



Topic: Play, recreation and sport

Engagement version – September 2025

Requirements addressed in this section

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

Section	Requirement
Section 3G	A planning authority is to prepare and publish an open space strategy. However, Section 3G(6) states that a national park authority is not a planning authority for the purposes of this section.
Section 15(5)(c)	the size, composition, health and distribution of the population of the district.
Section 15(5)(a)	the principal physical, cultural, economic, social, built heritage and environmental characteristics of the district.
Section 16(2)(b)	Have regard to in preparing a local development plan any open space strategy published under section 3G of the Act. ¹
Section 16D(1)	A planning authority must assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in its area for children in preparing an evidence report.
Section 264A	In the exercise, with respect to any land in a National Park, of any power under the planning Acts, special attention shall be paid to the desirability of exercising the power consistently with the adopted National Park Plan.

Links to evidence

- Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2003/2/contents>
- National Performance Framework
<https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/>

¹ As specified by paragraph (2)(e)(x) of Regulation 9 of The Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023.



- National Planning Framework 4
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/documents/>
- Local Development Planning Guidance 2023
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/local-development-planning-guidance/documents/>
- Play vision statement and action plan 2025 to 2030 2025
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-play-vision-statement-action-plan-2025-2030/pages/1/>
- Progress Review of Scotland's Play Strategy 2021
https://www.playscotland.org/resources/print/Play-Scotland-Play-Strategy-Review-Play-in-Covid-2021.pdf?plsctl_id=20943
- Play Strategy for Scotland: Our Action Plan 2013
https://www.playscotland.org/resources/print/Scotland-Play-Strategy-Action-Plan.pdf?plsctl_id=18546
- Physical Activity for Health: Scotland's National Framework 2024
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/physical-activity-health-framework/>
- A More Active Scotland: Scotland's Physical Activity Delivery Plan 2018
<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2018/07/active-scotland-delivery-plan/documents/00537494-pdf/00537494-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/00537494.pdf>
- SportScotland Sports Facilities dataset (2024)
https://data.spatialhub.scot/dataset/sports_facilities-unknown
- Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Cairngorms-National-Park-Partnership-Plan-full-version-FINAL.pdf>
- Aviemore, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Action Plan 2024
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Aviemore-Rothiemurchus-Glenmore-Community-Action-Plan-2024.pdf>



- Ballater and Crathie Community Action Plan 2023
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Ballater-Crathie-CAP-2023-Final.pdf>
- Blair Atholl and Struan Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Blair-Atholl-Struan-Community-Action-Plan-2023-final.pdf>
- Boat of Garten Action Plan: Looking to 2030
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Boat-of-Garten-Community-Action-Plan-2025.pdf>
- Braemar Community Action Plan 2017
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/2017-BraemarAction-Plan.pdf>
- Carrbridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Carrbridge-Community-Action-Plan-2022.pdf>
- Cromdale and Advie Community Action Plan 2013
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/2013CromdaleAdvieActionPlan.pdf>
- Dalwhinnie Community Action Plan: Looking forward to 2030
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/DalwhinnieCAP2023Report.pdf>
- Dulnain Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Dulnain-Bridge-Community-Action-Plan-2024-1-2.pdf>
- Grantown-on-Spey Community Action Plan 2016
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/160803-GrantownIconicPlan.pdf>
- Kincaig and locality Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Kincaig-and-locality-Community-Action-Plan-2024.pdf>
- Kingussie Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Kingussie-Community-Action-Plan-2025.pdf>



- Laggan Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Laggan-Community-Action-Plan-2022.pdf>
- Mount Blair Community Action Plan 2013 – 2018
https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/1013_18-Mountblair-and-Glenshee-Action-Plan.pdf
- Nethy Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Nethy-Bridge-Community-Action-Plan-2023.pdf>
- Newtonmore Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/Newtonmore-Community-Action-Plan-2022.pdf>
- Strathdon Community Action Plan 2016
<https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/2016-Strathdon-Action-Plan.pdf>

Regional assessments, strategies and plans

- Draft Aberdeenshire Open Space Audit 2024
<https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/30861/widgets/96809/documents/62058>
- Draft Aberdeenshire Play Sufficiency Assessment 2024
<https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/30861/widgets/96809/documents/62059>
- Live Life Aberdeenshire Pitch and Outdoor Physical Activity Space Strategy 2022
<https://aberdeenshire.moderngov.co.uk/Data/Aberdeenshire%20Council/20220113/Agenda/09%20Pitch%20&%20Outdoor%20Space%20Strategy.pdf>
- The Moray Play Sufficiency Assessment 2023
<https://moray.cmis.uk.com/moray/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=Mr4%2BEusE9wOG%2Fglmz67gy63CDDXpUxcTydhC0ChnGdBexWFzssZRs w%3D%3D&rUzwRPf%2BZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3D%3D=pwRE6AGJFLDNih225F5QM aQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2FLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3D%3D&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IX nlg%3D%3D=hFfIUdN3100%3D&kCx1AnS9%2FpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3D%3D=hFfIU dN3100%3D&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2BAJvYtyA%3D%3D=ctNJFf55vVA%3D&FgPIIEJYI otS%2BYGoBi5oIA%3D%3D=NHdURQburHA%3D&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jysOJqFvmyB7>



X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3D&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3D&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3D

- Moray Community Planning Partnership Physical Activity, Sport and Health Strategy 2023
<https://www.sportinmoray.co.uk/mcsh/images/media/D-01271-Physical-Activity-Sport-and-Health-Strategy-web.pdf>
- Perth and Kinross (Draft) Play Sufficiency Assessment 2025
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/806623cfbab74e18b23e158dea2631f9>
- Perth and Kinross Physical Activity and Sports Strategy 2023 – 2028
https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/51817/Physical-Activity-and-Sports-Strategy-2023-2028/pdf/Physical_Activity_and_Sports_Strategy_4.pdf?m=1704985726897

Summary of Evidence

Policy Context

National Performance Framework

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

The National Outcome for Communities sets out the following vision:

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

The National Outcome for Environment sets out the following vision:

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

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



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

The National Outcome for Health sets out the following vision:

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

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

National Planning Framework 4

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

The national spatial strategy (page 11) states that:

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

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

Local development plans are required, under this policy, to identify sites for sports, play and outdoor recreation for all age groups. This process needs to be based on an understanding of community needs and demand and informed by the planning



authority's Play Sufficiency Assessment and Open Space Strategy². These identified sites can be incorporated as part of enhancing and expanding blue and green infrastructure, taking account of relevant agencies' plans or policy frameworks.

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

Policy 21 aims to achieve the following outcomes:

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

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

- Existing facilities are protected - proposals resulting in the loss of outdoor sports facilities or play provision must demonstrate no ongoing demand or provide better quality replacements.
- New, replacement and improved facilities – there is support for new or improved play and sport facilities, ensuring they are well-designed, accessible, and inclusive.
- Opportunities for informal and incidental play are maximised – development proposals likely to be occupied by children and young people should incorporate well-designed provision for play, recreation and relaxation and streets and public realm that are inclusive and enable safe, independent play.
- Temporary Use of Land - there is ongoing support for temporary or informal play spaces on unused or underused land.

² Under Section 3G(6) of Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, the Cairngorms National Park Authority is not required to prepare and publish an Open Space Strategy. This evidence paper refers to Open Space Strategies where they have been published by the National Park's five constituent authorities.



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

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

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

Sustainable Places

Policy 1 Tackling the climate and nature crisis

Policy 2 Climate mitigation and adaptation

Policy 3 Biodiversity

Policy 4 Natural places

Policy 6 Forestry, woodland and trees

Policy 7 Historic assets and places

Policy 9 Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings

Policy 13 Sustainable transport

Liveable Places

Policy 14 Design, quality and place

Policy 15 Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Policy 16 Quality homes

Policy 17 Rural homes

Policy 18 Infrastructure first

Policy 20 Blue and green infrastructure

Policy 22 Flood risk and water management

Policy 23 Health and safety

Productive Places

Policy 27 City, town, local and commercial centres

Policy 31 Culture and creativity

Policy 15 Local living and 20-minute neighbourhoods mentions playgrounds and informal play opportunities, parks, green streets and spaces, community gardens,



opportunities for food growth and allotments, sport and recreation facilities and how access to these facilities help improve local living.

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

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

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

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

Local Development Planning Guidance 2023

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

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



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

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

Play Strategy for Scotland 2013 and Progress Review 2021

This document seeks to improve the play experiences of all children and young people, including those with disabilities or from disadvantages backgrounds. It aims to ensure all children and young people can access play opportunities in a range of settings which offer variety, adventure and challenge. They must be able to play freely and safely while learning to manage risks and make choices about where, how and when they play according to their age, stage, ability and preference.

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

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

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

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

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

1. Refresh the Play Strategy and ensure national and local leadership supports a child's right to play.



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

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

Play vision statement and action plan 2025 to 2030

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

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

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

The strategic goals and actions included in this document include:

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

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

This document sets out the importance of physical activity and sport; how active people in Scotland are; and aims and objectives to ensure more people are active, more often. This is measured using a set of indicators reported on the Active Scotland Outcomes



Framework website³. The plan emphasises a need for Community Engagement to help encourage the development and maintenance of active spaces.

The Guiding Principles in this document include:

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

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

Physical Activity for Health: Scotland's National Framework

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

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

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

- Collaborative leadership
- Clear governance and resourcing
- Multisectoral partnerships

³ <http://www.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/partnerstories/Outcomes-Framework/Dashboard>



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

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

These strategic delivery outcomes are:

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

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

Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022 – 2027

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



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

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

- Objective B9: Mental and Physical Health, which aims to improve mental and physical health through greater connection with nature and the outdoors.
- Objective B10: A Park for All, which aims that there will be better opportunities for everyone to enjoy the National Park and the visitor profile will be more diverse, especially with regards to people who are disabled, from lower socio-economic backgrounds, LGBTQ+ and from minority and ethnic groups.

Community action plans

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

Aviemore, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Action Plan 2024

- Upgrade play parks / areas, especially Burnside play park.
- Develop Dalfaber site – bike park / pump track / bouldering park.
- Maintain and have more use of the village green.
- Turn grass and hardstanding next to retail park into community green space / recreation space.

Ballater and Crothie Community Action Plan 2023

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

Blair Atholl and Struan Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

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



Boat of Garten Action Plan: Looking to 2030

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

Braemar Community Action Plan 2017

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

Carrbridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

- Plan for a multi-use sports facility including tennis courts, skate park and covered all weather pitch.
- Pupils prioritised developing a pump track.
- Identify playpark upgrades as a youth priority.

Cromdale and Advie Community Action Plan 2013

- A village shinty pitch, a bike / skate park, improve the picnic area and an upgrade to the football pitch #9(to include shinty) are medium priorities.

Dalwhinnie Community Action Plan: Looking forward to 2030

- Identify playpark upgrades as a youth priority.

Dalnain Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

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

Grantown-on-Spey Community Action Plan 2016

- Support the idea of expanding footpaths and cycle paths suitable for recreational use.
- Pupils specifically called for improvements to existing play spaces.

Grantown-on-Spey Community Action Plan is currently under review and an update is due to be published later in 2025.



Kincraig and locality Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

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

Kingussie Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

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

Laggan Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

- Consider sport and exercise opportunities for all ages.

Mont Blair Community Action Plan 2013 – 2018

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

Nethy Bridge Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

- Upgrade play parks and facilities for young people including equipment for different ages in the park behind the community hall, a pump track, a well-designed and weatherproof skate park.
- Make other play parks more space-efficient play parks, including upgrade and add new goals at Lynstock and liaise with Abernethy Trust on the use of some facilities.

Newtonmore Community Action Plan: Looking to 2030

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

Strathdon Community Action Plan 2016

- Play park facilities not suitable for older children and little room for expansion on current site.
- Establish the feasibility of having a playing field for community and school use, suitable for football and other sports.



Strathdon Community Action Plan is currently under review and an update is due to be published later in 2025.

Place Standard Tool engagement

Engagement has been carried out with secondary school pupils at both Grantown Grammar School and Kingussie High School. Comments relevant to play, recreation and sport 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.

Regional assessments, strategies and plans

Aberdeenshire Council

Finalised draft Aberdeenshire Play Sufficiency Assessment 2024

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

Finalised draft Aberdeenshire Open Space Audit 2024

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

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

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

- Improve allotment provision.
- Maintain cemetery provision.



- Enhance biodiversity of sites.
- Opportunities for climate change adaptation and mitigation (trees for shade and natural spaces with trees for flood mitigation).
- Improve play area provision – 23% of settlements fall 50% below the Aberdeenshire average (only Aboyne in Marr).
- Improve the scale and connectivity of play spaces (play spaces in new housing developments are either small, on a slope, are for single use, fractured, isolated, or don't link well to other open spaces. NPF4 Policy 21 should ensure this is not the case in future).
- Continued maintenance of play areas and sports areas.

The raw data identifies that there are:

24 open spaces in Ballater:

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

24 open spaces in Braemar:

- 10 natural areas
- 4 amenity areas
- 3 play areas (2 with play equipment)
- 2 sports areas (curling pond and bowling green)
- 1 caravan park
- 1 cemetery
- 1 playing field
- 1 public park or garden (Highland Games Centre)
- 1 school ground (Braemar School)

Live Life Aberdeenshire Pitch and Outdoor Physical Activity Space Strategy 2022

The strategy sets out a series of actions to improve access to formal playing pitches and open spaces. It aims to create a network of pitch forums – with 18 forums (based around Academy catchments) across Aberdeenshire and to designate each pitch as either 'competitive sports pitch'; 'community sports pitch'; or 'public space'. Seven



networks had been established. Alford (which includes Strathdon) is ranked third in terms of pitch provision per head. Aboyne (Ballater, Braemar and Dinnet) is ranked ninth.

Aberdeenshire Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2010

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

The Highland Council

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

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

Moray Council

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

An updated Moray Open Space Strategy is currently being prepared. An audit of open spaces was completed in 2023, however the audit was limited to the main towns in Moray (Aberlour being the closest to the National Park boundary). It is understood that the strategy itself will be Moray-wide and that a draft open space strategy will be consulted on alongside the proposed Moray Council Local Development Plan. Moray Council's Local Development Scheme 2025⁴, programmes the consultation period for between May and August 2026.

⁴ See this link for Moray Council's Local Development Scheme.



The Moray Play Sufficiency Assessment

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

Moray Community Planning Partnership Physical Activity, Sport and Health Strategy

Published in 2023. It seeks to inspire people of all ages to participate in physical activity. It includes no place-based audit or strategy.

Perth and Kinross Council

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

Perth and Kinross (Draft) Play Sufficiency Assessment

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

Perth and Kinross Physical Activity and Sports Strategy 2023 – 2028

The Strategy's over-arching vision for the future of physical activity and sport in Perth and Kinross is:

'we will support everyone's physical and mental wellbeing through physical activity and sport'.

In order to support and help deliver on the Strategy's vision, the following priorities are identified:



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

Baseline play, recreation and sport matters

This section summarises the Cairngorms National Park Authority's play, recreation and sport baseline, comprising evidence relating to:

- Play – through the Play Sufficiency Assessment.
- Recreation – through an open space audit.
- Sport – through a sports facilities audit.

There are links between this policy area and local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods⁵, blue and green infrastructure⁶, housing⁷, tourism⁸, sustainable transport⁹, health and safety¹⁰, economic development¹¹ and town centres and retail¹².

Play Sufficiency Assessment

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

⁵ See: <https://cairngormsldp.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/v3/local-living-and-20-minute-neighbourhoods?step=step1>

⁶ See: <https://cairngormsldp.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/v3/blue-and-green-infrastructure?step=step1>

⁷ See: <https://cairngormsldp.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/v3/housing?step=step1>

⁸ See: <https://cairngormsldp.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/tourism-in-the-national-park-survey>

⁹ See: <https://cairngormsldp.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/sustainable-transport-survey>

¹⁰ See: <https://cairngormsldp.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/health-and-safety-survey>

¹¹ See: <https://cairngormsldp.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/economic-development-survey>

¹² See: <https://cairngormsldp.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/v3/retail-and-town-centres?step=step1>



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

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

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

The play sufficiency assessment considers:

- Formal play spaces – equipped areas of play and play parks, such as pump tracks and multi-games areas designed specifically for play.
- Informal play spaces – amenity areas, playing pitches and other outdoor sports areas, public parks or gardens, woodland, and the protected open spaces in the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021¹³.

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

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

¹³ See: <https://cairngorms.co.uk/uploads/documents/CNPA-LDP-2021-web.pdf>



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

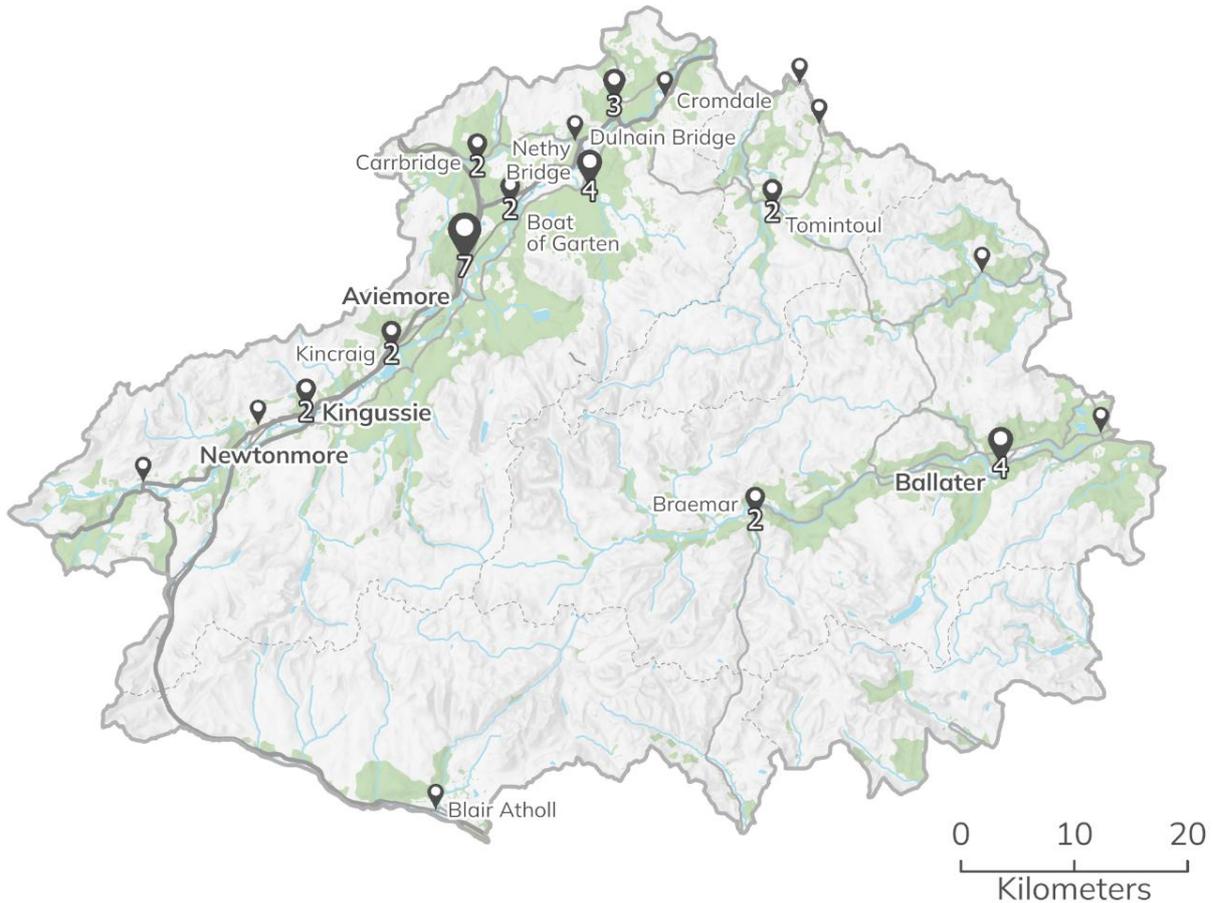


Figure 1 Locations and numbers of formal play spaces in the Cairngorms National Park (sources: constituent local authorities, Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.

