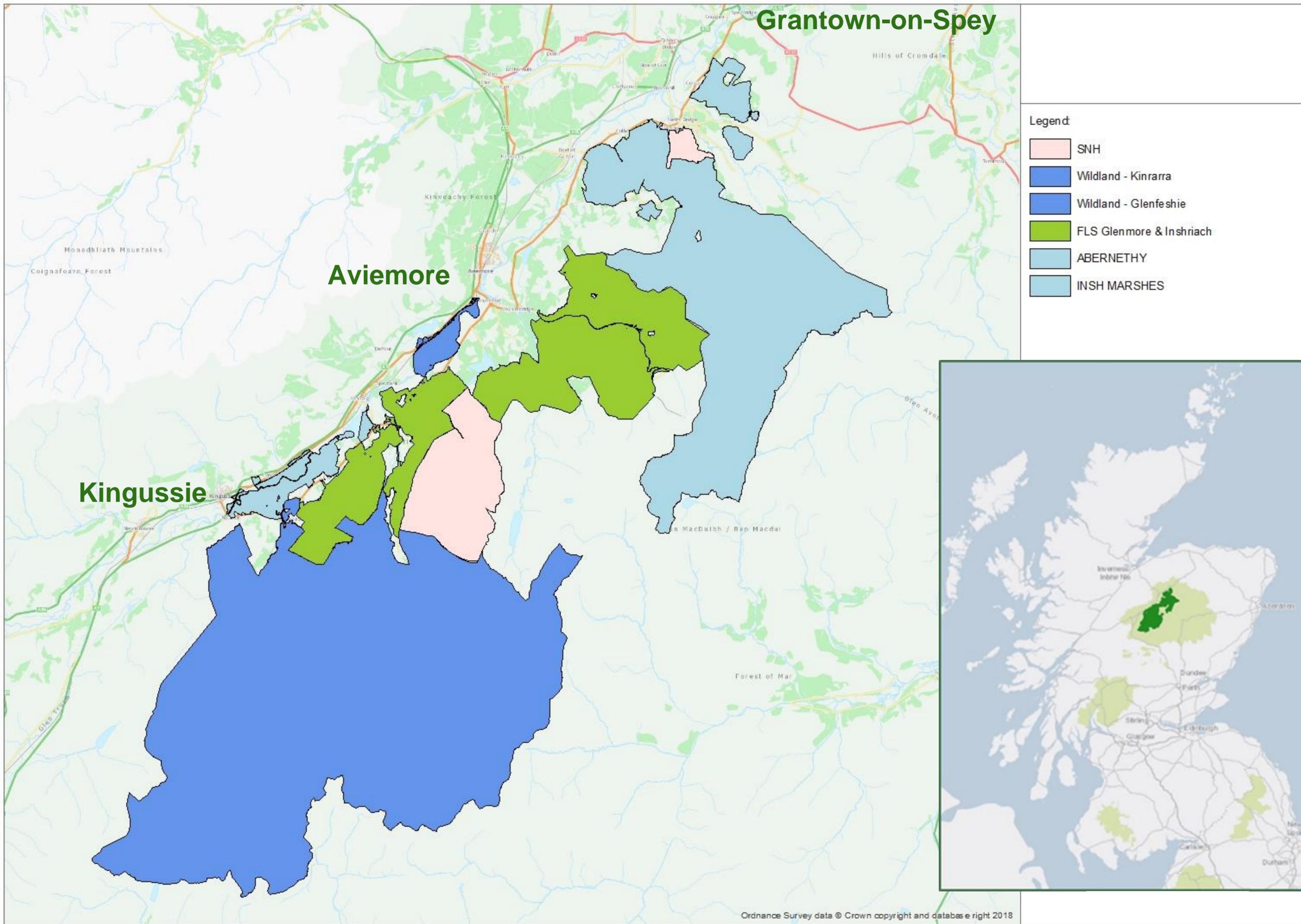




Cairngorms Connect

Jeremy Roberts - Cairngorms Connect Programme Manager





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Forestry and
Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus
Fearann Alba

giving
nature
a home
rspb

NatureScot
Scotland's Nature Agency
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

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MHONÀIDH RUAIDH

10 attributes of a restoration project

The partnership attributes

1. Four committed and visionary land managing partners.
2. A 200-year, shared vision.
3. Partners with a decent record.



Glen
Feshie
2003



Glen
Feshie
2020

©Wildland
Limited



Ryvoan & Glenmore ca. 1928
Thanks to Keith Morton

Physical attributes

4. Scale - 60,000ha - *The biggest habitat restoration project in Britain*
5. Connected, contiguous.
6. Single catchment
7. Altitudinal range.



