

# Cairngorms Research Event 2015

connecting research and management





# Management & Research Priorities

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# Research Event 2015

## Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>

- Current management challenges
- Recent research
- Collaborating to address research gaps

## Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>

- Long term monitoring
- LTSER co-ordination
- Research co-ordination
- European perspective









# Cairngorms Research Strategy

- Inform management of the National Park
- Connect place-based research across disciplines
- Facilitate effective knowledge exchange
- Promote the Cairngorms as a focus for collaborative research

# Research Priorities

## Priorities:

- Integration of Natura management
- Natural Capital
- Socio-economic trends
- Visitor trends
- Governance and co-management



# National Park Partnership

## Conservation



## Rural Development



## Visitor Experience



- A special place for people and nature
- A sustainable economy supporting thriving businesses and communities
- People enjoying the Park through outstanding experiences

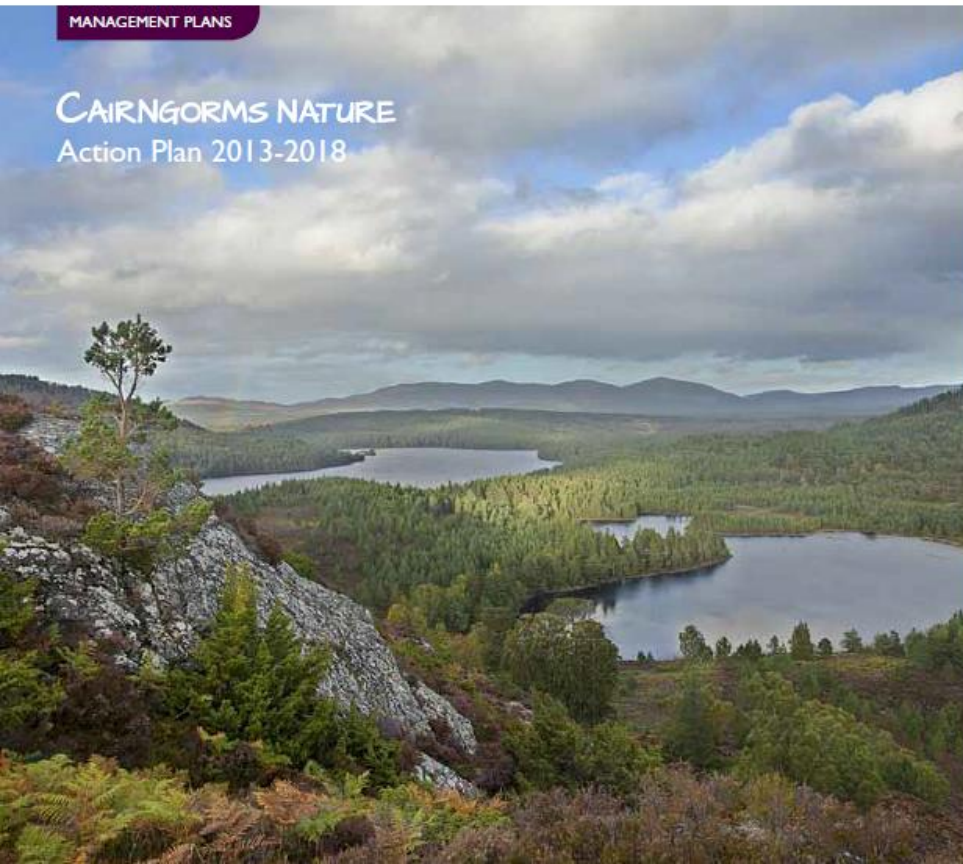


# CAIRNGORMS NATURE



MANAGEMENT PLANS

CAIRNGORMS NATURE  
Action Plan 2013-2018



Partnership to deliver ambitious conservation vision

- Landscape Scale habitat enhancement – woodland, wetland, peatland
- Priority Species Action
- Engaging People in Nature