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

Open space audit

The Cairngorms National Park covers an area of 4,528km² all of which is classified as accessible rural or remote rural according the Scottish Government's 6 fold urban rural classification. A core consideration of the scope of the open space audit is the amount of this land potentially accessible as open space.



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

- A building or other structures¹⁴ or works, plant or fixed machinery.
- Curtilage of buildings other than houses, works compounds, schools.
- Around houses, sufficient adjacent land for a reasonable measure of privacy, and for the enjoyment of the house not to be unreasonably disturbed.
- Land developed or set out as a sports or playing field, or for a particular recreational purpose.
- Land excluded by virtue of past entry by payment (the 90 day rule).

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

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

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

- Aberdeenshire Council – draft open space audit published in 2025 with data for Ballater and Braemar, within the Cairngorms National Park.
- The Highland Council – no strategy or audit covering the Cairngorms National Park.
- Moray Council – no strategy or audit covering the Cairngorms National Park (covers main towns in Moray only).
- Perth and Kinross Council – no open space strategy.

¹⁴ 'Structures' is later defined in the Act as not including bridge, tunnel, causeway, launching site, groyne, weir, boulder weir, embankment of canalised waterway, fence or wall or anything designed to facilitate passage.



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

National Park-wide overview

According to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer, there are the following number of different types of greenspace in the settlements within the Cairngorms National Park¹⁵:

- Allotments in three settlements¹⁶
- Bowling greens in ten settlements
- Cemetery or religious grounds in 18 settlements
- Golf courses in ten settlements
- Other sports facilities in 13 settlements
- Play spaces in 18 settlements
- Playing fields in 13 settlements
- Public parks or gardens in ten settlements
- Tennis courts in five settlements

In total these equate to 1,112 hectares of open space distributed across the Cairngorms National Park. This is set out in Table 2.

There are 6,022 hectares of woodland either within or within 800 metres of a settlement in the Cairngorms National Park. Some of the woodland in this dataset is also included in the Ordnance Survey greenspace data. The woodland is distributed as set out in Table 2.

The adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021 identifies protected open spaces where they are important to the amenity, setting and overall fabric of settlements. They are protected from development. Some provide locally important habitat or landscape features, while others are important recreational resources within settlements. In total, 161 hectares of protected open space are

¹⁵ Open spaces are described as being within the settlement if they are either within the settlement boundary designated by the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan or within an 800m buffer surrounding the settlement.

¹⁶ There are also two therapy gardens, a community garden and 18 community or school orchards within the Cairngorms National Park. These are discussed in the Health and safety topic paper: See: <https://cairngormsldp.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/health-and-safety-survey>



identified by the Local Development Plan in settlements across the National Park. This is distributed as set out in Table 2.

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

Table 2 Total amount of open space within each settlement in the Cairngorms National Park and total amount of woodland both within each settlement and within 800m of each settlement boundary in the Cairngorms National Park (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021).

Settlement	Total amount of greenspace (hectares)	Total amount of woodland (hectares)	Total amount of protected open space ¹⁷ (hectares)
Strategic settlements			
Aviemore	107.30	637.10	51.73
Ballater	46.37	345.69	8.54
Grantown-on-Spey	54.87	454.40	9.52
Kingussie	39.21	183.47	15.82
Newtonmore	49.78	167.68	18.30
Intermediate settlements			
Blair Atholl	20.93	177.62	4.92
Boat of Garten	40.94	312.92	7.87
Braemar	46.09	220.84	7.27
Carrbridge	19.46	497.89	1.23
Cromdale	2.11	102.91	1.27
Dalnain Bridge	0.36	171.95	0.57
Kincraig	4.44	201.83	1.20
Nethy Bridge	22.4	445.23	17.86
Tomintoul	4.60	119.34	8.37
Rural settlements			
Clova	0.08	32.22	-
Coylumbridge	-	292.97	-
Dalwhinnie	-	157.13	-
Dinnet	0.74	239.45	0.65
Glenlivet	1.48	52.29	-

¹⁷ As identified.



Settlement	Total amount of greenspace (hectares)	Total amount of woodland (hectares)	Total amount of protected open space ¹⁷ (hectares)
Glenmore	2.57	505.60	3.06
Glenshee	0.23	38.00	-
Insh	-	205.25	-
Inverdrue	0.18	165.51	2.18
Killiecrankie	-	140.88	0.76
Laggan	0.5	37.08	-
Strathdon	2.95	116.59	
Totals	1,112.49	6,021.87	161.13

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

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

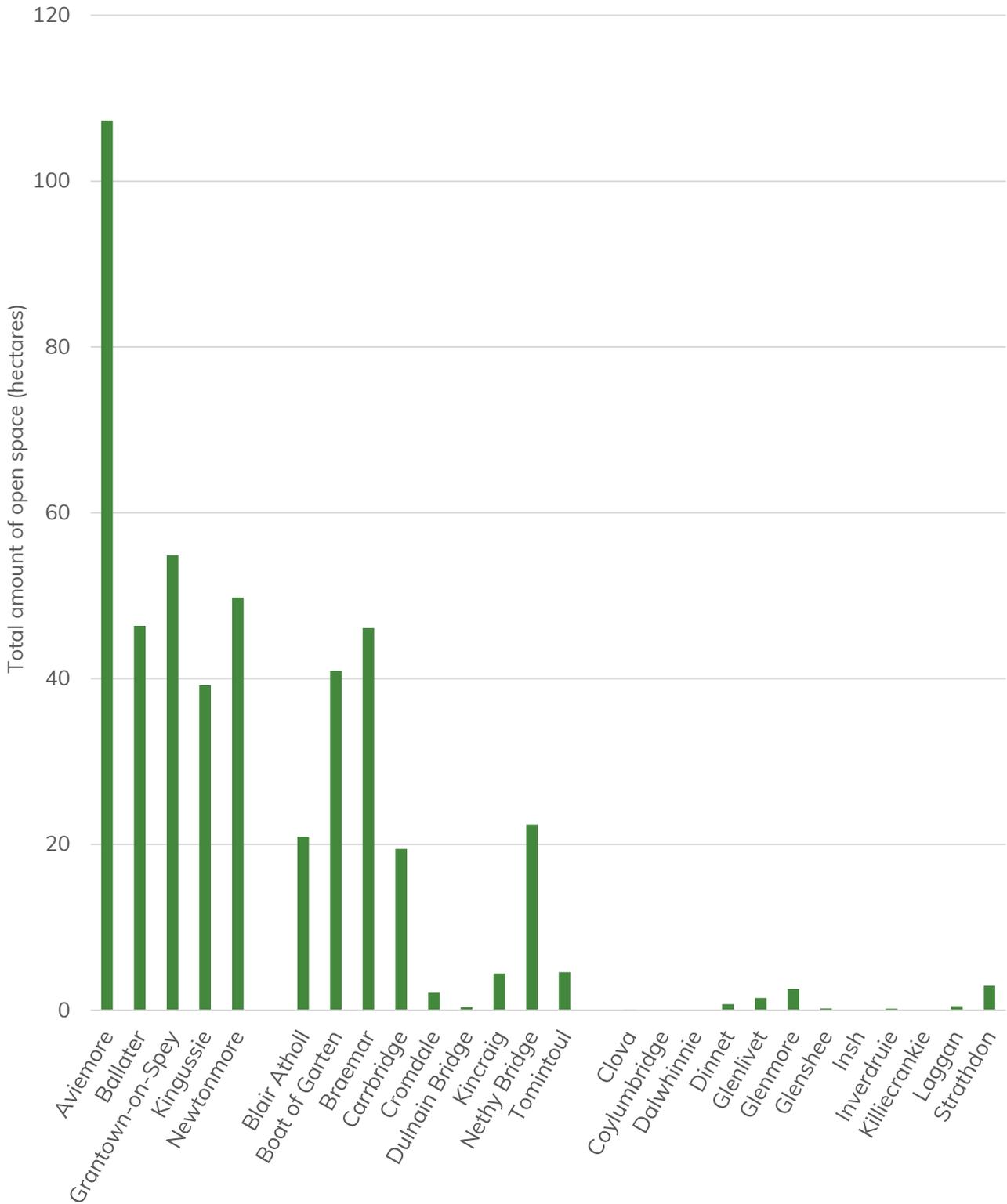


Figure 2 Total amount of open space within each settlement in the Cairngorms National Park (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer).

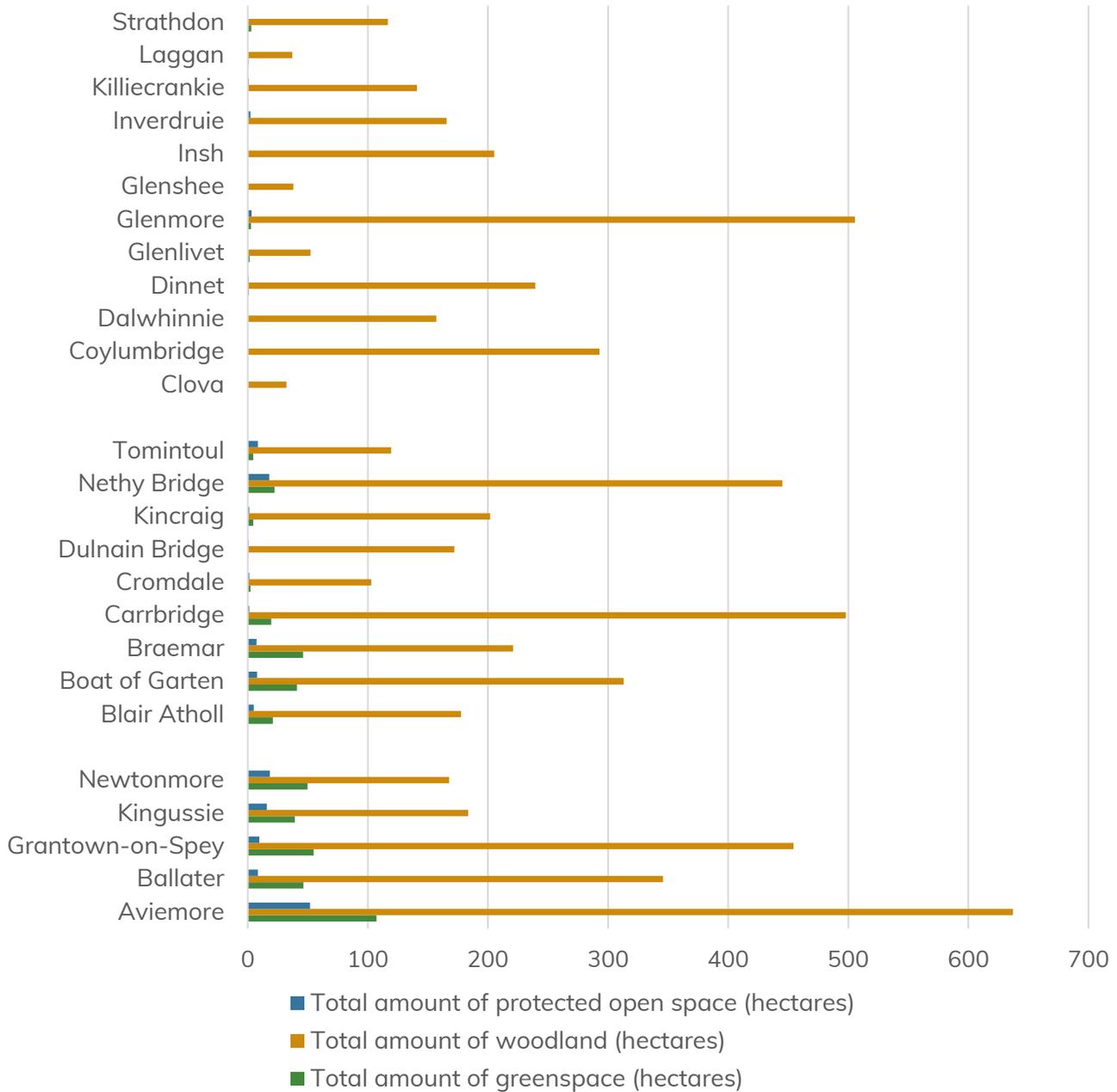


Figure 3 Total amount of protected open space¹⁸ within each settlement, total amount of open space¹⁹ and total amount of woodland within each settlement and within 800m of each settlement boundary in the Cairngorms National Park (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021).

It may therefore be concluded that there is no shortage of accessible formal and / or informal open space in the Cairngorms National Park.

¹⁸ Protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021.

¹⁹ Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer.



Settlement summaries

Aviemore

Table 3 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Aviemore, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there are 107 hectares of greenspace.

Table 3 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Aviemore (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer)

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

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

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

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

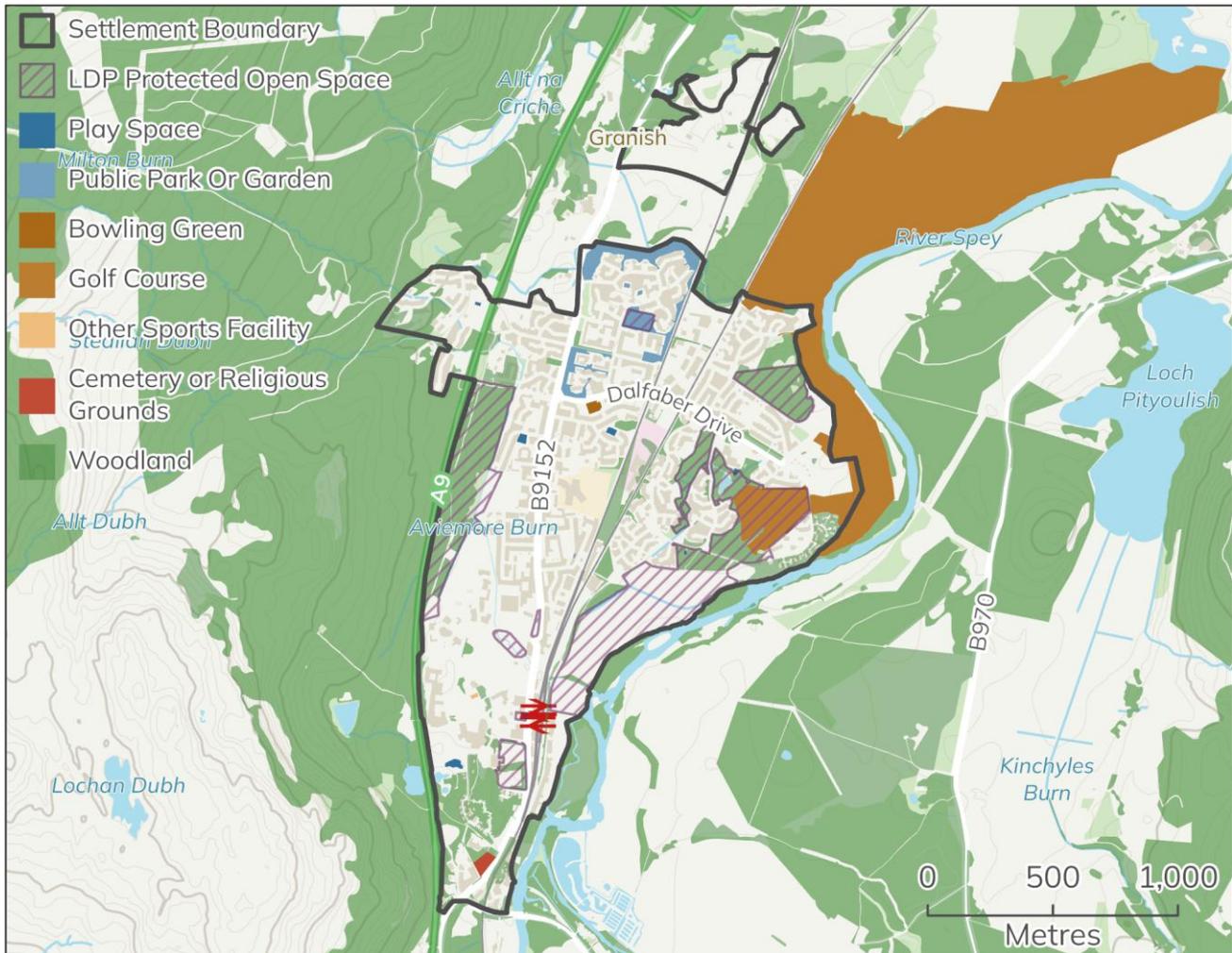


Figure 4 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Aviemore (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Ballater

Table 4 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Ballater, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there are 46 hectares of greenspace.

Table 4 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Ballater (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer)

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

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

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

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



Figure 5 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Ballater (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810



Blair Atholl

Table 5 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Blair Atholl, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there are 21 hectares of greenspace.

Table 5 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Blair Atholl (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer)

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

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

There are two areas of protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan. These total 5 hectares.

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

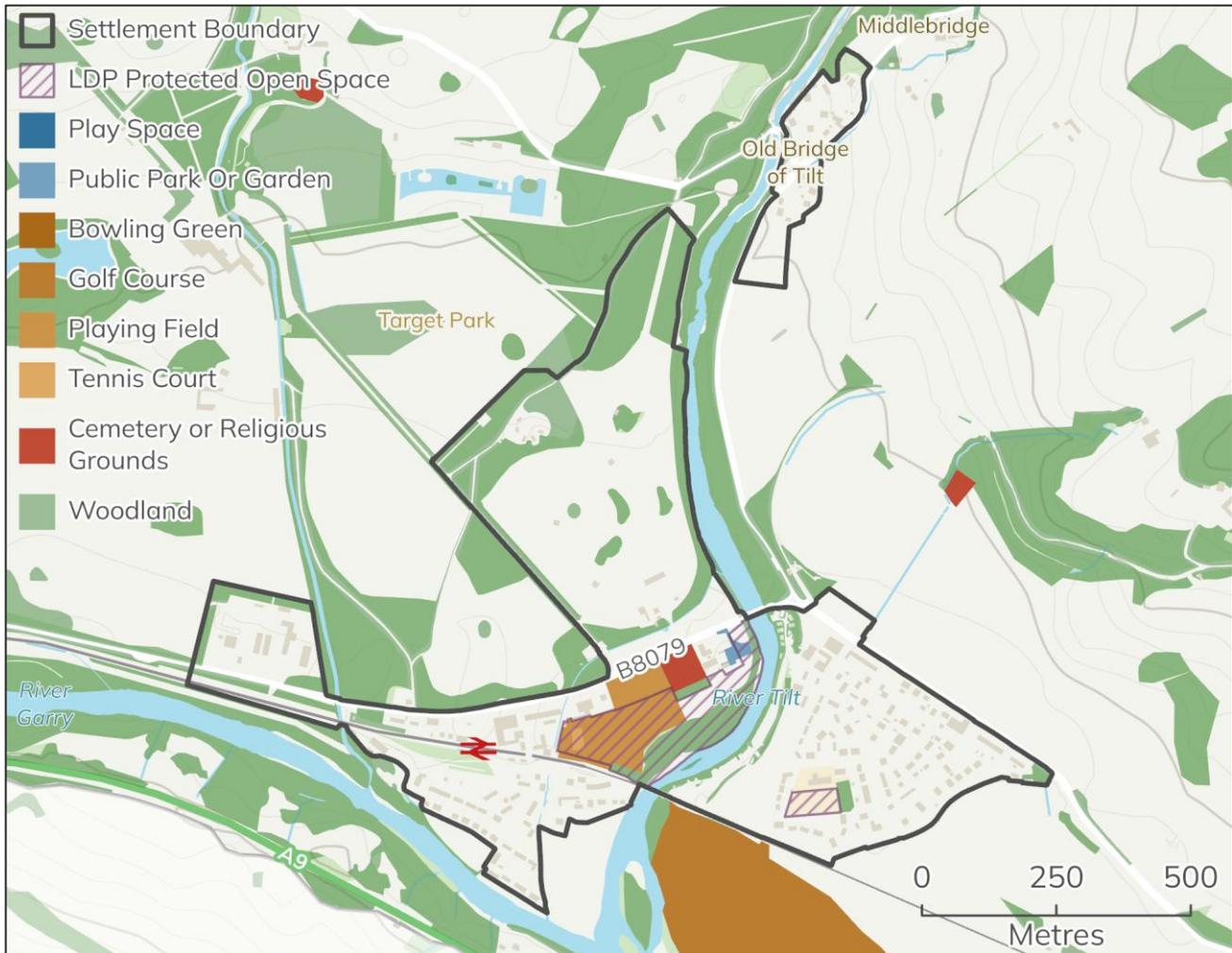


Figure 6 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Blair Atholl (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Boat of Garten

Table 6 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Boat of Garten, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there are 41 hectares of greenspace.

