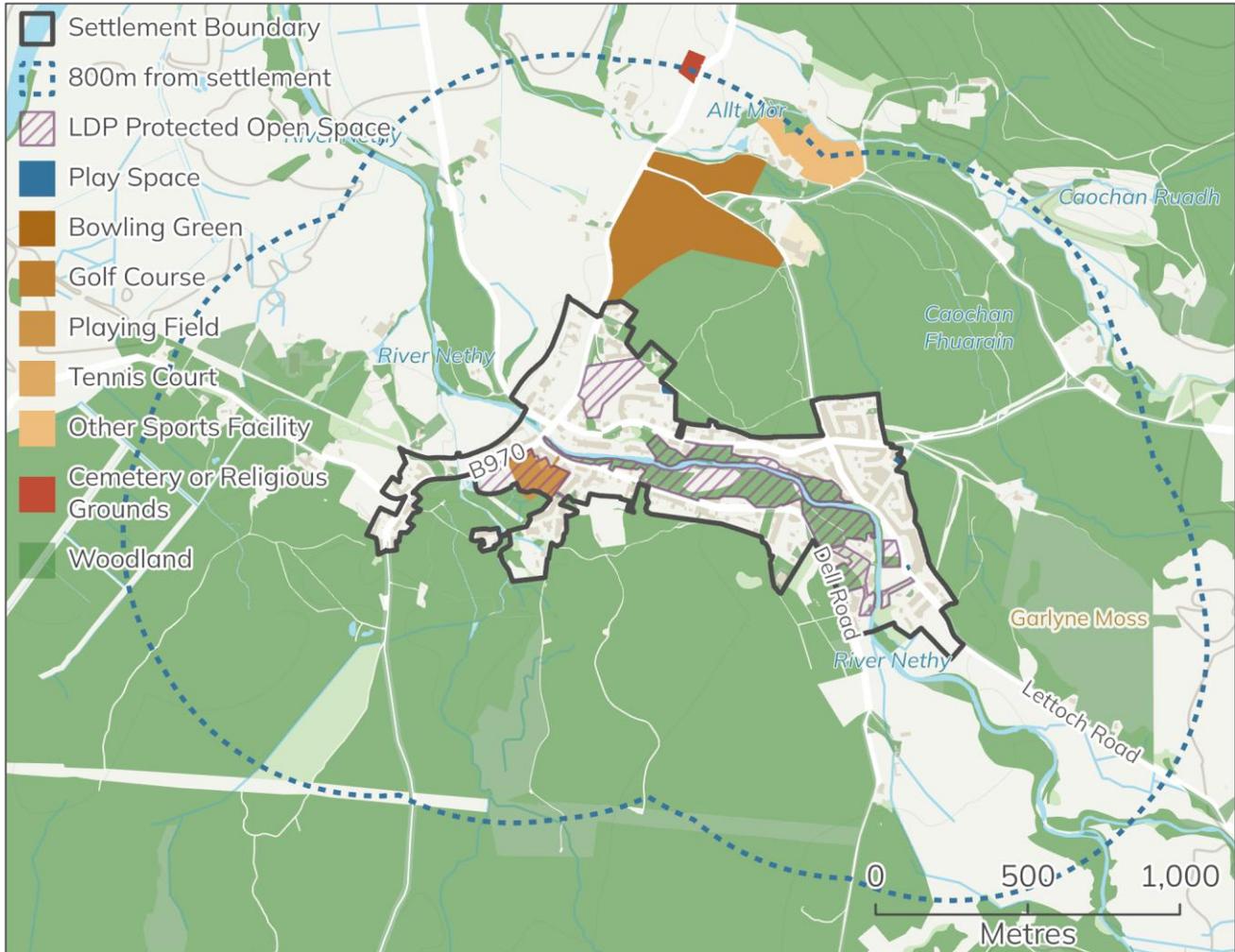


Figure 30 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and within 800m of the settlement boundary of Nethy Bridge (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Newtonmore

Table 22 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Newtonmore, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, it identifies approximately 50 hectares of greenspace.

Table 22 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Newtonmore (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Bowling green	0.27
Golf course	45.02
Play space	0.13
Playing field	2.77
Public park or garden	1.58
Total	49.78

There are 168 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800 metres of the settlement boundary.

There are five protected open spaces identified in Newtonmore the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016). They total 18.30 hectares of open space. The greenspace, woodland and protected open space are shown on the map of Newtonmore (Figure 31).

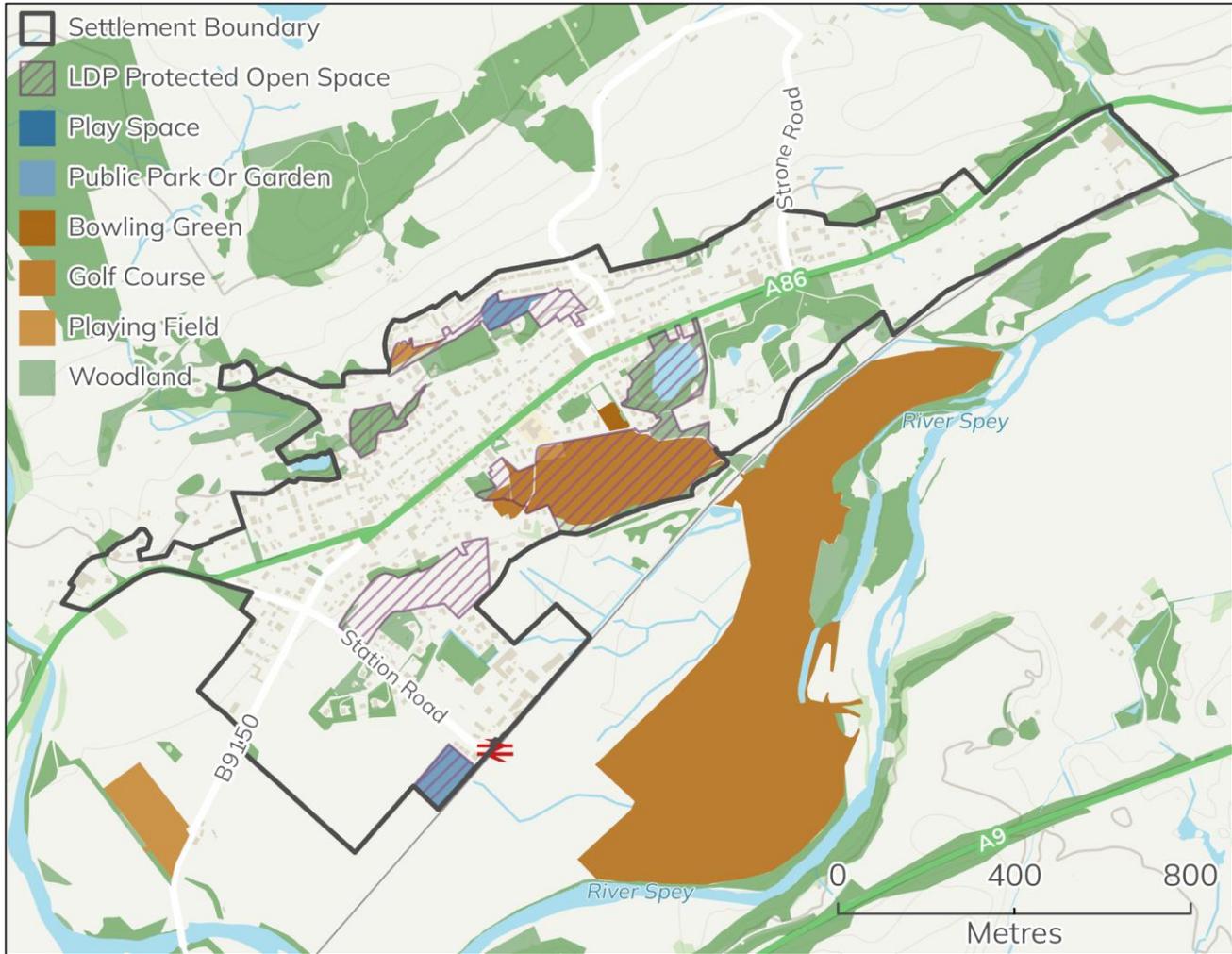


Figure 31 Greenspace, woodland and protect open space in and adjacent to Newtonmore (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Strathdon

Table 23 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Strathdon, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, it identifies approximately three hectares of greenspace.

Table 23 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Strathdon (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Cemetery or religious grounds	0.49
Play space	0.06
Playing field	2.38
Public park or garden	0.03
Total	2.95

There are 117 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800m of the settlement boundary.

There are no protected open spaces identified in Strathdon in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016). The greenspace and woodland are shown on the map of Strathdon (Figure 32).



Figure 32 Greenspace and woodland in and within 800m of the settlement boundary of Strathdon (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer and Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Tomintoul

Table 24 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Tomintoul, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, it identifies just over four and a half hectares of greenspace.

Table 24 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Newtonmore (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) (CNPA865).

Greenspace typologies	Total amount (hectares)
Bowling green	0.31
Cemetery of religious grounds	0.64
Other sports facility	0.09
Play space	0.11
Playing field	1.24
Public park or garden	2.20
Total	4.60

There are 119 hectares of woodland either within the settlement or within 800 metres of the settlement boundary.

There are six protected open spaces identified in Tomintoul in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016). They total 8.4 hectares of open space. The greenspace, woodland and protected open space are shown on the map of Tomintoul (Figure 33).



Figure 33 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Tomintoul (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA016, CNPA865).



Sports facilities audit

As with open space, the level of information available regarding sports facilities in each constituent local authority varies and is limited in some cases. During preparation of the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan, regard will be had to any available sports facilities strategies as well as open space strategies. The current situation is as follows:

- Aberdeenshire Council –The Pitch and Outdoor Physical Activity Space Strategy from 2022 (CNPA673) aims to create a network of 18 pitch forums based around Academy catchments. Alford (which includes Strathdon) is ranked third in terms of pitch provision per head. Aboyne (Ballater, Braemar and Dinnet) is ranked ninth.
- The Highland Council – No strategy or audit covering the Cairngorms National Park.
- Moray Council – A Physical Activity, Sport and Health Strategy was published in 2023 (CNPA675). It seeks to inspire people of all ages to participate in physical activity. It includes no place-based audit or strategy.
- Perth and Kinross Council – the Physical Activity and Sports Strategy 2023 – 2028 (CNPA677) has a vision to support everyone’s physical and mental wellbeing through physical activity and support. It contains no place-based strategy or audit.

For this reason, this paper undertakes a desk based audit, based on SportScotland’s sports facilities dataset (CNPA670), last updated on 30 July 2024. This is presented as a park wide overview and on a settlement by settlement basis.

The dataset provides layers for:

- Athletics tracks (including velodromes, training areas, indoor and outdoor)
- Bowling greens (including croquet, pétanque and cricket squares)
- Fitness suites
- Golf courses
- Ice rinks (including curling rinks)
- Sports pitches (including size, sport and type)
- Sports halls (including gyms and other types)
- Squash courts
- Swimming pools (including diving and other types)
- Indoor tennis courts
- Outdoor tennis courts

The dataset has been amended where facilities are known to be no longer available or where there are known sports facilities not included in the dataset.



Table 25 Total of each type of sports facility within the Cairngorms National Park (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670).

Sport facilities	Total in the Cairngorms National Park
Athletics track	1
Bowling green	9
Fitness suite	7
Golf course	13
Ice rink	1
Indoor tennis court	1
Leisure centre	5
Other sports facility	17
Outdoor activity centre	8
Outdoor tennis court	11
Sports pitch	10
Sports hall	22
Squash courts	3
Swimming pools	10
Total	118

Table 25 summarises the number of each type of sports facility in the Cairngorms National Park. The most common sport facilities are sports halls, golf courses and outdoor tennis courts. The least common are an athletics track, ice rink and indoor tennis court. It is recognised that some of the sports facilities listed in the SportScotland dataset are within private resorts or centres and only open to residents of the resorts, or in some cases through membership. This is noted in the settlement summaries.

Table 26 summarises the number of each type of sports facility in each settlement in the Cairngorms National Park. A facility is listed as being in the settlement when it is either within the settlement boundary, as defined by the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016), or within 800m of the settlement boundary.

