



Cairngorms National Park

Play Sufficiency Assessment

2025

September 2025

1. Introduction

“Through play, children and young people can explore the world around them in a creative and engaging way. Research shows that children experience a range of health, wellbeing, developmental and educational benefits from outdoor play, and through learning in and connecting with nature.”

Paragraph 9 of the Scottish Government Planning Guidance for Play Sufficiency Assessments¹.

The Scottish Government wants Scotland to be the best place to grow up. In response, this document assesses the sufficiency of spaces for children and young people to play within the Cairngorms National Park.

As well as meeting the legal requirements, this Play Sufficiency Assessment contributes to the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan's² outcomes for People (through promoting the health benefits of outdoor recreation) and Place (through improving infrastructure for communities).

¹ Click here to view the Scottish Government's Planning Guidance on Play Sufficiency Assessment (2023)

² Click here to view the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 - 2027



Legal requirements

The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced a new duty that requires, while preparing an evidence report, all local planning authorities, which includes the Cairngorms National Planning Authority, to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in the area for children and young people under the age of 18.

The Play Sufficiency Regulations (2023)³ state that the assessment must take the form of a written report including maps as required and statements as regards the overall quality, quantity, and accessibility of formal and informal play spaces by locality, and in the totality of, the planning authority's area.

This play sufficiency assessment will help to formulate policy and proposals to ensure that all children and young people within the Cairngorms National Park have access to good quality play opportunities, in accordance with the objectives of National Planning Framework 4.

2. Assessment Process

The Scottish Government published planning guidance to support the production of play sufficiency assessments in December 2023. The guidance enables each local planning authority to prepare a play sufficiency assessment that is appropriate and proportionate for its specific circumstances. This chapter explains the approach of the Cairngorms National Park.

Formal and informal play spaces

Formal play spaces are defined by The Play Sufficiency Regulations as those which are specifically designed and maintained for the purpose of play. This play sufficiency assessment considers the play sufficiency, within that definition, of:

- equipped areas of play
- play parks such as pump tracks and multi-use games areas

The spaces must be outside and freely accessible to the public.

³ Click here to view [The Town and Country Planning \(Play Sufficiency Assessment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023](#)



Informal play spaces are defined as areas of open space which are not specifically designed and maintained for the purposes of play. This play sufficiency assessment considers the play sufficiency, within that definition, of:

- amenity areas
- playing pitches and other outdoor sports areas
- public parks or gardens
- woodlands
- the protected open spaces in the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021

Further details on open space provision across the National Park is provided in the Play, recreation and sport topic paper:

- <https://cairngormsldp.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/v3/play-sport-and-recreation?step=step1>

Locality and totality

The play sufficiency assessment must assess play spaces by locality and in totality. Each local authority within the Cairngorms National Park is responsible for play spaces within its administrative area and publishes a play strategy. This assessment summarises play sufficiency for the area of the National Park within each local authority and each settlement within it⁴. A National Park-wide assessment draws conclusions across the totality of the local planning authority.

⁴ Angus Council is not included in the play sufficiency assessment, because the part within the Cairngorms National Park contains a dispersed pattern of settlement and no play facilities.

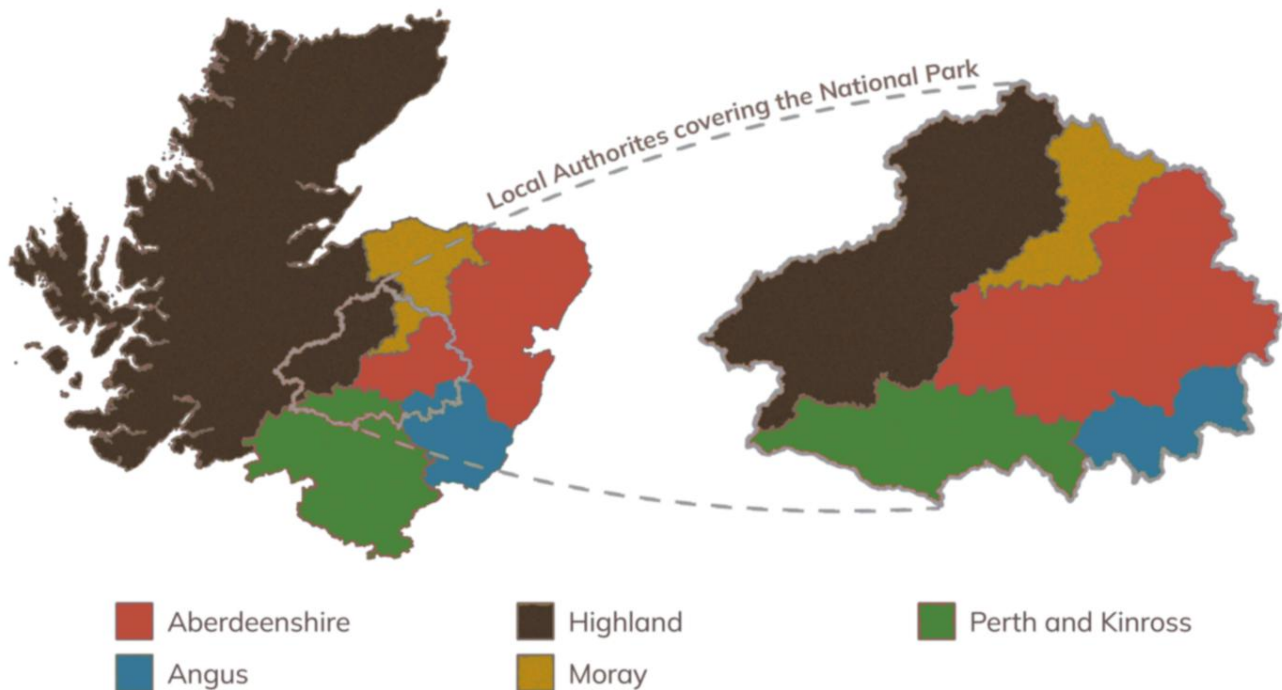


Figure 1 The five constituent local planning authorities covering the Cairngorms National Park Authority area. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.

Quality and quantity

Each constituent local authority has carried out an audit of play spaces within its boundary to assess quality and quantify.

Each local authority used a different 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.

This 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. These differences are summarised in Table 1 Summary of criteria assessed by each local planning authority in their play sufficiency audits **Error! Reference source not found.** and explained in each local authority's chapter.

All the local authorities have audited equipped play spaces, but Perth and Kinross Council limited this audit to the sites that they own. Aberdeenshire Council has audited playing pitches as part of its formal play space audit, while the other local authorities have not.



Quality scores for informal play sites (i.e. publicly accessible open spaces) are not included in this Play Sufficiency Assessment, to avoid duplication, as they form part of a broader open space audit which each local authority (but not the National Park authorities) is required to undertake. Each local authority is at a different stage in the preparation of their open space audits.

The constituent authorities all consider the age groups for which each play space is suitable. While the age groups defined by each constituent authority differ, they each reflect the different stages of children's play needs, provide an understanding of the suitability of each play space's physical, creative and social play and help to identify their play value. A play space that is attractive to a wider range of age groups is likely to provide a broader range of opportunities for play, or a greater range of play equipment.

The age range figures should be considered as indicative because they are based on the judgement of the auditor rather than actual usage. To provide an indication of sufficiency, the percentages of play spaces suitable for each age-group has been calculated.

Cairngorms National Park planning officers have audited four formal play spaces⁵ to supplement the local authority audits.

In total, 39 formal play spaces have been audited (26 in The Highland Council, 8 in Aberdeenshire Council, 4 in Moray Council and 1 in Perth and Kinross Council).

Consultation

In preparing the play sufficiency assessment the following must be consulted:

- Children and young people
- Parents and carers
- Community councils
- The public

Consultation and community engagement with regards to outdoor play has been carried out by the constituent authorities and by the National Park Authority.

⁵ Dulicht Court equipped area of play in Grantown-on-Spey in The Highland Council area; Dinnet and Strathdon village centre equipped areas of play within Aberdeenshire Council; and Tomnavoulin housing equipped area of play within Moray Council.



Table 1 Summary of criteria assessed by each local planning authority in their play sufficiency audits⁶.

	Highland	Aberdeenshire	Moray	Perth and Kinross
Quantity				
Formal play spaces	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Equipped play areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Council-owned	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Private	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Informal play spaces	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Natural spaces	No	Yes	Yes	No
Public realm	No	No	No	No
Public parks	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sports pitches	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Woodlands	No	Yes	Yes	No
Quality				
Overall score	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Age groups	Nursery Primary Secondary	0 – 4, 5 – 11 12 – 15 16 – 17	0 – 4, 0 – 11, 5 – 11 0 – 15, 5 – 15 0 – 17	4 – 8 8 – 14
Consultation				
		Online adult survey	Online adult survey	Big conversation survey
	Online young people survey facilitated through schools	Online youth survey facilitated through schools	Online young people survey facilitated through schools	Online survey aimed at children and young people
		Session with primary school	Session with two primary schools	Events in connection to the big conversation including in schools

⁶ At time of publication of this topic paper.



	Highland	Aberdeenshire	Moray	Perth and Kinross
			Community and drop-in session	

Accessibility

There are multiple parts to accessibility – walking and cycling accessibility from homes to play spaces; play opportunities that meet the needs of children from diverse communities and backgrounds; how useable a play space is for children with mobility challenges and protected characteristics; and accessibility to play spaces during different times of the day and on all days of the week.

Play opportunities for a wide range of needs and for those with mobility challenges specifically is considered within the quality assessment of each site and summarised for each local authority area within the National Park and for the whole of the Cairngorms National Park. Each local authority has taken different approaches to auditing this issue.

Physical accessibility to play spaces is considered separately and explained under 'walking catchments' below.

What is play sufficiency?

This play sufficiency assessment identifies where there is sufficiency in the provision of play space in terms of quantity, access and quality – and where there is not.

There are no current standards for play sufficiency, although there are a number relating to open space. Greenspace Scotland and Scottish National Heritage published guidance called Developing Open Space Standards⁷ in June 2013. Fields in Trust published standards⁸ in 2024.

Quantity

The Greenspace Scotland guidance recommends measuring quantity per settlement in comparison with average provision across the local authority area. It recommends using the median quantity to avoid extremes having too much impact.

⁷ Click here to view Developing Open Space Standards - Guidance and Framework, June 2013

⁸ Click here to view the Fields in Trust standards



Quality

The Greenspace Scotland guidance recommends utilising the quality audits produced locally and selecting the score which is to be used as the quality level – i.e. the score that represents ‘good’. This approach works well for the National Park, where each local authority’s assessment of ‘good’ can be used as the indicator of sufficiency across settlements in the National Park.

Walking catchments

The Greenspace Scotland guidance recommends agreeing what constitutes a five-minute walk locally. 400 metres is the average distance a healthy adult can walk in five minutes, but families with young children will walk more slowly. This could mean setting a distance threshold of less than 400 metres. However, in a rural low-density area such as the National Park, where smaller settlements are likely to have only one equipped area of play, it is anticipated that residents are willing to walk for longer and a distance of 400 metres from front door to equipped area of play is a reasonable measure. This ensures that walking accessibility is consistently assessed across all settlements within the Cairngorms National Park.

Network analysis has been used to identify where homes are within a five minute walk of a play area. It is recognised that this produces a general guide to walkability, not an exact prediction. It measures actual, rather than straight line, distance using paths and streets. This mapping process counts those homes within and outwith a five-minute walking accessibility threshold.



3. The Highland Council

Formal play spaces

Quantity

Highland Council is in the process of preparing its play sufficiency assessment. In 2024, it audited all equipped play spaces within The Highland Council boundary, including those within the National Park.

In total, within The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park there are 26 formal play spaces comprising 25 equipped areas of play and 1 pump track. These are distributed across Badenoch and Strathspey as set out in **Error! Reference source not found.** All strategic and intermediate settlements⁹ have at least one equipped area of play, as does the rural settlement of Laggan. There are no equipped areas of play in the rural settlements of Coylumbridge, Dalwhinnie, Glenmore, Insh and Inverdrueie.

Boat-of Garten has the only pump track in the Cairngorms National Park, which is one of 30 in Scotland (source: Skateboard:Scotland, April 2025).

Table 2 Quantity of formal play spaces in The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (sources: The Highland Council).

	Equipped areas of play	Pump tracks	Total number of formal play spaces
Aviemore	7		7
Boat of Garten	1	1	2
Carrbridge	2		2
Cromdale	1		1
Dalnain Bridge	1		1
Grantown-on-Spey	3		3
Kincraig	2		2
Kingussie	2		2
Laggan	1		1
Nethy Bridge	4		4
Newtonmore	1		1
Totals	25	1	26

⁹ Strategic, intermediate and rural settlements are designated by the spatial strategy in the Cairngorms National Park's adopted Local Development Plan 2021 and Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027.

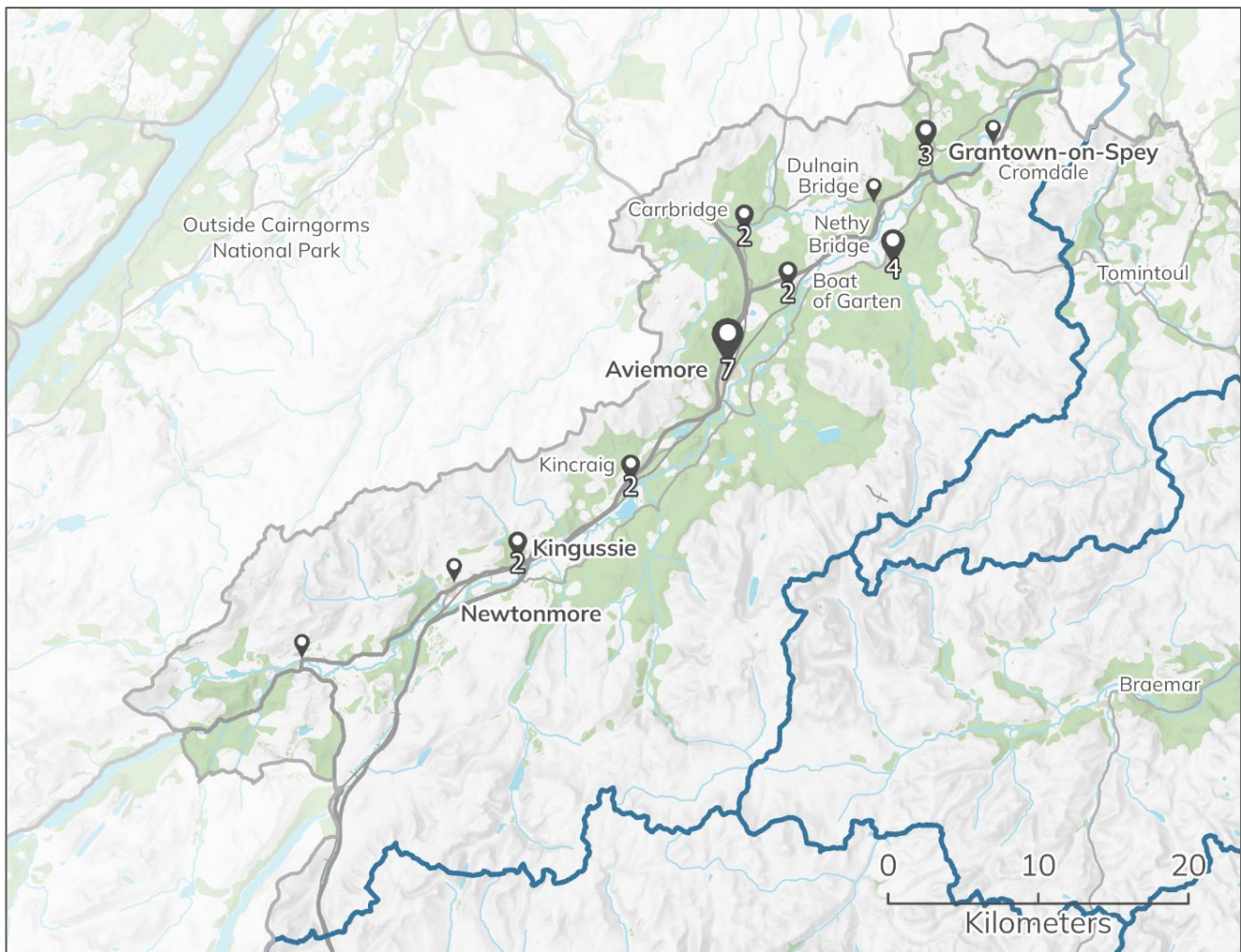


Figure 2 Locations and numbers of formal play spaces in The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (source: The Highland Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.

Aviemore, Granttown-on-Spey, Kingussie, Nethy Bridge and Newtonmore are census localities. The 2022 census population estimates can be used to calculate the number of equipped areas of play per 1,000 people as set out in



Table 3. It shows wide variety, indicating that the number of play spaces in Nethy Bridge is very high (the equivalent of almost seven play spaces per 1,000 people), while the number in Newtonmore is low (less than one per 1,000 people).



Table 3 Quantity of formal play spaces in The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (sources: The Highland Council).

	Population	Equipped areas of play per 1,000 people
Aviemore	2,832	2.50
Grantown-on-Spey	2,328	1.29
Kingussie	1,360	1.50
Nethy Bridge	578	6.90
Newtonmore	1,115	0.90

Age groups

The Highland Council audit utilises developmental groupings (nursery-aged, primary-aged and secondary-aged) to indicate the suitability of play spaces for different ages. The audit indicates that formal play spaces in The Highland Council area offer a wide range of opportunities for all ages.

Table 4 Suitability of play spaces by age group in The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (source: The Highland Council).

Group	Percentage of play spaces suitable
Nursery-aged	96%
Primary-aged	85%
Secondary-aged	62%

Quality

The Highland Council's play sufficiency auditors assessed the range and type of equipment; activity options; accessibility for needs with mobility issues; location and travel access; the environment and surroundings and facilities.

A summary of the scores for each formal play spaces is provided in Table 5. This shows the scores for equipment, open play, accessibility and inclusivity, location, environment and other facilities as well as an overall percentage score and rating. Table 6 shows that 37% of play spaces are 'rated good' or 'very good'. However, 46% are only rated fair and 8% poor.

The categories where the play spaces have scored the least are accessibility and inclusivity and other facilities, indicating that play options for those with mobility challenges and the lack of other facilities such as seating, shade and shelter reduce the overall quality of the play spaces. Conversely, the play spaces score well for their



location and the quality of the environment generally adds to the overall quality of play spaces. This indicates that the equipped areas of play in Badenoch and Strathspey have the potential to be good or very good quality play spaces, if the identified shortfalls in each case are improved.

The formal play space at Dulicht Court in Grantown-on-Spey was audited by Cairngorms National Park planning officers using The Highland Council audit approach.

Table 5 Quality ratings of formal play spaces in The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (source: The Highland Council).

Site name	Settlement	Equipment	Open play	Accessibility and inclusivity	Location	Environment	Other facilities	Overall score	Rating
Newlands Road	Aviemore	23%	0%	57%	67%	100%	29%	42%	Fair
Roberts Road	Aviemore	50%	0%	57%	83%	33%	14%	46%	Fair
High Burnside	Aviemore	73%	60%	50%	17%	100%	0%	55%	Good
Braeriach Court	Aviemore	19%	0%	36%	50%	0%	0%	20%	Poor
Burnside Road	Aviemore	15%	80%	36%	67%	0%	14%	30%	Fair
Morlich Court	Aviemore	69%	20%	43%	67%	0%	14%	50%	Good
Rathad Creagan Mor	Aviemore	42%	40%	21%	50%	0%	29%	34%	Fair
Woodland Wheels Pump Track	Boat of Garten	4%	60%	36%	0%	100%	57%	25%	Fair
Craigie Avenue	Boat of Garten	62%	80%	21%	100%	100%	14%	59%	Good
Carrbridge Playing Field	Carrbridge	92%	100%	43%	100%	100%	71%	88%	Very good
Ellanwood Road	Carrbridge	23%	0%	7%	83%	67%	0%	25%	Fair



Site name	Settlement	Equipment	Open play	Accessibility and inclusivity	Location	Environment	Other facilities	Overall score	Rating
Cromdale Football Field	Cromdale	22%	100%	7%	50%	17%	14%	29%	Fair
School Place	Dulnain Bridge	85%	100%	21%	83%	67%	29%	66%	Good
Dulicht Court	Grantown-on-Spey	19%	20%	29%	50%	100%	14%	36%	Fair
Dulaig Court	Grantown-on-Spey	100%	100%	57%	67%	100%	43%	84%	Very good
Mossie Road	Grantown-on-Spey	81%	80%	36%	83%	100%	43%	75%	Very good
Macrae Crescent No.1	Kincraig	27%	80%	14%	50%	100%	29%	39%	Fair
Macrae Crescent No.2	Kincraig	12%	80%	14%	50%	100%	0%	30%	Fair
Ardvonie Park	Kingussie	77%	80%	0%	100%	83%	57%	64%	Good
Campbell Crescent	Kingussie	46%	60%	0%	50%	50%	14%	36%	Fair
Laggan	Laggan	65%	60%	7%	67%	100%	43%	57%	Good
Braes of Balnagowan	Nethy Bridge	8%	20%	14%	17%	100%	0%	18%	Poor
Craigmore Crescent	Nethy Bridge	38%	80%	43%	83%	67%	29%	50%	Good
Lynstock Crescent South	Nethy Bridge	23%	20%	29%	83%	33%	14%	32%	Fair



Site name	Settlement	Equipment	Open play	Accessibility and inclusivity	Location	Environment	Other facilities	Overall score	Rating
Nethy Bridge Football Field	Nethy Bridge	62%	80%	29%	100%	100%	29%	63%	Good
Clune Terrace	Newtonmore	81%	80%	57%	67%	100%	14%	71%	Good
Average scores		47%	57%	29%	65%	70%	24%	47%	Fair

Table 6 Overall quality rating of formal play spaces in The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (source: The Highland Council).

Quality rating	Percentage of play spaces
Poor	12%
Fair	54%
Good	27%
Very good	8%

Walking catchments

Maps showing a five-minute (around 400 metres) walkable zone have been produced for each settlement and can be viewed in the settlement summaries part of this report.

In The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park, 48% of residential properties within settlements¹⁰ are within a five-minute walk of a formal play area. This is just above the average of 46% of properties within a five-minute walkable zone across all settlements with a formal play space in the National Park.

¹⁰ The number of properties in a settlement is a count of all properties within the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 defined settlement boundaries plus any properties within a local living walkable services zone which are outwith the settlement boundary.



Table 7 Overall proportion of residential properties within five-minutes walk of a formal play space for each settlement in The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park.