Table 6 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Boat of Garten (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer)

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

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

There are two areas of protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan. These total 8 hectares.

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



Figure 7 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Boat of Garten (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Braemar

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

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

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

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

There are four areas of protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan. These total 7 hectares.

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

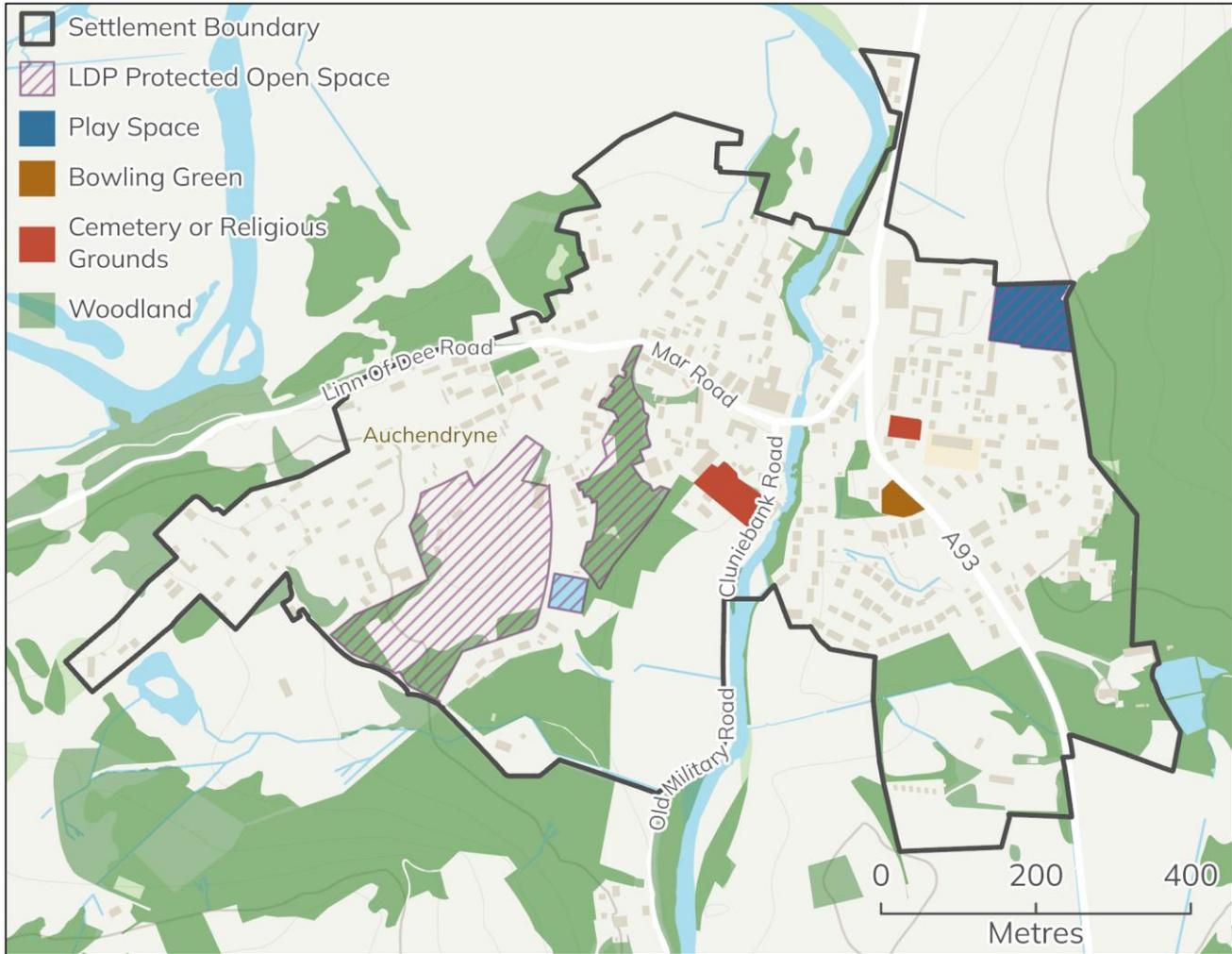


Figure 8 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Braemar (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Figure 9 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space within 800m of the settlement boundary of Braemar (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Carrbridge

Table 8 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Carrbridge, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there are 46 hectares of greenspace.

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

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

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

There are two areas of protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan. These total just over 1 hectare.

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



Figure 10 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Carrbridge (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Clova

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

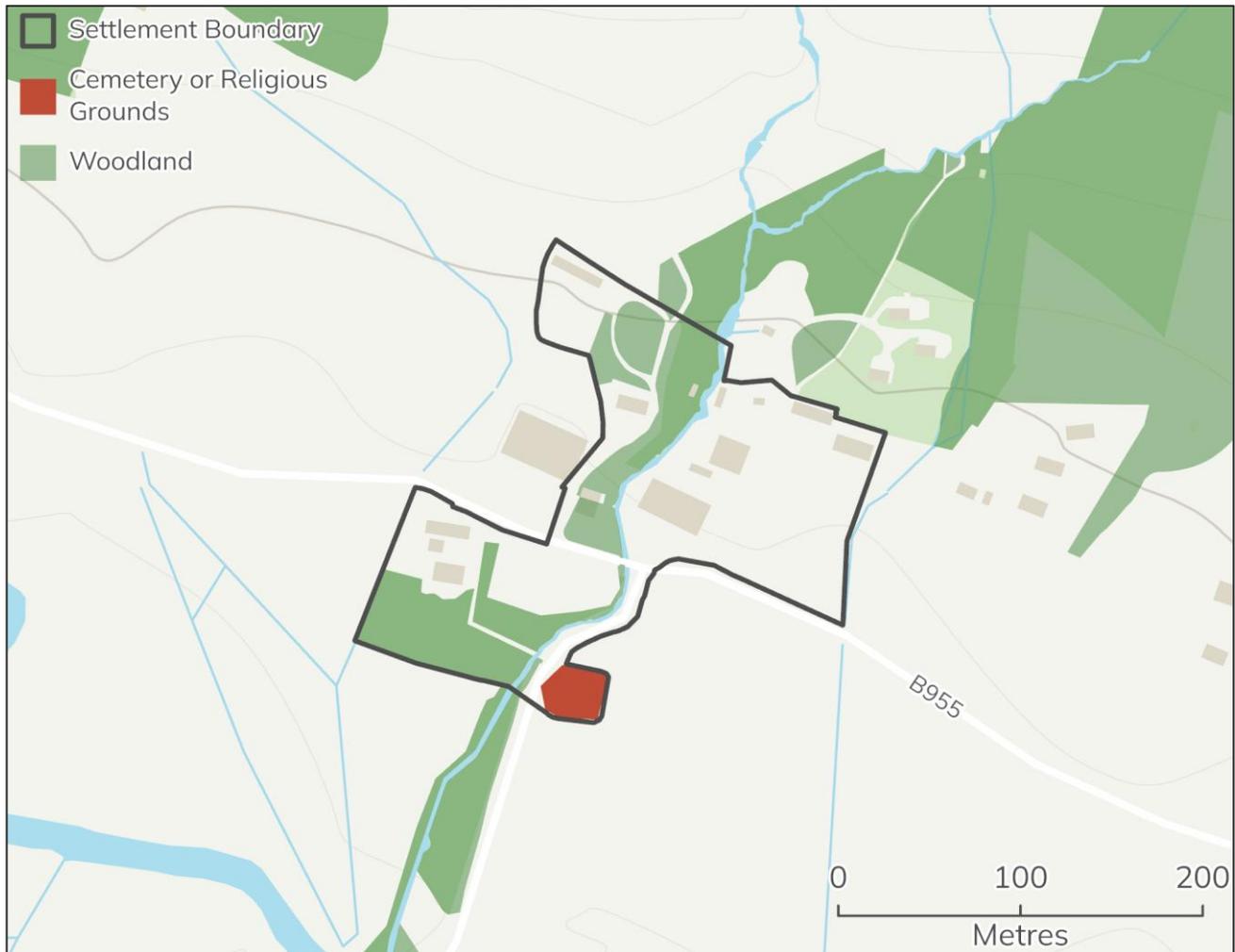


Figure 11 Greenspace and woodland in and adjacent to Clova (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer and Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Coylumbridge

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



Figure 12 Woodland in and adjacent to Coylumbridge (source: Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Cromdale

Table 9 sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Cromdale, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there are 2 hectares of greenspace.

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

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

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

There are two areas of protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan. These total just over 1 hectare.

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

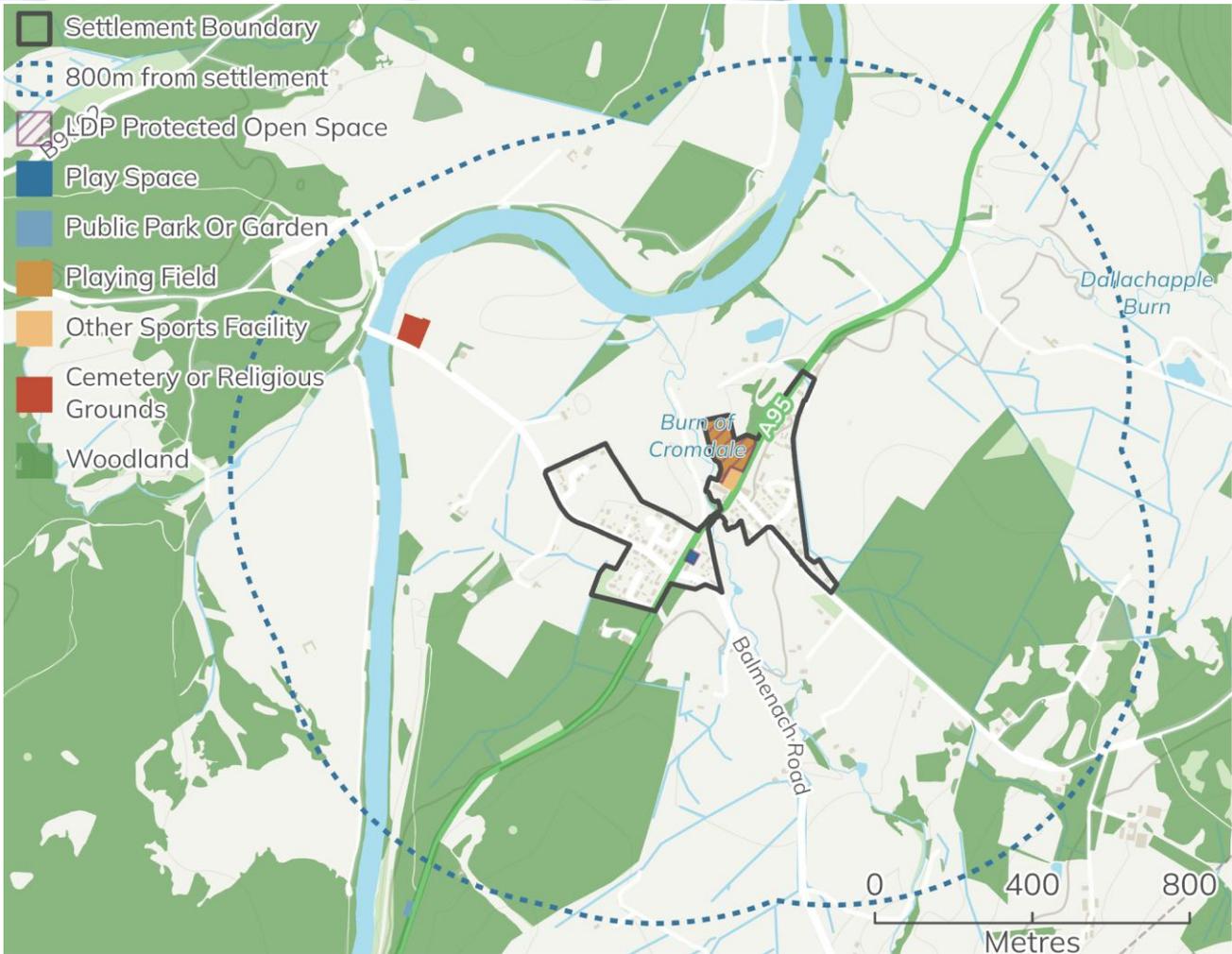


Figure 13 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and within 800m of the settlement boundary of Cromdale (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Dalwhinnie

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

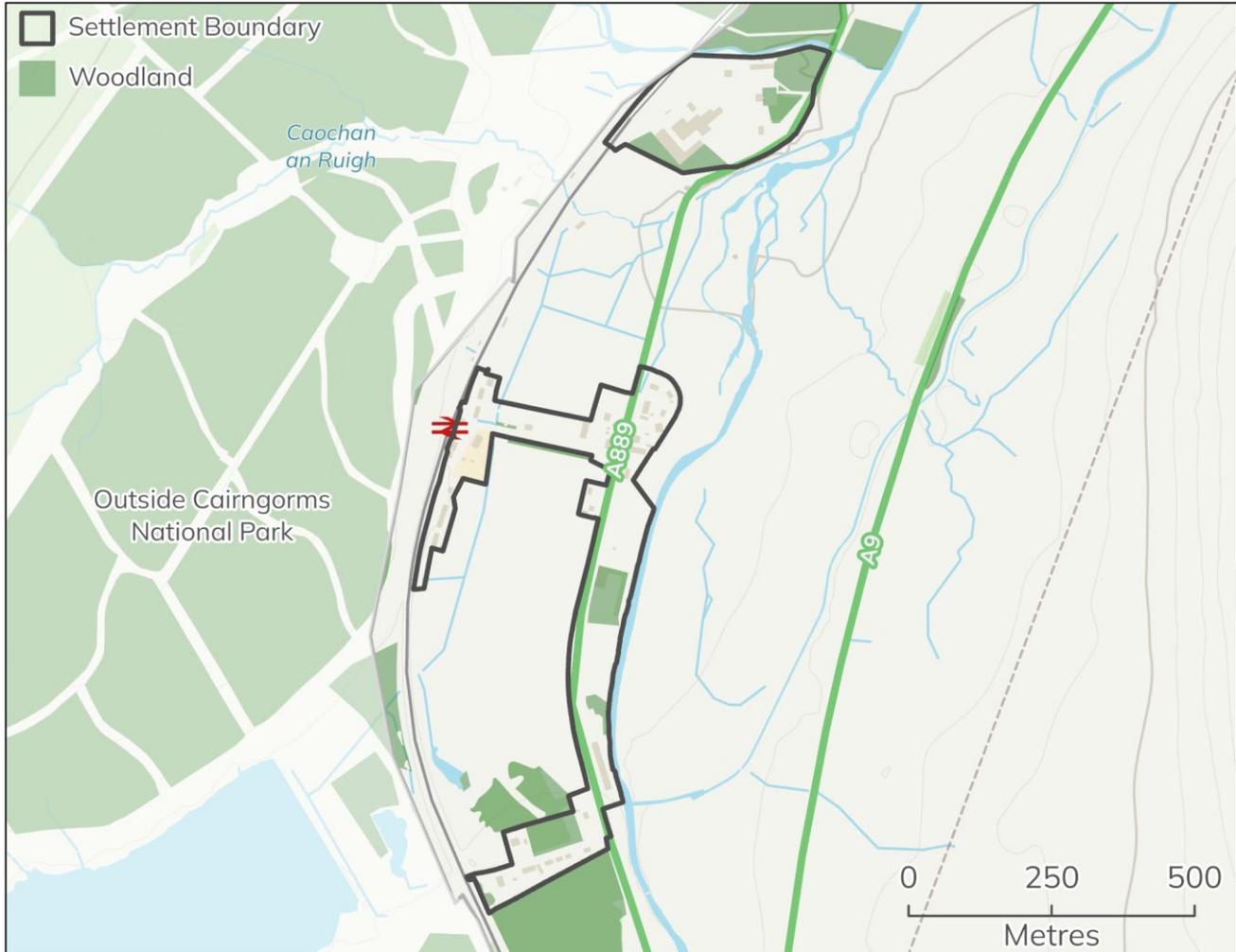


Figure 14 Woodland in and adjacent to Dalwhinnie (source: Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Dinnet

Table 10 Table 10 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Dinnet (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Dinnet, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there is three quarters of a hectares of greenspace.

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

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

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

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

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



Figure 15 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Dinnet (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Dalnain Bridge

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

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

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

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



Figure 16 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Dulnain Bridge (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey Mastermap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810



Glenlivet

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

Table 10 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Dinnet (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in the Glenlivet area, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there is one and a half hectares of greenspace. Note that a portion of this greenspace is outwith the Cairngorms National Park (north of the River Livet).

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

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

There are significant areas of woodland in the Glenlivet area. The greenspace and woodland are shown on the map of Glenlivet (Figure 17Figure 15).



Figure 17 Greenspace and woodland in the Glenlivet area (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer and Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810



Glenmore

Table 10 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Dinnet (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Glenmore, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there are two and a half hectares of greenspace.

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

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

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

There is one protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan – the Hay Field. The protected area totals just over 3 hectares.

The greenspace and woodland are shown on the map of Glenmore (Figure 18Figure 15).



Figure 18 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Glenmore (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Glenshee

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



Figure 19 Woodland in and adjacent to Glenshee (source: woodland Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Grantown-on-Spey

Table 10 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Dinnet (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Grantown-on-Spey, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, there are 56 hectares of greenspace.

Table 13 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Grantown-on-Spey (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer).

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

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

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

The greenspace and woodland are shown on the map of Grantown-on-Spey (**Error! Reference source not found.**Figure 15). Figure 21 shows the open space within 800m of the settlement boundary of Grantown-on-Spey.

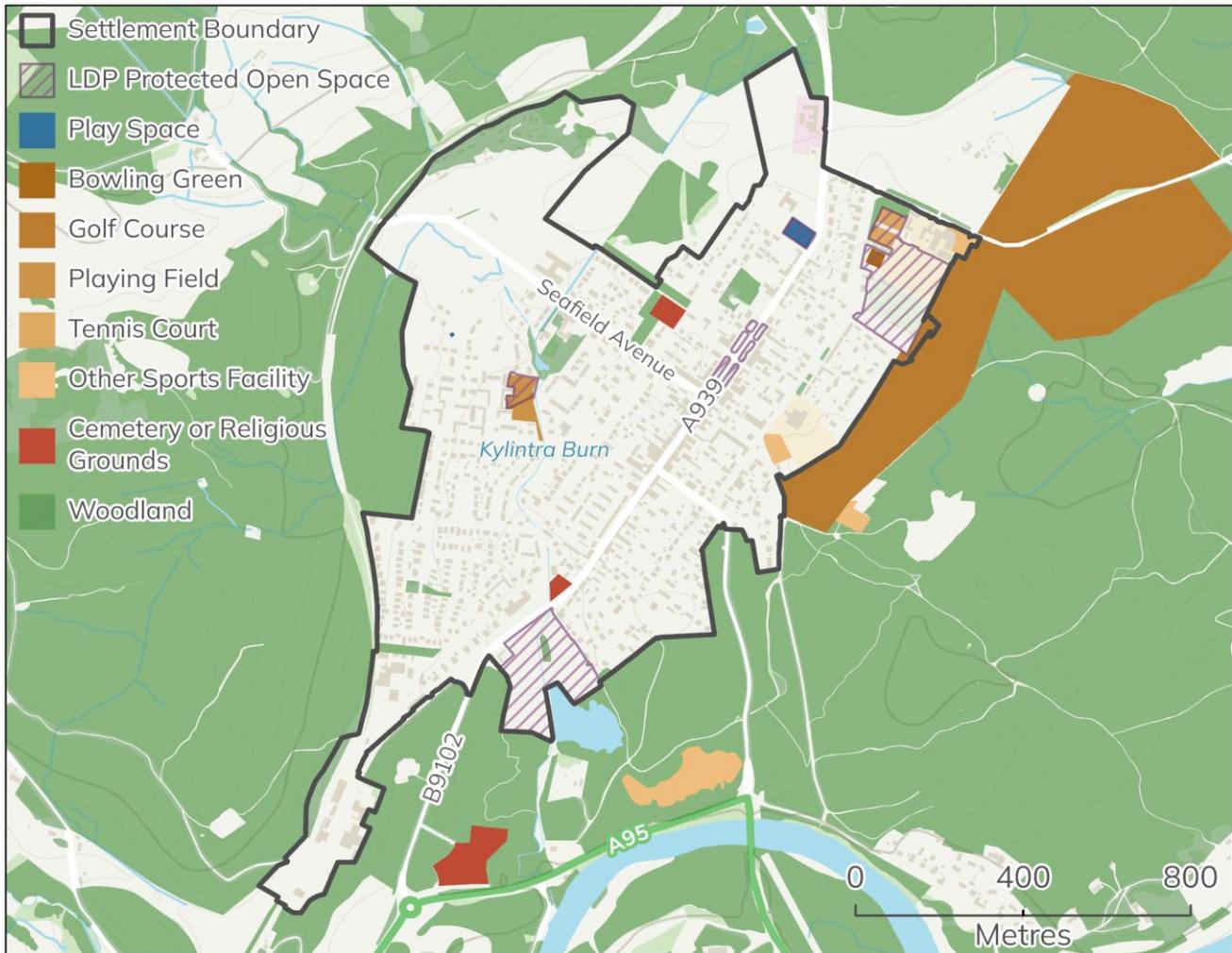


Figure 20 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Granttown-on-Spey (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.