Aviemore, the largest strategic settlement, has the greatest range of sports facilities. The other strategic settlements (Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore) have higher numbers of sports facilities than any of the intermediate or rural settlements. Eight settlements do not contain any dedicated sports facilities within 800m. These eight include one intermediate settlement – Kincaig. However, it is worth noting that the Loch Insh outdoor centre is only just over 800m from the edge of the



settlement. The seven rural settlements without any sports facilities are Clova, Dalwhinnie, Glenlivet, Glenshee, Insh, Killiecrankie and Strathdon.

Table 27 lists the sports facilities outwith settlements. There are four outdoor activity centres and three sports halls.

Table 26 Distribution of sport facilities within 800m of each settlement identified in the Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016) (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670).

	Athletics track	Bowling green	Fitness suite	Golf club	Ice rink	Indoor tennis court	Leisure centre	Other sports facility	Outdoor activity centre	Outdoor tennis court	Sports pitch	Sports hall	Squash courts	Swimming pool	Total
Strategic settlements															
Aviemore	0	1	2	1	1	0	2	5	0	0	1	1	1	2	17
Ballater	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	1	1	11
Grantown-on-Spey	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	11
Kingussie	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	8
Newtonmore	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	6
Intermediate settlements															
Blair Atholl	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	6
Boat of Garten	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	5
Braemar	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	5
Carrbridge	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	5
Cromdale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Dulnain Bridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Kincraig	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nethy Bridge	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	9
Tomintoul	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Rural settlements															
Coylumbridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
Dinnet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Glenmore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2



	Athletics track	Bowling green	Fitness suite	Golf club	Ice rink	Indoor tennis court	Leisure centre	Other sports facility	Outdoor activity centre	Outdoor tennis court	Sports pitch	Sports hall	Squash courts	Swimming pool	Total
Inverdrue	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	9
Laggan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Outwith settlements	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	5	1	1	3	0	0	14
Total	1	9	7	13	1	1	5	17	8	11	10	22	3	10	118

Table 27 Additional sport facilities not located within 800m of a settlement identified in the Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016) (SportScotland) (CNPA670).

Sport facilities	Type of facility	Closest settlement
Cairngorm quad treks	Other sports facility	Aviemore
Balmoral golf course	Golf course	Ballater
Lonnach Hall	Sports hall	Ballater
Crathie church hall	Sports hall	Ballater
Crathie New Hall	Sports hall	Ballater
Balmoral cricket pitch	Sports pitch	Ballater
Cairngorm Mountain	Outdoor activity centre	Coylumbridge
Speyside Trust Badaguish outdoor centre	Outdoor activity centre	Coylumbridge
Dalmunzie golf course	Golf course	Glenshee
Dalmunzie House Hotel	Swimming pool	Glenshee
Glenshee ski centre	Outdoor activity centre	Glenshee
Loch Insh outdoor centre	Outdoor activity centre	Kincraig
Highland Horse Fun	Other sports facility	Kingussie
The Lecht 2090 ski centre	Outdoor activity centre	Tomintoul

Implications

The implications of the sport facilities evidence for the proposed plan are as follows:



- The most common sport facilities are sports halls, golf courses and outdoor tennis courts.
- The least common are an athletics track, ice rink and indoor tennis court.
- The strategic settlements (Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore) have higher numbers of sports facilities than any of the intermediate or rural settlements.
- Seven rural settlements and one intermediate settlement (Kincaig) do not contain any dedicated sports facilities either within their settlement boundary, or within 800m of the boundary.

The sports facilities audit forms part of our understanding of the wider infrastructure implications for each settlement. It does not identify any significant infrastructure constraints and reflects the spatial strategy. The spatial evidence (set out below) will inform the proposed plan's site assessment process and the policy and allocation requirements for each settlement.

Settlement summaries⁹

Aviemore

Table 28 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Aviemore (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670).

Sports facilities	Number in settlement
Bowling green (Aviemore bowling club)	1
Fitness suite (Macdonald Aviemore Resort and Spey Valley Resort ¹⁰)	2
Golf course (Macdonald Spey Valley golf and country club)	1
Ice rink (Aviemore ice rink)	1
Leisure centre (Aviemore community and leisure centre)	2
Other sport facility (Unit 8 activity centre, Crossfit Cairngorm, Cairngorm school of dance, dry ski slope and Aviemore kart raceway)	5
Sports pitch (Aviemore community and leisure centre)	1
Sports hall (Macdonald Spey Valley Resort)	1
Squash court (Macdonald Spey Valley Resort)	1
Swimming pool (Macdonald Aviemore Resort and Macdonald Spey Valley resort)	2

⁹ A facility is listed as being in a settlement when it is either within the settlement boundary, as defined by the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016), or is within 800m of the settlement boundary.

¹⁰ The Macdonald Aviemore Resort and Spey Valley Resort facilities are open to guests only.



Sports facilities	Number in settlement
Total	17

Aviemore is the largest settlement in the Cairngorm National Park and contains the most sports facilities offering a wide variety of sporting options without many duplicate facilities. The Macdonald Spey Valley and Aviemore resorts facilities are open to residents of the resorts only.

There are only four SportScotland facility types that Aviemore does not contain, and these are an athletics track, outdoor tennis court, indoor tennis court and an outdoor centre. However, there are outdoor centres outwith, but close to, Aviemore.

Both Inverdrue and Coylumbridge are very close to Aviemore (part of Inverdrue is within 800 metres) and include outdoor and indoor tennis courts.

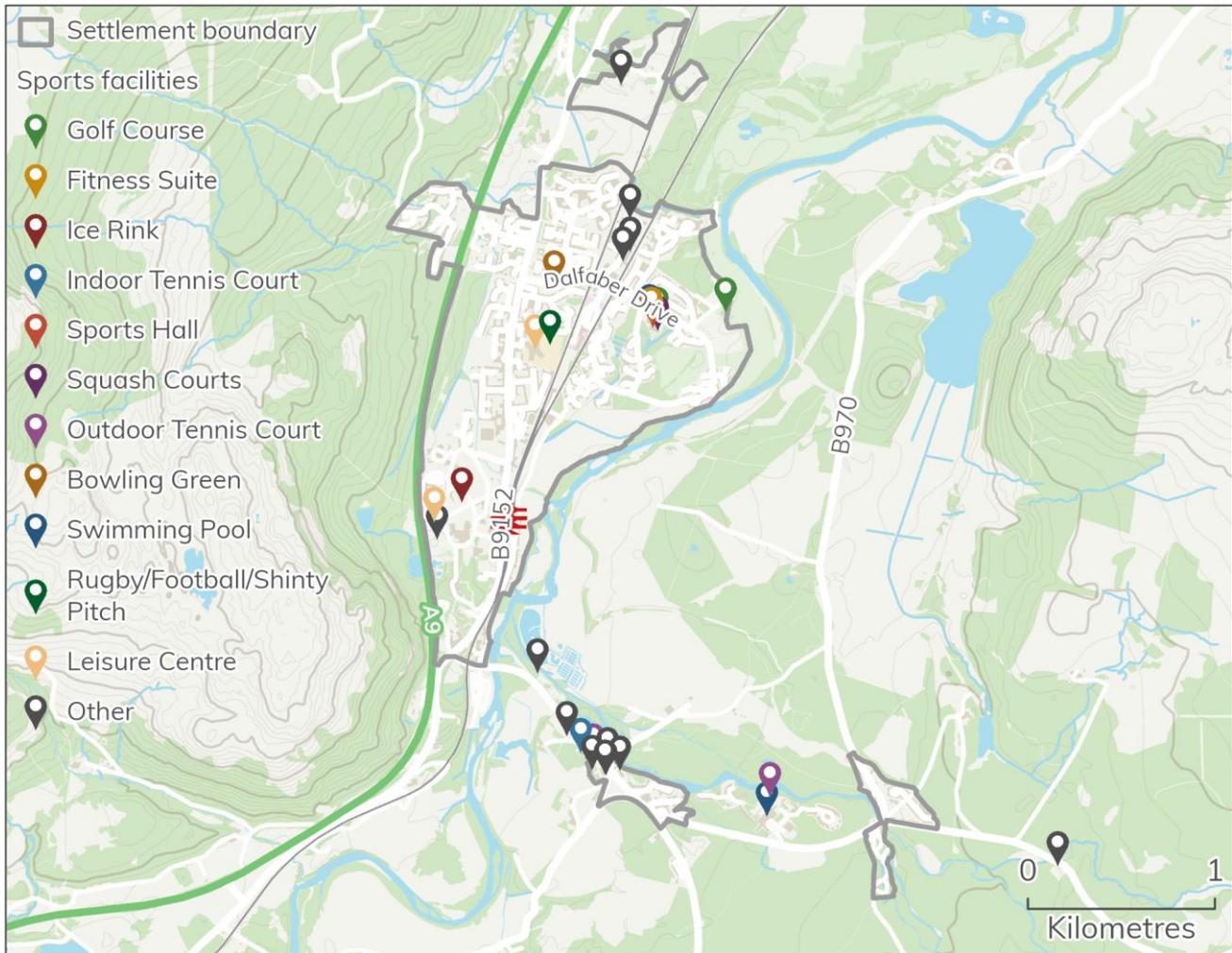


Figure 34 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Aviemore (source: SportScotland). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA670).

Ballater

Table 29 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Ballater (source: SportScotland) (CNPAX670).

Sports facilities	Number in settlement
Bowling green (Ballater bowling and tennis club)	1
Fitness suite (Hilton Craigendarroch ¹¹)	1
Golf course (Ballater golf course)	1
Outdoor tennis court (Ballater tennis court)	1
Sports pitch (Monaltrie Park)	1
Sports hall (Ballater School, Ballater Victory Hall, Victoria and Albert Hall and Birkhall Community Hall)	4

¹¹ The Hilton Craigendarroch facilities are open to guests only.



Sports facilities	Number in settlement
Squash court (Hilton Craigendarroch)	1
Swimming pool (Hilton Craigendarroch)	1
Total	11

Ballater is a strategic settlement in the Cairngorms National Park, and the number of sport facilities reflect that, with four sports halls, a golf course and two sports pitches,

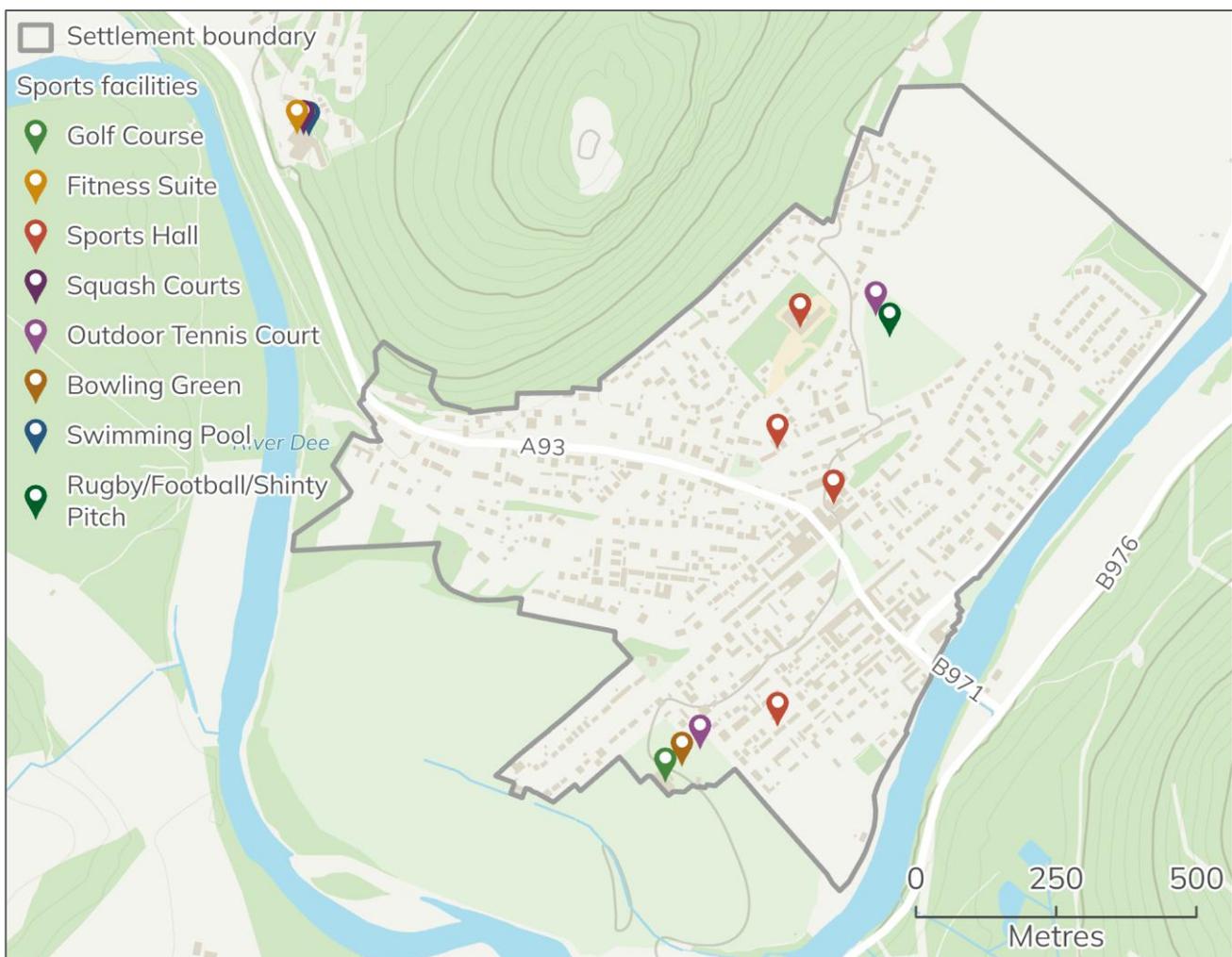


Figure 35 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Ballater (source: SportScotland). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA670).