Settlement	Percentage of properties within a five-minute walk
Aviemore	55%
Boat of Garten	45%
Carrbridge	38%
Cromdale	42%
Dulnain Bridge	55%
Grantown-on-Spey	42%
Kincraig	41%
Kingussie	51%
Laggan	85%
Nethy Bridge	61%
Newtonmore	32%
The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park	48%

Informal play spaces

There are 47 protected open spaces in The Highland Council area identified in the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021. These provide a variety of open spaces suitable for informal play. There are also public parks and playing fields in most settlements. Note that there are no informal play spaces in Coylumbridge, Dalwhinnie or Insh. However, all three also have great access to woodland.

Table 8 Quantity of informal play spaces in The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (sources: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, SportScotland).

	Protected open spaces ¹¹	Public parks or gardens	Playing fields	School grounds	Other sports areas
Aviemore	9	2	1	1	1
Boat of Garten	2	1	1	0	0
Carrbridge	2	1	1	1	1
Cromdale	2	0	1	0	1
Dulnain Bridge	1	0	1	0	0

¹¹ Protected open spaces identified and protected in the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021



	Protected open spaces ¹¹	Public parks or gardens	Playing fields	School grounds	Other sports areas
Glenmore	1	1	0	0	1
Grantown-on-Spey	5	1	2	1	1
Inverdrue	1	0	0	0	1
Kincraig	1	1	0	0	0
Kingussie	10	2	3	1	2
Laggan	0	1	0	0	0
Nethy Bridge	8	0	1	0	1
Newtonmore	5	2	1	0	1
Totals	47	12	12	4	10

Consultation

The Highland Council carried out play sufficiency consultation through a community questionnaire in 2023. It was sent to all primary and secondary schools within Highland, as well as nurseries (those managed by the council, or the Care and Learn Alliance or under council contract). The questions for the nursery and secondary-aged children were shorter than the primary age and adults due to differing attention spans.

The responses were analysed by a play coordinator and an educational psychologist and are summarised in The Highland Council's Play Park Strategy and Action Plan 2023 – 33¹².

1,151 responses were received, 80 (7%) of which, were from children, young people or adults living within the National Park (Badenoch and Strathspey). This summary considers the results from across the Highland Council area. 49% of responses were from primary school aged children, 30% from adults, 14% from nursery aged children and 7% from secondary school aged children. The key findings were that:

- Extensive comments were received from all age groups indicating that the community are passionate about play parks.
- 71% of children play outside daily.
- 82% of respondents want more outdoor play opportunities.
- 54% of teenagers think that play in their village or town is 'boring'.

¹² Click here to view The Highland Council Play Park Strategy and Action Plan 2023-33



- 99% of respondents want more inclusive play opportunities so everyone can play together.
- 64% of respondents use active travel to get to local play parks.
- In addition to equipped play areas:
 - children of all ages like nature play (rocks, trees, water).
 - nursery and primary aged children like holistic play (mazes, scavenger hunts and puzzles), 'wheeling' and 'balls'.
 - primary aged children like quiet space.
 - adults like children to be playing on all of the above.

In addition to the survey, each age group was asked open-ended questions about their experiences of play parks and suggestions for improvement. The majority of users preferred to have a play park close to that they could walk to. Seven themes were identified in the responses, which were mostly shared across age groups. These themes were:

1. Space to move – this included for exploring, riding bikes and playing games and children and young people were looking for scooter, bike and skateboard parks; multi-purpose areas for team games, slides, climbing walls, zip lines and fireman poles.
2. Things to do – all age groups complained that their local provision did not have enough for their own needs. Overall, there was a desire for equipment and opportunities that matched their age and stage with a valuing of spaces where all ages could be together.
3. Being together – places to be together with friends and families were valued, with respondents wanting benches and covered areas.
4. Maintenance – the most responses related to this, pointing to lack of investment and concerns about the safety of equipment.
5. Natural spaces – meaning the enjoyment of being in woods and fields, including den building and tree climbing, and for teenagers, spaces to hang out – but they needed to be safe.
6. Creativity – for older children this was a requirement, but included opportunities for street art, which was a negative concern for younger children.
7. Local efforts – adult respondents considered that The Highland Council had reduced support for play parks, meaning local groups had stepped in – with concerns that these could fail without local authority support.



A wide variety of recommendations have been reached. Those relating to new development and planning comprise:

- Create all age wheeling paths within play parks.
- Ensure that there is a mixture of local and destination parks.
- Increase natural play opportunities.
- Create ways for teenagers to feel involved in the design of play parks.
- Increase teenage play opportunities within play parks with wheels, balls, shelters and collaborative and competitive play.
- Increase accessible and inclusive play opportunities.

4. Aberdeenshire Council

Aberdeenshire Council has published a finalised play sufficiency assessment 2024 and a finalised open space audit 2024. While it did not publish data for sites within the National Park, formal and informal sites were included in the authority-wide audit.

Aberdeenshire Council includes school grounds, playing fields, and sports areas (such as tennis courts, basketball courts, and sport pitches) within their 'formal play spaces' audit and analysis. However, to enable comparison across the National Park, only equipped areas of play and other spaces designed specifically for children or young people (such as pump tracks and multi-use games areas) are included as formal play spaces below.

Formal play spaces

Quantity

In total, within Aberdeenshire Council part of the Cairngorms National Park there are 7 equipped play areas and 1 multi-use games area.

Table 9 Quantity of formal play spaces in the Aberdeenshire Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (source: Aberdeenshire Council).

	Equipped areas of play	Multi-use games area	Total number of formal play spaces
Ballater	3	1	4
Braemar	2	0	2
Dinnet	1	0	1
Strathdon	1	0	1
Totals	7	1	8

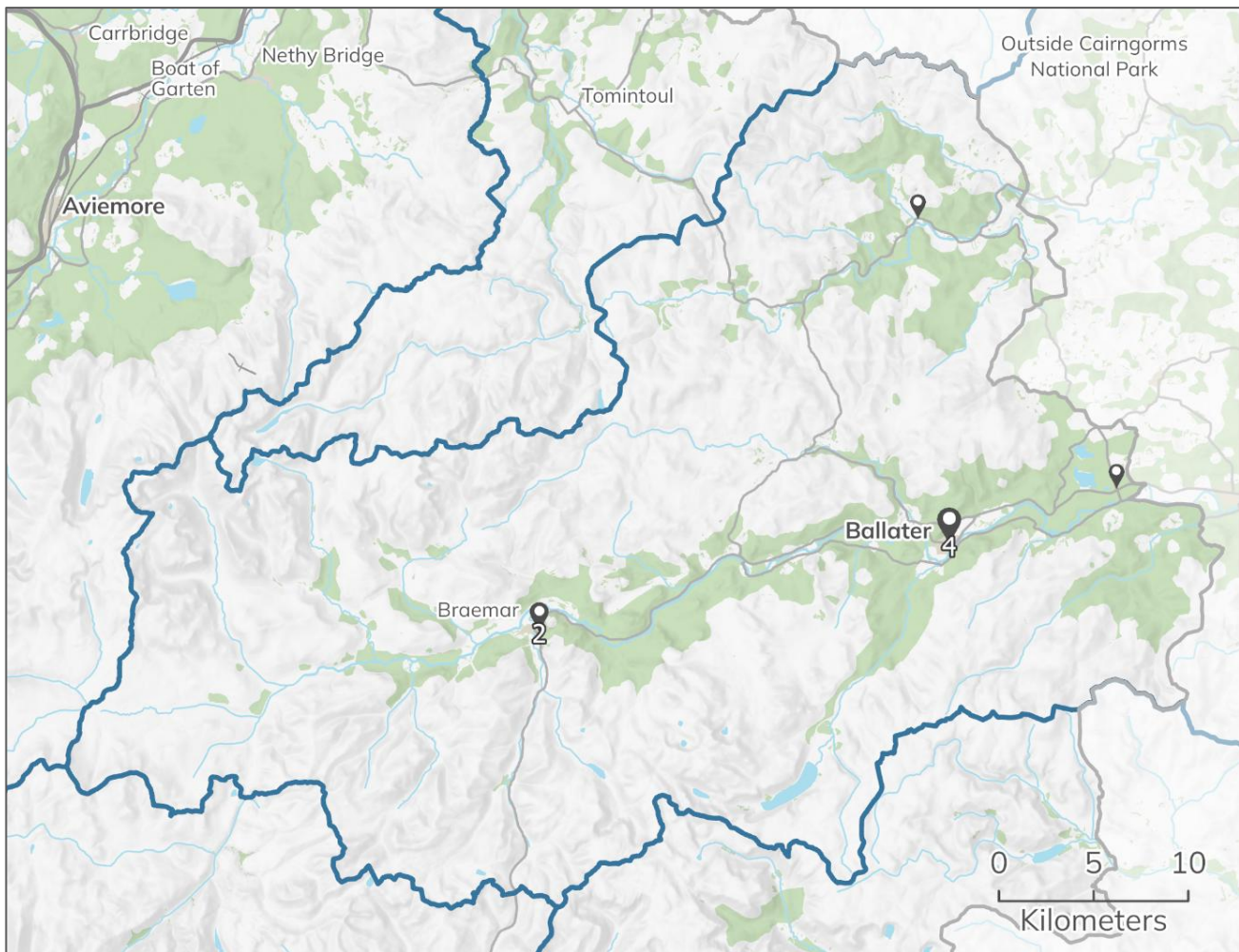


Figure 3 Locations and numbers of formal play spaces in the Aberdeenshire Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (source: Aberdeenshire Council and the Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.

Ballater is a census locality. The population is estimated to be 1,381. This equates to 2.18 equipped areas of play per 1,000 people. This is higher than the average across the National Park's census localities. It is slightly lower than the number (2.50 per 1,000 people) in Aviemore.

Age groups

Aberdeenshire Council's audit identified the likely age range (0 – 4 years old, 5 – 11 years old, 12 – 15 years old and 16 – 17 years old) that each formal and informal play space was suitable for.



Both Ballater and Braemar have provision above the Aberdeenshire Council average¹³. While there is no formal play provision suitable for 16 – 17-year-olds in Braemar, there is a playing field and curling club facility.

Table 10 Suitability of play spaces by age in the Aberdeenshire Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (source: Aberdeenshire Council).

Age	Aberdeenshire average
0 – 4 years old	75%
5 – 11 years old	88%
12 – 15 years old	63%
16 – 17 years old	25%

Quality

Aberdeenshire Council's play sufficiency audit appraises the quality of each site through a set of criteria that can be summarised as follows:

- Barriers (busy traffic, safety, access by different transport modes, disabled access and play, welcoming entrances).
- Networks (green network, active travel and core paths).
- Value (flood prevention, aesthetics, biodiversity, health and wellbeing)
- Appearance (maintenance, paths, grass, fencing, furniture, landscape, surveillance).

This creates play sufficiency scores, which lead to ratings of poor (0-33%), fair (34-50%), good (51-66%) and very good (67-100%). Across Aberdeenshire, 26% of formal play spaces rated poor, 21% fair, 17% good and 36% very good.

The formal play spaces in Dinnet and Strathdon were audited by Cairngorms National Park planning officers using the Aberdeenshire Council audit approach.

In the Cairngorms National Park part of Aberdeenshire Council, no formal play spaces are rated poor or fair. This is significantly above the average across Aberdeenshire (where 47% are rated poor or fair). However, 36% of play spaces across Aberdeenshire are rated very good, while only two (25%) in the National Park are rated very good.

¹³ The Aberdeenshire Council-wide average scores referred to in this chapter include school grounds, playing fields, and sports areas, as defined by Aberdeenshire Council as formal play spaces.



Table 11 Quality rating of formal play spaces in the Aberdeenshire Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (source: Aberdeenshire Council).

Site name	Settlement	Barriers	Networks	Value	Appearance	Play sufficiency score (%)	Rating
Monaltrie Park courts	Ballater	67%	56%	56%	46%	58%	Good
Monaltrie Park	Ballater	60%	56%	72%	54%	60%	Good
Ballater Caravan park	Ballater	55%	67%	72%	67%	63%	Good
Northeast of Caravan Park	Ballater	62%	78%	83%	79%	73%	Very good
Braemar Caravan Park	Braemar	52%	44%	50%	75%	56%	Good
Village	Braemar	50%	56%	78%	71%	61%	Good
Village centre	Dinnet	67%	78%	89%	67%	73%	Very good
Village centre	Strathdon	62%	56%	78%	67%	65%	Good
Average scores		57%	57%	66%	63%	60%	Good

Walking catchments

Maps showing a five-minute (around 400 metres) walkable zone have been produced for each settlement and can be viewed in the settlement summaries part of this report.

In the Aberdeenshire Council part of the Cairngorms National Park, 35% of residential properties within settlements¹⁴ are within a five-minute walk of a formal play area. This is below the average of 46% of properties within a five-minute walkable zone across all settlements with a formal play space in the National Park.

¹⁴ The number of properties in a settlement is a count of all properties within the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 defined settlement boundaries plus any properties within a local living walkable services zone which are outwith the settlement boundary.



Table 12 Overall proportion of residential properties within five-minutes walk of a formal place space for each settlement in the Aberdeenshire Council part of the Cairngorms National Park.

Settlement	Percentage of properties within a five-minute walk
Ballater	34%
Braemar	32%
Dinnet	85%
Strathdon	40%
Aberdeenshire Council part of the Cairngorms National Park	35%

Informal play spaces

Quantity

Within the Aberdeenshire Council part of the National Park there are 8 amenity areas, 2 school grounds, 2 sports areas, 2 playing fields and 4 public parks or gardens.

Seven open spaces in Ballater and four in Braemar are identified and protected in the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021.

Table 13 Quantity of informal play spaces in the Aberdeenshire Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (source: Aberdeenshire Council and Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer).

	Protected open spaces ¹⁵	Amenity areas	Playing fields	School grounds	Other sports areas	Public parks or gardens
Ballater	7	5	1	1	1	4
Braemar	4	3	1	1	1	0
Dinnet	2	1	0	0	0	1
Strathdon	0	1	0	0	1	0
Totals	11	8	2	2	2	4

(Note: The Aberdeenshire Council audit advises that playing fields may have already been counted within school grounds or public parks and should be used as indicative and vice versa).

¹⁵ Protected open spaces identified and protected in the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021



Quality

Ballater and Braemar’s informal open spaces also rate highly, with no informal play spaces rating poor and only one rating fair (a large grassy amenity area near Monaltrie Close). 43% (Braemar) and 54% (Ballater) of informal play spaces rate very good – well above the average for Aberdeenshire as a whole. Dinnet and Strathdon’s informal open spaces have not been audited by Aberdeenshire Council. However, there are two protected open spaces in Dinnet the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021, both of which are suitable for play and there is a playing field (used for the Lonach Gathering and Highland Games) and a small park. Both also have access to woodland on the edge of each settlement.

Table 14 Quality rating of informal play spaces in the Aberdeenshire Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (source: Aberdeenshire Council).

Quality rating	Ballater	Braemar	Aberdeenshire wide
Poor (0 – 33%)	0	0	32%
Fair (34 – 50%)	8%	0	19%
Good (51 – 66%)	38%	57%	16%
Very good (67 – 100%)	54%	43%	33%

Consultation

Aberdeenshire Council carried out adult and youth engagement on its draft open space audit and draft plan sufficiency assessment between May and July 2024.

Adult engagement

The adult engagement was in the form of an online survey entitled ‘open space and play sufficiency in settlement’. This was carried out between 31 May and 26 July 2024. The draft open space audit, play sufficiency assessment and settlement summaries were provided alongside 31 questions covering the draft documents. The survey was published on the Council’s engagement platform and was also sent to all 67 constituted community councils, 26 other community groups and seven key agencies (or similar).

42 responses were received. 18 of those reported site-specific errors such as questioning the use of sites, suggesting the addition or removal of sites and noting missing data.



In summary, 50% of the respondents agreed with the play sufficiency assessment's findings on the quantity, accessibility and quality of open space, while around 35% disagreed (and the remainder did not comment). Where specific comments were made, adjustments are being made to the draft documents.

There was one response relating to Ballater. It argued that the assessment of the play park in Monaltrie Park was not an accurate representation of its poor quality and that the 'fair' condition score was generous 'given the poor choice of equipment and condition of it'. The respondent stated that 'it is the only playpark for a village of Ballater's size. There is no baby swing for children under the age of 3. The climbing frame is not accessible to children under the age of 3 without significant assistance from an adult. The roundabout is often seized and difficult to push'. The respondent did comment that what they find good about the play park is that it 'feels safe', 'has swings', 'is within close distance of houses' and there are 'no busy roads close by'. The respondent disliked was that there are 'not enough seats', 'not enough shelter', old play equipment', and 'not enough to do'.

Youth engagement

The youth engagement consisted of a 12-question online survey, published on Aberdeenshire Council's website between 11 March and 3 May 2024. Before it was published, the survey was tested with the Youth Forum at Ellon Academy on 21 February 2024. The invitation to respond to the survey was sent to all schools, parent boards and pupils not in mainstream schools and co-ordinated by an education support officer. Alongside the survey, a brief; instructions for running the survey in classrooms; sample text for school social media; and posters were provided. Different age groups were encouraged to participate in different ways (younger primary school children with their parents, older primary school children in class groups, for example).

496 responses and 60 comments on the open space map were received. A quarter of respondents were groups, the majority individuals. It was mostly secondary school pupils who replied with an even male / female split. 45 responses were received from pupils and parents living in settlements within Marr, but there were no responses from residents within settlements in the National Park. While the survey responses are not place specific, they provide an overview of the views of school children and their parents in Aberdeenshire.



The most common and relevant issues highlighted were the following:

- More toilets in larger settlements (not concentrated).
- Longer toilet opening hours.
- More lighting.
- Sheltered seating / areas, especially in winter (cold).
- Walking trail (wheelchair / trike accessible) with play facilities for all abilities and ages.
- Inland places lacking natural areas for play.
- Can't get to places on their own.
- It is untidy (dog fouling, litter or vandalism).

Most respondents say that young people meet up and play in informal places – grassy amenity areas and public parks, with formal play parks the third most popular place. However, it should be noted that most respondents were aged 12 to 15. 33% of respondents said that they meet up to play two or three times per week, with a further 17% meeting up once a week.

Less than a fifth of young people regarded their open spaces as poor and this was often due to these spaces lacking play equipment for older children. Sites that scored well was often due to them being spacious, safe and close to natural spaces. Table 15 summaries common themes respondents made when explaining why play spaces were either 'poor', 'alright' or 'good'.

Table 15 Summary of common themes and key comments about the quality of their open spaces (source: Aberdeenshire Council).

Poor	Alright	Good
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not much to do – spaces are either designed for young children or those with specific interests (e.g. skateboarding) • Muddy. • Vapes and litter. • No shelter from rain and cold. • Boring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good spaces, but limited play facilities. • Difficult to control more than one child or a football where spaces are not enclosed. • Poor maintenance. • No new equipment added – suggested basket swings, bigger swings, and zip lines. • Plant more trees in grassy areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big spaces to meet friends and play sports. • Clean. • Woods are great for dens and hide and seek.



Poor	Alright	Good
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Too many houses and not enough open spaces.• Feel intimidated by older teenagers.• Wide and open (barren).• Tennis / basketball courts in poor condition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make them look brighter.	

Respondents were also asked to choose (more than one) from a selection of answers, what they liked and disliked about the places they meet up or play at. The most common answers were as follows:

Liked

- That they live near to open spaces and are easy to get to.
- That they like to play football and ball games and have fun.
- That they like having shops nearby.
- That they like spaces that have seating and feel safe.
- Many also enjoy going to natural areas, such as beaches and woodlands.
- Of some importance to some, is that it is quiet and has a mix of play equipment.

Disliked

- Open spaces that are untidy with either dog foul, litter, or vandalism.
- That there is not enough to do.
- Play equipment only suiting younger children, and that is it old or worn out.
- Lack of seating or shelter and busy roads.
- Other notable concerns were not being able to get to places on their own, not feeling safe, adults complaining of them hanging out in a space, and a lack of lighting.



5. Moray Council

Moray Council published its play sufficiency assessment in 2023. 160 equipped play areas were identified across Moray. 93 of these are managed by Moray Council. Play areas within school grounds were not included as they are not accessible outside of school hours.

Formal play spaces

Quantity

There are four formal play spaces in the Moray Council part of the National Park. All four are equipped areas of play.

Table 16 Quantity of formal play spaces in the Moray Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (source: Moray Council).

Location	Equipped areas of play
Tomintoul	2
Tomnavoulin	1
Glenlivet Primary School	1
Totals	4

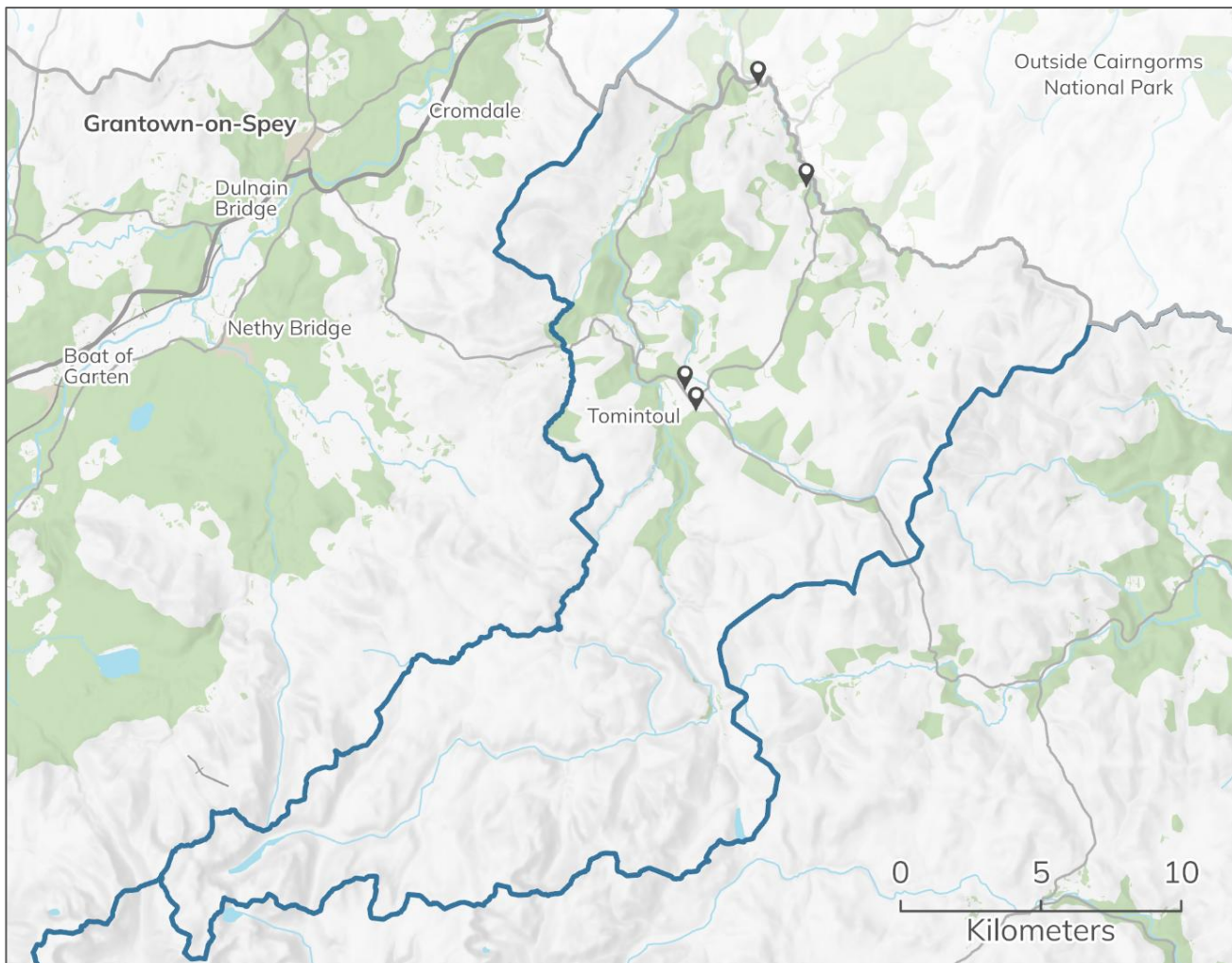


Figure 4 Locations and numbers of formal play spaces in the Moray Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (source: Moray Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.