Scotland's 2020 Biodiversity Challenge



# Landscape Scale Conservation

UK's largest National Park

4528 sq km or  
6% of Scotland

Largest  
expanse of  
mountain  
habitat in UK

Ownership in  
c.80 estates and  
350 farm  
businesses

Upper  
catchment of 5  
of Scotland's  
major rivers

50% of area  
designated  
as Natura

Largest area of  
Caledonian pine  
forest in UK

1.5M visitors per  
year

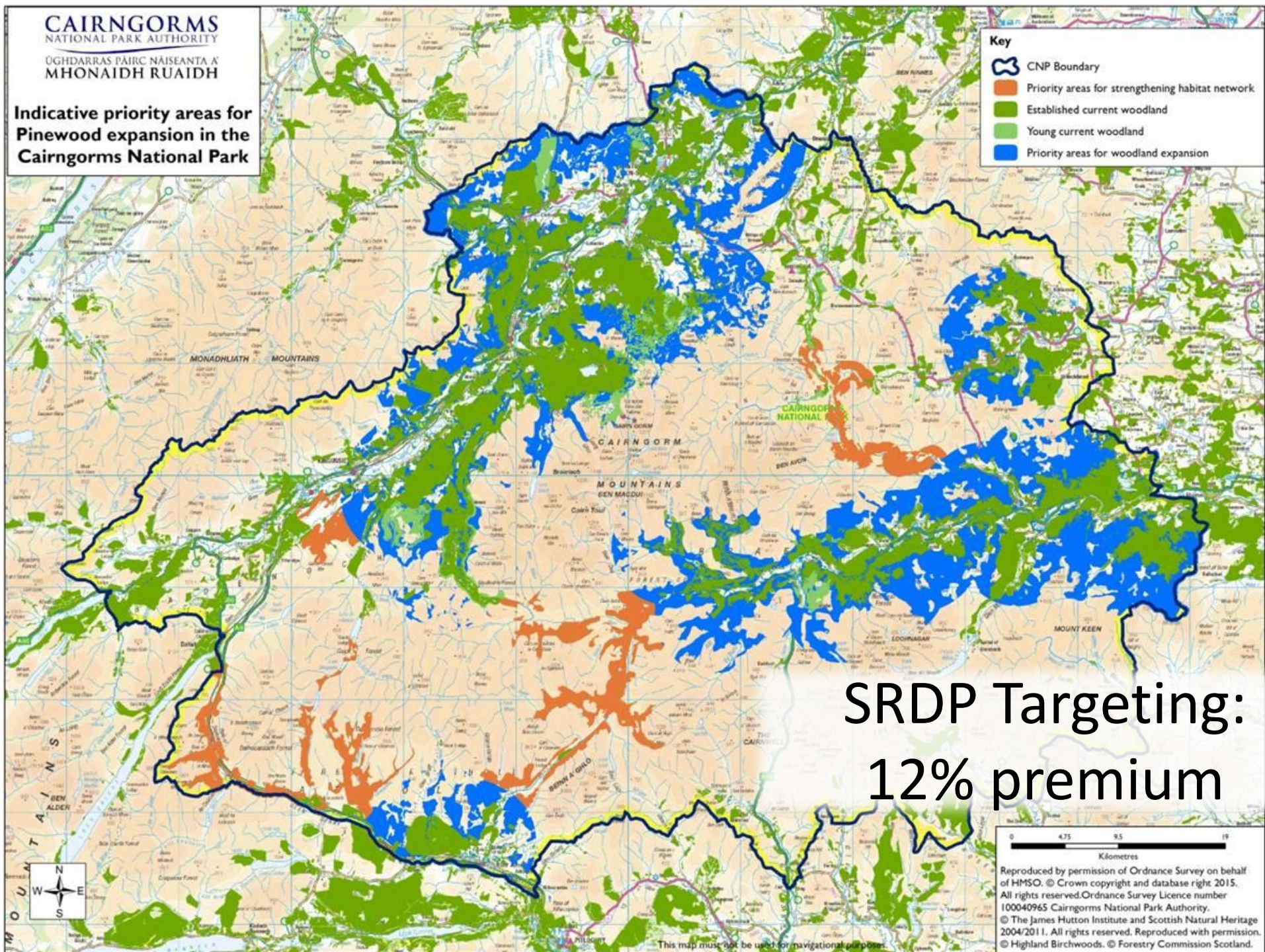
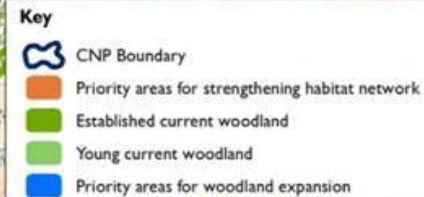
Home to 25% of  
UK's threatened  
species

