

# Scotland's Wild Landscapes

## New ways Forward

**Wildness / wild land policy  
in the Cairngorms National Park**

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*Cairngorm National Park Authority*

# Cairngorms National Park







# Scottish National Park aims

Conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage

Promote sustainable use of the natural resources

Promote understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities

Promote sustainable economic and social development



A living, working landscape with wild land at its heart



4 things...  
that make things seem wild

- Remoteness
- Ruggedness
- Naturalness
- Nothingness

# What's happening?

- Public perceptions
- Mapping
- Policy

# Public perceptions (2007)

- 1004 people interviewed across Scotland plus
- 300 Cairngorms National Park residents.
- 91% (96% in CNP) view wild land as important to Scotland
- Important because... it is part of our heritage/culture, for tourism, for wildlife and a “place to escape”
- Makes people... relaxed, at peace, happy, free and close to nature. Some said they felt “at home” in wild land.
- Benefits... tourism, wildlife, the environment, cultural identity, local economy etc.

# Mapping








- As objective as possible...a series of maps showing the 4 main things that contribute to a sense of wildness:
  - Remoteness
  - Apparent Naturalness
  - Ruggedness
  - Absence of modern artefacts

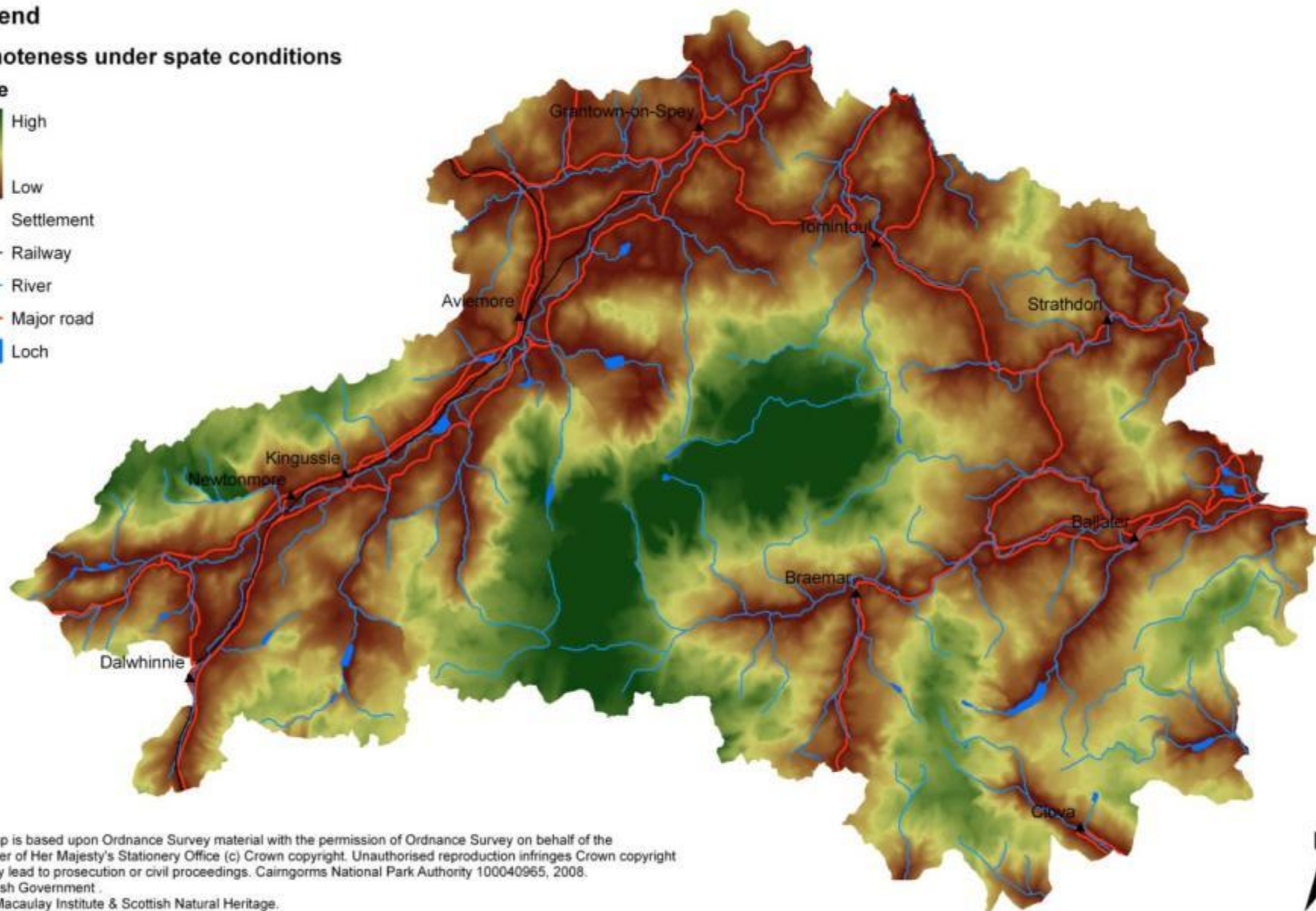


## Legend

### Remoteness under spate conditions

#### Value

-  High
-  Low
-  Settlement
-  Railway
-  River
-  Major road
-  Loch



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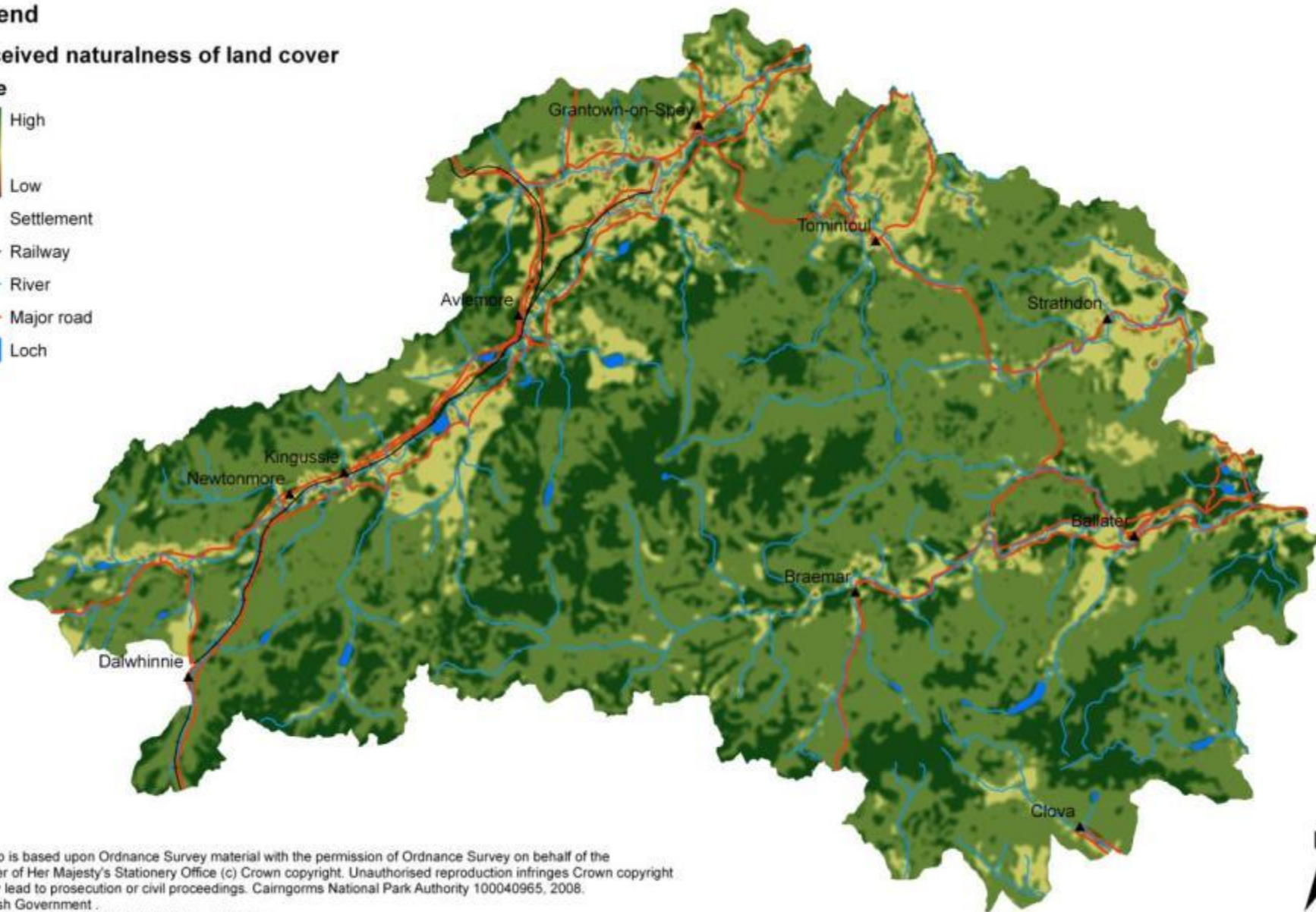
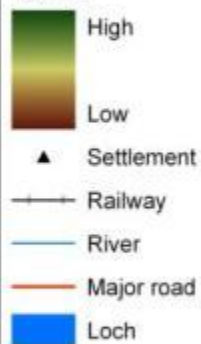
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0 4 8 16 24 32 Kilometers