Age groups

Moray Council's audit indicates that most play areas across the Moray Council area are suitable for 0 – 11-year-olds, with few play areas having equipment or facilities for older children and teenagers. This is the case in the Cairngorms National Park part of Moray Council, with three of the equipped areas of play identified as suitable for 0 – 11-year-olds, and one (at Glenlivet Primary School), being suitable for 5 – 11-year-olds.



Quality

Moray Council's play sufficiency audit assessed the quality of four formal play areas in the Cairngorms National Park. The equipped play area in Tomnavoulin was reassessed by Cairngorm National Park Authority planning officers, because the equipment was replaced since the 2023 audit. Each equipped area of play is scored for 'location', 'design', 'physical play', 'creative play' and 'social play' to provide an overall score.

The two locally equipped areas of play in Tomintoul and the one area in Tomnavoulin have a 'good play value' score, while the locally equipped play area at Glenlivet primary school scored 'reasonable'. This is because it has a small range of equipment, which doesn't enable creative play.

Across Moray Council, 36% of equipped play areas rated 'good' and 38% 'reasonable'. Only 7% rated 'high', while 18% rated 'poor'. The overall quality of play areas in the Cairngorms National Park part of Moray Council is therefore above average.

Moray Council's Play Sufficiency Assessment notes that inclusive and wheelchair accessible play opportunities are limited across the Council area. The equipped play areas in the Cairngorms National Park part of Moray Council do have level surfaces and access, or ramps.

Table 17 Quality rating of formal play spaces in the Moray Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (source: Moray Council).

Site name	Settlement / Location	Location	Design	Physical play	Creative play	Social play	Play sufficiency score (%)	Rating
Play area	Tomintoul	77%	77%	66%	0%	66%	66%	Good
Adventure playground	Tomintoul	55%	77%	77%	66%	66%	70%	Good
Housing	Tomnavoulin	55%	77%	66%	66%	66%	66%	Good
Primary school	Glenlivet Primary School	77%	88%	44%	0%	66%	64%	Reasonable
Average scores		66%	78%	63%	33%	66%	66%	Good



Walking catchments

Maps showing a five-minute (around 400 metres) walkable zone have been produced for each settlement and can be viewed in the settlement summaries part of this report. A map has been produced for Tomintoul.

79% of residential properties within Tomintoul¹⁶ are within a five-minute walk of a formal play area. This is well above the average of 46% of properties within a five-minute walkable zone across all settlements with a formal play space in the National Park.

The percentage of residents within a five-minute walkable zone of the Glenlivet primary school and Tomnavoulin play areas has not been calculated as the play areas serve the wider dispersed community in Glenlivet and there is no defined settlement boundary on the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan.

Table 18 Overall proportion of residential properties within five-minutes walk of a formal place space for each settlement in the Moray Council part of the Cairngorms National Park.

Settlement / Location	Percentage of properties within a five-minute walk
Tomintoul	79%

Informal play spaces

In terms of informal provision, Moray Council's Play Sufficiency Assessment identifies that Moray benefits from 'many and varied attractive natural spaces' and that the rural nature of Moray means that most households have good access to informal play opportunities. This is the case in the part of Moray Council within the Cairngorms National Park. In the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021, six protected open spaces are identified in Tomintoul, which offer opportunities for informal play.

¹⁶ The number of properties in a settlement is a count of all properties within the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 defined settlement boundaries plus any properties within a local living walkable services zone which are outwith the settlement boundary.



Consultation

An online survey was sent to all primary schools in Moray, with a request to circulate this to pupils to complete. 84 children responded, with an age range of between 2 and 14 years old. Comments related to 52 formal equipped areas of play (out of 160 across Moray Council) and 30 informal spaces.

The majority of play spaces were rated by children as five out of five and over 75% felt safe from traffic and bullies in these spaces. Suggestions for improvements included more play parks, more varied equipment, skate park/learner ramps, logs to climb on, splash pad, community garden, sand pit, marking out pitches, sheltered seating, and a smooth area for scooting / skating.

Moray Council Planning officers also carried out focussed sessions with pupils from Seafield Primary School children and parents at New Elgin Primary School. The key issues raised include the lack of provision for different ages of children across play spaces, existing equipment needing to be replaced, the lack of natural / imaginative play opportunities, limited opportunities for exciting or challenging play, poor accessibility for wheelchair users and lack of equipment for those with disabilities. The lack of nature within wider greenspaces was also highlighted with suggestions for more tree planting and wildflower areas.

As part of a shared learning day focused on local living at Elgin Academy, over 400 S1 to S3 pupils completed a Place Survey which included questions about play / hanging out. The key responses were:

- A significant portion highlighted parks, playing fields, and woods in their responses.
- They also noted that they went to the astro turf, skate park and golf course.
- Hanging out in town was also a common answer.
- A smaller portion said that they visited green spaces and school playgrounds.
- A portion said there was nowhere to hang out or play and some specifically stated that they live rurally without places to hangout.



When asked what they liked about the spaces where they played or hung out, common responses were:

- 'Fun things to do'.
- Walking and mountain bike trails.
- Being able to play sport (football and cricket).
- nature.
- The amount of space there was.
- The peacefulness of spaces.
- Somewhere to meet friends with places to sit and hangout.
- Proximity to where they lived.
- Spaces that are free.
- Swings.

Common themes when asked what could be done to make the spaces better were:

- Updated / better range of play equipment.
- More for older children and young people as they felt play spaces focused on younger children.
- Adding more trees and landscaping to spaces.
- Tidying up spaces -removing broken glass, rubbish and dog fouling.

An online survey was published in March 2024. This was promoted on the Council's social media and also emailed directly to Community Councils, groups working with children and Additional Support Needs community/interest groups. A total of 325 response were received (although not all questions were answered by all respondees). The majority of these, 288, were from parents, grandparents, guardians and carers. Seven of the 17 Community Council's emailed provided a response. Over 100 of the responses where from Elgin, but Tomintoul was represented in the responses. In summary, the survey found that:

- 91% considered local play provision to be very important (five out of five) to the development and well-being of children.
- 42% considered there to be some good places to hangout / play.
- 39% stated that places to hangout / play were poor.



Other category comments included that:

- There was nothing for older children or disabled children and parks were run down.
- Children and young people hangout mainly in play parks, woods and playing fields.
- The good things about outdoor play spaces near them were that they were easy to get to, safe from traffic, had natural features and there was space for football and other sports.
- The things people most disliked about play spaces were untidiness, old or broken equipment, limited things to do and lack of inclusive, wheelchair accessible or sensory play. A lack of toilets, enclosed fences and poor-quality surfaces were also specified.
- To support children with additional needs, more natural and sensory play, supportive seats for swings, floor level roundabouts with seats, accessible play equipment for all, improved signage, shelter, toilet access and changing facilities were all suggested.
- Other barriers to play were challenging surfaces, antisocial behaviour and bullying, busy roads and lack of cycleways.
- The most common response to what improvements would you suggest was to replace or update play equipment and provide a greater range.

6. Perth and Kinross Council

Perth and Kinross Council published a draft play sufficiency assessment in January 2025. It assesses the quality of equipped play areas owned (adopted and managed) by Perth and Kinross Council.

Formal play spaces

Quantity

There is one equipped area of play, in Recreation Park in Blair Atholl, within the Perth and Kinross Council part of the Cairngorms National Park.

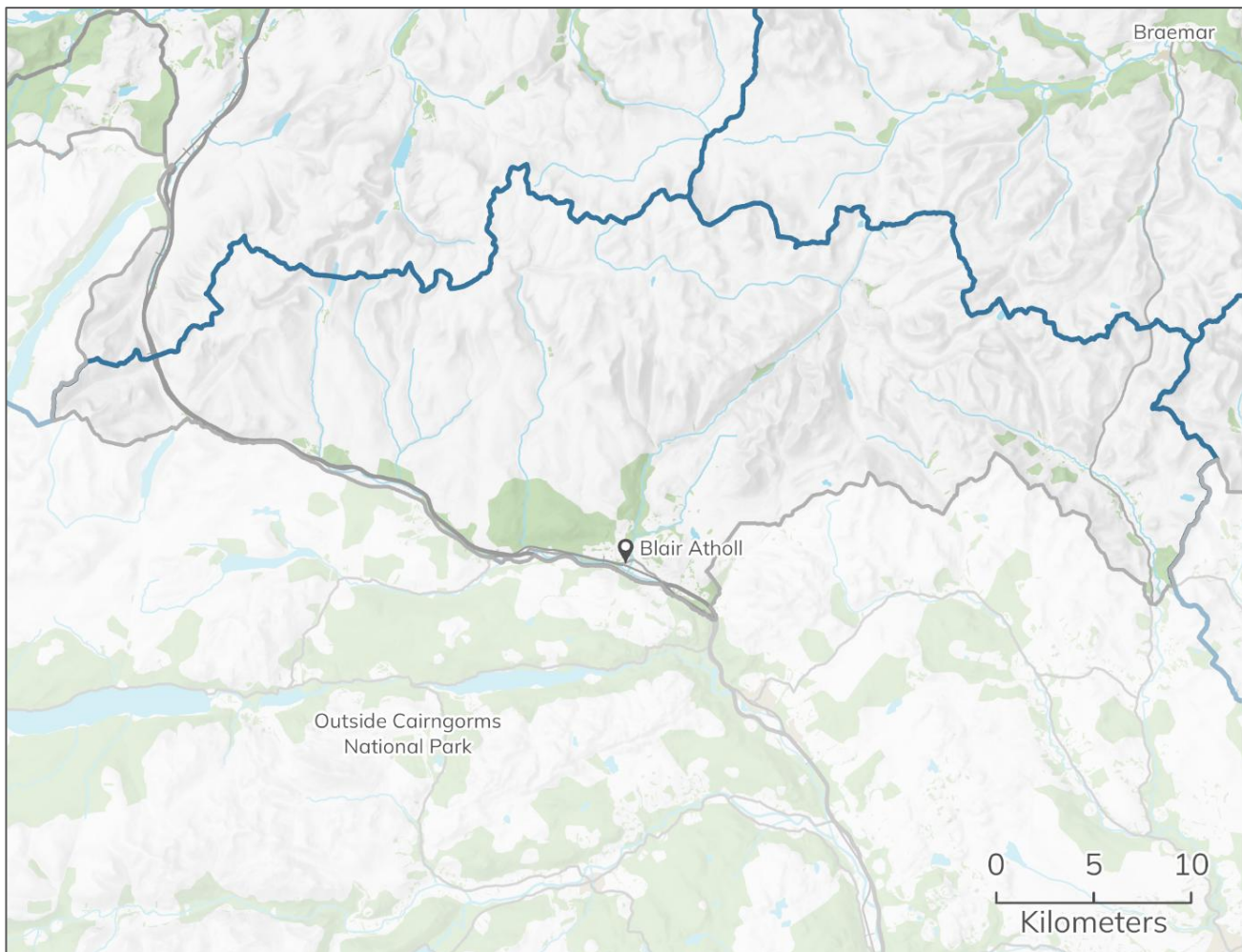


Figure 5 Locations and numbers of formal play spaces in the Perth and Kinross Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (source: Perth and Kinross Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.

Age groups

Blair Atholl's equipped play area is considered suitable for 4 – 8 and 8 – 14-year-olds by the Perth and Kinross Council play sufficiency audit. It is one of 53 'rural equipped areas of play' identified in Perth and Kinross. Perth and Kinross Council describe rural equipped areas of play as of similar size and surfacing to neighbourhood equipped play areas, but in rural settlements with lower child populations. They have slightly fewer activity requirements, offering four activities for 4 – 8 and 8 – 14-year-old age groups (neighbourhood equipped play areas provide at least six play activities for children aged 8 – 14-year-olds and four for 4 – 8-year-olds).



Quality

Equipped play areas were assessed using five criteria by Perth and Kinross Council – location, accessibility, features, environment and number of play activities.

Blair Atholl's equipped play area scores 47% in the Perth and Kinross Council play sufficiency audit. This score is given a 'quality class' of 'reasonable' (45 – 55%). The average score of equipped areas of play across the Perth and Kinross Council area was 56% (classed as 'good'). The scores indicate that the formal play space is in the right location but needs improved accessibility (in the form of better surfaces, seating and layout) and an increased number of play activities (particularly for younger children) to be classed as 'good' or 'high'.

Table 19 Quality rating of formal play spaces in the Perth and Kinross Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (source: Perth and Kinross Council).

Site Name	Settlement	Location	Accessibility	Features	Environment	play activities	Play sufficiency score (%)	Rating
Recreation Park	Blair Atholl	100%	20%	63%	57%	33%	47%	Reasonable

Walking catchments

Maps showing a five-minute (around 400 metres) walkable zone have been produced for each settlement and can be viewed in the settlement summaries part of this report.

The Blair Atholl recreation park play area is walkable in around five-minutes from 32% of residential properties in Blair Atholl. This is well below the average of 46% of properties within a five-minute walkable zone across all settlements with a formal play space in the National Park.

Informal play spaces

Informal play spaces are included in Perth and Kinross's play sufficiency assessment. These are greenspaces larger than 0.2 hectares, located within or adjacent to settlement boundaries and freely accessible to the public.



SportScotland's facilities database has been referenced in this assessment to supplement Perth and Kinross Council's audit.

Table 20 Quantity of informal play spaces in the Perth and Kinross Council part of the Cairngorms National Park (source: Perth and Kinross Council, Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, SportScotland).

	Protected open spaces	Public parks or gardens	Playing fields
Blair Atholl	2	1	1
Killiecrankie	1	0	0
Totals	3	1	1

There are 2 protected open spaces identified in the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 in Blair Atholl and one in Killiecrankie. These provide a variety of open spaces suitable for informal play.

Consultation

Big Place Conservation engagement was carried out across communities in Perth and Kinross Council's area in 2023. This included an online survey and in-person events, including within schools. Reports summarising the responses have been published at community council, ward and Council-wide level.

There was one respondent from the Blair Atholl and Struan community council area. This commented that there was plenty of outdoor spaces for play and recreation, but a lack of indoor spaces.

Within the Highland ward, which includes Blair Atholl and Struan, 150 responses were received. Twelve events were held, including at two primary schools. In relation to play and recreation (which was low-scoring on the Place Standard Tool at 3.5 out of 7), negative comments included that there was limited opportunities for play and recreation for older children and young people (over twelve years old).

This low score (which it is important to note, includes the availability of sporting activities, hobby clubs, and other recreational opportunities as well as formal play opportunities) was mirrored across Perth and Kinross as a whole. However, the natural spaces topic, which includes parks as well as other greenspaces achieved the highest place standard tool score. Positive comments included:



- Outdoor spaces are widely used for play, recreation and sport, with most residents enjoying having good access to paths, parks, and other natural areas.
- A diverse range of formal and informal outdoor opportunities is available, including walking, cycling, play, and various sport or other organised activities.
- Local volunteer groups play a key role in supporting play, recreation, and sporting opportunities.
- Most residents have good access to formal play provision.

Negative feedback included:

- Insufficient provision of spaces, activities, and exciting or challenging play equipment for older children and young people (12+).
- Limited facilities for children and young people in inclement weather.
- Children have significant concerns about anti-social behaviour in play areas and parks.
- Inadequate play and sporting opportunities for girls, with some options perceived as gender exclusive.
- Insufficient facilities and activities for people with disabilities.
- Very limited facilities and organised activities in rural communities, often requiring travel by car to access formal opportunities.
- Accessibility is hindered by issues with active travel options and public transport.
- Many facilities are outdated or in poor condition, requiring maintenance or upgrades.
- Loss of informal play and recreation spaces due to 'no mow' grassland management.
- New play provision through developments is either insufficient or delayed until later project stages.

Suggestions included:

- Upgrade parks to offer a diverse range of free activities, including picnic areas, exercise equipment, and informal gaming (e.g. chess tables).
- Create more challenging and varied play opportunities for all groups and users.
- Increase variety of outdoor facilities, such as skate parks, pump tracks, bridle paths, and mountain bike trails.
- Provide better segregation of play areas and parks for children and young people.
- Develop more free activities and dedicated spaces for young people.
- Enhance the active travel network to improve access to facilities and provide more opportunities for recreational walking and wheeling (i.e. cycling, skating, scootering).
- Improve public transport links to key facilities.



- Develop more adaptable, multi-use facilities for play, recreation, and sport, including both indoor and outdoor spaces (e.g. multi-use game areas or leisure centres).
- Improve the maintenance of facilities and secure funding for upgrades.

A Playing Out in Perth and Kinross survey was also conducted. 322 responses were received from 170 girls, 135 boys, and 17 who preferred not to answer. Most respondents were aged between 4 – 8, followed by 9 – 14, with the least responses received from young people aged 15 and over.

Key messages received from the feedback are summarised below:

Positives

- Perth and Kinross offers a variety of exciting formal and informal play opportunities, from small playgrounds to large countryside parks.
- Playgrounds are most appreciated when they provide a diverse range of activities, including creative, challenging, group and individual opportunities that cater to all age groups.
- Play spaces conveniently located near schools and housing are frequently used.
- Play spaces are valued as social spaces for meeting friends and developing social skills.
- Playgrounds located in good-quality greenspaces provide important connections to nature, which are highly valued by children and young people.

Negatives

- Many sites are considered to lack sufficient opportunities for different age groups, particularly for those aged over fifteen.
- There is limited provision of inclusive play equipment, highlighting the need for better facilities for disabled children (e.g. wheelchair accessible equipment).
- Maintenance issues were frequently raised, including peeling or rusting equipment, damaged surfaces, and the need for more frequent grass cutting and bin emptying.
- Significant concerns about anti-social behaviour in parks and play areas have been reported, including issues of graffiti, vandalism, and hazardous waste (e.g. broken glass and vapes).
- Poor lighting affects the feeling of safety as well as the usability of spaces in evening and at night.



Suggestions

- Upgrade playgrounds to offer more diverse, exciting and challenging play opportunities, including bike tracks, climbing walls, swings, and zip wires.
- Improve facilities at parks and play areas, including toilets, picnic benches, sheltered areas, lighting and fencing.
- Enhance natural features by planting more trees and pollinator-friendly plants.
- Improve safety and cleanliness through more regular maintenance and measures to address anti-social behaviour.
- Increase provision of play opportunities for disabled children.
- Increase provision of play opportunities and dedicated spaces for older children and teenagers.

A preferred play activities question was included as part of the 'Playing Out' survey. This highlighted that equipped areas of play were the preferred type of play space, particularly for girls. The notable difference in the results, between genders, was that team games were the second most popular activity amongst boys, but the least preferred by girls (after equipment play, creative play, chill-out space and wheeled activities).

7. Play sufficiency conclusions

This section summarises play sufficiency across the Cairngorms National Park.

Formal play spaces

Quantity

There are 37 equipped areas of play within the National Park.

Table 21 shows that all strategic and intermediate settlements have at least one equipped area of play. Other formal play opportunities are limited, but there is a pump track in Boat of Garten – which is one of only 30 in Scotland. There is also a multi-use games area in Ballater with basketball hoops and football goals.



Table 21 Quantity of formal play spaces in the Cairngorms National Park according to settlements within the National Park Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027 spatial strategy (sources: constituent local authorities).

	Equipped areas of play	Pump tracks	Multi-use game areas	Total number of formal play spaces
Strategic settlements				
Aviemore	7	0	0	7
Ballater	3	0	1	4
Grantown-on-Spey	3	0	0	3
Kingussie	2	0	0	2
Newtonmore	1	0	0	1
Intermediate settlements				
Blair Atholl	1	0	0	1
Boat of Garten	1	1	0	2
Braemar	2	0	0	2
Carrbridge	2	0	0	2
Cromdale	1	0	0	1
Dalnain Bridge	1	0	0	1
Kincraig	2	0	0	2
Nethy Bridge	4	0	0	4
Tomintoul	2	0	0	2
Rural settlements				
Glenlivet ¹⁷	2	0	0	2
Dinnet	1	0	0	1
Laggan	1	0	0	1
Strathdon	1	0	0	1
Totals	37	1	1	39

¹⁷ Glenlivet covers the villages of Tomnavoulin, Castletown, Minmore, Chapelton, Clashnoir, Drumin, and Authnarrow.

