

Invercauld

Forest Plan Overview

Invercauld_forestplan_Maj
 Date: 14/02/2023
 Scale at A2: 1:25,000



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1. The Dee Valley up to Creag a Chleirich
 Areas of 100 year old over mature Scots pine. The forest is overmature and senescent. Heavy deer grazing pressure. Recent felling will be restocked, regenerating the forest.
 Younger mid rotation 50 year old Scots pine to west is on steep concave slope. Lower and upper slopes have been thinned, very steep mid slopes unthinned.

2. Altdourie up to Little Elrick
 Area of 1820 forest effectively lost due to selective felling followed by windthrow in 1994/95 gales, following seeding felling. Hoped for natural regeneration did not materialise. Deer fenced

4. Craig Leek and Corrou
 Mainly mature and over mature Scots pine with patches of large Douglas fir, planted between 100 & 125 years ago.
 Careful design and site management is required to minimize impact on larger landscape, and also small scale adjacent to paths etc.

8. Balloch Plantation
 This is an isolated plantation away from the main Dee valley.
 Moderately steep slope and with one particularly straight boundary.
 Careful design and site management required to minimise impact on larger landscape, and also small scale adjacent to paths etc.
 Public access except on foot into the area is limited and it is not visible from the main A93 or elsewhere

5&6. Creag Choinnich and Creag Clunie
 Relatively small areas of mature commercial Scots pine with mature native woodlands above. Manage to ensure that they remain productive.
 The fencing and improved deer control associated with the Craig Clunie native woodland scheme should encourage natural regeneration, development of ground flora and hence more diversity with the native and commercial woodlands.
 Creag Clunie new native woodland becoming well established.

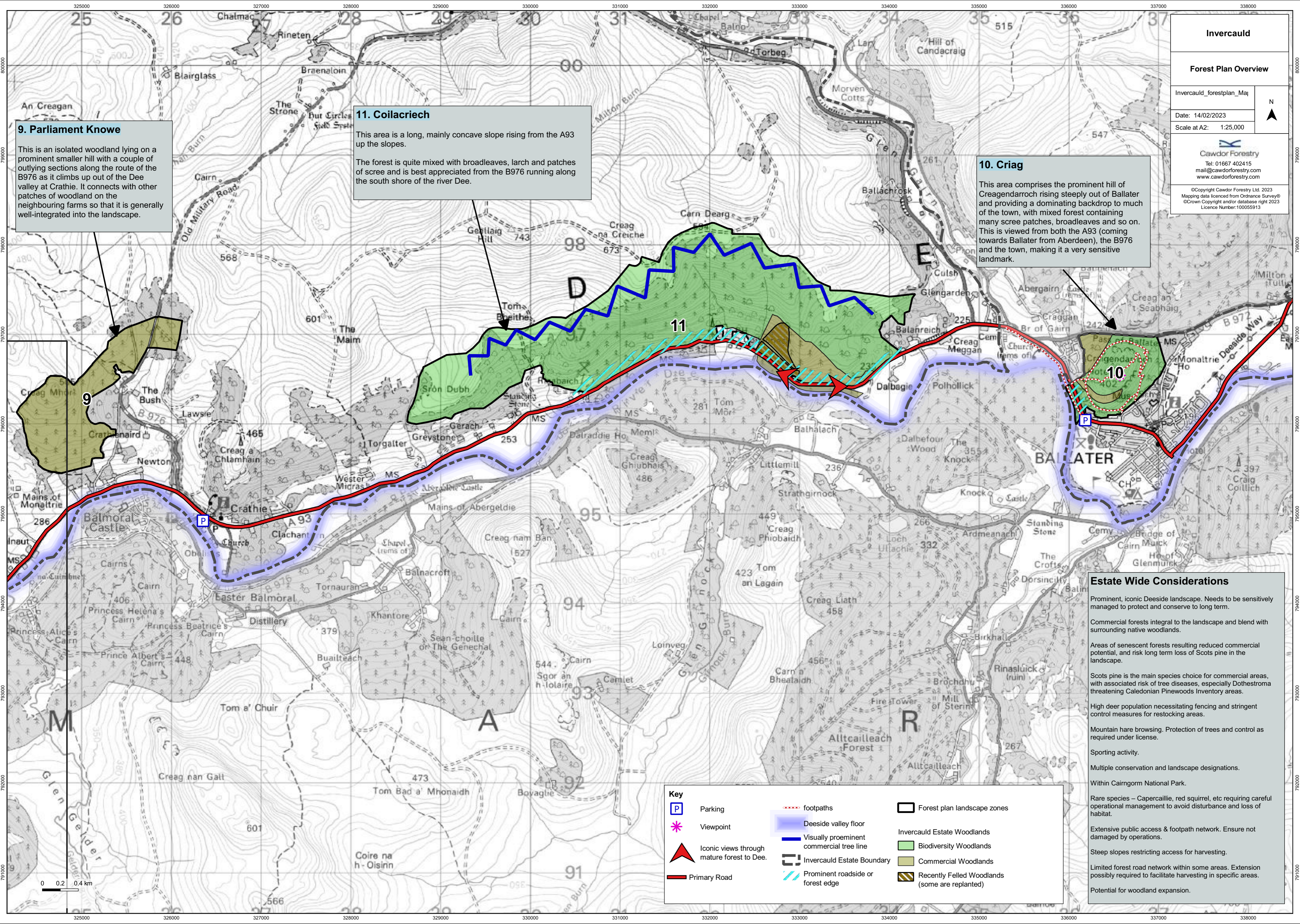
7. Meall Alvie
 Area contains large area of previously felled & poorly regenerated Scots pine, large areas of Scots pine on steep ground

