



Cairngorms National Park

Local Development Plan 2020 –  
Proposed Plan

**Habitats Regulations Appraisal Report**

January 2019

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**List of Abbreviations**

2000 Act	National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000
AA	Appropriate Assessment
Ha	Hectares
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
MRE	Minor Residual Effect
NPPP	National Park Partnership Plan
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SPA	Special Protection Area

## Introduction

This document records the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) of the Local Development Plan (LDP) 2020 which is the development plan for the Cairngorms National Park as required under the terms of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2006.

Article 6(3) of the EC Habitats Directive requires that any plan (or project) which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site, but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to an ‘appropriate assessment’ of its implications for the European site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. This procedure is applied in Scotland through The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended), and is known as the ‘Habitats Regulations Appraisal’ of plans.

European sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the EC Habitats Directive to protect particular

habitats and non-bird species, and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the EC Birds Directive to protect wild birds.

The LDP can only be adopted if it can be ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

This document is one of the consultation Reports of the LDP Habitats regulations appraisal. Following the adoption of the LDP a final report will be prepared and published.

The LDP also falls within the scope of section 5(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The SEA of the LDP is being conducted in parallel to the HRA and will be reported separately during the LDP process.

## The HRA Process

There is no prescribed method for a HRA. The CNPA are therefore roughly following the guidance prepared by David Tyldesley and Associates for Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) 'Habitats Regulations Appraisals of Plans' (January 2015), apart from where this has been superseded by more recent case law. The CNPA have consulted SNH during the preparation of the appraisal.

There are a number of stages to the methodology followed, as summarised in **Table I**. The stages are adapted from the guidance prepared by David Tyldesley and Associates, taking account of more recent case law.

Table I The HRA process (Adapted from SNH Guidance: Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans, D Tyldesley, 2015)

<b>1</b>	Decide whether plan is subject to HRA
<b>2</b>	Identify Natura Sites that should be considered and gather information about them
<b>3</b>	Discretionary consultation on the method and scope of the appraisal
<b>4</b>	Screen the plan for potential likely significant effects (LSEs) on Natura sites
<b>5</b>	Undertake an appropriate assessment in view of conservation objectives of any aspect of the plan for which LSEs have been identified, and apply mitigation measures until there is no adverse effect on Natura site integrity
<b>6</b>	Prepare and consult on a draft record of the HRA
<b>7</b>	If amending the plan in light of consultation, screen amendments for likely significant effects and, if required, carry out appropriate assessment and consult SNH again
<b>8</b>	Modify HRA record in light of any amendments, complete and publish the final HRA record with clear conclusions

## **I. Deciding whether the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan is subject to HRA**

The LDP 2020 will be the development plan for the Cairngorms National Park as required under the terms of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2006. It will replace the current Cairngorms National Park LDP 2015. The LDP will cover the whole of the Cairngorms National Park administrative area and will be used by both the National Park Authority and the Local Authorities that cover its area.

The purpose of the LDP is to provide a land use planning policy framework to guide future development and be used to determine planning applications. The LDP will include a strategic “vision” for the Cairngorms National Park, forecasts for new housing, industrial and commercial requirements, with site designations made to meet these requirements. The LDP will also contain policies aimed at considering development proposals while protecting the built and natural environment resources of the National Park.

It is clear that the LDP may contain aspects that could have a direct consequence for at least one Natura site. It is also clear that the LDP is not solely for the purposes of managing Natura sites. The LDP must therefore be subject to HRA.



## 2. Identifying Natura sites and gathering information about them

The next stage of the assessment process involved identifying which European sites either within or outwith the National Park may be affected by the LDP.

A total of 2,213 km<sup>2</sup> (around 50%) of the National Park has been designated as a European site (**Figure 1**). A number of European sites overlap the National Park Boundary, with a total 572 km<sup>2</sup> of their area located outwith its boundary.

A total of 43 European sites were considered in the assessment. They are listed in **Table 2**. Details of the sites are provided in **Appendix 1**.

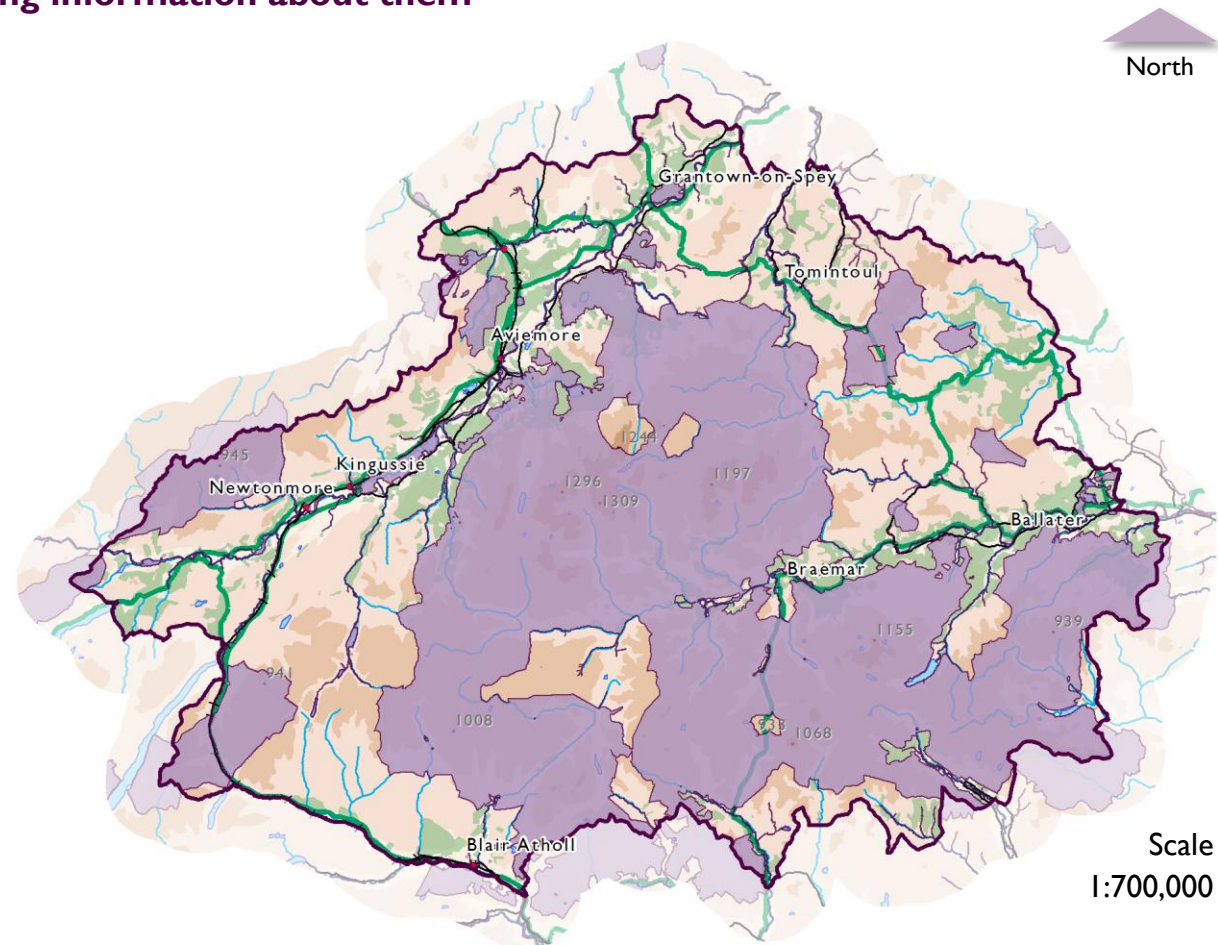


Figure 1 Land within the Cairngorms National Park that is protected as either an SAC or SPA. For individual site maps, see Appendix 1.

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Table 2 European Sites selected for assessment in the HRA of the NPPP.

Site Code	Site Name	Site Status	Local Authority Area	Wholly Within CNP	Partially Within CNP	Total Area (ha)	Area within CNP (ha)	% Within CNP
UK9002561	Abernethy Forest	SPA	Highland	✓	✗	5,793.46	5,793.46	100%
UK9020297	Anagach Woods	SPA	Highland	✓	✗	392.78	392.78	100%
UK0012957	Beinn a' Ghlo	SAC	Perth & Kinross	✗	✓	8,084.76	7,762.25	96.0%
UK0030030	Ballochbuie	SAC	Aberdeenshire	✓	✗	1,881.73	1,881.73	100%
UK9002781	Ballochbuie	SPA	Aberdeenshire	✓	✗	1,881.73	1,881.73	100%
UK0012821	Caenlochan	SAC	Aberdeenshire; Angus; Perth and Kinross	✓	✗	5,204.16	5,204.16	100%
UK9004011	Caenlochan	SPA	Aberdeenshire; Angus; Perth and Kinross	✓	✗	5,975.28	5,975.28	100%
UK0016412	Cairngorms	SAC	Aberdeenshire; Highland; Moray	✓	✗	57,685.02	57,685.02	100%
UK9002241	Cairngorms	SPA	Aberdeenshire; Highland; Moray	✓	✗	50,903.74	50,903.74	100%
UK9020308	Cairngorms Massif	SPA	Aberdeenshire, Angus, Highland, Moray, Perth and Kinross	✗	✓	187,504.06	173,254.64	92.4%
UK0030122	Coyles of Muick	SAC	Aberdeenshire	✓	✗	135.16	135.16	100%
UK9001801	Craigmore Wood	SPA	Highland	✓	✗	654.09	654.09	100%
UK0012955	Creag Meagaidh	SAC	Highland	✗	✓	6,144.58	507.19	8.3%

Site Code	Site Name	Site Status	Local Authority Area	Wholly Within CNP	Partially Within CNP	Total Area (ha)	Area within CNP (ha)	% Within CNP
UK9002161	Creag Meagaidh	SPA	Highland	✗	✓	2,872.64	71.18	2.5%
UK0013584	Creag nan Gamhainn	SAC	Moray	✓	✗	15.75	15.75	100%
UK0030134	Dinnet Oakwood	SAC	Aberdeenshire	✓	✗	19.73	19.73	100%
UK0012942	Drumochter Hills	SAC	Highland; Perth and Kinross	✗	✓	9,445.56	7,382.22	78.2%
UK9002301	Drumochter Hills	SPA	Highland; Perth and Kinross	✗	✓	9,445.56	7,382.22	78.2%
UK9004381	Forest of Clunie	SPA	Perth and Kinross	✗	✓	19,349.38	905.22	4.7%
UK0012756	Glen Tanar	SAC	Aberdeenshire	✗	✓	4,180.09	4,142.25	99.1%
UK9002771	Glen Tanar	SPA	Aberdeenshire	✗	✓	4,180.09	4,142.25	99.1%
UK0030159	Green Hill of Strathdon	SAC	Aberdeenshire	✓	✗	640.77	640.77	100%
UK0019812	Insh Marshes	SAC	Highland	✓	✗	1,158.78	1,158.78	100%
UK0030179	Ladder Hills	SAC	Aberdeenshire; Moray	✓	✗	4,357.94	4,357.94	100%
UK0012759	Kinveachy Forest	SAC	Highland	✗	✓	2,849.36	2,232.59	78.4%
UK9002581	Kinveachy Forest	SPA	Highland	✗	✓	2,849.36	2,232.59	78.4%
UK9002751	Loch Vaa	SPA	Highland	✓	✗	44.6	44.6	100%
UK9002281	Lochnagar	SPA	Angus, Aberdeenshire	✓	✗	1,431.28	1,431.28	100%

Site Code	Site Name	Site Status	Local Authority Area	Wholly Within CNP	Partially Within CNP	Total Area (ha)	Area within CNP (ha)	% Within CNP
UK0030210	Monadhliath	SAC	Highland	✗	✓	10,671.11	7,121.03	66.7%
UK0012894	Morrone Birkwood	SAC	Aberdeenshire	✓	✗	318.4	318.4	100%
UK0019958	Morven & Mullachdubh	SAC	Aberdeenshire	✓	✗	916.76	916.76	100%
UK0019959	Muir of Dinnet	SAC	Aberdeenshire	✓	✗	415.76	415.76	100%
UK9002791	Muir of Dinnet	SPA	Aberdeenshire	✓	✗	157.6	157.6	100%
UK0030251	River Dee	SAC	Aberdeenshire	✗	✓	2,446.82	1,368.59	55.9%
UK0030262	River South Esk	SAC	Angus	✗	✓	478.62	103.48	21.6%
UK0019811	River Spey	SAC	Highland; Moray	✗	✓	5,729.48	4,181.76	73.0%
UK9002231	River Spey – Insh Marshes	SPA	Highland	✓	✗	1,158.87	1,158.87	100%
UK0030312	River Tay	SAC	Angus; Argyll and Bute; Perth & Kinross; Stirling	✗	✓	9,497.72	233.94	2.5%
UK0030348	The Maim	SAC	Aberdeenshire	✓	✗	484.58	484.58	100%

### **3. Discretionary consultation on the method and scope of the appraisal**

Advice from SNH was sought at key stages in preparing the HRA including:

- Scoping approach and methodology for assessment
- Assessing the potential for recreational disturbance to capercaillie
- Review and discussion of emerging drafts of HRA report

## 4. Screening the Plan

Table 3 screens the policies in the Proposed LDP for likely significant effects on Natura sites. Table 4 then considers whether the site allocations in the

Proposed LDP have connectivity and potential for likely significant effects on Natura sites.

### Proposed Policies

Table 3 Proposed Plan Policies Screening for likely significant effects.

	Potential development issues	PPS likely to have significant effects individually or in combination	General Supporting Statement	Projects not generated by this PPS	Protective, enhancement and conservation	Does not generate development and change	Provision of a change with no connectivity to Natura 2000 site	Provision of a change with no or minimal effects	Too general to assess due to lack of information on where, how or when	Screen in/screen out
Policy 1: Housing									✓	Out
Policy 2: Economic Development									✓	Out
Policy 3: Design					✓				✓	Out
Policy 4: Natural heritage					✓				✓	Out
Policy 5: Landscape					✓				✓	Out
Policy 6: Digital Communications Infrastructure									✓	Out
Policy 7: Renewable Energy									✓	Out
Policy 8: Sport & recreation									✓	Out

	Potential development issues	PPS likely to have significant effects individually or in combination	General Supporting Statement	Projects not generated by this PPS	Protective, enhancement and conservation	Does not generate development and change	Provision of a change with no connectivity to Natura 2000 site	Provision of a change with no or minimal effects	Too general to assess due to lack of information on where, how or when	Screen in/screen out
Policy 9: Cultural heritage					✓				✓	Out
Policy 10: Resources									✓	Out
Policy 11: Developer Obligations									✓	Out

## Proposed Sites

Table 4 Proposed Plan Sites Screening for likely significant effects.

Settlement	Proposed Sites	Connectivity	Protected Sites	LSE	Screen in / Screen out
Aviemore	H1 Dalfaber	Yes	Kinveachy SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Cairngorms SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Abernethy SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	H2 Dalfaber	Yes	Kinveachy SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Cairngorms SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Abernethy SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	M1 Aviemore	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation, Disturbance to otter	In

Settlement	Proposed Sites	Connectivity	Protected Sites	LSE	Screen in / Screen out
	Highland resort	Yes	Kinveachy SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Cairngorms SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Abernethy SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	M2 Laurel Bank	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation, Disturbance to otter	In
		Yes	Kinveachy SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Cairngorms SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Abernethy SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	LTH1 North Aviemore	Yes	Kinveachy SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Cairngorms SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Abernethy SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	LTH2 North Aviemore	Yes	River Spey SAC	New sources of wastewater	In
		Yes	Kinveachy SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Cairngorms SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Abernethy SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	ED1 Dalfaber Industrial Estate	No			Out
	ED2 Myrtlefield	No			Out
	ED3 Granish	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	Kinveachy SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Cairngorms SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Abernethy SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In



Settlement	Proposed Sites	Connectivity	Protected Sites	LSE	Screen in / Screen out
	C1 Land at Dalfaber Drive	No			Out
	C2 Former School Playing Fields	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
	C3 Land south of Dalfaber Industrial Estate	No			Out
	An Camas Mòr	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation, Disturbance to otter	In
		Yes	Anagach Woods SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
			Abernethy Forest SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
			Craigmore Woods SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
			Kinveachy SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
			Cairngorms SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie and golden eagle	In
<b>Ballater</b>	HI Monaltrie Park	Yes	River Dee SAC	Change to water quality / quantity through abstraction	In
		Yes	Glen Tanar SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Ballochbuie SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	EDI Ballater Bus Park	Yes	River Dee SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
	TI Caravan Park	Yes	River Dee SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	Glen Tanar SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Ballochbuie SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In

Settlement	Proposed Sites	Connectivity	Protected Sites	LSE	Screen in / Screen out
	CI Former school site	No			Out
Grantown on Spey	HI Beachan Court	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	Anagach Woods SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	H2 Castle Road	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	Anagach Woods SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	EDI Woodland Industrial estate	No			Out
	TI Caravan park	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	Anagach Woods SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	CI Community Use	No			Out
	C2 Speyside Railway Extension	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
Kingussie	HI Land at Ardbailach Road and Craig an Darach	No			Out
	EDI Council Depot	No			Out
	ED2 McCormacks Garage	No			Out
	CI Ardvonie Car Park	No			Out
	C2 Car park	No			Out

Settlement	Proposed Sites	Connectivity	Protected Sites	LSE	Screen in / Screen out
	C3 Land west of Spey Street	No			Out
	C4 Car park	No			Out
	T1 Kingussie Golf Club	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	Insh Marshes SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA	Pollution & siltation	In
<b>Newtonmore</b>	H1 Land between Perth Rd and Station Rd	No			Out
	ED1 Rear of café	No			Out
	ED2 Industrial Park	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	Insh Marshes SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA	Pollution & siltation	In
	T1 Highland Folk Museum	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	Insh Marshes SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA	Pollution & siltation	In
<b>Blair Atholl</b>	H1 Old Bridge of Tilt	Yes	River Tay SAC	Pollution & siltation, Change to water quality / quantity through waste water	In
	H2 Main Road	Yes	River Tay SAC	Pollution & siltation, Change to water quality /	In

Settlement	Proposed Sites	Connectivity	Protected Sites	LSE	Screen in / Screen out
				quantity through waste water	
	T1 Blair castle Caravan Park	Yes	River Tay SAC	Pollution & siltation, Change to water quality / quantity through waste water	In
	T2 Caravan park	Yes	River Tay SAC	Pollution & siltation, Change to water quality / quantity through waste water	In
	T3 Visitor gateway	Yes	River Tay SAC	Pollution & siltation, Change to water quality / quantity through waste water	In
	EDI Sawmill Yard	Yes	River Tay SAC	Pollution & siltation, Change to water quality / quantity through waste water	In
<b>Boat of Garten</b>	EDI Steam Railway Station	Yes	Abernethy Forest SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie on SPA and in connecting woodland such as Boat of Garten woods.	In
	T1 BoG Caravan Park	Yes	Abernethy Forest SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie on SPA and in connecting woodland such as Boat of Garten woods.	In
<b>Braemar</b>	H1 Chapel Brae	Yes	River Dee SAC	Change to water quality / quantity through abstraction	In
		Yes	Glen Tanar SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Ballochbuie SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	H2 St Andrews Terrace	Yes	River Dee SAC	Pollution & siltation, Change to water quality / quantity through abstraction	In
		Yes	Glen Tanar SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Ballochbuie SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In

Settlement	Proposed Sites	Connectivity	Protected Sites	LSE	Screen in / Screen out
	H3 Kindrochit Court	Yes	River Dee SAC	Change to water quality / quantity through abstraction	In
		Yes	Glen Tanar SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Ballochbuie SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	H4 Chapel Brae	Yes	River Dee SAC	Change to water quality / quantity through abstraction	In
		Yes	Glen Tanar SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Ballochbuie SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	H5 North Braemar	Yes	River Dee SAC	Pollution & siltation, Change to water quality / quantity through abstraction	In
		Yes	Glen Tanar SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Ballochbuie SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	ED1 Ambulance Station	No			Out
	ED2 The Mews	Yes	River Dee SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
	T1 Caravan Park	Yes	River Dee SAC	Pollution & siltation, Change to water quality / quantity through abstraction	In
		Yes	Glen Tanar SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Ballochbuie SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
<b>Carrbridge</b>	H1 Carr Road	Yes	Kinveachy SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	H2 Crannich park	Yes	Kinveachy SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	ED1 Land at Railway Station	No			Out
	ED2 Carrbridge	No			Out

Settlement	Proposed Sites	Connectivity	Protected Sites	LSE	Screen in / Screen out
	garage				
	ED3 Former Sawmill	No			Out
	T1 Landmark	Yes	Kinveachy SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
<b>Cromdale</b>	H1 Kirk Road	Yes	Anagach Woods SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	H2 Auchroisk Park	Yes	Anagach Woods SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	ED1 Smokehouse	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
<b>Dalnain</b>	H1 Land west of play area	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	Craigmore Wood SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	H2 Land adjacent to A938	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	Craigmore Wood SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	ED1 Dalnain Garage	No			Out
<b>Kincraig</b>	H1 Opposite school	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	Insh Marshes SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	Cairngorms SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	ED1 Baldaw Smiddy	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In

Settlement	Proposed Sites	Connectivity	Protected Sites	LSE	Screen in / Screen out
		Yes	Insh Marshes SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA	Pollution & siltation	In
	ED2 North of B9152	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	Insh Marshes SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA	Pollution & siltation	In
<b>Nethybridge</b>	H1 Lettoch Road	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	Abernethy Forest SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	H2 Land at Lynstock Crescent	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	Abernethy Forest SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
<b>Tomintoul</b>	H1 Land to North East	No			Out
	H2 Lecht Drive	No			Out
	ED1 Garage	No			Out
	ED2 Land by A939	No			Out
	T1 Land to SW	No			Out
<b>Angus Glens</b>	N/A	No			Out
<b>Bruar &amp; Pitagowan</b>	N/A	No			Out

Settlement	Proposed Sites	Connectivity	Protected Sites	LSE	Screen in / Screen out
Calvine	CI Community use	No			Out
Dalwhinnie	HI land by garage	No			Out
	EDI Garage Site	No			Out
Dinnet	HI Land to East	Yes	River Dee SAC	Pollution & siltation, Change to water quality / quantity through abstraction	In
		Yes	Glen Tanar SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
		Yes	Ballochbuie SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	EDI Former Steading	Yes	River Dee SAC	Pollution & siltation, Change to water quality / quantity through abstraction	In
Glenlivet	N/A	No			Out
Glenmore	T1 camp site	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	Cairngorms SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
	T2 Glenmore Lodge	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	Cairngorms SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
Glenshee	N/A	No			Out
Insh	N/A	No			Out
Inverdrue & Coylumbridge	T1 Camping site	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In
		Yes	Cairngorms SPA	Disturbance to capercaillie	In
Killiecrankie	N/A	No			Out
Laggan	HI	Yes	River Spey SAC	Pollution & siltation	In



## 5. Appropriate assessment

The appropriate assessment (AA) considers the aspects of the Plan for which LSEs have been identified during the screening stage to determine whether or not they will adversely affect the integrity of Natura sites. The AA identifies the potential impacts for each aspect and provides the information to allow the CNPA, as competent authority, to apply mitigation measures to the Proposed LDP to avoid any adverse impacts on the integrity of Natura sites. The AA applies the precautionary approach in the case of all potential impacts identified.

### Safeguarding policies

It is important to note that policies to safeguard Natura sites have been incorporated into the Proposed LDP.

The principal safeguarding policy is Policy 4 (Natural Heritage). Amongst other things, this policy states that development likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site must demonstrate no adverse effect on the integrity of the site. It goes on to state that where this is not possible,

development will be considered favourably only where: there are no alternative solutions; and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature.

Policy 10 (Resources) is also significant. Amongst other things, this policy supports the protection and enhancement of the water environment, seeks to minimise the use of treated and abstracted water, and requires the appropriate use of sustainable drainage schemes (SuDS).

### Appropriate assessment tables

The AA is set out in the following tables, which are primarily structured by Natura site.

However, the assessments of the potential for capercaillie disturbance are structured slightly differently. In this case a series of initial tables are presented before the Natura tables. The initial tables cover each of the defined settlements in the Proposed LDP. They assess whether or not the total amount of development proposed in each

settlement is likely to have a significant impact on capercaillie through increased recreational disturbance.

The settlement tables are based on a process flow-chart that has been developed and agreed with SNH. All assessments were undertaken jointly with SNH. The process flow-chart is included in Appendix 2: Process flow chart for assessment of potential for capercaillie disturbance.

The conclusions in the settlement tables are based, in part, on an assessment of the likely population change that could arise as a consequence of the Proposed LDP. This assessment is outlined in Appendix 3: Proposed LDP & Potential Population Change.

### River Spey SAC

The qualifying species of the River Spey SAC are:

- Atlantic salmon;
- freshwater pearl mussel;
- otter; and
- sea lamprey

The conservation objectives are:

- To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
- To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term:
  - Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site
  - Distribution of the species within the site
  - Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
  - Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
  - No significant disturbance to the species
  - Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species
  - Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species

Table 3: River Spey SAC

<b>River Spey SAC – Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel, otter, and sea lamprey</b>				
<b>Settlement(s) / site(s)</b>	<b>Potential likely significant effects</b>	<b>Proposed LDP modification / mitigation</b>	<b>Residual effects</b>	<b>Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?</b>
Aviemore (LTH2, ED3);	i. Potential for contamination of protected watercourses by chemical	A development requirement for these sites should be applied in the Proposed	None	The identified mitigation measures

River Spey SAC – Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel, otter, and sea lamprey				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
Grantown (H1, H2, T1, C2); Kingussie (T1); Newtonmore (ED2, T1); Cromdale (ED1); Dulnain Bridge (H1, H2); Kincraig (H1, ED1, ED2); Nethy Bridge (H1, H2); Glenmore (T1, T2); Inverdrue & Coylumbridge	pollutants or particles washed into them from construction sites. This could result in pollution, affect water quality and potentially smother habitats / species	LDP to ensure that: i. The likelihood of pollution and siltation from construction sites reaching watercourses connected to the SAC is eliminated through safe handling of potential pollutants and provision of interceptor drains, filters, and other measures on a site in accordance with accepted best practice. These measures should be set out in a Construction Method Statement which should be submitted as part of any relevant planning application		and application of safeguarding policies within the Proposed LDP will ensure there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC, either alone or cumulatively with other development affecting it

River Spey SAC – Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel, otter, and sea lamprey				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
(TI);  Laggan (HI)				
Aviemore (M1, M2, ACM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Potential for contamination of protected watercourses by chemical pollutants or particles washed into them from construction sites. This could result in pollution, affect water quality and potentially smother habitats / species</li> <li>ii. Otters and other qualifying species such as salmon may be disturbed by construction activity, noise, lighting and other features of development design or post-construction activity</li> </ul>	<p>A development requirement for these sites should be applied in the Proposed LDP to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The likelihood of pollution and siltation from construction sites reaching watercourses connected to the SAC is eliminated through safe handling of potential pollutants and provision of interceptor drains, filters, and other measures on a site in accordance with accepted best practice. These measures should be set out in a Construction Method Statement which should be submitted as part of any relevant planning application</li> <li>ii. A full survey must be undertaken, in accordance with a recognised methodology, to determine if there are otters or other qualifying species in the vicinity of development. An appraisal will then be required of the construction activity, design and use of the development to see if there would</li> </ul>		

River Spey SAC – Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel, otter, and sea lamprey				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
		be any effect on otters or other qualifying species. Any identified effects must be eliminated through modifications to the development proposal and detailed within a Species Protection Plan		

### River Dee SAC

The qualifying species of the River Dee SAC are:

- Atlantic salmon;
- freshwater pearl mussel; and
- otter

The conservation objectives are:

- To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
- To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term:
  - Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site
  - Distribution of the species within the site
  - Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
  - Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
  - No significant disturbance to the species

- Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species

Table 4: River Dee SAC

<b>River Dee SAC – Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel, and otter</b>				
<b>Settlement(s) / site(s)</b>	<b>Potential likely significant effects</b>	<b>Proposed LDP modification / mitigation</b>	<b>Residual effects</b>	<b>Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?</b>
Ballater (ED1, TI);  Braemar (ED2)	i. Potential for contamination of protected watercourses by chemical pollutants or particles washed into them from construction sites. This could result in pollution, affect water quality and potentially smother habitats / species	A development requirement for these sites should be applied in the Proposed LDP to ensure that: i. The likelihood of pollution and siltation from construction sites reaching watercourses connected to the SAC is eliminated through safe handling of potential pollutants and provision of interceptor drains, filters, and other measures on a site in accordance with accepted best practice. These measures should be set out in a Construction Method Statement which should be submitted as part of any relevant planning application	None	The identified mitigation measures and application of safeguarding policies within the Proposed LDP will ensure there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC, either alone or cumulatively with other development affecting it
Ballater (H1);  Braemar (H1, H3, H4)	i. Water for developments will be supplied from public or private systems. Increases in water abstraction may change ground or surface water levels in water courses part of or connected to the river SAC, and this may affect the integrity	A development requirement for these sites should be applied in the Proposed LDP to ensure that: i. The water supply must be available for the development from known sources and these must have a demonstrated capacity to supply the required water		

River Dee SAC – Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel, and otter				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
	of the site through changes in temperature, water levels or flow rates	without adverse effects that would affect the integrity of the Natura site. If the capacity has not been demonstrated then developments will be refused until it is in place		
Braemar (H2, H5, T1);  Dinnet (H1, EDI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Potential for contamination of protected watercourses by chemical pollutants or particles washed into them from construction sites. This could result in pollution, affect water quality and potentially smother habitats / species</li> <li>ii. Water for developments will be supplied from public or private systems. Increases in water abstraction may change ground or surface water levels in water courses part of or connected to the river SAC, and this may affect the integrity of the site through changes in temperature, water levels or flow rates</li> </ul>	<p>A development requirement for these sites should be applied in the Proposed LDP to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The likelihood of pollution and siltation from construction sites reaching watercourses connected to the SAC is eliminated through safe handling of potential pollutants and provision of interceptor drains, filters, and other measures on a site in accordance with accepted best practice. These measures should be set out in a Construction Method Statement which should be submitted as part of any relevant planning application</li> <li>ii. The water supply must be available for the development from known sources and these must have a demonstrated capacity to supply the required water without adverse effects that would affect the integrity of the Natura site. If the capacity has not been</li> </ul>		

River Dee SAC – Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel, and otter				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
		demonstrated then developments will be refused until it is in place		

### River Tay SAC

The qualifying features of the River Tay SAC are:

- Atlantic salmon;
- brook lamprey;
- river lamprey;
- sea lamprey;
- otter; and
- clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels

The conservation objectives are:

- To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
- To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term:
  - Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site
  - Distribution of the species within the site
  - Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
  - Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
  - No significant disturbance to the species
  - Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species



- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species

Table 5: River Tay SAC

<b>River Tay SAC – Atlantic salmon, brook lamprey, river lamprey, sea lamprey, otter, and clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels</b>				
<b>Settlement(s) / site(s)</b>	<b>Potential likely significant effects</b>	<b>Proposed LDP modification / mitigation</b>	<b>Residual effects</b>	<b>Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?</b>
Blair Atholl (H1, H2, ED1, T1, T2, T3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Potential for contamination of protected watercourses by chemical pollutants or particles washed into them from construction sites. This could result in pollution, affect water quality and potentially smother habitats / species</li> <li>ii. Water for developments will be supplied from public or private systems. Discharges and/or increases in water abstraction may change ground or surface water levels in water courses part of or connected to the river SAC, and this may affect the integrity of the site through changes in temperature, water levels or flow rates. Waste water and diffuse pollution from development contains a number of chemicals and nutrients that could pollute water courses</li> </ul>	<p>A development requirement for these sites should be applied in the Proposed LDP to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The likelihood of pollution and siltation from construction sites reaching watercourses connected to the SAC is eliminated through safe handling of potential pollutants and provision of interceptor drains, filters, and other measures on a site in accordance with accepted best practice. These measures should be set out in a Construction Method Statement which should be submitted as part of any relevant planning application</li> <li>ii. The water supply must be available for the development from known sources and these must have a demonstrated capacity to supply the required water without adverse effects that would affect the integrity of the Natura site. If the capacity has not been</li> </ul>	None	The identified mitigation measures and application of safeguarding policies within the Proposed LDP will ensure there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC, either alone or cumulatively with other development affecting it

River Tay SAC – Atlantic salmon, brook lamprey, river lamprey, sea lamprey, otter, and clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
		demonstrated then developments will be refused until it is in place. All waste water from developments must be treated at waste water treatment works to remove harmful levels of pollutants and nutrients. Development may not commence until it has been demonstrated to the planning authority that there is sufficient capacity in local waste water treatment works in terms of capacity and ability to remove pollutants to recommended standard. Where connection to public waste water treatment plants via mains sewerage is not possible, private water treatment solutions must demonstrate that they will not have an adverse effect of the integrity of the SAC through nutrient enrichment		

**Insh Marshes SAC**

The qualifying species of the Insh Marshes SAC are:

- Otter

The qualifying habitats are:

- Alder woodland on floodplains\*;
- Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels; and
- Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface

(\* indicates priority habitat)

The conservation objectives are:

- To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
- To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term:
  - Extent of the habitat on site
  - Distribution of the habitat within the site
  - Structure and function of the habitat
  - Process supporting the site
  - Distribution of typical species of the habitat
  - Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
  - No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
- To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
- To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within the site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

Table 6: Insh Marshes SAC

<b>Insh Marshes SAC – Otter</b>				
<b>Settlement(s) / site(s)</b>	<b>Potential likely significant effects</b>	<b>Proposed LDP modification / mitigation</b>	<b>Residual effects</b>	<b>Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?</b>
Kingussie (T1);  Newtonmore (ED2, T1);  Kincraig (H1, ED1, ED2)	i. Potential for contamination of protected watercourses by chemical pollutants or particles washed into them from construction sites. This could result in pollution, affect water quality and potentially smother habitats / species	A development requirement for these sites should be applied in the Proposed LDP to ensure that:  i. The likelihood of pollution and siltation from construction sites reaching watercourses connected to the SAC is eliminated through safe handling of potential pollutants and provision of interceptor drains, filters, and other measures on a site in accordance with accepted best practice. These measures should be set out in a Construction Method Statement which should be submitted as part of any relevant planning application	None	The identified mitigation measures and application of safeguarding policies within the Proposed LDP will ensure there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC, either alone or cumulatively with other development affecting it

### River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA

The relevant qualifying species of the River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA are:

- Hen harrier
- Osprey
- Spotted crane
- Whooper swan
- Wigeon
- Wood sandpiper

The conservation objectives are:

- To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and
- To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term:
  - Population of the species as a viable component of the site
  - Distribution of the species within the site
  - Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
  - Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species
  - No significant disturbance of the species

Table 7: River Spey - Insh Marshes SPA

River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA – Osprey, Spotted crane, Whooper swan, Wigeon, Wood sandpiper				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
Kingussie (TI);	i. Potential for contamination of protected watercourses by chemical pollutants or particles washed into	A development requirement for these sites should be applied in the Proposed LDP to ensure that:	None	The identified mitigation measures and application of

River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA – Osprey, Spotted crane, Whooper swan, Wigeon, Wood sandpiper				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
Newtonmore (ED2, T1);  Kincraig (HI, ED1, ED2)	them from construction sites. This could result in pollution, affect water quality and potentially smother habitats / species	i. The likelihood of pollution and siltation from construction sites reaching watercourses connected to the SPA is eliminated through safe handling of potential pollutants and provision of interceptor drains, filters, and other measures on a site in accordance with accepted best practice. These measures should be set out in a Construction Method Statement which should be submitted as part of any relevant planning application		safeguarding policies within the Proposed LDP will ensure there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA, either alone or cumulatively with other development affecting it

Table 8: Aviemore with An Camas Mor capercaillie assessment

<b>Settlement: Aviemore with An Camas Mor strategic consent option</b>	
<b>Q1. If all the current and proposed development sites in this settlement are developed, is the population of the settlement predicted to increase over the plan period and/or are any non-housing development sites likely to change levels of human activity or patterns of recreation around the settlement?</b>	
Yes	
<b>Q2. Are capercaillie woods significantly more accessible from this development site than from other parts of the settlement?</b>	
Yes	
<b>Q3. Which capercaillie woods are likely to be used regularly for recreation by residents / users of the development site at detectable levels? (list all)</b>	
Rothiemurchus (Cairngorms SPA) Glenmore (Cairngorms SPA) Inschriach(Cairngorms SPA) Uath Lochans (Cairngorms SPA) Garten Woods (Abernethy SPA) Loch Vaa and Boat of Garten (Kinveachy SPA & Abernethy SPA) Forest Lodge (Abernethy SPA) Kinveachy (Kinveachy SPA)	

**Q4. Are residents / users of this development site predicted to undertake any off path recreational activities in any of the woods identified at Q3 at detectable levels?**

Yes - Rothiemurchus (Cairngorms SPA)  
 Yes - Glenmore (Cairngorms SPA) potential off-path MTB use  
 Yes - Inschriach (Cairngorms SPA) potential off-path MTB use  
 No - Uath Lochans (Cairngorms SPA)  
 No - Garten Woods (Abernethy SPA)  
 No - Loch Vaa and Boat of Garten (Kinveachy SPA & Abernethy SPA)  
 No - Forest Lodge (Abernethy SPA)  
 Yes - Kinveachy (Kinveachy SPA) potential off-path MTB use

**Q5: Are each of the woods identified at Q3 already established locations for recreation?**

Yes - Rothiemurchus (Cairngorms SPA) southern part (Loch an Eilean area) is used but northern area (Drumintoul area) is not well used  
 Yes - Glenmore (Cairngorms SPA) on-path/track walking, running and dog walking, MTB use on paths and tracks as well as off-path/track  
 Yes - Inschriach (Cairngorms SPA) on-path/track walking, running and dog walking, MTB use on paths and tracks as well as off-path/track  
 Yes - Uath Lochans (Cairngorms SPA) on-path/track walking, running and dog walking, MTB use on paths and tracks as well as off-path/track  
 Yes - Garten Woods (Abernethy SPA) on-path/track walking, running and dog walking, MTB use on paths and tracks  
 Yes - Loch Vaa and Boat of Garten (Kinveachy SPA & Abernethy SPA) on-path/track walking, running and dog walking, MTB use on paths and tracks as well as off-path/track  
 Yes - Forest Lodge (Abernethy SPA) on-path/track walking, running and dog walking, MTB use on paths and tracks as well as off-path/track



Yes - Kinveachy (Kinveachy SPA) on-path/track walking, running and dog walking, MTB use on paths and tracks as well as off-path/track

**Q6: For each of the woods identified at Q3, are residents / users of the development site predicted to have different temporal patterns of recreational use to any existing visitors, or to undertake a different profile of activities? (eg. more dog walking, or early morning use)**

Yes - Rothiemurchus (Cairngorms SPA) northern part of this area significantly more people likely to undertake short trips from home all day and early morning/evening including with dogs. Proximity to ACM will mean more off-path use of this area unless managed.