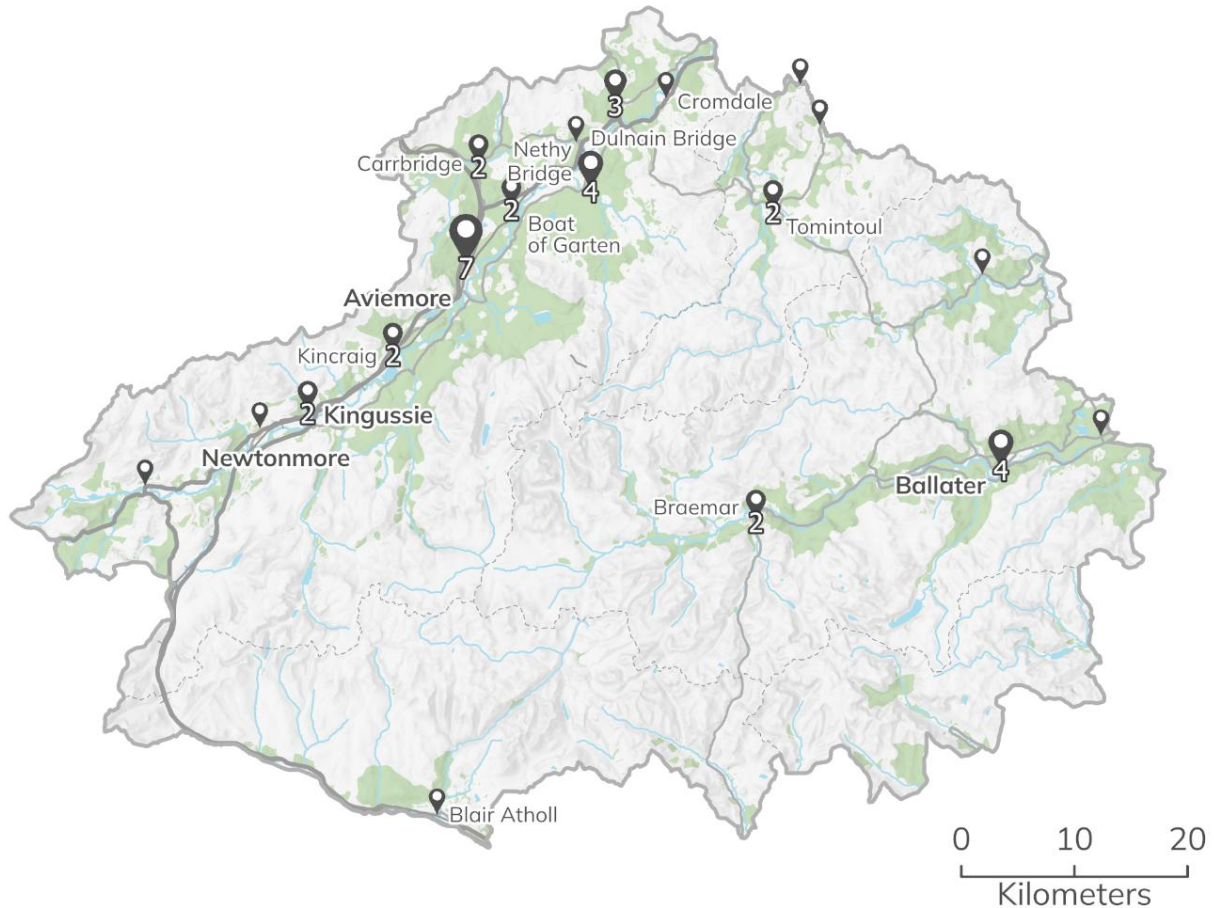


Figure 6 Locations and numbers of formal play spaces in the Cairngorms National Park (sources: constituent local authorities, Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.

Age groups

Each local authority has assessed the age groups each formal play space is suitable for differently. However, an overview of provision across the Cairngorms National Park can be made and is summarised in Table 22.

34 (87%) of the formal play spaces are considered suitable for very young children, aged 0 – 4-year-old (categorised as nursery-aged children in Highland). 34 (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). 22 (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.

This 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.

Table 22 Suitability of play spaces by age in Cairngorms National Park (source: constituent local authorities).

Area	Number of suitable formal play spaces for each age group			
	Nursery 0 - 4- year-olds	Primary 5 - 11- year-olds 4 - 8-year- olds	Secondary 12 - 15- year-olds 8 - 14-year- olds	16 - 17- year-olds
Aberdeenshire	6	7	5	2
Highland	25	22	16	-
Moray	3	4	0	-
Perth and Kinross	-	1	1	-
Cairngorms National Park	34	34	22	2
Percentage of play spaces suitable for each age group	87%	87%	56%	5%

Quality

Table 23 lists the overall rating of each formal play space in the Cairngorms National Park. While each local authority has audited their sites under their own methodology, the overall quality rating, or 'class' of each formal play space provides a comparison.

Five equipped areas of play (two in Grantown-on-Spey, and one each in Ballater, Dinnet and Carrbridge) rate very good. Eighteen rate good. Fourteen rate as fair or reasonable and two as poor.



This means that 59% of the formal play spaces in the Cairngorms National Park can be considered to be sufficient, in terms of their quality.

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.

Table 23 Quality rating of formal play spaces in the Cairngorms National Park (source: constituent local authorities).

Settlement	Location	Rating
Strategic Settlements		
Aviemore	Newlands Road	Fair
Aviemore	Roberts Road	Fair
Aviemore	High Burnside	Good
Aviemore	Braeriach Court	Poor
Aviemore	Burnside Road	Fair
Aviemore	Morlich Court	Good
Aviemore	Rathad Creagan Mor	Fair
Ballater	Monaltrie Park courts	Good
Ballater	Monaltrie Park	Good
Ballater	Ballater Caravan park	Good
Ballater	Northeast of Caravan Park	Very good
Grantown-on-Spey	Dulicht Court	Fair
Grantown-on-Spey	Dulaig Court	Very Good
Grantown-on-Spey	Mossie Road	Very good
Kingussie	Ardvonie Park	Good
Kingussie	Campbell Crescent	Fair
Newtonmore	Clune Terrace	Good
Intermediate Settlements		
Blair Atholl	Recreation Park	Reasonable
Boat of Garten	Woodland Wheels Pump Track	Fair
Boat of Garten	Craigie Avenue	Good
Braemar	Braemar Caravan Park	Good
Braemar	Village	Good



Settlement	Location	Rating
Carrbridge	Carrbridge Playing Field	Very Good
Carrbridge	Ellanwood Road	Fair
Cromdale	Cromdale Football Field	Fair
Dulnain Bridge	School Place	Good
Kincraig	Macrae Crescent No.1	Fair
Kincraig	Macrae Crescent No.2	Fair
Nethy Bridge	Braes of Balnagowan	Poor
Nethy Bridge	Craigmore Crescent	Good
Nethy Bridge	Lynstock Crescent South	Fair
Nethy Bridge	Nethy Bridge Football Field	Good
Tomintoul	Play area	Good
Tomintoul	Adventure playground	Good
Rural Settlements		
Dinnet	Village centre	Very good
Glenlivet ¹⁸	Glenlivet Primary School	Reasonable
Glenlivet	Tomnavoulin housing	Good
Laggan	Laggan	Good
Strathdon	Village centre	Good

Walking Catchments

Maps showing a five-minute (around 400 metres) walkable zone have been produced for each settlement and can be viewed in the settlement summaries part of this report. Overall, 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.

Table 24 Overall proportion of residential properties within five-minutes walk of a formal place space for each settlement with a formal play space in the Cairngorms National Park.

Settlement	Percentage of properties within a five-minute walk
Highland Council	48%

¹⁸ Glenlivet covers the villages of Tomnavoulin, Castletown, Minmore, Chapelton, Clashnoir, Drumin, and Authnarrow.



Settlement	Percentage of properties within a five-minute walk
Aberdeenshire Council	35%
Moray Council	68%
Perth and Kinross Council	32%
Cairngorms National Park	46%

Informal play spaces

There are 67 protected open spaces within the Cairngorms National Park identified in the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021. These provide a variety of open spaces suitable for informal play. There are also public parks and playing fields in many settlements. Note that there are no informal play spaces in Coylumbridge, Dalwhinnie or Insh. However, all three also have great access to woodland. It is not considered that there is an insufficiency of informal play space across the Cairngorms National Park. Further details on open space provision across the National Park is provided in the Play, recreation and sport topic paper:

- <https://cairngormsldp.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/v3/play-sport-and-recreation?step=step1>

Table 25 Quantity of informal play spaces in the Cairngorms National Park (source: constituent local authorities, Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, SportScotland).

	Protected open spaces ¹⁹	Public parks or gardens, amenity areas and natural areas	Playing fields	School grounds	Other sports areas
The Highland Council	47	12	12	4	10
Aberdeenshire Council	11	20	2	2	2
Moray Council	6	1	1	1	1
Perth and Kinross Council	3	1	1	0	0

¹⁹ Protected open spaces identified and protected in the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021



	Protected open spaces ¹⁹	Public parks or gardens, amenity areas and natural areas	Playing fields	School grounds	Other sports areas
Cairngorms National Park	67	34	16	7	13

Consultation

Consultation with children and young people has been carried out across the constituent local authorities, collecting a consistent range of views on the adequacy of play facilities across the Cairngorms National Park. The key messages are summarised below.

Quantity

The quantity of play spaces was not questioned or criticised, but the majority of respondents wanted more outdoor play opportunities.

Age groups

- Many respondents considered that there was a lack of provision for different ages of children across play spaces. There is a desire for spaces where all ages can be together with a variety of equipment and opportunities.
- Nursery and primary-aged children like holistic play (mazes, scavenger hunts and puzzles), 'wheeling' and 'balls'. Primary-aged children like quiet space.
- There is insufficient provision of spaces, activities, and exciting or challenging play equipment for older children and young people. The majority of teenagers think that play in their village or town is 'boring'. Most young people over twelve say that they meet up and play in informal places – grassy amenity areas and public parks.
- Children have significant concerns about anti-social behaviour in play areas and parks.
- There are inadequate play and sporting opportunities for girls, with some options perceived as gender exclusive.
-



Access

- Respondents want more inclusive play opportunities so everyone can play together.
- A high level of respondents use active travel to get to local play parks.
- There is poor accessibility for wheelchair users and lack of equipment for those with disabilities. More natural and sensory play, supportive seats for swings, floor level roundabouts with seats, accessible play equipment for all, improved signage, shelter, toilet access and changing facilities were all suggested.



Quality

The most common responses to 'what improvements would you suggest?' were:

- To replace or update play equipment and provide a greater range.
- More varied equipment, skate park/learner ramps, logs to climb on, splash pad, community garden, sand pit, marking out pitches, sheltered seating, and a smooth area for scooting/skating.
- Existing equipment needing to be replaced. Lack of investment and concerns about the safety of equipment.
- Places to be together with friends and families were valued, with respondents wanting benches and covered areas.

Community Action Plans

Children and young people who live within the Cairngorms National Park have provided their views on play spaces through consultation on community action plans. Their comments, which mirror the constituent local authority responses but add place-specificity, are summarised by below:

Aviemore, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore

- Strong emphasis from primary pupils on improving play parks and creating more places to hang out safely.
- Call for a skatepark, better bike tracks, and safe bike storage at transit hubs.
- Highlight the need for places where children and teenagers can 'hang out' safely, inside or outside.

Blair Atholl

- Proposals to enhance the Memorial Park play area, including toddler-friendly elements.
- Emphasise creating an all-weather covered play and sports facility.

Carrbridge

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

Boat of Garten

- Identify playpark upgrades as a youth priority.
- Emphasised using school grounds or community gardens as interactive, nature-linked play spaces.



Dalwhinnie

- Identify playpark upgrades as a youth priority.

Dalnain Bridge

- Identify playpark upgrades as a youth priority.

Grantown-on-Spey

- Pupils specifically called for improvements to existing play spaces.

Laggan

- Included in general youth-focused aspirations.

Kincraig

- Focused on developing outdoor classrooms and school-based gardens that serve educational and playful purposes.
- Emphasised using school grounds or community gardens as interactive, nature-linked play spaces.

Kingussie

- Included a mountain bike course and revitalising a cycle-friendly track area in its action plan.
- Pupils prioritised developing a pump track.
- Pupils specifically called for improvements to existing play spaces.

Nethy Bridge

- Focused on developing outdoor classrooms and school-based gardens that serve educational and playful purposes.
 - Emphasised using school grounds or community gardens as interactive, nature-linked play spaces.

Newtonmore

- Identify play park upgrades as a youth priority.
- Proposed an all-weather surface and outdoor gym for joint child and adult use in the school field.



Strathdon

- Children asked for a log play area for all ages and other playful features like a ball pit, zip line, and water slide.
- Highlight the need for places where children and teenagers can 'hang out' safely, inside or outside.
- Proposed forest schools and communal garden areas as part of a broader outdoor activity programme for young people.

Place Standard Tool

Engagement has been carried out with secondary school pupils at both Grantown Grammar School and Kingussie High School. Comments relevant to play are summarised below:

Grantown Grammar School

- There are lots of good places to hang out and many mountain and hiking centres in the National Park they could use.
- The availability and access to parks, nature and outdoors are good in Nethy Bridge and the surrounding area.
- Aviemore has plenty of hills, open spaces and trees, but no dedicated places for bikes.
- Woods at Nethy Bridge are very good, with good access to rivers
- The following places are good now: Loch Morlich; Loch Vaa; Tennis court at Rothiemurchus; Anagach woods; pump track at Boat of Garten; The new bike / pump track planned / being built in Rothiemurchus.
- There could be more things to do in Boat of Garten and Rothiemurchus. In Rothiemurchus the old quarry could be made into a skate park for young people.

Kingussie High School

- There should be a swimming pool, basketball court and skate park in Aviemore. The play park is not safe at night. There needs to be places to teenagers to hangout.
- Near Aviemore, Loch Morlich and the skiing are great.
- Places to play informal sports are good in Boar of Garten.
- There was nothing good, in terms of play, hanging out, games and hobbies in Carrbridge. It is 'very expensive and bad'. They could expand the play park for older children.
- Access to the woods in Dalwhinnie is great.



- Lots of green space, woods, lochs, rivers, paths and hills (and shops) in Kingussie and Aviemore. Areas to play informal sports are good in Aviemore. There could be more play parks in Aviemore and Kingussie.
- The best thing in Kincaig is that there are lots of parks, however there should be a place for young people to frequent, a football pitch, more bins and 'more indoor and winter stuff'. The green field and Loch Insh in Kincaig are good, as is connections to nature, but the village needs a pump track and more activities. The play park needs improving.
- The play park in Kingussie is good and is a good place to go and meet friends. There should be a swimming pool and skate park.
- The play park in Newtonmore is good (swings and playing field) but needs maintenance / upgrading. The tennis courts and shinty pitch are also good. There should be more quiet spaces and a sheltered (from rain) space. There should be a swimming pool and skate park and more opportunities for girls' sport.

Further engagement using the place standard tool with youth groups is being carried out with youth groups in Badenoch and Strathspey and Aberdeenshire. This may feed into the evidence base once completed.



8. Settlement summaries

This section provides a summary of play space sufficiency in each settlement in the Cairngorms National Park.

Aviemore

Formal play spaces

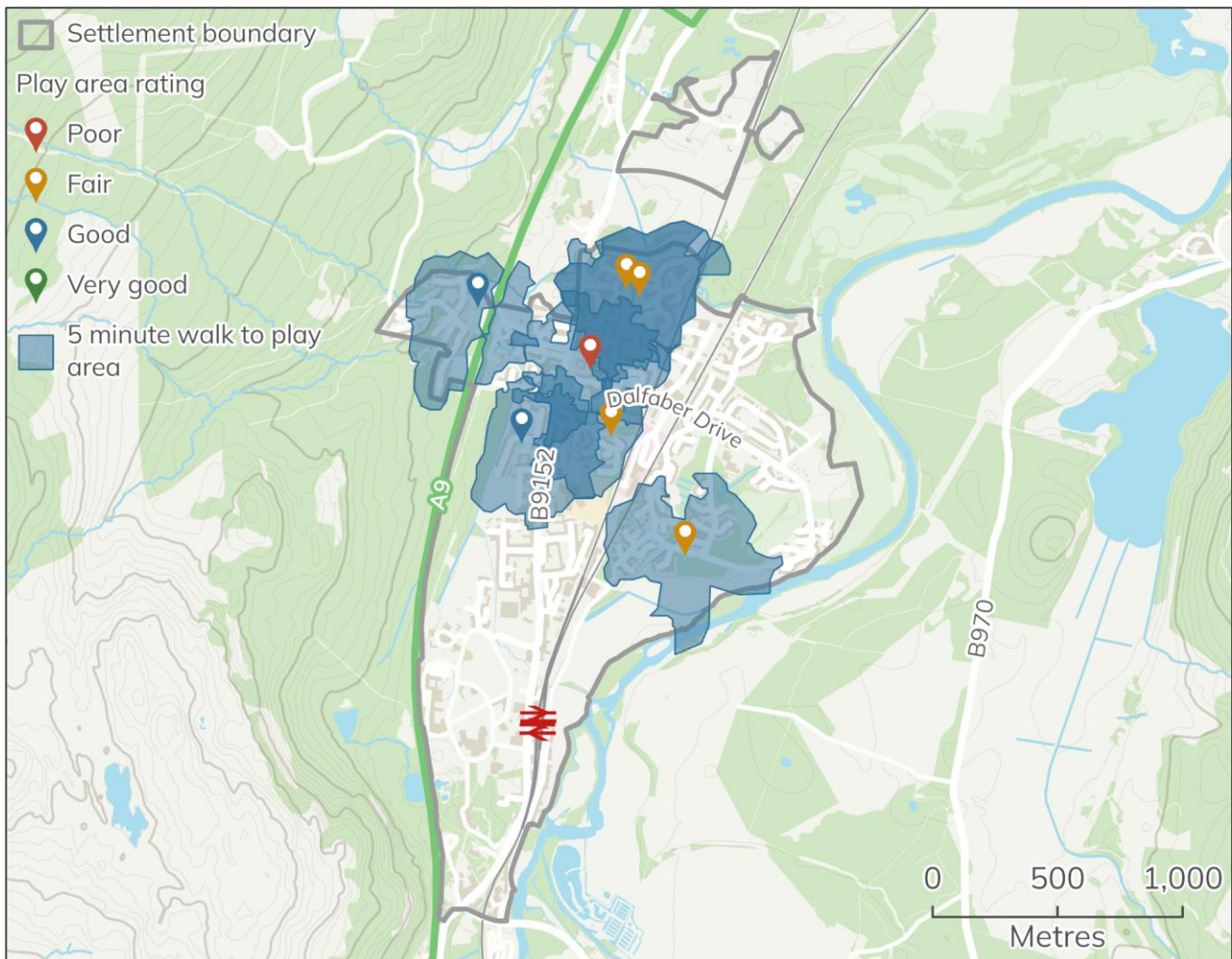


Figure 7 Location, quality rating and walking catchments of the seven formal play spaces in Aviemore (source: The Highland Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Table 26 Quality ratings and age group suitability of formal play spaces in Aviemore (source: The Highland Council).

Site name	Age groups suitability	Equipment	Open play	Accessibility and	Location	Environment	Other facilities	Overall score	Rating
Newlands Road	Nursery	23%	0%	57%	67%	100%	29%	42%	Fair
Roberts Road	Nursery Primary Secondary	50%	0%	57%	83%	33%	14%	46%	Fair
High Burnside	Nursery Primary Secondary	73%	60%	50%	17%	100%	0%	55%	Good
Braeriach Court	Nursery Primary	19%	0%	36%	50%	0%	0%	20%	Poor
Burnside Road	Nursery Primary	15%	80%	36%	67%	0%	14%	30%	Fair
Morlich Court	Nursery Primary Secondary	69%	20%	43%	67%	0%	14%	50%	Good
Rathad Creagan Mor	Nursery Primary Secondary	42%	40%	21%	50%	0%	29%	34%	Fair
Average scores		42%	29%	43%	57%	33%	14%	40%	Fair

Quantity

- There are seven formal play spaces in Aviemore.
- Aviemore has a population of 2,832 people. This means that there is 1 equipped area of play per 405 people in Aviemore.

Age-range suitability

- All of the play areas are suitable for nursery age children. This compares to 87% across the National Park.



- 86% are suitable for primary age children, compared to 87% across the National Park.
- 57% are suitable for secondary age children. The average across the National Park is 56%.

Walking catchments

- There are 1,106 residential properties within the five-minute walking catchment areas.
- This is 55% of the residential properties within Aviemore's settlement boundary.
- This is higher than the average of 48% within The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park
- This is higher than the average of 46% across the National Park as a whole.

Nevertheless, it indicates a lack of accessibility to formal play space in Aviemore.

Quality

- Two play spaces in Aviemore rate as good. This means that 29% of play spaces rate as sufficient (good or very good).
- Across the National Park, 59% of formal play spaces rate good or very good.

The audit indicates that the location of the equipped areas of play is good and therefore it is the activities and facilities available at each play space that could be improved.

Informal play spaces

Aviemore has the following small and large open spaces suitable for informal play.

- 2 public parks
- 1 school grounds
- 1 playing field
- 1 other sports area

It has 9 protected open spaces. In addition, there is accessible woodland both within and on the edge of the settlement. There is sufficient informal play space in Aviemore.



Ballater

Formal play spaces

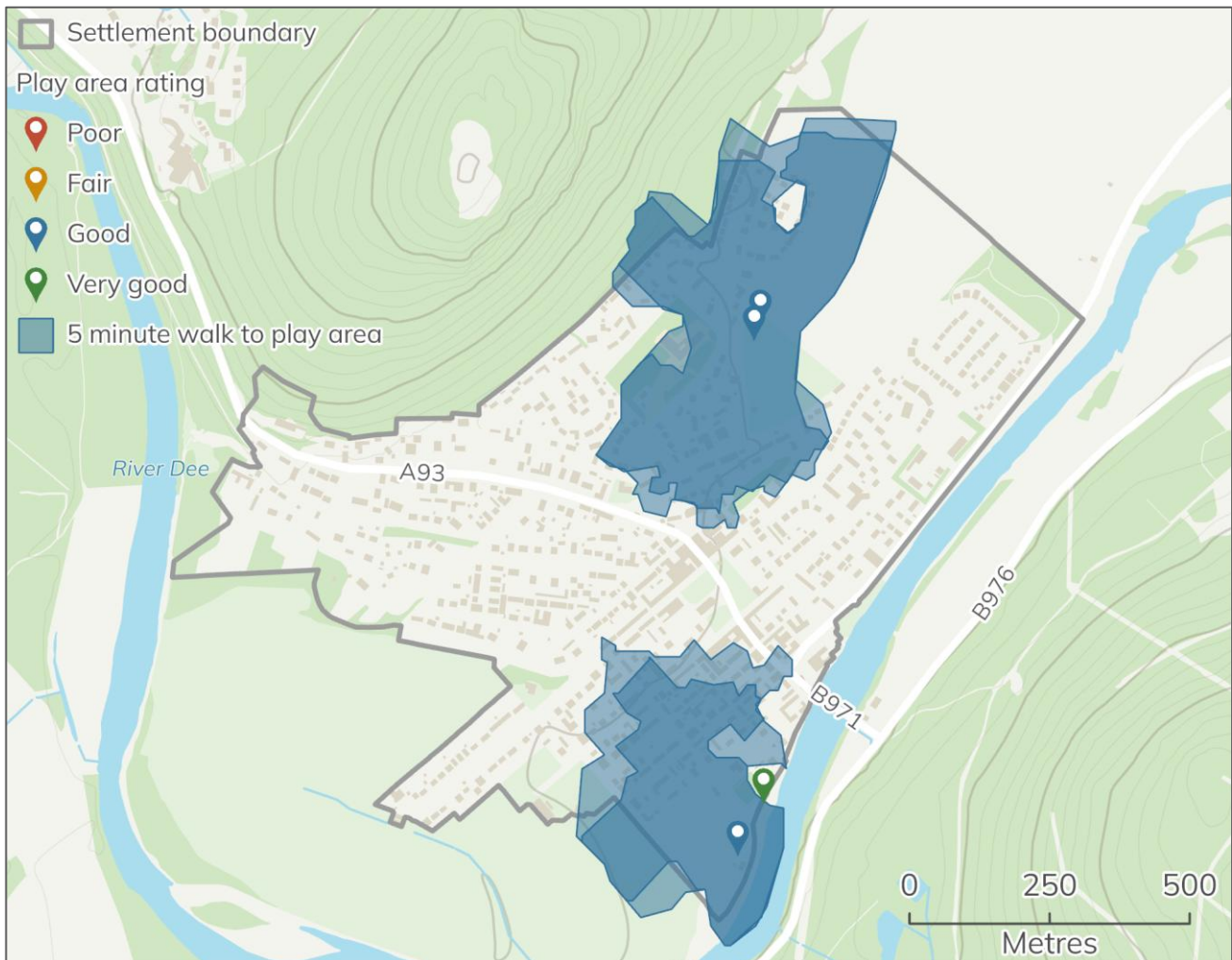


Figure 8 Location, quality rating and walking catchments of the four formal play spaces in Ballater (source: Aberdeenshire Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Table 27 Quality ratings and age group suitability of formal play spaces in Ballater (source: Aberdeenshire Council).