Estate Wide Considerations
 Prominent, iconic Deeside landscape. Needs to be sensitively managed to protect and conserve to long term.
 Commercial forests integral to the landscape and blend with surrounding native woodlands.
 Areas of senescent forests resulting reduced commercial potential, and risk long term loss of Scots pine in the landscape.
 Scots pine is the main species choice for commercial areas, with associated risk of tree diseases, especially Dothistroma threatening Caledonian Pinewoods Inventory areas.
 High deer population necessitating fencing and stringent control measures for restocking areas.
 Mountain hare browsing. Protection of trees and control as required under license.
 Sporting activity.
 Multiple conservation and landscape designations.
 Within Cairngorm National Park.
 Rare species – Capercaillie, red squirrel, etc requiring careful operational management to avoid disturbance and loss of habitat.
 Extensive public access & footpath network. Ensure not damaged by operations.
 Steep slopes restricting access for harvesting.
 Limited forest road network within some areas. Extension possibly required to facilitate harvesting in specific areas.
 Potential for woodland expansion.

Key

	Building		Forest roads / tracks		Forest plan landscape zones
	Parking		footpaths		Invercauld Estate Woodlands
	Viewpoint		Deeside valley floor		Biodiversity Woodlands
	Iconic views through mature forest to Dee.		Visually prominent commercial tree line		Commercial Woodlands
	Primary Road		Invercauld Estate Boundary		Recently Felled Woodlands (some are replanted)
			Prominent roadside or forest edge		

0 0.2 0.4 km



9. Parliament Knowe

This is an isolated woodland lying on a prominent smaller hill with a couple of outlying sections along the route of the B976 as it climbs up out of the Dee valley at Crathie. It connects with other patches of woodland on the neighbouring farms so that it is generally well-integrated into the landscape.

11. Coilacriech

This area is a long, mainly concave slope rising from the A93 up the slopes.

The forest is quite mixed with broadleaves, larch and patches of scree and is best appreciated from the B976 running along the south shore of the river Dee.

10. Criag

This area comprises the prominent hill of Creagendaroch rising steeply out of Ballater and providing a dominating backdrop to much of the town, with mixed forest containing many scree patches, broadleaves and so on. This is viewed from both the A93 (coming towards Ballater from Aberdeen), the B976 and the town, making it a very sensitive landmark.

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Estate Wide Considerations

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Commercial forests integral to the landscape and blend with surrounding native woodlands.

Areas of senescent forests resulting reduced commercial potential, and risk long term loss of Scots pine in the landscape.

Scots pine is the main species choice for commercial areas, with associated risk of tree diseases, especially Dothistroma threatening Caledonian Pinewoods Inventory areas.

High deer population necessitating fencing and stringent control measures for restocking areas.

Mountain hare browsing. Protection of trees and control as required under license.

Sporting activity.

Multiple conservation and landscape designations.

Within Cairngorm National Park.

Rare species – Capercaillie, red squirrel, etc requiring careful operational management to avoid disturbance and loss of habitat.

Extensive public access & footpath network. Ensure not damaged by operations.

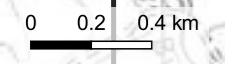
Steep slopes restricting access for harvesting.