Blair Atholl

Table 30 Sports facilities in or within 800m of Blair Atholl (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670)).

Sport facilities	Number in settlement
Bowling green (Blair Atholl bowling club)	1
Fitness suite (River Tilt leisure park)	1
Golf course (Blair Atholl golf club)	1
Sports pitch (Blair Atholl sports field)	1
Sports hall (Blair Atholl village hall)	1
Swimming pool (River Tilt leisure park)	1
Total	6

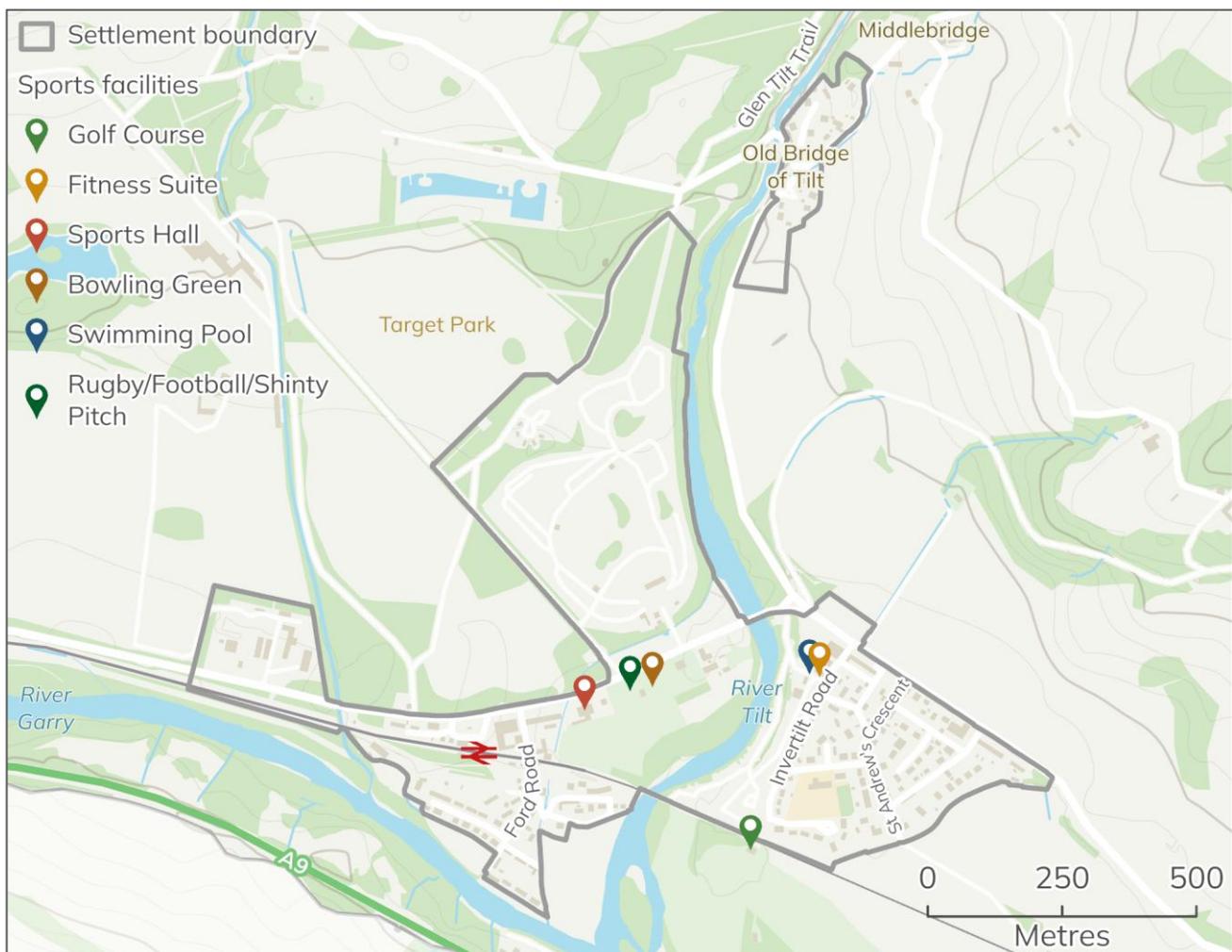


Figure 36 Sports facilities located in Blair Atholl (source SportScotland) Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA670).



Boat of Garten

Table 31 Sports facilities in or within 800m of Boat of Garten (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670).

Sport facilities	Number in settlement
Golf course (Boat of Garten golf and tennis club)	1
Other (Pump track)	1
Outdoor tennis court (Boat of Garten golf and tennis club)	1
Sports pitch (Boat of Garten football field)	1
Sports hall (Boat of Garten village hall)	1
Total	5

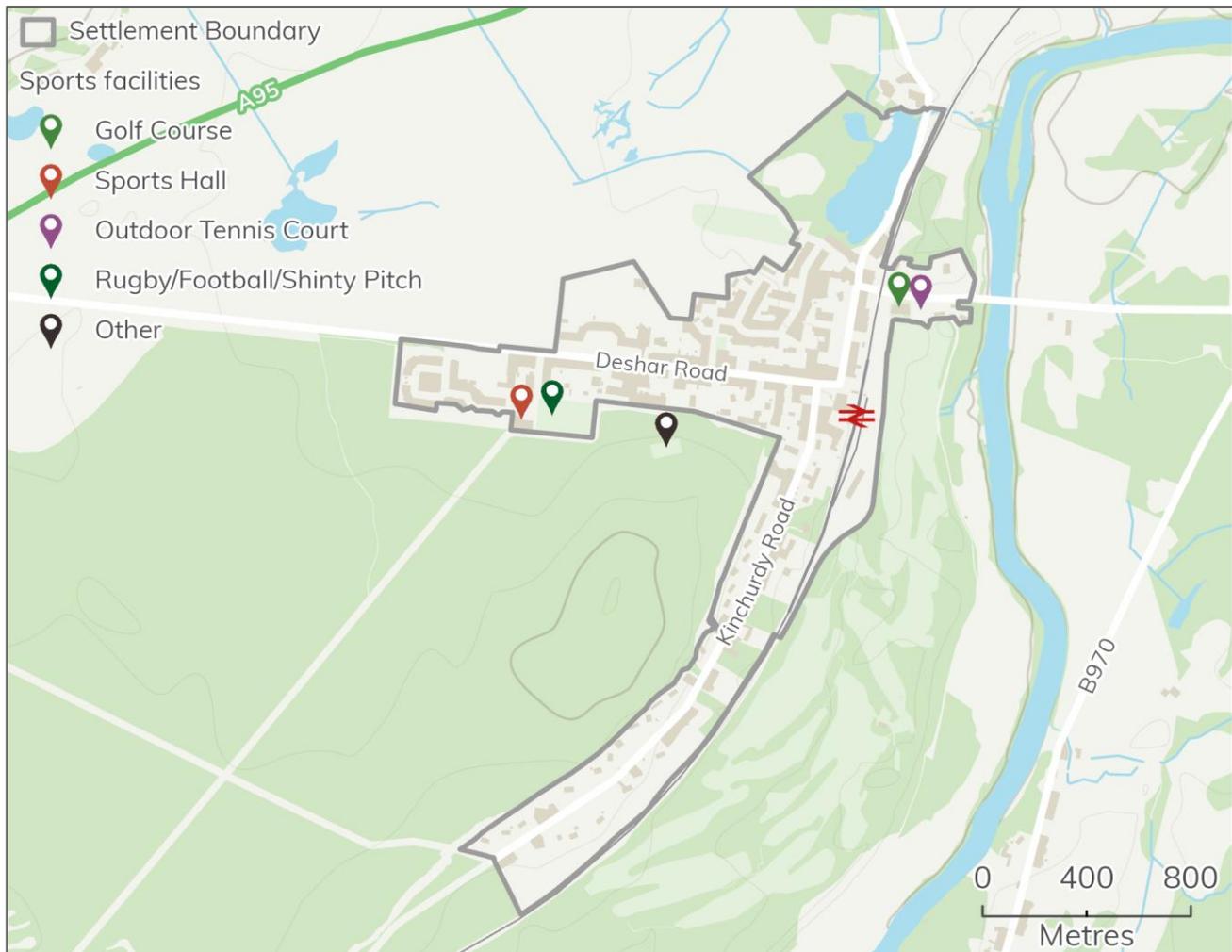


Figure 37 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Boat of Garten (source: SportScotland). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA670).



Braemar

Table 32 Sports facilities in or within 800m of Braemar (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670).

Sport facilities	Number in settlement
Bowling green (Braemar bowling club)	1
Golf course (Braemar golf club)	1
Sports hall (Braemar Primary School, Braemar village hall and Auchendryne Hall)	3
Total	5

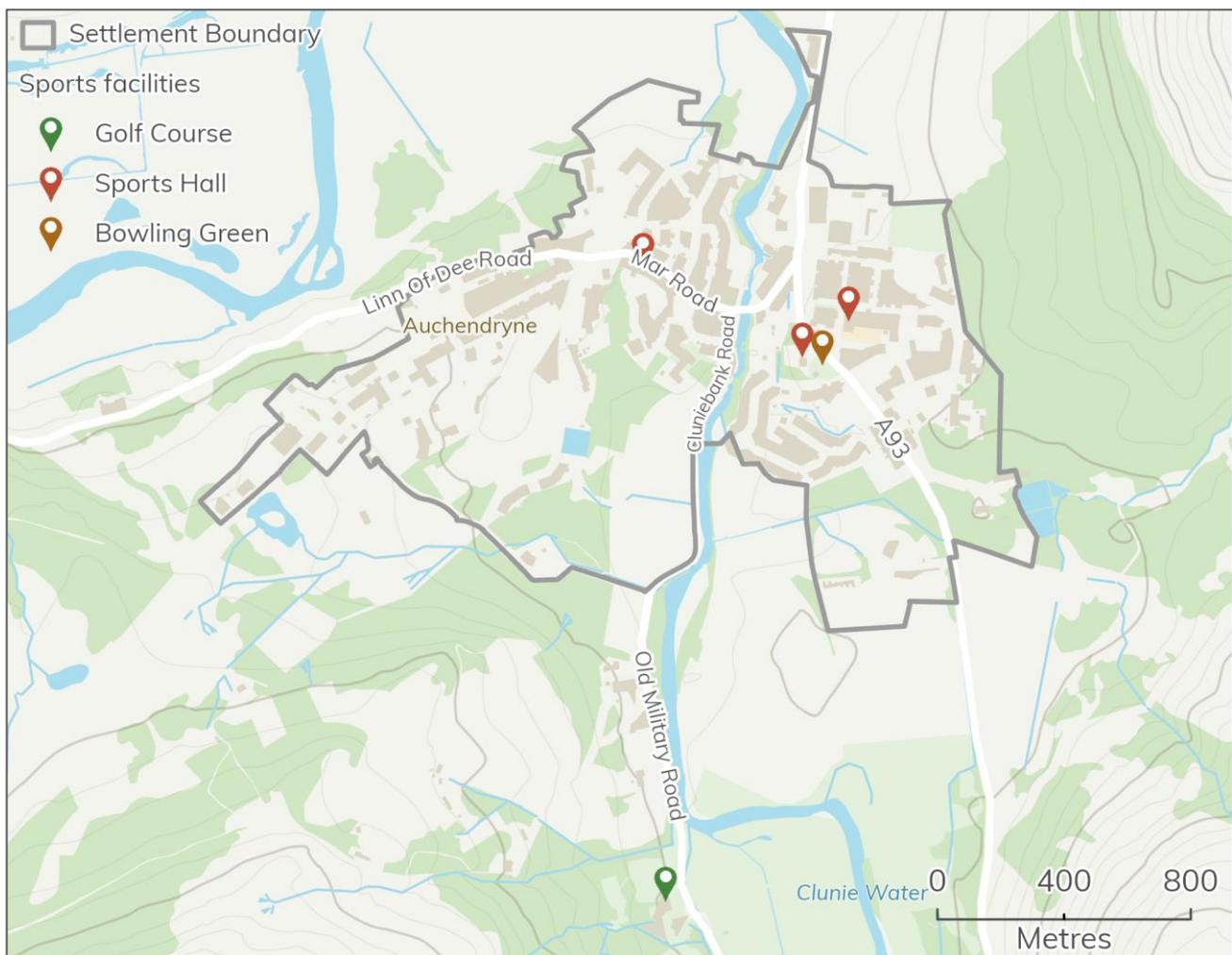


Figure 38 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Braemar (source: SportScotland). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA670).