No - Glenmore (Cairngorms SPA)

No - Inschriach (Cairngorms SPA)

No - Uath Lochans (Cairngorms SPA)

No - Garten Woods (Abernethy SPA)

No - Loch Vaa and Boat of Garten (Kinveachy SPA & Abernethy SPA)

No - Forest Lodge (Abernethy SPA)

No - Kinveachy (Kinveachy SPA)

**Q7: For each of the woods identified at Q3, could the predicted level of use by residents / users of the development site significantly increase overall levels of recreational use?**

Yes - Rothiemurchus (Cairngorms SPA) in northern part of this area significantly more people likely to undertake short trips from home all day and early morning/evening including with dogs from ACM into capercaillie woods with little current recreational disturbance.

Yes - Glenmore (Cairngorms SPA) likely to increase numbers of people cycling through Sluggan area on forest tracks from ACM.

Yes - Inschriach (Cairngorms SPA) increase in on and off-path MTB use and dog walking from track ends/laybys from ACM

No - Uath Lochans (Cairngorms SPA)

Yes - Garten Woods (Abernethy SPA) increase in on-path use of Garten Woods by ACM residents. However the increases are only likely to be once ACM is beyond first phase as Garten Woods are distant from the site itself and there are multiple other promoted and quiet locations for recreation that are closer to or easier to get to from ACM.

No - Loch Vaa and Boat of Garten (Kinveachy SPA & Abernethy SPA)

No - Forest Lodge (Abernethy SPA)

Yes - Kinveachy (Kinveachy SPA). The development of sites in Aviemore (excluding ACM & ED3) will not significantly increase use of Kinveachy on their own. MTB users of Kinveachy come from across Badenoch & Strathspey and other parts of Scotland as well as Aviemore and only a small proportion of MTB users are capable of accessing the informal trails in capercaillie areas of Kinveachy. However, as ACM is developed, there is a likelihood of additional off-path MTB use from the combination of ACM (increasing population) and ED3 (a site close to Kinveachy).

**Conclusion: Is mitigation needed as a consequence of this development site in relation to each wood listed at Q3? Give Yes/No answer for each wood**

Yes - Rothiemurchus (Cairngorms SPA) Schedule of mitigation for ACM

Provision of a Recreation Management Plan for ACM covering:

1. Prevention of informal parking at track and access entrances to Drumintoul lodge and Atnahatnich farm.
2. New path provision in Loch Pityoulish area to provide suitable alternative walking area to east of ACM (drawing potential visits away from the woodlands around the Drumintoul lodge).
3. Diversionary car parking in vicinity of Loch Pityoulish linking to new paths in area Path closure in vicinity of Lodge from Coylum Road and reconsidering the link proposed in indicative masterplan.
4. Awareness raising, promoting alternative locations for recreation and avoiding recreation in this sensitive area through off site measures, (eg media/leaflets Ranger events targeted at ACM residents).
5. Ranger presence during key season in vicinity of sensitive areas.
6. Provision of a network of attractive paths in and around ACM with access to areas that are not sensitive.
7. Provision of a range of attractive areas for dog walking (including off-lead dog walking) on ACM site and Rothiemurchus Estate area away

from capercaillie sensitive areas.

8. Development of MTB opportunities on Pityoulish Hill and woods.
9. Diversionary Car Parking at Loch an Eilein. Free parking or equivalent measures for ACM residents early mornings and late in afternoons.
10. Removal of new informal paths within sensitive parts of Rothiemurchus this area if they develop.

Yes - Glenmore (Cairngorms SPA) Development of MTB opportunities on Pityoulish Hill and woods.

Yes - Inschriach (Cairngorms SPA)

1. The provision of MTB opportunities on Pityoulish Hill and woods area will divert use and focus new MTB development on a less sensitive area.
2. Good on-site dog walking opportunities on ACM.
3. Restrict informal parking opportunities at track ends and laybys along the B970 to Feshiebridge where they provide quick access to capercaillie woods.

No - Uath Lochans (Cairngorms SPA)

Yes - Garten Woods (Abernethy SPA)

1. Good on-site dog walking opportunities on ACM.
2. Restrict informal parking opportunities at track ends and laybys along the B970 to Boat of Garten where they provide quick access to capercaillie woods.

No - Loch Vaa and Boat of Garten (Kinveachy SPA & Abernethy SPA)

No - Forest Lodge (Abernethy SPA)

Yes - Kinveachy (Kinveachy SPA). The provision of MTB opportunities on Pityoulish Hill area will provide attractive opportunities for MTB use close to ACM and will also divert some MTB use from Kinveachy woods.

#### Reasons mitigation needed

Rothiemurchus (Cairngorms SPA) to avoid disturbance to capercaillie from ACM residents in the vicinity.

Glenmore (Cairngorms SPA) to avoid disturbance to capercaillie from ACM residents taking part in MTB activities.

Inschriach (Cairngorms SPA) to avoid disturbance to capercaillie from ACM residents taking part in MTB activities or driving to quiet locations for dog walking.

Garten Woods (Abernethy SPA) to avoid disturbance to capercaillie from ACM residents driving to quiet locations for dog walking and to ensure that there is not additional car parking capacity at promoted path locations.

Kinveachy (Kinveachy SPA). The provision of MTB opportunities on Pityoulish Hill area will provide attractive opportunities for MTB use close to ACM, directing potential use of Kinveachy from ACM residents and will also divert some existing MTB use from Kinveachy woods.

Table 9: Aviemore with North Aviemore capercaillie assessment

<b>Settlement: Aviemore with North Aviemore future long term housing option</b>
<b>Q1. If all the current and proposed development sites in this settlement are developed, is the population of the settlement predicted to increase over the plan period and/or are any non-housing development sites likely to change levels of human activity or patterns of recreation around the settlement?</b>
Yes
<b>Q2. Are capercaillie woods significantly more accessible from this development site than from other parts of the settlement?</b>
Yes
<b>Q3. Which capercaillie woods are likely to be used regularly for recreation by residents / users of the development site at detectable levels? (list all)</b>

Rothiemurchus (Cairngorms SPA)

Glenmore (Cairngorms SPA)

Inschriach(Cairngorms SPA)

Garten Woods (Abernethy SPA)

Loch Vaa and Boat of Garten (Kinveachy SPA & Abernethy SPA)

Kinveachy (Kinveachy SPA)

**Q4. Are residents / users of this development site predicted to undertake any off path recreational activities in any of the woods identified at Q3 at detectable levels?**

No - Rothiemurchus (Cairngorms SPA)

No - Glenmore (Cairngorms SPA)

No - Inschriach(Cairngorms SPA)

No - Garten Woods (Abernethy SPA)

No - Loch Vaa and Boat of Garten (Kinveachy SPA & Abernethy SPA)

Yes, possible use of MTBs - Kinveachy (Kinveachy SPA)

**Q5: Are each of the woods identified at Q3 already established locations for recreation?**

Yes, all the places where people from Aviemore sites may visit are already established locations for recreation.

**Q6: For each of the woods identified at Q3, are residents / users of the development site predicted to have different temporal patterns of recreational use to any existing visitors, or to undertake a different profile of activities? (eg. more dog walking, or**

**early morning use)**

No, for all sites apart from:

Yes - Kinveachy (Kinveachy SPA), the development of North Aviemore LTH1, LTH2 & ED3 sites may result in a circular route via the North Aviemore A9 junction and High Burnside being established at a low level and not in areas used regularly by capercaillie.

**Q7: For each of the woods identified at Q3, could the predicted level of use by residents / users of the development site significantly increase overall levels of recreational use?**

No, for all sites apart from:

Yes - Loch Vaa and Boat of Garten (Kinveachy SPA & Abernethy SPA) where there may be a small increase in on-path walking/cycling/running using the pine marten trail loop, but this is an area with few capercaillie and people are unlikely to leave the paths.

Yes - Kinveachy (Kinveachy SPA) The development of sites in Aviemore (excluding North Aviemore LTH1, LTH2 & ED3) will not significantly increase use of Kinveachy on their own. MTB users of Kinveachy come from across Badenoch & Strathspey and other parts of Scotland as well as Aviemore and only a small proportion of MTB users are capable of accessing the informal trails in capercaillie areas of Kinveachy. However, as North Aviemore LTH1, LTH2 & ED3 is developed, there is a likelihood of additional off-path MTB use from the combination of North Aviemore LTH1, LTH2 (increasing population) and ED3 (a site close to Kinveachy).

**Conclusion: Is mitigation needed as a consequence of this development site in relation to each wood listed at Q3? Give Yes/No answer for each wood**

No - Rothiemurchus (Cairngorms SPA)

No - Glenmore (Cairngorms SPA)

No - Inschriach (Cairngorms SPA)

No - Garten Woods (Abernethy SPA)

No - Loch Vaa and Boat of Garten (Kinveachy SPA & Abernethy SPA)

Yes - Kinveachy (Kinveachy SPA) The mitigation (which would also address existing concerns of potential disturbance to capercaillie from MTB users) would be:

1. enhanced Ranger presence to educate and influence behaviour of MTB participants
2. management of MTB trails signage and information and promotion of areas that are not sensitive to disturbance.
3. removal of new trails in capercaillie areas

#### Reasons mitigation needed

Kinveachy (Kinveachy SPA) for possible increase in MTB use off the main forest tracks and paths.

Table 10: Ballater capercaillie assessment

Settlement: Ballater
<p><b>Q1. If all the current and proposed development sites in this settlement are developed, is the population of the settlement predicted to increase over the plan period and/or are any non-housing development sites likely to change levels of human activity or patterns of recreation around the settlement?</b></p>
<p>No. New housing over plan period is only likely to mean that Ballater can accommodate a net increase in population of around 1%. It may even see a slight decline.</p>
<p><b>Q2. Are capercaillie woods significantly more accessible from this development site than from other parts of the settlement?</b></p>
<p>No</p>

**Q3. Which capercaillie woods are likely to be used regularly for recreation by residents / users of the development site at detectable levels? (list all)**

**Q4. Are residents / users of this development site predicted to undertake any off path recreational activities in any of the woods identified at Q3 at detectable levels?**

**Q5: Are each of the woods identified at Q3 already established locations for recreation?**

**Q6: For each of the woods identified at Q3, are residents / users of the development site predicted to have different temporal patterns of recreational use to any existing visitors, or to undertake a different profile of activities? (eg. more dog walking, or early morning use)**

**Q7: For each of the woods identified at Q3, could the predicted level of use by residents / users of the development site significantly increase overall levels of recreational use?**

**Conclusion: Is mitigation needed as a consequence of this development site in relation to each wood listed at Q3? Give Yes/No answer for each wood**

N/A – mitigation not required



Reasons mitigation needed

Table 11: Grantown-on-Spey capercaillie assessment

<b>Settlement: Grantown-on-Spey</b>
<b>Q1. If all the current and proposed development sites in this settlement are developed, is the population of the settlement predicted to increase over the plan period and/or are any non-housing development sites likely to change levels of human activity or patterns of recreation around the settlement?</b>
No. The level of new housing over the plan period means that Grantown-on-Spey is unlikely to accommodate a net increase in population. It may even see a slight decline.
<b>Q2. Are capercaillie woods significantly more accessible from this development site than from other parts of the settlement?</b>
No. Closest Capercaillie woods are Anagach Woods SPA which is on the opposite side of the settlement.
<b>Q3. Which capercaillie woods are likely to be used regularly for recreation by residents / users of the development site at detectable levels? (list all)</b>
<b>Q4. Are residents / users of this development site predicted to undertake any off path recreational activities in any of the woods identified at Q3 at detectable levels?</b>

<b>Q5: Are each of the woods identified at Q3 already established locations for recreation?</b>
<b>Q6: For each of the woods identified at Q3, are residents / users of the development site predicted to have different temporal patterns of recreational use to any existing visitors, or to undertake a different profile of activities? (eg. more dog walking, or early morning use)</b>
<b>Q7: For each of the woods identified at Q3, could the predicted level of use by residents / users of the development site significantly increase overall levels of recreational use?</b>
<b>Conclusion: Is mitigation needed as a consequence of this development site in relation to each wood listed at Q3? Give Yes/No answer for each wood</b>
N/A – mitigation not required
<b>Reasons mitigation needed</b>

Table 12: Boat of Garten capercaillie assessment

<b>Settlement: Boat of Garten</b>	
<b>Q1. If all the current and proposed development sites in this settlement are developed, is the population of the settlement predicted to increase over the plan period and/or are any non-housing development sites likely to change levels of human activity or patterns of recreation around the settlement?</b>	
No. No new housing sites are proposed in Boat of Garten and the other allocations (TI, EDI) are primarily intended to protect existing uses.	
<b>Q2. Are capercaillie woods significantly more accessible from this development site than from other parts of the settlement?</b>	
No	
<b>Q3. Which capercaillie woods are likely to be used regularly for recreation by residents / users of the development site at detectable levels? (list all)</b>	
<b>Q4. Are residents / users of this development site predicted to undertake any off path recreational activities in any of the woods identified at Q3 at detectable levels?</b>	
<b>Q5: Are each of the woods identified at Q3 already established locations for recreation?</b>	

<b>Q6: For each of the woods identified at Q3, are residents / users of the development site predicted to have different temporal patterns of recreational use to any existing visitors, or to undertake a different profile of activities? (eg. more dog walking, or early morning use)</b>
<b>Q7: For each of the woods identified at Q3, could the predicted level of use by residents / users of the development site significantly increase overall levels of recreational use?</b>
<b>Conclusion: Is mitigation needed as a consequence of this development site in relation to each wood listed at Q3? Give Yes/No answer for each wood</b>
N/A – mitigation not required
<b>Reasons mitigation needed</b>

Table 13: Braemar capercaillie assessment

<b>Settlement: Braemar</b>
<b>Q1. If all the current and proposed development sites in this settlement are developed, is the population of the settlement predicted to increase over the plan period and/or are any non-housing development sites likely to change levels of human activity or patterns of recreation around the settlement?</b>

Yes. New housing over the plan period could mean that Braemar is able to accommodate a net increase in population of around 16% or around 90 people.

**Q2. Are capercaillie woods significantly more accessible from this development site than from other parts of the settlement?**

No. Ballochbuie woods remain a significant distance from the development sites and from Braemar.

**Q3. Which capercaillie woods are likely to be used regularly for recreation by residents / users of the development site at detectable levels? (list all)**

Ballochbuie woods (Ballochbuie SPA)

**Q4. Are residents / users of this development site predicted to undertake any off path recreational activities in any of the woods identified at Q3 at detectable levels?**

No.

**Q5: Are each of the woods identified at Q3 already established locations for recreation?**

Yes. for on path walking cycling by locals and visitors. Numbers are limited by available car parking.

**Q6: For each of the woods identified at Q3, are residents / users of the development site predicted to have different temporal patterns of recreational use to any existing visitors, or to undertake a different profile of activities? (eg. more dog walking, or early morning use)**

No. There are well-promoted and closer opportunities for recreation.

**Q7: For each of the woods identified at Q3, could the predicted level of use by residents / users of the development site significantly increase overall levels of recreational use?**

No.
<b>Conclusion: Is mitigation needed as a consequence of this development site in relation to each wood listed at Q3? Give Yes/No answer for each wood</b>
No.
<b>Reasons mitigation needed</b>

Table 14: Carr-Bridge capercaillie assessment

<b>Settlement: Carr-Bridge</b>
<b>Q1. If all the current and proposed development sites in this settlement are developed, is the population of the settlement predicted to increase over the plan period and/or are any non-housing development sites likely to change levels of human activity or patterns of recreation around the settlement?</b>
Yes. However, new housing over plan period is only likely to mean that Carr-Bridge can accommodate a net increase in population of around 3%. It may even see a slight decline.
<b>Q2. Are capercaillie woods significantly more accessible from this development site than from other parts of the settlement?</b>
No
<b>Q3. Which capercaillie woods are likely to be used regularly for recreation by residents / users of the development site at</b>

<b>detectable levels? (list all)</b>
Drocharn and Drumuillie Woods (Kinveachy SPA) North Carr-Bridge Woods (Kinveachy SPA)
<b>Q4: Are residents / users of this development site predicted to undertake any off path recreational activities in any of the woods identified at Q3 at detectable levels?</b>
No
<b>Q5: Are each of the woods identified at Q3 already established locations for recreation?</b>
Yes
<b>Q6: For each of the woods identified at Q3, are residents / users of the development site predicted to have different temporal patterns of recreational use to any existing visitors, or to undertake a different profile of activities? (eg. more dog walking, or early morning use)</b>
No
<b>Q7: For each of the woods identified at Q3, could the predicted level of use by residents / users of the development site significantly increase overall levels of recreational use?</b>
No
<b>Conclusion: Is mitigation needed as a consequence of this development site in relation to each wood listed at Q3? Give Yes/No answer for each wood</b>
Mitigation is not required for either woodland

Reasons mitigation needed

Table 15: Cromdale capercaillie assessment

Settlement: Cromdale
<b>Q1. If all the current and proposed development sites in this settlement are developed, is the population of the settlement predicted to increase over the plan period and/or are any non-housing development sites likely to change levels of human activity or patterns of recreation around the settlement?</b>
Yes. New housing over the plan period could mean that Cromdale is able to accommodate a net increase in population of around 9%. However, this would only equate to just over 20 additional people.
<b>Q2. Are capercaillie woods significantly more accessible from this development site than from other parts of the settlement?</b>
No
<b>Q3. Which capercaillie woods are likely to be used regularly for recreation by residents / users of the development site at detectable levels? (list all)</b>
Anagach Woods (Anagach Woods SPA) Tom an Aird (Anagach Woods SPA) Castle Grant and Mid Port (Anagach Woods SPA)
<b>Q4. Are residents / users of this development site predicted to undertake any off path recreational activities in any of the woods</b>



identified at Q3 at detectable levels?
No
<b>Q5: Are each of the woods identified at Q3 already established locations for recreation?</b>
Yes
<b>Q6: For each of the woods identified at Q3, are residents / users of the development site predicted to have different temporal patterns of recreational use to any existing visitors, or to undertake a different profile of activities? (eg. more dog walking, or early morning use)</b>
No
<b>Q7: For each of the woods identified at Q3, could the predicted level of use by residents / users of the development site significantly increase overall levels of recreational use?</b>
No
<b>Conclusion: Is mitigation needed as a consequence of this development site in relation to each wood listed at Q3? Give Yes/No answer for each wood</b>
Mitigation is not required for any of the woodlands listed
<b>Reasons mitigation needed</b>

Table 16: Dulnain Bridge capercaillie assessment

<b>Settlement: Dulnain Bridge</b>	
<b>Q1. If all the current and proposed development sites in this settlement are developed, is the population of the settlement predicted to increase over the plan period and/or are any non-housing development sites likely to change levels of human activity or patterns of recreation around the settlement?</b>	
Yes. New housing over the plan period could mean that Dulnain Bridge is able to accommodate a net increase in population of around 15%. However, this would only equate to just over 50 additional people.	
<b>Q2. Are capercaillie woods significantly more accessible from this development site than from other parts of the settlement?</b>	
No	
<b>Q3. Which capercaillie woods are likely to be used regularly for recreation by residents / users of the development site at detectable levels? (list all)</b>	
N/A	
<b>Q4. Are residents / users of this development site predicted to undertake any off path recreational activities in any of the woods identified at Q3 at detectable levels?</b>	
N/A	
<b>Q5: Are each of the woods identified at Q3 already established locations for recreation?</b>	
N/A	
<b>Q6: For each of the woods identified at Q3, are residents / users of the development site predicted to have different temporal</b>	

patterns of recreational use to any existing visitors, or to undertake a different profile of activities? (eg. more dog walking, or early morning use)
N/A
<b>Q7: For each of the woods identified at Q3, could the predicted level of use by residents / users of the development site significantly increase overall levels of recreational use?</b>
N/A
<b>Conclusion: Is mitigation needed as a consequence of this development site in relation to each wood listed at Q3? Give Yes/No answer for each wood</b>
N/A – mitigation not required
<b>Reasons mitigation needed</b>

Table 17: Kincaig capercaillie assessment

<b>Settlement: Kincaig</b>
<b>Q1. If all the current and proposed development sites in this settlement are developed, is the population of the settlement predicted to increase over the plan period and/or are any non-housing development sites likely to change levels of human activity or patterns of recreation around the settlement?</b>
Yes. New housing over the plan period could mean that Kincaig is able to accommodate a net increase in population of around 10%. However,

this would only equate to just over 30 additional people.

**Q2. Are capercaillie woods significantly more accessible from this development site than from other parts of the settlement?**

No

**Q3. Which capercaillie woods are likely to be used regularly for recreation by residents / users of the development site at detectable levels? (list all)**

Inshriach (Cairngorms SPA)

Uath Lochans (Cairngorms SPA)

**Q4. Are residents / users of this development site predicted to undertake any off path recreational activities in any of the woods identified at Q3 at detectable levels?**

No

**Q5: Are each of the woods identified at Q3 already established locations for recreation?**

Yes

**Q6: For each of the woods identified at Q3, are residents / users of the development site predicted to have different temporal patterns of recreational use to any existing visitors, or to undertake a different profile of activities? (eg. more dog walking, or early morning use)**

No

**Q7: For each of the woods identified at Q3, could the predicted level of use by residents / users of the development site significantly increase overall levels of recreational use?**

No
<b>Conclusion: Is mitigation needed as a consequence of this development site in relation to each wood listed at Q3? Give Yes/No answer for each wood</b>
Mitigation not required for either woodland
<b>Reasons mitigation needed</b>

Table 18: Nethy Bridge capercaillie assessment

<b>Settlement: Nethy Bridge</b>
<b>Q1. If all the current and proposed development sites in this settlement are developed, is the population of the settlement predicted to increase over the plan period and/or are any non-housing development sites likely to change levels of human activity or patterns of recreation around the settlement?</b>
No. The level of new housing over the plan period means that Nethy Bridge is unlikely to accommodate a net increase in population. It may even see a slight decline.
<b>Q2. Are capercaillie woods significantly more accessible from this development site than from other parts of the settlement?</b>
No
<b>Q3. Which capercaillie woods are likely to be used regularly for recreation by residents / users of the development site at</b>

detectable levels? (list all)
<b>Q4. Are residents / users of this development site predicted to undertake any off path recreational activities in any of the woods identified at Q3 at detectable levels?</b>
<b>Q5: Are each of the woods identified at Q3 already established locations for recreation?</b>
<b>Q6: For each of the woods identified at Q3, are residents / users of the development site predicted to have different temporal patterns of recreational use to any existing visitors, or to undertake a different profile of activities? (eg. more dog walking, or early morning use)</b>
<b>Q7: For each of the woods identified at Q3, could the predicted level of use by residents / users of the development site significantly increase overall levels of recreational use?</b>
<b>Conclusion: Is mitigation needed as a consequence of this development site in relation to each wood listed at Q3? Give Yes/No answer for each wood</b>

Reasons mitigation needed

Table 19: Dinnet capercaillie assessment

Settlement: Dinnet
<b>Q1. If all the current and proposed development sites in this settlement are developed, is the population of the settlement predicted to increase over the plan period and/or are any non-housing development sites likely to change levels of human activity or patterns of recreation around the settlement?</b>
No. Although new housing over the plan period could mean that Dinnet is able to accommodate a net increase in population of around 15%, this only equates to around 14 additional people.
<b>Q2. Are capercaillie woods significantly more accessible from this development site than from other parts of the settlement?</b>
No
<b>Q3. Which capercaillie woods are likely to be used regularly for recreation by residents / users of the development site at detectable levels? (list all)</b>
<b>Q4. Are residents / users of this development site predicted to undertake any off path recreational activities in any of the woods identified at Q3 at detectable levels?</b>

<b>Q5: Are each of the woods identified at Q3 already established locations for recreation?</b>
<b>Q6: For each of the woods identified at Q3, are residents / users of the development site predicted to have different temporal patterns of recreational use to any existing visitors, or to undertake a different profile of activities? (eg. more dog walking, or early morning use)</b>
<b>Q7: For each of the woods identified at Q3, could the predicted level of use by residents / users of the development site significantly increase overall levels of recreational use?</b>
<b>Conclusion: Is mitigation needed as a consequence of this development site in relation to each wood listed at Q3? Give Yes/No answer for each wood</b>
<b>Reasons mitigation needed</b>
N/A – mitigation not required



Table 20: Glenmore capercaillie assessment

<b>Settlement: Glenmore</b>	
<b>Q1. If all the current and proposed development sites in this settlement are developed, is the population of the settlement predicted to increase over the plan period and/or are any non-housing development sites likely to change levels of human activity or patterns of recreation around the settlement?</b>	
No new housing sites are proposed in Glenmore and the other allocations (TI & TI) are primarily intended to protect existing uses.	
<b>Q2. Are capercaillie woods significantly more accessible from this development site than from other parts of the settlement?</b>	
No	
<b>Q3. Which capercaillie woods are likely to be used regularly for recreation by residents / users of the development site at detectable levels? (list all)</b>	
<b>Q4. Are residents / users of this development site predicted to undertake any off path recreational activities in any of the woods identified at Q3 at detectable levels?</b>	
<b>Q5: Are each of the woods identified at Q3 already established locations for recreation?</b>	
<b>Q6: For each of the woods identified at Q3, are residents / users of the development site predicted to have different temporal patterns of recreational use to any existing visitors, or to undertake a different profile of activities? (eg. more dog walking, or</b>	

early morning use)
<b>Q7: For each of the woods identified at Q3, could the predicted level of use by residents / users of the development site significantly increase overall levels of recreational use?</b>
<b>Conclusion: Is mitigation needed as a consequence of this development site in relation to each wood listed at Q3? Give Yes/No answer for each wood</b>
N/A – mitigation not required
<b>Reasons mitigation needed</b>

Table 21: Inverdrue and Coylumbridge capercaillie assessment

<b>Settlement: Inverdrue and Coylumbridge</b>
<b>Q1. If all the current and proposed development sites in this settlement are developed, is the population of the settlement predicted to increase over the plan period and/or are any non-housing development sites likely to change levels of human activity or patterns of recreation around the settlement?</b>
No new housing sites are proposed in Inverdrue and Coylumbridge and the only other allocation (TI) is primarily intended to protect an existing use.

<b>Q2. Are capercaillie woods significantly more accessible from this development site than from other parts of the settlement?</b>
No
<b>Q3. Which capercaillie woods are likely to be used regularly for recreation by residents / users of the development site at detectable levels? (list all)</b>
<b>Q4. Are residents / users of this development site predicted to undertake any off path recreational activities in any of the woods identified at Q3 at detectable levels?</b>
<b>Q5: Are each of the woods identified at Q3 already established locations for recreation?</b>
<b>Q6: For each of the woods identified at Q3, are residents / users of the development site predicted to have different temporal patterns of recreational use to any existing visitors, or to undertake a different profile of activities? (eg. more dog walking, or early morning use)</b>
<b>Q7: For each of the woods identified at Q3, could the predicted level of use by residents / users of the development site significantly increase overall levels of recreational use?</b>

**Conclusion: Is mitigation needed as a consequence of this development site in relation to each wood listed at Q3? Give Yes/No answer for each wood**

N/A – mitigation not required

**Reasons mitigation needed**

### Abernethy Forest SPA

The relevant qualifying species of Abernethy Forest SPA are:

- Capercaillie

The conservation objectives are:

- To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and
- To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:
  - Population of the species as a viable component of the site
  - Distribution of the species within the site
  - Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species
  - Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species
  - No significant disturbance of the species

Table 22: Abernethy Forest SPA

Abernethy Forest SPA – Capercaillie				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?