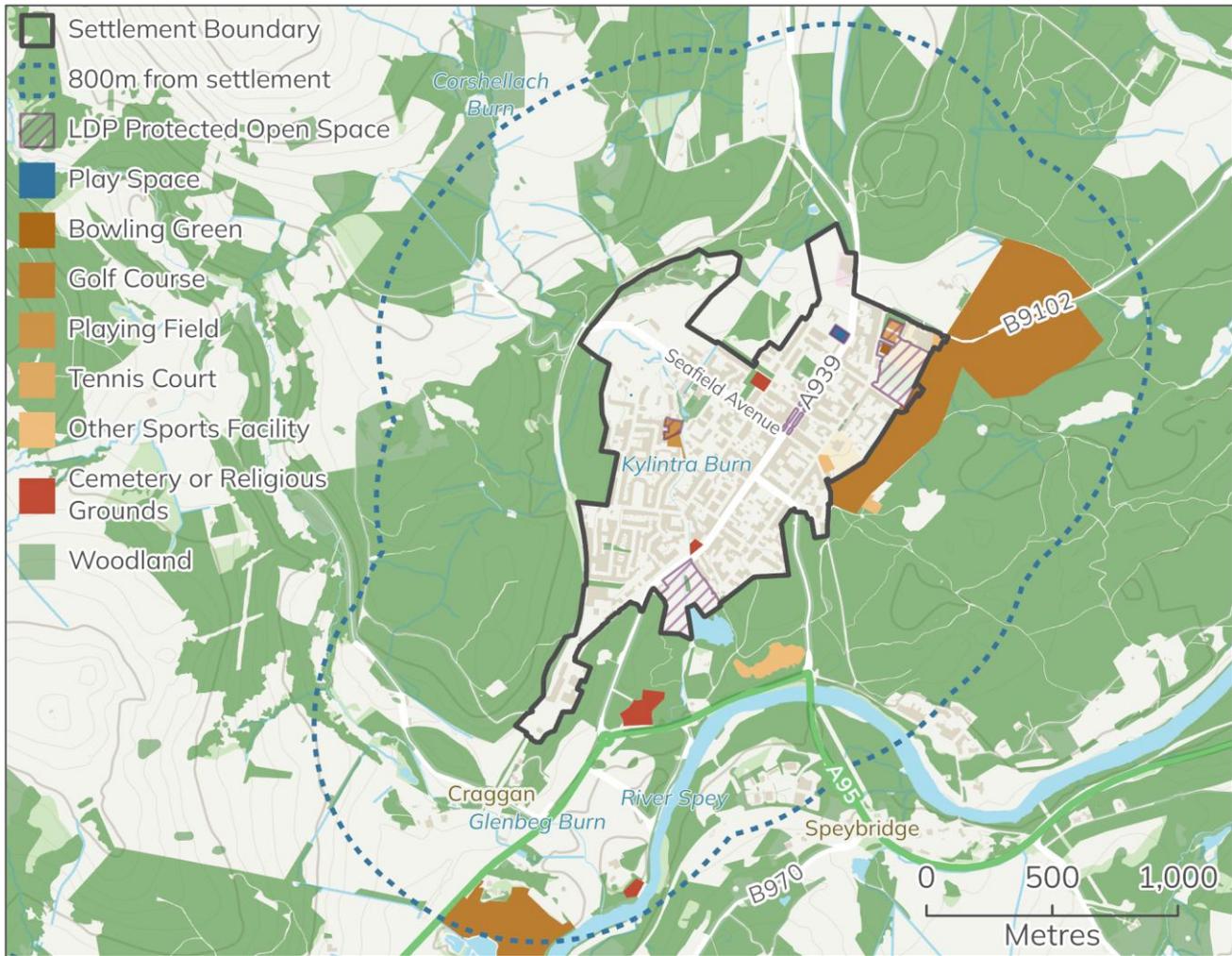


Figure 21 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and within 800m of the settlement boundary of Granttown-on-Spey (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Insh

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



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

Table 14 Table 10 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Dinnet (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Inverdruie, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, it identifies 0.18 hectares of greenspace.

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

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

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

There is one protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan. The protected area totals 2.18 hectares. The greenspace and woodland are shown on the map of Inverdruie (Figure 23 Figure 15).



Figure 23 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Inverdrue (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Killiecrankie

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

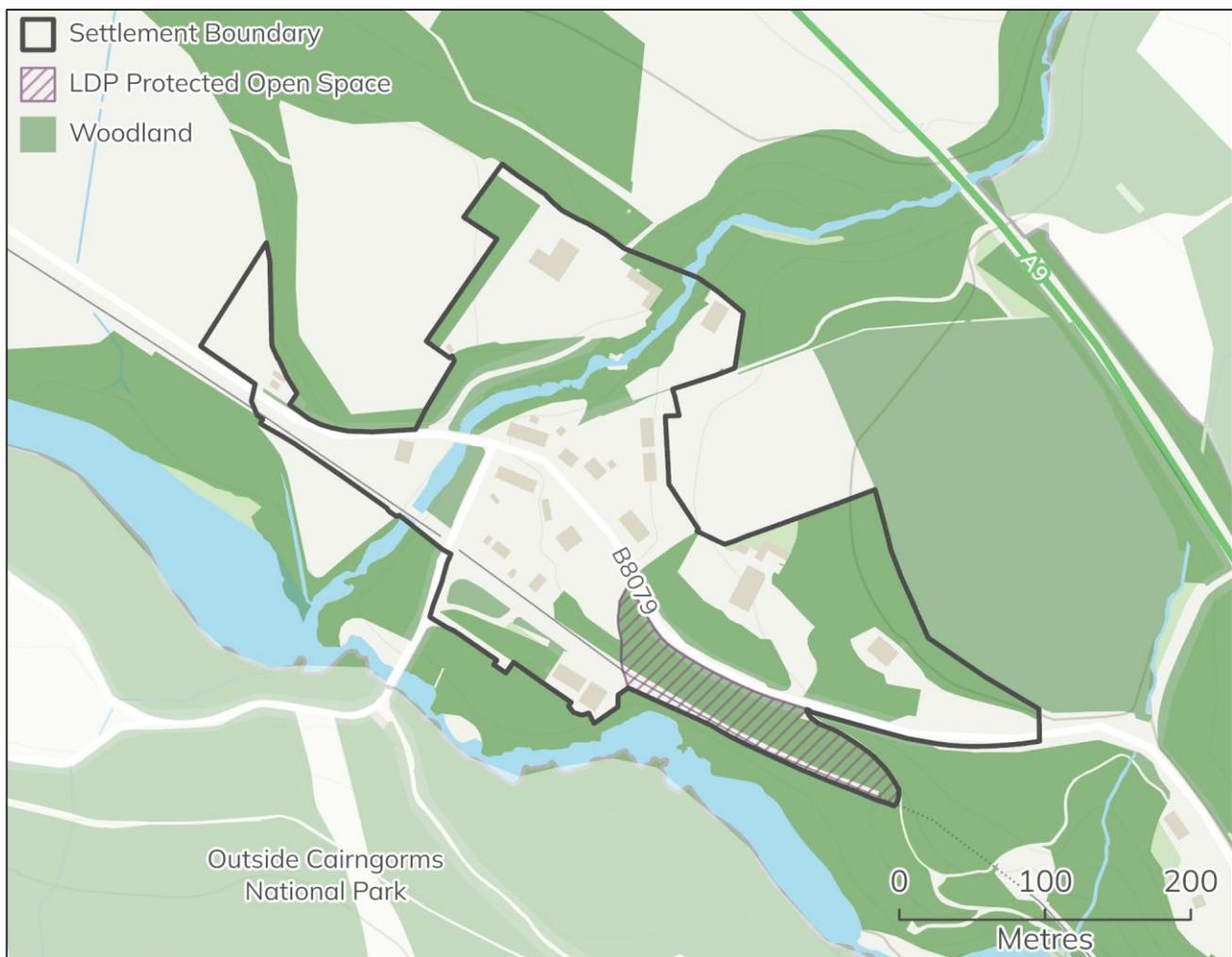


Figure 24 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Killiecrankie (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Kincraig

Table 15 Table 10 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Dinnet (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Kincraig, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, it identifies 4.5 hectares of greenspace.

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

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

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

There is one protected open space identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan. The protected area totals 1.2 hectares. The greenspace and woodland are shown on the map of Kincraig (Figure 25 Figure 15).



Figure 25 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and adjacent to Kinraig (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Kingussie

Table 16 Table 10 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Dinnet (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Kingussie, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, it identifies 39 hectares of greenspace.

Table 16 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Kingussie (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer).

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

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

There are ten protected open spaces in Kingussie identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan. The protected area totals 16 hectares. The greenspace and woodland are shown on the map of Kingussie (Figure 26 Figure 15). Figure 27 shows the open space within 800m of the settlement boundary of Kingussie.

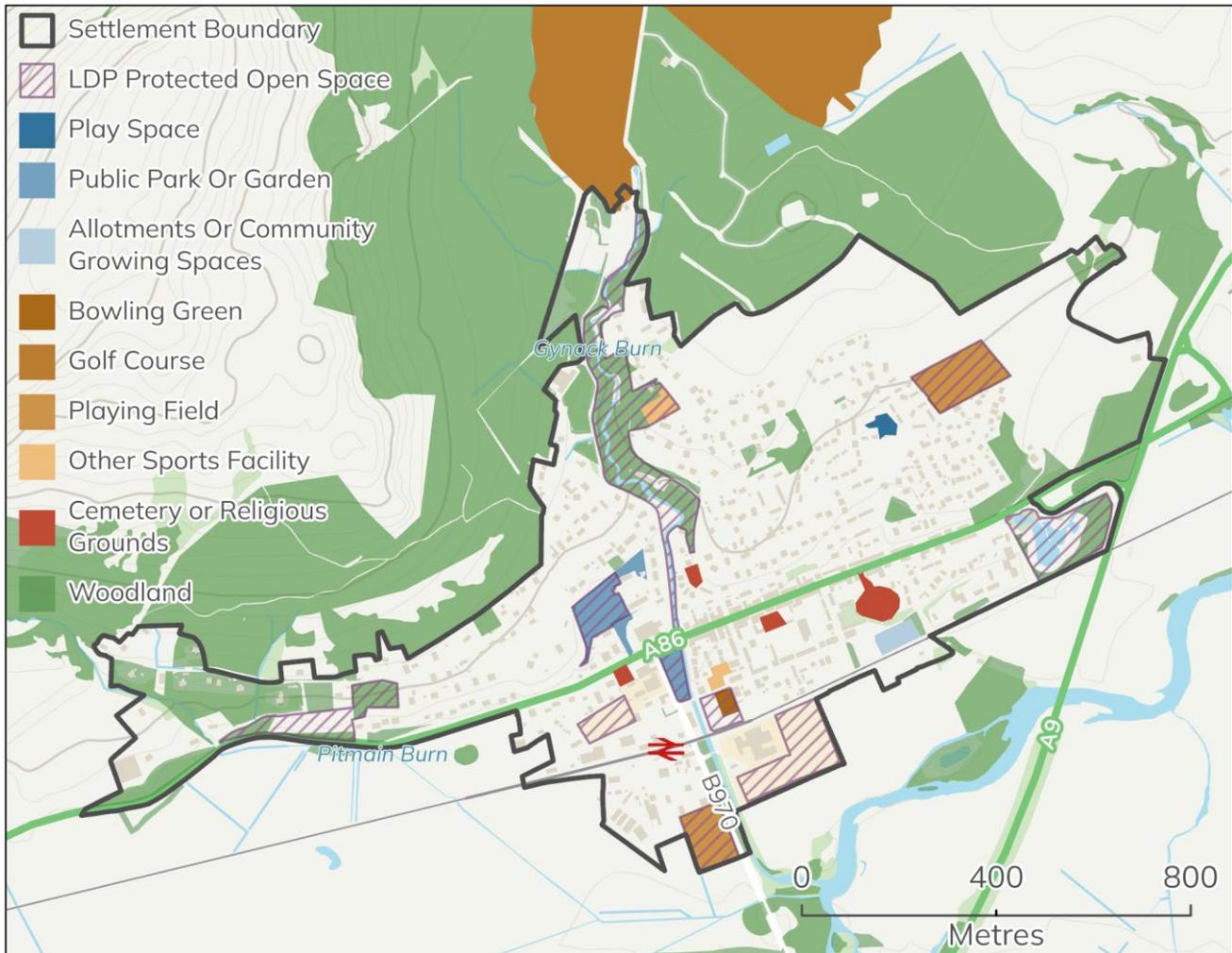


Figure 26 Greenspace, woodland and protect open space in and adjacent to Kingussie (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.

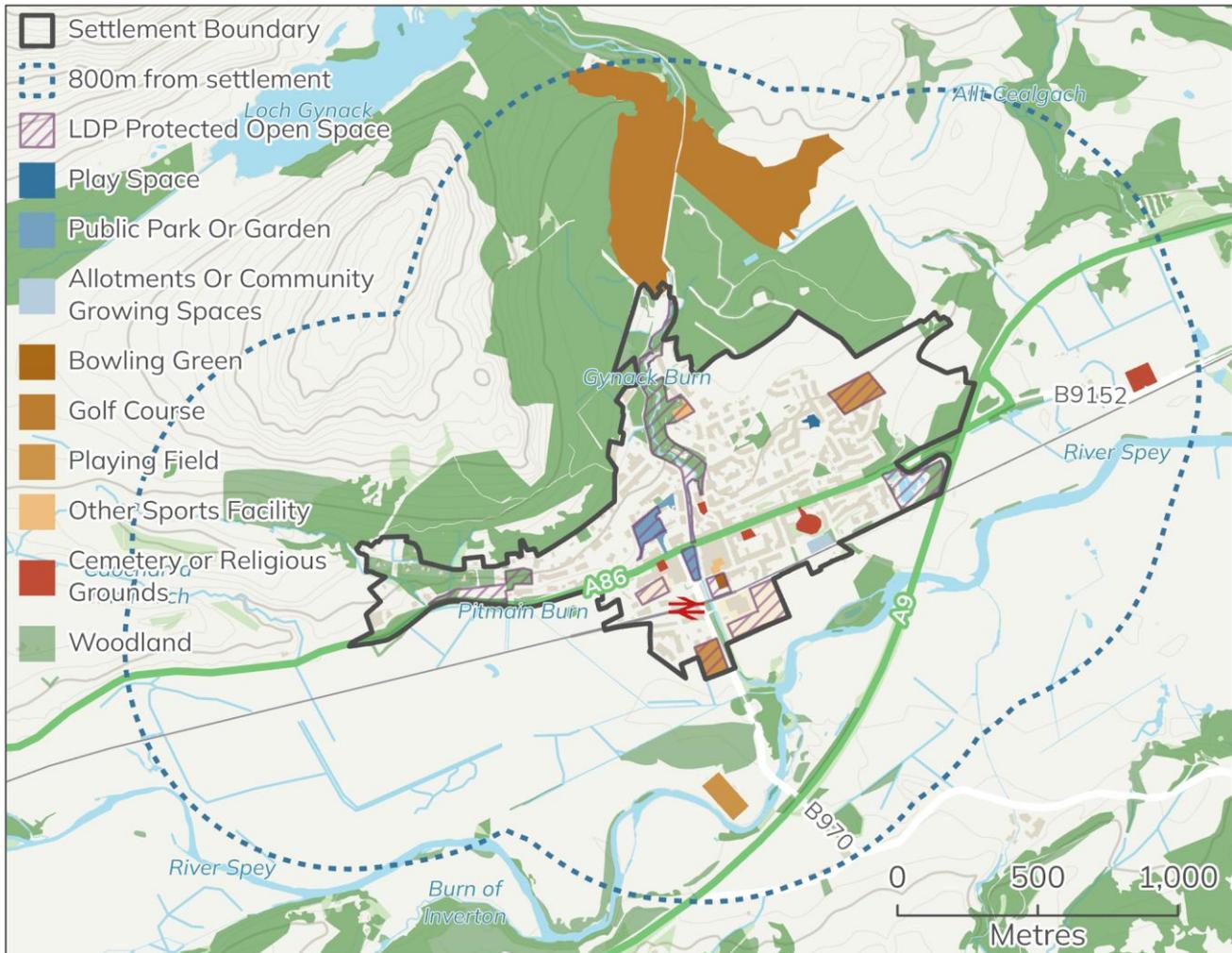


Figure 27 Greenspace, woodland and protected open space in and within 800m of the settlement boundary of Kingussie (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Laggan

Table 17 Table 10 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Dinnet (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Laggan, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, it identifies half a hectare of greenspace. However, it is of relevance that the entrance to Laggan Wolftrax, a purpose-built, singletrack mountain bike centre, which totals 365 hectares is only just over 800m from Laggan's settlement boundary.

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

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

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

There are no protected open spaces identified in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan. The greenspace, woodland and the edge of Laggan Wolftrax are shown on the map of Laggan (Figure 28 Figure 15).