Carrbridge

Table 33 Sports facilities in or within 800m of Carrbridge (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670).

Sport facilities	Number in settlement
Golf course (Carrbridge golf club)	1
Leisure centre (Macdonald Lochanhully resort ¹²)	1
Other sports facility (curling pond)	1
Outdoor tennis court (Macdonald Lochanhully resort)	1
Swimming pool (Macdonald Lochanhully resort)	1
Total	5

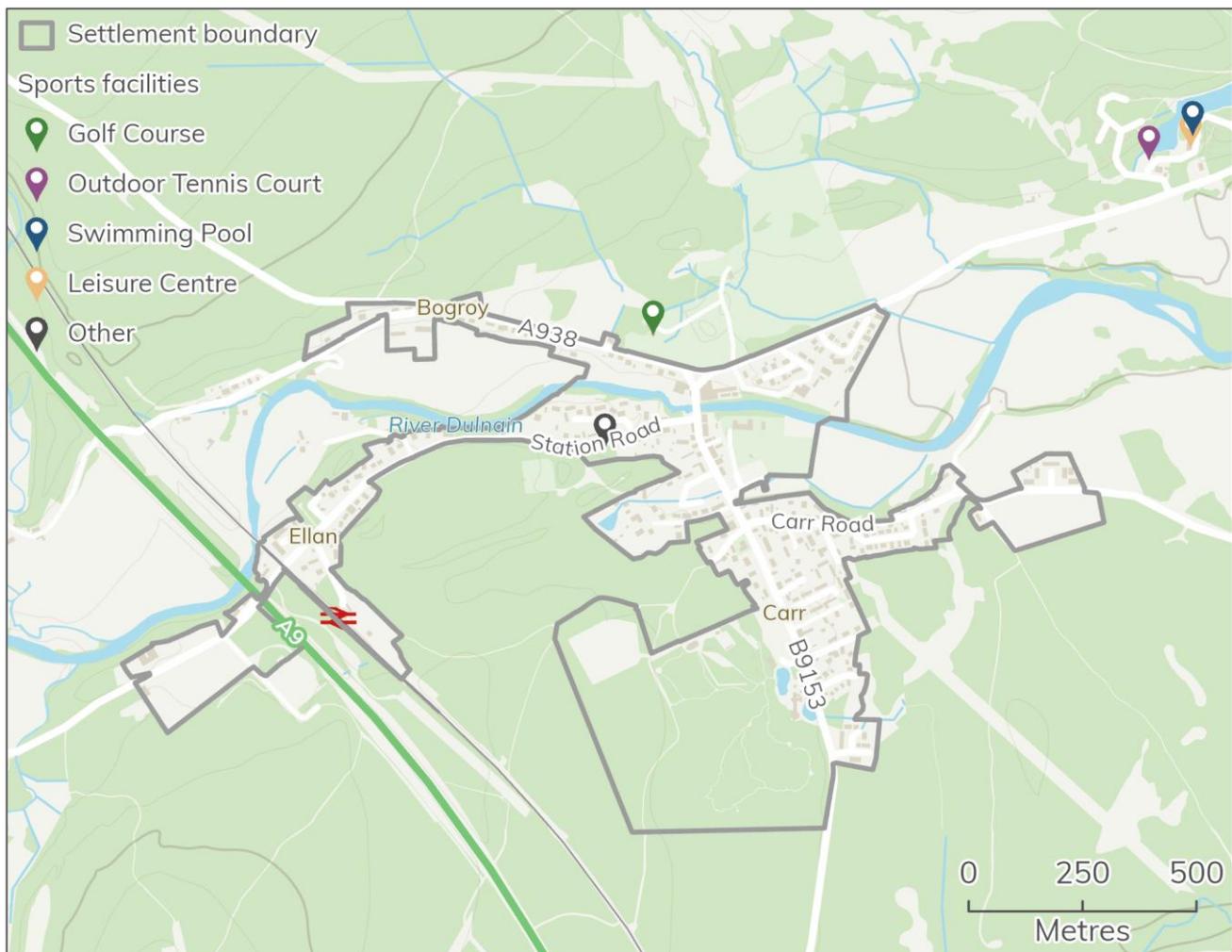


Figure 39 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Carrbridge (source: SportScotland). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA670).

¹² The Macdonald Lochanhully resort facilities are open to residents of the resort only.



Coylumbridge

Table 34 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Coylumbridge (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670).

Sport facilities	Number in settlement
Outdoor tennis court (Hilton Coylumbridge)	1
Other sport facility (Rothiemurchus clay shooting)	1
Swimming pool (Hilton Coylumbridge)	1
Total	3

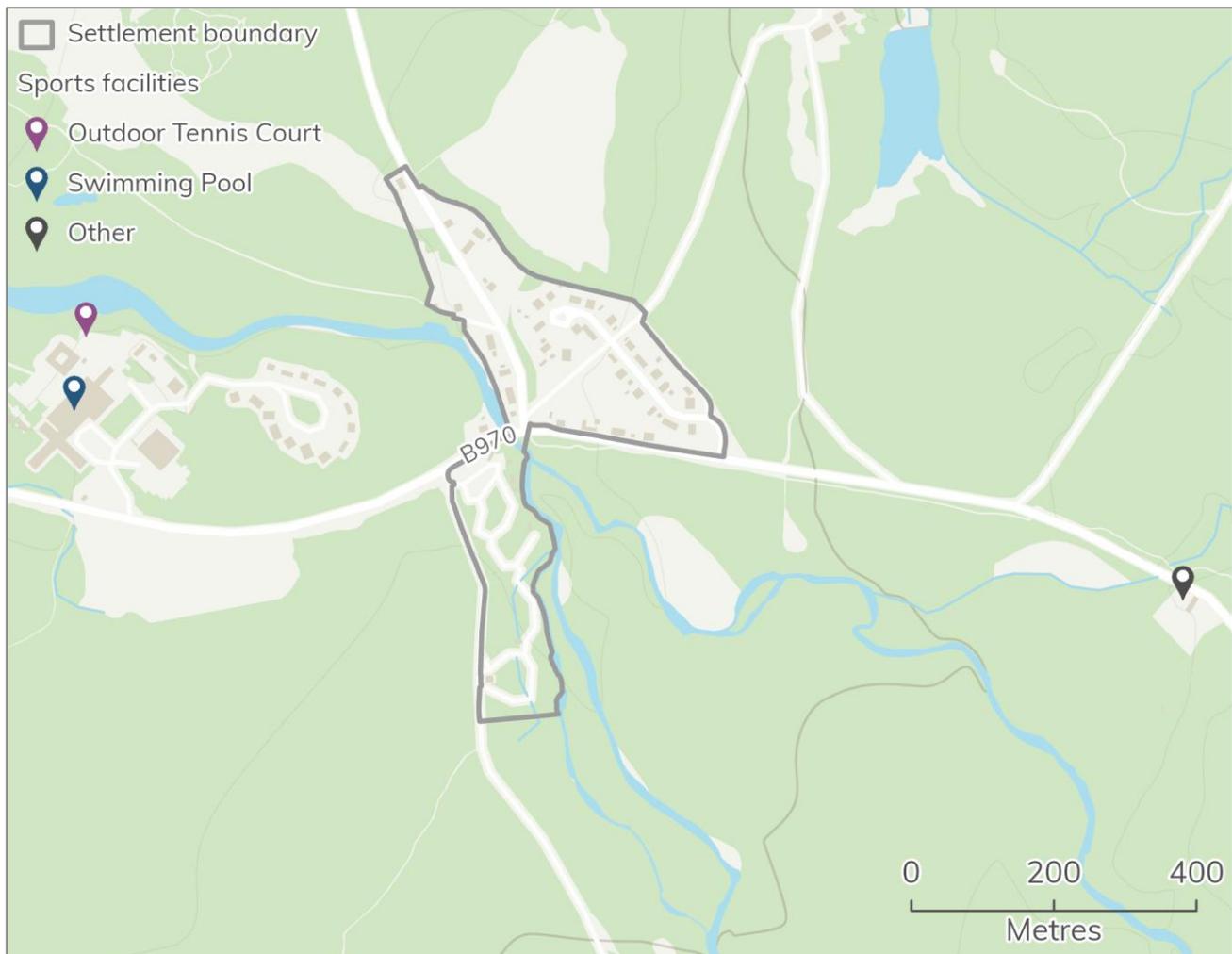


Figure 40 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Coylumbridge (source: SportScotland). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA670).



Cromdale

Table 35 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Cromdale (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670).

Sport facilities	Number in settlement
Sports pitch (Cromdale Park)	1
Total	1

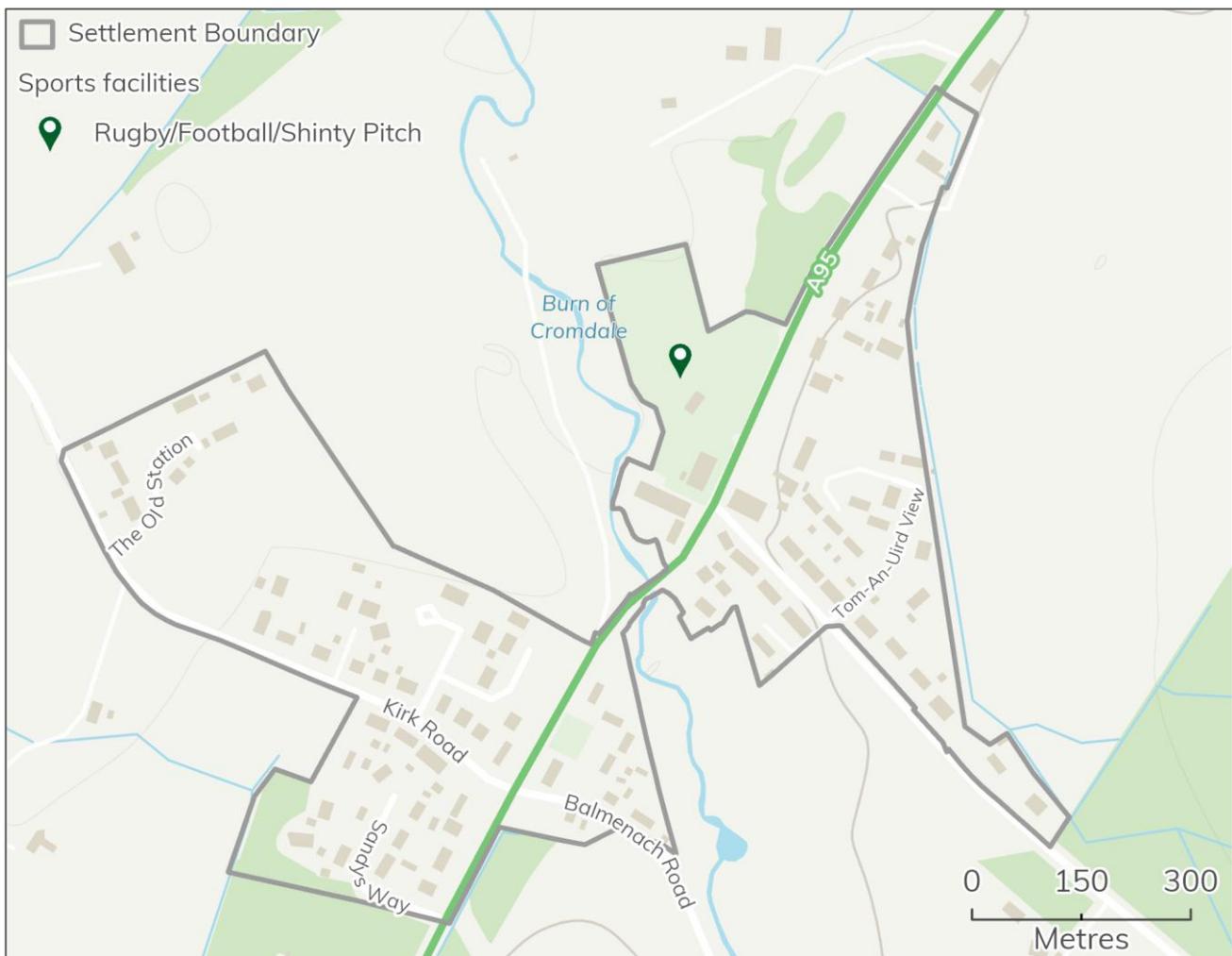


Figure 41 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Cromdale (source: SportScotland). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA670).