Abernethy Forest SPA – Capercaillie				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
Aviemore (ACM)	<p>Garten Woods (Abernethy SPA) increase in on-path use of Garten Woods by ACM residents. However the increases are only likely to be once ACM is beyond first phase as Garten Woods are distant from the site itself and there are multiple other promoted and quiet locations for recreation that are closer to or easier to get to from ACM.</p> <p>The potential direct effect on Abernethy SPA may also lead to indirect effects on other capercaillie SPAs within the Badenoch and Strathspey area – these indirect effects are considered in the tables for the other capercaillie SPAs.</p>	<p>A development requirement for this site should be applied in the Proposed LDP to ensure provision of a Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for ACM covering:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prevention of informal parking at track and access entrances to Drumintoul lodge and Atnahatnich farm.</li> <li>2. New path provision in Loch Pityoulish area to provide suitable alternative walking area to east of ACM (drawing potential visits away from the woodlands around the Drumintoul lodge).</li> <li>3. Diversionary car parking in vicinity of Loch Pityoulish linking to new paths in area Path closure in vicinity of Lodge from Coylum Road and reconsidering the link proposed in indicative masterplan.</li> <li>4. Awareness raising, promoting alternative locations for recreation and avoiding recreation in this sensitive area through off site measures, (eg media/leaflets Ranger events targeted at ACM</li> </ol>	None	The identified mitigation measures and application of safeguarding policies within the Proposed LDP will ensure there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA, either alone or cumulatively with other development affecting it

Abernethy Forest SPA – Capercaillie				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
		<p>residents).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Ranger presence during key season in vicinity of sensitive areas.</li> <li>6. Provision of a network of attractive paths in and around ACM with access to areas that are not sensitive.</li> <li>7. Provision of a range of attractive areas for dog walking (including off-lead dog walking) on ACM site and Rothiemurchus Estate area away from capercaillie sensitive areas.</li> <li>8. Development of MTB opportunities on Pityoulish Hill and woods.</li> <li>9. Diversionary Car Parking at Loch an Eilein. Free parking or equivalent measures for ACM residents early mornings and late in afternoons.</li> <li>10. Removal of new informal paths within sensitive parts of Rothiemurchus this area if they develop.</li> </ol> <p>In addition to the RMP, a development</p>		

Abernethy Forest SPA – Capercaillie				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
		<p>requirement should be applied in the Proposed LDP to ensure the restriction of informal parking opportunities at track ends and laybys along the B970 to Boat of Garten where they provide quick access to capercaillie woods.</p> <p>The above mitigation measures will prevent any direct effect on Abernethy SPA, preventing any indirect effects on other capercaillie SPAs within the Badenoch and Strathspey area.</p>		
Aviemore (LTH1 & LTH2: North Aviemore; ED3: Granish; ACM)	The potential direct effect on Kinveachy SPA from all these sites, and the direct effect on Cairngorms SPA from ACM, may also lead to indirect effects on other capercaillie SPAs within the Badenoch and Strathspey area.	The mitigation measures identified for Kinveachy SPA and Cairngorms SPA will prevent any indirect effects on other capercaillie SPAs within the Badenoch and Strathspey area.		
Aviemore (H1: Dalfaber; H2: Dalfaber; M1: Aviemore Highland resort; M2: Laurel Bank)  Boat of Garten (ED1 Steam	There are no likely significant effects because the proposed development sites are either: A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. not predicted to increase the population of the settlement over the plan period; and / or change levels or patterns of recreational activity around the settlement;</li> </ul>	None required		

<b>Abernethy Forest SPA – Capercaillie</b>				
<b>Settlement(s) / site(s)</b>	<b>Potential likely significant effects</b>	<b>Proposed LDP modification / mitigation</b>	<b>Residual effects</b>	<b>Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?</b>
Railway Station; T1 BoG Caravan Park)  Nethybridge (H1: Lettoch Road; H2: Land at Lynstock Crescent)	and ii. not significantly more accessible to Capercaillie woods  OR B) i. residents of the development sites are not predicted to undertake off path recreational activities in any of the woods; and ii. the woods are already established locations for recreation; and iii. residents/users of the development site are not expected to have different temporal patterns of recreation use from any existing visitor or undertake a different profile of activities; and iv. the overall level of recreational use will not significantly increase.  (See settlement specific tables above for further details).			

### **Anagach Woods SPA**



The relevant qualifying species of the Anagach Woods SPA are:

- Capercaillie

The conservation objectives are:

- To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and
- To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:
  - Population of the species as a viable component of the site
  - Distribution of the species within the site
  - Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species
  - Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species
  - No significant disturbance of the species

Table 23: Anagach Woods SPA

<b>Anagach Woods SPA – Capercaillie</b>				
<b>Settlement(s) / site(s)</b>	<b>Potential likely significant effects</b>	<b>Proposed LDP modification / mitigation</b>	<b>Residual effects</b>	<b>Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?</b>
Aviemore (LTH1& LTH2: North Aviemore; ED3: Granish; ACM)	The potential direct effect on Kinveachy SPA from all of these sites, and the direct effect on Abernethy SPA and Cairngorms SPA from ACM, may also lead to indirect effects on other capercaillie SPAs within the Badenoch and Strathspey area.	The mitigation measures identified for Abernethy SPA, Cairngorms SPA and Kinveachy SPA will prevent any indirect effects on other capercaillie SPAs within the Badenoch and Strathspey area.	None	The identified mitigation measures and application of safeguarding policies within the Proposed LDP will ensure there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC, either alone or cumulatively with
Grantown (H1: Beachan Court; H2: Castle Road; T1: Caravan park)	There are no likely significant effects because the proposed development sites are either: A) i. not predicted to increase the	None required		

<b>Anagach Woods SPA – Capercaillie</b>				
<b>Settlement(s) / site(s)</b>	<b>Potential likely significant effects</b>	<b>Proposed LDP modification / mitigation</b>	<b>Residual effects</b>	<b>Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?</b>
Cromdale (H1: Kirk Road; H2: Auchroisk Park)	<p>population of the settlement over the plan period; and / or change levels or patterns of recreational activity around the settlement; and</p> <p>ii. not significantly more accessible to Capercaillie woods</p> <p>OR</p> <p>B)</p> <p>i. residents of the development sites are not predicted to undertake off path recreational activities in any of the woods; and</p> <p>ii. the woods are already established locations for recreation; and</p> <p>iii. residents/users of the development site are not expected to have different temporal patterns of recreation use from any existing visitor or undertake a different profile of activities; and</p> <p>iv. the overall level of recreational use will not significantly increase. (See settlement specific table above for further details).</p>			other development affecting it

## Ballochbuie SPA

The relevant qualifying features of the Ballochbuie SPA are:

- Capercaillie

The conservation objectives are:

- To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and
- To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:
  - Population of the species as a viable component of the site
  - Distribution of the species within the site
  - Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species
  - Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species
  - No significant disturbance of the species

Table 24: Ballochbuie SPA

<b>Ballochbuie SPA – Capercaillie</b>				
<b>Settlement(s) / site(s)</b>	<b>Potential likely significant effects</b>	<b>Proposed LDP modification / mitigation</b>	<b>Residual effects</b>	<b>Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?</b>
Ballater (H1: Monaltrie Park; T1 Caravan Park)  Braemar (H1: Chapel Brae; H2 St Andrews Terrace; H3	There are no likely significant effects because the proposed development sites are either: A) i. not predicted to increase the population of the settlement over the plan period; and / or change levels or patterns of recreational activity around	None required	None	The identified mitigation measures and application of safeguarding policies within the Proposed LDP will ensure there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of

<b>Ballochbuie SPA – Capercaillie</b>				
<b>Settlement(s) / site(s)</b>	<b>Potential likely significant effects</b>	<b>Proposed LDP modification / mitigation</b>	<b>Residual effects</b>	<b>Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?</b>
Kindrochit Court; H4 Chapel Brae; H5 North Braemar; T1 Caravan Park)  Dinnet (H1: Land to East)	ii. the settlement; and not significantly more accessible to Capercaillie woods  OR B) i. residents of the development sites are not predicted to undertake off path recreational activities in any of the woods; and ii. the woods are already established locations for recreation; and iii. residents/users of the development site are not expected to have different temporal patterns of recreation use from any existing visitor or undertake a different profile of activities; and iv. the overall level of recreational use will not significantly increase. (See settlement specific table above for further details).			the SAC, either alone or cumulatively with other development affecting it

### Cairngorms SPA

The relevant qualifying species of the Cairngorms SPA are:

- Capercaillie

The conservation objectives are:

- To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and
- To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:
  - Population of the species as a viable component of the site
  - Distribution of the species within the site
  - Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species
  - Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species
  - No significant disturbance of the species

Table 25: Cairngorms SPA

<b>Cairngorms SPA - Capercaillie</b>				
<b>Settlement(s) / site(s)</b>	<b>Potential likely significant effects</b>	<b>Proposed LDP modification / mitigation</b>	<b>Residual effects</b>	<b>Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?</b>
Aviemore (ACM)	Rothiemurchus - in northern part of this area significantly more people likely to undertake short trips from home all day and early morning/evening including with dogs from ACM into capercaillie woodlands with little current recreational disturbance. Glenmore - likely to increase numbers of people cycling through Sluggan area on forest tracks from ACM. Inschriach - increase in on and off-path MTB use and dog walking from track	A development requirement for this site should be applied in the Proposed LDP to ensure provision of a Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for ACM covering: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prevention of informal parking at track and access entrances to Drumintoul lodge and Atnahatnich farm.</li> <li>2. New path provision in Loch Pityoulish area to provide suitable alternative walking area to east of</li> </ol>	None	The identified mitigation measures and application of safeguarding policies within the Proposed LDP will ensure there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC, either alone or cumulatively with

Cairngorms SPA - Capercaillie				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
	<p>ends/laybys from ACM</p> <p>The potential direct effect on Cairngorms SPA may also lead to indirect effects on other capercaillie SPAs within the Badenoch and Strathspey area – these indirect effects are considered in the tables for the other capercaillie SPAs.</p>	<p>ACM (drawing potential visits away from the woodlands around the Drumintoul lodge).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Diversionary car parking in vicinity of Loch Pityoulish linking to new paths in area Path closure in vicinity of Lodge from Coylum Road and reconsidering the link proposed in indicative masterplan.</li> <li>4. Awareness raising, promoting alternative locations for recreation and avoiding recreation in this sensitive area through off site measures, (eg media/leaflets Ranger events targeted at ACM residents).</li> <li>5. Ranger presence during key season in vicinity of sensitive areas.</li> <li>6. Provision of a network of attractive paths in and around ACM with access to areas that are not sensitive.</li> <li>7. Provision of a range of attractive areas for dog walking (including off-lead dog walking) on ACM site and Rothiemurchus Estate area away from capercaillie sensitive</li> </ol>		other development affecting it

Cairngorms SPA - Capercaillie				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
		<p>areas.</p> <p>8. Development of MTB opportunities on Pityoulish Hill and woods.</p> <p>9. Diversionary Car Parking at Loch an Eilein. Free parking or equivalent measures for ACM residents early mornings and late in afternoons.</p> <p>10. Removal of new informal paths within sensitive parts of Rothiemurchus this area if they develop.</p> <p>In addition to the RMP, a development requirement should be applied in the Proposed LDP to ensure the restriction of informal parking opportunities at track ends and laybys along the B970 to Feshie Bridge where they provide quick access to capercaillie woods.</p> <p>The above mitigation measures will prevent any direct effect on Cairngorms SPA, preventing any indirect effects on other capercaillie SPAs within the Badenoch and Strathspey area.</p>		

<b>Cairngorms SPA - Capercaillie</b>				
<b>Settlement(s) / site(s)</b>	<b>Potential likely significant effects</b>	<b>Proposed LDP modification / mitigation</b>	<b>Residual effects</b>	<b>Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?</b>
Aviemore (LTH1 & LTH2: North Aviemore; ED3: Granish; ACM)	The potential direct effect on Kinveachy SPA from all of these sites, and the direct effect on Abernethy SPA from ACM, may also lead to indirect effects on other capercaillie SPAs within the Badenoch and Strathspey area.	The mitigation measures identified for Abernethy SPA and Kinveachy SPA will prevent any indirect effects on other capercaillie SPAs within the Badenoch and Strathspey area.		
Aviemore (H1: Dalfaber; H2: Dalfaber; M1: Aviemore Highland resort; M2: Laurel Bank)  Kincraig (H1: Opposite School) Glenmore (T1: Campsite; T2: Glenmore Lodge)  Inverdrue & Coylumbridge (T1: Campsite)	There are no likely significant effects because the proposed development sites are either: A) i. not predicted to increase the population of the settlement over the plan period; and / or change levels or patterns of recreational activity around the settlement; and ii. not significantly more accessible to Capercaillie woods OR B) i. residents of the development sites are not predicted to undertake off path recreational activities in any of the woods; and ii. the woods are already established locations for recreation; and iii. residents/users of the	None required		



Cairngorms SPA - Capercaillie				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
	<p>development site are not expected to have different temporal patterns of recreation use from any existing visitor or undertake a different profile of activities; and</p> <p>iv. the overall level of recreational use will not significantly increase. (See settlement specific table above for further details).</p>			

### Craigmore Wood SPA

The relevant qualifying species of the Craigmore Wood SPA are:

- Capercaillie

The conservation objectives are:

- To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and
- To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:
  - Population of the species as a viable component of the site
  - Distribution of the species within the site
  - Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species
  - Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species
  - No significant disturbance of the species

Table 26: Craigmore Wood SPA

<b>Craigmore Wood SPA – Capercaillie</b>				
<b>Settlement(s) / site(s)</b>	<b>Potential likely significant effects</b>	<b>Proposed LDP modification / mitigation</b>	<b>Residual effects</b>	<b>Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?</b>
Aviemore (LTH1& LTH2: North Aviemore; ED3: Granish; ACM)	The potential direct effect on Kinveachy SPA from all of these sites, and the direct effect on Abernethy SPA and Cairngorms SPA from ACM, may also lead to indirect effects on other capercaillie SPAs within the Badenoch and Strathspey area.	The mitigation measures identified for Abernethy SPA, Cairngorms SPA and Kinveachy SPA will prevent any indirect effects on other capercaillie SPAs within the Badenoch and Strathspey area.	None	The identified mitigation measures and application of safeguarding policies within the Proposed LDP will ensure there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA, either alone or cumulatively with other development affecting it
Dalnain Bridge (H1: Land west of play area; H2: Land adjacent to A938)	There are no likely significant effects because the proposed development sites are either: A) i. not predicted to increase the population of the settlement over the plan period; and / or change levels or patterns of recreational activity around the settlement; and ii. not significantly more accessible to Capercaillie woods OR B) i. residents of the development sites are not predicted to undertake off path recreational activities in any of the woods; and	None required		

Craigmore Wood SPA – Capercaillie				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
	ii. the woods are already established locations for recreation; and iii. residents/users of the development site are not expected to have different temporal patterns of recreation use from any existing visitor or undertake a different profile of activities; and iv. the overall level of recreational use will not significantly increase. (See settlement specific table above for further details).			

### Glen Tanar SPA

The relevant qualifying species of the Glen Tanar SPA are:

- Capercaillie

The conservation objectives are:

- To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and
- To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:
  - Population of the species as a viable component of the site
  - Distribution of the species within the site
  - Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species

- Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

Table 27: Glen Tanar SPA

<b>Glen Tanar SPA – Capercaillie</b>				
<b>Settlement(s) / site(s)</b>	<b>Potential likely significant effects</b>	<b>Proposed LDP modification / mitigation</b>	<b>Residual effects</b>	<b>Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?</b>
Ballater (H1: Monaltrie Park; T1 Caravan Park)  Braemar (H1: Chapel Brae; H2 St Andrews Terrace; H3 Kindrochit Court; H4 Chapel Brae; H5 North Braemar; T1 Caravan Park)  Dinnet (H1: Land to East)	There are no likely significant effects because the proposed development sites are either: A) i. not predicted to increase the population of the settlement over the plan period; and / or change levels or patterns of recreational activity around the settlement; and ii. not significantly more accessible to Capercaillie woods OR B) i. residents of the development sites are not predicted to undertake off path recreational activities in any of the woods; and ii. the woods are already established locations for recreation; and iii. residents/users of the development site are not expected to have different	None required	None	The identified mitigation measures and application of safeguarding policies within the Proposed LDP will ensure there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC, either alone or cumulatively with other development affecting it

Glen Tanar SPA – Capercaillie				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
	<p>temporal patterns of recreation use from any existing visitor or undertake a different profile of activities; and</p> <p>iv. the overall level of recreational use will not significantly increase. (See settlement specific table above for further details).</p>			

### Kinveachy Forest SPA

The relevant qualifying species of the Kinveachy SPA are:

- Capercaillie

The conservation objectives are:

- To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and
- iii. To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:
  - Population of the species as a viable component of the site
  - Distribution of the species within the site
  - Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species
  - Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species
  - No significant disturbance of the species

Table 28: Kinveachy Forest SPA

Kinveachy Forest SPA – Capercaillie
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Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
Aviemore (LTH1 & LTH2: North Aviemore; ED3: Granish; ACM)	<p>Kinveachy - The development of sites in Aviemore (excluding ACM, North Aviemore LTH1, LTH2 &amp; ED3) will not significantly increase use of Kinveachy on their own. However, as ACM and ED3, or LTH1, LTH2 and ED3, are developed there is a likelihood of additional off-path MTB use from the combination of these sites.</p> <p>The potential direct effect on Kinveachy SPA may also lead to indirect effects on other capercaillie SPAs within the Badenoch and Strathspey area – these indirect effects are considered in the tables for the other capercaillie SPAs.</p>	<p>A development requirement for LTH1, LTH2 and ED3 should be applied in the Proposed LDP to ensure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>enhanced Ranger presence to educate and influence behaviour of MTB participants</li> <li>management of MTB trails signage and information and promotion of areas that are not sensitive to disturbance.</li> <li>removal of new trails in capercaillie areas</li> </ol> <p>In addition, a development requirement should be applied in the Proposed LDP to ensure provision of a Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for ACM covering (amongst other things):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness raising, promoting alternative locations for recreation and avoiding recreation in this sensitive area through off site measures, (eg media/leaflets Ranger events targeted at ACM residents).</li> <li>Ranger presence during key season in vicinity of sensitive areas.</li> <li>Provision of a network of attractive paths in and around ACM with access to areas that are not sensitive.</li> </ol>	None	The identified mitigation measures and application of safeguarding policies within the Proposed LDP will ensure there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA, either alone or cumulatively with other development affecting it

Kinveachy Forest SPA – Capercaillie				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
		<p>4. Development of MTB opportunities on Pityoulish Hill and woods.</p> <p>The above mitigation measures will prevent any direct effect on Kinveachy SPA, preventing any indirect effects on other capercaillie SPAs within the Badenoch and Strathspey area.</p>		
Aviemore (ACM)	The potential direct effect on Abernethy SPA and Cairngorms SPA from ACM may also lead to indirect effects on other capercaillie SPAs within the Badenoch and Strathspey area.	The mitigation measures identified for Abernethy SPA and Cairngorms SPA will prevent any indirect effects on other capercaillie SPAs within the Badenoch and Strathspey area.		
<p>Aviemore (H1: Dalfaber; H2: Dalfaber; M1: Aviemore Highland resort; M2: Laurel Bank)</p> <p>Boat of Garten (ED1 Steam Railway Station; T1 BoG Caravan Park)</p> <p>Carrbridge</p>	<p>There are no likely significant effects because the proposed development sites are either:</p> <p>A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. not predicted to increase the population of the settlement over the plan period; and / or change levels or patterns of recreational activity around the settlement; and</li> <li>ii. not significantly more accessible to Capercaillie woods</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <p>B)</p>	None required		

Kinveachy Forest SPA – Capercaillie				
Settlement(s) / site(s)	Potential likely significant effects	Proposed LDP modification / mitigation	Residual effects	Conclusion – any adverse effect on site integrity?
(H1: Carr Road; H2: Crannich Park; T1: Landmark)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. residents of the development sites are not predicted to undertake off path recreational activities in any of the woods; and</li> <li>ii. the woods are already established locations for recreation; and</li> <li>iii. residents/users of the development site are not expected to have different temporal patterns of recreation use from any existing visitor or undertake a different profile of activities; and</li> <li>iv. the overall level of recreational use will not significantly increase.</li> </ul> (See settlement specific table above for further details).			



## Conclusions

This HRA has identified a range of LSEs on the Natura sites within the Cairngorms National Park arising from the Proposed LDP. It has also identified a range of mitigation measures that must be included within the Proposed LDP and implemented through its delivery.

At this stage of the planning process, without the fine detail of specific projects, the proper resolution of effects has been put forward at an appropriate level, together with clear indications of how and when mitigation will be implemented at future stages. This approach follows the opinion of the Advocate General in the ECJ case C-6/04.

**Following completion of the various stages of the HRA process, we conclude that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of any Natura site within the Cairngorms National Park through the provisions of the Proposed LDP, implemented in accordance with the identified mitigation.**

## 6. Prepare and consult on a draft record of the HRA

Following completion of the HRA process, we conclude that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of any Natura site within the Cairngorms National Park through the provisions of the Proposed LDP, implemented in accordance with the identified mitigation.

This report forms a record of the HRA process. The report will be published alongside the Proposed LDP.

## 7 & 8. Amending the LDP and modifying the HRA record

If the Proposed LDP is amended in light of consultation responses, any amendments will be screened for likely significant effects and, if required, further appropriate assessment and consultation with SNH will be undertaken. The HRA record will be updated in light of any such amendments, and the final HRA record will be published alongside the adopted LDP.

## Appendix I: Information on European sites considered by the Habitats Regulations Appraisal

Appendix I provides information on European sites both within and outwith the Cairngorms National Park, that have been identified as being potentially vulnerable to the effects of the Plan. Sites are listed with their qualifying features, the latest assessment of their respective conditions and when the assessments took place, their conservation objectives, the key factors affecting the features and what affects the Plan is likely to have on the site.

A simple colour scheme has been used to highlight the condition of qualifying features, the key to which is provided below:

Features in 'Favourable' condition.

Features that are in 'Unfavourable' condition.

Features that have not been monitored to date.

### Special Areas of Conservation

SACs are strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive. Article 3

of the Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 189 habitat types and 788 species identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive (as amended). The listed habitat types and species are those considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level (excluding birds). Of the UK's 78 Annex I habitat types (of which 26 are marine and coastal and therefore not relevant to the National Park), 33 occur in the National Park. Of the UK's 33 Annex II species (of which 4 are marine and coastal and therefore not relevant to the National Park), 10 are native to, and normally resident in, the National Park.

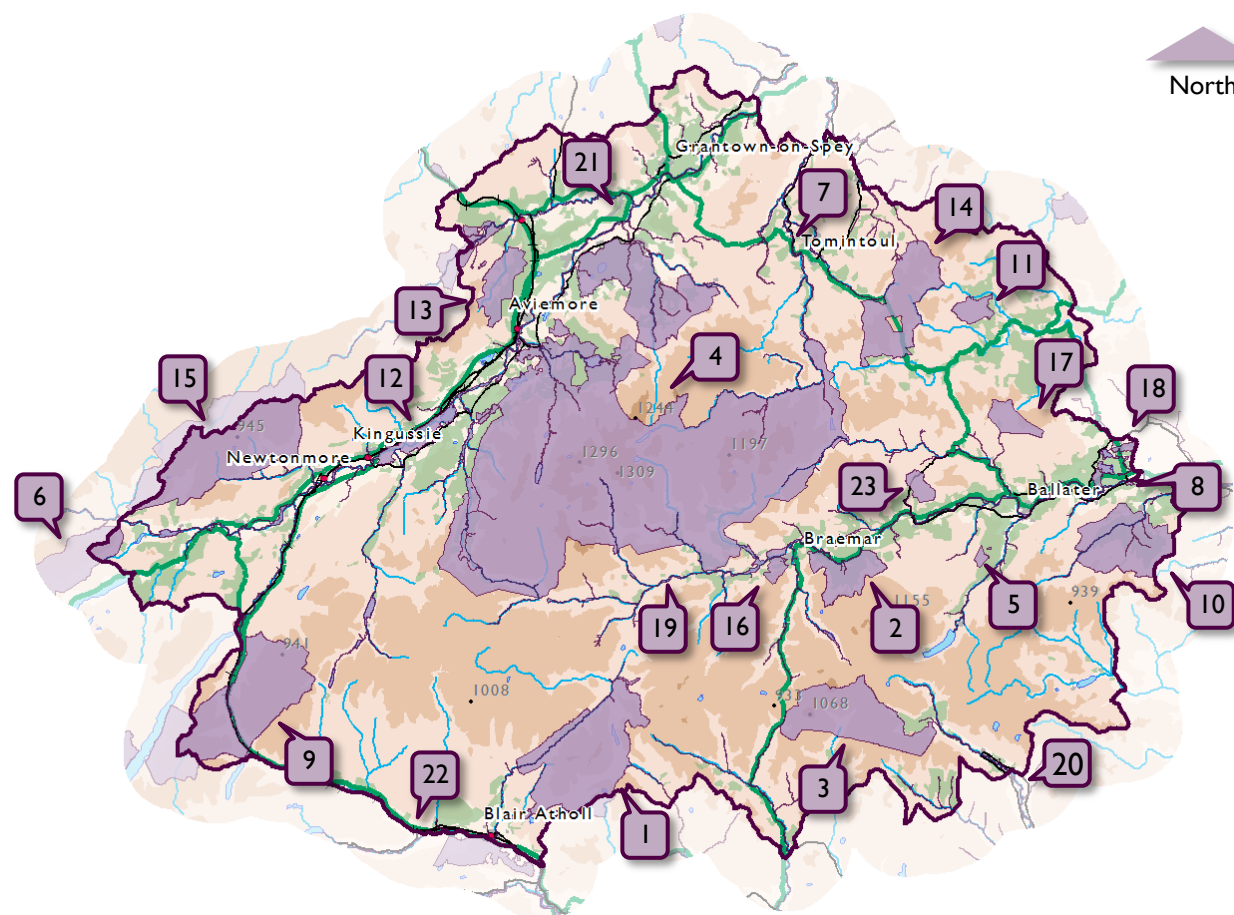
There are 23 SACs within or overlapping the National Park, covering an area of around 1,063 km<sup>2</sup> (or 24% of the National Park's area). Of these, 14 have at least one notifiable feature that is in unfavourable condition. 3 SACs, namely, Monadhliath, River South Esk, and The Maim, have no

features in favourable condition. It should be noted that the majority of the River South Esk SAC is located outwith the National Park boundary and therefore the CNPA has only limited influence over its status.

Around 53% of the land area protected as an SAC falls within the Cairngorms SAC, which is the third largest in Scotland

## Location of Special Areas of Conservation

1.	Bein a' Ghlo	p. 91
2.	Ballochbuie	p. 94
3.	Caenlochan	p. 97
4.	Cairngorms	p. 100
5.	Coyles of Muick	p. 104
6.	Creag Meagaidh	p. 106
7.	Creag nan Gamhainn	p. 109
8.	Dinnet Oakwood	p. 111
9.	Drumochter Hills	p. 113
10.	Glen Tanar	p. 116
11.	Greenhill of Strathdon	p. 119
12.	Insh Marshes	p. 121
13.	Kinveachy Forest	p. 124
14.	Ladder Hills	p. 126
15.	Monadliath	p. 126
16.	Morrone Birkwood	p. 130
17.	Morven and Mullachdubh	p. 133
18.	Muir of Dinnet	p. 135
19.	River Dee	p. 138
20.	River South Esk	p. 140
21.	River Spey	p. 142
22.	River Tay	p. 144
23.	The Maim	p. 147



Scale  
1:700,000

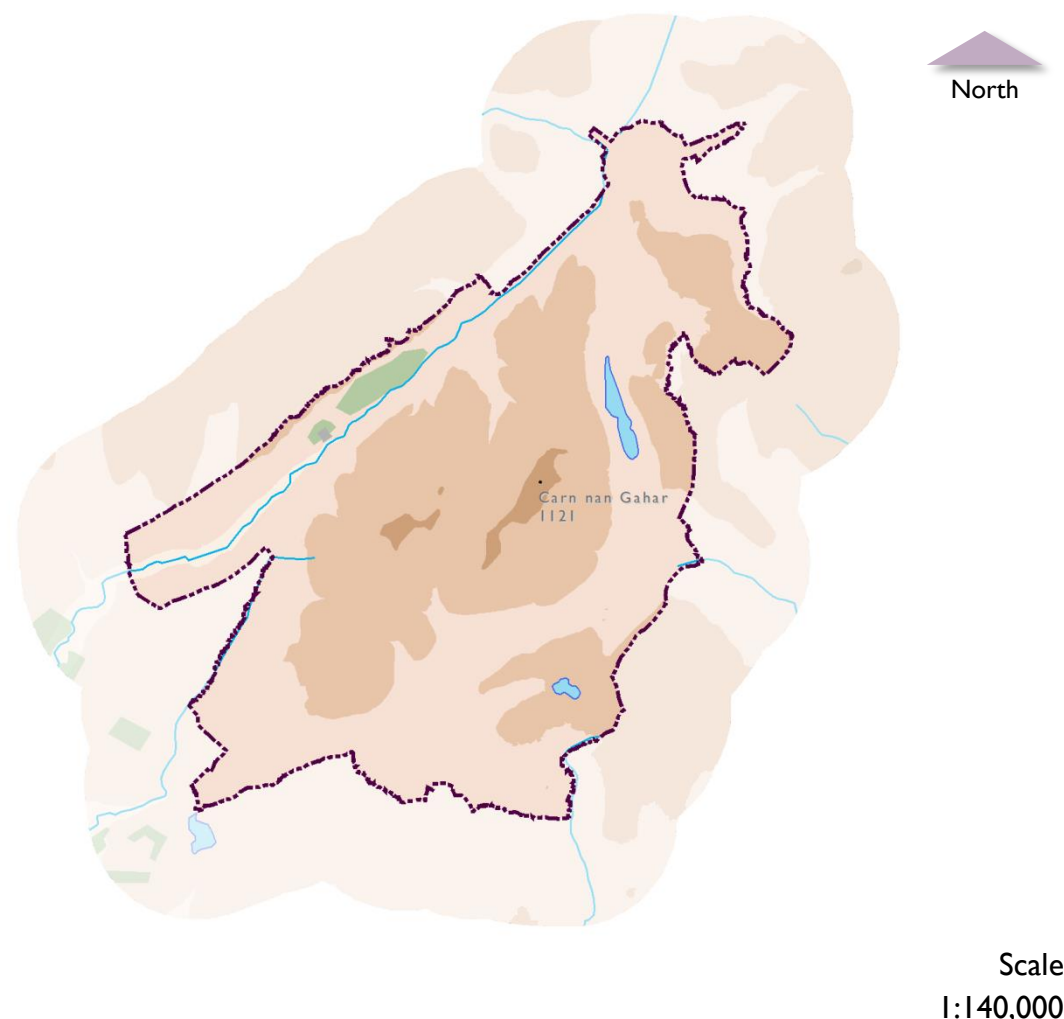
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Cairngorms National Park Authority © Scottish Natural Heritage.

**Beinn a' Ghlo SAC**

Local Authority	Perth & Kinross
SAC status	Designated
	17/03/2005
Latitude	56 50 05 N
Longitude	03 42 20 W
SAC EU code	UK0012957
Area (ha)	8,084.76
Area (ha) in CNP	7,762.25 (96.0%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	0.5%
Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	15.8%
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	61.4%
Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	0.1%
Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	3.4%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	0.1%
Coniferous woodland	0.6%
Inland rocks, Scree, Sands,	
Permanent Snow and ice	4.5%



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## Conservation Objectives

### Habitats

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favorable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site;
- Distribution of the habitat within site;
- Structure and function of the habitat;
- Processes supporting the habitat;
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat;
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat;
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat.

## Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Base-rich fens	Unfavourable	Trampling, over-grazing.	22/07/2010
Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	22/07/2010
High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	22/07/2010
Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	22/07/2010
Plants in crevices on acid rocks	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	22/07/2010
Alpine and subalpine heaths	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	22/07/2010
Blanket bog	Favourable	Burning	22/07/2010
Montane acid grasslands	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management	Over-grazing	19/08/2004
Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	19/08/2004
Dry heaths	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management	Burning, over-grazing.	19/08/2004
Acidic scree	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	19/08/2004
Hard-water springs depositing lime	Unfavourable	Burning, over-grazing.	19/08/2004

## Species

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## Related European Sites

No related European sites.

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Geyer's whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> )	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	22/07/2010
Round-mouthed whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo genesii</i> )	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	22/07/2010

## Factors currently influencing site

- Recreation
- Burning
- Grazing.

## Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8197](https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8197)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0012957>

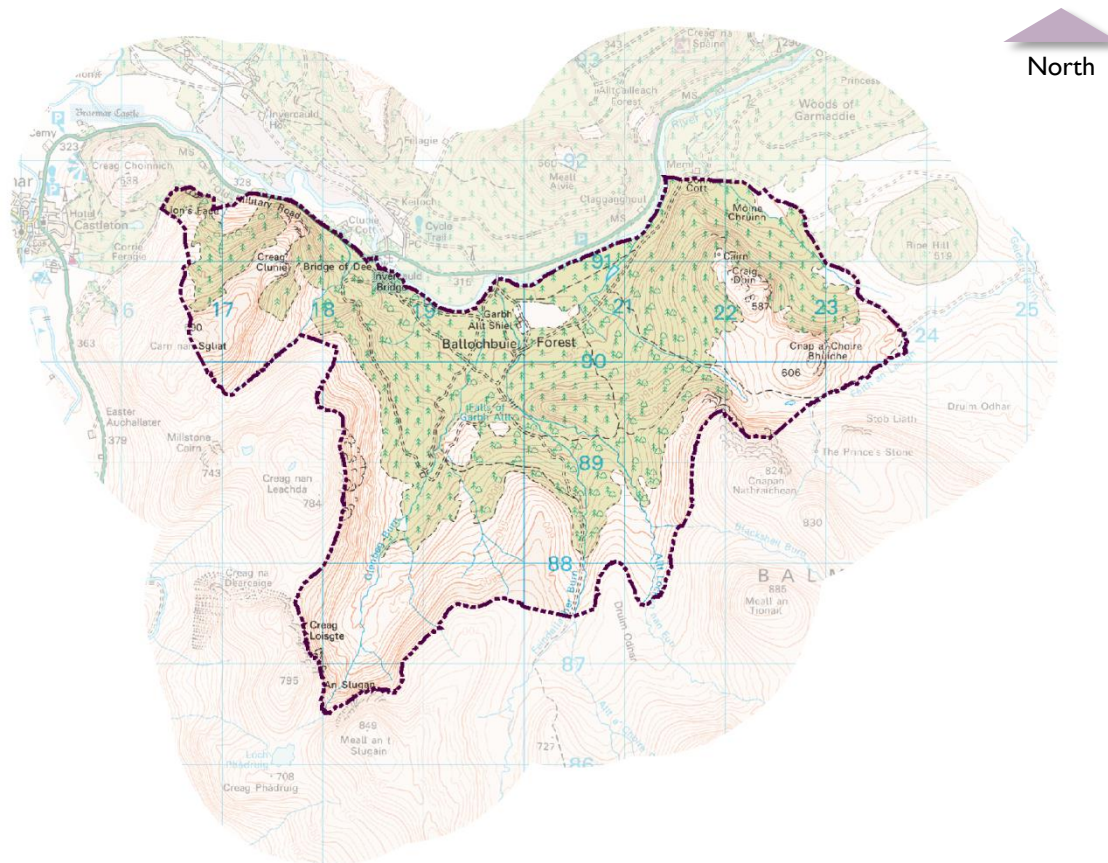


**Ballochbuie SAC**

Local Authority	Aberdeenshire
SAC status	Designated
	17/03/2005
Latitude	56 59 30 N
Longitude	03 19 06 W
SAC EU code	UK0030030
Area (ha)	1,881.73
Area (ha) in CNP	1,881.73 (100%)

**General site character**

Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	13%
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	36%
Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	1%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	1%
Coniferous woodland	48%
Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	1%



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1:75,000

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## Conservation Objectives

### Habitats

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

## Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Bog woodland	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management	Over-grazing	02/08/2011
Caledonian forest	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management	Over-grazing	08/08/2011
Blanket bog	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management	Burning	05/05/2006
Plants in crevices on acid rocks	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	01/11/2006
Dry heaths	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management	Burning	01/11/2006
Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management	Burning	01/11/2006
Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	23/11/2004



## Species

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with Ballochbuie Special Protection Area and the River Dee Special Area of Conservation.