80% of UK  
capercaillie  
population

UK's best  
breeding  
wader  
populations



**Indicative priority areas for  
Pinewood expansion in the  
Cairngorms National Park**



**SRDP Targeting:  
12% premium**



# Capercaillie Framework

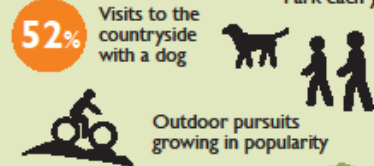
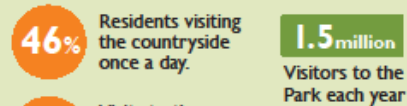
Targeting future management  
at a landscape scale



## Causes of decline...

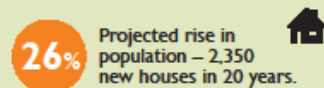
### ...disturbance by people and dogs

Disturbance reduces and fragments their habitat and birds can be killed or injured by dogs.



**Recreation Management**

- Promote responsible access and dog walking
- Reduce disturbance through path management



**Development Management**

- Develop mitigation around new developments to prevent disturbance and impacts on habitat
- Co-ordinate mitigation at landscape scale

### ...lack of suitable habitat

Capercaillie avoid woodland 125m either side of well used tracks.

### ...a wet and cold spring

### ...predation

### ...collisions with unmarked fences

#### Habitat Management

- Create new and improved native woodland expanding and linking suitable habitat
- Fence marking of high risk fences



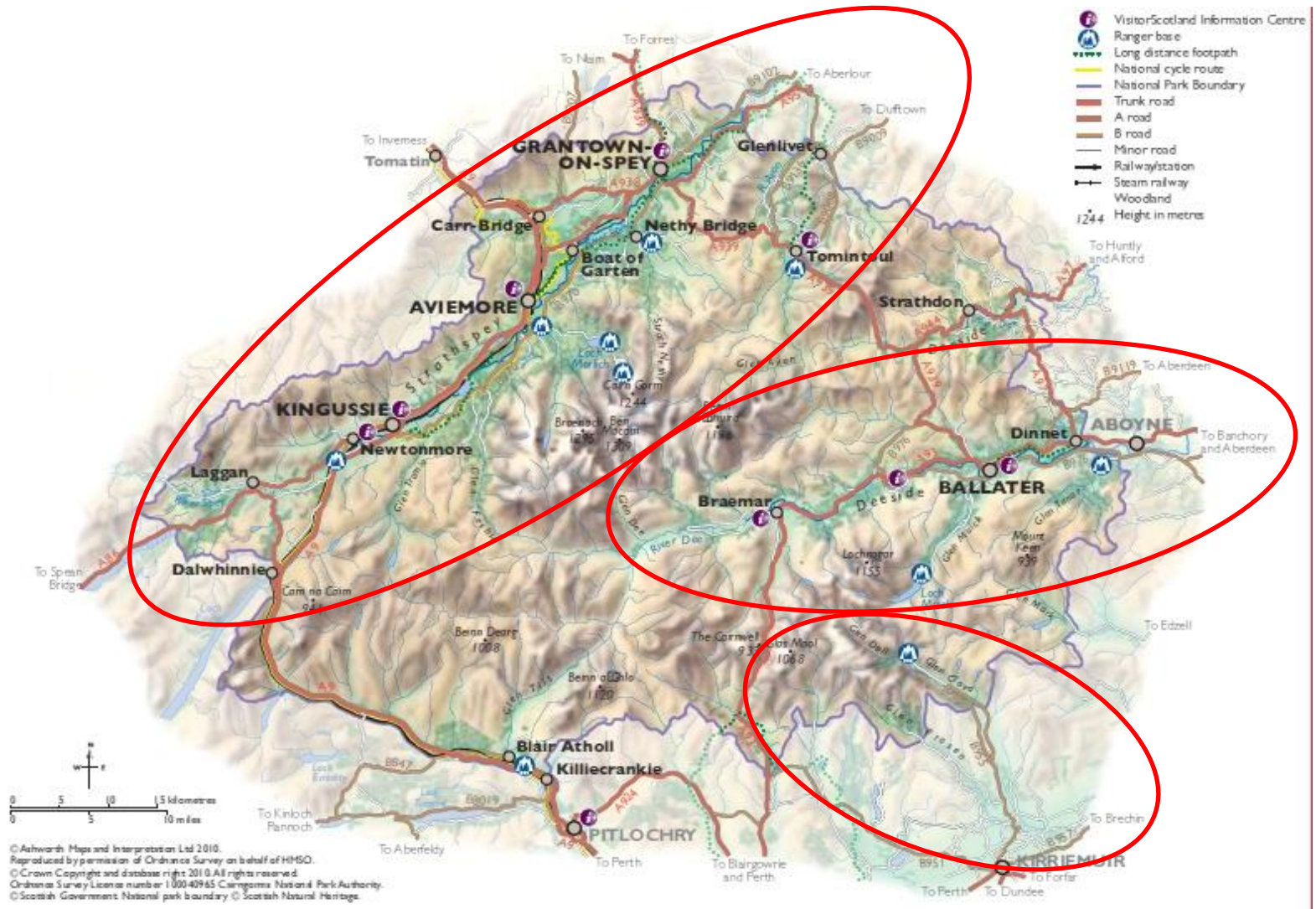
#### Awareness, Understanding and Community Engagement