Site Name	Age range suitability	Barriers	Networks	Value	Appearance	Play sufficiency score (%)	Rating
Monaltrie Park courts	5 – 11 12 – 15 16 - 17	67%	56%	56%	46%	58%	Good
Monaltrie Park	0 – 4 5 - 11	60%	56%	72%	54%	60%	Good
Ballater Caravan park	0 – 4 5 – 11 12 - 15	55%	67%	72%	67%	63%	Good
Northeast of Caravan Park	12 – 15 16 - 17	62%	78%	83%	79%	73%	Very good
Average scores		61%	64%	71%	62%	64%	Good

Quantity

- There are four formal play spaces in Ballater.
- Ballater has a population of 1,381 people. This means that there is 1 equipped area of play per 345 people in Ballater. This is above the average quantity per person within each census locality in the Cairngorms National Park.

Age-range suitability

- Only two (50%) of the play spaces are suitable for 0 – 4 year olds. This is low and compares to 87% across the National Park.
- 75% are suitable for 5 – 11 year olds, compared to 87% across the National Park.
- 75% are suitable for 12 – 15 year olds. This is higher than the National Park-wide average of 56%.
- Two of the play spaces are suitable for 16 – 17 year olds. Only Aberdeenshire Council considered suitability for this age group.



Walking catchments

- There are 315 residential properties within the five-minute walking catchment areas.
- This is 34% of the residential properties within Ballater's settlement boundary.
- This is slightly lower than the average of 35% within the Aberdeenshire Council part of the Cairngorms National Park
- This is lower than the average of 46% across the National Park as a whole.

There is insufficient walking access to formal play space in Ballater, with limited walking access except in the south-west and north-east of the settlement.

Quality

- All four of the play spaces rate as sufficient (good or very good). This is significantly above the average across Aberdeenshire (where 47% are rated poor or fair).
- Across the National Park, 59% of formal play spaces rate good or very good.

The quality of the formal play spaces in Ballater is sufficient.

Informal play spaces

Ballater has the following small and large open spaces suitable for informal play.

- 4 public parks and gardens
- 1 playing field
- 1 sports ground
- 1 other sports area

It has 7 protected open spaces. In addition, there is accessible woodland both within and on the edge of the settlement. There is sufficient informal play space in Ballater.



Blair Atholl

Formal play spaces

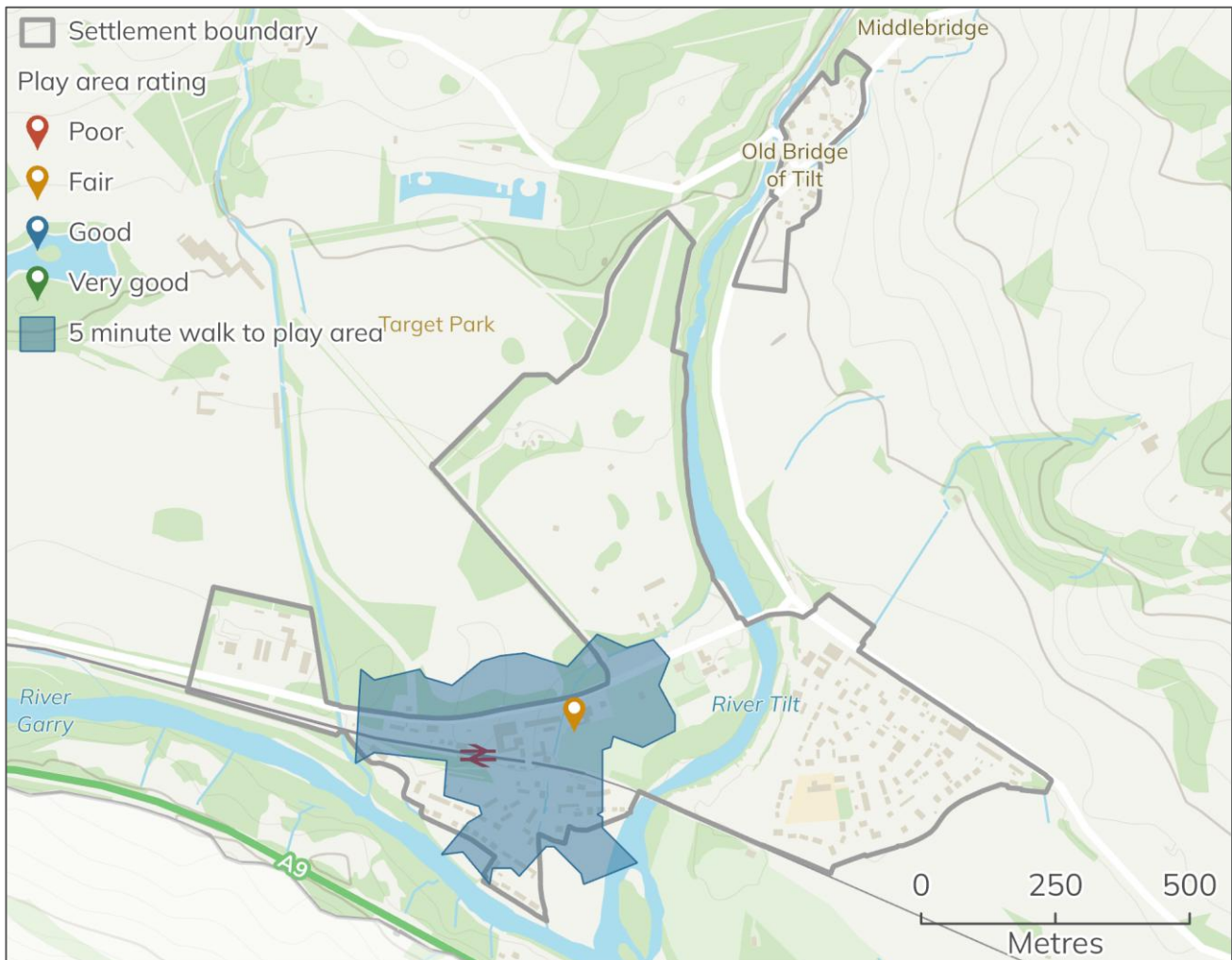


Figure 9 Location, quality rating and walking catchments of the formal play space in Blair Atholl (source: Perth and Kinross Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Table 28 Quality ratings and age group suitability of the formal play space in Blair Atholl (source: Perth and Council).

Site Name	Age group suitability	Location	Accessibility	Features	Environment	Play activities	Play sufficiency score (%)	Rating
Recreation Park	4 – 8 8 -14	100%	20%	63%	57%	33%	47%	Reasonable

Quantity

- There is one formal play space in Blair Atholl.

Age-range suitability

- The play space is suitable for 4 – 8 and 8 – 14 year olds.
- It is one of 53 'rural equipped areas of play' in the Perth and Kinross Council area designed to cater for a broad age range.

Walking catchments

- There are 74 residential properties within the five-minute walking catchment area.
- This is 32% of the residential properties within Blair Atholl.
- This is well below than the average of 46% across the National Park as a whole.

Figure 9 shows that the residential properties to the east of the River Tilt do not have walking access to the formal play space. Walking access to formal play spaces in Blair Atholl is insufficient.

Quality

- The play space rates as reasonable, and so the quality is not sufficient (good or very good). On average, equipped areas of play across Perth and Kinross Council rated good).
- Across the National Park, 59% of formal play spaces rate good or very good.

The quality of the formal play space in Blair Athol is not sufficient. The scores indicate that the recreation park is in the right location but needs improved accessibility (in the



form of better surfaces, seating and layout) and an increased number of play activities (particularly for younger children) to be classed as 'good' or 'high'.

Informal play spaces

There are 2 protected open spaces identified in the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 in Blair Atholl. These include a playing field and a public park. These provide a variety of open spaces suitable for informal play. There is a sufficiency of informal play spaces in Blair Atholl.



Boat of Garten

Formal play spaces

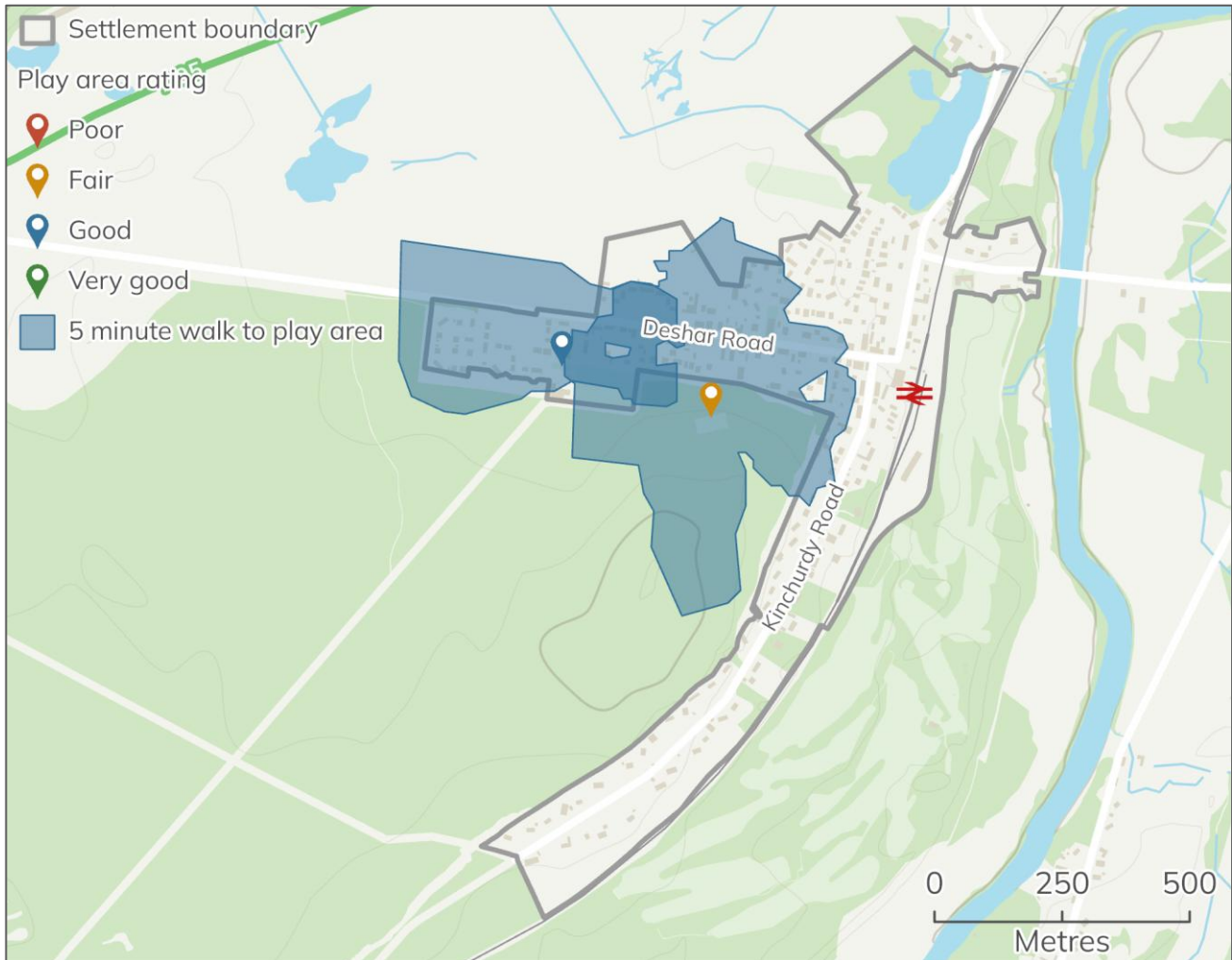


Figure 10 Location, quality rating and walking catchments of the two formal play spaces in Boat of Garten (source: The Highland Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Table 29 Quality ratings and age group suitability of formal play spaces in Boat of Garten (source: The Highland Council).

Location	Age groups suitability	Equipment	Open play	Accessibility and inclusivity	Location	Environment	Other facilities	Overall score	Rating
Woodland Wheels Pump Track	Nursery Primary Secondary	4%	60%	36%	0%	100%	57%	25%	Fair
Craigie Avenue	Nursery Primary Secondary	62%	80%	21%	100%	100%	14%	59%	Good
Average scores		33%	70%	29%	50%	100%	36%	55%	Good

Quantity

- There are two formal play spaces in Boat of Garten. These are a pump track and an equipped area of play.

Age-range suitability

- Both the play areas are suitable for nursery, primary and secondary age children.

Walking catchments

- There are 147 residential properties within the five-minute walking catchment areas.
- This is 45% of the residential properties within Boat of Garten's settlement boundary.
- This is slightly lower than the average of 48% within The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park
- This is slightly lower than the average of 46% across the National Park as a whole.

It indicates a lack of accessibility to formal play space in Boat-of Garten.

Quality

- The equipped area of play rates good, which indicates that it is of a sufficient standard.



- While the pump track only rates fair, this appears to be because the scoring system is geared towards assessing equipped areas of play.

The quality of the formal play spaces in Boat of Garten is considered to be sufficient.

Informal play spaces

Boat of Garten has the following small and large open spaces suitable for informal play.

- 1 public park
- 1 playing field

It has 2 protected open spaces. In addition, there is accessible woodland both within and on the edge of the settlement. There is sufficient informal play space in Boat of Garten.



Braemar

Formal play spaces

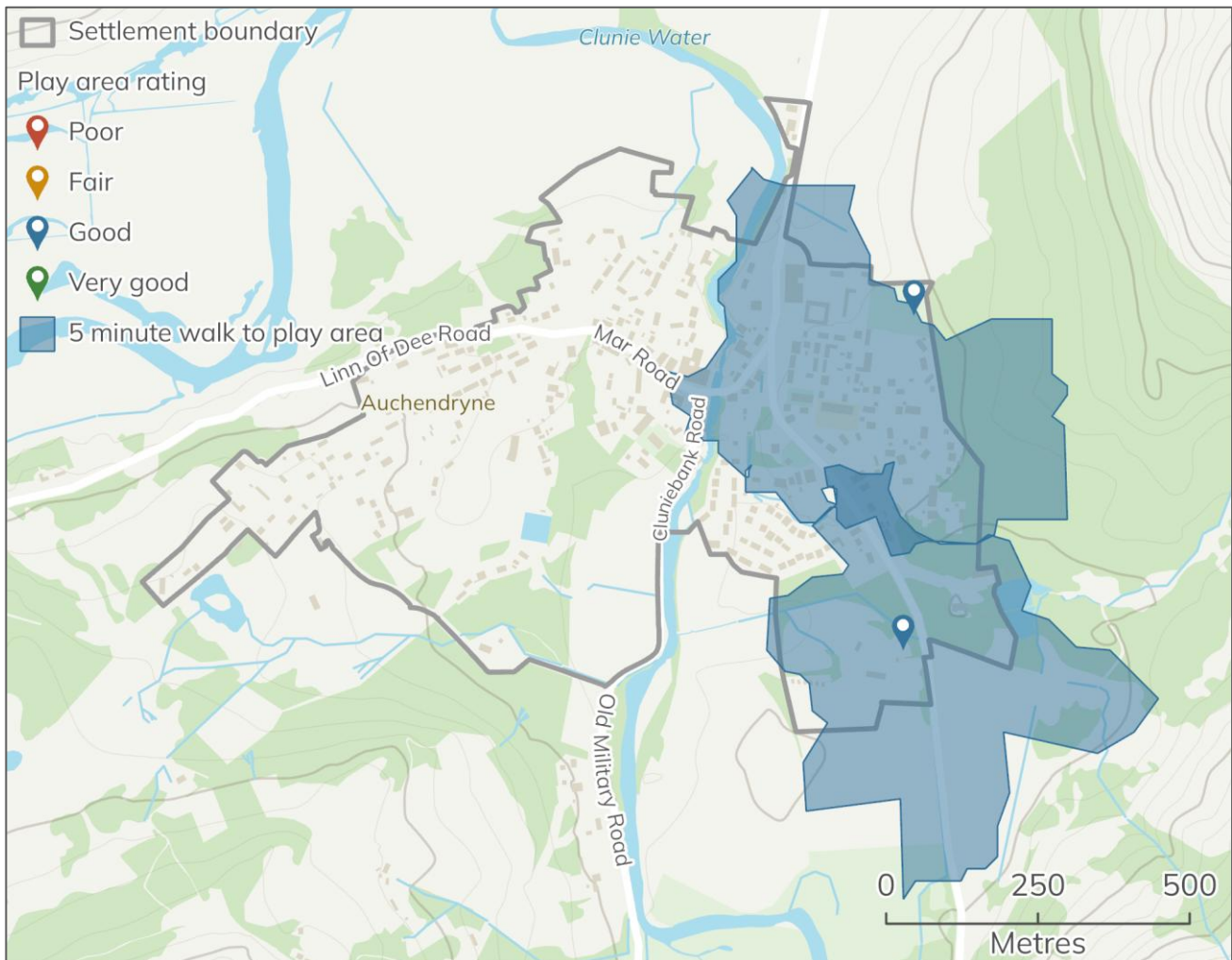


Figure 11 Location, quality rating and walking catchments of the two formal play spaces in Braemar (source: Aberdeenshire Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Table 30 Quality ratings and age group suitability of formal play spaces in Braemar (source: Aberdeenshire Council).

Site Name	Age range suitability	Barriers	Networks	Value	Appearance	Play sufficiency score (%)	Rating
Braemar Caravan Park	0 – 4 5 – 11	52%	44%	50%	75%	56%	Good
Village	0 – 4 5 – 11 12 – 15	50%	56%	78%	71%	61%	Good
Average scores		51%	50%	64%	73%	59%	Good

Quantity

- There are two formal play spaces in Braemar.

Age-range suitability

- Both of the play spaces are suitable for 0 – 4 and 5 – 11 year olds.
- One (50%) is suitable for 12 – 15 year olds. This is lower than the National Park-wide average of 56%.
- Neither of the play spaces are suitable for 16 – 17 year olds. Only Aberdeenshire Council considered suitability for this age group.

Walking catchments

- There are 100 residential properties within the five-minute walking catchment areas.
- This is 32% of the residential properties within Braemar's settlement boundary.
- This is slightly lower than the average of 35% within the Aberdeenshire Council part of the Cairngorms National Park
- This is lower than the average of 46% across the National Park as a whole.

There is insufficient walking access to formal play space in Braemar, with limited walking access in the west of the settlement.



Quality

- Both of the play spaces rate as good, and so the quality is sufficient (good or very good). This is significantly above the average across Aberdeenshire (where 47% are rated poor or fair).
- Across the National Park, 59% of formal play spaces rate good or very good.

The quality of the formal play spaces in Braemar is sufficient.

Informal play spaces

Braemar has the following small and large open spaces suitable for informal play.

- 3 amenity areas
- 1 playing field
- 1 sports ground
- 1 other sports area (curling club facility)

It has 4 protected open spaces. In addition, there is accessible woodland both within and on the edge of the settlement. There is sufficient informal play space in Braemar.



Carrbridge

Formal play spaces

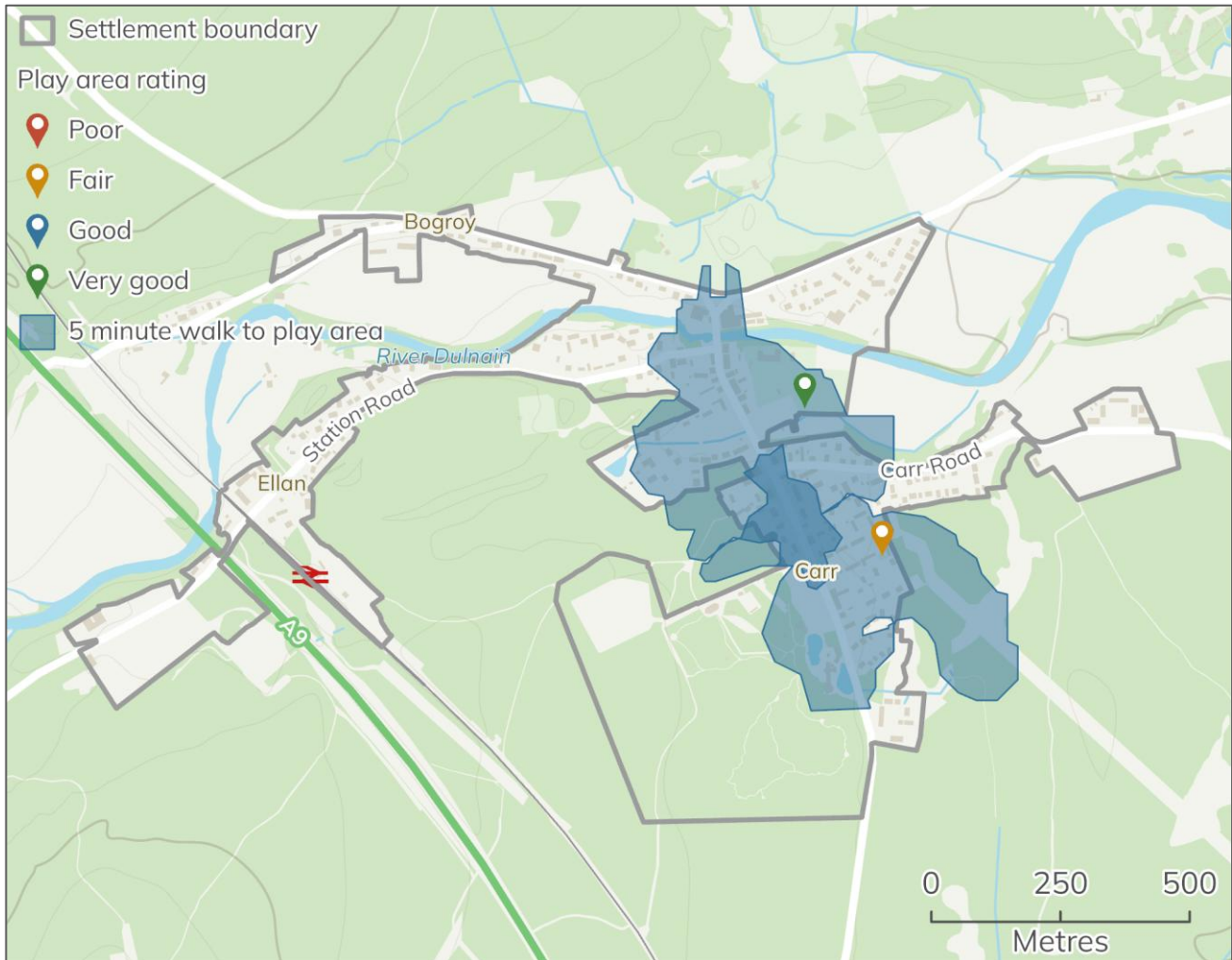


Figure 12 Location, quality rating and walking catchments of the two formal play spaces in Carrbridge (source: The Highland Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Table 31 Quality ratings and age group suitability of formal play spaces in Carrbridge (source: The Highland Council).