Dinnet

Table 36 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Dinnet (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670).

Sport facilities	Number in settlement
Sports hall (Kinord public hall)	1
Total	1

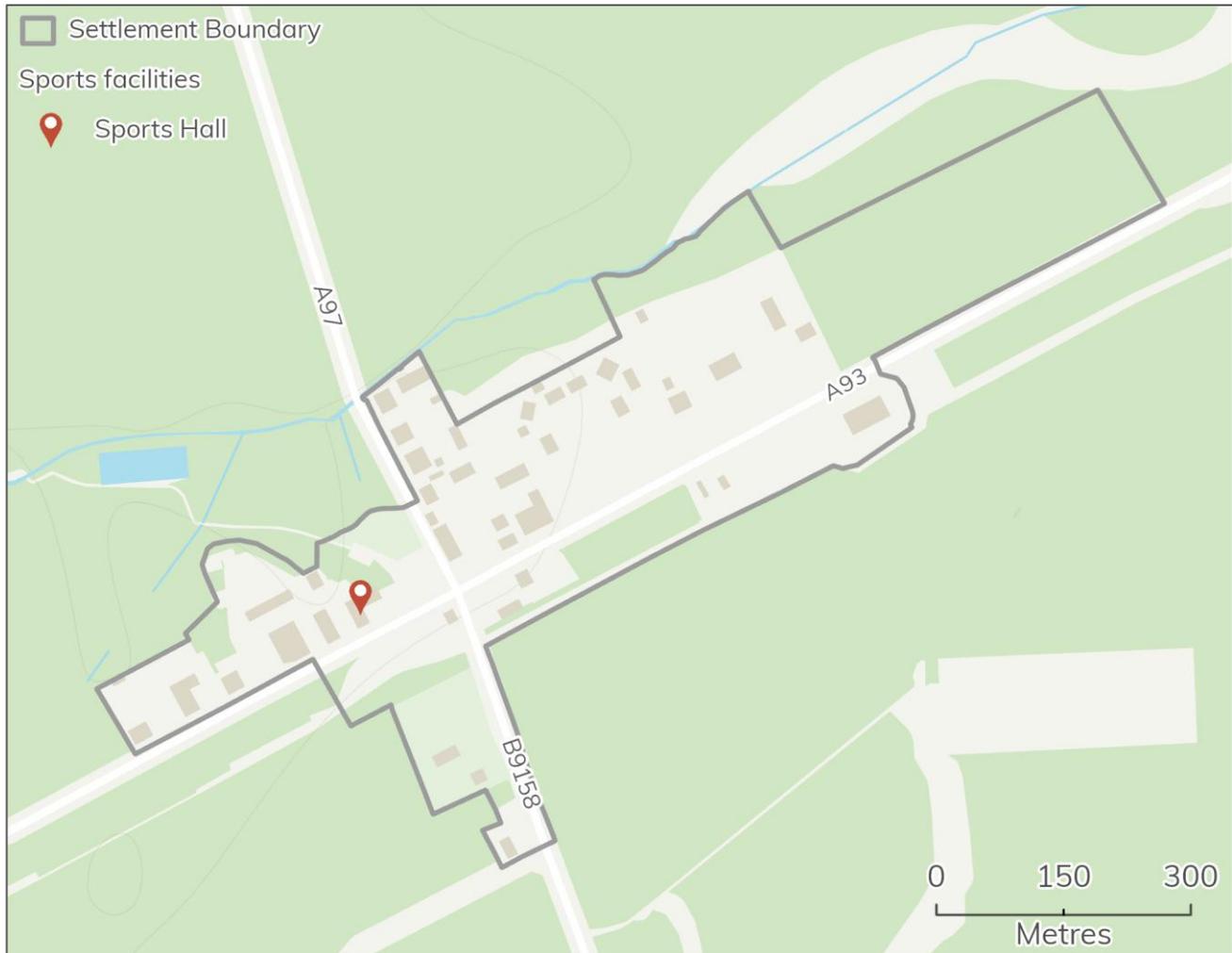


Figure 42 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Dinnet (source: SportScotland). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA670).



Dulnain Bridge

Table 37 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Dulnain Bridge (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670).

Sport facilities	Number in settlement
Sports pitch (Dulnain Bridge playing field)	1
Sports hall (Dulnain Bridge village hall)	1
Total	2



Figure 43 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Dulnain Bridge (source: SportScotland). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA670).



Glenmore

Table 38 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Glenmore (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670).

Sport facilities	Number in settlement
Outdoor activity centre (Glenmore Lodge ¹³)	1
Swimming pool (Glenmore Lodge)	1
Total	2

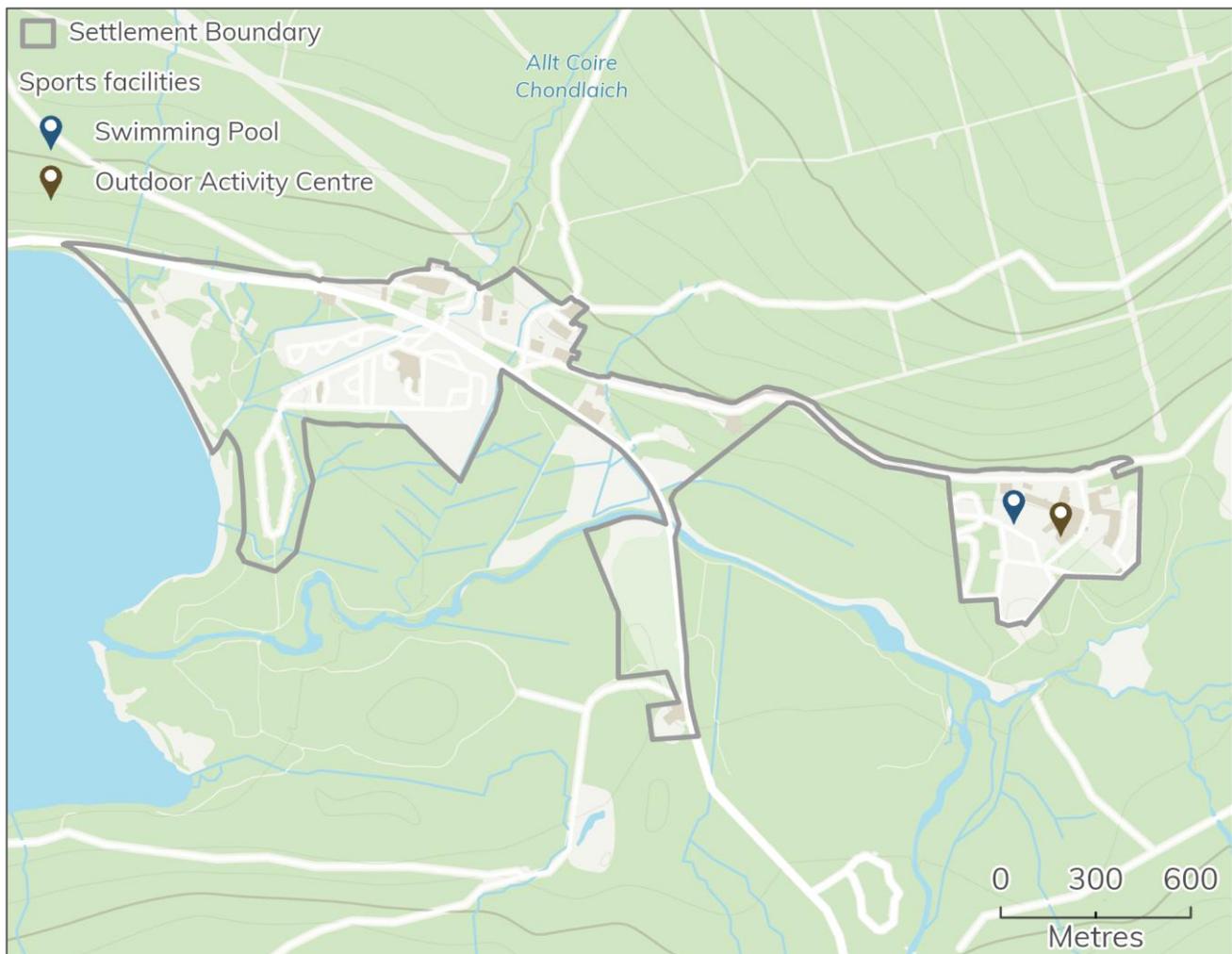


Figure 44 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Glenmore (source: SportScotland). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA670).

¹³ The Glenmore Lodge facilities are open to residents of the resort only.



Grantown-on-Spey

Table 39 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Grantown-on-Spey (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670).

Sport facilities	Number in settlement
Bowling green (Grantown bowling and tennis club)	1
Fitness suite (Craig Maclean Leisure Centre)	1
Golf course (Grantown-on-Spey golf course and Craggan golf course)	2
Leisure centre (Craig Maclean Leisure Centre)	1
Outdoor activity centre (Craggan outdoors)	1
Outdoor tennis court (Grantown bowling and tennis club)	1
Sports pitch (Seafield Park and Grantown Grammar School)	2
Sports hall (Craig Maclean Leisure Centre)	1
Swimming pool (Craig Maclean Leisure Centre)	1
Total	11

Grantown-on-Spey is a strategic settlement with a good selection of sports facilities. It has two golf courses and two sports pitches within 800m of the settlement.