Ecological attributes

8. Habitat diversity and quality.

9. Species diversity & rarity

10. Large-scale restoration potential



Forests

**4,700 ha of
remnant
Caledonian
Pinewood**

**7,800 ha of
plantation**

Non-native
conifer
removal
By 2023 –
removed
from 6,790
ha of
forest/open
ground.

In 2019/20,
CC partners
removed
696ha of non-
natives



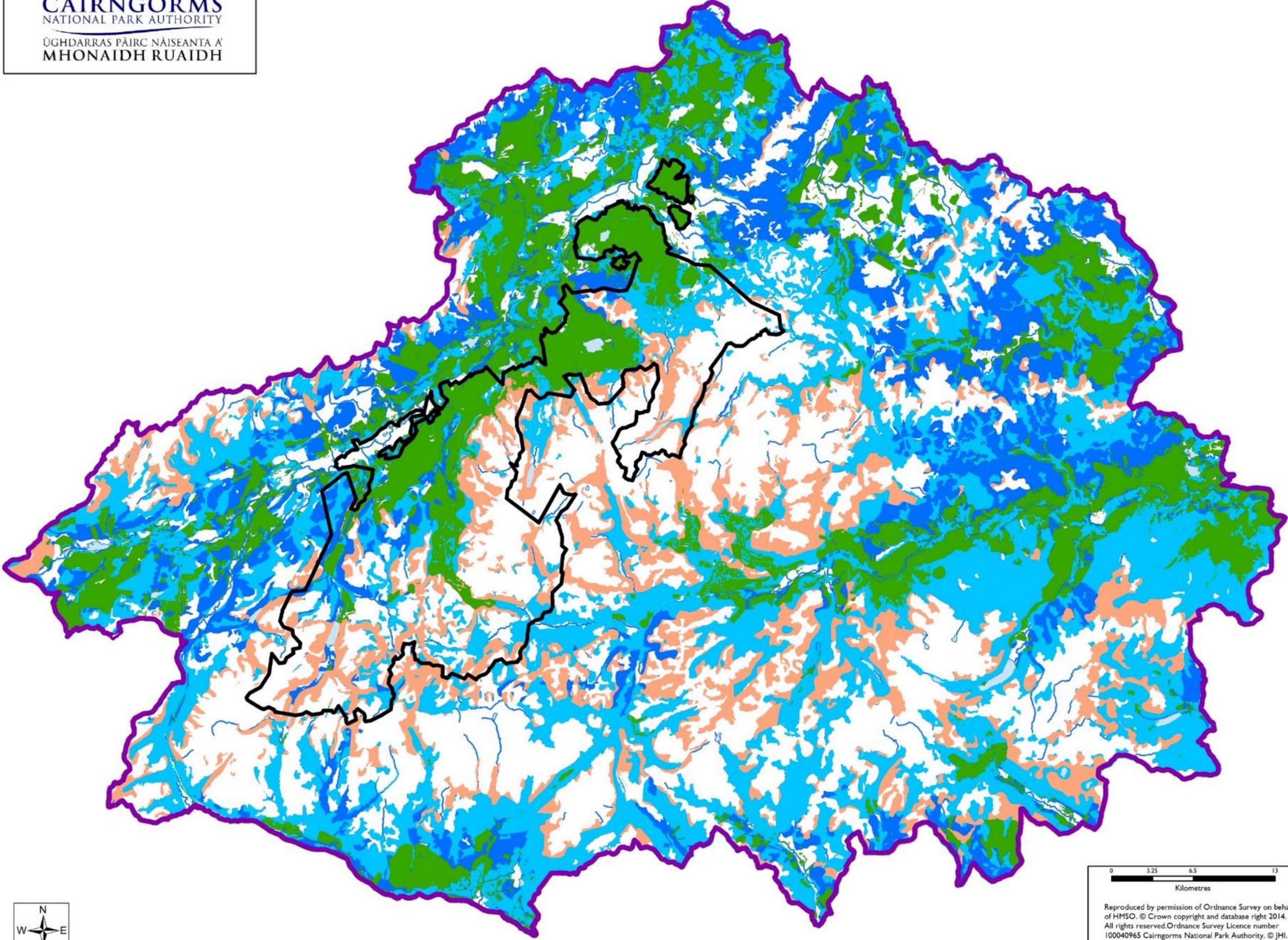
Scots pine
plantation
restructuring
By 2023 –
1,720ha of Scots
pine plantation
restructured

In 2019/20,
236ha
completed



Forest expansion to its natural limit

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200-year vision:

