



2063 VISION

Patches of forest and woodland, some miles across, some as small as football fields, link together through farmland and open ground. They are expanding up hillsides and into quiet areas, providing refuge for species to flourish, like the once critically endangered but now flourishing capercaillie. They are made up almost entirely of native trees: a patchwork of different woodlands, including productive plantations, all with rich understories, trees of all ages, clearings, bogs and deadwood scattered throughout. The UK's largest natural forests are considered an exemplar of woodlands managed for multiple benefits.

Most of the blanket bog is in favourable condition, retains water and acts as a carbon sink. Rivers naturally meander and waters rise and fall seasonally across land grazed by livestock. Large, interconnected wetlands help prevent damaging flood events in the Park and further downstream. Natural processes in river catchments do not affect the productivity of land. The high water quality status has been maintained or increased.

Moorlands have structural diversity and link habitats together sympathetically. A natural transition from woodland to montane scrub to upland heath is developing throughout the National Park. The contributions it makes to ecosystem services are widely recognised. Raptor persecution ended decades ago and a full complement of native raptors lives and breeds across the National Park. Productive grouse moors and high-quality stalking remains a mainstay of life, contributing environmentally, economically and socially.

A patchwork of productive land uses is good for wildlife. It supports thriving communities and reflects centuries of tradition. Delivering biodiversity benefit is an integral part of high-quality food production and does not impact on profitability. High-quality grasslands support a healthy range of nationally and locally important species. Farmland wader populations have recovered and increased throughout the National Park, and the area is nationally recognised as a model of farmland management for conservation on productive land.

Nature conservation is incorporated within all land management activities. Land management is tailored to ensure that the patchwork of habitats is even more diverse and rich in native species, encouraging the recovery of those that have been in decline.

People who live in the National Park are proud of the nature around them and are more widely involved in its management. Land based and tourism businesses thrive by looking after the environments they rely on; and contribute to conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. Visitors respect the landscapes and wildlife they come to see and want to contribute to protecting them. The land management community is thriving. It receives strong public support for the services it provides.

The plateau supports healthy plant and animal communities and are even more widely regarded as the most significant area of montane habitat in the UK. The Cairngorms are renowned for wild land qualities, which visitors continue to enjoy responsibly. A network of sensitively managed paths in popular areas protects fragile soils and rare species. The National Park is a focus for research into the effects of climate change, and a range of mitigation and adaptation trials and approaches are underway.