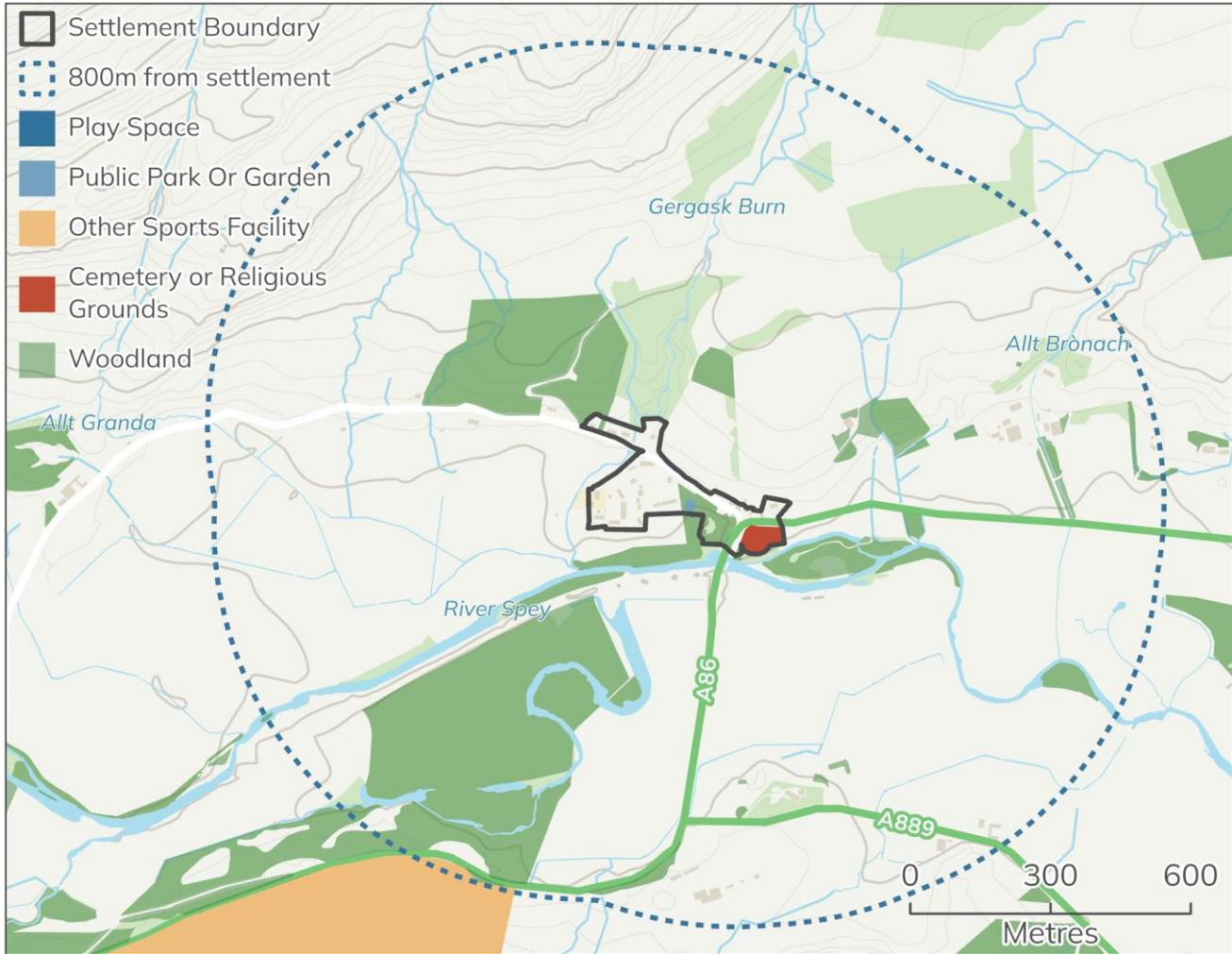


Figure 28 Greenspace, woodland and protect open space in and within 800m of the settlement boundary of Laggan (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Nethy Bridge

Table 18 Table 10 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Dinnet (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Nethy Bridge, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, it identifies 22 hectares of greenspace.

Table 18 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Nethy Bridge (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer)

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

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

There are eight protected open spaces identified in Nethy Bridge the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan. They total 17.85 hectares of open space. The greenspace, woodland and protected open space are shown on the map of Nethy Bridge (Figure 29 Figure 15). Figure 30 shows the open space and woodland in the wider area 800m beyond the settlement boundary of Nethy Bridge.

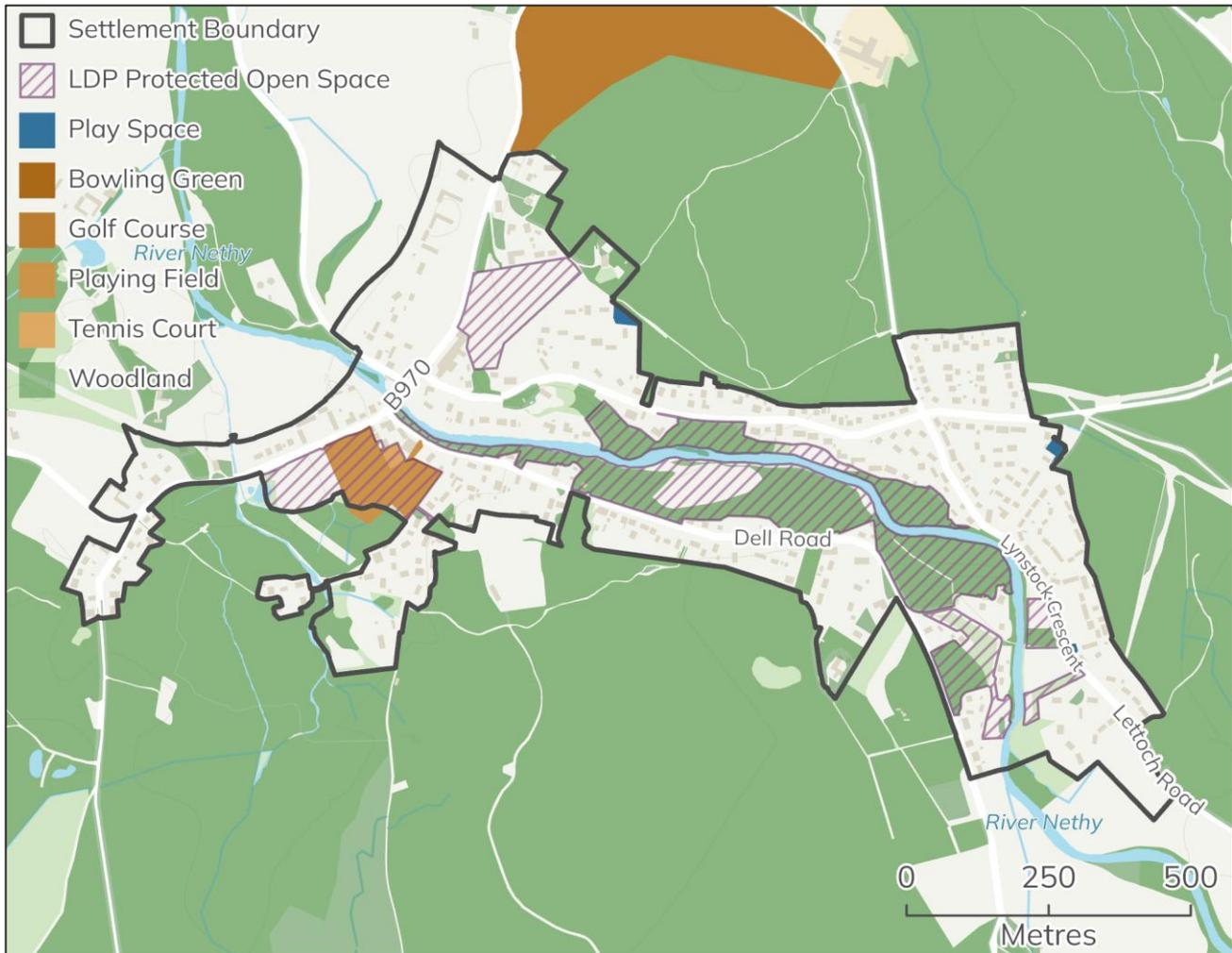


Figure 29 Greenspace, woodland and protect open space in and adjacent to Nethy Bridge (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.

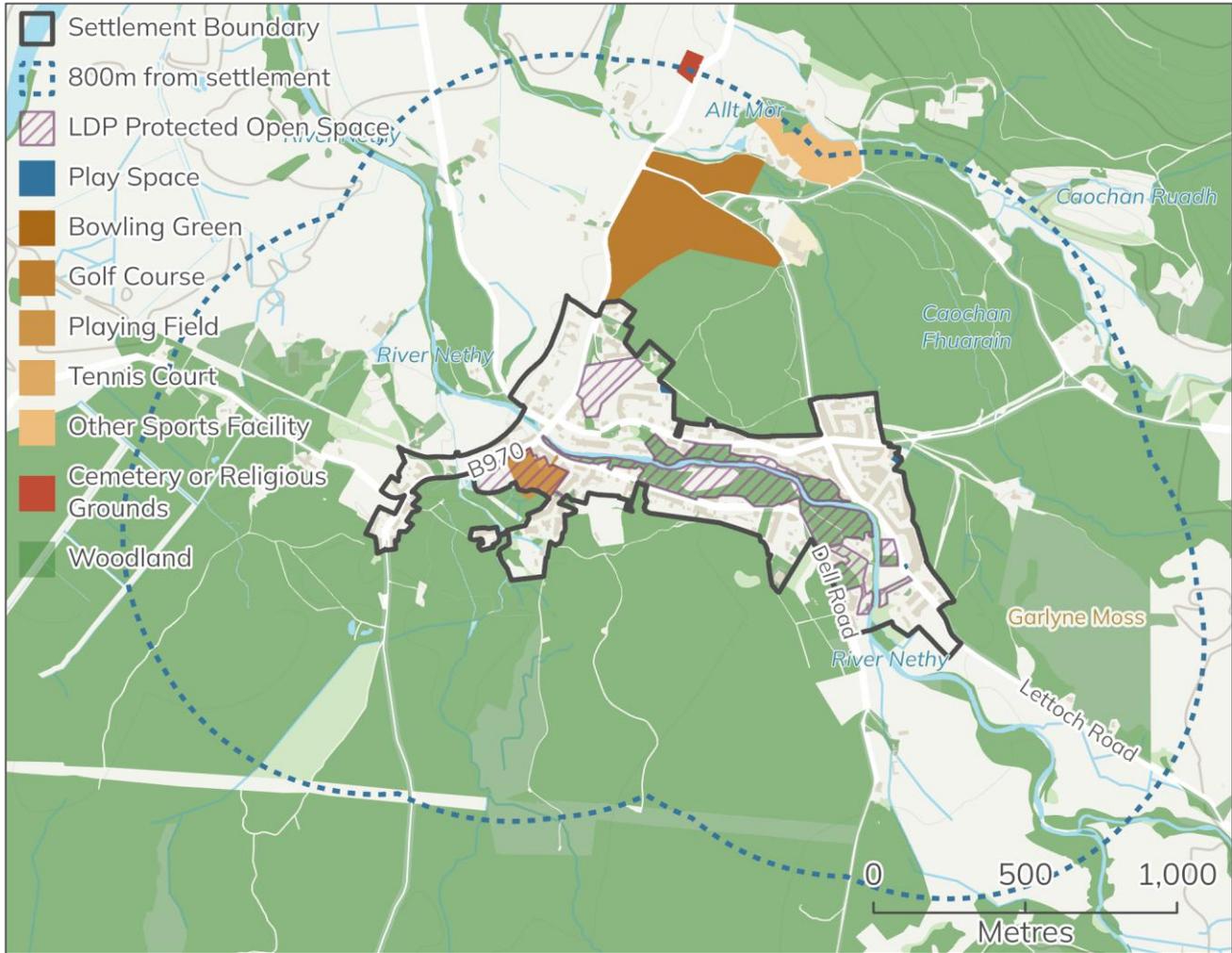


Figure 30 Greenspace, woodland and protect open space in and within 800m of the settlement boundary of Nethy Bridge (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Newtonmore

Table 19 Table 10 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Dinnet (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Newtonmore, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, it identifies 50 hectares of greenspace.

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

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

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

There are five protected open spaces identified in Newtonmore the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan. They total 18.30 hectares of open space. The greenspace, woodland and protected open space are shown on the map of Newtonmore (Figure 31 Figure 15).

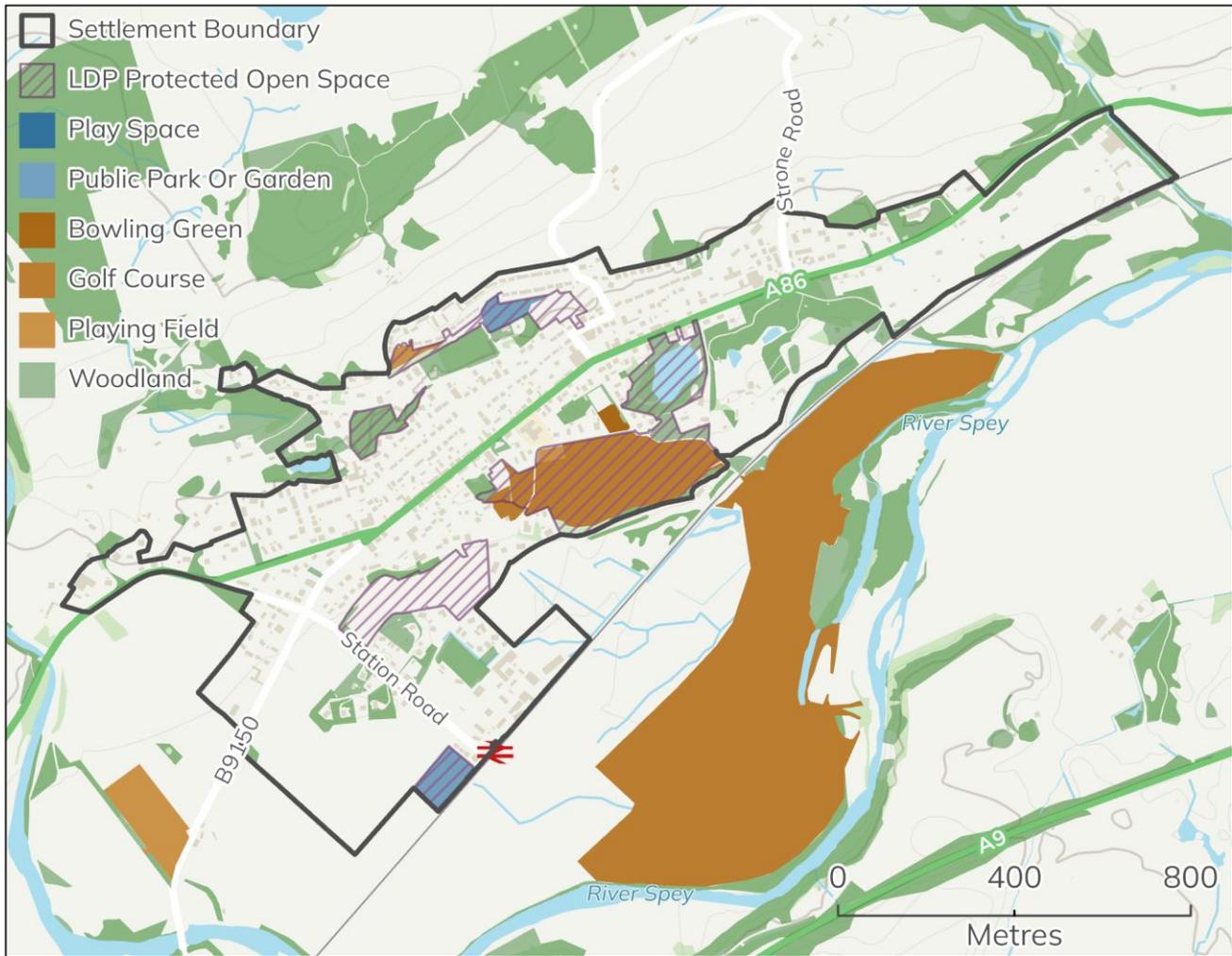


Figure 31 Greenspace, woodland and protect open space in and adjacent to Newtonmore (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Strathdon

Table 10 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Dinnet (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Strathdon, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, it identifies 3 hectares of greenspace.

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

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

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

There are no protected open spaces identified in Strathdon in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan. The greenspace and woodland are shown on the map of Strathdon (Figure 32Figure 15).



Figure 32 Greenspace and woodland in and within 800m of the settlement boundary of Strathdon (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer and Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Tomintoul

Table 21 Table 10 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Dinnet (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer) sets out the total amount of greenspace in each typology in Tomintoul, according to the Ordnance Survey open data greenspace layer. In total, it identifies 4.6 hectares of greenspace.

Table 21 Total amount of each greenspace typology in Newtonmore (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer).

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

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

There are six protected open spaces identified in Tomintoul in the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan. They total 8.4 hectares of open space. The greenspace, woodland and protected open space are shown on the map of Tomintoul (Figure 33 Figure 15).



Figure 33 Greenspace, woodland and protect open space in and adjacent to Tomintoul (source: Ordnance Survey Open Data Greenspace layer, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Topography layer and the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021). Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Sports facilities audit

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

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

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

The dataset provides layers for:

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

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



Table 22 Total of each type of sports facility within the Cairngorms National Park (source: SportScotland).

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

Table 22 summarises the number of each type of sports facility in the Cairngorms National Park. The most common sport facilities are sports halls, golf courses and outdoor tennis courts. The least common are an athletics track, ice rink and indoor tennis court. It is recognised that some of the sports facilities listed in the SportScotland dataset are within private resorts or centres and only open to residents of the resorts, or in some cases through membership. This is noted in the settlement summaries.

Table 23 summarises the number of each type of sports facility in each settlement in the Cairngorms National Park. A facility is listed as being in the settlement when it is either within the settlement boundary, as defined by the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021, or within 800m of the settlement boundary.

Aviemore, the largest strategic settlement, has the greatest range of sports facilities. The other strategic settlements (Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore) have higher numbers of sports facilities than any of the intermediate or rural settlements. Eight settlements do not contain any dedicated sports facilities within 800m. These eight include one intermediate settlement – Kincaig. However, it is worth noting that the Loch Insh outdoor centre is only just over 800m from the edge of the settlement. The seven rural settlements without any sports facilities are Clova, Dalwhinnie, Glenlivet, Glenshee, Insh, Killiecrankie and Strathdon.



Table 24 listed the sports facilities outwith settlements. There are four outdoor activity centres and three sports halls.

Table 23 Distribution of sport facilities within 800m of each settlement identified in the Local Development Plan 2021 (source: SportScotland).

	Athletics track	Bowling green	Fitness suite	Golf club	Ice rink	Indoor tennis court	Leisure centre	Other sports facility	Outdoor activity centre	Outdoor tennis court	Sports pitch	Sports hall	Squash courts	Swimming pool	Total
Aviemore	0	1	2	1	1	0	2	5	0	0	1	1	1	2	17
Ballater	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	1	1	11
Blair Atholl	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	6
Boat of Garten	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	5
Braemar	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	5
Carrbridge	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	5
Coylumbridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
Cromdale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Dinnet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Dulnain Bridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Glenmore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Grantown-on-Spey	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	11
Inverdrue	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	9
Kincraig	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kingussie	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	8
Laggan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Nethy Bridge	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	9
Newtonmore	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	6
Tomintoul	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Outwith settlements	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	5	1	1	3	0	0	14
Total	1	9	7	13	1	1	5	17	8	11	10	22	3	10	118



Table 24 Additional sport facilities not located within 800m of a settlement identified in the Local Development Plan 2021 (SportScotland).

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

Settlement summaries²⁰

Aviemore

Table 25 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Aviemore (source: SportScotland).

Sports facilities	Number in settlement
Bowling green (Aviemore bowling club)	1
Fitness suite (Macdonald Aviemore Resort and Spey Valley Resort ²¹)	2
Golf course (Macdonald Spey Valley golf and country club)	1
Ice rink (Aviemore ice rink)	1
Leisure centre (Aviemore community and leisure centre)	2
Other sport facility (Unit 8 activity centre, Crossfit Cairngorm, Cairngorm school of dance, dry ski slope and Aviemore kart raceway)	5
Sports pitch (Aviemore community and leisure centre)	1

²⁰ A facility is listed as being in a settlement when it is either within the settlement boundary, as defined by the adopted Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2021, or is within 800m of the settlement boundary.

²¹ The Macdonald Aviemore Resort and Spey Valley Resort facilities are open to guests only.