Location	Age groups suitability	Equipment	Open play	Accessibility and	Location	Environment	Other facilities	Overall score	Rating
Carrbridge Playing Field	Nursery Primary secondary	92%	100%	43%	100%	100%	71%	88%	Very good
Ellanwood Road	Nursery Primary	23%	0%	7%	83%	67%	0%	25%	Fair
Average scores		58%	50%	25%	92%	84%	36%	57%	Good

Quantity

- There are two equipped areas of play in Carrbridge.

Age-range suitability

- Both of the play areas are suitable for nursery and primary age children.
- One (50%) is suitable for secondary age children, compared to 56% across the National Park.

Walking catchments

- There are 146 residential properties within the five-minute walking catchment areas.
- This is 38% of the residential properties within Carrbridge's settlement boundary.
- This is lower than the average of 48% within The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park
- This is lower than the average of 46% across the National Park as a whole.

It indicates a lack of accessibility to formal play space in Carrbridge.

Quality

- The main playing field play area has the highest rating in The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park.



- The Ellanwood Road play area is a small play space, serving a local population. It has a fair rating due to its limited range of other facilities and open play opportunities.

The quality of the formal play spaces in Carrbridge is considered to be sufficient.

Informal play spaces

Carrbridge has the following small and large open spaces suitable for informal play.

- 1 public park
- 1 playing field
- 1 school ground

It has 2 protected open spaces. In addition, there is accessible woodland both within and on the edge of the settlement. There is sufficient informal play space in Carrbridge.



Cromdale

Formal play spaces

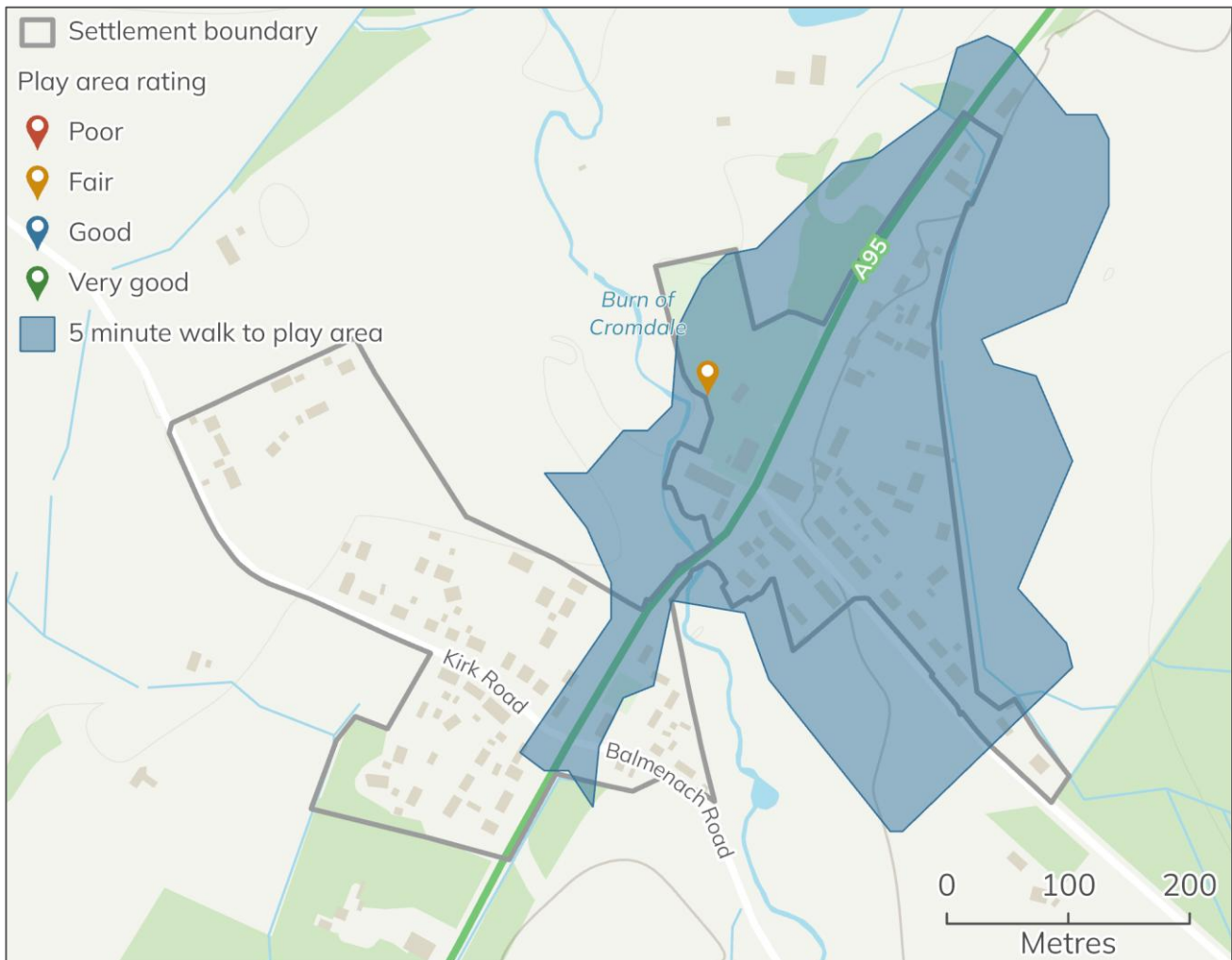


Figure 13 Location, quality rating and walking catchments of one formal play space in Cromdale (source: The Highland Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Table 32 Quality ratings and age group suitability of formal play spaces in Cromdale (source: The Highland Council).

Location	Age groups suitability	Equipment	Open play	Accessibility and inclusivity	Location	Environment	Other facilities	Overall score	Rating
Cromdale Football Field	Primary Secondary	22%	100%	7%	50%	17%	14%	29%	Fair

Quantity

- There is one equipped area of play in Cromdale.

Age-range suitability

- The play area is suitable for nursery and primary-aged children.
- It is not suitable for secondary age children.

This is an insufficiency of formal play spaces for secondary-aged children in Cromdale.

Walking catchments

- There are 46 residential properties within the five-minute walking catchment area.
- This is 42% of the residential properties within Cromdale's settlement boundary.
- This is lower than the average of 48% within The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park
- This is lower than the average of 46% across the National Park as a whole.

It indicates a lack of accessibility to formal play space in Cromdale.

Quality

- The football field play area is rated fair. It is let down by a steep slope limiting accessibility, its small size and poor condition.

The quality of the formal play space in Cromdale is not sufficient. There is potential to improve the play area on this excellent site adjacent to the playing field and pavilion.



Informal play spaces

The playing field adjacent to the play park is a great space for informal play. In addition, there is a smaller green space with picnic benches adjacent to the A93. Both are protected open spaces. There is sufficient informal play space in Carrbridge.



Dinnet

Formal play spaces

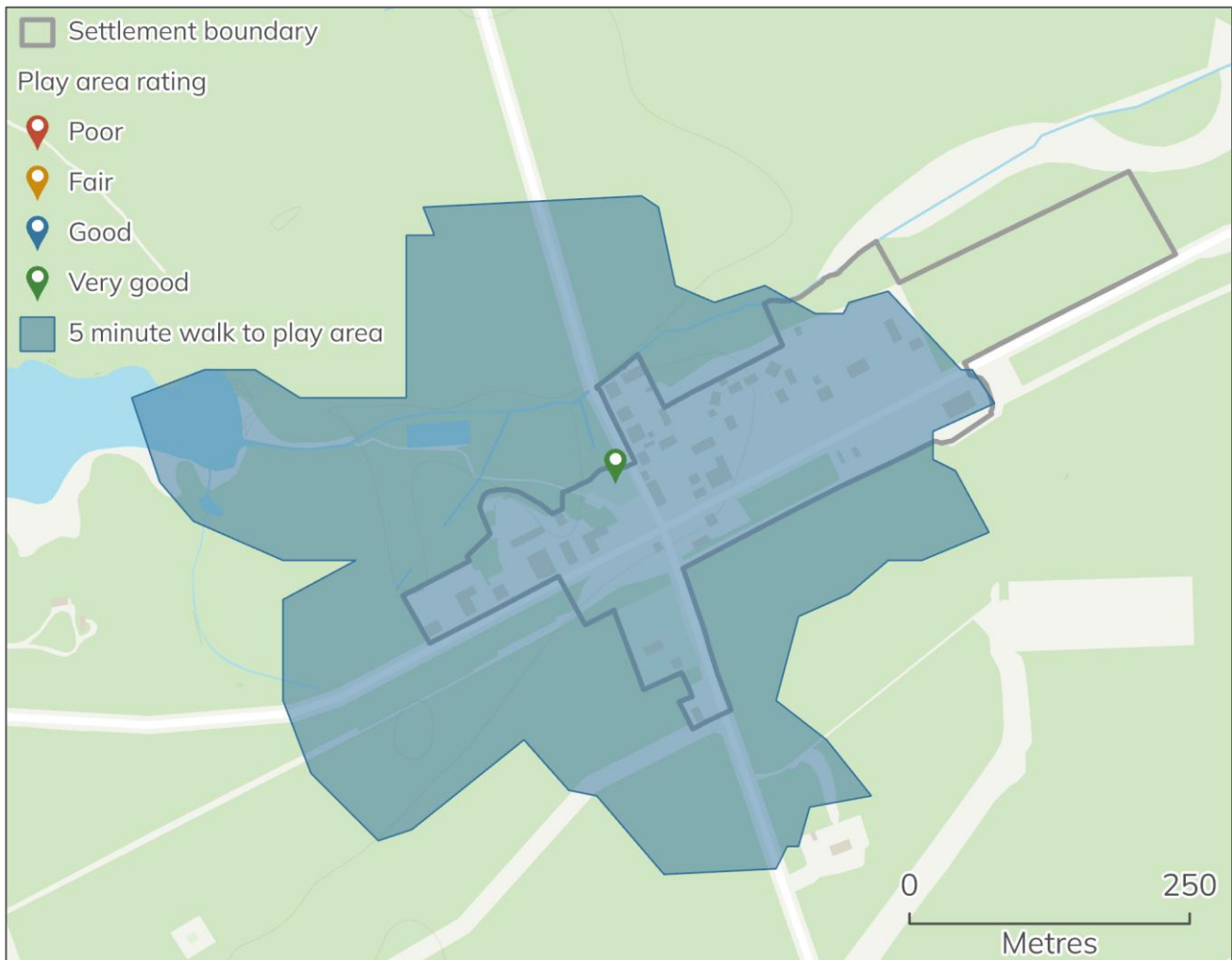


Figure 14 Location, quality rating and walking catchments of the formal play space in Dinnet (source: Aberdeenshire Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Table 33 Quality ratings and age group suitability of formal play space in Dinnet (source: Aberdeenshire Council).

Site Name	Age range suitability	Barriers	Networks	Value	Appearance	Play sufficiency score (%)	Rating
Village centre	0-4 5 - 11	67%	78%	89%	67%	73%	Very good

Quantity

- There is one formal play spaces in Dinnet.

Age-range suitability

- The play space is suitable for 0 – 4 and 5 – 11 year olds.
- The play space is not suitable for 12 – 15 year olds. The National Park-wide average is 56% of formal play spaces.
- The play space is not suitable for 16 – 17 year olds. Only Aberdeenshire Council considered suitability for this age group.

Walking catchments

- There are 33 residential properties within the five-minute walking catchment areas.
- This is 85% of the residential properties within Dinnet's settlement boundary.
- This is significantly higher than the average of 35% within the Aberdeenshire Council part of the Cairngorms National Park
- This is higher than the average of 46% across the National Park as a whole.

There is sufficient walking access to formal play space in Dinnet.

Quality

- The play space rates as very good, and so the quality is sufficient (good or very good). This is significantly above the average across Aberdeenshire (where 47% are rated poor or fair).
- Across the National Park, 59% of formal play spaces rate good or very good.



The quality of the formal play space in Dinnet is sufficient.

Informal play spaces

Dinnet has an amenity area and a public park, both of which are identified as protected open spaces in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan. In addition, there is accessible woodland both within and on the edge of the settlement. There is sufficient informal play space in Dinnet.



Dulnain Bridge

Formal play spaces

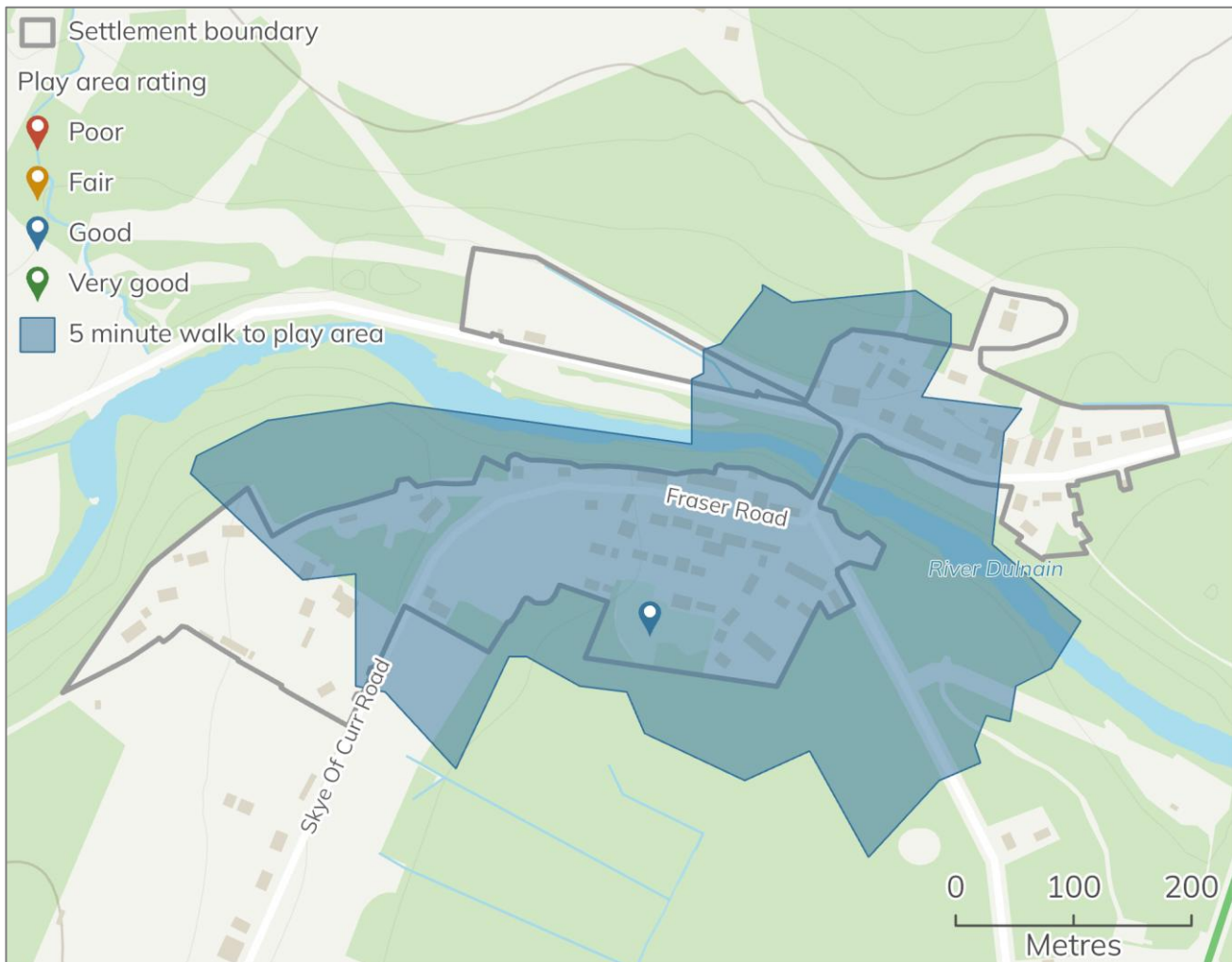


Figure 15 Location, quality rating and walking catchments of the one formal play space in Dulnain Bridge (source: The Highland Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Table 34 Quality ratings and age group suitability of formal play spaces in Dulnain Bridge (source: The Highland Council).

Location	Age group suitability	Equipment	Open play	Accessibility and inclusivity	Location	Environment	Other facilities	Overall score	Rating
School Place	Nursery Primary Secondary	85%	100%	21%	83%	67%	29%	66%	Good

Quantity

- There is one equipped area of play in Dulnain Bridge.

Age-range suitability

- The play area is suitable for nursery, primary and secondary-aged children.

Walking catchments

- There are 59 residential properties within the five-minute walking catchment area.
- This is 55% of the residential properties within Dulnain Bridge's settlement boundary.
- This is higher than the average of 48% within The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park
- This is higher than the average of 46% across the National Park as a whole.

There is sufficient accessibility to formal play space in Dulnain Bridge.

Quality

- The school place play area rates good.

The quality of the formal play space in Dulnain Bridge is sufficient.



Informal play spaces

Dalnain Bridge has a playing field which is suitable for informal play. It is a protected open space in the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan. In addition, there is accessible woodland both within and on the edge of the settlement. There is sufficient informal play space in Dalnain Bridge.



Glenlivet

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

Formal play spaces

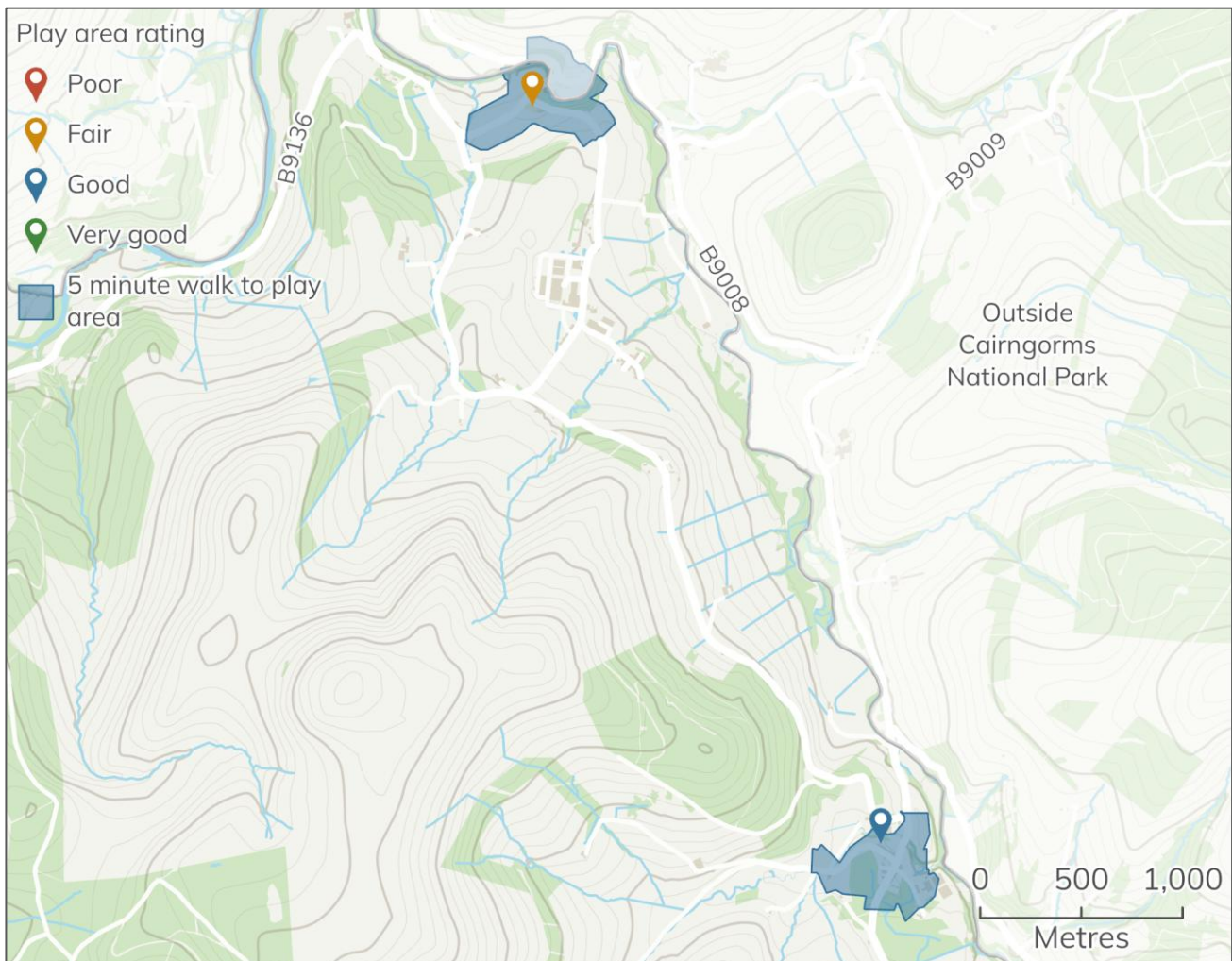


Figure 16 Location, quality rating and walking catchments of the formal play space in the Glenlivet area (source: Moray Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Table 35 Quality ratings and age group suitability of the formal play space in the Glenlivet area (source: Moray Council).

Site name	Age group suitability	Location	Design	Physical play	Creative play	Social play	Play sufficiency score (%)	Rating
Glenlivet Primary School	5 - 11	77%	88%	44%	0%	66%	64%	Reasonable
Tomnavoulin Housing	0 - 11	55%	77%	66%	66%	66%	66%	Good
Average scores		66%	83%	55%	33%	66%	65%	Good

Quantity

- There are two formal play space in the Glenlivet area.