**13,000 ha of
new forest**



Image: Will Boyd-Wallis

**5,300ha of high alt.
montane woodland**

Collaborative deer control across 60,000ha



2023 objectives
– 800ha of new
Scots pine
regeneration

– to plant 600ha
of new native
woodland

So far, 555ha
planted; Wildland
Limited have planted
their 4-millionth tree

450m asl

PRIMARY RESEARCH ARTICLE |  Open Access |  

Tree planting in organic soils does not result in net carbon sequestration on decadal timescales

Nina L. Friggens , Alison J. Hester, Ruth J. Mitchell, Thomas C. Parker, Jens-Arne Subke, Philip A. Wookey

First published: 14 July 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.15229>

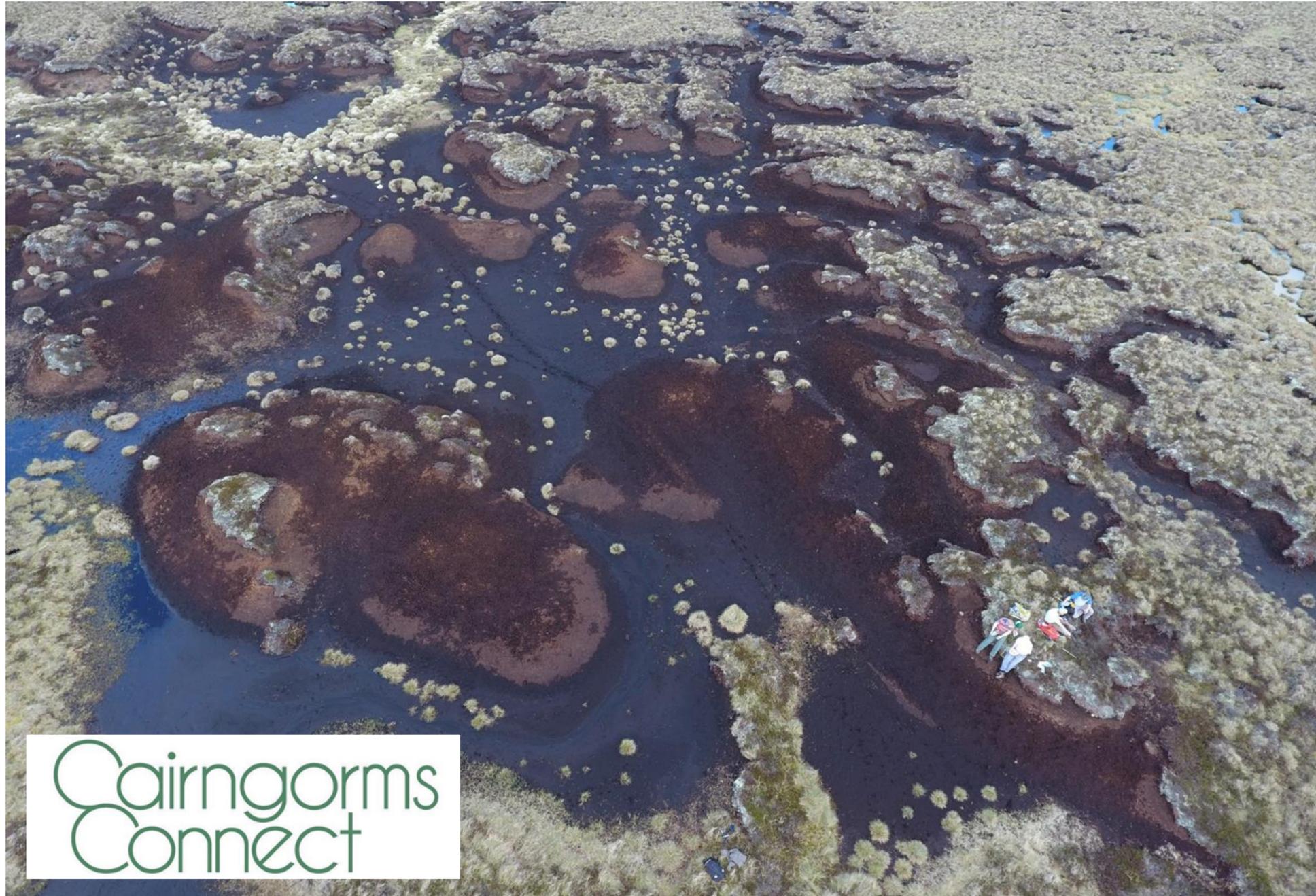
450m asl



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10,000ha of peat-rich habitats.
By 2023 – restoration across
- 1,400 ha of blanket bog, and
- 900 ha of bog woodland

In 2019/20,
partners
restored 348ha
of blanket bog



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2023
objective –
natural
hydrological
processes
are restored
over 1,000
ha of
floodplain



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Hill walkers

Mountain bikers

B&B owners

Cafes

Crofters

Forestry contractors

Ecological survey contractors

Artists

Activity guides

Wild campers

Wild swimmers

Dog walkers

Wildlife enthusiasts

Paddle-boarders

Local communities

Tourists

Businesses

Local culture

Recreation

Game dealers





Alban Thom • 1st

Sustainable Forest Management BSc

2w • Edited •

More pictures of our woodland restructuring work in Abernethy Forest for the RSPB as part of the Cairngorms Connect Project. Creating cover for Capercaillie broods, disturbing soil, increasing deadwood and increasing light reaching the field layer.