Sports facilities	Number in settlement
Sports hall (Macdonald Spey Valley Resort)	1
Squash court (Macdonald Spey Valley Resort)	1
Swimming pool (Macdonald Aviemore Resort and Macdonald Spey Valley resort)	2
Total	17

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

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

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

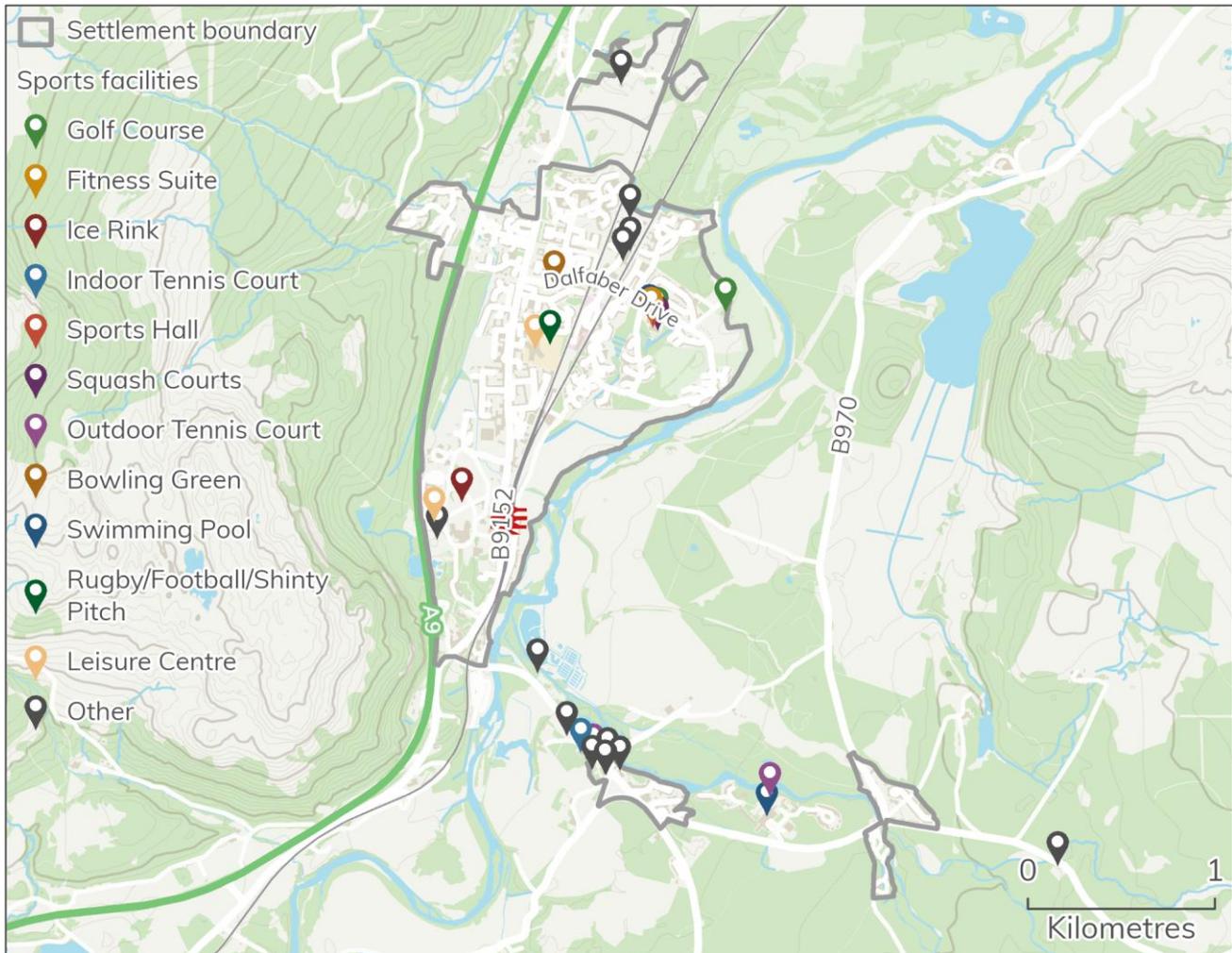


Figure 34 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Aviemore. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Ballater

Table 26 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Ballater (source: SportScotland).

Sports facilities	Number in settlement
Bowling green (Ballater bowling and tennis club)	1
Fitness suite (Hilton Craigendarroch ²²)	1
Golf course (Ballater golf course)	1
Outdoor tennis court (Ballater tennis court)	1
Sports pitch (Monaltrie Park)	1
Sports hall (Ballater School, Ballater Victory Hall, Victoria and Albert Hall and Birkhall Community Hall)	4
Squash court (Hilton Craigendarroch)	1
Swimming pool (Hilton Craigendarroch)	1
Total	11

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

²² The Hilton Craigendarroch facilities are open to guests only.

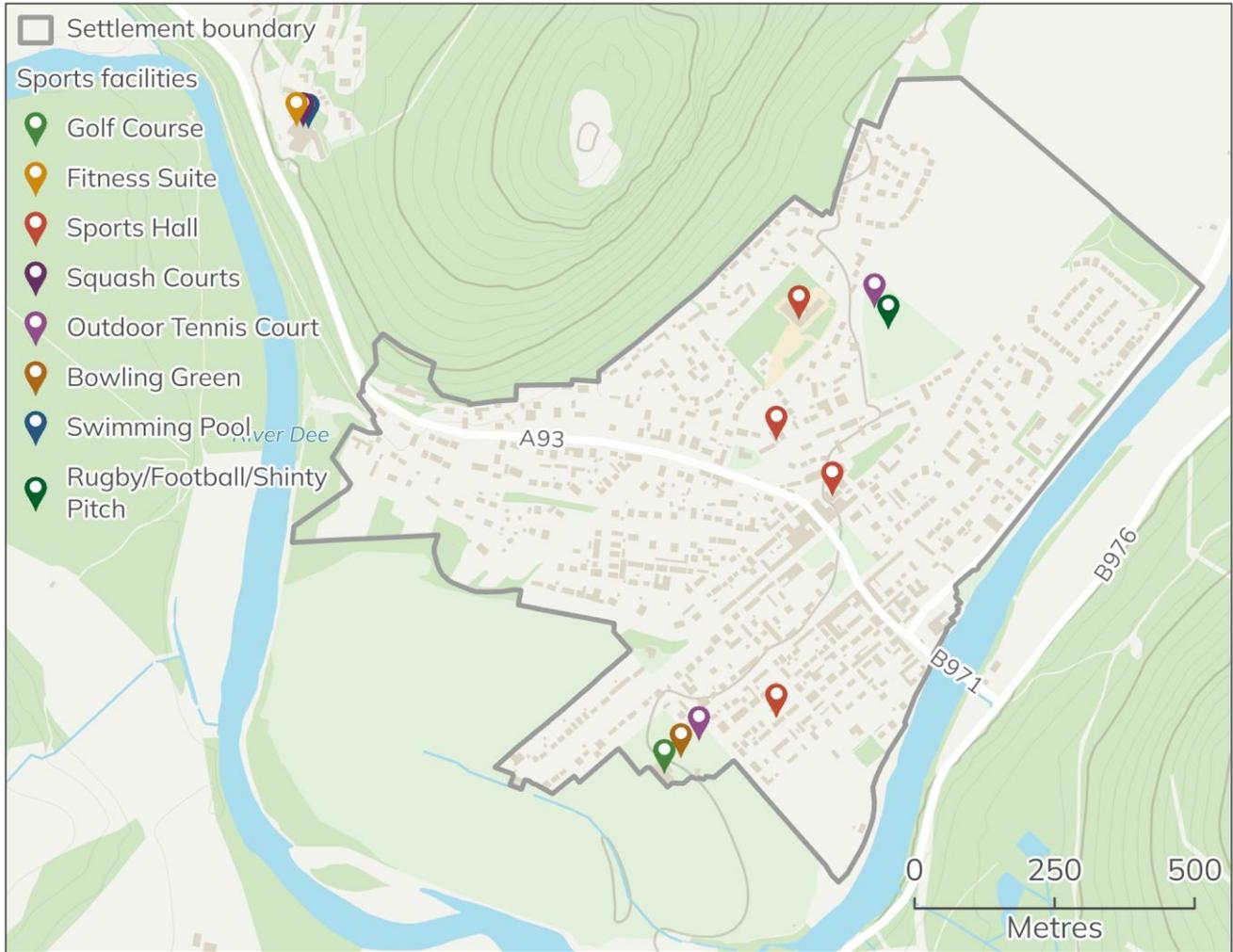


Figure 35 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Ballater. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Blair Atholl

Table 27 Sports facilities in or within 800m of Blair Atholl (source: SportScotland).

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

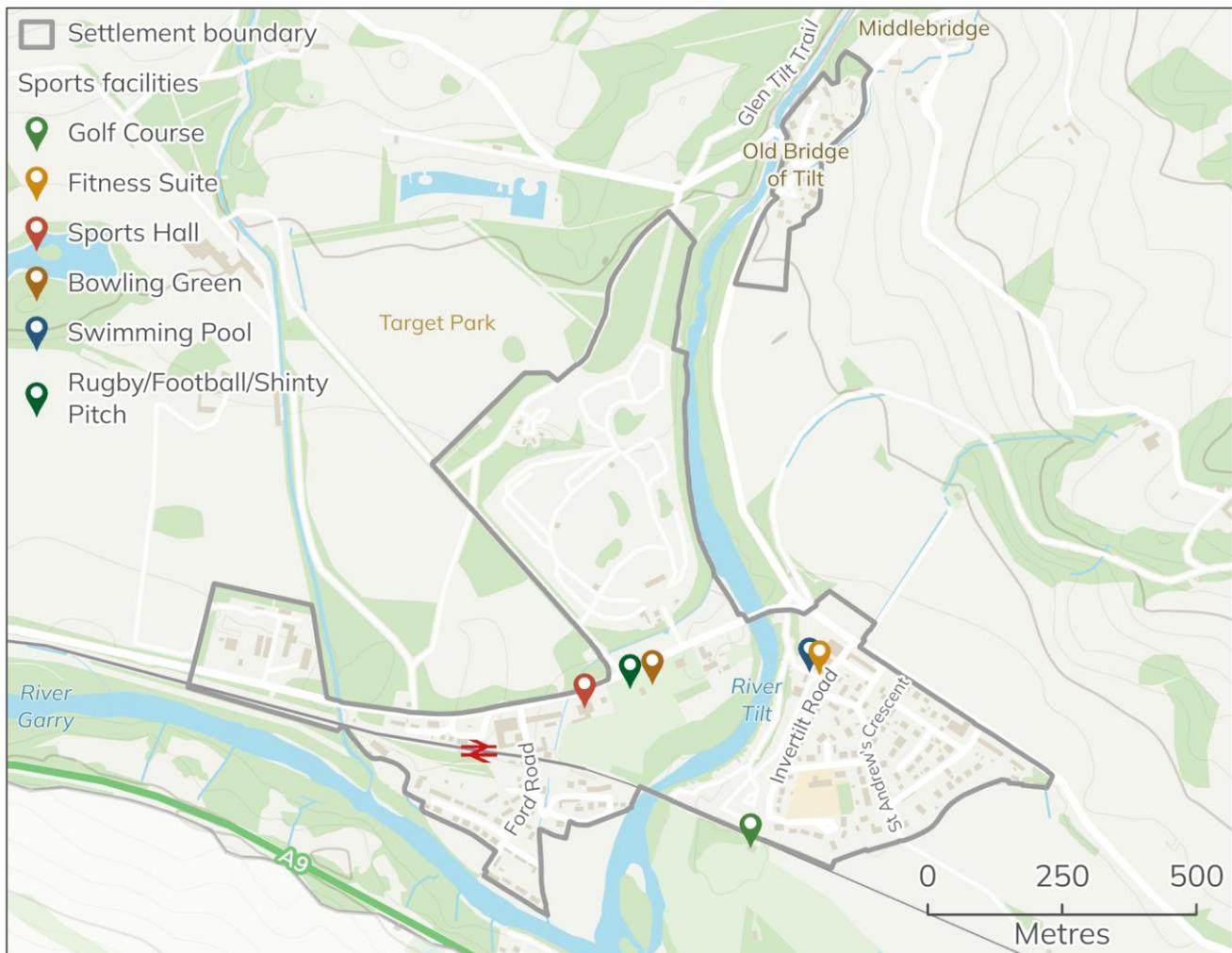


Figure 36 Sports facilities located in Blair Atholl. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Boat of Garten

Table 28 Sports facilities in or within 800m of Boat of Garten (source: SportScotland).

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

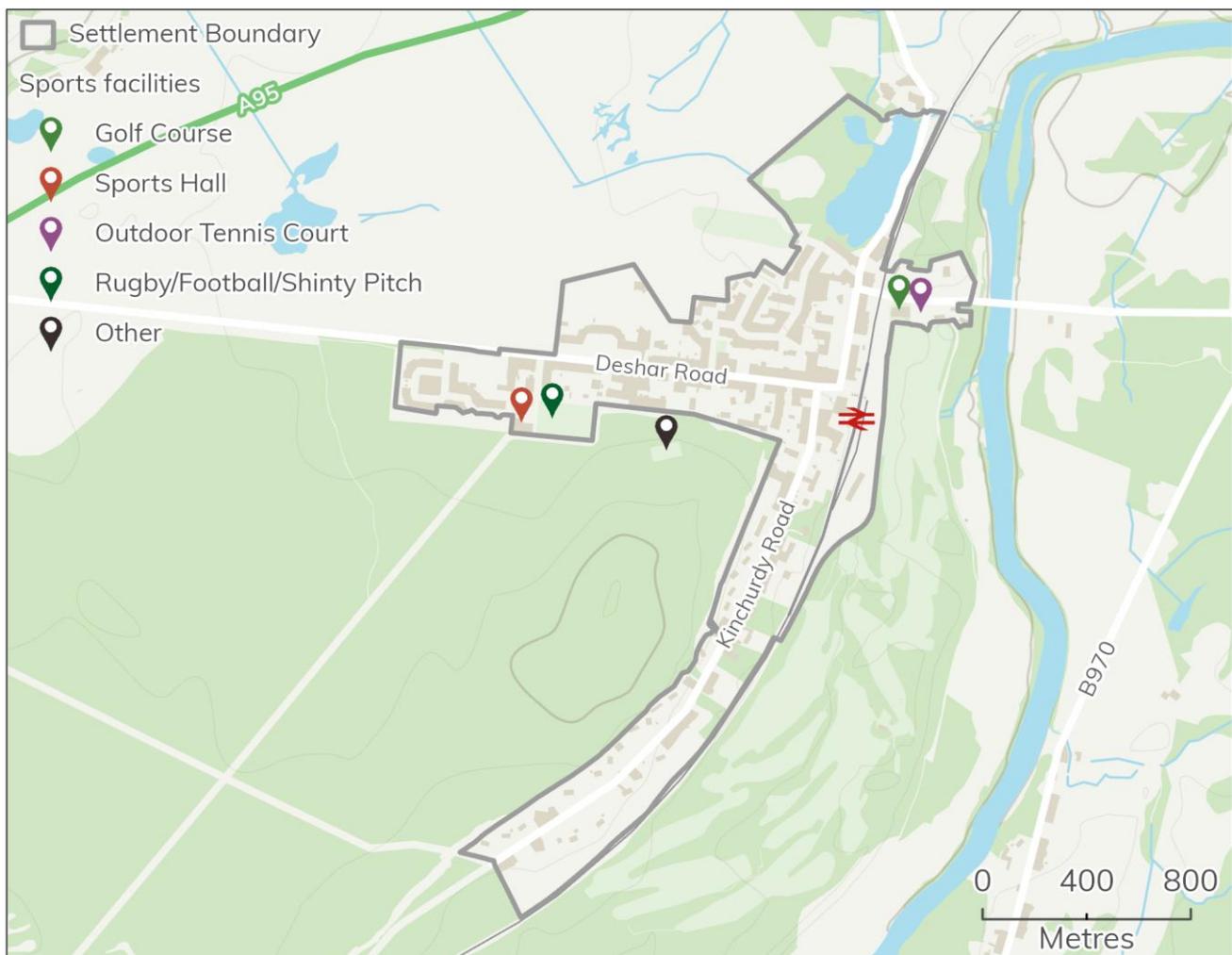


Figure 37 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Boat of Garten. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Braemar

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

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

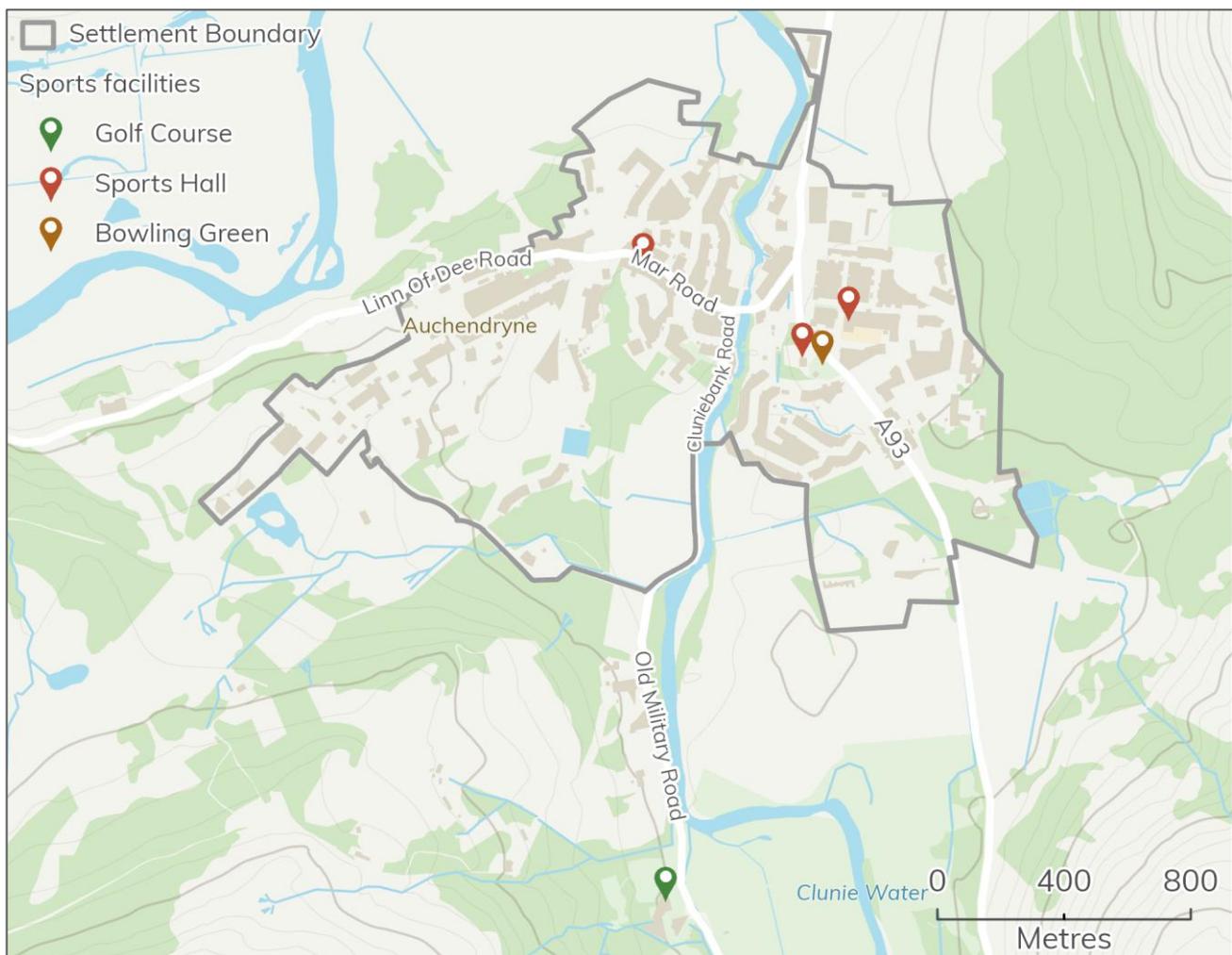


Figure 38 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Braemar. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Carrbridge

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

Sport facilities	Number in settlement
Golf course (Carrbridge golf club)	1
Leisure centre (Macdonald Lochanhully resort ²³)	1
Other sports facility (curling pond)	1
Outdoor tennis court (Macdonald Lochanhully resort)	1
Swimming pool (Macdonald Lochanhully resort)	1
Total	5