- Highlight importance of the area for capercaillie economically; ecologically; culturally and socially – take pride in the species
- Work with communities to conserve capercaillie

- Interaction of habitat, recreation & development management
- Metapopulation scale of working
- Building pride in the species



# Catchment Initiatives



# Active Promotion



## Active Cairngorms

## OutdoorsActiveEveryday

- Active Places
- Active Management
- Active Promotion



Active Scotland outcomes

# The Cairngorms Economy

## Facts and Figures

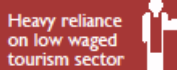


The Park has a unique rural economy with a particularly strong tourism sector

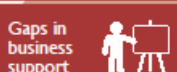
### Challenges



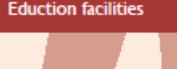
Infrastructure limitations  
Roads, rail, local public transport, housing, business premises, broadband and mobile



Heavy reliance on low waged tourism sector



Increased logistics costs



Gaps in business support



Lack of Higher and Further Education facilities



18,000 residents in the Park

↑ Increase of young people living in the Park



9,400 employed in the Park

↑ 4.5% increase since 2010

87%

of businesses employ less than 10 people



Small Businesses

↑ 7% more



House Prices

↑ 30% more



Yearly Earnings

↓ 26% less

than the Scottish average

Source: 2010 State of the Park Report and 2013 update, some figures relate to earlier years, both reports can be viewed online at [www.cairngorms.co.uk](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk)

### Opportunities



An attractive place to live, work and visit



A unique natural environment



Increased digital connectivity (fibre broadband)



Academic research opportunities



Distinctive economic sectors with potential for diversification



Increasing number of young people



Links to other parts of Scotland (dualing of A9)

### Employment by Sector

Source: CNP Economic Benchmark Review 2013



Property and Construction



Information Industries



Whisky and Drink



Other Production



Forestry

43% Tourism

17% Public Sector



Food and Agriculture

14% Services and Activities

[www.cairngorms.co.uk](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk) June 2015