## Legend

### Perceived naturalness of land cover

#### Value



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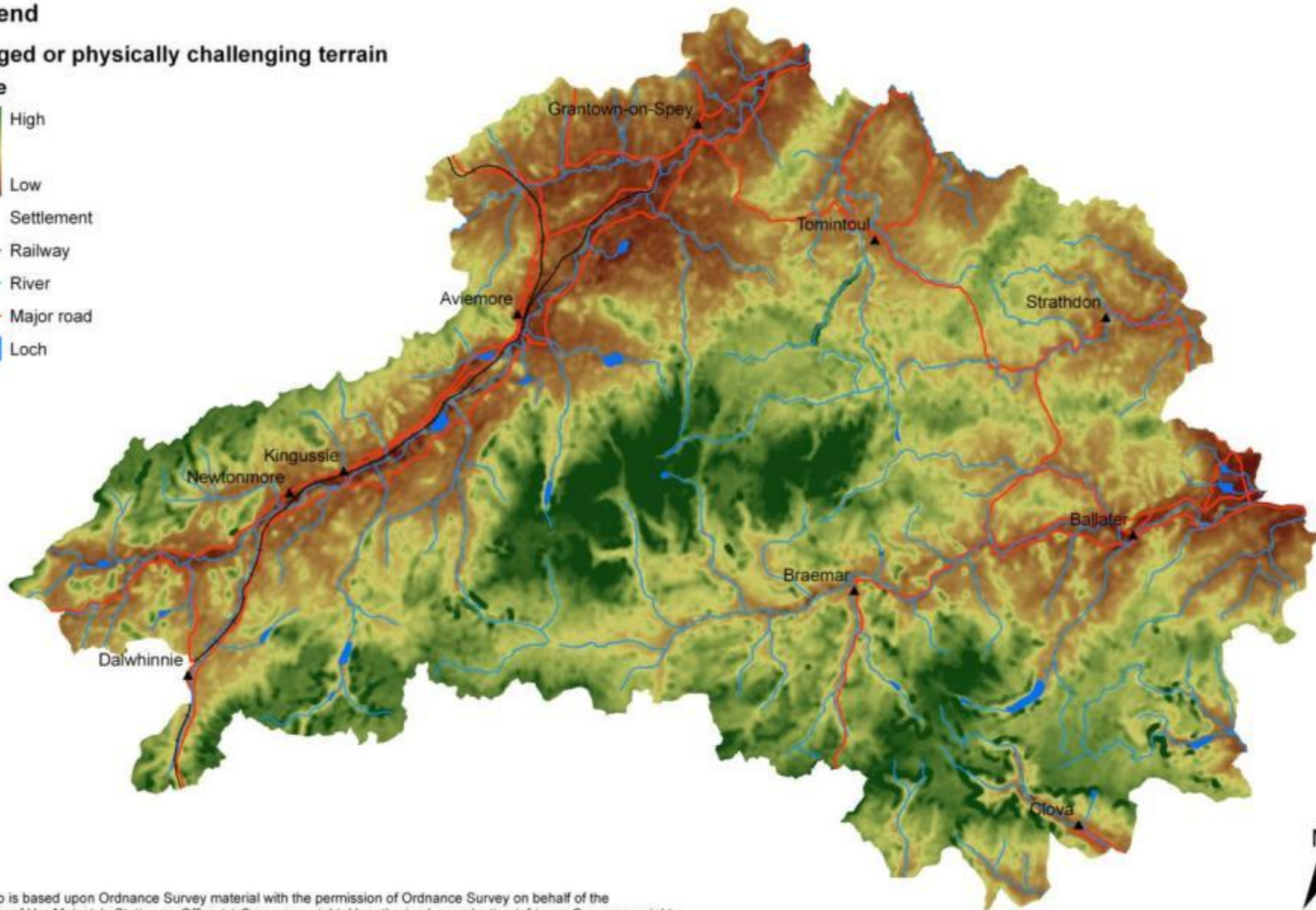
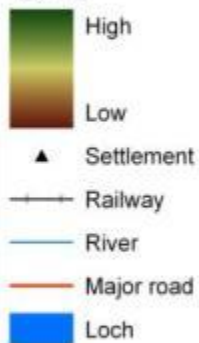