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	12/11/2011

## Factors currently influencing site

- Grazing
- Burning

## Sources

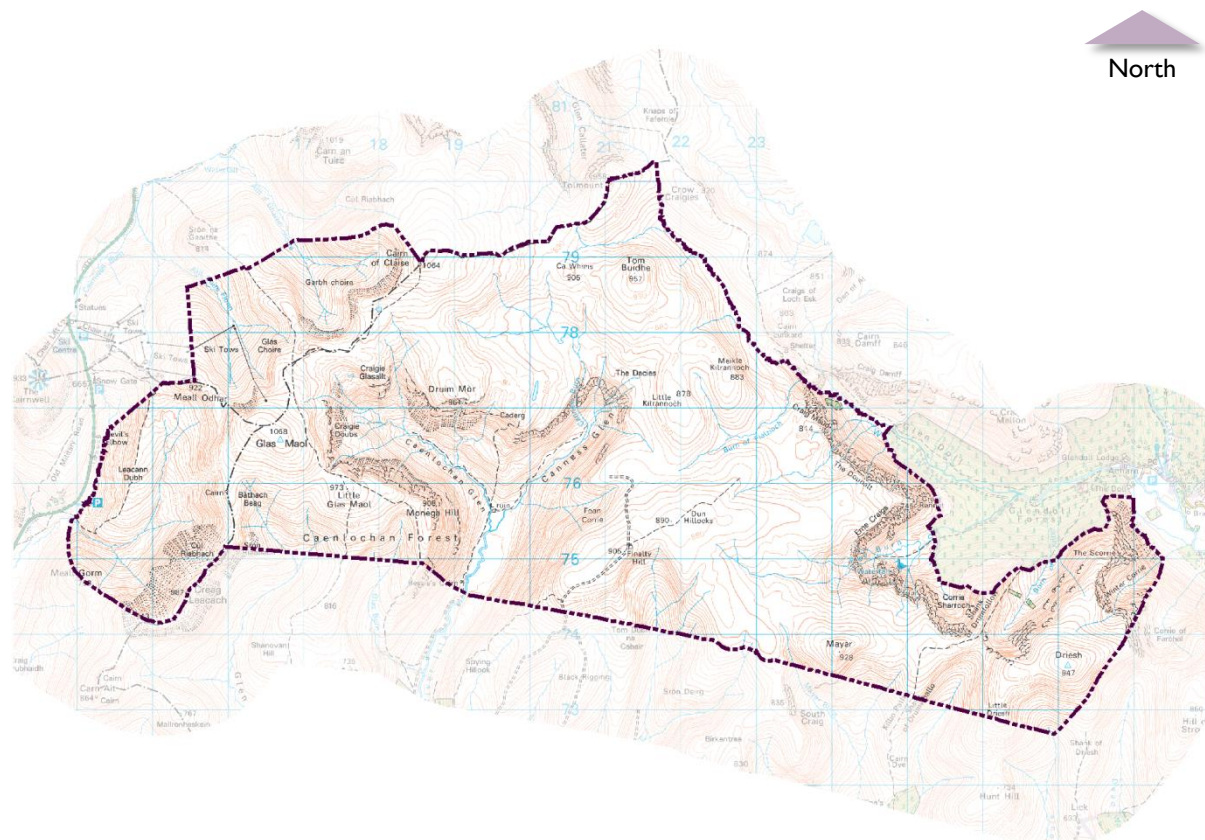
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8194](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8194)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030030>

**Caenlochan SAC**

Local Authority	Aberdeenshire; Angus; Perth and Kinross
SAC status	Designated 1703/2005
Latitude	56 52 30 N
Longitude	03 17 30 W
SAC EU code	UK0012821
Area (ha)	5,204.16
Area (ha) in CNP	5,024.16 (100%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	0.1%
Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	29%
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	30.2%
Dry grassland, Steppes	9.2%
Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	2.4%
Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	23.7%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	0.2%
Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	5.2%



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1:100,000

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## Conservation Objectives

### Habitats

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

### Related European Sites

The site overlaps with the River Dee Special Area of Conservation and the Caenlochan Special Protection Area.

## Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Mountain willow scrub	Unfavourable	Climate change, over-grazing, plant pests and diseases	23/08/2012
Acidic scree	Unfavourable	Over-grazing	30/08/2012
Montane acid grasslands	Unfavourable	Climate change, over-grazing	18/09/2012
High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	18/09/2012
Tall herb communities	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	18/09/2012
Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	18/09/2012
Dry heaths	Unfavourable	Burning, over-grazing	16/07/2006
Plants in crevices on acid rocks	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	16/07/2006
Blanket bog	Unfavourable	Burning, over-grazing	16/07/2006
Alpine and subalpine heaths	Unfavourable	Climate change, over-grazing	16/07/2006
Base-rich fens	Unfavourable	No negative pressures identified	16/07/2006
Base-rich scree	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	16/07/2006

**Factors currently influencing site**

- Grazing
- Burning

**Sources**

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8216](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8216)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0012821>

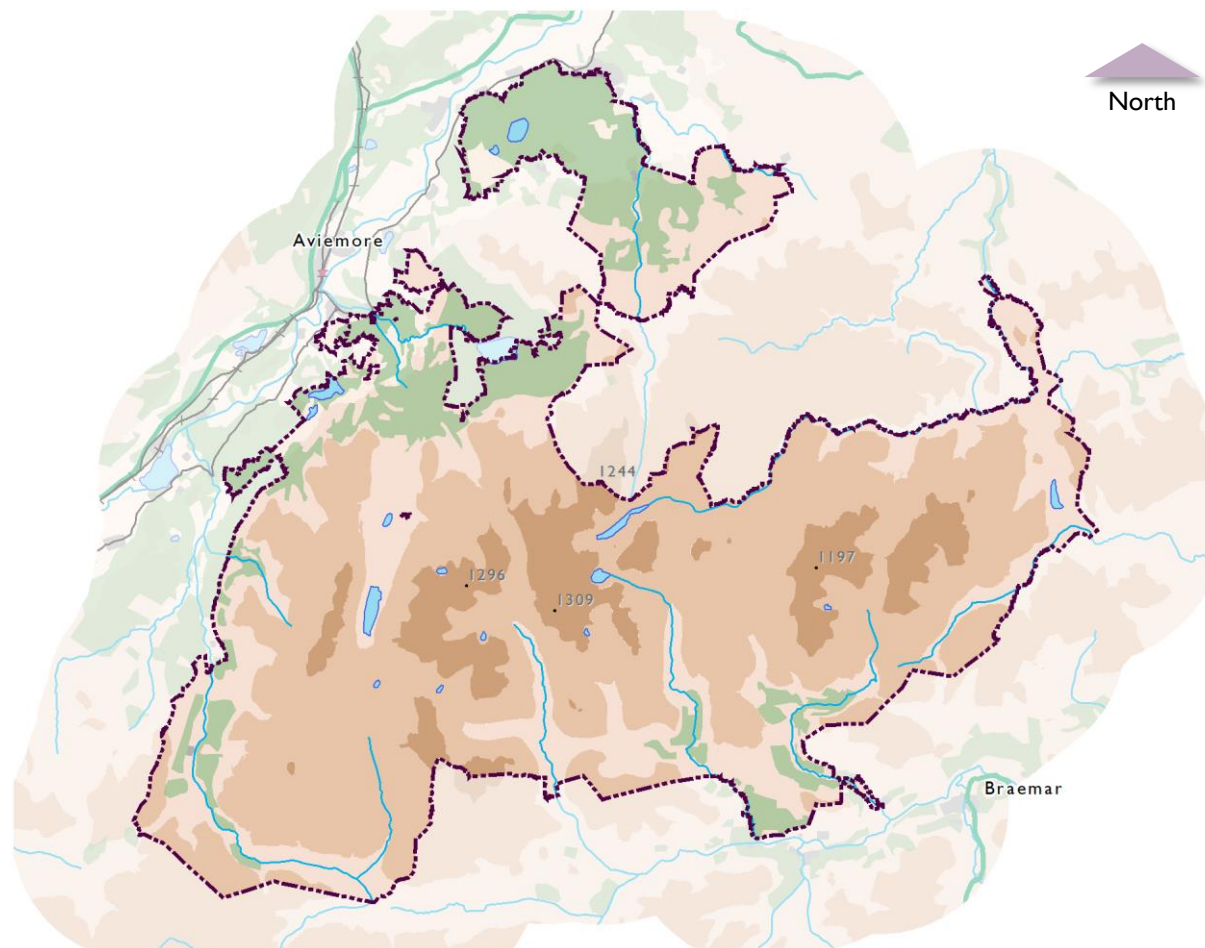
Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	16/07/2006
Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas	Unfavourable	No negative pressures identified	16/07/2006

**Cairngorms SAC**

Local Authority	Aberdeenshire; Highland; Moray
SAC status	Designated 17/03/2005
Latitude	57 04 36 N
Longitude	03 39 15 W
SAC EU code	UK0016412
Area (ha)	57,685.02
Area (ha) in CNP	57,685.02 (100%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	2.1%
Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	10%
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	42.7%
Dry grassland, Steppes	2.2%
Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	1%
Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	16%
Improved grassland	1%
Other arable land	1%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	1%
Coniferous woodland	13%
Mixed woodland	1%
Inland rocks, Scree, Sands,	8%
Permanent Snow and ice	
Other land	1%



Scale  
1:300,000

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## Conservation Objectives

### Habitats

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

## Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	23/06/2010
Acid peat-stained lakes and ponds	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	24/06/2010
Caledonian forest	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management	Invasive species; under-grazing	27/01/2009
Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone	Unfavourable	Over-grazing; under-grazing; over grazing	03/04/2007
Blanket bog	Unfavourable	Over-grazing	03/04/2007
Tall herb communities	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	03/04/2007
Hard-water springs depositing lime	Favourable	Over-grazing	03/04/2007
Alpine and subalpine heaths	Unfavourable	Burning; over grazing; Recreation / disturbance	03/04/2007
Dry heaths	Unfavourable	Burning	03/04/2007
Plants in crevices on acid rocks	Favourable	Recreation / disturbance	03/04/2007
Acidic scree	Favourable	Recreation / disturbance	03/04/2007
Mountain willow scrub	Unfavourable	Over-grazing	03/04/2007

### Species

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath	Unfavourable	Over-grazing	03/04/2007
Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas	Unfavourable	Trampling; under-grazing	03/04/2007
Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks	Unfavourable	Invasive species	03/04/2007
Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	03/04/2007
Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	08/04/2007
Montane acid grasslands	Favourable	Recreation / disturbance	14/07/2006
High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage	Unfavourable	Over-grazing	15/10/2006
Bog woodland	Favourable	Over-grazing	05/09/2002

### Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Green shield-moss ( <i>Buxbaumia viridis</i> )	Favourable	Forestry operations	02/05/2006
Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )	Unfavourable	Recreation / disturbance	08/09/2004

### **Related European Sites**

The site overlaps with the River Dee and River Spey Special Conservation Areas. The site overlaps with Cairngorms, Cairngorms Massif and Abernethy Forest Special Protection Areas.

### **Factors currently influencing site**

- Grazing
- Burning
- Recreation
- Trampling
- Invasive species

### **Sources**

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8217](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8217)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0016412>

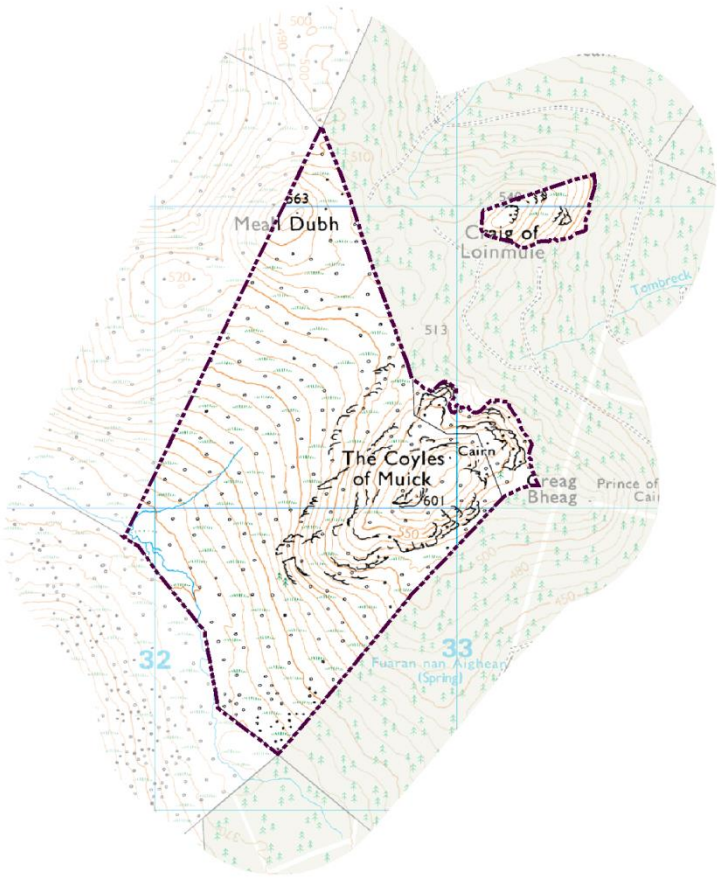


**Coyles of Muick SAC**

Local Authority	Aberdeenshire
SAC status	Designated 17/03/2005
Latitude	57 33 30 N
Longitude	04 26 45 W
SAC EU code	UK0013575
Area (ha)	120.11
Area (ha) in CNP	120.11 (100%)

**General site character**

Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	5%
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	70%
Dry grassland, Steppes	18.4%
Coniferous woodland	0.1%
Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	6.5%



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1:25,000

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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

## Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	03/08/2006

## Related European Sites

No related sites.

## Factors currently influencing site

None identified.

## Sources

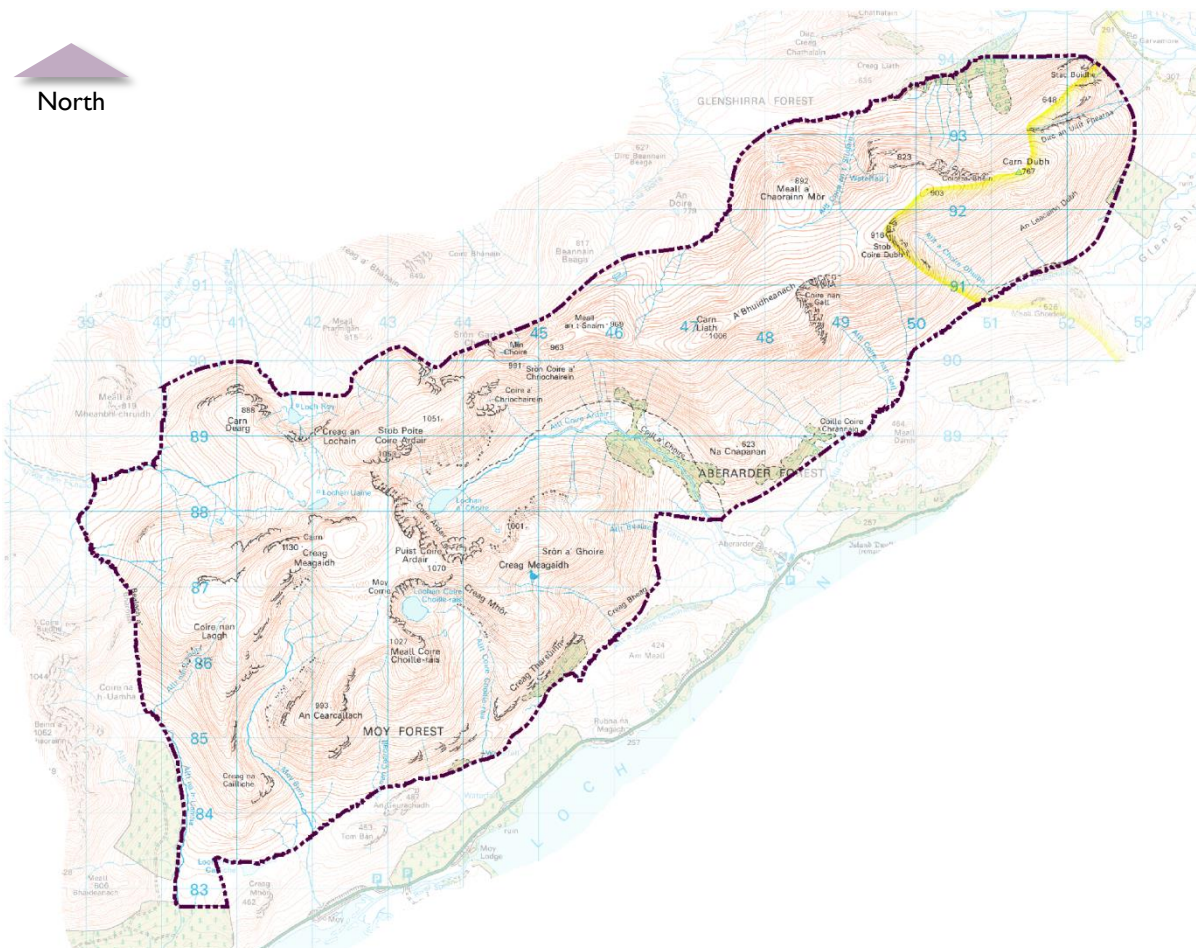
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8231](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8231)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0013575>

## Creag Meagaidh SAC

Local Authority	Highland
SAC status	Designated
	17/03/2005
Latitude	56 57 45 N
Longitude	04 32 55 W
SAC EU code	UK0012955
Area (ha)	6,144.58
Area (ha) in CNP	507.19 (8.3%)

## General site character

Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	1%
Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	10%
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	36.5%
Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	1%
Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	35.5%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	10%
Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	9%



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1:100,000

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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

## Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	10/06/2010
Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	15/08/2010
Plants in crevices on acid rocks	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	08/08/2005
Alpine and subalpine heaths	Unfavourable	Over-grazing	01/09/2005
Mountain willow scrub	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management	Over-grazing	01/09/2005
Tall herb communities	Unfavourable	Over-grazing	30/09/2005
Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath	Unfavourable	Burning, game / fisheries management, over-grazing	30/09/2005
Montane acid grasslands	Unfavourable	Over-grazing	30/09/2005
Dry heaths	Unfavourable	Burning, over-grazing	30/09/2005
Blanket bog	Unfavourable	Burning, over-grazing	30/09/2005
Acidic scree	Unfavourable	Over-grazing	30/09/2005

### **Related European Sites**

The site overlaps with Creag Meagaidh Special Protection Area.

### **Factors currently influencing site**

- Burning
- Grazing
- Game or fisheries management

### **Sources**

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8235](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8235)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0012955>

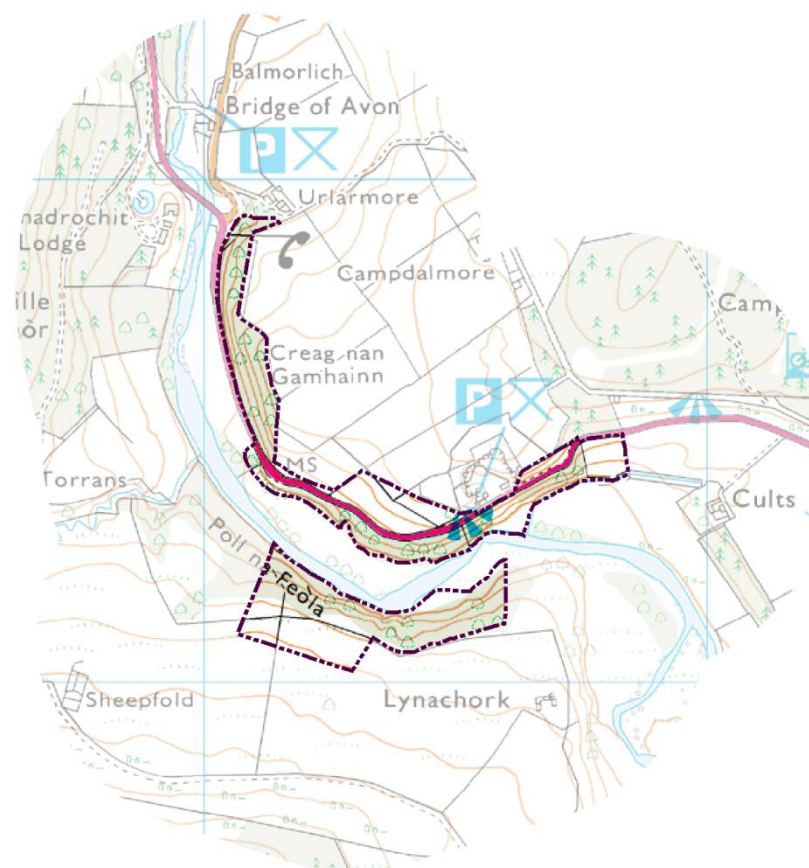


**Creag nan Gamhainn SAC**

Local Authority	Moray
SAC status	Designated
	17/03/2005
Latitude	57 15 35 N
Longitude	03 24 15 W
SAC EU code	UK0013584
Area (ha)	15.75
Area (ha) in CNP	15.75 (100%)

**General site character**

Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	6%
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	1%
Dry grassland, Steppes	7%
Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	28%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	57%
Other land	1%



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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

## Related European Sites

No related sites

## Factors currently influencing site

None identified.

## Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Hard-water springs depositing lime	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	21/07/2011

## Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8236](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8236)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0013584>

**Dinnet Oakwood SAC**

Local Authority	Aberdeenshire
SAC status	Designated
	17/03/2005
Latitude	57 04 10 N
Longitude	02 53 00 W
SAC EU code	UK0030134
Area (ha)	19.73
Area (ha) in CNP	19.73 (100%)

**General site character**

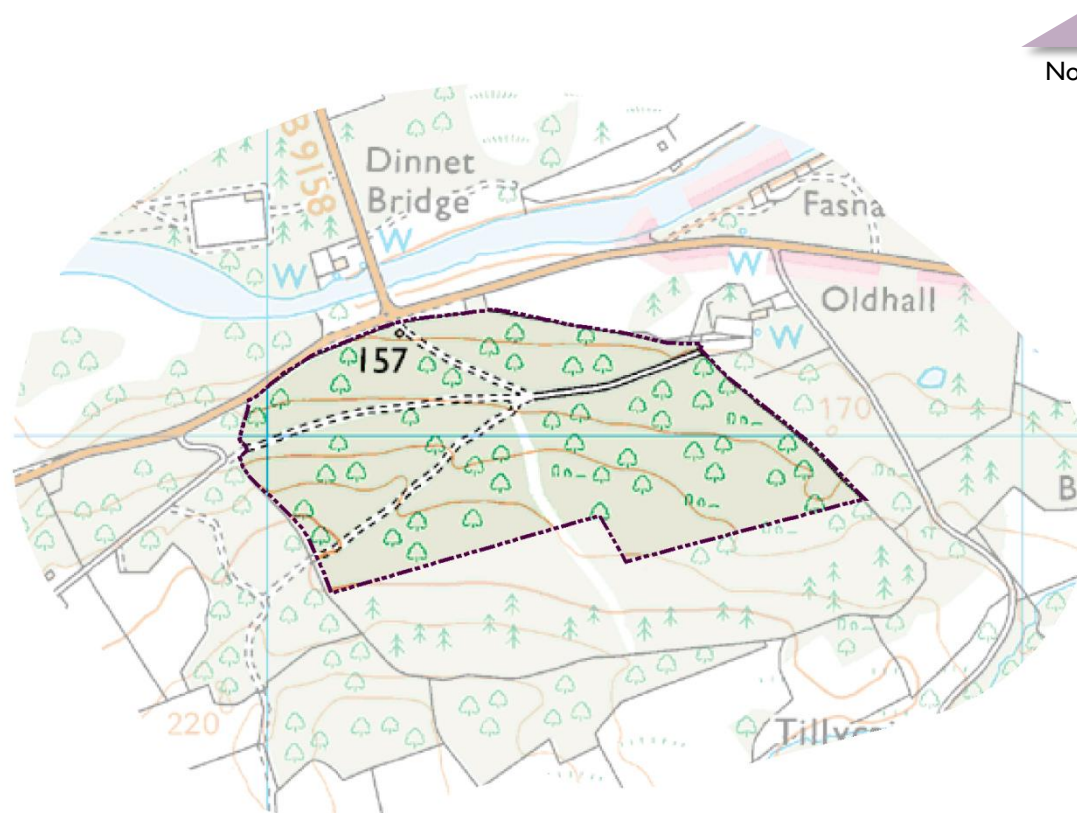
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland 100%

**Conservation Objectives**

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site



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- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

#### Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Western acidic oak woodland	Favourable	Invasive species, no proactive management, over-grazing	12/07/2002

#### Related European Sites

The site overlaps with the River Dee Special Area of Conservation.

#### Factors currently influencing site

None identified.

#### Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8240](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8240)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030>

**Drumochter Hills SAC**

Local Authority	Highland; Perth and Kinross
SAC status	Designated 17/03/2005
Latitude	56 52 00 N
Longitude	04 11 30 W
SAC EU code	UK0012942
Area (ha)	9,445.56
Area (ha) in CNP	7,382.22 (78.2%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	2%
Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	23%
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	46.5%
Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	22%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	1%
Inland rocks, Scree, Sands,	5%
Permanent Snow and ice	
Other land	0.5%



Scale  
1:130,000

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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with the River Spey Special Area of Conservation and the Drumochter Hills Special Protection Area.

## Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Alpine and subalpine heaths	Unfavourable	Over-grazing, trampling	05/07/2006
Montane acid grasslands	Unfavourable	Over-grazing, trampling	06/07/2006
Plants in crevices on acid rocks	Unfavourable	Over-grazing	06/07/2006
Dry heaths	Unfavourable	Burning	06/07/2006
Mountain willow scrub	Unfavourable	Over-grazing	06/07/2006
Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath	Unfavourable	Burning, over-grazing, trampling	06/07/2006
Blanket bog	Unfavourable	Burning, over-grazing, trampling	06/07/2006
Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas	Unfavourable	Under-grazing	06/07/2006
Acidic scree	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	06/07/2006
Tall herb communities	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	31/07/2006

**Factors currently influencing site**

- Grazing
- Burning
- Trampling
- Recreational disturbance.

**Sources**

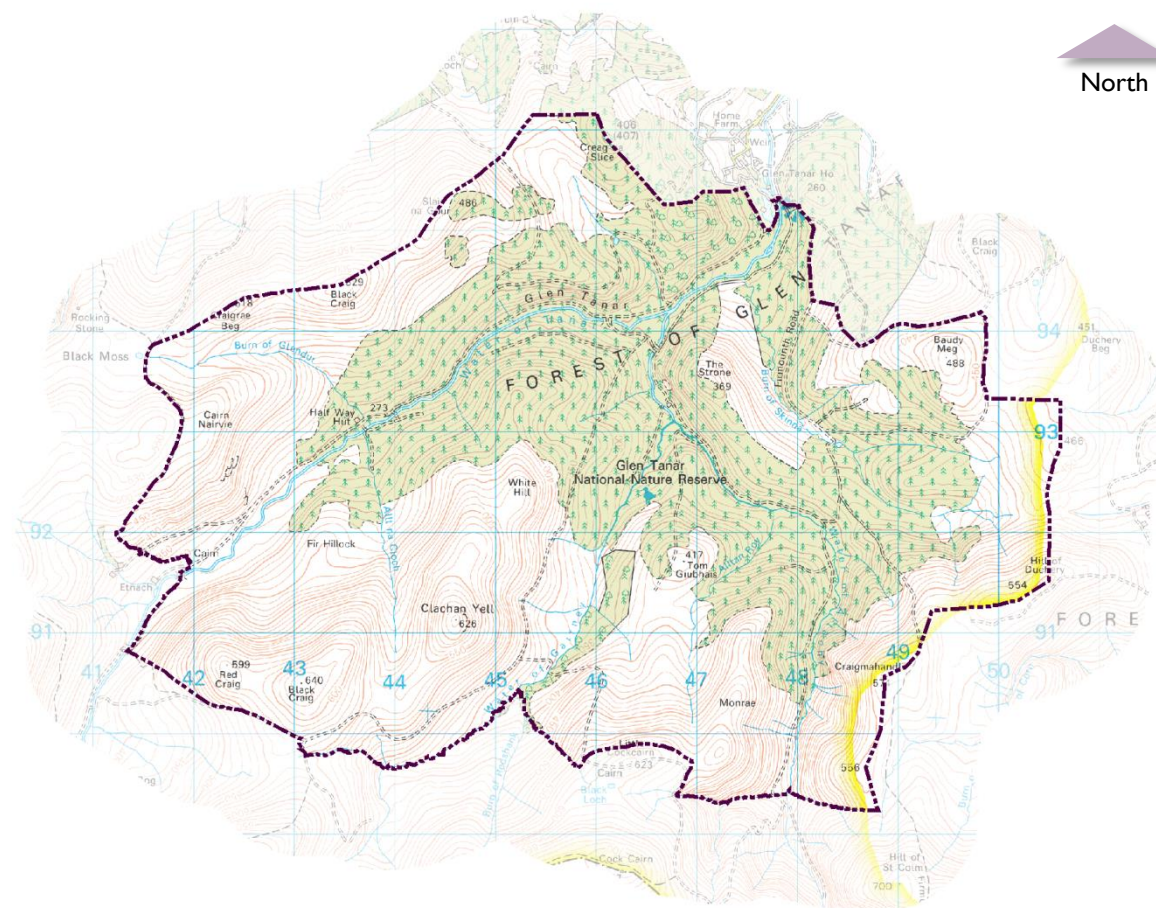
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8243](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8243)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0012942>

**Glen Tanar SAC**

Local Authority	Aberdeenshire
SAC status	Designated
	17/03/2005
Latitude	57 01 20 N
Longitude	02 53 30 W
SAC EU code	UK0012756
Area (ha)	4,180.09
Area (ha) in CNP	4,142.25 (99.1%)

**General site character**

Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	10%
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	30%
Dry grassland, Steppes	5%
Coniferous woodland	55%



Scale  
1:75,000

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## Conservation Objectives

### Habitats

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat.

### Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Caledonian forest	Favourable	Invasive species	08/04/2010
Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	21/11/2009
Dry heaths	Favourable	Under-grazing	23/10/2003
Blanket bog	Favourable	Burning	31/10/2003

### Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	30/09/2004

## Species

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## Related European Sites

This site overlaps with River Dee Special Conservation Area and the Glen Tanar Special Protection Area.

## Factors currently influencing site

- Burning

## Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8266](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8266)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0012756>

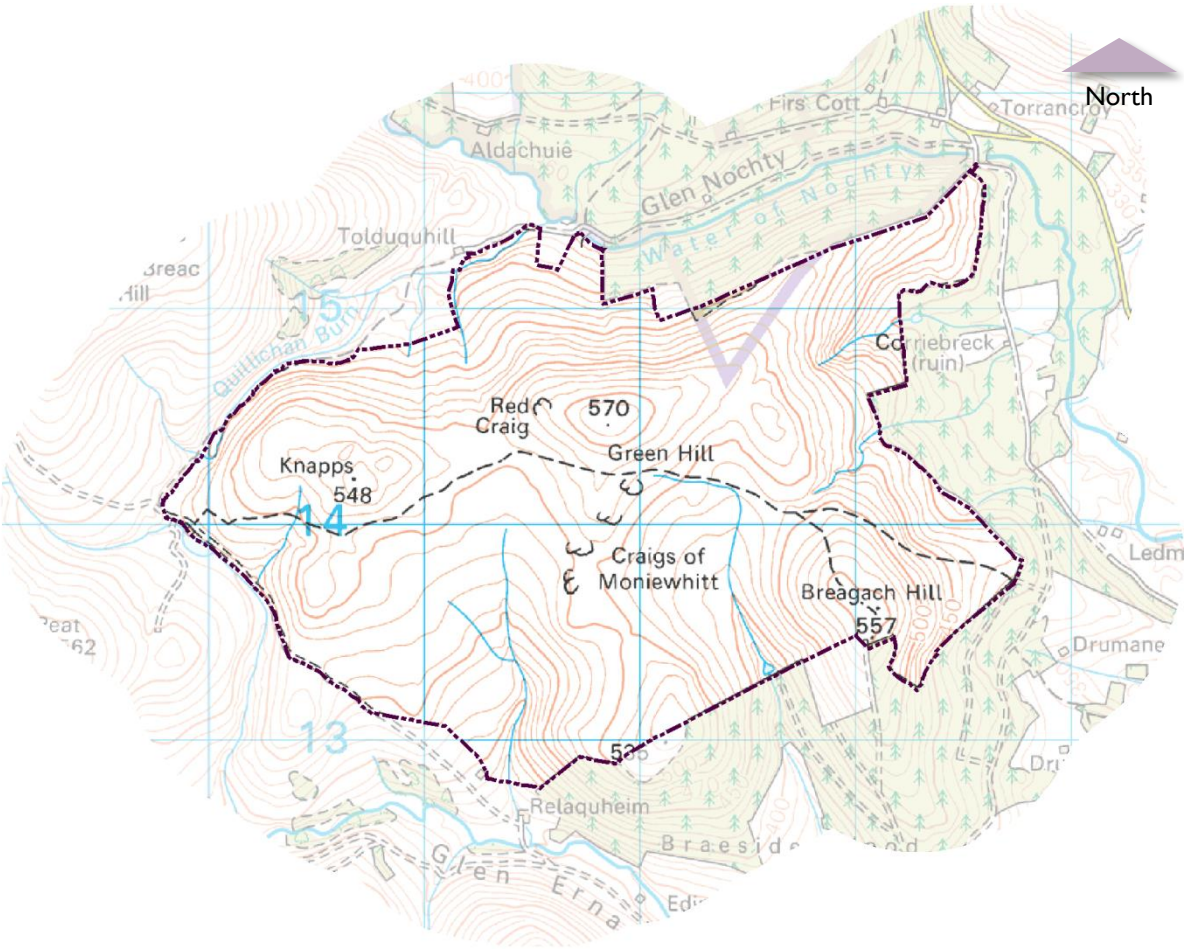


**Green Hill of Strathdon SAC**

Local Authority	Aberdeenshire
SAC status	Designated
	17/03/2005
Latitude	57 14 00 N
Longitude	03 08 00 W
SAC EU code	UK0030159
Area (ha)	640.77
Area (ha) in CNP	640.77 (100%)

**General site character**

Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	10%
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	65%
Dry grassland, Steppes	23%
Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	2%



Scale  
1:35,000

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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

## Related European Sites

No related sites.

## Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Dry heaths	Favourable	Burning, over-grazing	15/08/2008
Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals	Favourable	Burning	15/08/2008
Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands	Favourable	Over-grazing	02/08/2002

## Factors currently influencing site

None identified.

## Sources

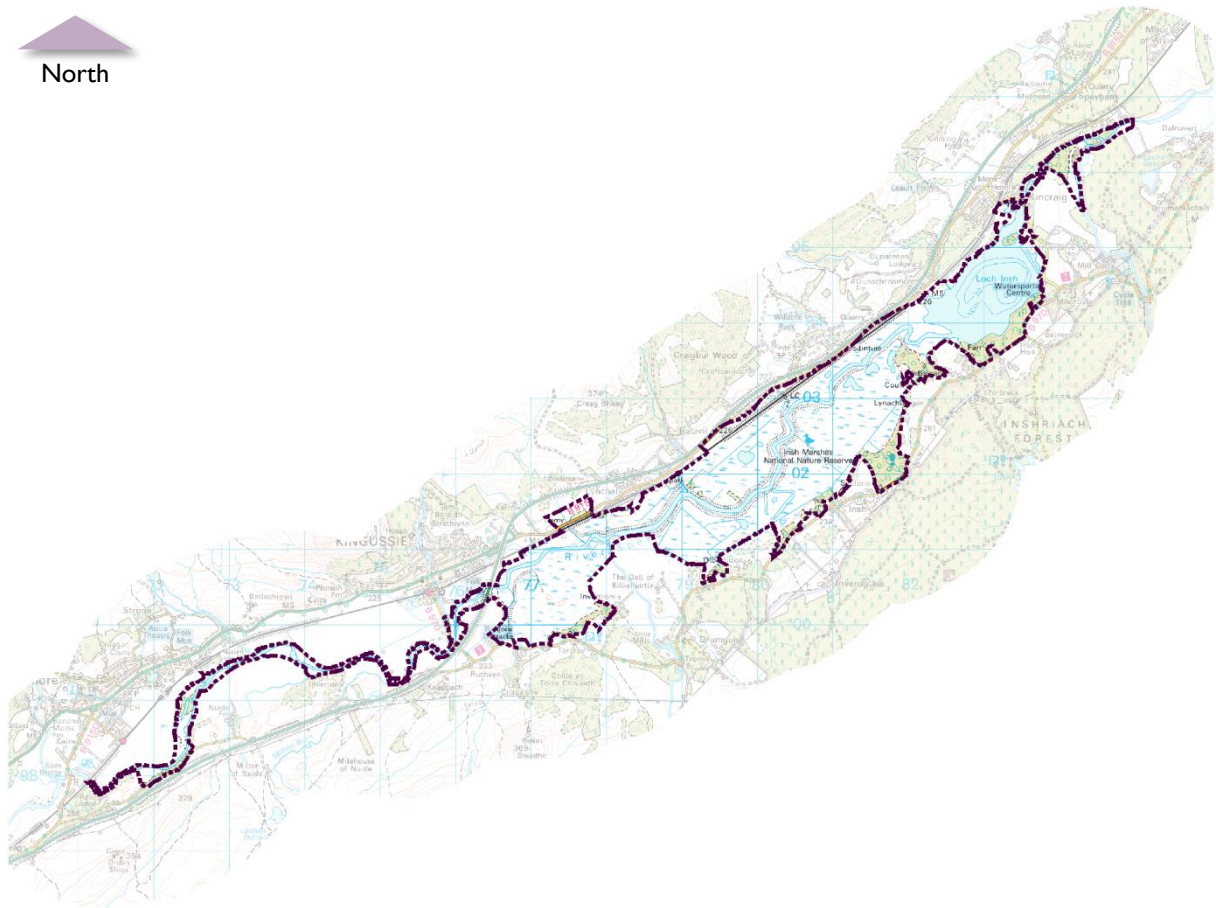
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8268](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8268)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030159>

**Insh Marshes SAC**

Local Authority	Highland
SAC status	Designated
	17/03/2005
Latitude	57 05 30 N
Longitude	03 58 00 W
SAC EU code	UK0019812
Area (ha)	1,158.78
Area (ha) in CNP	1,158.78 (100%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	18%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	36%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	10%
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	25%
Improved grassland	1%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	8%
Coniferous woodland	2%



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## Conservation Objectives

### Habitats

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

### Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels	Favourable	Invasive species, recreation / disturbance	30/07/2010
Alder woodland on floodplains	Favourable	Flood defence works, invasive species, no proactive management, over-grazing, water management	19/05/2009
Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	04/10/2002

### Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )	Favourable	Over-grazing, other	08/09/2004

## Species

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with the River Spey Special Area of Conservation and the River

Spey – Insh Marshes Special Protection Area.

## Factors currently influencing site

- Grazing.
- Recreational disturbance.
- Forestry operations.
- Potential impacts from new development due to additional nutrient loading.

## Sources

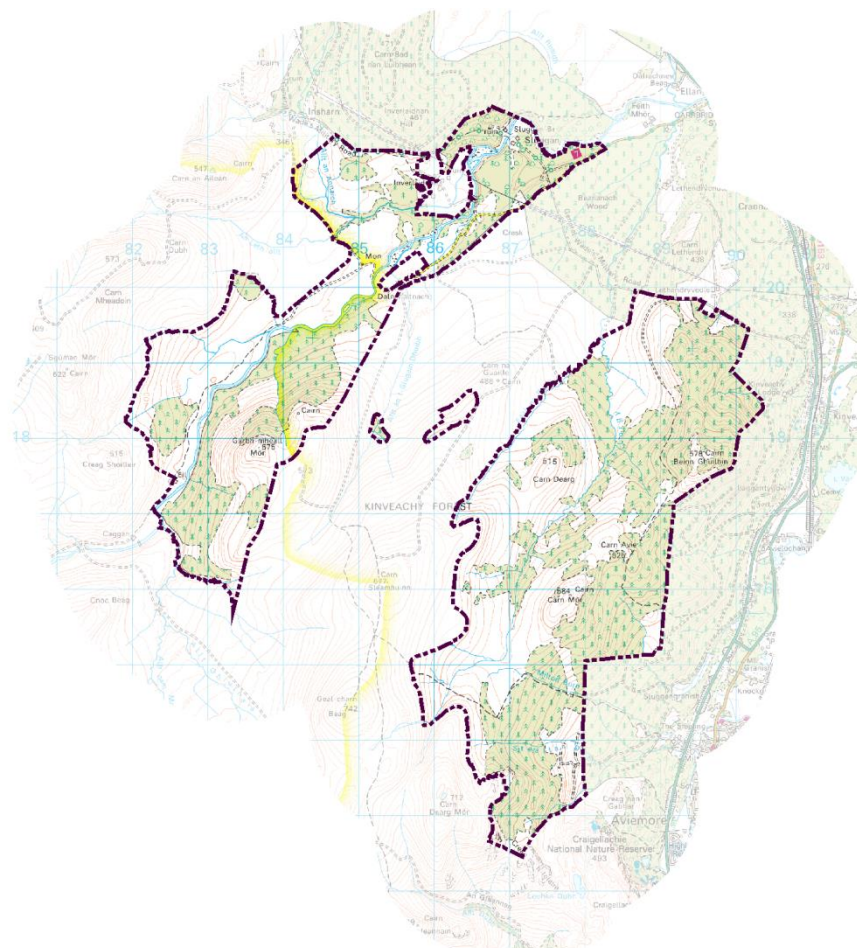
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8274](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8274)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0019812>

**Kinveachy Forest SAC**

Local Authority	Highland
SAC status	Designated
	17/03/2005
Latitude	57 14 15 N
Longitude	03 54 00 W
SPA EU code	UK0012759
Area (ha)	2,849.36
Area (ha) in CNP	2,232.59 (78.4%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	0.5%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	0.5%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	40%
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	1%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	9%
Coniferous woodland	49%



Scale  
1:100,000

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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat.

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with the River Spey Special Area of Conservation and the Kinveachy Forest Special Protection Area.

## Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Bog woodland	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	24/06/2008
Caledonian forest	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	24/06/2008

## Factors currently influencing site

- Grazing
- Burning
- Game or fisheries management.

## Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8283](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8283)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0012759>



## Ladder Hills SAC

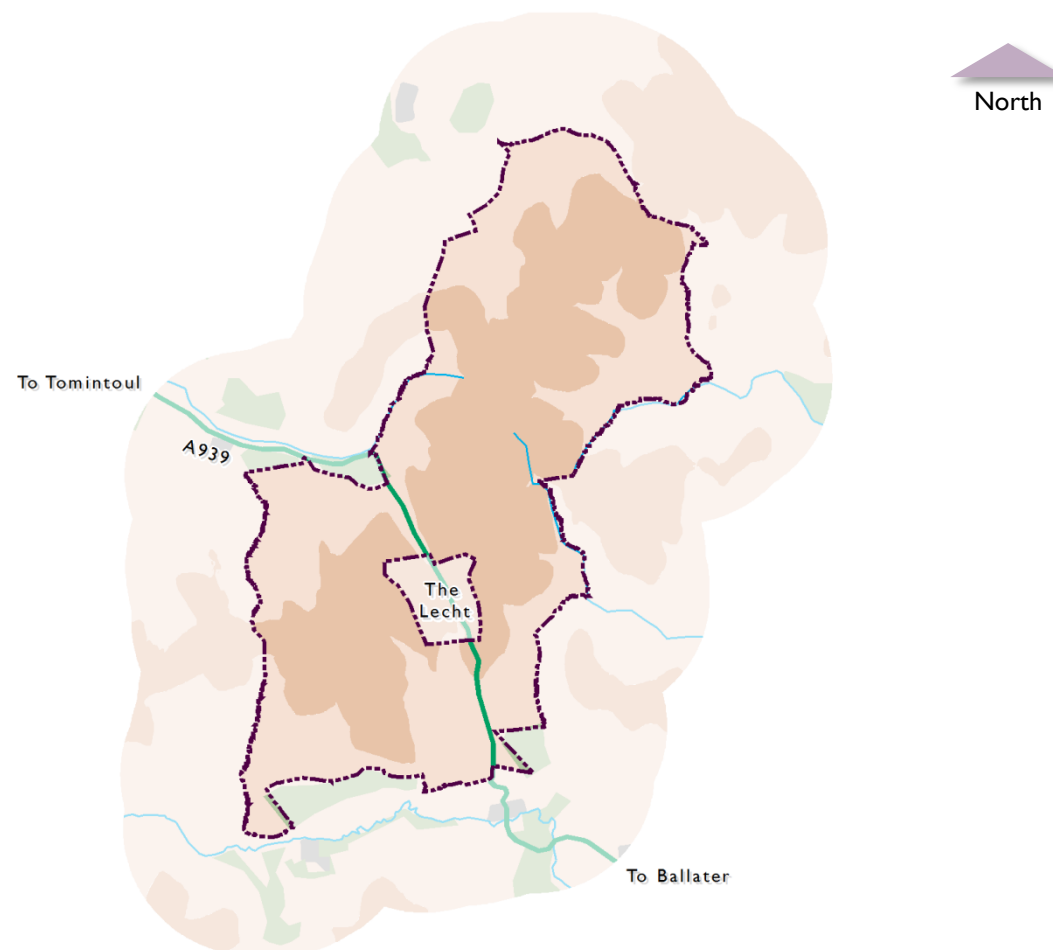
Local Authority	Aberdeenshire; Moray
SAC status	Designated 17/03/2005
Latitude	57 13 00 N
Longitude	03 14 55 W
SAC EU code	UK0030179
Area (ha)	4,357.94
Area (ha) in CNP	4,357.94 (100%)

### General site character

Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	30%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	68%
Dry grassland, Steppes	2%

### Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and



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To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

### Related European Sites

There is a proposed Ladder Hills Special Protection Area which is likely to overlap the Ladder Hills Special Area of Conservation.

### Factors currently influencing site

- Grazing
- Burning
- Recreational disturbance

### Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Dry heaths	Unfavourable	Burning, over-grazing, recreation / disturbance	09/04/2007
Blanket bog	Favourable	Agricultural operations, burning	03/09/1999
Alpine and subalpine heaths	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	03/09/1999

### Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8286](https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8286)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030179>

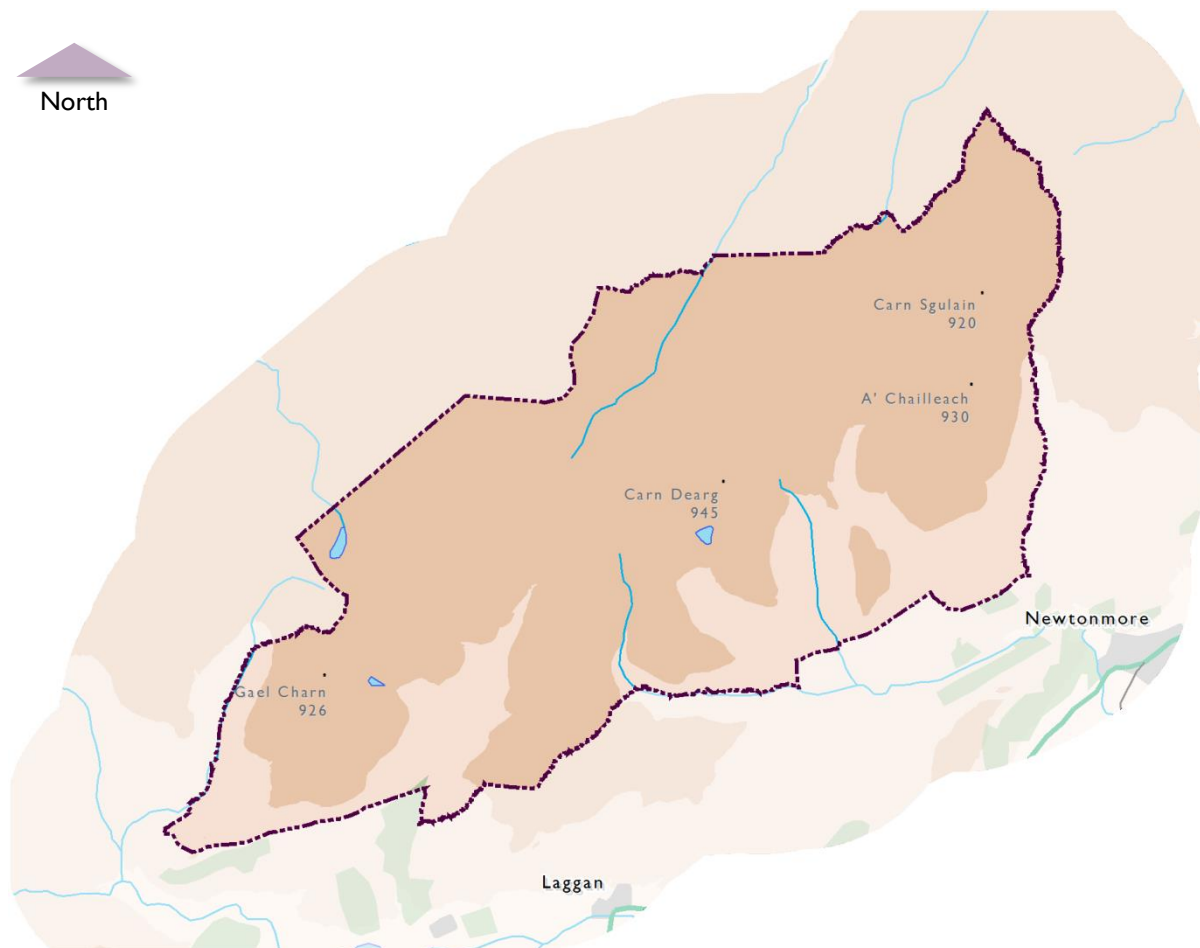


**Monadhliath SAC**

Local Authority	Highland
SAC status	Designated
	17/03/2005
Latitude	57 05 10 N
Longitude	04 16 20 W
SAC EU code	UK0030210
Area (ha)	10,671.11
Area (ha) in CNP	7,121.03 (66.7%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	1%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	55%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	20%
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	2.5%
Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	21%
Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	0.5%



Scale  
1:140,000

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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with the River Spey Special Area of Conservation.

## Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Blanket bog	Unfavourable	Trampling	23/09/2004

## Factors currently influencing site

- Grazing
- Trampling
- Recreational disturbance

## Sources

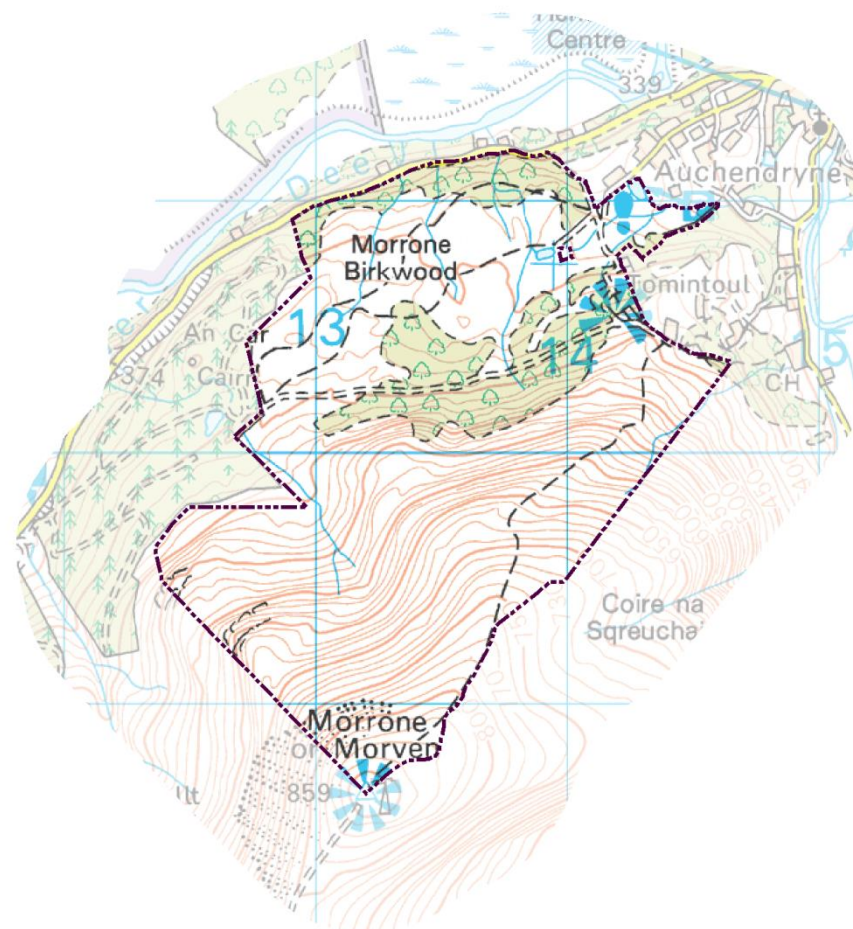
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8324](https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8324)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030210>

### Morrone Birkwood SAC

Local Authority	Aberdeenshire
SAC status	Designated
	17/03/2005
Latitude	56 59 40 N
Longitude	03 25 30 W
SAC EU code	UK0012894
Area (ha)	318.4
Area (ha) in CNP	318.4 (100%)

### General site character

Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	5%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	85%
Dry grassland, Steppes	3%
Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	11%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	5%
Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	0.5%



Scale  
1:30,000

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## Conservation Objectives

### Habitats

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat.

### Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Base-rich fens	Favourable	Trampling	03/06/2014
Hard-water springs depositing lime	Favourable	Invasive species, over-grazing	03/06/2014
High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage	Favourable	Invasive species, trampling	03/06/2014
Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	03/06/2014
Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management	Over-grazing	11/10/2009
Alpine and subalpine heaths	Favourable	Over-grazing, recreation / disturbance	01/07/2008

### Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Visit Date
Geyer's whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> )	Unfavourable No negative pressures identified	30/06/2013

**Species**

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

**Related European Sites**

The site overlaps with the River Dee Special Area of Conservation.

**Factors currently influencing site**

- Grazing
- Burning
- Invasive species
- Recreational disturbance.

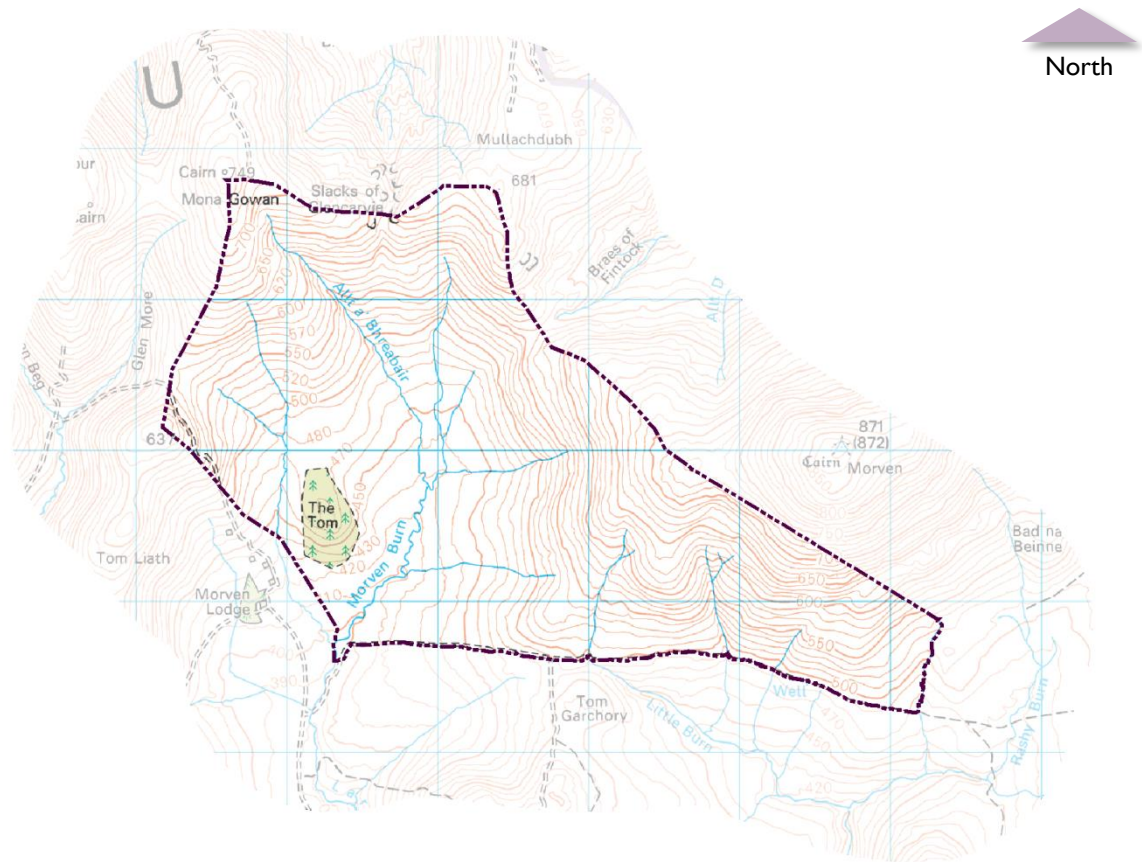
**Sources**

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8328](https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8328)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0012894>



Local Authority	Aberdeenshire
SAC status	Designated
Latitude	17/03/2005
Longitude	57 07 30 N
SAC EU code	03 04 30 W
Area (ha)	UK0019958
Area (ha) in CNP	916.76
	916.76 (100%)

Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	1%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	62%
Dry grassland, Steppes	28%
Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	7%
Coniferous woodland	1%



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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

## Related European Sites

No related European sites.

## Factors currently influencing site

- Grazing

## Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands	Favourable	Burning, no proactive management, over-grazing, plant pests and diseases	25/01/2005

- Burning.

## Sources

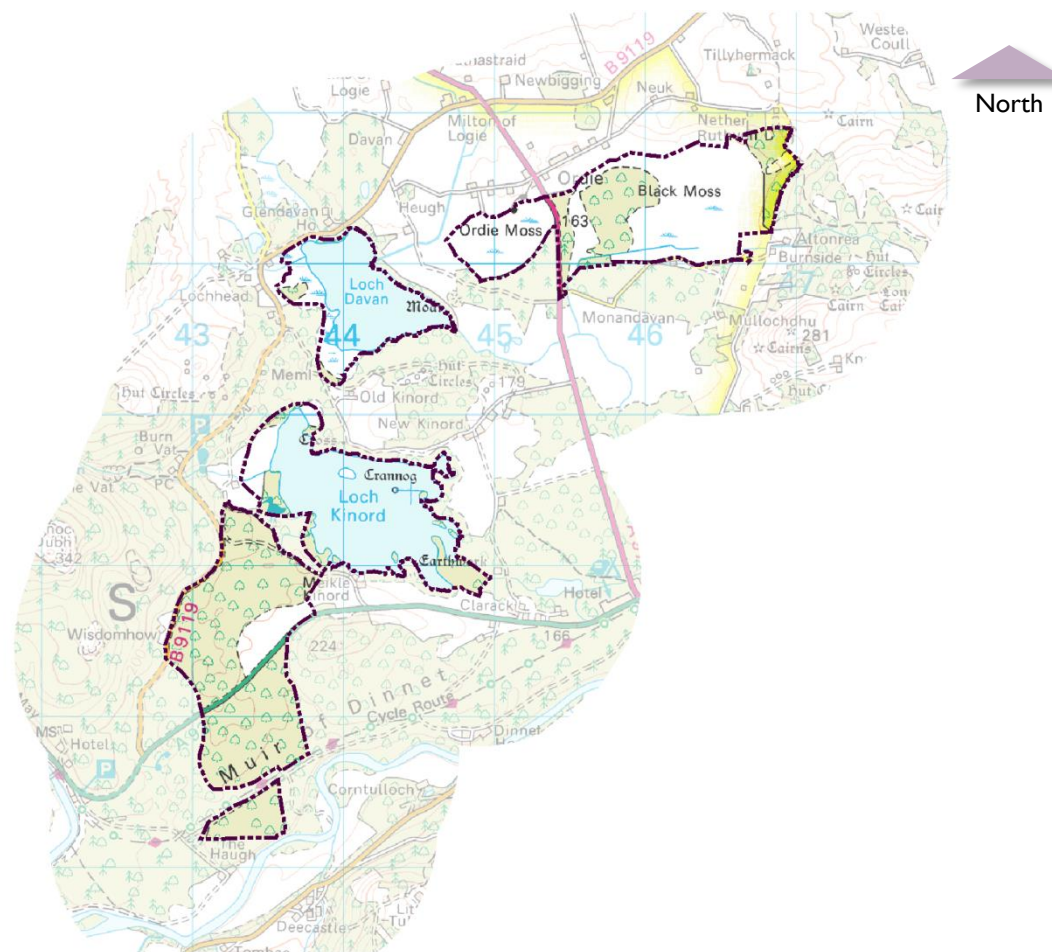
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8330](https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8330)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0019958>

**Muir of Dinnet SAC**

Local Authority	Aberdeenshire
SAC status	Designated
	17/03/2005
Latitude	57 06 05 N
Longitude	02 53 35 W
SAC EU code	UK0019959
Area (ha)	415.76
Area (ha) in CNP	415.76 (100%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	24%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	13%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	57%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	3%
Coniferous woodland	3%



Scale  
1:50,000

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## Conservation Objectives

### Habitats

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

### Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management	Invasive species	30/08/2008
Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels	Favourable	Invasive species, water quality	25/06/2004
Dry heaths	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management	No proactive management	16/02/2001
Degraded raised bog	Favourable	Agricultural operations, invasive species	30/06/2000

### Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )	Favourable	Natural event, water quality	04/10/2012

## Species

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with the River Dee Special Area of Conservation and the Muir of Dinnet Special Protection Area.

### Factors currently influencing site

- Agricultural operations
- Water quality
- Game or fisheries management
- Invasive species

### Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan

- Land management changes
- Potential effects on water quality
- Potential for recreational disturbance
- Relevant settlement: Dinnet.

### Sources

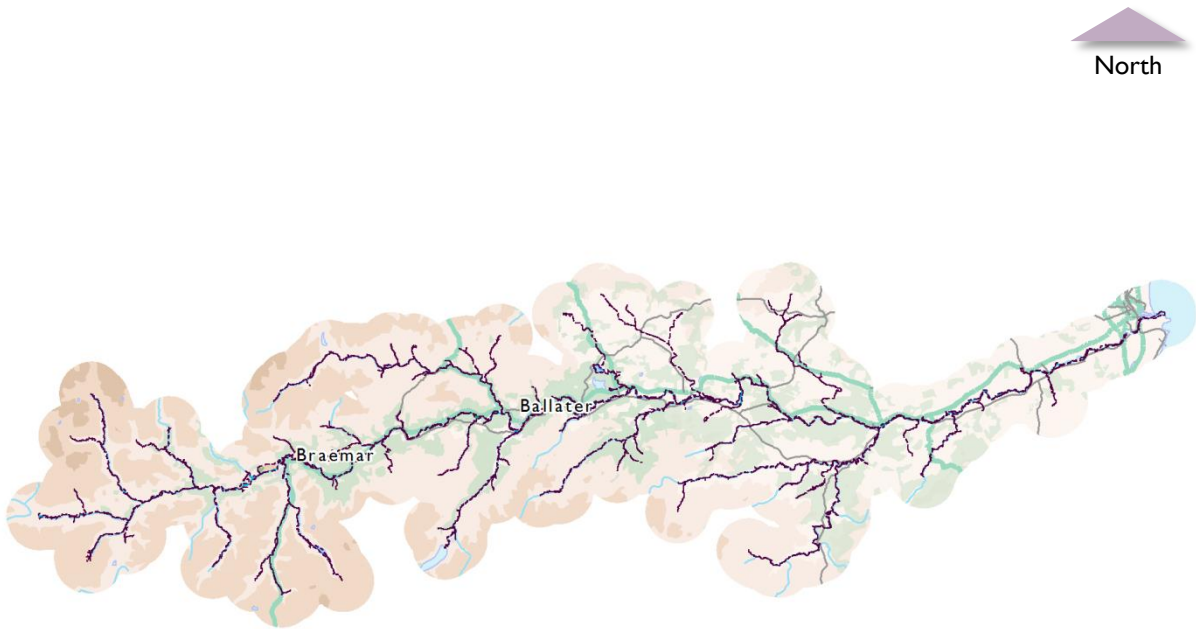
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=9166](https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=9166)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0019959>

**River Dee SAC**

Local Authority	Aberdeenshire
SAC status	Designated
	17/03/2005
Latitude	57 03 20 N
Longitude	03 04 30 W
SAC EU code	UK0030251
Area (ha)	2,446.82
Area (ha) in CNP	1,368.59 (55.9%)

**General site character**

Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats,	
Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	2%
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	53.5%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	1%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue.	
Phygrana	5%
Dry grassland, Steppes	2%
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	15%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	14%
Coniferous woodland	0.5%
Mixed woodland	5%
Inland rocks, Scree, Sands,	
Permanent Snow and ice	2%



Scale  
1:700,000

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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species
- Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	06/10/2012
Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> )	Favourable	Agricultural operations, invasive species, water management, water quality	21/07/2011
Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> )	Unfavourable	Development, invasive species, water management. To be identified, other	07/08/2003

- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with the Ballochbuie, Caenlochan, Cairngorms, Dinnet Oakwood, Glen Tanar, Morrone Birkwood, Muir of Dinnet and The Maim Special Areas of Conservation. The site overlaps with Cairngorms, Cairngorms Massif, Glen Tanar, Ballochbuie, Muir of Dinnet, and Caenlochan Special Protection Areas.

## Factors currently influencing site

- Development.