House Prices

↑ 30% more

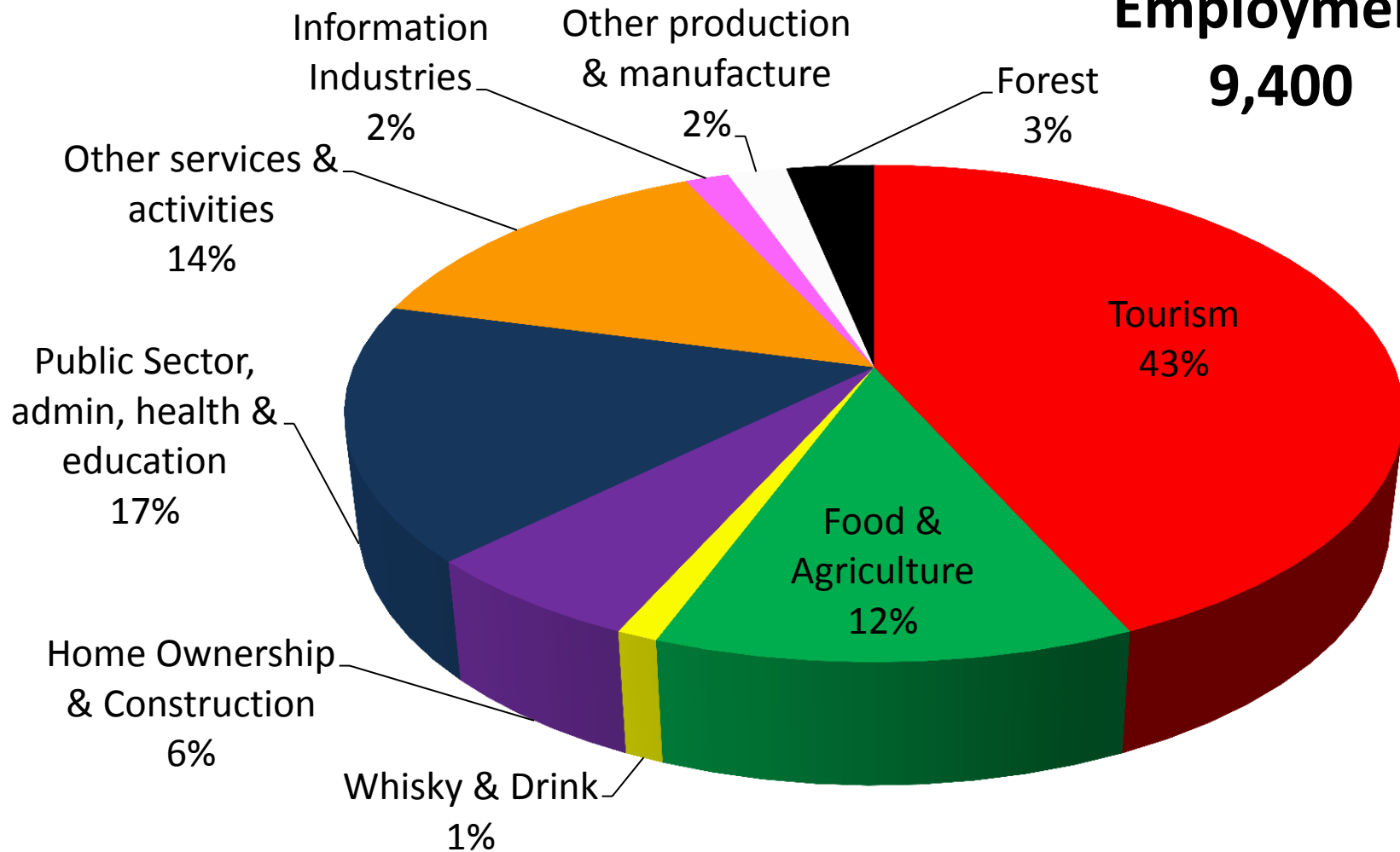


Yearly Earnings

↓ 26% less

# The Cairngorms Economy

**CNP 2013**  
**Employment**  
**9,400**





# Cairngorms Economic Strategy

**Building on the  
strengths of the Park**

**Supporting and  
attracting Businesses**

**Infrastructure**  
*(accommodation,  
transport, connectivity)*

**Attracting Investment**

**Education and  
Training**

**Planning for the  
Future**

# Community led development



# Today...

11.00 – 13.00: Session 1 – Landscape-Scale Conservation

14.00 – 16.10: Session 2 – Visitor Experience & Rural Development

# National Park Partnership Plan 2017-22

## **Conservation: Landscape-scale habitat enhancement & species action**

Issues: Collaborative working, deer and moorland management, role of designated sites

## **Visitor Experience: Destination development & Active Cairngorms**

Issues: infrastructure priorities, visitor trends and expectations, outdoor learning and volunteering opportunities

## **Rural Development: Community Empowerment & Sustainable Growth**

Issues: Affordable housing, community capacity, skills development, communications infrastructure

Cross-cutting: climate change scenarios; A9 dualling; engaging people; role of publicly owned land