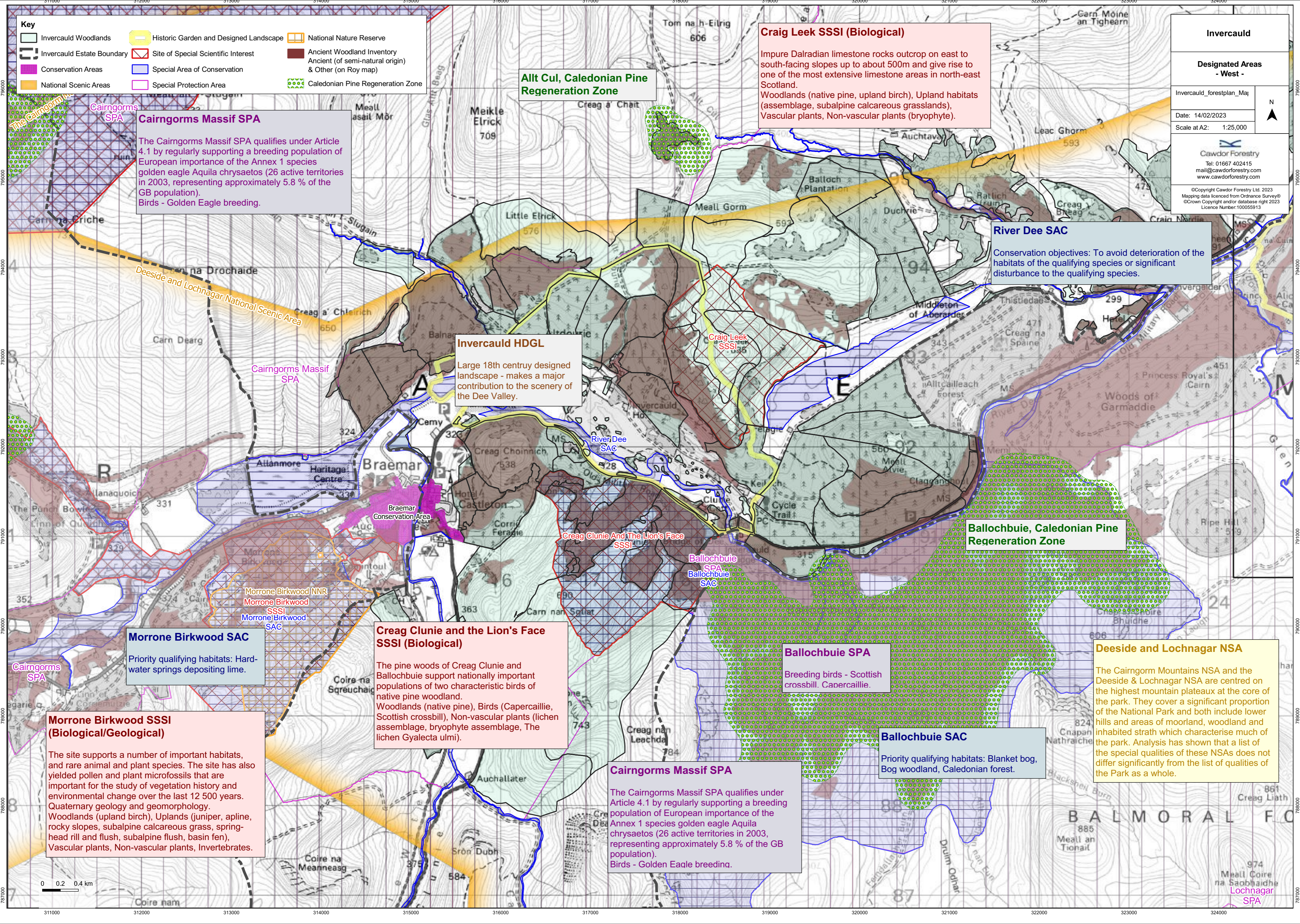
Limited forest road network within some areas. Extension possibly required to facilitate harvesting in specific areas.

Potential for woodland expansion.