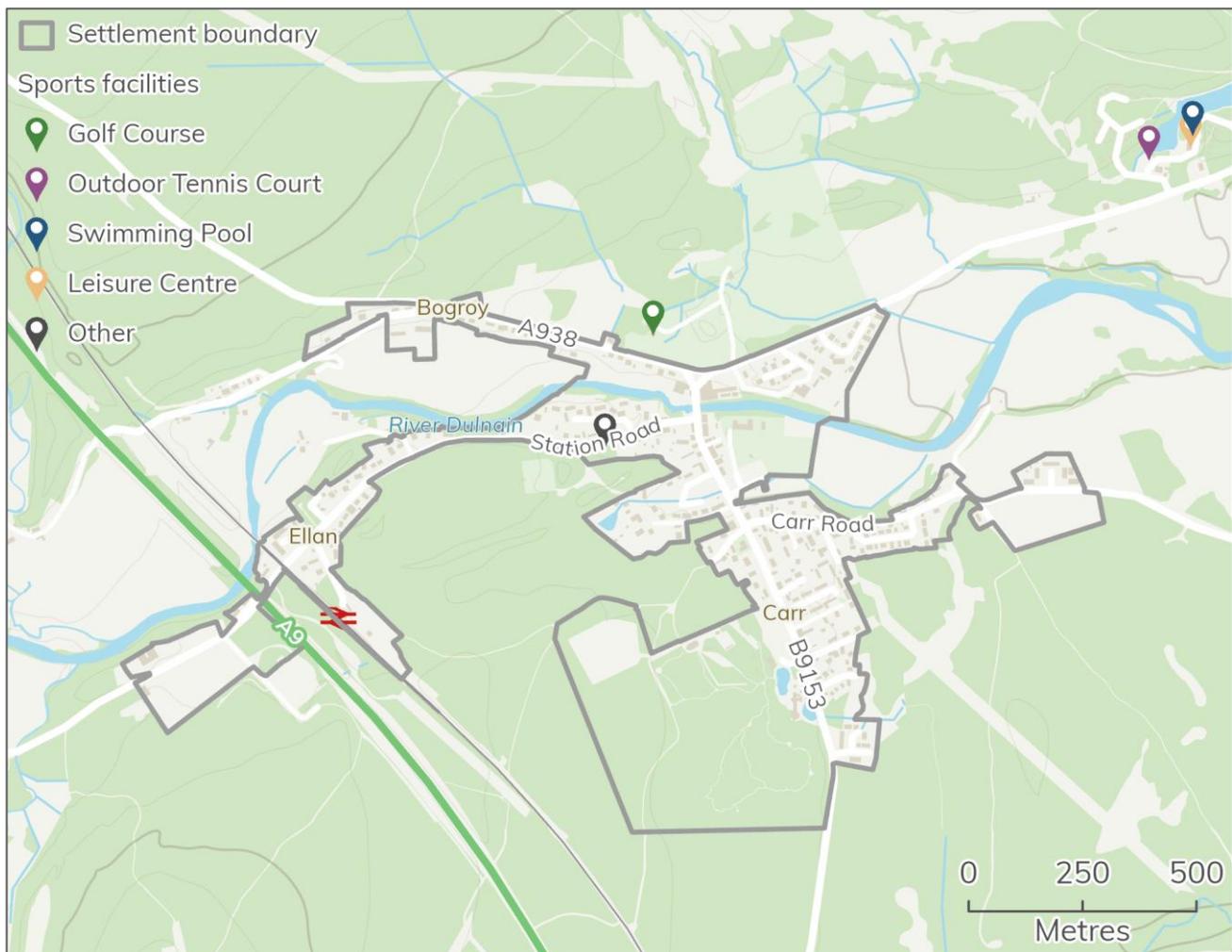


Figure 39 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Carrbridge. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.

²³ The Macdonald Lochanhully resort facilities are open to residents of the resort only.



Coylumbridge

Table 31 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Coylumbridge (source: SportScotland).

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

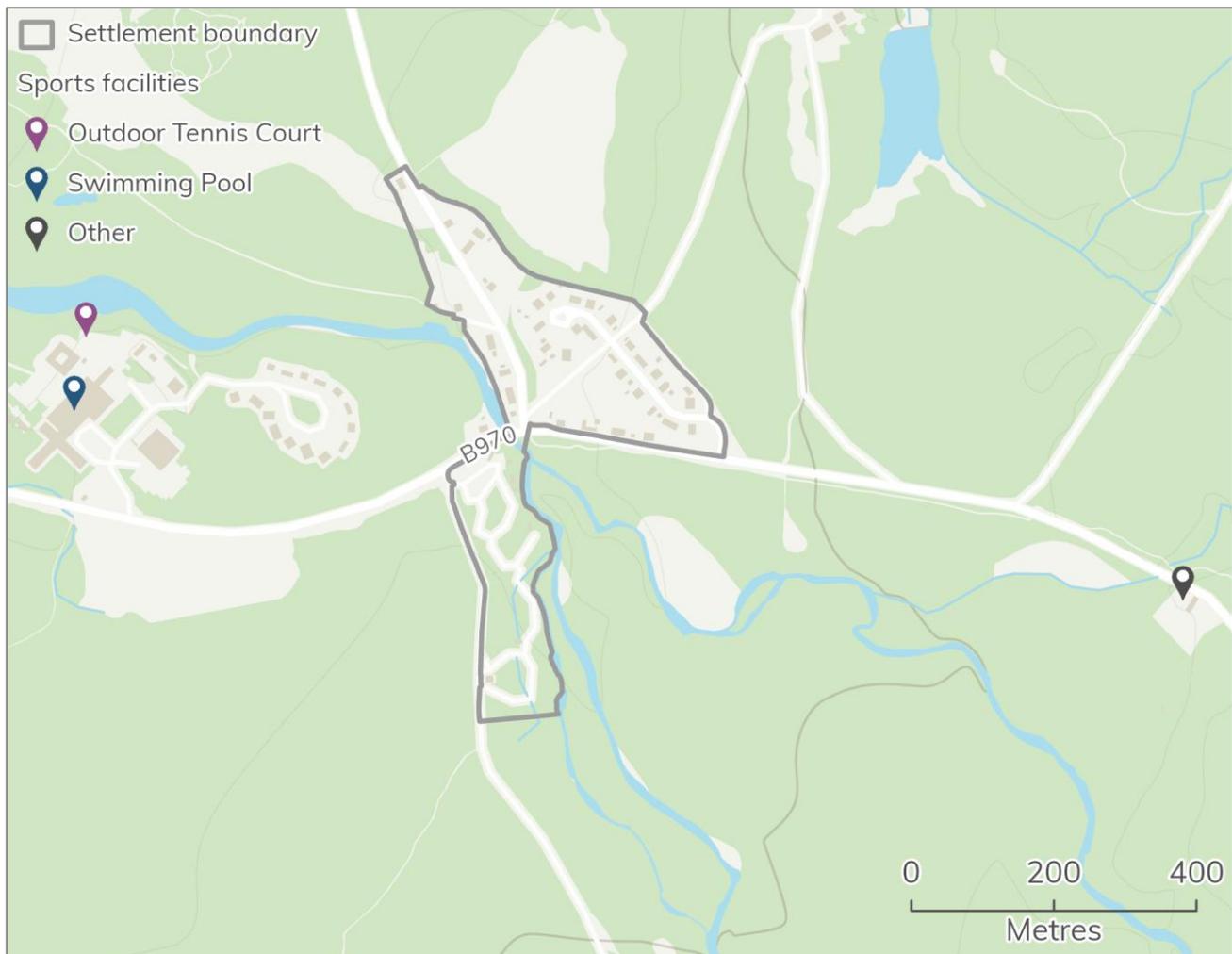


Figure 40 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Coylumbridge. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Cromdale

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

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

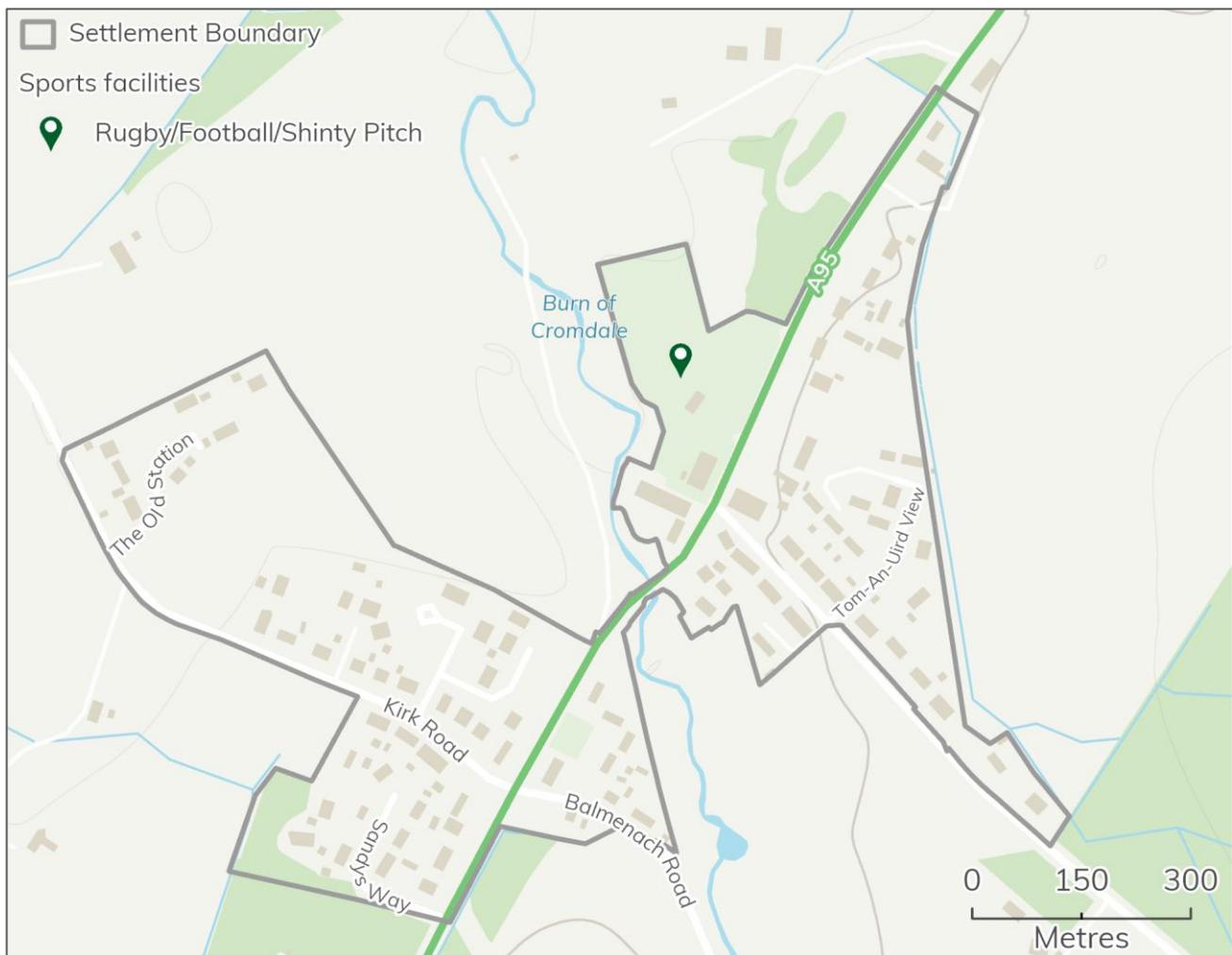


Figure 41 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Cromdale. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Dinnet

Table 33 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Dinnet (source: SportScotland)

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

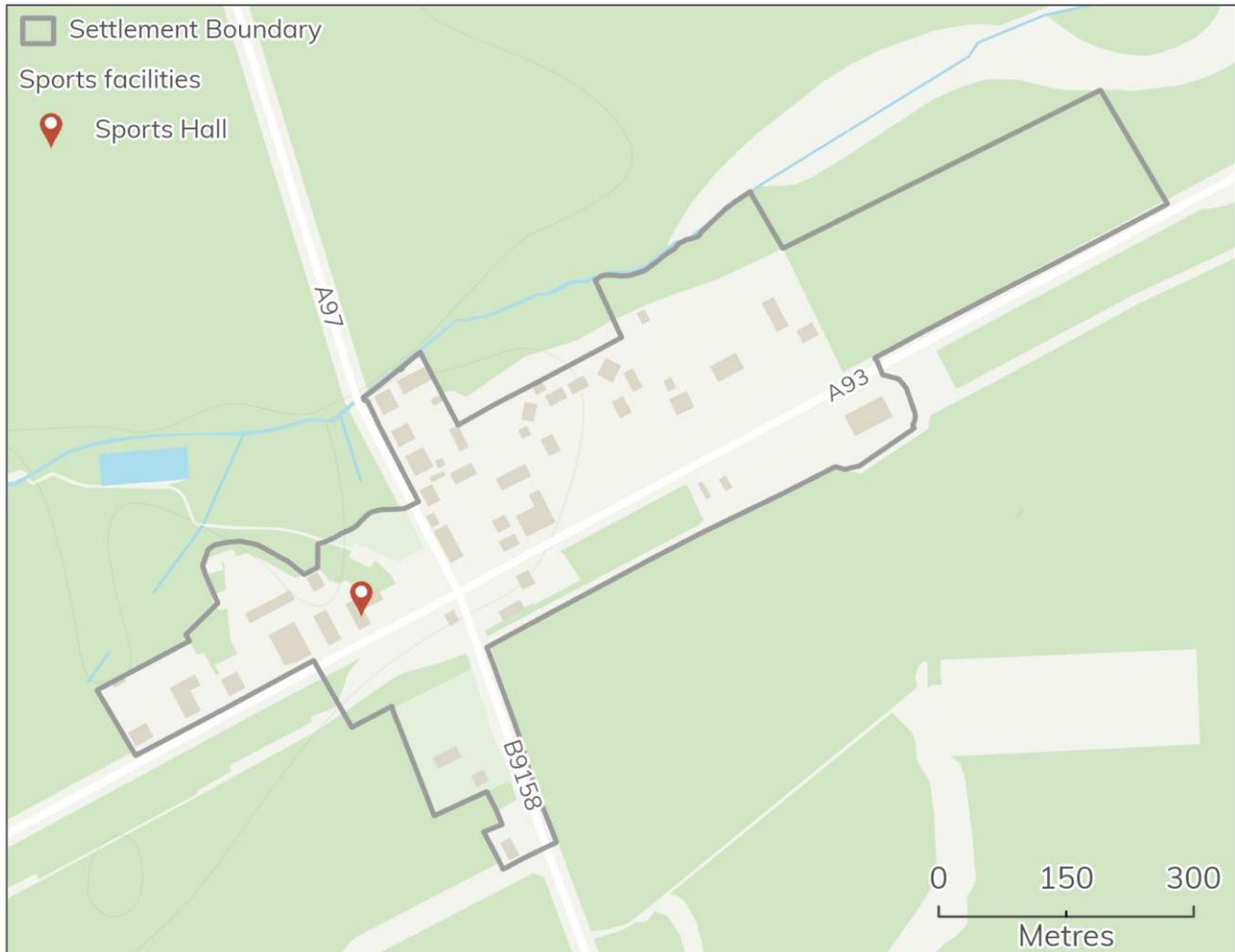


Figure 42 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Dinnet. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Dulnain Bridge

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

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



Figure 43 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Dulnain Bridge. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Glenmore

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

Sport facilities	Number in settlement
Outdoor activity centre (Glenmore Lodge ²⁴)	1
Swimming pool (Glenmore Lodge)	1
Total	2

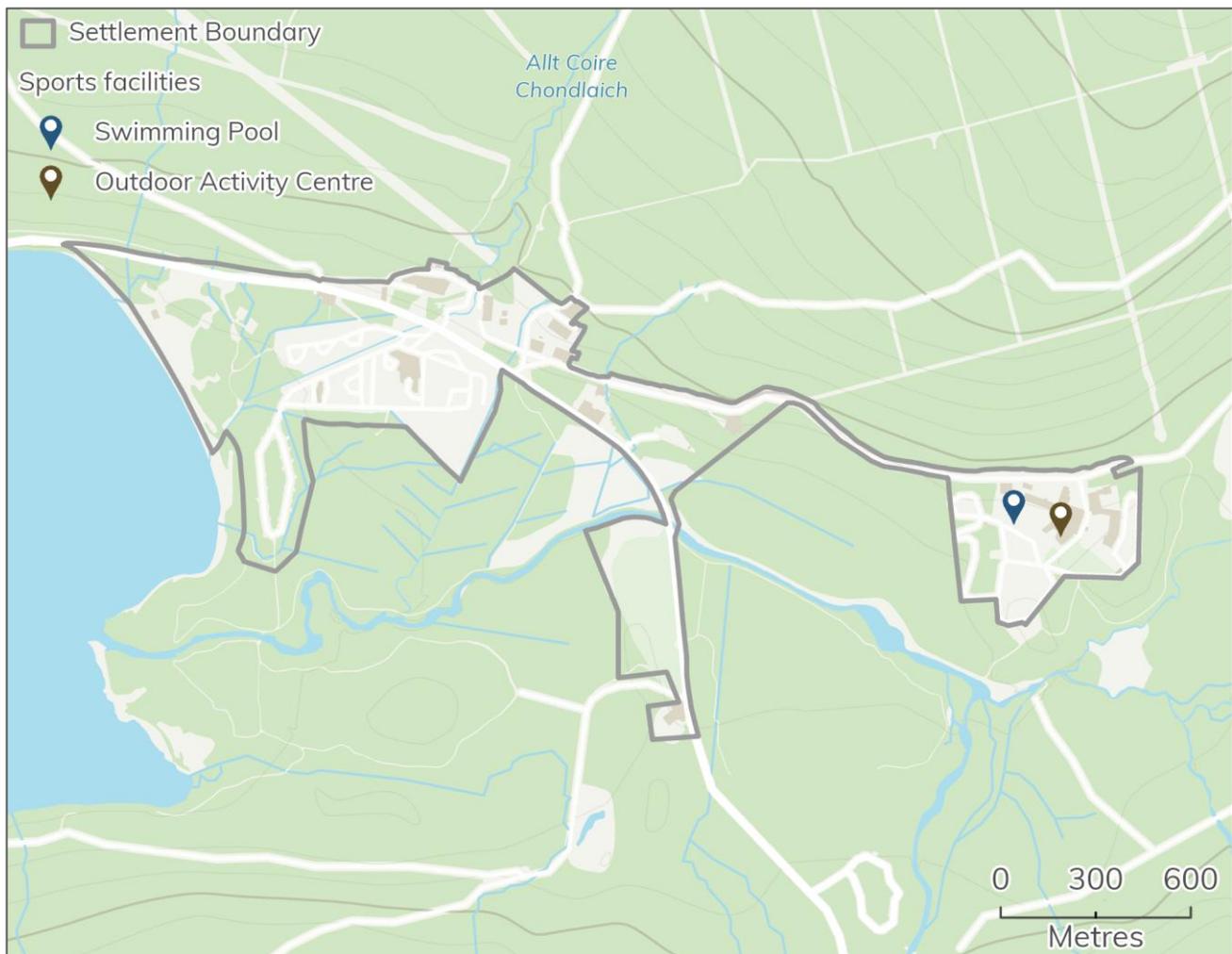


Figure 44 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Glenmore. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.

²⁴ The Glenmore Lodge facilities are open to residents of the resort only.



Grantown-on-Spey

Table 36 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Grantown-on-Spey (source: SportScotland).