## Legend

### Rugged or physically challenging terrain

#### Value



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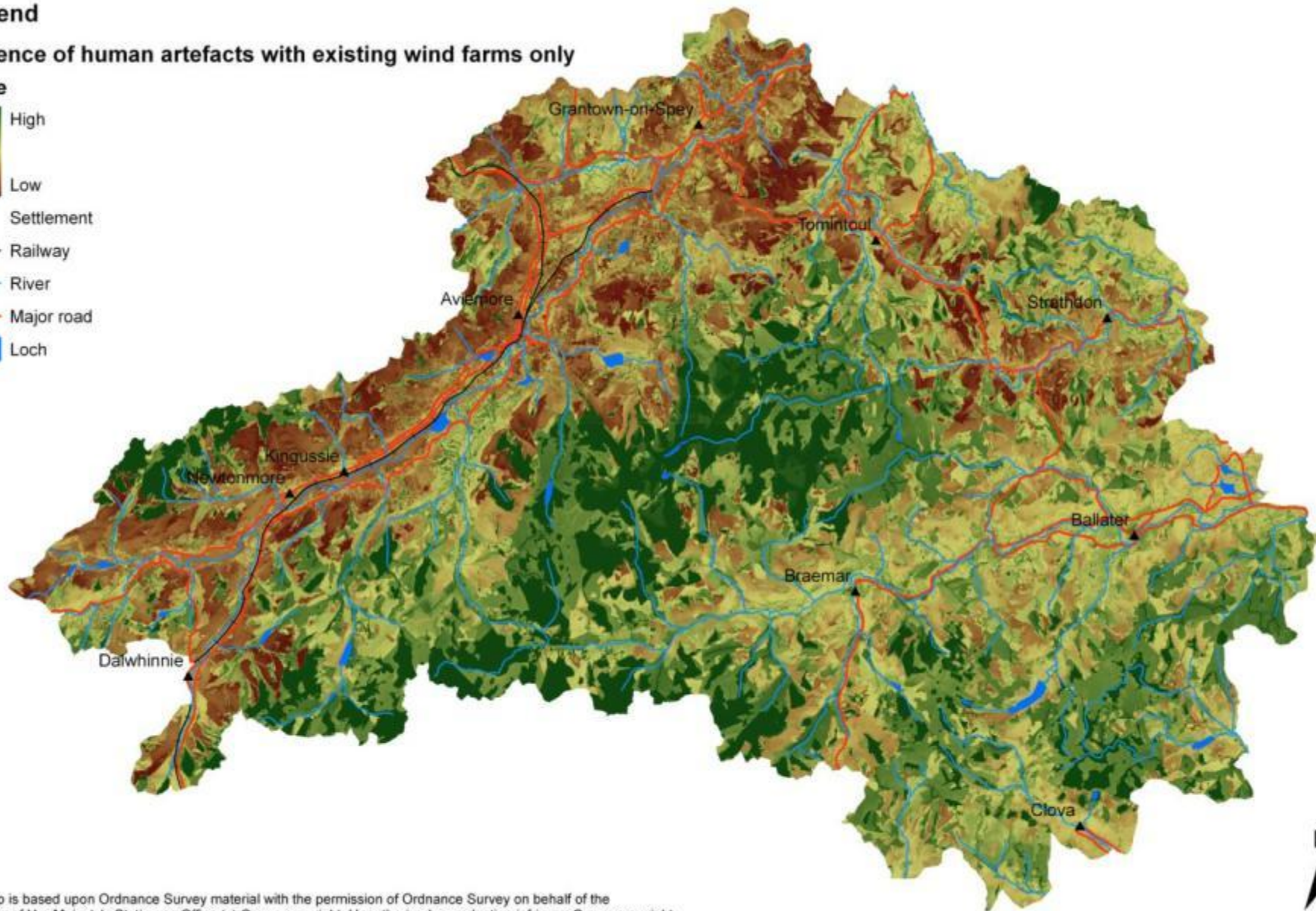
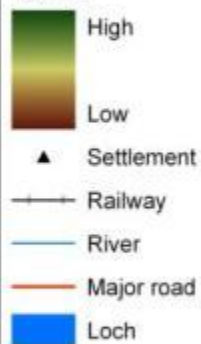
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0 4 8 16 24 32 Kilometers