## Sources

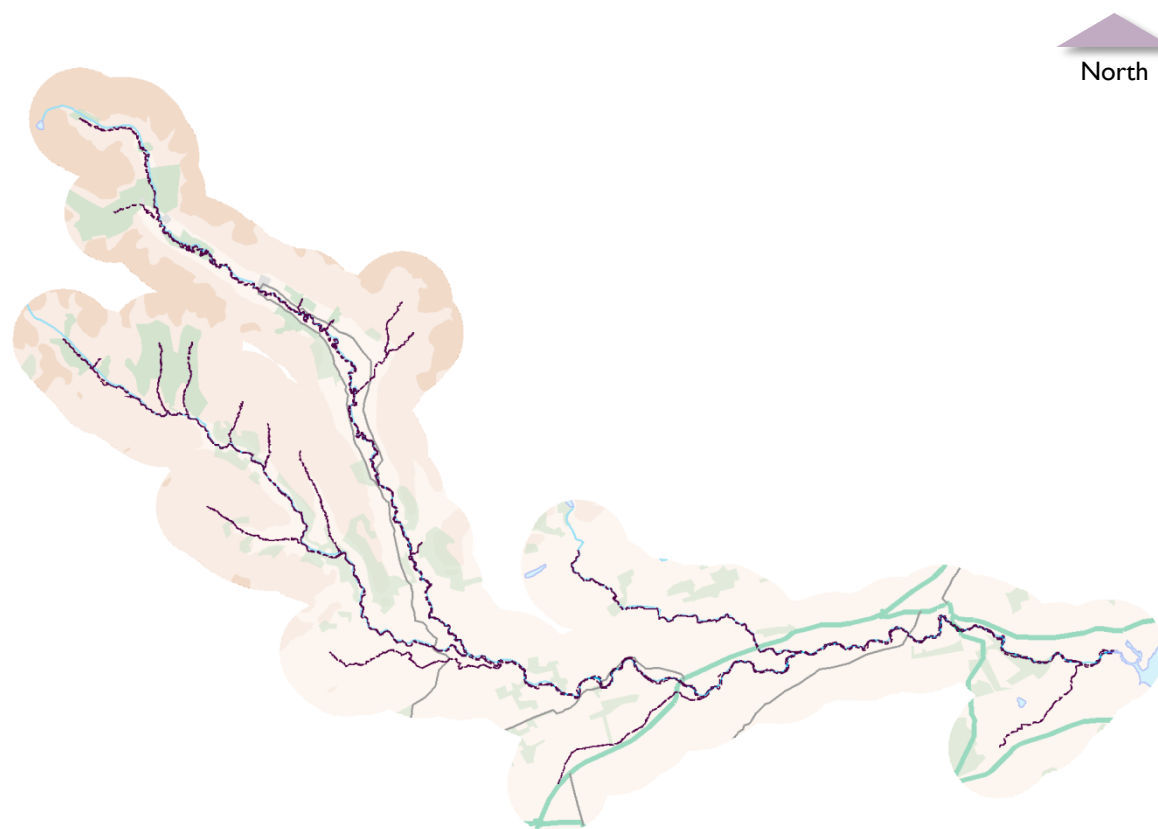
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8357](https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8357)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030251>

**River South Esk SAC**

Local Authority	Angus
SAC status	Designated
	17/03/2005
Latitude	56 42 10 N
Longitude	02 55 00 W
SAC EU code	UK0030262
Area (ha)	478.62
Area (ha) in CNP	103.48 (21.6%)

**General site character**

Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	0.5%
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	75%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	1%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	1%
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	2%
Improved grassland	2%
Other arable land	5%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	4.5%
Coniferous woodland	3%
Mixed woodland	5%
Other land	1%



Scale  
1:350,000

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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> )	Unfavourable	Agricultural operations, climate change, forestry operations, invasive species, over-grazing, water management, water quality	22/09/2004
Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> )	Unfavourable	Invasive species, water management, wildlife crime	19/09/2002

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with Montrose Basin Special Protection Area

## Status of Qualifying Species

## Factors currently influencing site

- Grazing
- Diffuse pollution from agricultural operations, illegal collection of freshwater pearl mussels, morphological alterations to river channel.

## Sources

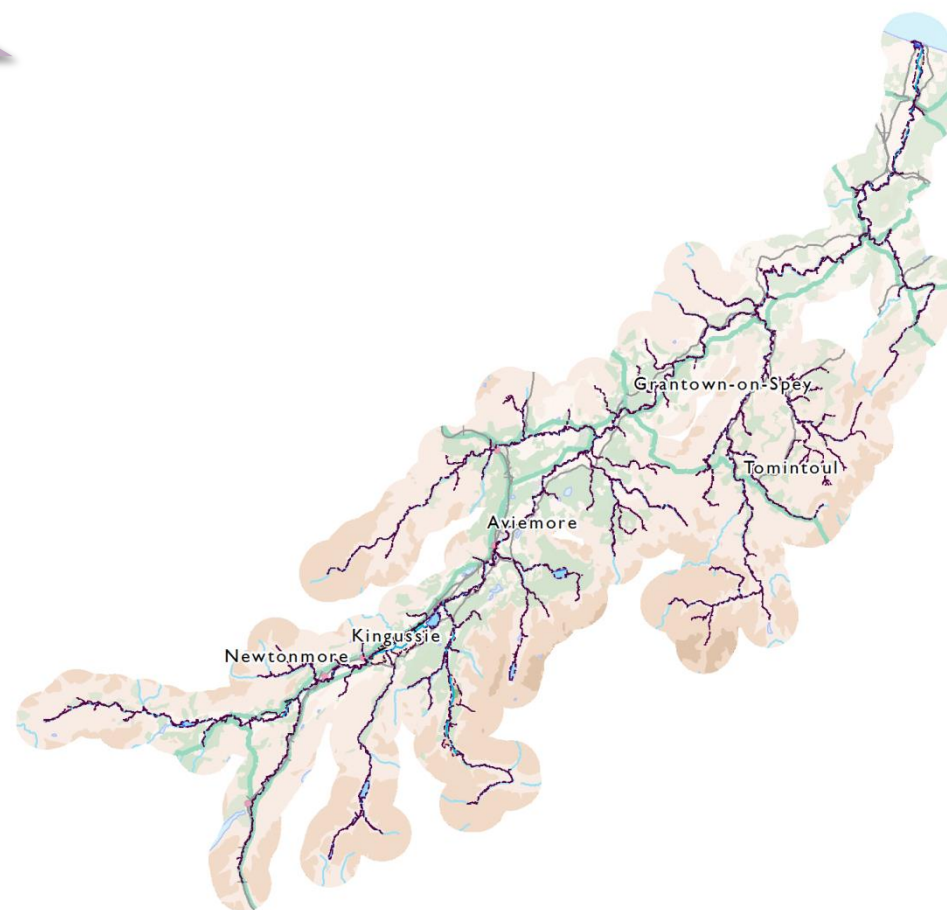
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8364](https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8364)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030262>

**River Spey SAC**

Local Authority	Highland; Moray; Perth & Kinross
SAC status	Designated 17/03/2005
Latitude	57 22 15 N
Longitude	03 30 00 W
SAC EU code	UK0019811
Area (ha)	5,729.48
Area (ha) in CNP	4,181.76 (73.0%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	60%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	11%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	1%
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	15%
Improved grassland	4%
Other arable land	1%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	5%
Coniferous woodland	1%
Mixed woodland	1%
Other land	1%



Scale  
1:800,000

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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species
- Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> )	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	07/09/2011
Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )	Favourable	Over-grazing; other	08/09/2004
Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> )	Unfavourable	Agricultural operations; invasive species; water management	20/10/2004
Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> )	Unfavourable	Extraction; invasive species; water quality; wildlife crime	01/10/2000

- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species

## Factors currently influencing site

None identified.

## Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8365](https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8365)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0019811>

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with the Cairngorms, Drumochter Hills, Kinveachy Forest, Insh Marshes and Monadhliath Special Areas of Conservation. The site overlaps with Abernethy Forest, Cairngorms, Cairngorms Massif, Craigmore Wood, Drumochter Hills, Kinveachy Forest, Moray and Nairn Coast, and River Spey – Insh Marshes Special Protection Areas.

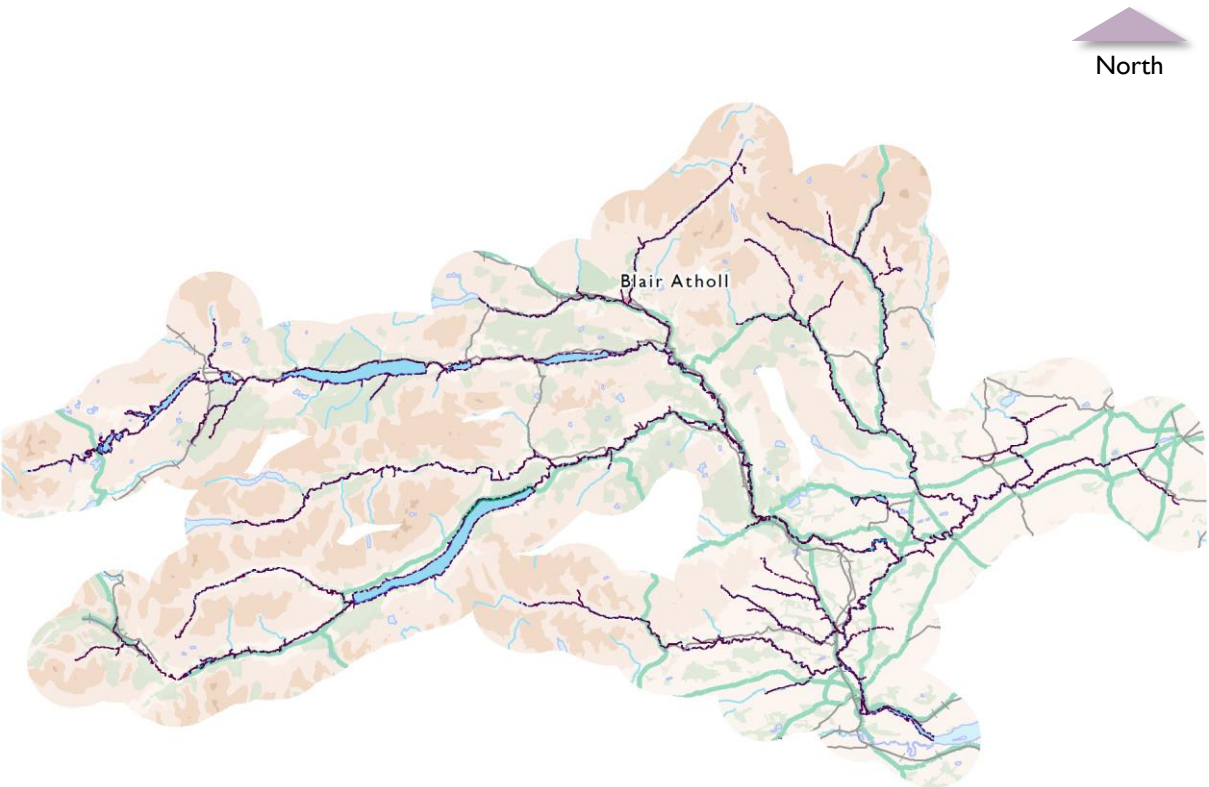


**River Tay SAC**

Local Authority	Angus; Argyll and Bute; Perth & Kinross; Stirling
SAC status	Designated
Latitude	17/03/2005
Longitude	56 34 00 N
SAC EU code	04 05 00 W
Area (ha)	UK0030312
Area (ha) in CNP	9,497.72
	233.94 (2.5%)

**General site character**

Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	0.5%
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	95%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	4.5%



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## Conservation Objectives

### Habitats

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

## Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels	Favourable	Water management	09/09/2004

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
<i>Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar)</i>	Favourable	Game/ fisheries management, invasive species, water management, water quality	19/09/2011
<i>Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus)</i>	Favourable	Development, water management, water quality	30/11/2007
<i>River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis)</i>	Favourable	Development, water management, water quality	30/11/2007
<i>Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri)</i>	Favourable	Development, water management, water quality	30/11/2007
<i>Otter (Lutra lutra)</i>	Favourable	Agricultural operations, invasive species, recreation / disturbance, water management	03/04/2004

## Species

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with Rannoch Lochs and Forest of Clunie Special Protection Area.

## Factors currently influencing site

None identified.

## Sources

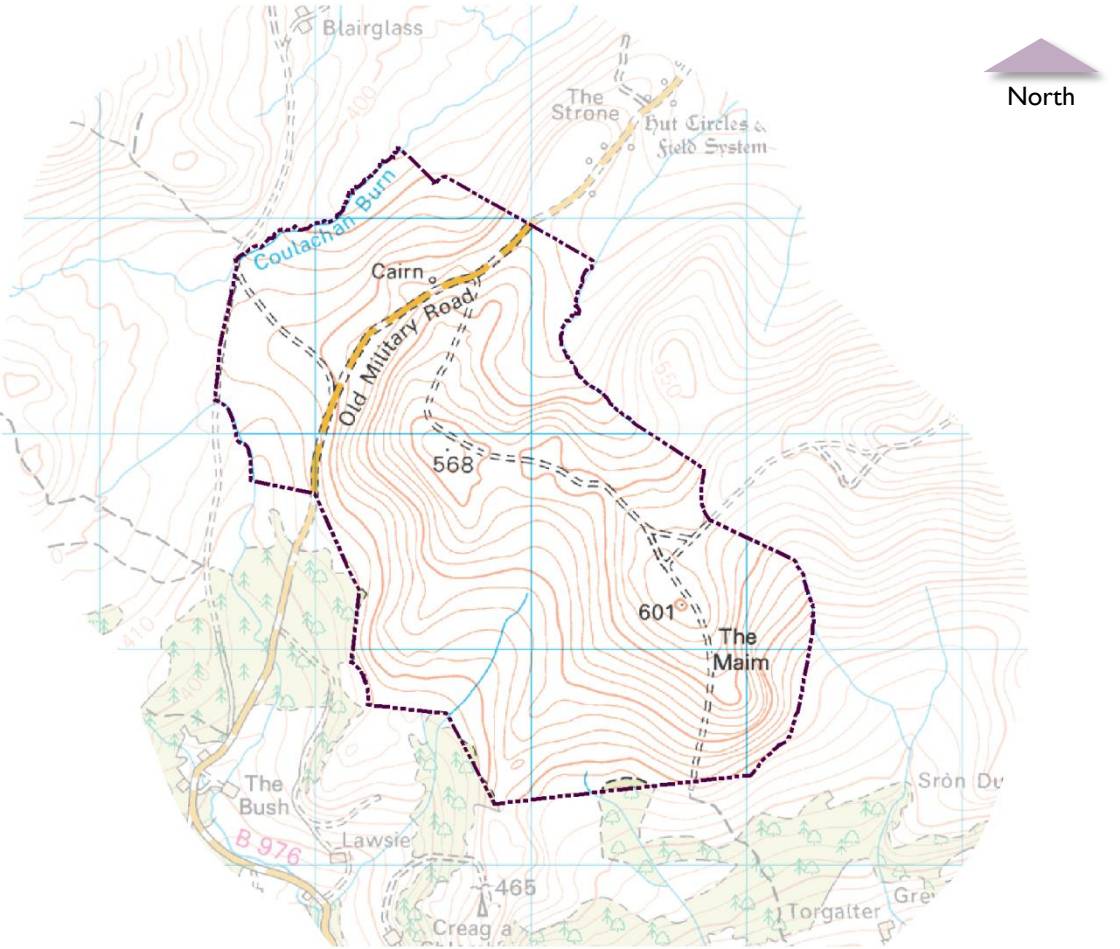
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8366](https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8366)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030312>

**The Maim SAC**

Local Authority	Aberdeenshire
SAC status	Designated
	17/03/2005
Latitude	57 04 00 N
Longitude	03 12 30 W
SAC EU code	UK0030348
Area (ha)	484.58
Area (ha) in CNP	484.58 (100%)

**General site character**

Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	1%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	98%
Other land	1%



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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with the River Dee Special Area of Conservation.

## Factors currently influencing site

## Status of Qualifying Habitat

Qualifying Habitat	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Dry heaths	Unfavourable	Burning	12/06/2006

- Burning.

## Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8625](https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8625)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030348>

### Special Protection Areas

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Birds Directive. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds (as listed on Annex I of the Directive), and for regularly occurring migratory species. 35 of these Annex I species can be found within the Cairngorms National Park, with SPAs designated to protect populations of 15 of them.

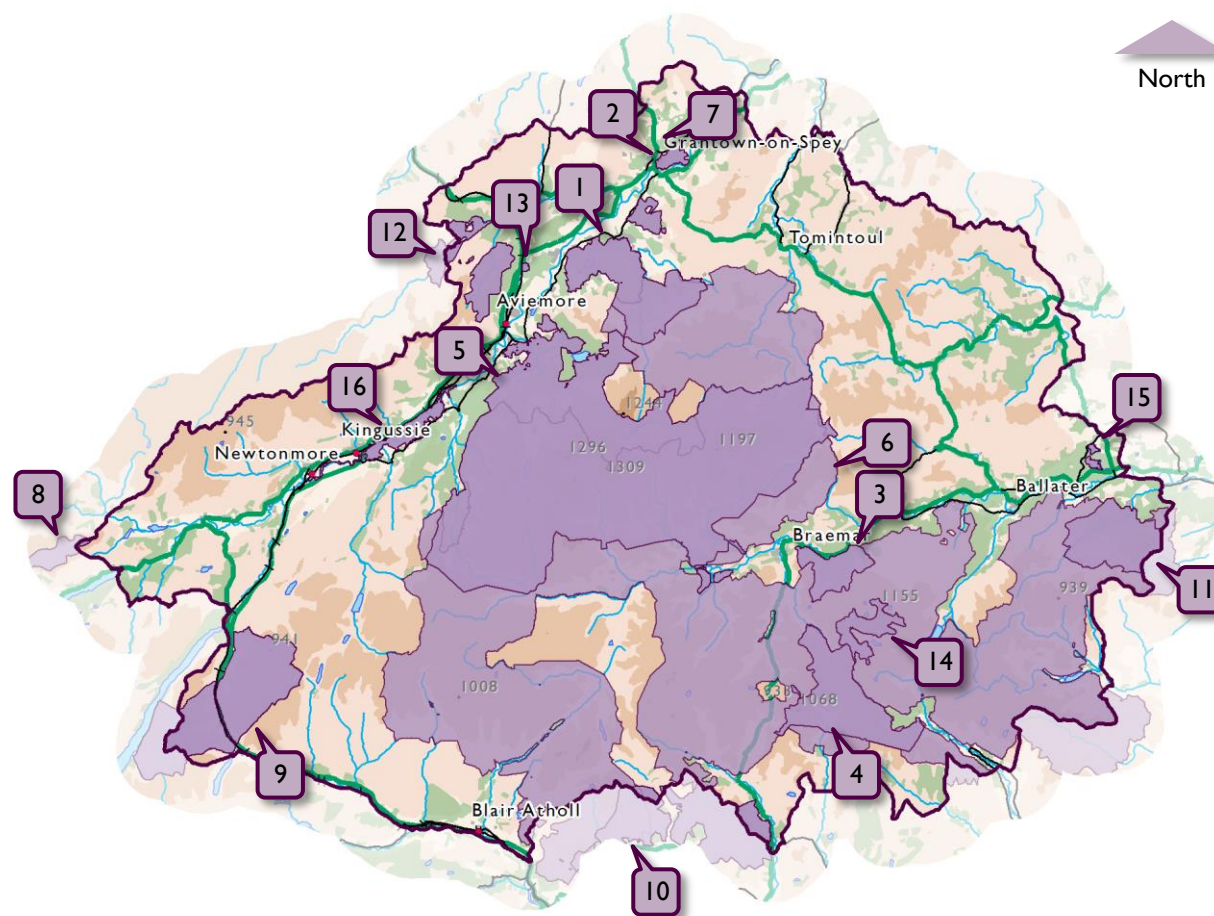
There are 15 SPAs within or overlapping the National Park, covering an area of around 2,013 km<sup>2</sup> (or 45% of the National Park's area, although large areas of this over). Of these, 11 have at least one notifiable feature that is in unfavourable condition. 4 SPAs, namely Anagach Woods, Craigmore Wood, Creag Meagaidh and Muir of Dinnet have no features in favourable condition.

With around 1,733 km<sup>2</sup> of its 1,875 km<sup>2</sup> within the National Park, The Cairngorms Massif SPA contributes 68% of the land protected as an SPA within the National Park. It is the largest in Scotland.



### Location of Special Protection Areas

1.	Abernethy Forest	p. 151
2.	Anagach Woods	p. 153
3.	Ballochbuie	p. 155
4.	Caenlochan	p. 157
5.	Cairngorms	p. 159
6.	Cairngorms Massif	p. 161
7.	Craigmore Woods	p. 163
8.	Creag Maegaidh	p. 165
9.	Drumochter Hills	p. 167
10.	Forest of Clunie	p. 169
11.	Glen Tanar	p. 171
12.	Kinveachy Forest	p. 173
13.	Loch Vaa	p. 175
14.	Lochnagar	p. 177
15.	Muir of Dinnet	p. 179
16.	River Spey – Insh Marshes	p. 181



Scale  
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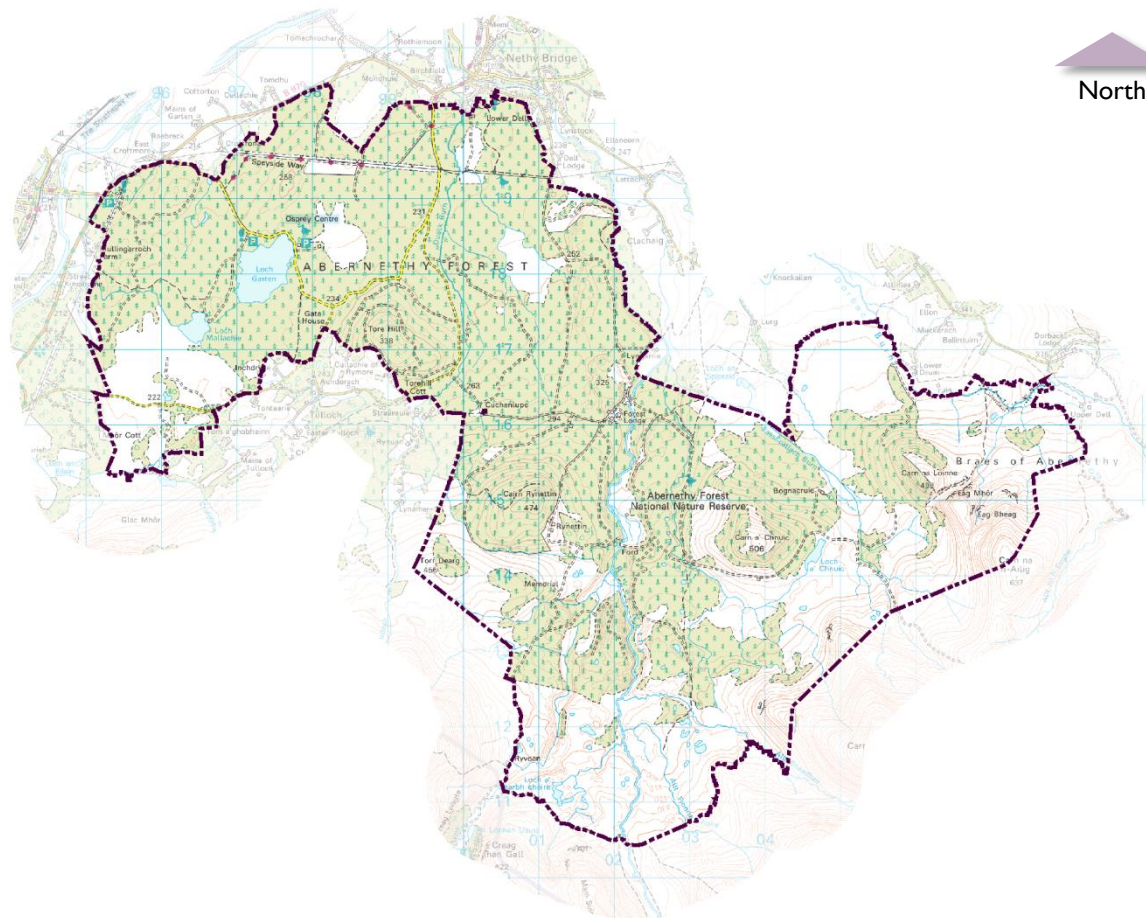
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**Abernethy Forest SPA**

Local Authority	Highland
SPA status	Classified
	25/04/1990
Latitude	57 13 22 N
Longitude	03 18 10 W
SPA EU code	UK9002561
Area (ha)	5,793.46
Area (ha) in CNP	5,793.46 (100%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	1%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	11.2%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	27.6%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	0.8%
Coniferous woodland	59.3%



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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site.
- Distribution of the species within site.
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species.
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species.
- No significant disturbance of the species.

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with Cairngorms Special Areas of Conservation and River Spey Special Area of Conservation. The site overlaps the Cairngorms Massif Special Protection Area.

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Capercaillie ( <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> ), breeding	Favourable	Under-grazing	28/04/2009
Osprey ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> ), breeding	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	31/05/2007
Scottish crossbill ( <i>Loxia scotica</i> ), breeding	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	28/03/2012

## Factors currently influencing site

- Grazing.
- Burning.
- Recreational disturbance.

## Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8461](https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8461)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1925>

**Anagach Woods SPA**

Local Authority	Highland
SPA status	Classified
	16/03/2006
Latitude	57 19 45 N
Longitude	03 34 30 W
SPA EU code	UK9020297
Area (ha)	392.78
Area (ha) in CNP	392.78 (100%)

**General site character**

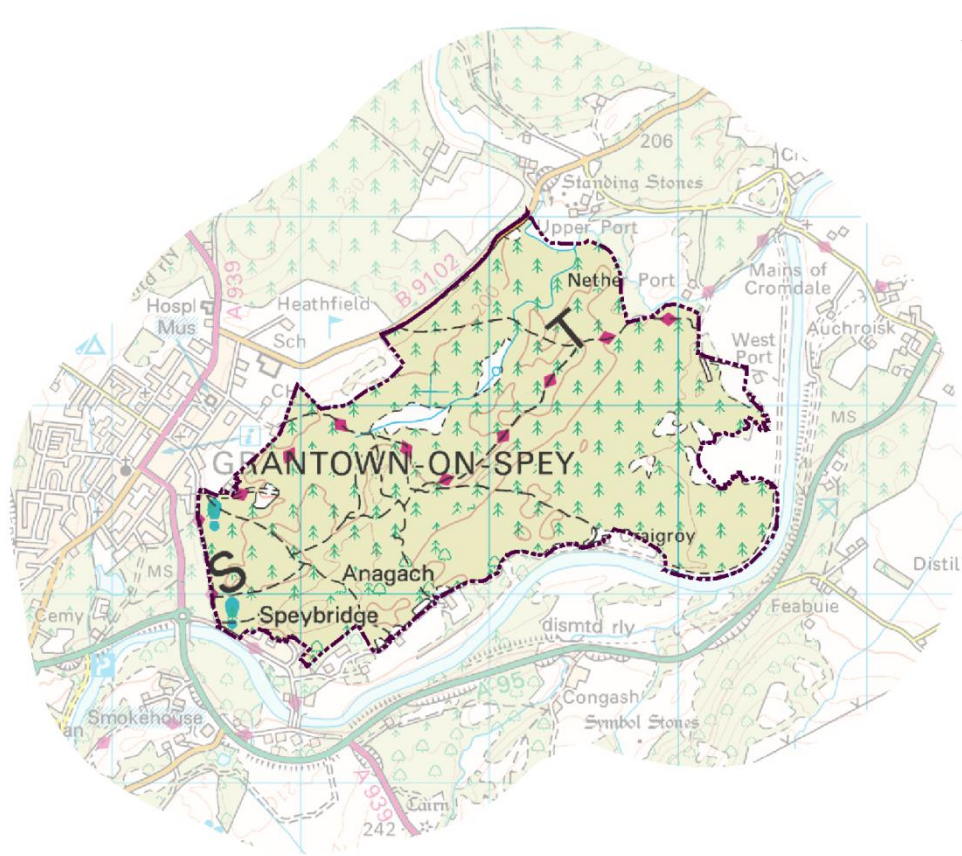
Dry grassland. Steppes	0.8%
Coniferous woodland	95%
Mixed woodland	4%
Other land	0.2%

**Conservation Objectives**

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site.



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- Distribution of the species within site.
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species.
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species.
- No significant disturbance of the species.

### Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Capercaillie ( <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable	Recreation / disturbance	29/04/2015

### Related European Sites

The site overlaps with River Spey Special Area of Conservation.

### Factors currently influencing site

- Impact from disturbance from adjacent village and footpaths within the wood.

### Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=9166](https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=9166)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/SPA/UK9020297.pdf>



## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with Ballochbuie Special Area of Conservation and River Dee Special Area of Conservation. The Site

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Capercaillie ( <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable	Forestry operations, natural event, over-grazing, under-grazing.	14/04/2014
Scottish crossbill ( <i>Loxia scotica</i> ), breeding	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	01/03/2015

overlaps the Cairngorms Massif Special Protection Area.

## Factors currently influencing site

- Grazing.
- Burning.

## Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8467](https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8467)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1930>

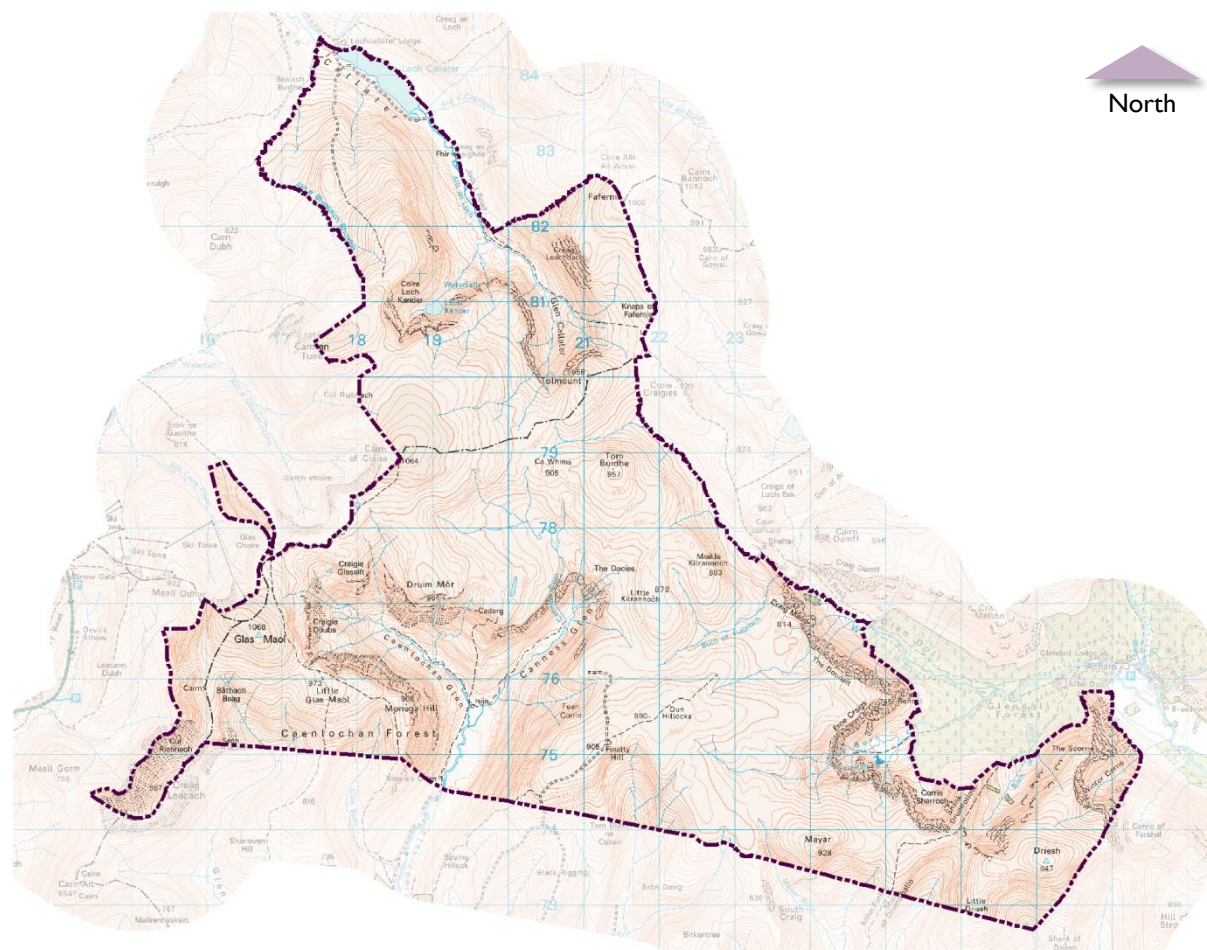


**Caenlochan SPA**

Local Authority	Aberdeenshire, Perth and Kinross, Angus
SPA status	Classified 25/09/1997
Latitude	56 52 54 N
Longitude	03 17 30 W
SPA EU code	UK9004011
Area (ha)	5,975.28
Area (ha) in CNP	5,975.28 (100%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	0.6%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	30.8%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	34.1%
Dry grassland. Steppes	7.6%
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	1.5%
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	19.9%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	0.2%
Inland rocks. Screes. Sands.	5.3%
Permanent snow and ice	



Scale  
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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with Caenlochan Special Area of Conservation and River Dee Special Area of Conservation. The site overlaps the Cairngorms Massif Special Protection Area.