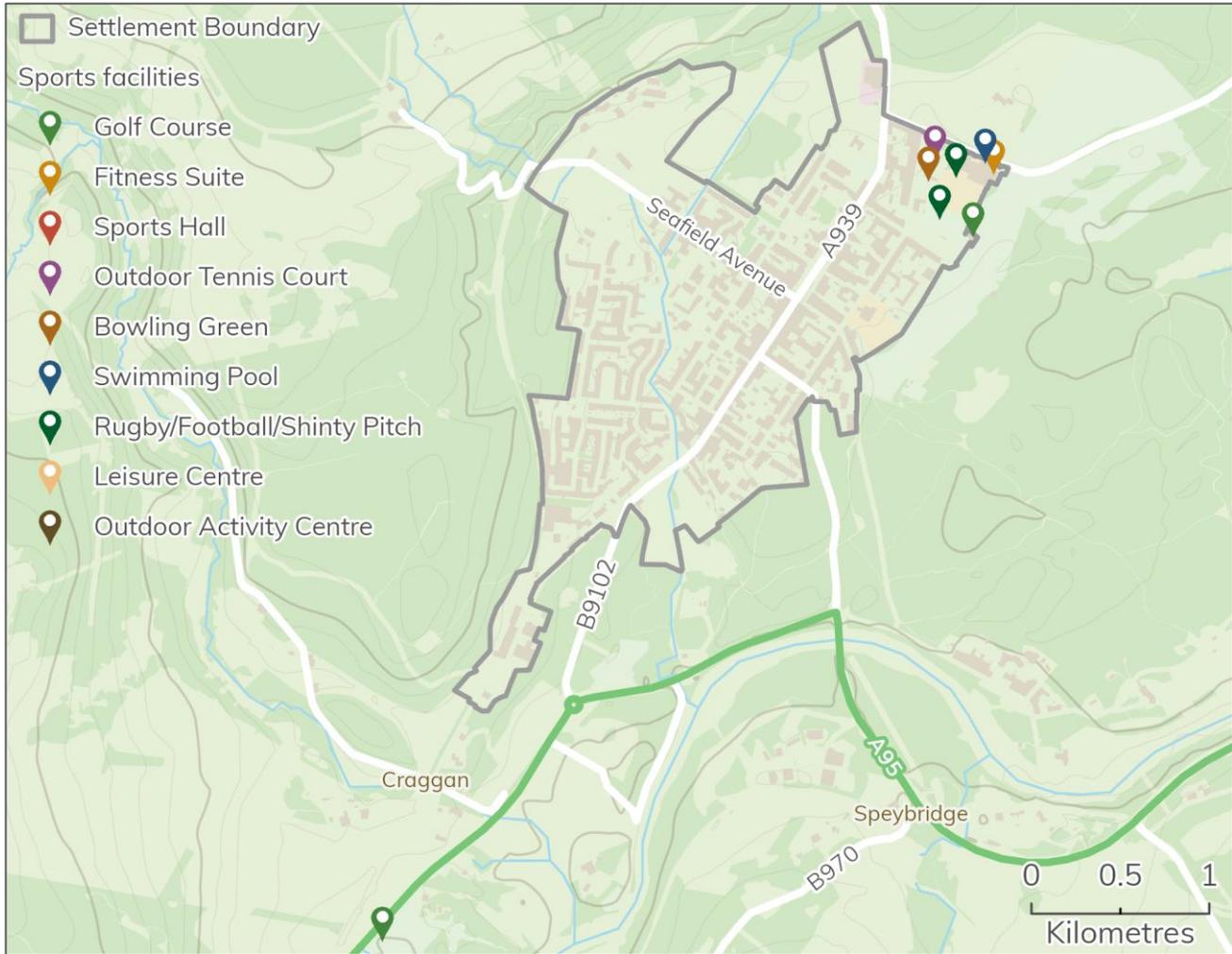


Figure 45 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Granttown-on-Spey (source: SportScotland).
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AC0000821810 (CNPA670).



Inverdruie

Table 40 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Inverdruie (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670).

Sports facilities	Number in settlement
Indoor tennis court (Rothiemurchus and Aviemore Tennis Club)	1
Other sports facility (Rothiemurchus quad trekking and Land Rover tours, Rothiemurchus pony trekking, Rothiemurchus archery, Treezone, Rothiemurchus fishing and falconry, Full On Adventure and Sender Bike Park)	7
Outdoor tennis court (Rothiemurchus and Aviemore tennis club)	1
Total	9

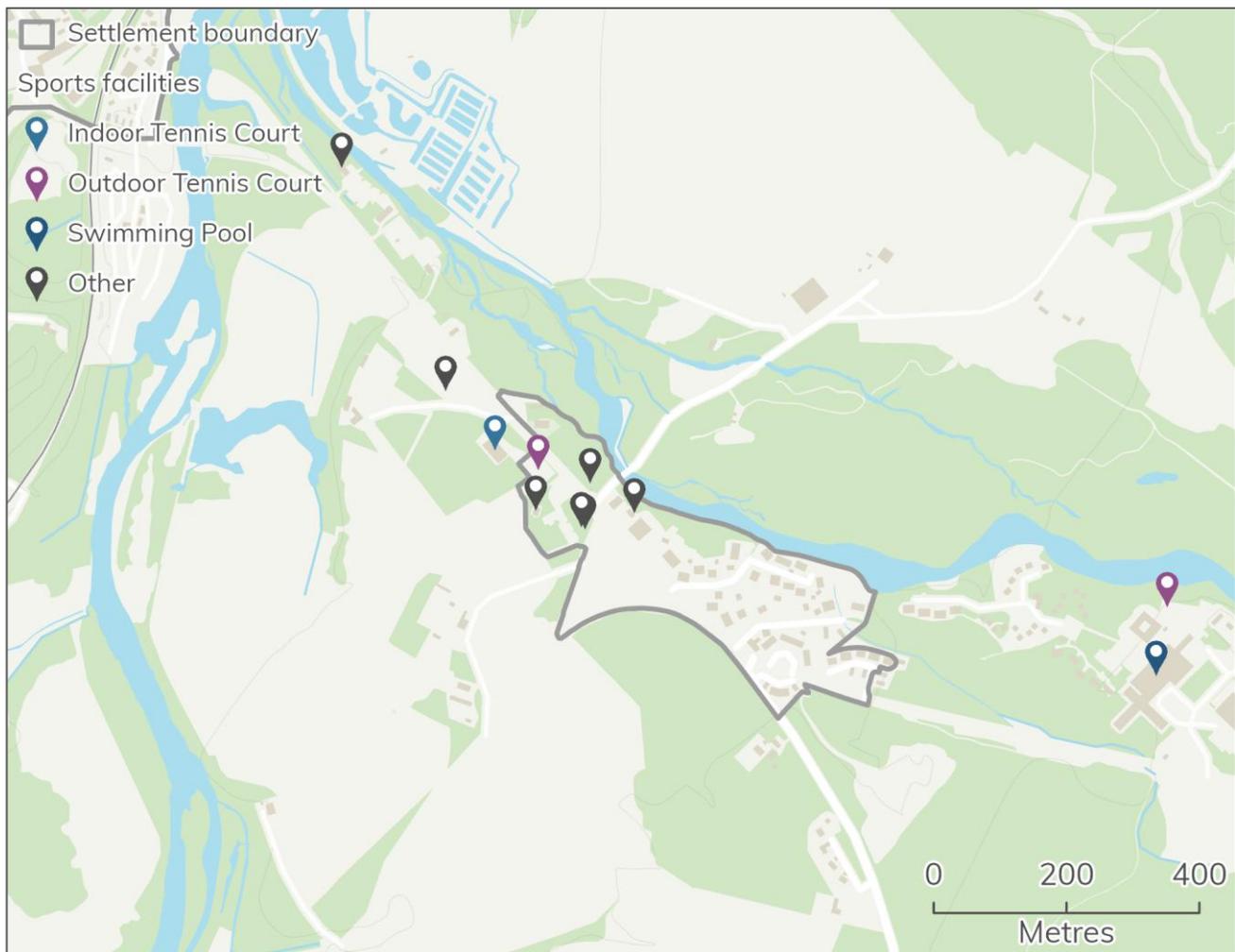


Figure 46 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Inverdruie (source: SportScotland). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA670).



Kingussie

Table 41 Sports facilities in or within 800m of Kingussie (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670).

Sport facilities	Number in settlement
Athletics track (Kingussie high school)	1
Bowling green (Kingussie bowling club)	1
Fitness suite (Badenoch centre)	1
Golf course (Kingussie golf club)	1
Leisure centre Badenoch centre)	1
Outdoor activity centre (Lagganlia centre for outdoor education)	1
Outdoor tennis court (Kingussie tennis club)	1
Sports hall (Kingussie High School and Badenoch centre)	2
Total	9

Kingussie is a strategic settlement with a wide selection of sports facilities. Kingussie is listed as having the only athletics track in the National Park, however, note that this is a grass track located at Kingussie High School.

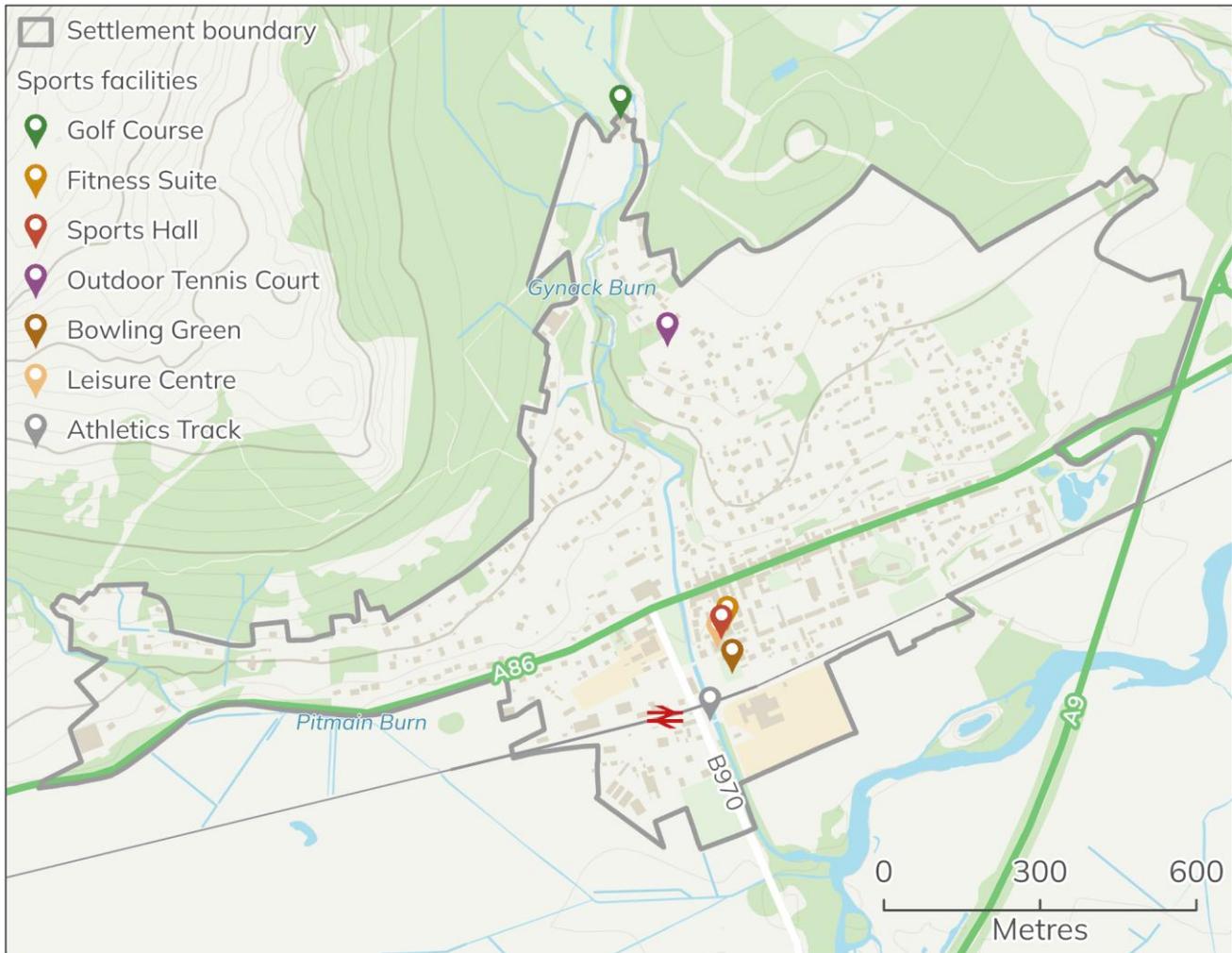


Figure 47 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Kingussie (source: SportScotland). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA670).



Laggan

Table 42 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Laggan (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670).

Sports facilities	Number in settlement
Sports hall (Laggan village hall)	1
Total	1



Figure 48 Sports facilities located in and within 800m of Laggan (source: SportScotland). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA670).



Nethy Bridge

Table 43 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Nethy Bridge (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670).

Sport facilities	Number in settlement
Bowling green (Abernethy bowling club)	1
Golf course (Abernethy golf club)	1
Outdoor activity centre (Abernethy Trust outdoor centre ¹⁴)	1
Outdoor tennis court (Abernethy Trust outdoor centre and Nethy Bridge community centre)	2
Sports pitch (Nethy Bridge sports pitch)	1
Sports hall (Abernethy Trust outdoor centre)	1
Squash court (Abernethy Trust outdoor centre)	1
Swimming pool (Abernethy Trust outdoor centre)	1
Total	9

¹⁴ The Abernethy Trust facilities are open to residents of the centre only.