## Legend

Absence of human artefacts with existing wind farms only

### Value



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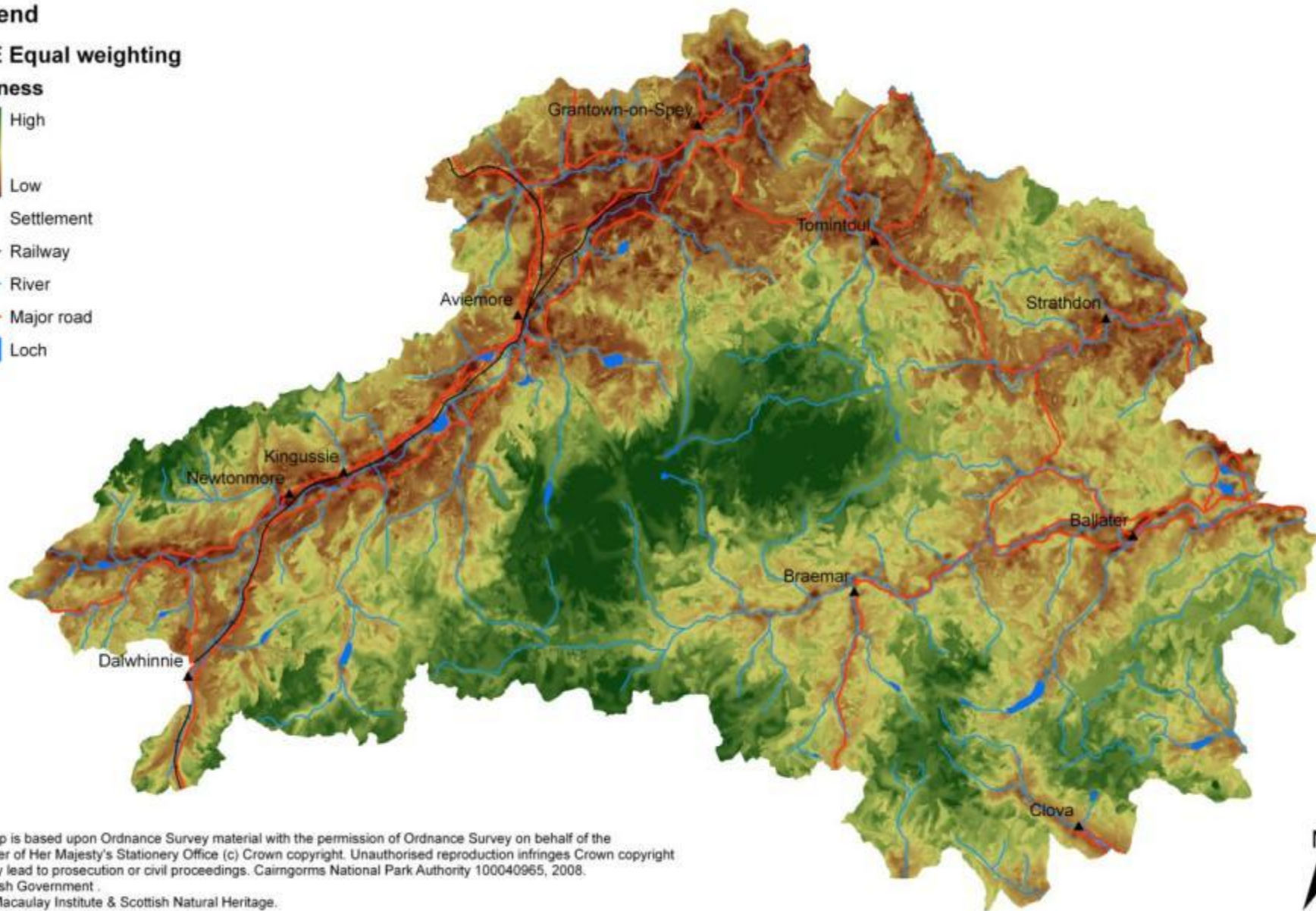
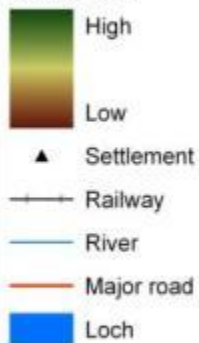