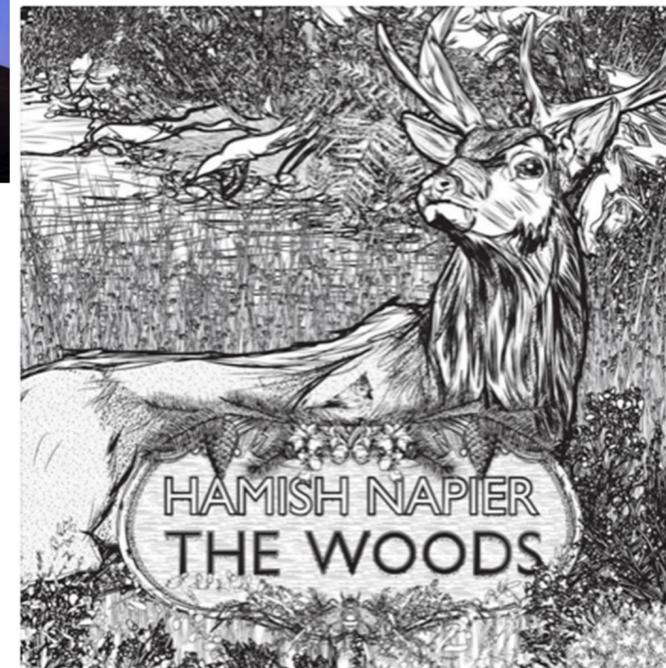
#biodiversity #ecology #soils #conservation #environment #forest

#woodlandecology #RSPB #cairngormsconnect #helpingnature

...see more



Sean Purser copyright 2017



Guidance on Engaging Communities in Decisions Relating to Land



Monitoring Projects

Ecological indicators

- Physical: Floodplain restoration (Neil C)
- Habitat: Woodland expansion (Mark H)
- Species: Species indicator (Pip G)
- Function: Deadwood beetles (Pip G)

Ecosystem services indicators

- Supporting: Vertebrate food webs (Kenny Kortland, FLS)
- Regulating: Catchment restoration (Neil C)

Societal benefits indicators

- Economic: Contribution of landscape restoration to local economies (Tom McKenna, SNH)
- Education / Capacity: Empowerment & influence (Joelene H)
- Institutional: Public attitudes to restoration (Joelene H)

Testing interventions Projects

- Seed source foci (Pip G)
- Deadwood creation (Pip G)
- Rare plant invigoration (Neil C)
- Trail re-alignment (Kenny K)
- Emulating missing ecosystem processes (Mark H)











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Towards Net Zero

Land management to reduce carbon emissions, and increase carbon sequestration (by Dec 2023)

- repair 900ha of damaged bog woodlands
- repair of 1,400ha of damaged blanket bogs
- **collaborative deer management** reducing grazing and trampling impacts on blanket bog across the partnership area.
- 800ha of new Scots pine regeneration
- 600ha of new native woodland



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Adaptation for the likely effects of climate change

- Increased water-holding 'sponge' capability of the bogs, retains water high in the catchment.
- Increase in coarse vegetation and tree cover > increases 'catchment friction' > slows movement of water through the catchment.
- More vegetation/tree growth, increases water uptake.
- Slower-moving rivers and restored floodplains, slow water and increase flood-storage capacity.
- A bigger forest is more able to accommodate the ecological impacts of large scale 'damaging' events – fire, disease, windthrow.
- Wooded habitats are a lower fire risk than open moorlands and grasslands, and restored bog woodlands are a lower fire risk than drained bogs.
- Wooded catchments reduce warming of watercourses
- By expanding the forest to its natural limit, we increase altitudinal range, providing opportunities for species to move to occupy a new climate envelope



ENDANGERED LANDSCAPES PROGRAMME

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A charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin



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Ukraine, Romania & Moldova



Iori River Valley
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Greater Côa Valley
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**Gökova Bay to Cape
Gelidonya**
Turkey



Carpathian Mountains
Romania



Polesia
Belarus & Ukraine



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Summit to Sea
Cambrian Mountains, Wales



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