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

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

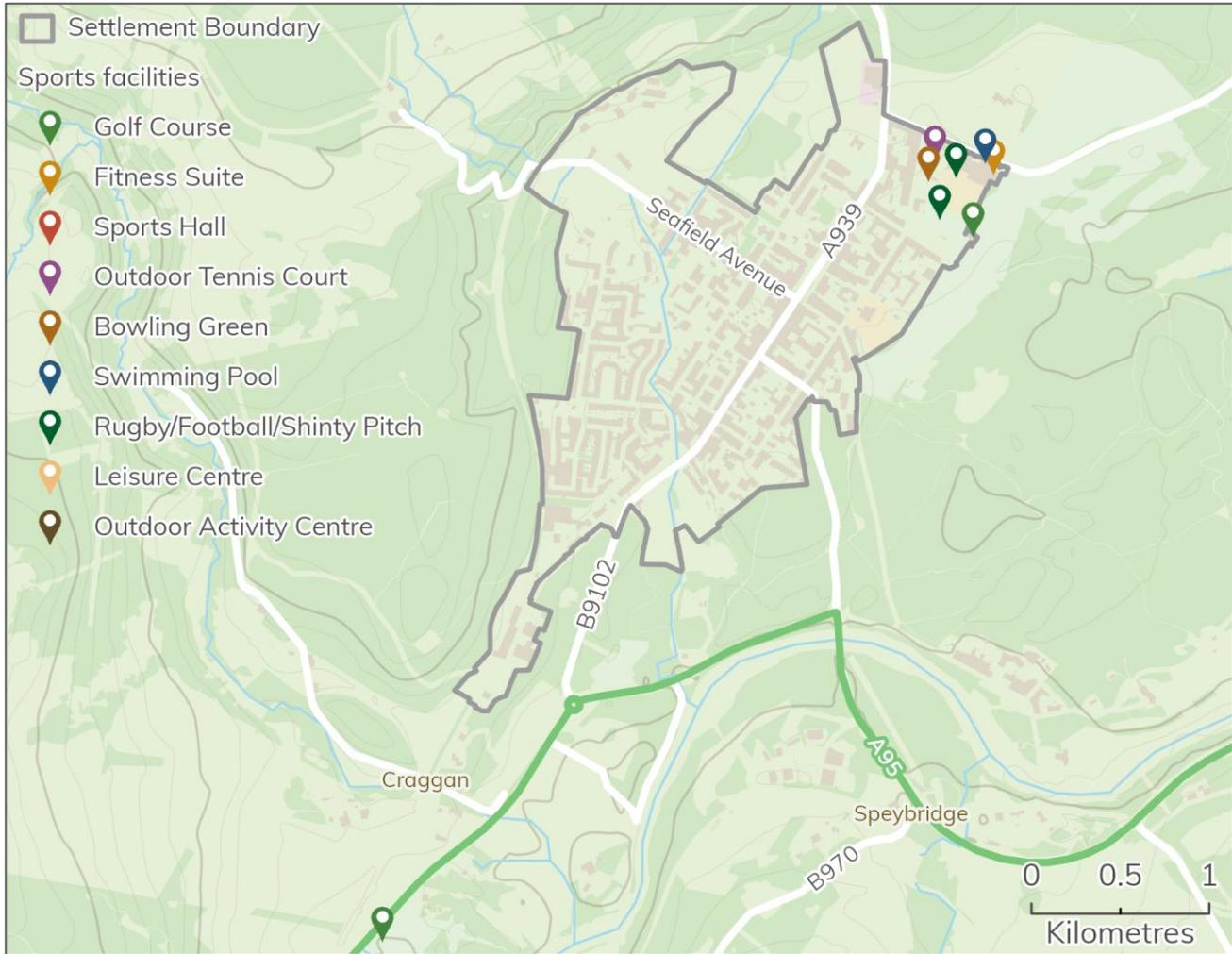


Figure 45 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Granttown-on-Spey. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Inverdrue

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

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



Figure 46 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Inverdrue. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Kingussie

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

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

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

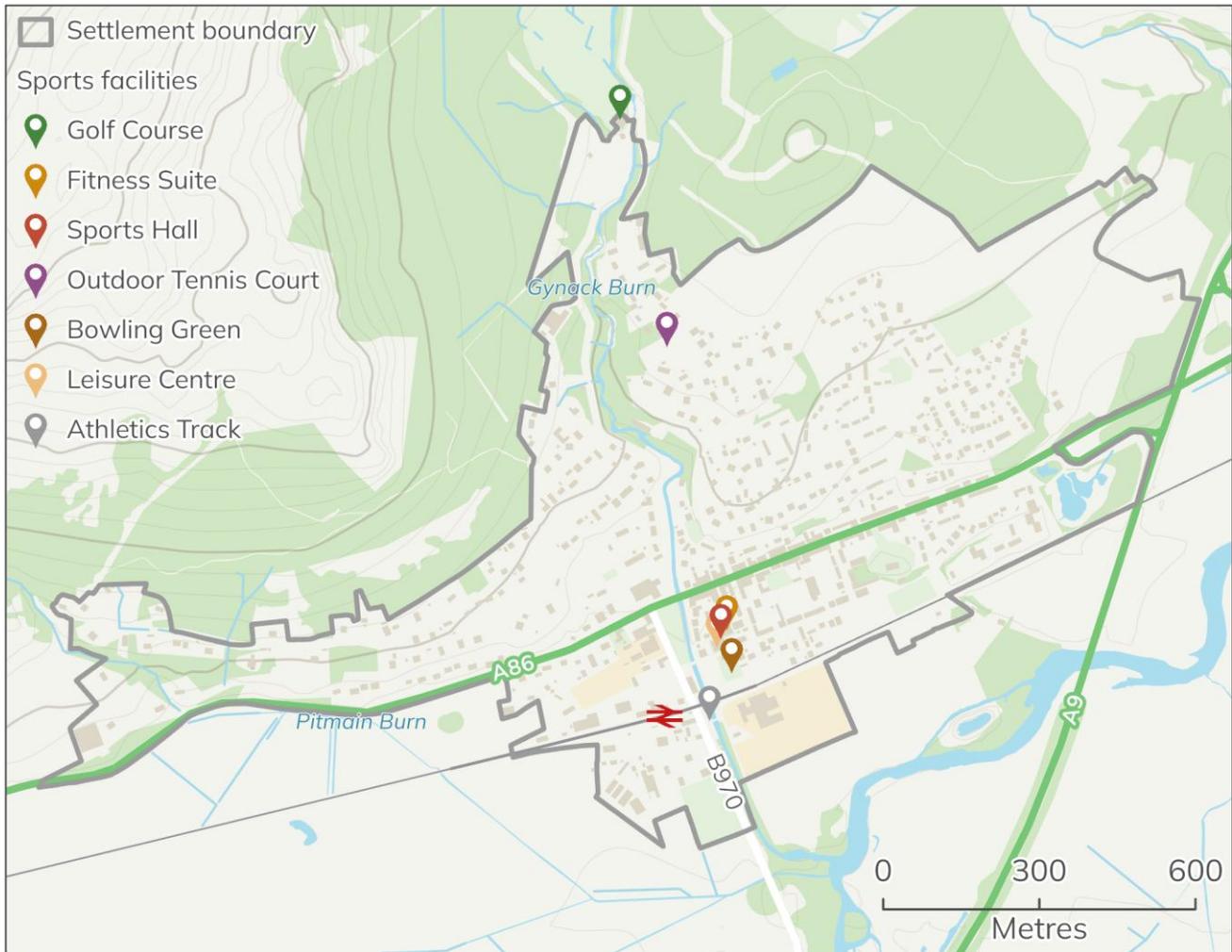


Figure 47 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Kingussie. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Laggan

Table 39 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Laggan (source: SportScotland)

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



Figure 48 Sports facilities located in and within 800m of Laggan. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Nethy Bridge

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

Sport facilities	Number in settlement
Bowling green (Abernethy bowling club)	1
Golf course (Abernethy golf club)	1
Outdoor activity centre (Abernethy Trust outdoor centre ²⁵)	1
Outdoor tennis court (Abernethy Trust outdoor centre and Nethy Bridge community centre)	2
Sports pitch (Nethy Bridge sports pitch)	1
Sports hall (Abernethy Trust outdoor centre)	1
Squash court (Abernethy Trust outdoor centre)	1
Swimming pool (Abernethy Trust outdoor centre)	1
Total	9

²⁵ The Abernethy Trust facilities are open to residents of the centre only.

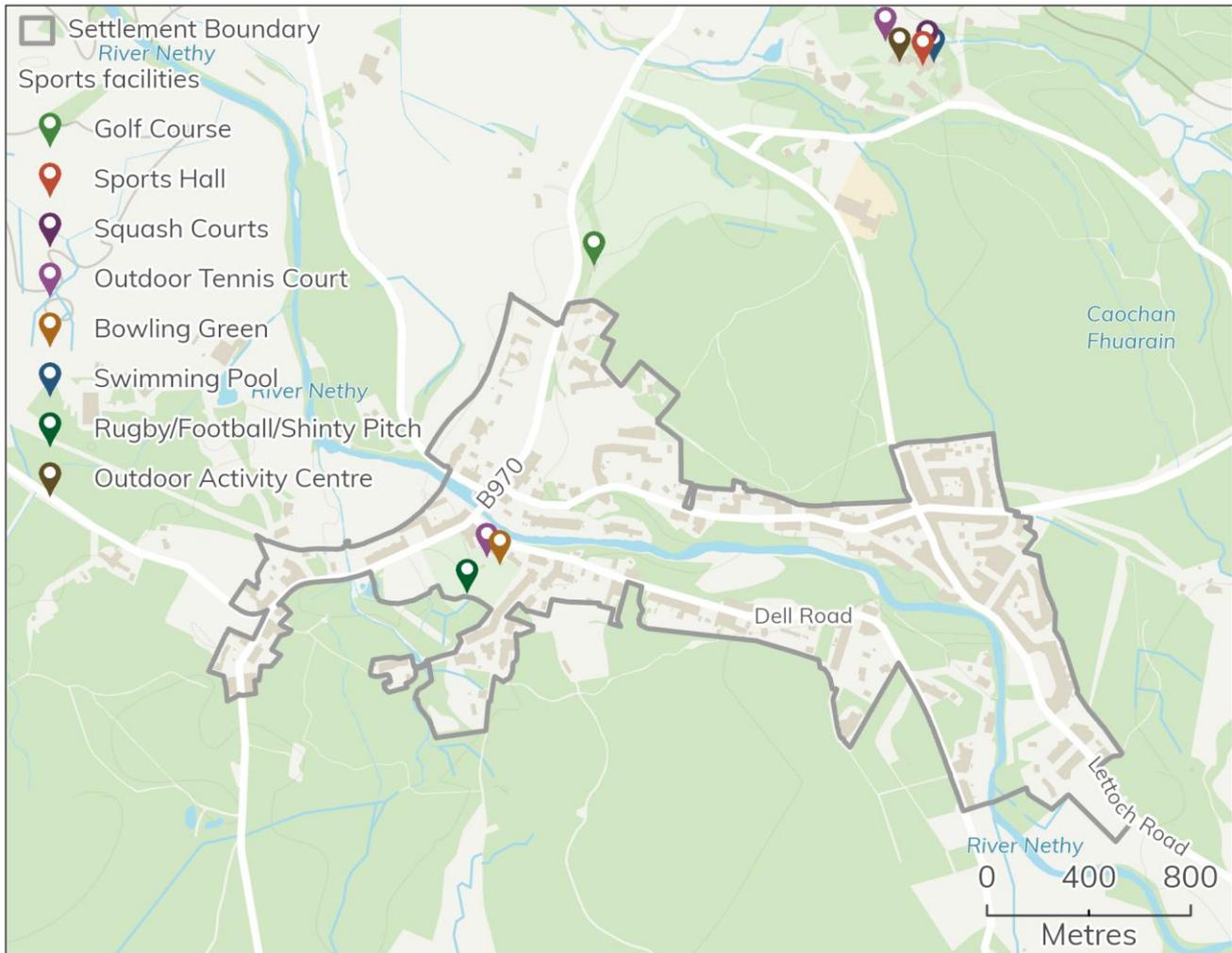


Figure 49 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Nethy Bridge. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Newtonmore

Table 41 Sports facilities located in or within 800m of Newtonmore (source: SportScotland)

Sport facilities	Number in settlement
Bowling green (Newtonmore bowling club)	1
Fitness suite (Balavil Hotel ²⁶)	1
Golf course (Newtonmore golf club)	1
Outdoor tennis court (Newtonmore tennis club)	1
Sports hall (Newtonmore village hall)	1
Swimming pool (Balavil Hotel)	1
Total	6

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

²⁶ The Balavil Hotel facilities are open to hotel guests and members only. Membership is available to permanent residents of Newtonmore, Kingussie, Kincaig, Laggan and Insh.

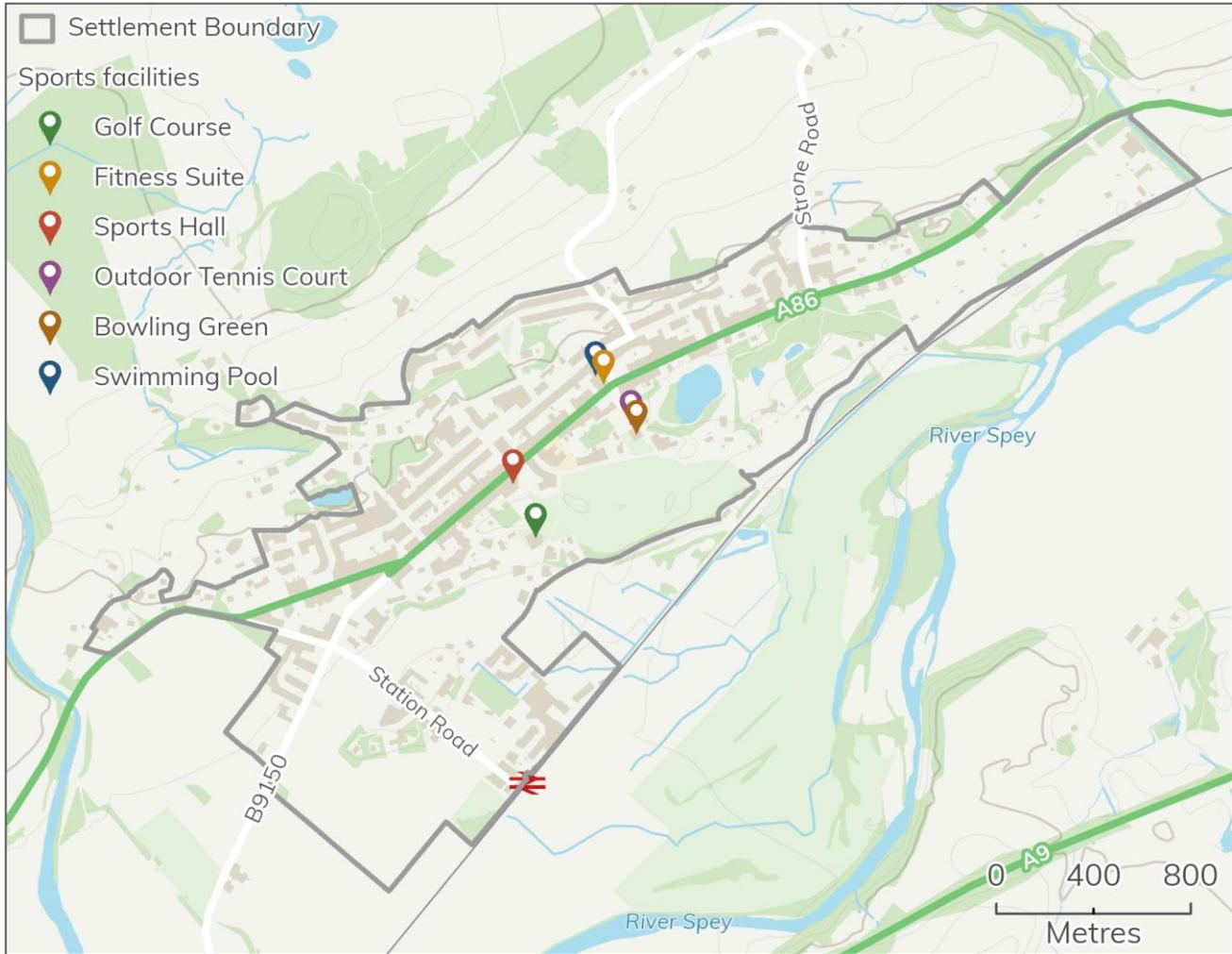


Figure 50 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Newtonmore. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Tomintoul

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

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

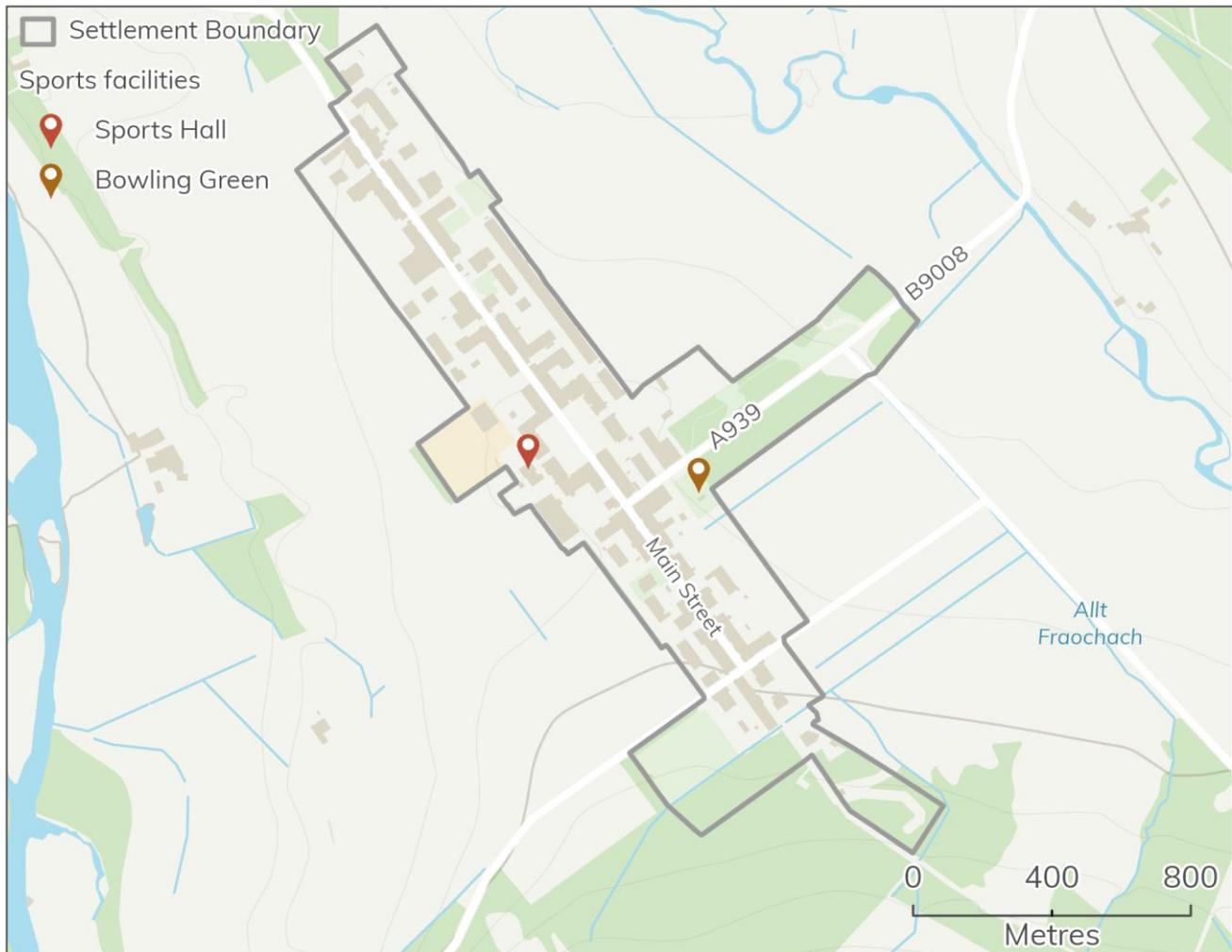


Figure 51 Sports facilities located in and adjacent to Tomintoul. Cairngorms National Park Authority © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000821810.



Summary of implications for proposed plan

The proposed plan needs to be prepared in accordance with:

- The four aims of the National Park as set out in The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000), in particular the first aim 'to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area'.
- The spatial strategy and principles of National Planning Framework 4, in particular by:
 - Identifying sites, for play and outdoor recreation for people of all ages, where evidenced to be necessary. This should take account of any open space strategies published by the constituent local authorities as well as the Cairngorms National Park Authority's Play Sufficiency Assessment.
 - Taking account relevant agencies' plans or policy frameworks, such as flood risk and / or water management plan when identifying these spaces, to enhance and expand blue and green infrastructure.

In its preparation the proposed plan should:

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