

Cairngorms National Park

Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaìdh Ruaidh

*Highland Spotlight
Sùil air a' Ghàidhealtachd*



The Cairngorms National Park has been established to 'ensure the unique aspects of the Cairngorms - both the natural environment and local communities - are cared for, sustained and enhanced for current and future generations to enjoy'.

With the Cairngorm mountain range at its heart, the area covered by the national park is home to some 17,000 people. With Inverness only 25 miles from the park boundary and leisure and recreation becoming a growing part of all our lives, protecting and managing this area for future generations is paramount.

The Cairngorms National Park is home to 25 per cent of Britain's threatened bird, animal and plant species. Sites within the park designated as of importance to the natural heritage occupy 39 per cent of the land area.

The forests in the park contain remnants of the original Caledonian pine forest providing habitats for rare species such as Capercaillie. As a natural asset and illustrating further ecological diversity, heather moorland - home to 'the famous grouse' -

covers 40 per cent of the park area and the rivers and lochs are among the cleanest you'll find anywhere.

Four of Scotland's five highest peaks can be found in the Cairngorm mountain range which is the largest example of arctic landscape in the British Isles.

Tourism is a mainstay of the local economy. Farming and crofting are also important with a range of producers, from beef and lamb to potatoes and soft fruits.

From conserving, enhancing and sustaining the natural and cultural heritage of the area and its resources, to promoting public understanding and sustainable economic development of the area's communities, the Cairngorms National Park Authority oversees and looks after the park's best interests.

The authority is responsible for upholding the new rights of responsible public outdoor access in the park and is developing a network of core paths to help manage this.