Age-range suitability

- Both play spaces are suitable for 5 – 11 year olds.
- Only the Tomnavoulin play space is suitable for 0 – 4 year olds.
- This is common in the Moray Council area, with few play areas having equipment or facilities for older children and teenagers. 57% of formal play spaces across the National Park are suitable for secondary age children.

There is not sufficient age-range suitability in the Glenlivet area, but this is not unexpected in a small dispersed rural settlement.

Walking catchments

- Walking catchments have not been calculated for the dispersed community of Glenlivet.
- The Tomnavoulin play area provides a local facility for neighbouring houses, while the Glenlivet primary school play area provides a facility after school and at weekends. Only one property lies within the walking catchment.



Quality

- One (50%) of the play spaces (Tomnavoulin) rates as good. 43% of formal play areas across Moray Council are rated good or very good).
- Across the National Park, 59% of formal play spaces rate good or very good.

The quality of the formal play spaces in the Glenlivet area is sufficient. The quality could be improved with additional equipment and greater opportunities for creative play.

Informal play spaces

Like many of Moray's rural areas, there are many and varied attractive natural spaces in the area that mean that most households have good access to informal play opportunities. There is sufficient informal play space in the Glenlivet area.



Grantown-on-Spey

Formal play spaces

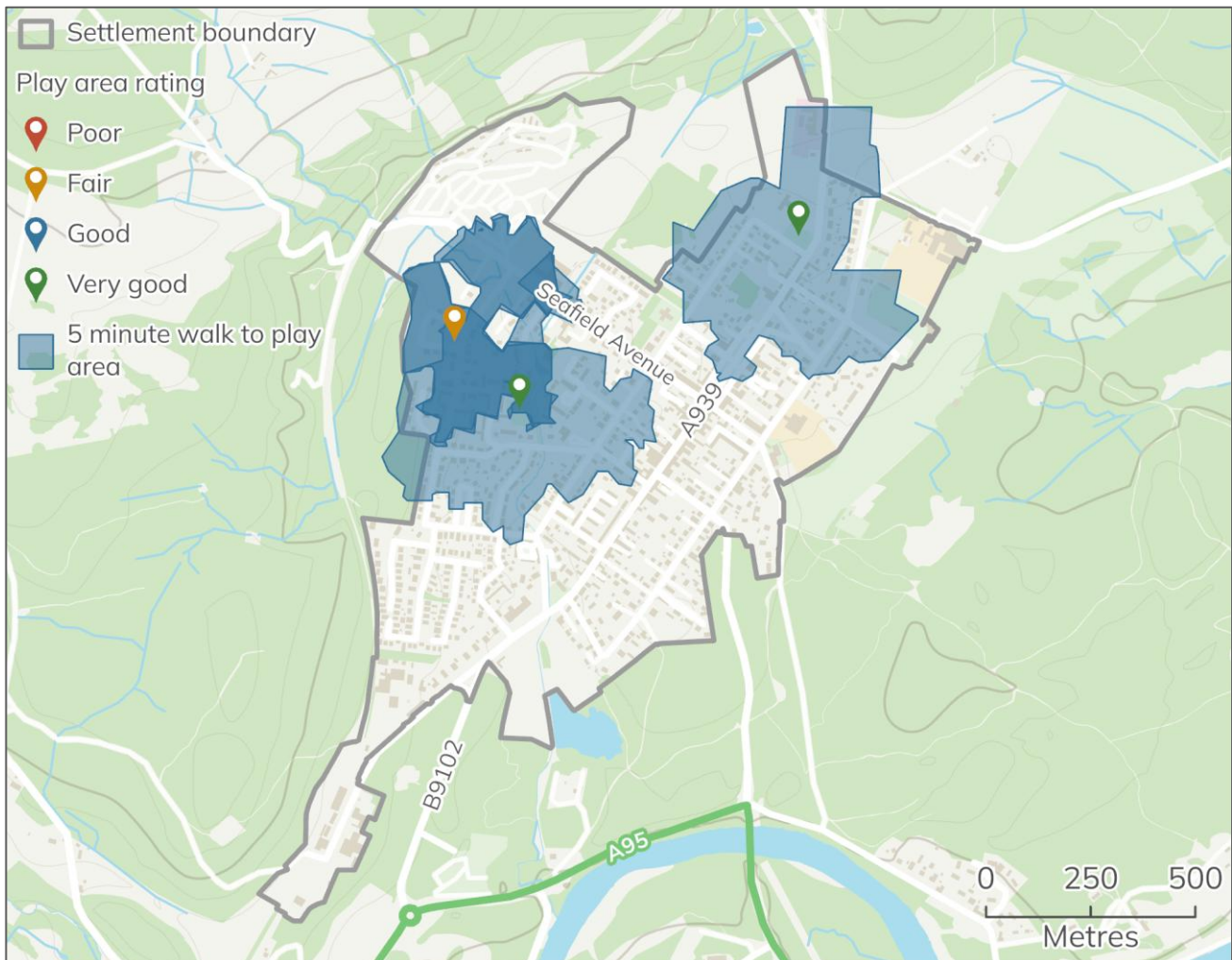


Figure 17 Location, quality rating and walking catchments of the three formal play spaces in Grantown-on-Spey (source: The Highland Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Table 36 Quality ratings and age group suitability of formal play spaces in Granttown-on-Spey (source: The Highland Council).

Location	Age groups suitability	Equipment	Open play	Accessibility and inclusivity	Location	Environment	Other facilities	Overall score	Rating
Dulicht Court	Nursery	19%	20%	29%	50%	100%	14%	36%	Fair
Dulaig Court	Nursery Primary Secondary	100%	100%	57%	67%	100%	43%	84%	Very Good
Mossie Road	Nursery Primary Secondary	81%	80%	36%	83%	100%	43%	75%	Very good
Average scores		67%	67%	41%	67%	100%	33%	65%	Good

Quantity

- There are three equipped areas of play in Granttown-on-Spey.
- Granttown-on-Spey has a population of 2,328 people. This means that there is 1 equipped area of play per 776 people in Granttown-on-Spey.

Age-range suitability

- All three play areas are suitable for nursery age children. This compares to 87% across the National Park.
- Two out of three are also suitable for primary and secondary age children.
- 87% across the National Park are suitable for primary aged children and 56% are suitable for secondary age children.

There is sufficient age-range suitability in Granttown-on-Spey.

Walking catchments

- There are 528 residential properties within the five-minute walking catchment areas.
- This is 42% of the residential properties within Granttown-on-Spey's settlement boundary.



- This is lower than the average of 48% within The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park and lower than the average of 46% across the National Park as a whole.

This and the map in Figure 17 indicate that there is insufficient access to formal play space in the south and south-east of Grantown-on-Spey.

Quality

- The Dulaig Court play area rates very good and provides a wider range of play opportunities for all ages.
- The Mossie Road play area also rates very good, meaning two thirds of the formal play spaces in Grantown-on-Spey are of sufficient quality, higher than the average across the National Park.
- While the Dulicht Court play area only rates as fair quality, this is partly because it is a small area which only provides equipment for nursery age children.

Overall, the quality of the formal play spaces in Grantown-on-Spey is considered to be sufficient.

Informal play spaces

Grantown-on-Spey has the following small and large open spaces suitable for informal play.

- 1 public park
- 1 school ground
- 2 playing fields

It has 5 protected open spaces. In addition, there is accessible woodland both within and on the edge of the settlement. There is sufficient informal play space in Grantown-on-Spey.



Kincraig

Formal play spaces

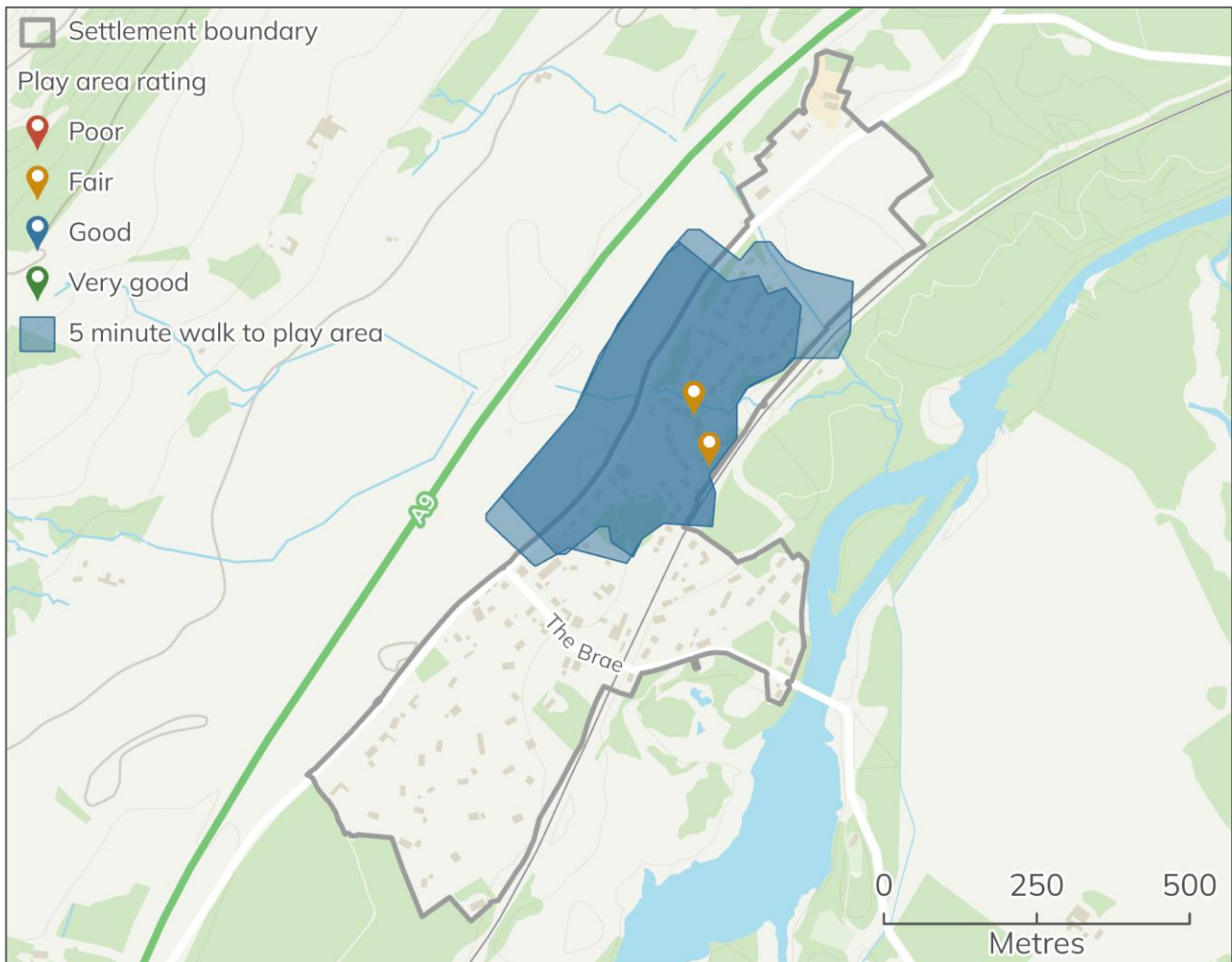


Figure 18 Location, quality rating and walking catchments of the two formal play spaces in Kincraig (source: The Highland Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Table 37 Quality ratings and age group suitability of formal play spaces in Kincaig (source: The Highland Council).

Location	Age groups suitability	Equipment	Open play	Accessibility and inclusivity	Location	Environment	Other facilities	Overall score	Rating
Macrae Crescent No.1	Nursery	27%	80%	14%	50%	100%	29%	39%	Fair
Macrae Crescent No.2	Nursery Primary	12%	80%	14%	50%	100%	0%	30%	Fair
Average scores		20%	80%	14%	50%	100%	15%	35%	Fair

Quantity

- There are two equipped areas of play in Kincaig.

Age-range suitability

- Both play areas are suitable for nursery age children. This compares to 87% across the National Park.
- One (50%) is suitable for primary age children, compared with 87% across the National Park.
- None of the formal areas of play are suitable for secondary aged children, compared to 56% across the National Park.

There is not sufficient age-range suitability in Kincaig.

Walking catchments

- There are 80 residential properties within the five-minute walking catchment areas.
- This is 41% of the residential properties within Kincaig's settlement boundary.
- This is lower than the average of 48% within The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park and lower than the average of 46% across the National Park as a whole.

This and map in Figure 18 indicate that there is insufficient access to formal play space in the south of Kincaig.



Quality

- Both equipped areas of play rate as fair. This means there is not a formal play area of sufficient quality in Kincaig.

The quality of the formal play spaces in Kincaig are not considered to be sufficient.

Informal play spaces

Kincaig has open space and woodland suitable for informal play within its settlement boundary.

The woodland is a protected open space in the adopted Local Development Plan 2021. In addition, there is accessible woodland both within and on the edge of the settlement. There is sufficient informal play space in Kincaig.



Kingussie

Formal play spaces

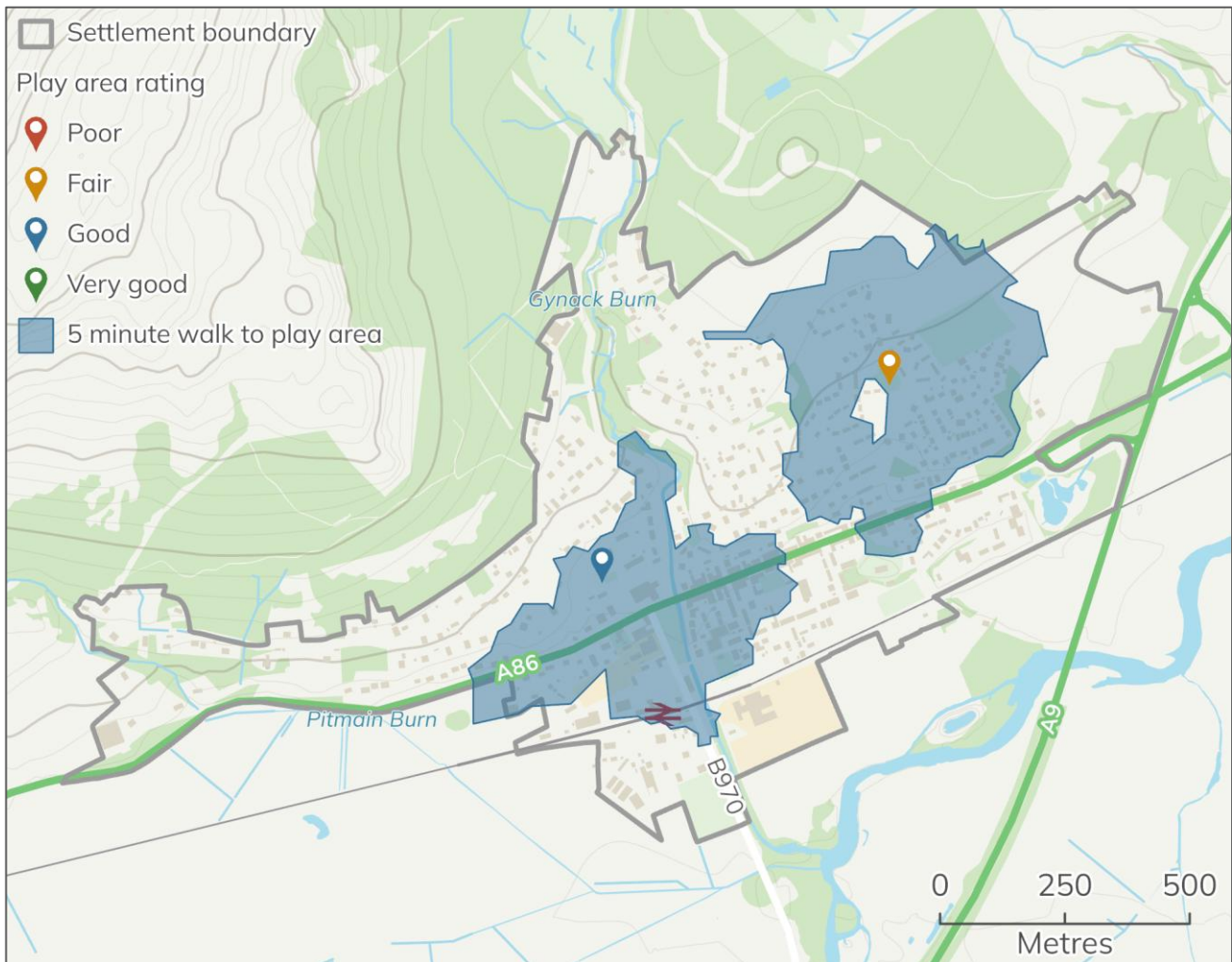


Figure 19 Location, quality rating and walking catchments of the two formal play spaces in Kingussie (source: The Highland Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Table 38 Quality ratings and age group suitability of formal play spaces in Kingussie (source: The Highland Council).

Site name	Age groups suitability	Equipment	Open play	Accessibility and	Location	Environment	Other facilities	Overall score	Rating
Ardvonie Park	Nursery Primary Secondary	77%	80%	0%	100%	83%	57%	64%	Good
Campbell Crescent	Nursery Primary Secondary	46%	60%	0%	50%	50%	14%	36%	Fair
Average scores		62%	70%	0%	75%	67%	36%	50%	Good

Quantity

- There are two equipped areas of play in Kingussie.

Age-range suitability

- Both play areas are suitable for nursery, primary and secondary age children.

There is sufficient age-range suitability at the formal play spaces in Kingussie.

Walking catchments

- There are 382 residential properties within the five-minute walking catchment areas.
- This is 51% of the residential properties within Kingussie's settlement boundary.
- This is slightly higher than the average of 48% within The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park and higher than the average of 46% across the National Park as a whole.

However, this and map in Figure 19, indicate that there is insufficient access to formal play space in the west and central part of Kingussie.



Quality

- Ardvonie Park play area rates good and provides a broad range of equipment within a wider park, providing opportunity for natural and creative play.
- Campbell Crescent play area is a more local facility and rates fair.
- Overall, the quality of the equipped play areas in Kingussie rates good and the quality of the formal play spaces is considered to be sufficient.
- However, both play areas rate poor for their accessibility for people with mobility challenges. This is because of their surface material (bark) and equipment. Both could be improved.

Informal play spaces

Kingussie has open space and woodland suitable for informal play within its settlement boundary. It has:

- 2 public parks or gardens
- 3 playing fields
- 1 school ground

There are 10 protected open spaces in the adopted Local Development Plan 2021, including in the west and central parts of Kingussie where access to formal play spaces is insufficient. In addition, there is accessible woodland both within and on the edge of the settlement. There is sufficient informal play space in Kingussie.



Laggan

Formal play spaces

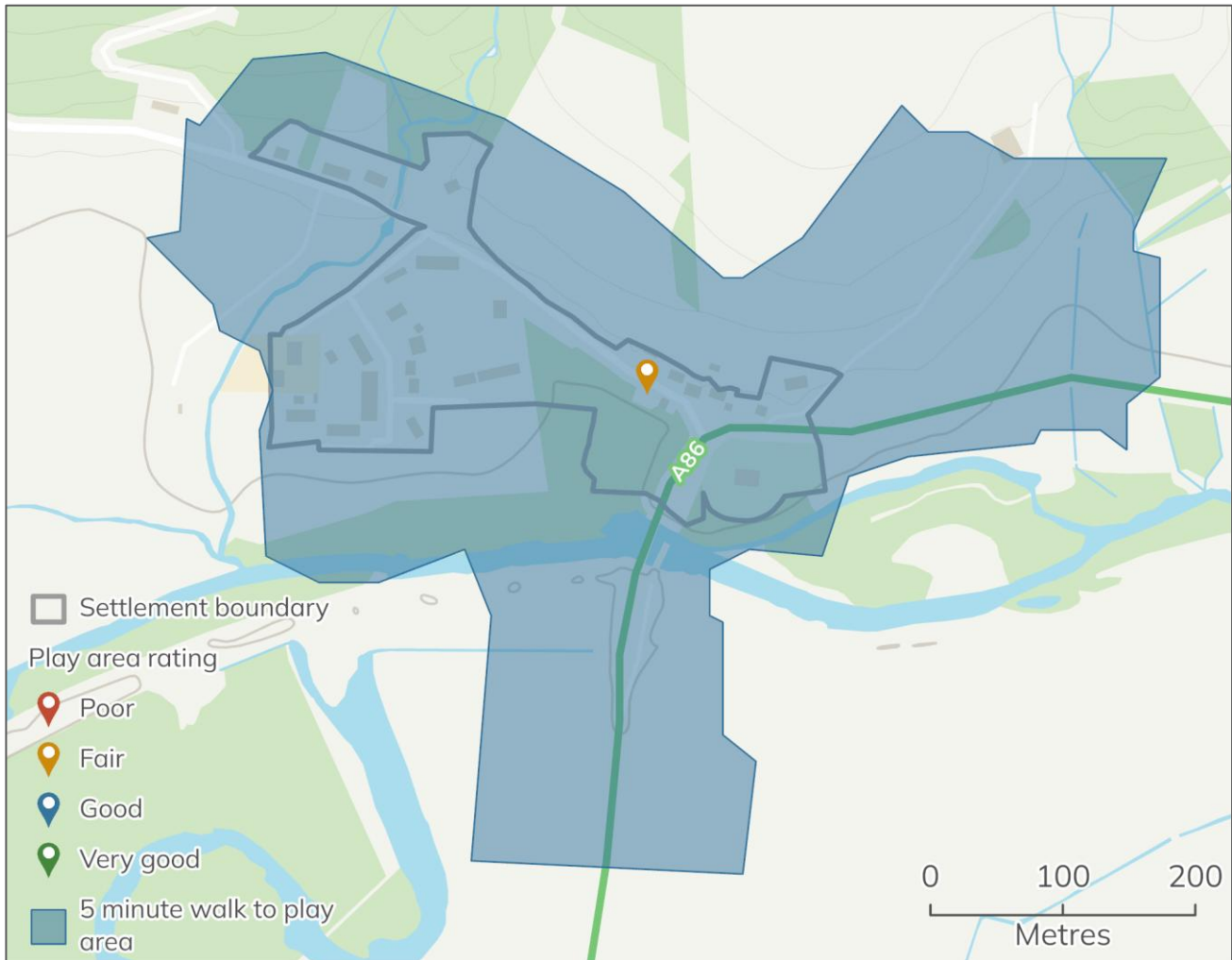


Figure 20 Location, quality rating and walking catchments of the formal play space in Laggan (source: The Highland Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Table 39 Quality ratings and age group suitability of the formal play space in Laggan (source: The Highland Council).