Key

Parking	footpaths	Forest plan landscape zones
Viewpoint	Deeside valley floor	Invercauld Estate Woodlands
Iconic views through mature forest to Dee.	Visually prominent commercial tree line	Biodiversity Woodlands
Primary Road	Invercauld Estate Boundary	Commercial Woodlands
	Prominent roadside or forest edge	Recently Felled Woodlands (some are replanted)





Key					
	Invercauld Woodlands		Historic Garden and Designed Landscape		National Nature Reserve
	Invercauld Estate Boundary		Site of Special Scientific Interest		Ancient Woodland Inventory Ancient (of semi-natural origin) & Other (on Roy map)
	Conservation Areas		Special Area of Conservation		Caledonian Pine Regeneration Zone
	National Scenic Areas		Special Protection Area		

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Designated Areas - West -

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Cairngorms Massif SPA

The Cairngorms Massif SPA qualifies under Article 4.1 by regularly supporting a breeding population of European importance of the Annex 1 species golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* (26 active territories in 2003, representing approximately 5.8 % of the GB population).
Birds - Golden Eagle breeding.

Craig Leek SSSI (Biological)

Impure Dalradian limestone rocks outcrop on east to south-facing slopes up to about 500m and give rise to one of the most extensive limestone areas in north-east Scotland.
Woodlands (native pine, upland birch), Upland habitats (assemblage, subalpine calcareous grasslands), Vascular plants, Non-vascular plants (bryophyte).

Allt Cul, Caledonian Pine Regeneration Zone

River Dee SAC

Conservation objectives: To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species.

Invercauld HDGL

Large 18th century designed landscape - makes a major contribution to the scenery of the Dee Valley.

Morrone Birkwood SAC

Priority qualifying habitats: Hard-water springs depositing lime.

Creag Clunie and the Lion's Face SSSI (Biological)

The pine woods of Creag Clunie and Ballochbuie support nationally important populations of two characteristic birds of native pine woodland. Woodlands (native pine), Birds (Capercaillie, Scottish crossbill), Non-vascular plants (lichen assemblage, bryophyte assemblage, The lichen *Gyalecta ulmi*).

Morrone Birkwood SSSI (Biological/Geological)

The site supports a number of important habitats, and rare animal and plant species. The site has also yielded pollen and plant microfossils that are important for the study of vegetation history and environmental change over the last 12 500 years. Quaternary geology and geomorphology. Woodlands (upland birch), Uplands (juniper, alpine, rocky slopes, subalpine calcareous grass, spring-head fill and flush, subalpine flush, basin fen), Vascular plants, Non-vascular plants, Invertebrates.

Ballochbuie SPA

Ballochbuie SAC

Breeding birds - Scottish crossbill, Capercaillie.

Cairngorms Massif SPA

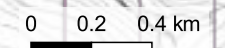
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Birds - Golden Eagle breeding.

Ballochbuie SAC

Priority qualifying habitats: Blanket bog, Bog woodland, Caledonian forest.

Deeside and Lochnagar NSA

The Cairngorm Mountains NSA and the Deeside & Lochnagar NSA are centred on the highest mountain plateaux at the core of the park. They cover a significant proportion of the National Park and both include lower hills and areas of moorland, woodland and inhabited strath which characterise much of the park. Analysis has shown that a list of the special qualities of these NSAs does not differ significantly from the list of qualities of the Park as a whole.



Key

- Invercauld Woodlands
- Invercauld Estate Boundary
- Conservation Areas
- National Scenic Areas
- Historic Garden and Designed Landscape
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Area of Conservation
- Special Protection Area
- National Nature Reserve
- Ancient Woodland Inventory Ancient (of semi-natural origin) & Other (on Roy map)
- Caledonian Pine Regeneration Zone

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Designated Areas East

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The Maim SAC

Qualifying habitat: Dwarf shrub heath (Upland) - dry heath

Craigendarroch SSSI (Biological)

Oak, largely pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, occupies the south and west faces of the hill, from the lowest slopes by the river (200 m) up to over 300 m, close to the climatic limit of oak woodland in the British Isles. The wood, one of the most extensive oakwoods in Aberdeenshire, is an ancient one, though many of the present trees were probably planted. More recently established, actively regenerating woodlands of pine and birch on the north and east-facing slopes enhance the interest of the site.

Biological: Woodland (Upland oak)

River Dee SAC

Conservation objectives: To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species.

Crathie Wood SSSI (Biological/Geological)

Largely comprises pine-birch woodland, along with birch woodland, juniper scrub and dwarf-shrub heath. The wood is the finest example of upland birch-pine woodland in Deeside and one of the finest in Scotland. The calcareous rocks support a number of rare species of plant usually found at higher altitudes. The invertebrate fauna includes a number of scarce species.

Biological: Woodland (native pine, upland birch, juniper), Upland (rocky slopes), Invertebrates.

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