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Dotterel ( <i>Charadrius morinellus</i> ), breeding	Favourable	Over-grazing, recreation / disturbance	01/01/1999
Golden eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> ), breeding	Favourable	Over-grazing, recreation / disturbance	04/12/2009

## Factors currently influencing site

- Burning
- Grazing

## Sources

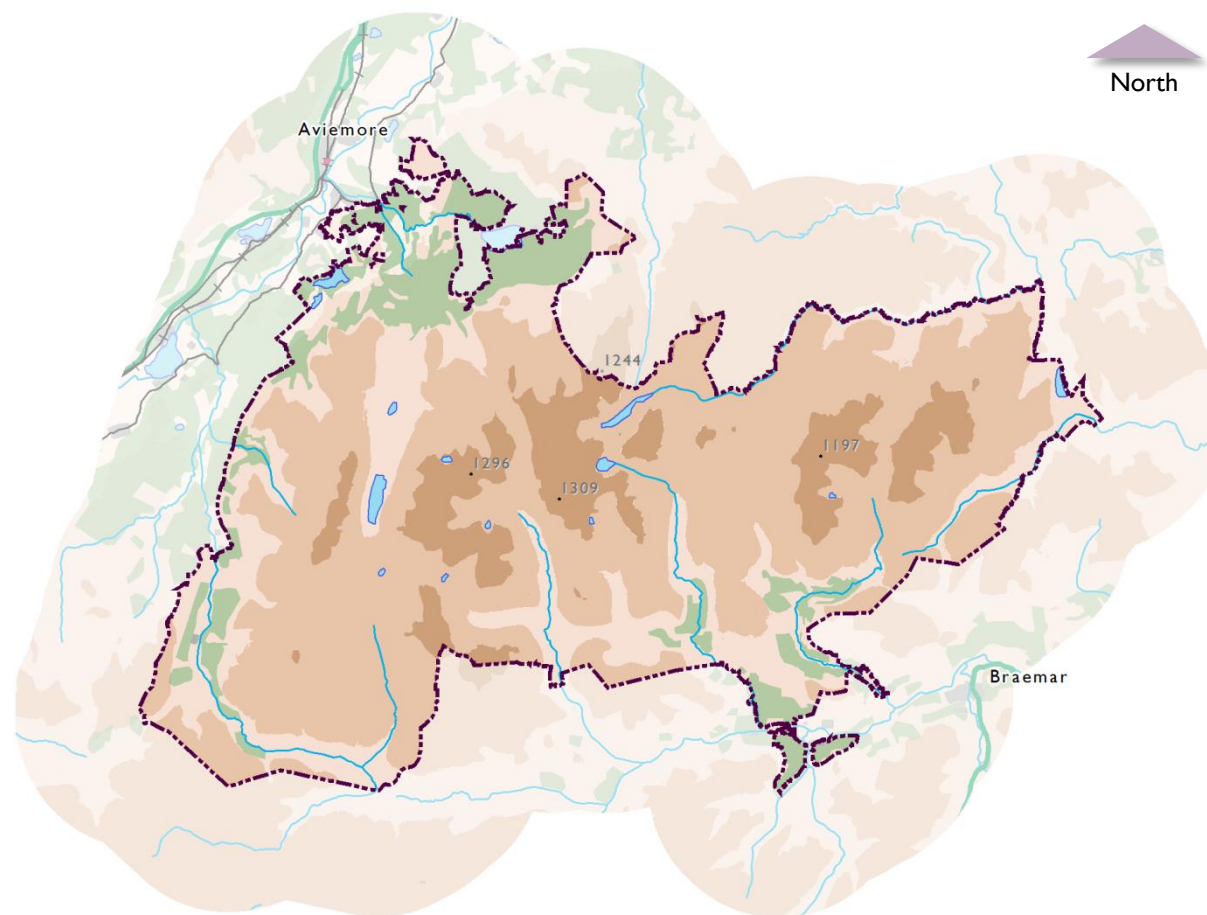
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8474](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8474)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1962>

**Cairngorms SPA**

Local Authority	Highland, Aberdeenshire
SPA status	Classified 25/09/1997
Latitude	57 04 30 N
Longitude	03 38 30 W
SPA EU code	UK9002241
Area (ha)	50,586.64
Area (ha) in CNP	50,586.64 (100%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	2%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	16%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	44%
Dry grassland. Steppes	2%
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	1%
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	14%
Improved grassland	1%
Other arable land	1%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	1%
Coniferous woodland	6%
Mixed woodland	1 %
Inland rocks. Screes. Sands.	5.3%
Permanent snow and ice	
Other land	1%



Scale  
1:300,000

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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with Cairngorms Special Area of Conservation, River Dee Special Area of Conservation and River Spey Special Area of Conservation.

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Capercaillie ( <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> ), breeding	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	25/04/2011
Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ), breeding	Not monitored to date	No negative pressures identified	N/A
Osprey ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> ), breeding	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	01/06/2006
Golden eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> ), breeding	Favourable	Game / fisheries management	31/07/2009
Dotterel ( <i>Charadrius morinellus</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable	Recreation / disturbance; over-grazing	01/07/2011
Scottish crossbill ( <i>Loxia scotica</i> ), breeding	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	14/03/2012
Peregrine ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ), breeding	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	25/04/2011

## Factors currently influencing site

- Grazing
- Burning
- Recreation
- Trampling
- Invasive species

## Sources

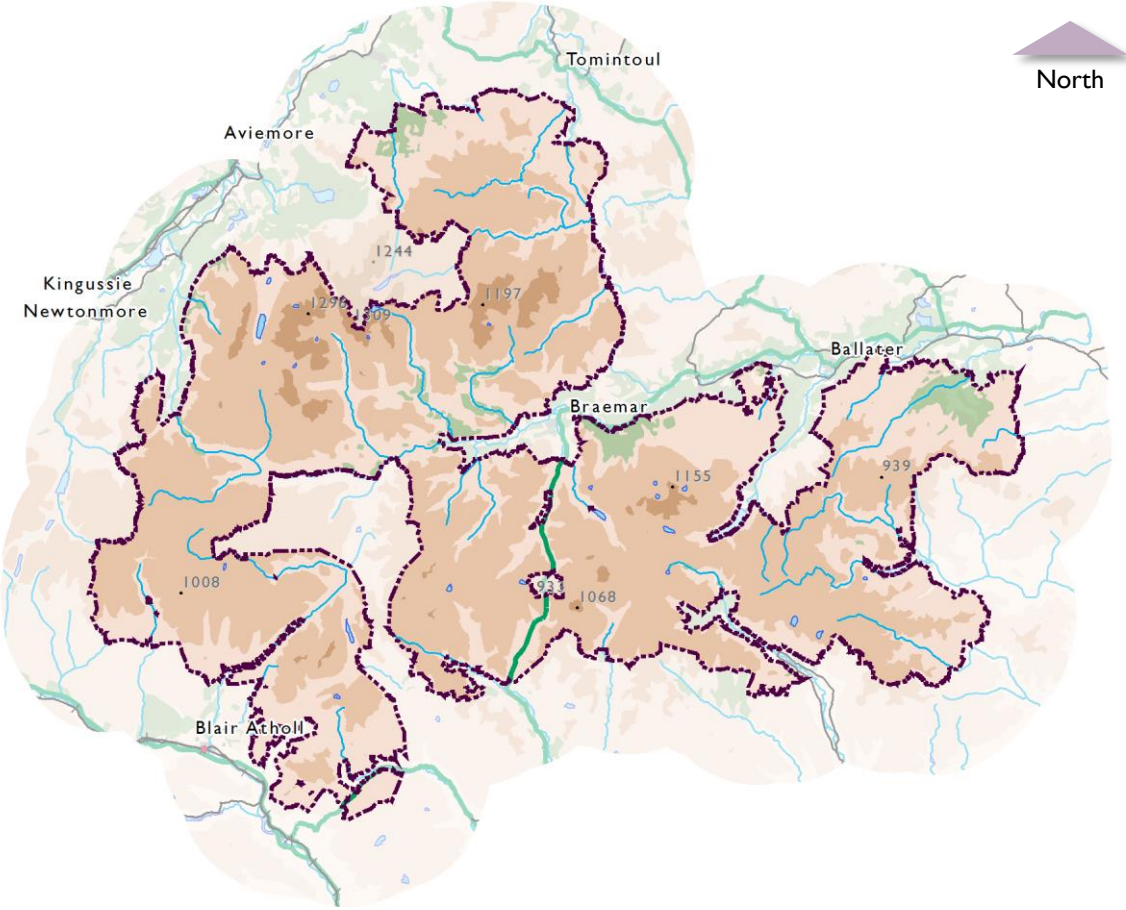
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8475](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8475)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1910>

Cairngorms Massif SPA

Local Authority	Aberdeenshire,
	Angus, Highland,
	Moray, Perth and Kinross
SPA status	Classified
	28/10/2010
Latitude	56 58 08 N
Longitude	03 29 29 W
SPA EU code	UK9020308
Area (ha)	187,504.06
Area (ha) in CNP	173,254.64 (92.4%)

General site character

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	0.2%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	27.6%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	45.3%
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	5.9%
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	17.8%
Improved grassland	0.1%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	0.1%
Coniferous woodland	0.8%
Mixed woodland	1.5%
Inland rocks. Scree. Sands.	0.7%
Permanent snow and ice	



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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## Related European Sites

This site overlaps with the following Special Areas of Conservation (SACs):

- Ballochbuie,
- Beinn a' Ghlo,
- Caenlochan,

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Golden eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> ), breeding	Favourable	Plant pests & diseases; proactive onsite management	31/08/2003

- Cairngorms,
- Coyles of Muick, Glen
- Tanar,
- River Dee,
- River South Esk,
- River Spey and
- River Tay.

Site also overlaps with the following Special Protection Areas (SPAs):

- Abernethy Forest,
- Ballochbuie,
- Caenlochan,
- Cairngorms,
- Forest of Clunie,
- Glen Tanar and
- Lochnagar.

## Factors currently influencing site

- Grazing
- Burning
- Recreation
- Trampling
- Invasive species

## Sources

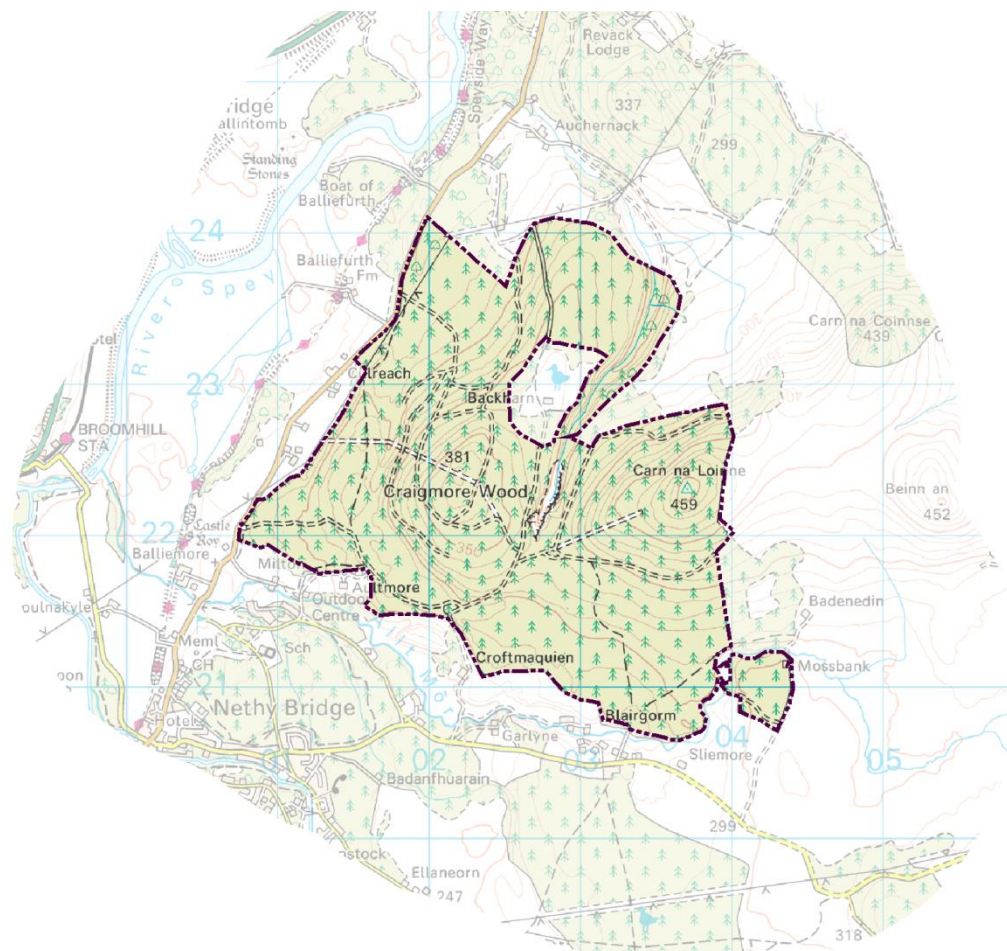
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=10234](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=10234)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/SPA/UK9020308.pdf>

### Craigmore Wood SPA

Local Authority	Highland
SPA status	Classified
	30/10/2001
Latitude	57 17 00 N
Longitude	03 37 00 W
SPA EU code	UK9001801
Area (ha)	654.09
Area (ha) in CNP	654.09 (100%)

### General site character

Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	0.5%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	3%
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	0.5%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	10%
Coniferous woodland	85%
Other land	1%



Scale  
1:50,000

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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with River Spey Special Area of Conservation.

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Capercaillie ( <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable	No onsite activities identified	20/04/2014

## Factors currently influencing site

- Burning
- Grazing
- Game or fisheries management

## Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8486](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8486)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/SPA/UK9001801.pdf>

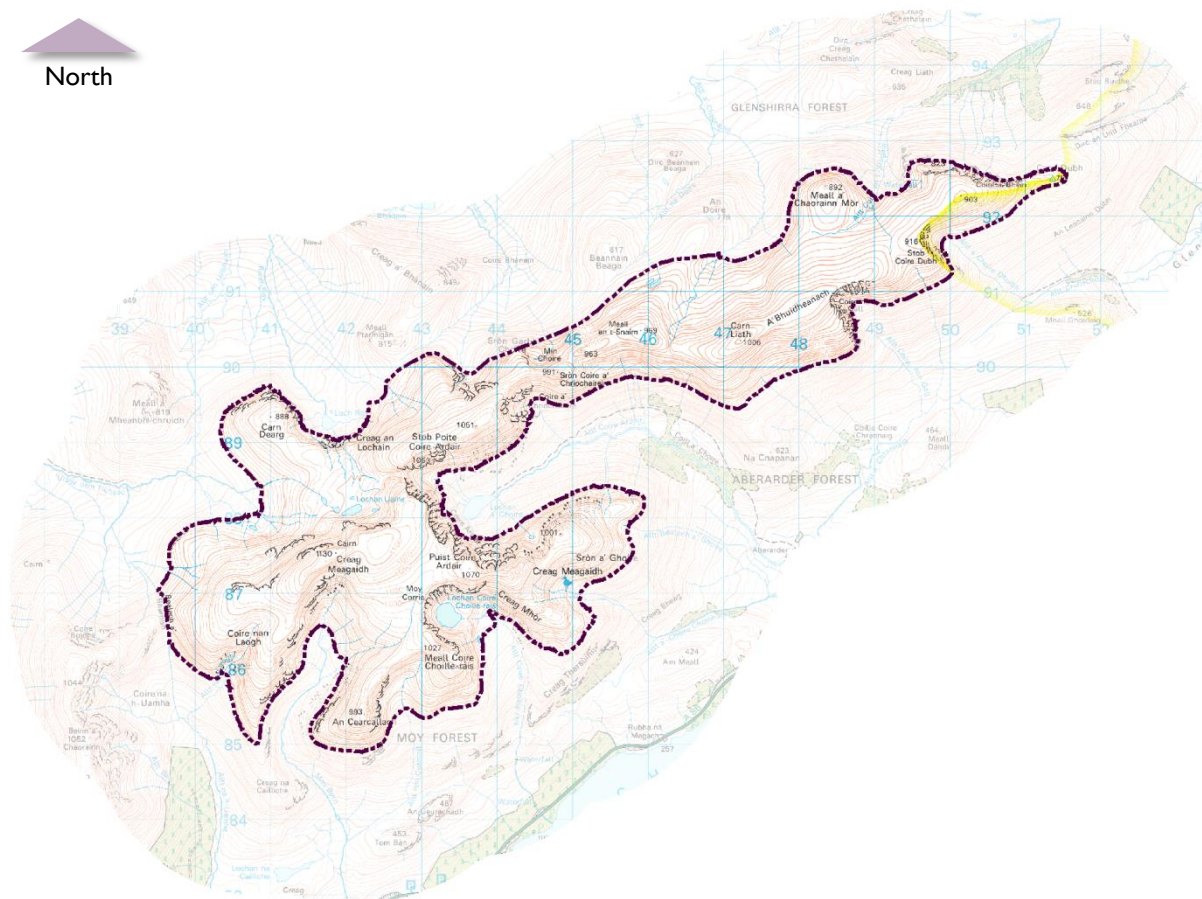


**Creag Maegaidh SPA**

Local Authority	Highland
SPA status	Classified
	30/03/1998
Latitude	56 57 00 N
Longitude	04 35 00 W
SPA EU code	UK9002161
Area (ha)	2,872.64
Area (ha) in CNP	71.18 (2.5%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	0.3%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	3.8%
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	93.3%
Inland rocks. Screes. Sands.	2.6%
Permanent snow and ice	



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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with Creag Meagaidh Special Area of Conservation.

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Dotterel ( <i>Charadrius morinellus</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable	No negative pressures identified	01/07/2011

## Factors currently influencing site

- Burning
- Grazing
- Game or fisheries management

## Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8487](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8487)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1904>

**Drumochter Hills SPA**

Local Authority	Highland
SPA status	Classified
	25/09/1997
Latitude	56 51 54 N
Longitude	04 14 48 W
SPA EU code	UK9002301
Area (ha)	9,445.56
Area (ha) in CNP	7,382.22 (72.2%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	2%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	25%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	45%
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	22%
Inland rocks. Screes. Sands.	5%
Permanent snow and ice	
Other land	1%



Scale  
1:130,000

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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with Drumochter Hills Special Area of Conservation and River Spey Special Area of Conservation.

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Dotterel ( <i>Charadrius morinellus</i> ), breeding	Favourable	Other	11/02/2004
Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable	Burning, over-grazing	31/08/2004

## Factors currently influencing site

- Grazing
- Burning
- Trampling
- Recreational disturbance

## Sources

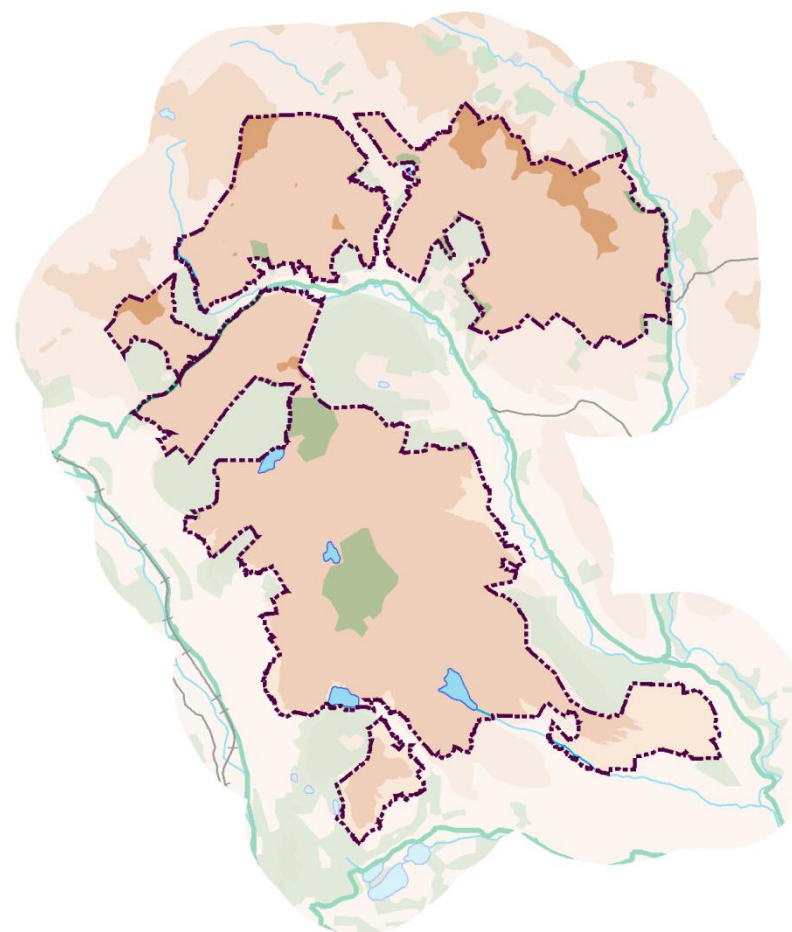
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8491](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8491)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1914>

**Forest of Clunie SPA**

Local Authority	Perth and Kinross
SPA status	Classified
	13/08/2001
Latitude	56 40 00 N
Longitude	03 35 00 W
SPA EU code	UK9004381
Area (ha)	19,349.38
Area (ha) in CNP	905.22 (4.7%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	3%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	21%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	64%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	0.2%
Coniferous woodland	4.4%
Inland rocks. Scree. Sands.	0.4%
Permanent snow and ice	



Scale  
1:250,000

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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## Related European Sites

This site overlaps with the River Tay Special Area of Conservation and the Cairngorms Massif Special Protection Area.

## Factors currently influencing site

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Osprey ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> ), breeding	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	01/08/2010
Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable	Burning, natural event, over-grazing	29/05/2009
Hen harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable	Burning, natural event, over-grazing	29/05/2009
Short-eared owl ( <i>Asio flammeus</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable	Burning	29/05/2009

- Burning
- Grazing.

## Sources

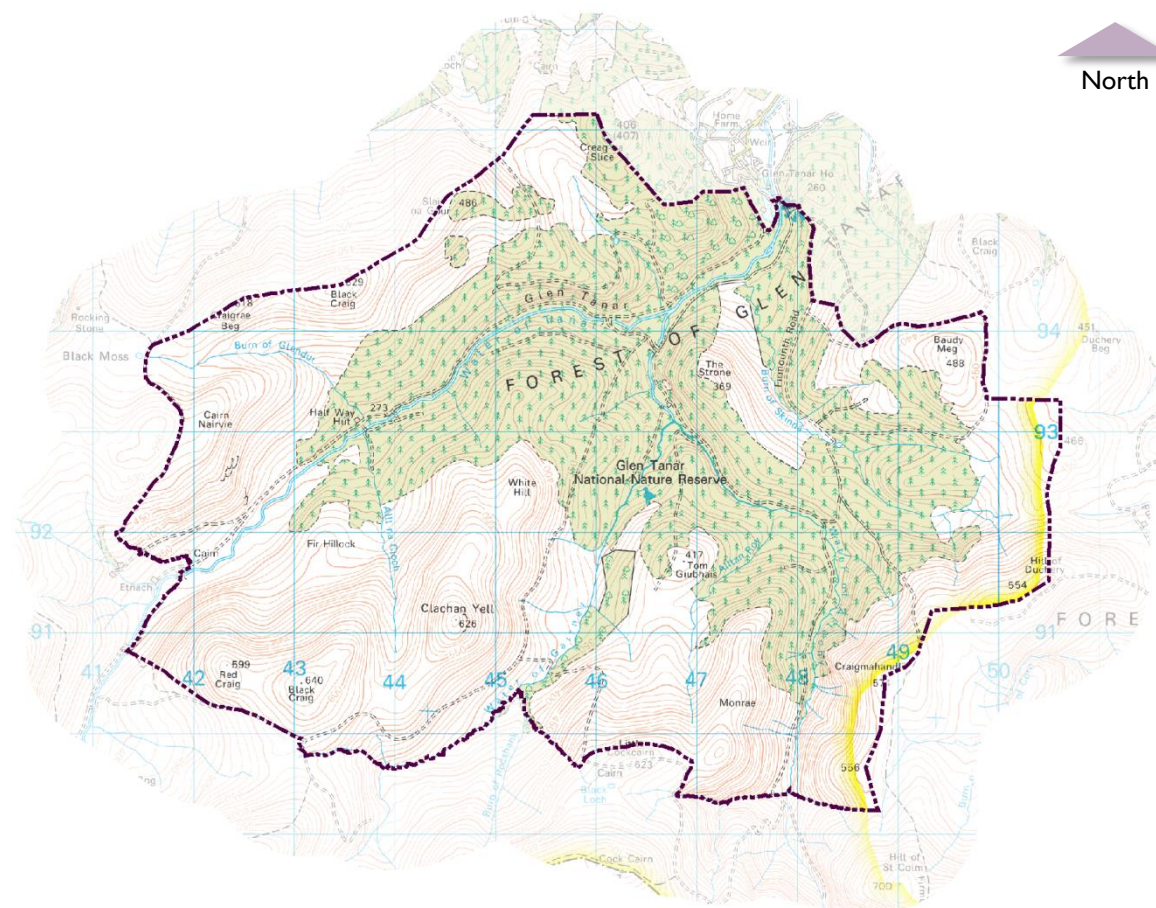
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8503](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8503)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/SPA/UK9004381.pdf>

**Glen Tanar SPA**

Local Authority	Aberdeenshire
SPA status	Classified
	19/09/1994
Latitude	57 01 10 N
Longitude	02 53 30 W
SPA EU code	UK9002771
Area (ha)	4,180.09
Area (ha) in CNP	4,142.25 (99.1%)

**General site character**

Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	10%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	30%
Dry grassland. Steppes	5%
Coniferous woodland	45%



Scale  
1:75,000

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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with Glen Tanar Special Area of Conservation and River Dee Special Area of Conservation. The site also overlaps the Cairngorms Massif Special Protection Area.

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Capercaillie ( <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable	Forestry operations, recreation / disturbance, under-grazing	18/04/2011
Hen harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ), breeding	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	19/07/2010
Osprey ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> ), breeding	Favourable	Forestry operations, recreation / disturbance	13/10/2010
Scottish crossbill ( <i>Loxia scotica</i> ), breeding	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	23/03/2012

## Factors currently influencing site

- Burning.

## Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8508](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8508)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1929>

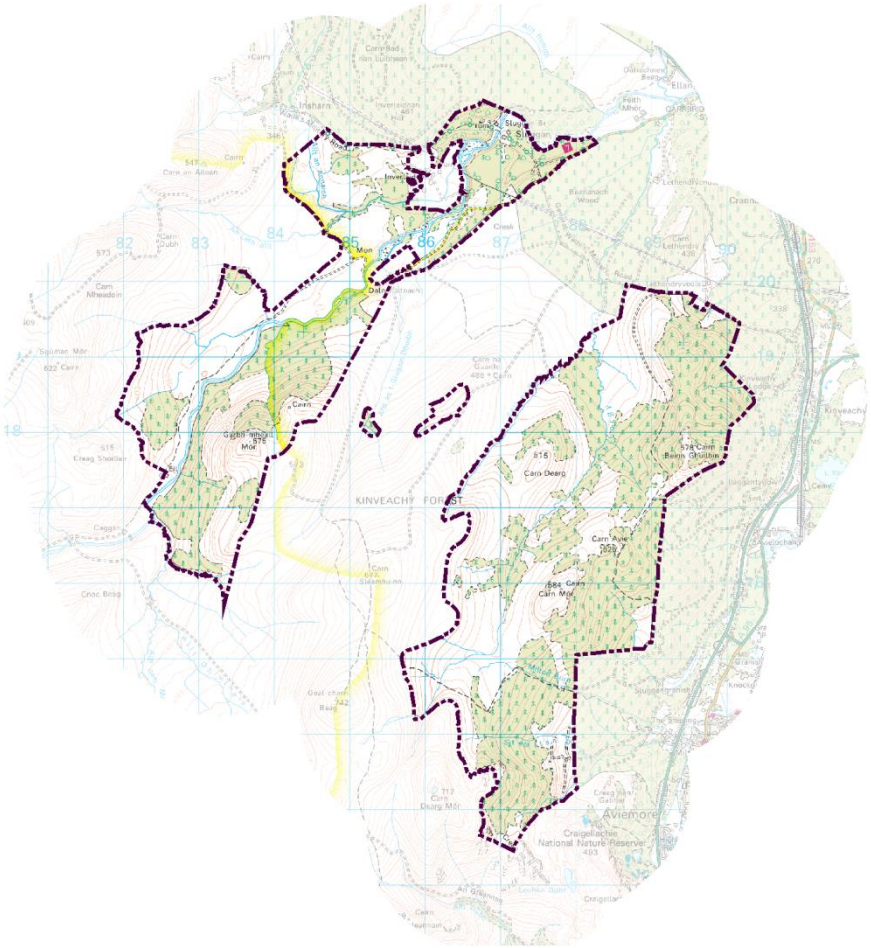


**Kinveachy Forest SPA**

Local Authority	Highland
SPA status	Classified
	02/02/2000
Latitude	57 14 15 N
Longitude	03 54 00 W
SPA EU code	UK9002581
Area (ha)	2,849.36
Area (ha) in CNP	2,232.59 (78.4%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	1%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	10%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	40%
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	10%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	5%
Coniferous woodland	25%
Mixed woodland	9%



Scale  
1:100,000

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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with Kinveachy Forest Special Area of Conservation and River Spey Special Area of Conservation.

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Capercaillie ( <i>Tetrao urogallus</i> ), breeding	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	15/05/2008
Scottish crossbill ( <i>Loxia scotica</i> ), breeding	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	27/03/2012

## Factors currently influencing site

- Grazing
- Burning
- Game and fisheries management

## Sources

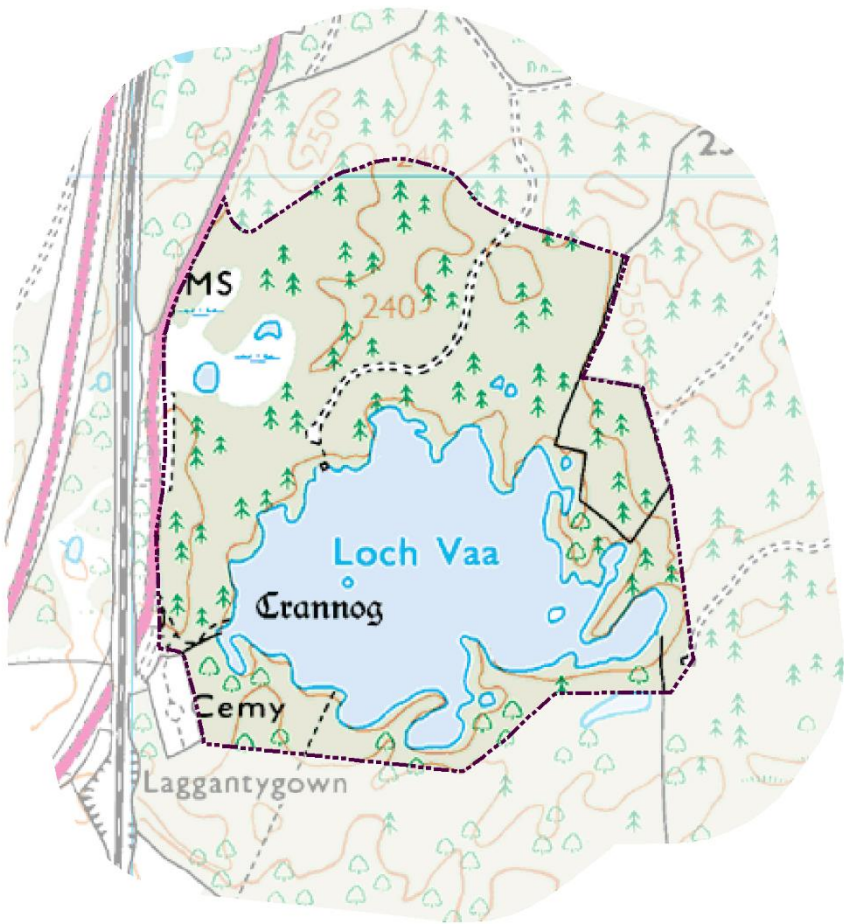
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8519](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8519)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1926>

**Loch Vaa SPA**

Local Authority	Highland
SPA status	Classified
	19/09/1994
Latitude	57 14 20 N
Longitude	03 48 00 W
SPA EU code	UK9002751
Area (ha)	44.6
Area (ha) in CNP	44.6 (100%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	26.7%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	4.4%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	15.6%
Coniferous woodland	48.9%
Inland rocks. Scree. Sands.	2.2%
Permanent snow and ice	
Other land	2.2%



Scale  
1:10,000

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### Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

### Related European Sites

No Related European Sites.

### Factors currently influencing site

- Recreational disturbance

### Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Slavonian grebe ( <i>Podiceps auritus</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable	Natural event, recreation / disturbance	30/06/2007

### Sources

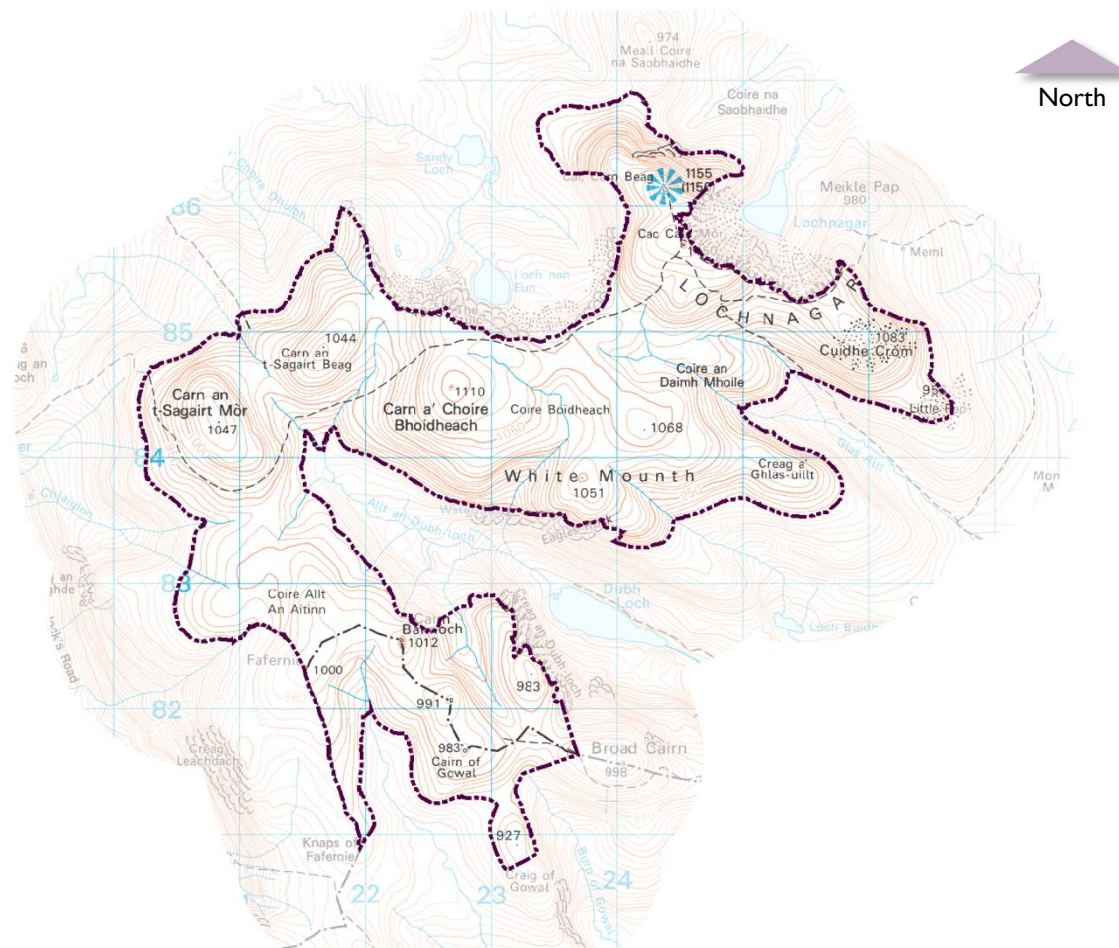
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8541](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8541)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1928>

**Lochnagar SPA**

Local Authority	Angus, Aberdeenshire
SPA status	Classified 12/06/1998
Latitude	56 56 30 N
Longitude	03 16 00 W
SPA EU code	UK9002281
Area (ha)	1,431.28
Area (ha) in CNP	1,431.28 (100%)

**General site character**

Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	6.3%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	48.1%
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	40.7%
Inland rocks. Screes. Sands.	
Permanent snow and ice	4.9%



Scale  
1:60,000

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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps the Cairngorms Massif Special Protection Area.