Site name	Age groups suitability	Equipment	Open play	Accessibility and inclusivity	Location	Environment	Other facilities	Overall score	Rating
Laggan	Nursery Primary Secondary	65%	60%	7%	67%	100%	43%	57%	Good

Quantity

- There is one equipped area of play in Laggan.

Age-range suitability

- The play area is suitable for nursery, primary and secondary age children.

There is sufficient age-range suitability at the formal play space in Laggan.

Walking catchments

- There are 28 residential properties within the five-minute walking catchment area.
- This is 85% of the residential properties within Laggan's settlement boundary.
- This is higher than the average of 48% within The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park and higher than the average of 46% across the National Park as a whole.

There is sufficient access to a formal play space in Laggan.

Quality

- The formal play area rates as good.

The quality of the formal play space is sufficient, however it is noted that accessibility and inclusivity of the park could be significantly improved.



Informal play spaces

The formal play space is adjacent to a public park and within an area of woodland, providing opportunity for informal play. There is sufficient informal play space in Laggan.



Nethy Bridge

Formal play spaces

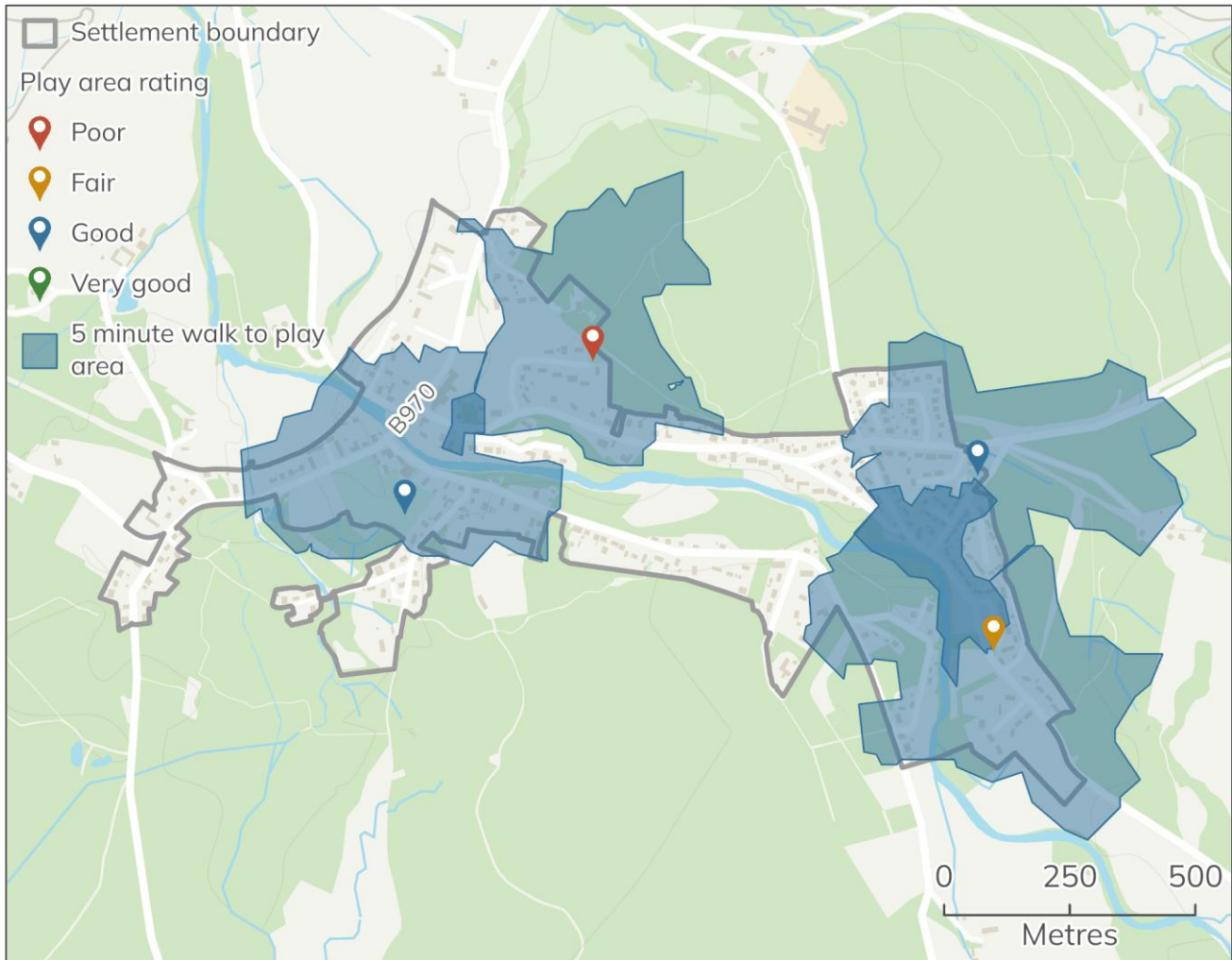


Figure 21 Location, quality rating and walking catchments of the four formal play spaces in Nethy Bridge (source: The Highland Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Table 40 Quality ratings and age group suitability of the formal play spaces in Nethy Bridge (source: The Highland Council).

Site name	Age groups suitability	Equipment	Open play	Accessibility and inclusivity	Location	Environment	Other facilities	Overall score	Rating
Braes of Balnagowan	Nursery	8%	20%	14%	17%	100%	0%	18%	Poor
Craigmore Crescent	Nursery Primary	38%	80%	43%	83%	67%	29%	50%	Good
Lynstock Crescent South	Nursery Primary	23%	20%	29%	83%	33%	14%	32%	Fair
Nethy Bridge Football Field	Nursery Primary Secondary	62%	80%	29%	100%	100%	29%	63%	Good
Average scores		33%	50%	29%	71%	75%	18%	41%	Fair

Quantity

- There are four equipped areas of play in Nethy Bridge.
- With a population of 578 people, this means there is a formal play space for every 144 people. This is significantly higher than any other census settlement in the National Park.

Age-range suitability

- All four play areas are suitable for nursery age children. This compares to 87% across the National Park.
- Three out of four (75%) are also suitable for primary age children. This compares to 87% across the National Park.
- One (Nethy Bridge playing field play area) is suitable for secondary age children. This compares to 56% across the National Park.

There is not sufficient age-range suitability in Nethy Bridge.



Walking catchments

- There are 240 residential properties within the five-minute walking catchment area.
- This is 61% of the residential properties within Nethy Bridge's settlement boundary.
- This is higher than the average of 48% within The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park and higher than the average of 46% across the National Park as a whole.

There is sufficient access to a formal play space in Nethy Bridge.

Quality

- Two (50%) of the Nethy Bridge playing field play area rates as good.
- On average, the formal play spaces rates as fair.

The overall quality of the formal play spaces is insufficient and the Braes of Balnagowan and Lynstock Crescent facilities could be improved in their current locations.

Informal play spaces

Nethy Bridge has sufficient informal play spaces. It has a playing field and eight protected open spaces in the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021. It also has very good access to woodland with a network of accessible paths.



Newtonmore

Formal play spaces

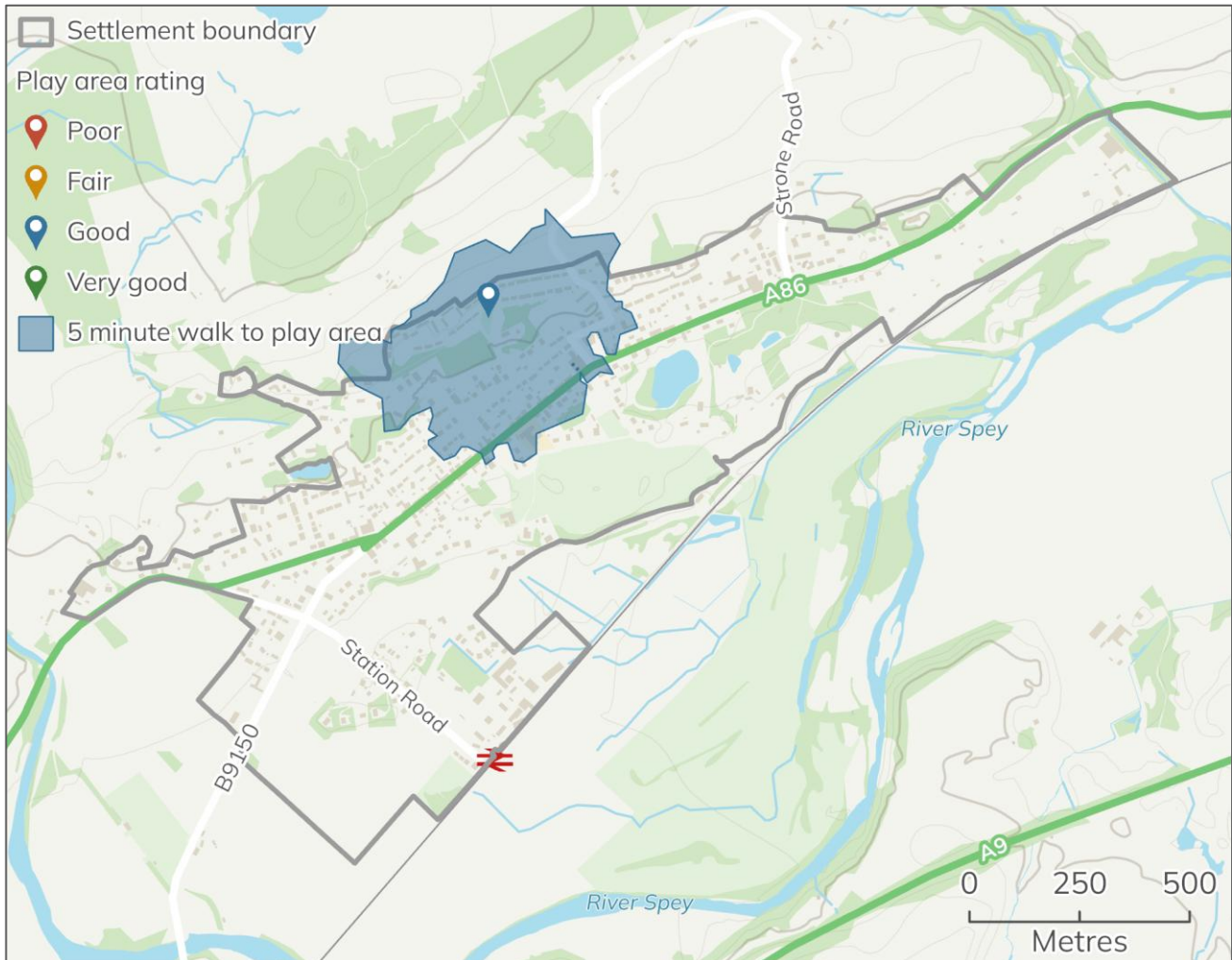


Figure 22 Location, quality rating and walking catchments of the formal play space in Newtonmore (source: The Highland Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Table 41 Quality ratings and age group suitability of the formal play space in Newtonmore (source: The Highland Council).

Site name	Age groups suitability	Equipment	Activities	Accessibility	Location	Environment	Facilities	Overall score	Rating
Clune Terrace	Nursery Primary Secondary	81%	80%	57%	67%	100%	14%	71%	Good

Quantity

- There is one equipped area of play in Newtonmore.

This is one formal play space for a population of 1,115 people. This is significantly more people, per park, than any other census settlement in the National Park, indicating that there is not sufficient quantity of formal play spaces in Newtonmore.

Age-range suitability

- The play space is suitable for nursery, primary and secondary aged children, with equipment enabling all age inclusive play.

There is sufficient age-range suitability in Newtonmore.

Walking catchments

- There are 205 residential properties within the five-minute walking catchment area.
- This is 32% of the residential properties within Newtonmore's settlement boundary.
- This is significantly lower than the average of 48% within The Highland Council part of the Cairngorms National Park and lower than the average of 46% across the National Park as a whole.
- The formal play space is located in the northern part of the settlement, limiting access from the west, east and south.

There is not sufficient access to a formal play space in Newtonmore.



Quality

- The quality of the Clune Terrace play park is good.
- It provides good accessibility for those with mobility challenges and sits within a very good environment, within a park.

Informal play spaces

Newtonmore has sufficient informal play spaces. It has two public parks and a playing field. It has five protected open spaces in the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021.



Strathdon

Formal play spaces

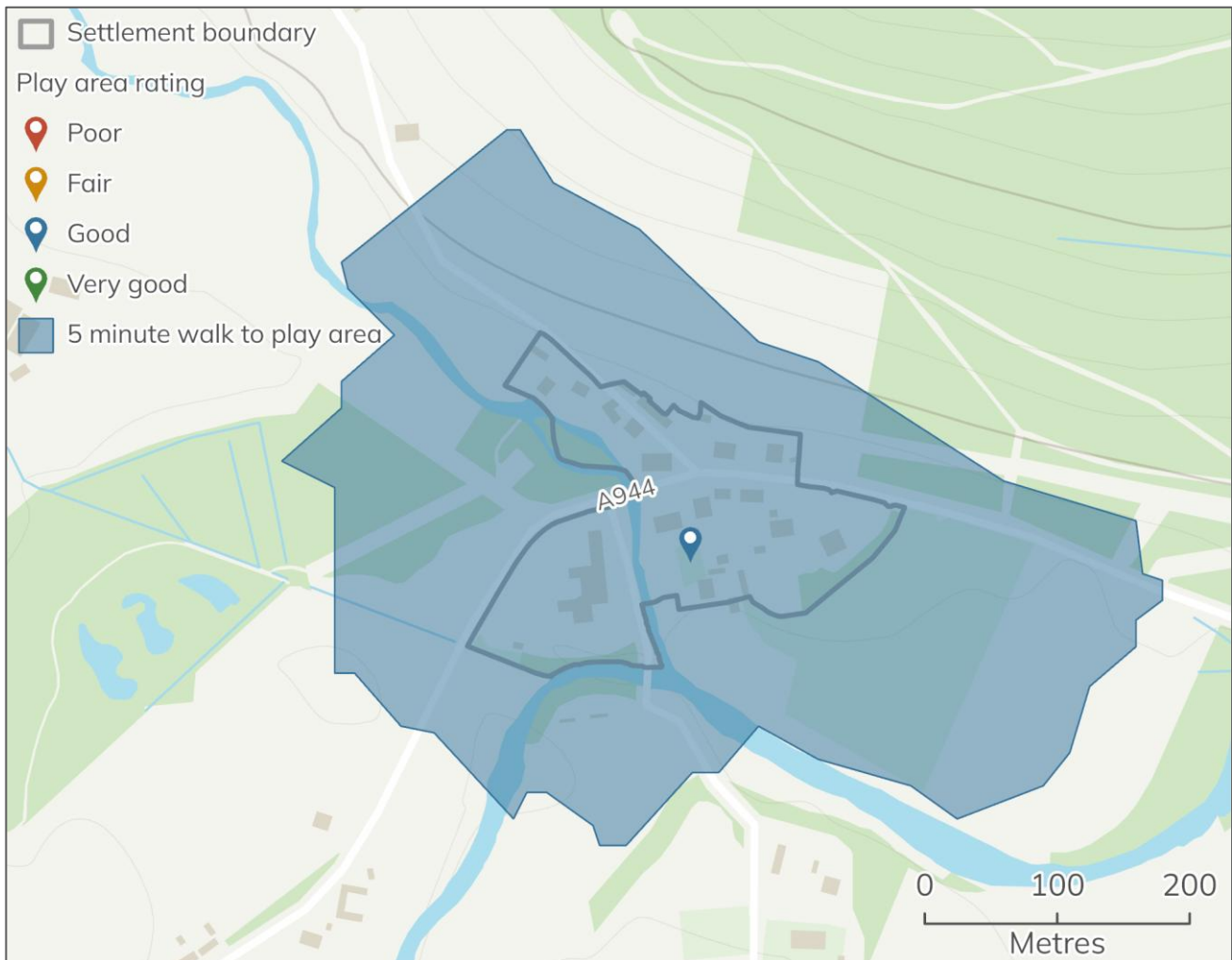


Figure 23 Location, quality rating and walking catchments of the formal play space in Strathdon (source: Aberdeenshire Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Table 42 Quality ratings and age group suitability of formal play space in Strathdon (source: Aberdeenshire Council).

Site Name	Age range suitability	Barriers	Networks	Value	Appearance	Play sufficiency score (%)	Rating
Village centre	0 – 4 5 – 11 12 - 15	62%	56%	78%	67%	65%	Good

Quantity

- There is one formal play spaces in Strathdon.

Age-range suitability

- The play space is suitable for 0 – 4, 5 – 11 and 12 – 15 year olds.
- The play space is not suitable for 16 – 17 year olds. Only Aberdeenshire Council considered suitability for this age group.

Walking catchments

- There are 21 residential properties within the five-minute walking catchment areas.
- This is 41% of the residential properties within Strathdon’s settlement boundary.
- This is higher than the average of 35% within the Aberdeenshire Council part of the Cairngorms National Park
- This is lower than the average of 46% across the National Park as a whole.

There is not sufficient walking access to formal play space in Strathdon.

Quality

- The play space rates as good, and so the quality is sufficient (good or very good). This is significantly above the average across Aberdeenshire (where 47% are rated poor or fair).
- Across the National Park, 59% of formal play spaces rate good or very good.



The quality of the formal play space in Strathdon is sufficient.

Informal play spaces

Strathdon has an amenity area and a sports area. There is sufficient informal play space in Strathdon.



Tomintoul

Formal play spaces

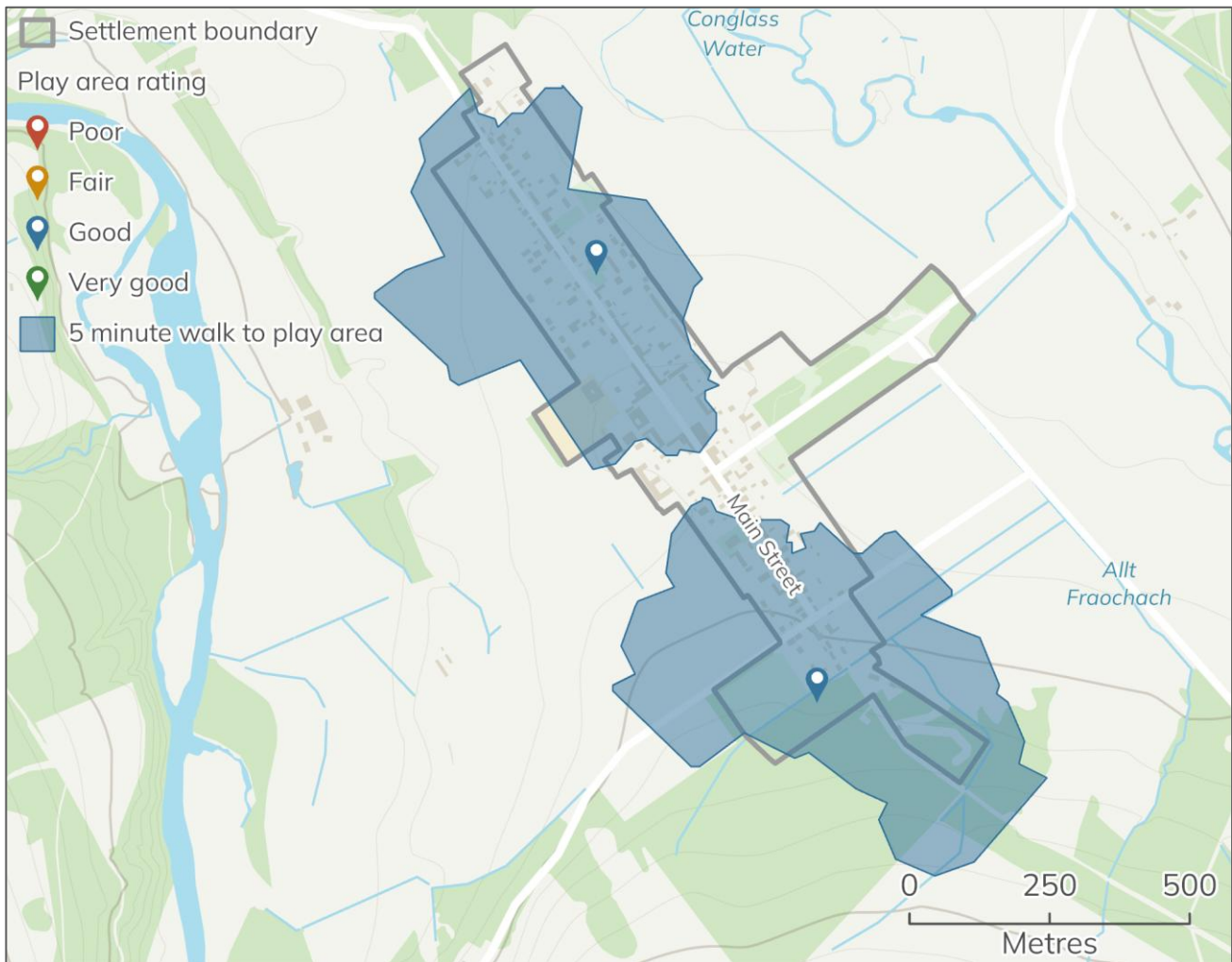


Figure 24 Location, quality rating and walking catchments of the two formal play spaces in Tomintoul (source: Moray Council). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Table 43 Quality ratings and age group suitability of the formal play space in Tomintoul (source: Moray Council).

Site name	Age group suitability	Location	Design	Physical play	Creative play	Social play	Play sufficiency score (%)	Rating
Play area	0 - 11	77%	77%	66%	0%	66%	66%	Good
Adventure playground	0 - 11	55%	77%	77%	66%	66%	70%	Good
Average scores		66%	77%	72%	33%	66%	68%	Good

Quantity

- There are two formal play spaces in Tomintoul.

Age-range suitability

- The play spaces are suitable for 0 – 11 year olds.
- This is common in the Moray Council area, with few play areas having equipment or facilities for older children and teenagers. 56% of formal play spaces across the National Park are suitable for secondary age children.

There is not sufficient age-range suitability in Tomintoul.

Walking catchments

- There are 169 residential properties within the five-minute walking catchment areas.
- This is 79% of the residential properties within Tomintoul's settlement boundary.
- This is higher than the average of 68% within the Moray Council part of the Cairngorms National Park
- This is higher than the average of 46% across the National Park as a whole.

There is sufficient walking access to formal play space in Tomintoul.

Quality

- The play spaces rate as good, and so the quality is sufficient (good or very good). This is significantly above the average across Moray (where 43% are rated good or very good).



- Across the National Park, 59% of formal play spaces rate good or very good.

The quality of the formal play spaces in Tomintoul are sufficient.

Informal play spaces

Tomintoul has a public park, two playing fields and other open amenity areas and woodland. There are six protected open spaces identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021. There is sufficient informal play space in Tomintoul.