

Safeguard the Cairngorms: sites under threat

The wild landscapes of the Cairngorms National Park include high mountains, ancient forests, river, lochs and moorlands. Over 50% of the Park is designated for natural heritage conservation.

Alarming the Cairngorms National Park Authority is set to approve four proposed developments which we consider will cause a major adverse impact to protected habitats and species. You can find out about the developments and their impacts below.

An Camas Mor—1,500 houses



The new town at An Camas Mor threatens the wildlife rich habitats of regenerating Caledonian pinewood and lowland heath. The development site falls within a National Scenic Area and is adjacent to sites of European importance for conservation.

Caledonian pinewood is only found in the Scottish Highlands and some of the largest remaining remnants of this precious habitat are located within Strathspey. It is home to spectacular and rare wildlife such as Capercaillie, Red squirrel and Wildcat.

The lowland heath of An Camas Mor is home to interesting species including the Violet oil beetle. Once common in the UK, it is now globally rare and as we host 20% of Europe's lowland

heath, it is a habitat that needs defending. This site is known for Cuckoos in the summer and Brown hares all year round. The Northern damselfly (*Coenagrion hastulatum*) has been recorded onsite—a rare and endangered species where practically the entire population is found within in the Cairngorms.

Carrbridge—100 houses



Development at Carrbridge could impact negatively on flower-rich meadows, bog woodland and native pine woodland.

The 'wild' Bog woodland at Carrbridge is special. Stunted Scots pine grow among bog pools and Sphagnum mosses, providing important niches for plants and invertebrates. If you look carefully you might spot a Red squirrel, some unusual fungi such as the dramatically named Bleeding-tooth fungus (*Hydnellum peckei*) or a Narrow headed, ant busy foraging.

In the UK the Narrow-headed ant is almost entirely restricted to the Scottish Highlands and its population stronghold is in the pine forests of Speyside. Carrbridge's flower-rich meadow is full of plants high in nectar and pollen for pollinating insects such as bees and hoverflies. An abundance of Blaeberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), which is an important food source for Capercallie and its chicks, is also used by the Blaeberry bumblebee (*Bombus monticola*) for food. You can also see uncommon fungi including the Blushing wax cap and the beautiful Violet coral fungi nestling within the long established grassland.

Kingussie–300 houses

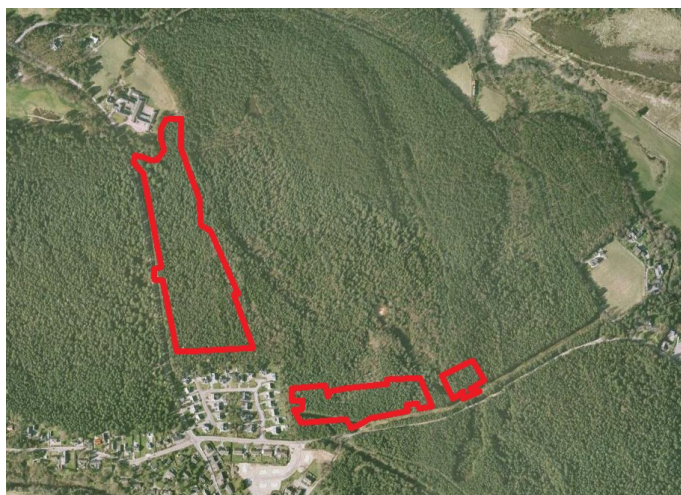


The cumulative impact of this and other major developments could reduce the water quality in the River Spey. The River Spey is one of Scotland's most iconic rivers, important for Salmon fishing and whiskey production.

It is designated as a Special Area of Conservation due to the rare and endangered animals it supports, including Salmon and Otters. You can find populations of Freshwater pearl mussels (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) and the Northern red stonefly, both of which are highly sensitive to water quality.

The fields provide habitat for farmland birds such as Lapwing, and Pipistrelle bats forage on insects around them. The site supports prey for Scottish wildcat, and as they are known to occur locally, could hunt within it.

School Wood, Nethy Bridge–40 houses



School Wood is ancient woodland where native Scots pinewood is enriched with Juniper. Development would result in the loss of part of this woodland.

Along the woodland edge you will find plenty of flowering plants such as Bird's-foot trefoil. These provide nectar and pollen for pollinating insects like the vulnerable bee *Osmia uncinata*, crucial, as this bee is only found in the Scottish Highlands. It is also home to Scottish crossbill, Crested tit and Red squirrel. Abundant deadwood provides habitat for many invertebrates, including longhorn beetles. School Wood is strategically positioned between two RSPB forests both of which are important for Capercaillie and these endangered

birds are known to have used the woodland near the development site. The secluded location of its River Spey tributary is an ideal location for the elusive Otter.

Aerial images show approximate development location © Google 2014, Getmapping Plc

Safeguard the Cairngorms campaign has been established by four charities committed to protecting the natural and cultural heritage of the Cairngorms National Park for future generations. Badenoch and Strathspey Conservation Group (BSCG), Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust, The Cairngorms Campaign, The Scottish Campaign for National Parks.

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Buglife The Invertebrate Conservation Trust is a registered charity at Bug House, Ham Lane, Orton Waterville, Peterborough, PE2 5UU. Registered Charity No: 1092293, Scottish Charity No: SC040004, Company No: 4132695