## Factors currently influencing site

None identified.

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Dotterel ( <i>Charadrius morinellus</i> ), breeding	Favourable	Over-grazing, recreation / disturbance	31/05/1999

## Sources

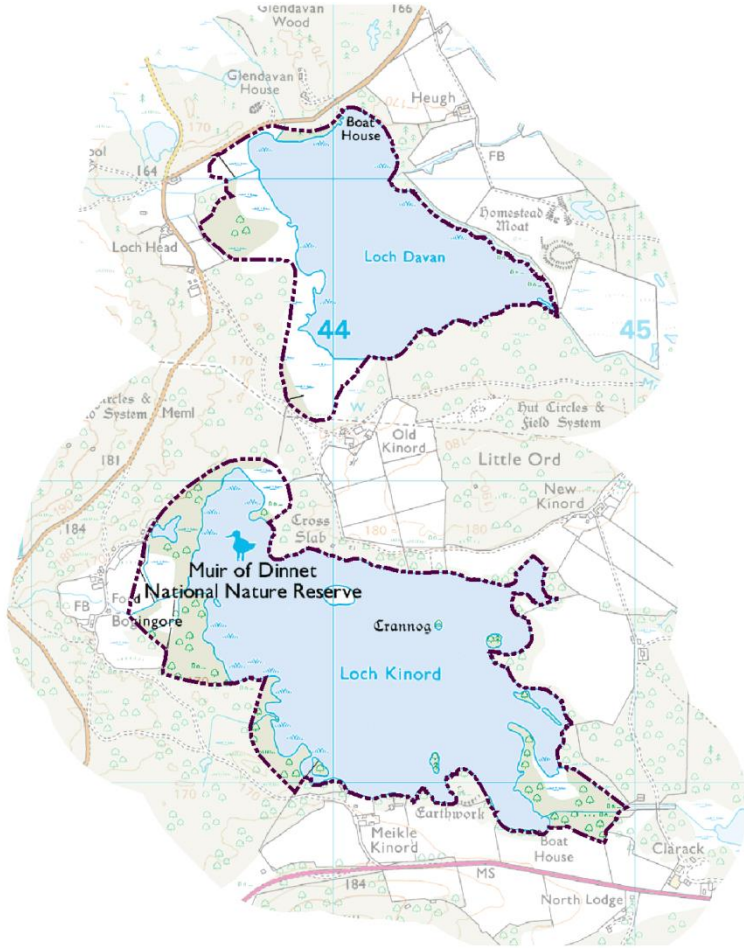
- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8542](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8542)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1913>

**Muir of Dinnet SPA**

Local Authority	Aberdeenshire
SPA status	Classified
	10/05/1999
Latitude	57 05 00 N
Longitude	02 55 00 W
SPA EU code	UK9002791
Area (ha)	157.6
Area (ha) in CNP	157.6 (100%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	66.9%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	23%
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	1%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	9%
Coniferous woodland	0.1%



Scale  
1:25,000

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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with Muir of Dinnet and River Dee Special Areas of Conservation.

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding	Unfavourable	No negative pressures identified	01/12/2012
Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ), non-breeding	Unfavourable	No negative pressures identified	05/11/2010

## Factors currently influencing site

- Agricultural operations
- Water quality
- Game or fisheries management
- Invasive species

## Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8552](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8552)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1931>

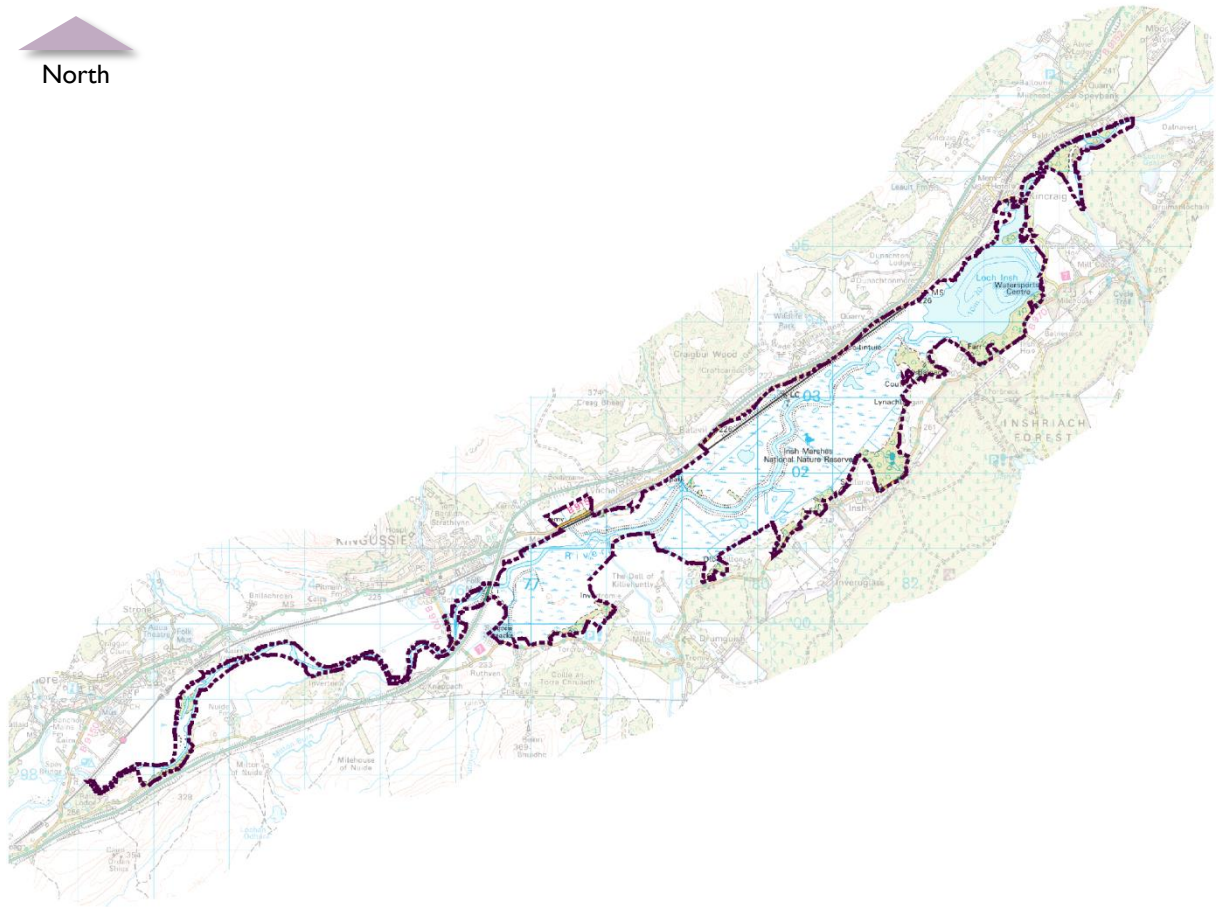


**River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA**

Local Authority	Highland
SPA status	Classified
	02/02/1997
Latitude	57 05 23 N
Longitude	03 59 48 W
SPA EU code	UK9002231
Area (ha)	1,158.87
Area (ha) in CNP	1,158.87 (100%)

**General site character**

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	15%
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	43%
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	8%
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	25%
Improved grassland	1%
Other arable land	5%
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	2%
Inland rocks. Scree. Sands.	1%
Permanent snow and ice	



Scale  
1:100,000

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## Conservation Objectives

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site.
- Distribution of the species within site.
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species.
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species.
- No significant disturbance of the species.

## Related European Sites

The site overlaps with Insh Marshes Special Area of Conservation and River Spey Special Area of Conservation.

## Status of Qualifying Species

Qualifying Species	Summary Condition	Pressures	Visit Date
Hen harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ), non-breeding	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	22/02/2010
Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable	Natural event, recreation / disturbance	30/05/2009
Osprey ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> ), breeding	Favourable	Recreation / disturbance	07/09/2009
Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ), non-breeding	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	31/12/2000
Spotted crane ( <i>Porzana porzana</i> ), breeding	Favourable	No negative pressures identified	31/12/2000
Wood sandpiper ( <i>Tringa glareola</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management	Forestry operations	31/12/2000

## Factors currently influencing site

- Grazing.
- Recreational disturbance.
- Forestry operations.
- Potential impacts from new development due to additional nutrient loading.

## Sources

- <http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/protected-nature-sites/>
- [http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa\\_code=8571](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8571)
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1909>



## Capercaillie Woodlands

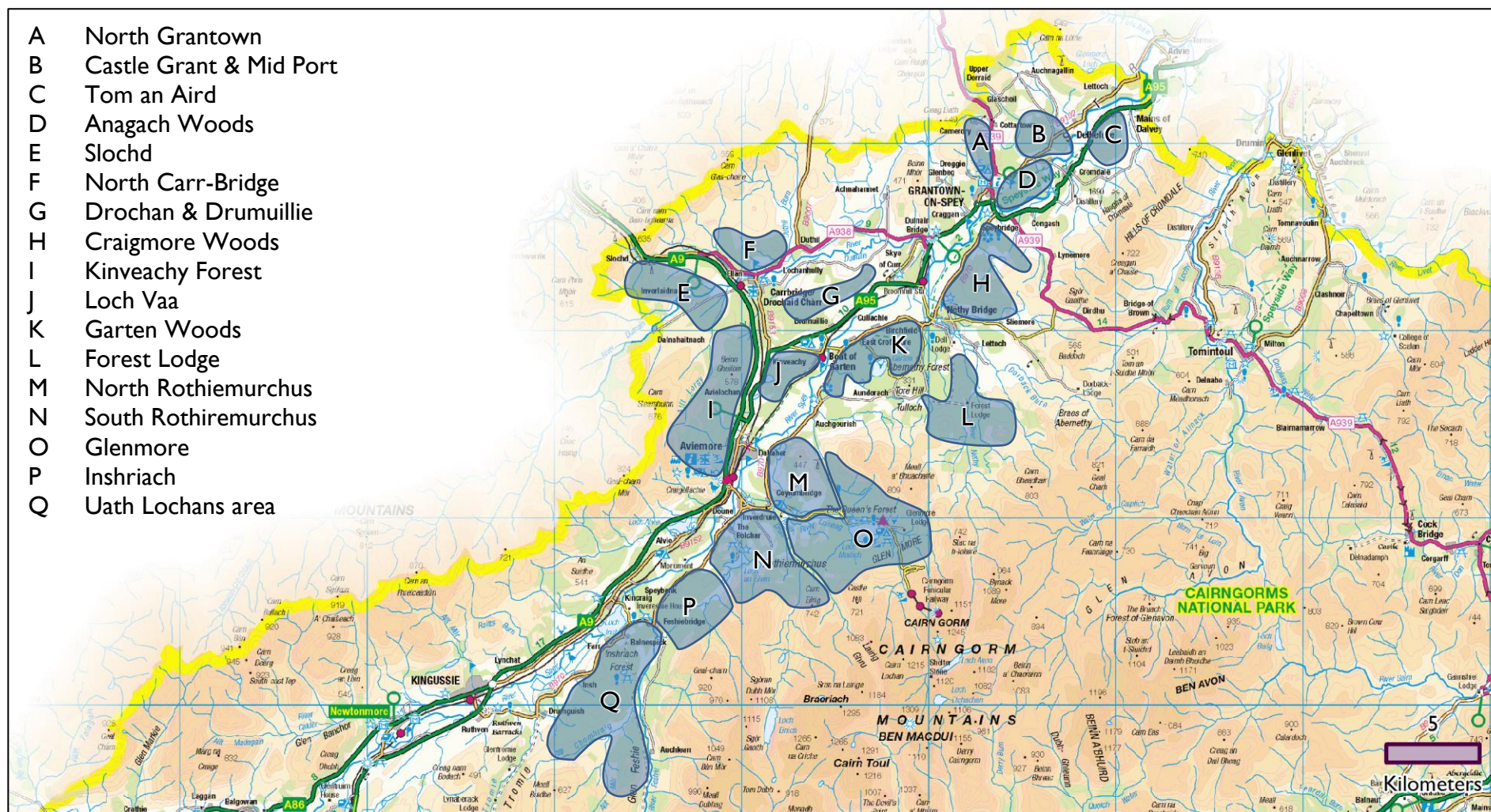


Figure 2 Capercaillie woodland in Badenoch and Strathspey.

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## Appendix 2: Process flow chart for assessment of potential for capercaillie disturbance

**Flow chart for assessing whether LDP development sites will require mitigation to avoid impacts of recreational disturbance on capercaillie in local woods, either alone or in combination with: other development sites that are proposed in the LDP 2020, allocations that are in the current LDP and will be carried forward to the LDP 2020, or sites that have existing planning permission but are not yet built.**

Q1. If all the current and proposed development sites in this settlement are developed, is the population of the settlement predicted to increase over the plan period and/or are any non-housing development sites likely to change levels of human activity or patterns of recreation around the settlement?

Q2. Are capercaillie woods significantly more accessible from this development site than from other parts of the settlement?

If Q1 & Q2 = No, conclusion is no significant disturbance to capercaillie & assessment ends here

If Q1 or Q2 = Yes, continue to Q3

Q3. Which capercaillie woods are likely to be used regularly for recreation by residents / users of the development site at detectable levels?  
(list all)

Continue to Q4

Q4. Are residents / users of this development site predicted to undertake any off path recreational activities in any of the woods identified at Q3 at detectable levels?

If Q4 = No for any woods, continue to Q5

If Q4 = Yes for any woods, mitigation is needed. Note and continue to Q5.

Q5: Are each of the woods identified at Q3 already established locations for recreation?

If Q5 = No for any woods, mitigation is needed. Note and continue to Q6.

If Q5 = Yes for any woods, continue to Q6

Q6: For each of the woods identified at Q3, are residents / users of the development site predicted to have different temporal patterns of recreational use to any existing visitors, or to undertake a different profile of activities? (eg. more dog walking, or early morning use)

If Q6 = yes for any woods, mitigation is needed. Note and continue to Q7.

If Q6 = No for any woods, continue to Q7

Q7: For each of the woods identified at Q3, could the predicted level of use by residents / users of the development site significantly increase overall levels of recreational use?

If Q4-7 = No for all woods, conclusion is no significant disturbance to capercaillie & assessment ends here

If Q4, 5, 6 and/or 7 = Yes for any woods, mitigation is needed

Conclusion: Is mitigation needed as a consequence of this development site in relation to each wood listed at Q3?

Reasons mitigation needed

### **Rationale for each question and initial criteria for assessing the answers**

Q1: This and Q2 are included as screening questions to filter out any settlements that aren't likely to have changed levels or patterns of recreation as a consequence of the LDP, over the plan period.

Q2: This is included to ensure the effect of otherwise small-scale development sites particularly close to capercaillie woods are adequately considered. The rationale is that SPANS data shows that 68% of recreational visits are taken directly from home, and evidence from settlements in Strathspey where houses are adjacent to woodlands indicates that networks of informal paths and trails have developed within the woods linking back gardens with formal path networks and other popular local destinations (eg primary schools). Levels and patterns of recreation within these woods are therefore likely to change as a consequence of such sites being developed, regardless of the size of the sites.

Q3: This is included to identify which capercaillie woods are likely to be used for recreation by residents of housing development sites or users of non-housing development sites at levels that would be detectable. The answer will be assessed using professional judgement based on knowledge of existing patterns of recreation around settlements and in the local area, the relative appeal of the capercaillie woods concerned compared to other recreational opportunities in the area, the volume of recreational visits likely to be generated by the development site, and informed by national survey data (eg on the distances people travel for recreational visits).

Q4: This is included because any off path recreational use in capercaillie woods will result in significant disturbance and require mitigation.

Q5: This is included because if residents/users of the development site are likely to access previously infrequently-visited capercaillie woods, or parts of these woods, for recreation, significant disturbance is likely and mitigation is needed. This will be answered on the basis of professional knowledge.

Q6: This is included because some types of recreation are particularly disturbing to capercaillie; and increased levels of these types of recreation will cause significant disturbance and require mitigation. This will be answered on the basis of professional knowledge on existing patterns of recreational use and whether each location is sufficiently close and/or convenient in relation to the development site and patterns of travel from there, to be used by residents for different recreational activities or at different times of day. For example, capercaillie woods with safe routes for dogs that are located close to development sites are likely to be used for early morning &/or after work dog walking.

Q7: This is included because a significant increase in recreational use could result in significant disturbance to capercaillie, even in situations where the capercaillie wood is already popular for recreation, and no changes to current recreational patterns / activities or off path activities are

predicted. The answer was assessed on the basis of professional judgement of current levels of use and whether the increase is likely to be more than approximately 10%.



## Appendix 3: Proposed LDP & Potential Population Change

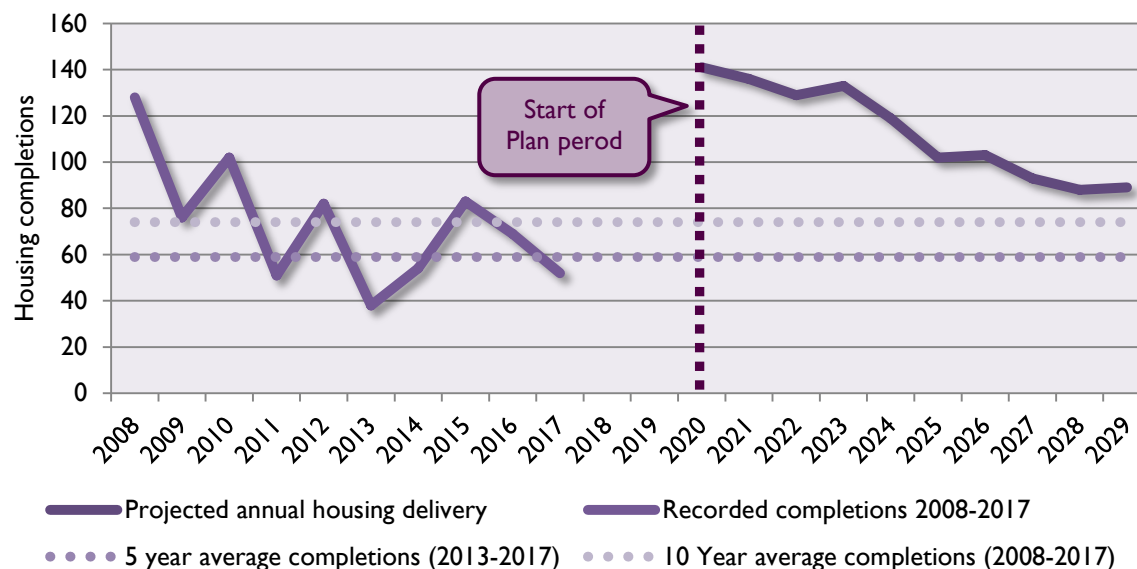
### Introduction

Long term population and household projections for the National Park are produced by the National Records of Scotland (NRS). According to the most recent NRS population projections, the overall population of the Park is predicted to fall from 19,006 to 18,332 over the 25 year period between 2016 and 2041 (a decrease of around 4%). By the end of the LDP period, the decline is projected to be around 1%. This is because it is likely that over the next 20-25 years more people will die of old age than are born in the National Park. Migration to the National Park from other places is still expected to be high during that period.

But population projections have limitations. A projection is a calculation showing what happens if particular assumptions are made. NRS's population projections are trend-based. They are, therefore, not policy-based forecasts of what the government expects to happen. Many social and economic factors influence population change, including policies adopted by both central and local government. The relationships between the various factors are complex and largely unknown.

The LDP is an example of a local government policy intervention that may have an influence over population trends. While population and household projections form a key element of estimating housing need and demand, they are not the sole factor in determining what the Plan's Housing Land Requirement.

If the LDP delivers housing at a rate that would meet its objectives, that is to say, that the housing land requirement was met in full during its period, then the development rate would exceed that at which has been experienced in the past (**Figure 3**) and therefore, population change within the Cairngorms may differ to that projected by NRS.



**Figure 3** LDP (2020-2029) Projected annual housing delivery and historic completions (Source: Local Authorities and CNPA).

It is important to note that the Cairngorms National Park is not in a position to produce its own population projections. However, it is possible to estimate a population that may be accommodated within the new housing and the distribution of this population by settlement based on the location of sites.

Such estimates come with the caveat that they are based on a set of particular assumptions, some of which rely on professional judgement. Further issues relate to the scale at which the estimates are produced, not least being the volatile nature of the small area population estimates on which the model relies.

All assumptions are set out within the methodology section of this paper.



## **Methodology and Assumptions**

### **Population**

In order to measure change a baseline population for settlements needs to be established. While mid-year estimates exist at a data zone level, in LDP terms these are problematic as creating aggregates or disaggregates for settlements is an inherently problematic exercise. There is also the factor that change through the LDP comes through the creation of new dwellings and therefore new dwellings act as a proxy for population.

The methodology of determining the baseline population of settlements and the degree of change therefore uses estimates of average household size as per NRS latest household estimates (2014-based). According to these the average household size across the National Park in 2020 will be 2.06 and will fall at an average rate of 0.01 each year of the projection period.

The baseline population of settlements is therefore based on the number occupied dwellings that exist in 2017 multiplied by the estimated average household size in that year, which is 2.09. In order to estimate the population at the start of the LDP, the estimated number of new occupied dwellings are added for the years 2018 and 2019 with the appropriate average household size multipliers. These multipliers are applied to all of the estimated occupied dwellings not just the new ones.

### **Geography**

For the purpose of these estimates, the geography of the settlements is identified by applying a 500m buffer around LDP settlement boundaries. This is because settlement boundaries are a tool to delineate the limits of development and that individual and clusters of dwellings exist outside of these boundaries while still being an effective part of that settlement.

There is a single exception to this and that is in Dulnain Bridge and this is because of its close relationship with Skye of Curr. Both settlements are separate entities though they are also physically connected. Dulnain Bridge is identified as a Rural Settlement in the LDP's Settlement Strategy and therefore has a settlement boundary, while Skye of Curr is not identified as settlement and therefore does not have a settlement boundary. This distinction simply comes down to the existence of services in Dulnain Bridge that do not exist in Skye of Curr. However, both have populations that are interconnected, therefore in functional terms, for example in the context of recreational patterns, Skye of Curr needs to be taken account of. For the purpose of these estimates therefore, Skye of Curr is included as part of Dulnain Bridge.

The number of residential properties within these geographies can be identified based on Basic Land and Property Unit (BLPU) data.

### Housing Occupation

Across the National Park around the level of ineffective stock is around 17%. There are local variations and this information is available at datazone level in the form of NRS's household estimates. Therefore, the local levels of ineffective stock are applied to the residential properties identified in the BLPU data.

An equivalent level of ineffective stock is also applied to the new housing, although it is only applied to the market component, as affordable housing has restrictions that prevent it from becoming the most significant contributor to ineffective stock, namely second homes.

### Housing Delivery

The rate of development is informed by the Housing Land Audits of the Local Authorities that cover the National Park's area. Where a site is newly proposed assumptions about delivery are based on the information provided by site owners during the call for sites process. Such a rate of delivery is higher than the historic average and is designed to ensure objectives of the LDP are achieved. Assumptions about windfall have not been applied as levels are too low and the land too constrained to provide accurate estimate.

### Results

The following section sets out the projections based on the methodology set out in the previous section. Note that the data only includes settlements identified in the LDP's settlement strategy and that there are residential properties outwith this area. It should also be noted that the provision of housing is not considered to be the cause of population change in itself, so the tables offer an estimate of the population the housing is likely to accommodate if occupancy rates reflect those already experienced in the National Park.

Three scenarios have been created. **Table 29** shows the theoretical population the housing stock could accommodate if delivery rates are those required to meet the LDP's objectives and are set out within Local Authority HMAs.

**Table 30** shows the theoretical population the housing stock could accommodate if delivery rates match the average of the last 10 years.

**Table 31** shows the theoretical population the housing stock could accommodate if no new housing was provided during the plan period.

**Table 29** Projected change in dwellings and population for settlements identified in the LDP's Settlement Strategy according to HLA delivery rates.

Settlement	Estimated Occupied Dwellings 2020	Estimated population 2020	Estimated Occupied Dwellings at end of 20-24	Estimated population at end of 20-24	Population change at end 20-24	% Population change at end 20-24	Estimated Occupied Dwellings at end of 25-29	Estimated population at end of 25-29	Population change at end 25-29	% Population change at end 25-29
<b>Aberdeenshire</b>										
Ballater	740	1,533	762	1,531	-2	+1%	783	1,542	+9	+1%
Braemar	262	542	287	576	+35	+6%	322	635	+93	+17%
Dinnet	44	90	53	106	+16	+18%	53	104	+14	+15%
Strathdon	38	79	38	76	-2	-3%	38	75	-4	-5%
HMA TOTAL	1,084	2,243	1,139	2,290	+46	+2%	1,196	2,356	+112	+5%
<b>Angus</b>										
Clova	8	16	8	16	0	-3%	8	16	-1	-5%
HMA TOTAL	8	16	8	16	0	-3%	8	16	-1	-5%
<b>Highland</b>										
Aviemore	1,777	3,679	2,043	4,106	+428	+12%	2,304	4,539	+861	+23%
Boat of Garten	315	653	315	634	-19	-3%	315	621	-32	-5%
Carr-Bridge	379	784	412	828	+43	+6%	412	811	+27	+3%
Coilumbridge	32	67	32	65	-2	-3%	32	64	-3	-5%
Cromdale	118	243	126	254	+11	+4%	135	266	+23	+9%
Dalwhinnie	86	179	92	185	+6	+3%	92	181	+2	+1%
Dulnain Bridge	169	351	187	375	+25	+7%	204	402	+51	+15%
Grantown-on-Spey	1,370	2,836	1,423	2,860	+24	+1%	1,423	28,03	-33	-1%
Insh	57	118	57	114	-3	-3%	57	112	-6	-5%
Inverdrue	61	126	61	122	-4	-3%	61	119	-6	-5%
Kincraig	153	317	166	333	+15	+5%	178	350	+33	+10%
Kingussie	799	1,653	845	1,699	+46	+3%	892	1,758	+105	+6%
Laggan	34	71	34	69	-2	-3%	34	67	-3	-5%
Nethy Bridge	361	747	381	766	+19	+3%	381	751	3	0%
Newtonmore	692	1,433	732	1,471	+38	+3%	767	1,510	+77	+5%
HMA TOTAL	6,404	13,257	6,906	13,881	+624	+5%	7,287	14,356	+1,099	+8%
<b>Moray</b>										
Glenlivet	40	82	40	80	-2	-3%	40	78	-4	-5%
Tomintoul	179	370	185	373	+3	+1%	192	378	+8	+2%
HMA TOTAL	219	452	225	453	0	0%	232	457	+4	+1%
<b>Perth and Kinross</b>										

Settlement	Estimated Occupied Dwellings 2020	Estimated population 2020	Estimated Occupied Dwellings at end of 20-24	Estimated population at end of 20-24	Population change at end 20-24	% Population change at end 20-24	Estimated Occupied Dwellings at end of 25-29	Estimated population at end of 25-29	Population change at end 25-29	% Population change at end 25-29
Blair Atholl	229	473	253	509	+36	+8%	255	503	+30	+6%
Bruar & Pitagowan	11	23	11	22	-1	-3%	11	22	-1	-5%
Calvine	20	41	20	40	-1	-3%	20	39	-2	-5%
Glenshee	11	23	11	22	-1	-3%	11	22	-1	-5%
Killiecrankie	30	62	30	61	-2	-3%	30	59	-3	-5%
HMA TOTAL	301	623	326	655	+32	+5%	327	645	+22	+4%
<b>All Settlements</b>	<b>8,015</b>	<b>16,592</b>	<b>8,604</b>	<b>17,294</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>+4%</b>	<b>9,050</b>	<b>17,829</b>	<b>1237</b>	<b>+7%</b>

**Table 30** Projected change in dwellings and population for Housing Market Areas if 10-year average annual completion rate continues.

Settlement	Estimated Occupied Dwellings 2020	Estimated population 2020	Estimated Occupied Dwellings at end of 20-24	Estimated population at end of 20-24	Population change at end 20-24	% Population change at end 20-24	Estimated Occupied Dwellings at end of 25-29	Estimated population at end of 25-29	Population change at end 25-29	% Population change at end 25-29
Aberdeenshire	1,055	2,221	1,101	2,251	+29	+1%	1,148	2,298	+76	+3%
Angus	8	16	8	16	0	-3%	8	16	-1	-5%
Highland	6,366	13,252	6,636	13,411	+159	+1%	6,907	13,677	+425	+3%
Moray	219	459	227	463	+3	+1%	235	470	+10	+2%
Perth and Kinross	301	626	305	617	-9	-1%	310	614	-13	-2%
<b>All Settlements</b>	<b>7,948</b>	<b>16,575</b>	<b>8,278</b>	<b>16,757</b>	<b>+182</b>	<b>+1%</b>	<b>8,607</b>	<b>17,073</b>	<b>+498</b>	<b>+3%</b>

**Table 31** Projected change in dwellings and population for settlements identified in the LDP's Settlement Strategy if no housing is delivered.

Settlement	Estimated Occupied Dwellings 2020	Estimated population 2020	Estimated Occupied Dwellings at end of 20-24	Estimated population at end of 20-24	Population change at end 20-24	% Population change at end 20-24	Estimated Occupied Dwellings at end of 25-29	Estimated population at end of 25-29	Population change at end 25-29	% Population change at end 25-29
<b>Aberdeenshire</b>										
Ballater	718	1,487	718	1,444	-43	-3%	718	1,415	-72	-5%
Braemar	259	536	259	521	-16	-3%	259	511	-26	-5%
Dinnet	39	81	39	78	-2	-3%	39	77	-4	-5%
Strathdon	38	79	38	76	-2	-3%	38	75	-4	-5%
HMA TOTAL	1,055	2,183	1,055	2,120	-63	-3%	1,055	2,077	-105	-5%
<b>Angus</b>										
Clova	8	16	8	16	0	-3%	8	16	-1	-5%
HMA TOTAL	8	16	8	16	0	-3%	8	16	-1	-5%
<b>Highland</b>										
Aviemore	1,768	3,660	1,768	3,554	-106	-3%	1,768	3,483	-177	-5%
Boat of Garten	315	653	315	634	-19	-3%	315	621	-32	-5%
Carr-Bridge	358	741	358	720	-21	-3%	358	705	-36	-5%
Coylumbridge	32	67	32	65	-2	-3%	32	64	-3	-5%
Cromdale	112	232	112	226	-7	-3%	112	221	-11	-5%
Dalwhinnie	86	179	86	174	-5	-3%	86	170	-9	-5%
Dalnain Bridge	169	351	169	340	-10	-3%	169	334	-17	-5%
Grantown-on-Spey	1,326	2,745	1,326	2,665	-80	-3%	1,326	2,612	-133	-5%
Insh	57	118	57	114	-3	-3%	57	112	-6	-5%
Inverduie	61	126	61	122	-4	-3%	61	119	-6	-5%
Kincraig	150	311	150	302	-9	-3%	150	296	-15	-5%
Kingussie	789	1,634	789	1,586	-47	-3%	789	1,555	-79	-5%
Laggan	34	71	34	69	-2	-3%	34	67	-3	-5%
Nethy Bridge	361	747	361	726	-22	-3%	361	711	-36	-5%
Newtonmore	674	1,395	674	1,354	-40	-3%	674	1,327	-67	-5%
HMA TOTAL	6,294	13,028	6,294	12,650	-378	-3%	6,294	12,398	-629	-5%
<b>Moray</b>										
Glenlivet	40	82	40	80	-2	-3%	40	78	-4	-5%
Tomintoul	179	370	179	359	-11	-3%	179	352	-18	-5%
HMA TOTAL	219	452	219	439	-13	-3%	219	431	-22	-5%
<b>Perth and Kinross</b>										

Settlement	Estimated Occupied Dwellings 2020	Estimated population 2020	Estimated Occupied Dwellings at end of 20-24	Estimated population at end of 20-24	Population change at end 20-24	% Population change at end 20-24	Estimated Occupied Dwellings at end of 25-29	Estimated population at end of 25-29	Population change at end 25-29	% Population change at end 25-29
Blair Atholl	229	473	229	459	-14	-3%	229	450	-23	-5%
Bruar & Pitagowan	11	23	11	22	-1	-3%	11	22	-1	-5%
Calvine	20	41	20	40	-1	-3%	20	39	-2	-5%
Glenshee	11	23	11	22	-1	-3%	11	22	-1	-5%
Killiecrankie	30	62	30	61	-2	-3%	30	59	-3	-5%
HMA TOTAL	301	623	301	605	-18	-3%	301	593	-30	-5%
<b>All Settlements</b>	<b>7,875</b>	<b>16,302</b>	<b>7,875</b>	<b>15,830</b>	<b>-473</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>7,875</b>	<b>15,515</b>	<b>-788</b>	<b>-5%</b>