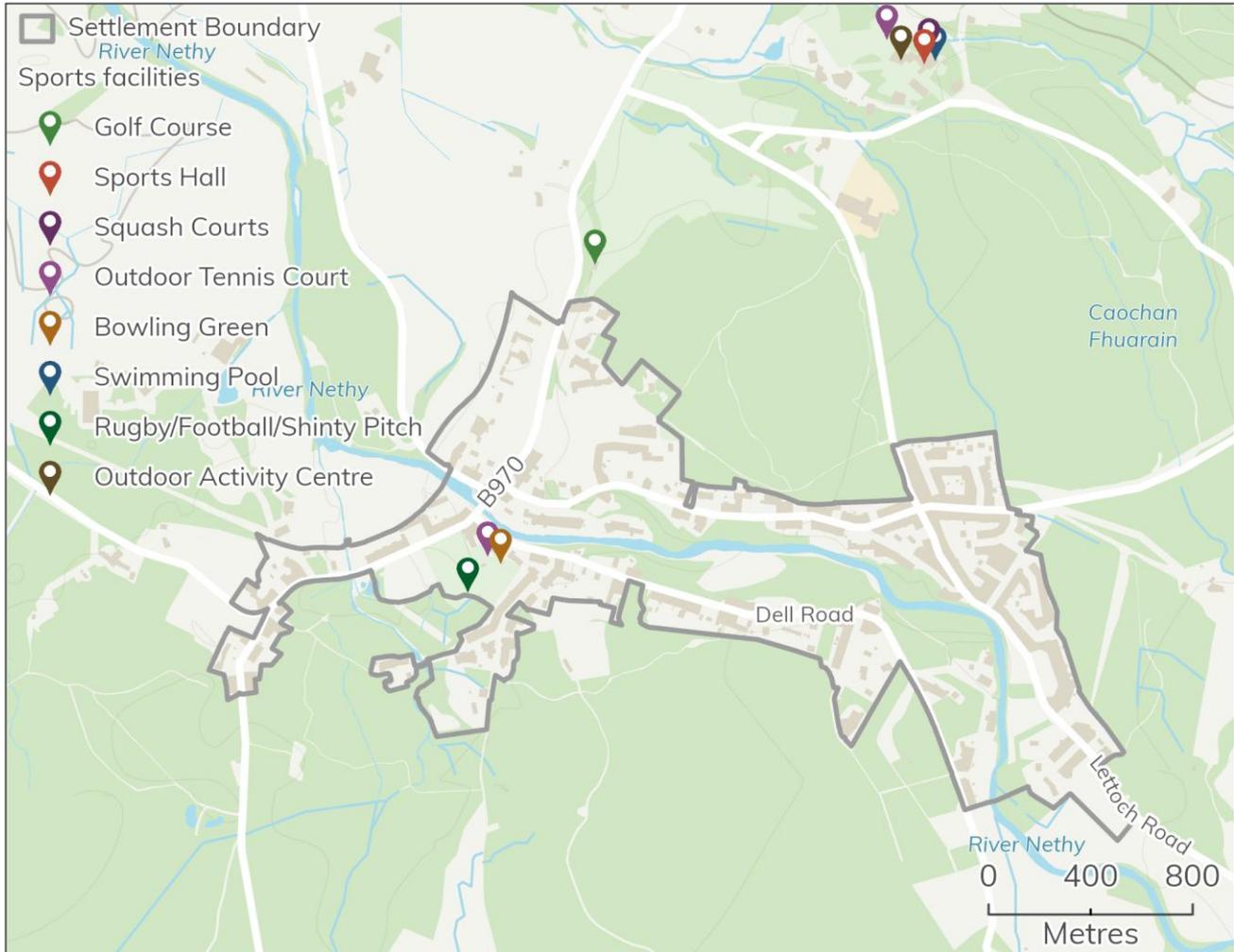


Figure 49 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Nethy Bridge (source: SportScotland). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA670).



Newtonmore

Table 44 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Newtonmore (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670).

Sport facilities	Number in settlement
Bowling green (Newtonmore bowling club)	1
Fitness suite (Balavil Hotel ¹⁵)	1
Golf course (Newtonmore golf club)	1
Outdoor tennis court (Newtonmore tennis club)	1
Sports hall (Newtonmore village hall)	1
Swimming pool (Balavil Hotel)	1
Total	6

Newtonmore is a strategic settlement. It has a reasonable range of sports facilities and is also located very close to Kingussie allowing for sharing of facilities.

¹⁵ The Balavil Hotel facilities are open to hotel guests and members only. Membership is available to permanent residents of Newtonmore, Kingussie, Kincaig, Laggan and Insh.

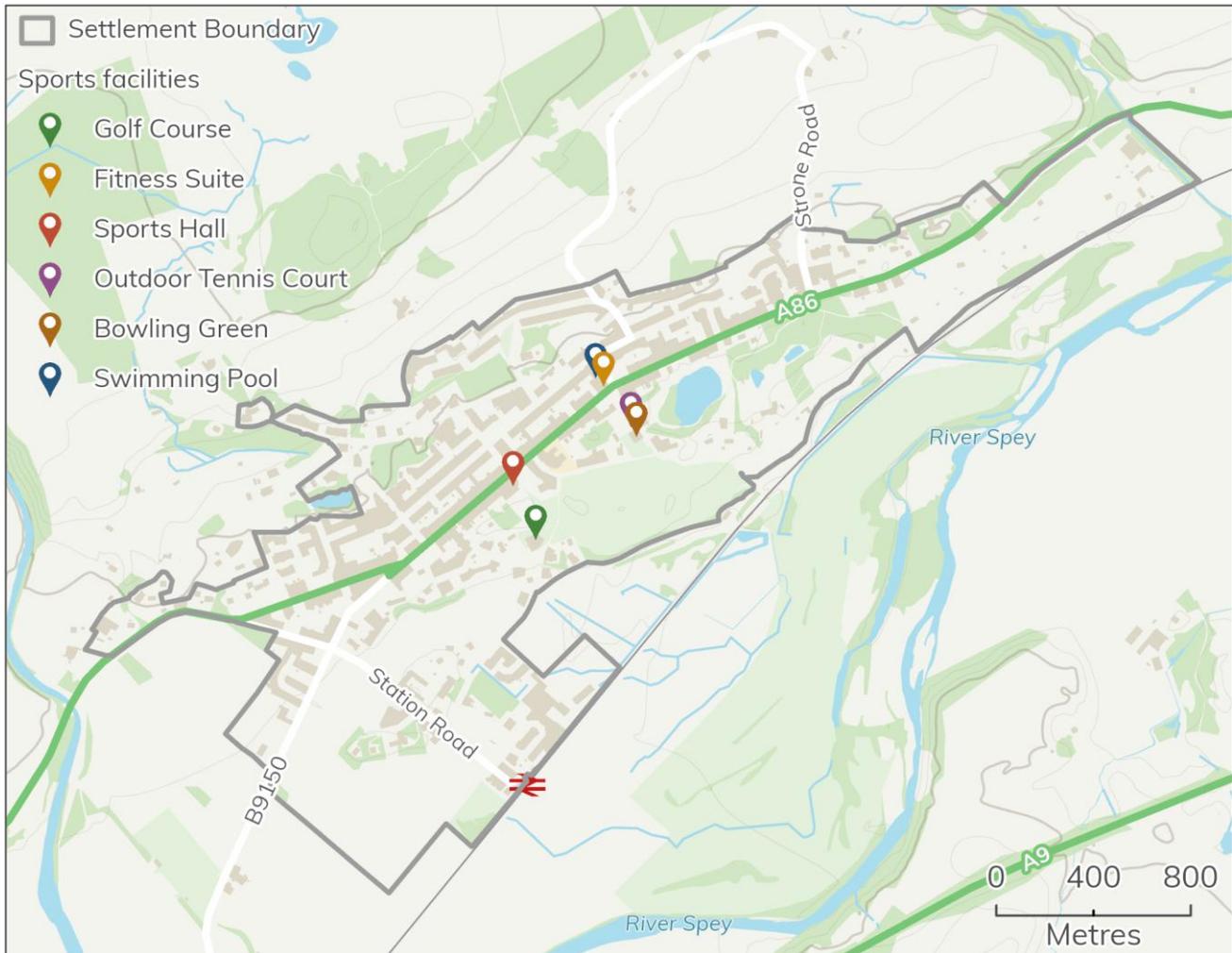


Figure 50 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Newtonmore (source: SportScotland). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA670).



Tomintoul

Table 45 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Tomintoul (source: SportScotland) (CNPA670).

Sport facilities	Number in settlement
Bowling green (Tomintoul outdoor bowling club)	1
Sports hall (Richmond Memorial Hall)	1
Total	2

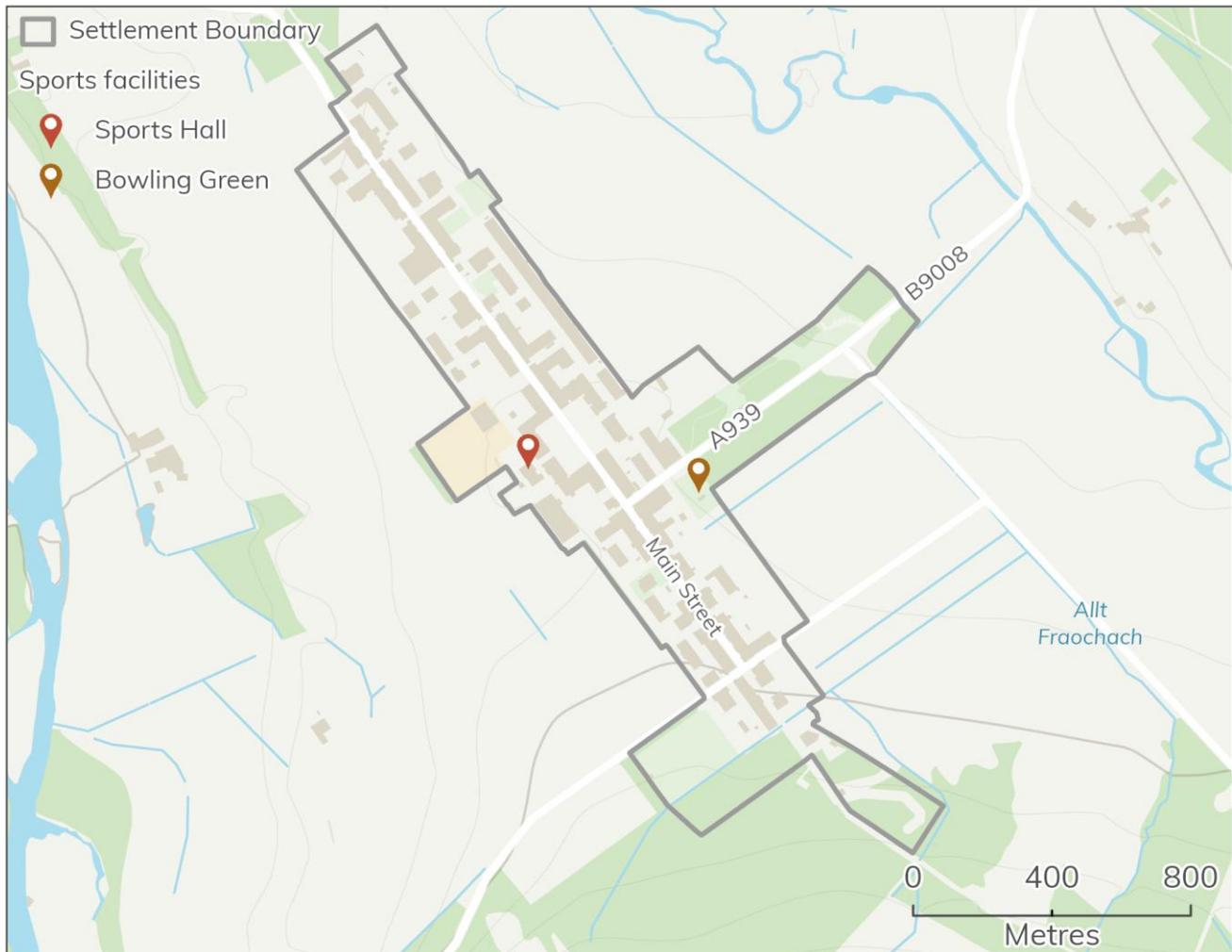


Figure 51 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Tomintoul (source: SportScotland). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2026 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810 (CNPA670).



Evidence gaps

While the Park Authority is not responsible for preparing an Open space strategy under section 3G of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997¹⁶, it is required to have regard to, in preparing a local development plan, any open space strategy published. This means having regard to the strategies published by all the constituent authorities that overlap the National Park boundary.

These strategies are in various stages of preparation in each local authority, as set out on page 36 and repeated below:

- Angus Council – An open space strategy is being prepared and is expected to be published in January – March 2026. It is unlikely to include the small rural area of Angus Council within the National Park.
- Aberdeenshire Council – Open space audit 2024 (CNPA671) approved and published in October 2025. This includes the settlements of Ballater and Braemar within the National Park.
- The Highland Council – An open space strategy is being prepared and will be published in 2026. It will include the area of The Highland Council within the National Park.
- Moray Council – Open space strategy 2018. There is an open space strategy dating from 2018, which covers the main towns in Moray only and does not include any settlements in the National Park. It is anticipated that a revised draft open space strategy will be consulted on alongside Moray Council's Proposed Plan in summer 2026, however this will also only cover the main towns in Moray.
- Perth and Kinross Council – An open space strategy is currently being prepared. It is anticipated that it will be published for consultation in 2026. It will include an audit of Blair Atholl in the National Park.

While regard will be had to these open space strategies when published, given the abundance of accessible open space in the National Park, including within and surrounding each settlement, as set out in this schedule, it is not considered that the lack of up to date open space strategies in the constituent authorities is a significant data gap.

¹⁶ As specified by paragraph (2)(e)(x) of Regulation 9 of The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (CNPA684).



Summary of stakeholder engagement

Early online map based engagement (CNPA026) identified that the Victoria Hall (Braemar) playing field requires upgrades and improved year round access to better serve community needs. The Dalwhinnie community also requested funding for a new playpark.

Engagement with Gypsy and Traveller communities (CNPA028) found that young people reported feeling isolated due to a lack of entertainment and play areas. Communities recommended the creation of more inclusive community gardens and play spaces, designed to encourage social interaction and intergenerational use.

Engagement with children and young people (CNPA027, CNPA058, CNPA833, CNPA681, CNPA682, CNPA683) found that:

- Strong emphasis was placed on the need for play parks, sports pitches, and indoor recreation facilities. Generally, positive views were shared about existing facilities, such as shinty pitches, children's parks, and art classes. It was stated that there are lots of good places to hang out and many mountain and hiking centres in the National Park they could use.
- There were also calls for new facilities such as climbing walls, winter sports options, and evening entertainment to broaden recreational opportunities for young people.
- Requests included skateparks, swimming pools, and improved lighting, aiming to make recreational areas safer and more usable throughout the year. With facilities also taking a focus on the needs of young women.
- The engagement also revealed calls for an increase in safety measures for the Newtonmore play park as currently participants viewed it as unsafe.
- It was highlighted that there was a need for play and recreation to be expanded around active pursuits and this included cycle infrastructure around the National Park. This was coupled with the following concerns and suggestions:
 - Better lighting in play parks used by the children
 - More activities, places to go and covered spaces.
 - Development at the old quarry in Rothiemurchus for a skate park for children to use.

Engagement at the Aviemore and Cairngorms 2030 Planning Power gamification events (CNPA1105, CNPA1104) found that participants saw outdoor play and sports facilities as essential for children, families, and broader community cohesion, particularly in relation to community wellbeing, intergenerational equity, and quality of life. A recurring theme was that good recreational amenities help retain young families and



attract newcomers to rural communities, counteracting depopulation trends. Some noted that developers often try to satisfy planning conditions with minimal green space, but that these do not always meet community needs for meaningful or usable recreational areas.

Public engagement on the schedule (see CNPA1357 for engagement version) was carried out from 22 September – 31 August 2025. Nine 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 (CNPA004), in particular the first aim 'to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area'.
- 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 (CNPA008), in particular by:
 - Identifying sites for play and outdoor recreation for people of all ages utilising the evidence in this schedule including the open spaces protected by the adopted Local Development Plan 2021 (CNPA016).
 - Taking account of the evidence in this schedule, which identifies that there are no significant play, recreation and sport constraints, to inform the Proposed Plan's site assessment process and the policy and allocation requirements for each settlement. The impact of new housing allocations on the capacity of existing sports facilities will be considered on a settlement by settlement basis. Account will be taken of any new open space and sport facility strategies published by the constituent local authorities as well as the SportScotland Facilities Planning Model.
 - Taking account of Schedule 19: Flood risk and water management and Schedule 16: Blue and green infrastructure when identifying these spaces, to enhance and expand blue and green infrastructure.



In its preparation the Proposed Plan should:

- Align with the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027 (CNPA010).
In particular through:
 - Supporting the B9 Mental and Physical Health objective to improve mental and physical health through greater connection with nature and the outdoors.
 - Supporting the B10 A Park for All objective that there will be better opportunities for everyone to enjoy the National Park and the visitor profile will be more diverse, especially with regards to people who are disabled, from lower socio-economic backgrounds, LGBTQ+ and from minority and ethnic groups.
- Take account of the priorities of community action plans.

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)
- Scottish Forestry (C011)
- SportScotland (C056)
- Walking Scotland (C062)
- Aberdeenshire Council (C015)
- The Highland Council (C022)
- Perth and Kinross Council (C024)

Historic Environment Scotland (C002)

Historic Environment Scotland agrees that the evidence presented is sufficient and makes no further comments.

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (C010)

Scottish Environment Protection Agency advises that they have no further comment to make (CNPA1019).

Scottish Forestry (C011)

Scottish Forestry advises that matters that concern them are appropriately addressed in the Schedule 5: Natural heritage and that the suite of schedules, including play,



recreation and sport, actively reference this. Scottish Forestry have no further comments (CNPA1016).

SportScotland (C056)

SportScotland notes that places for sport are shown spatially in the open space maps (outdoor facilities) and separately in the sports audit section. In the open space section, they comment that the colours of the key are very similar and that it would be helpful if these are different. They advise that they have not looked through all the maps but note that in Aviemore, the pitch at the primary school is not included in the open space mapping and in the sports specific mapping the pitches in Kingussie are not included. They advise that it would be helpful in the mapping to use the same categorisation if possible.

They also advise that the information presented in relation to places for sport is good in terms of what it shows, what is currently available and where. However, it does not include an assessment of what may be needed and where in the future. They also advise that it would be helpful to have an understanding of this as plan preparation progresses. In terms of additional information that could help inform the preparation of the local development plan, they advise that the SportScotland Facilities Planning Model can give some assistance in relation to supply and demand for sports halls and swimming pools.

Park Authority response

The Park Authority notes SportScotland's comments. The facilities on the maps in this schedule reflect the Ordnance Survey greenspace open data (CNPA865) in the open space mapping and SportScotland's sports facilities dataset (CNPA670) in the sports specific mapping. The Park Authority is aware that there are conflicts in these datasets and these will be rectified in final settlement summaries in the Proposed Plan.

The Park Authority also recognises that the data presented in this schedule does not include an assessment of what may be needed in the future and that an understanding of this may be required as plan preparation progresses. However, the principal projection for the Cairngorms National Park is that between 2018 and 2043, the population will grow by 4.8%, which would equate to only 500 additional people across the whole of the National Park over 25 years. The impact on existing sports facilities is likely to be minimal. Therefore, the Park Authority will take a proportionate settlement by settlement approach to understanding the future need for sports facilities, based on the amount of growth planned for each settlement.



Walking Scotland (C062)

Walking Scotland notes that the Physical Activity for Health Framework in Scotland (CNPA664) is designed to enhance levels of physical activity at both national and local levels. The expected National Walking Framework will be important.

Aberdeenshire Council (C017)

Aberdeenshire Council advises that the evidence correctly identifies the characteristics of the Cairngorms National Park and that there is a sufficient list of data sources.

Aberdeenshire Council advises that it is yet to update its Open Space Strategy, which will influence open space standards in new developments, namely housing and that this is expected in 2026. On 27 November 2025, the Infrastructure Services Committee of Aberdeenshire Council is being asked to agree the Aberdeenshire Open Space Audit 2024 (CNPA671) and the Aberdeenshire Play Sufficiency Assessment 2024 (CNPA672) (and endorse their use as Planning Advice in the determination of planning applications).

The Highland Council (C022)

The Highland Council advises that the evidence shows adequate consultation with local authorities and groups.

Perth and Kinross Council (C024)

Perth and Kinross Council advises that the schedule references key sources of evidence relevant to those settlements in Perth and Kinross. They advise that they will include Blair Atholl and Killiecrankie in their open space audit as these are settlements designated by the Park Authority's spatial strategy within Perth and Kinross Council's boundary. The audit will include an assessment of quantity, quality and accessibility against the Council's standards. Furthermore, the Open Space Strategy will seek to identify and agree green networks within and around the settlements. These are likely to include active travel elements (such as core paths) which provide links between settlements in the neighbouring authorities.

They advise that access to the countryside is a key recreational activity in the area and recommend that Perth and Kinross Council's Core Paths Plan should be referenced in the schedule as this includes paths that link Blair Atholl and Killiecrankie to Pitlochry and beyond. Furthermore, National Cycle Network links and opportunities for new and



enhanced routes identified as part of Perth and Kinross Council's Mobility Strategy could be referenced.

Perth and Kinross Council agrees with the implications for the Proposed Plan and welcome the reference to enhancing and expanding blue and green infrastructure. They look forward to continued collaboration, particularly when it comes to identifying cross-authority green network opportunities in their forthcoming Open Space Strategy.

Statements of dispute

Invercauld Estate (C044)

They explain that while the schedule is extensive, they do not see any reference to field sports. They advise that country sports including deer stalking, fishing, grouse shooting and pheasant and partridge shooting are extensive and particularly important elements of the physical, cultural, economic, social and environmental characteristics of many parts of the National Park, thereby forming an important part of the matters set out in section 15(5)(a) of the 1997 Act (CNPA003). They advise that these sporting activities also present a principal purpose of many tens of thousands of hectares of the National Park and hence are very relevant under s.15(5)(b).

They highlight that data evidencing the importance of field sports within the National Park is often combined with data covering areas outwith the National Park due to its extensive nature (not being focused on particular settlements for example). However, they suggest sources that could be used in the report include the Deer Management Plans for the Deer Management Groups within the National Park, salmon fishing records for the Dee, Don, Tay, Findhorn and Spey, national game bag census data, and the recent report by the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust on pheasant and partridge shooting within the Park. They advise that 'The Economic, Social and Environmental Contribution of Landowners in the Cairngorms National Park' report jointly sponsored by the Cairngorms National Park Authority and Scottish Land and Estates in 2014, and prepared by Scotland's Rural College, the University of the Highlands and Islands, Centre for Mountain Studies and Rural Solutions also contains useful data on the contribution of field sports to the Park.

They advise that because the sports they have identified are not included there is a risk that the next local development plan will be prepared without due consideration to the importance of these under section 15(5) of the 1997 Act.



Park Authority response

This schedule's focus is play, recreation and sport infrastructure as it relates to National Planning Framework 4's Policy 21 (CNPA008), which is concerned with the delivery and loss of infrastructure.

The importance of country sports is covered in Schedule 23: Tourism. Information from the report 'The Economic, Social and Environmental Contribution of Landowners in the Cairngorms National Park' (CNPA204), along with further information from a report by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 'Driven Grouse Shooting: Assessing the economic and social impacts of future options for grouse moor management' (CNPA205), is contained within that schedule. The schedule also covers the matter of land use in relation to field sports, which is covered in more detail in Schedule 8: Land use, soil and resources. Furthermore, matters relating to the development of private roads and ways, many of which are associated with activities such as grouse shooting, are covered in Schedule 6: Landscape.

The Park Authority therefore consider the matters covered in this schedule to be relevant and proportionate and that field sports, and any implications that may arise from its activities, are covered proportionately in other schedules. The Park Authority does not therefore agree that the requirements of Section 15(5) have not been given due consideration in this regard.