## Legend

### MCE Equal weighting

#### Wildness



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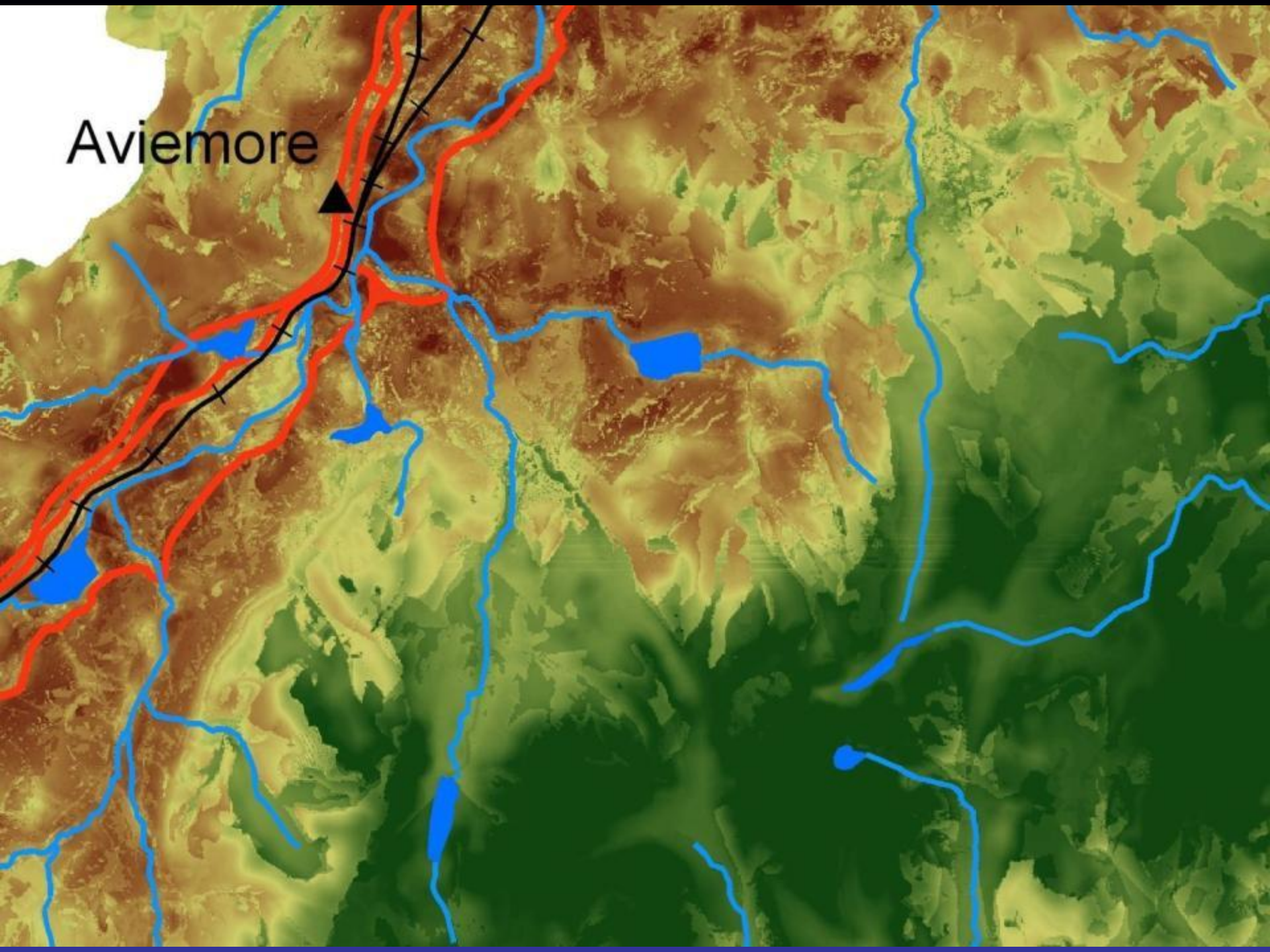
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Aviemore







# Policy

Landscape Framework

National Park Plan

Local Development Plan



# Policy

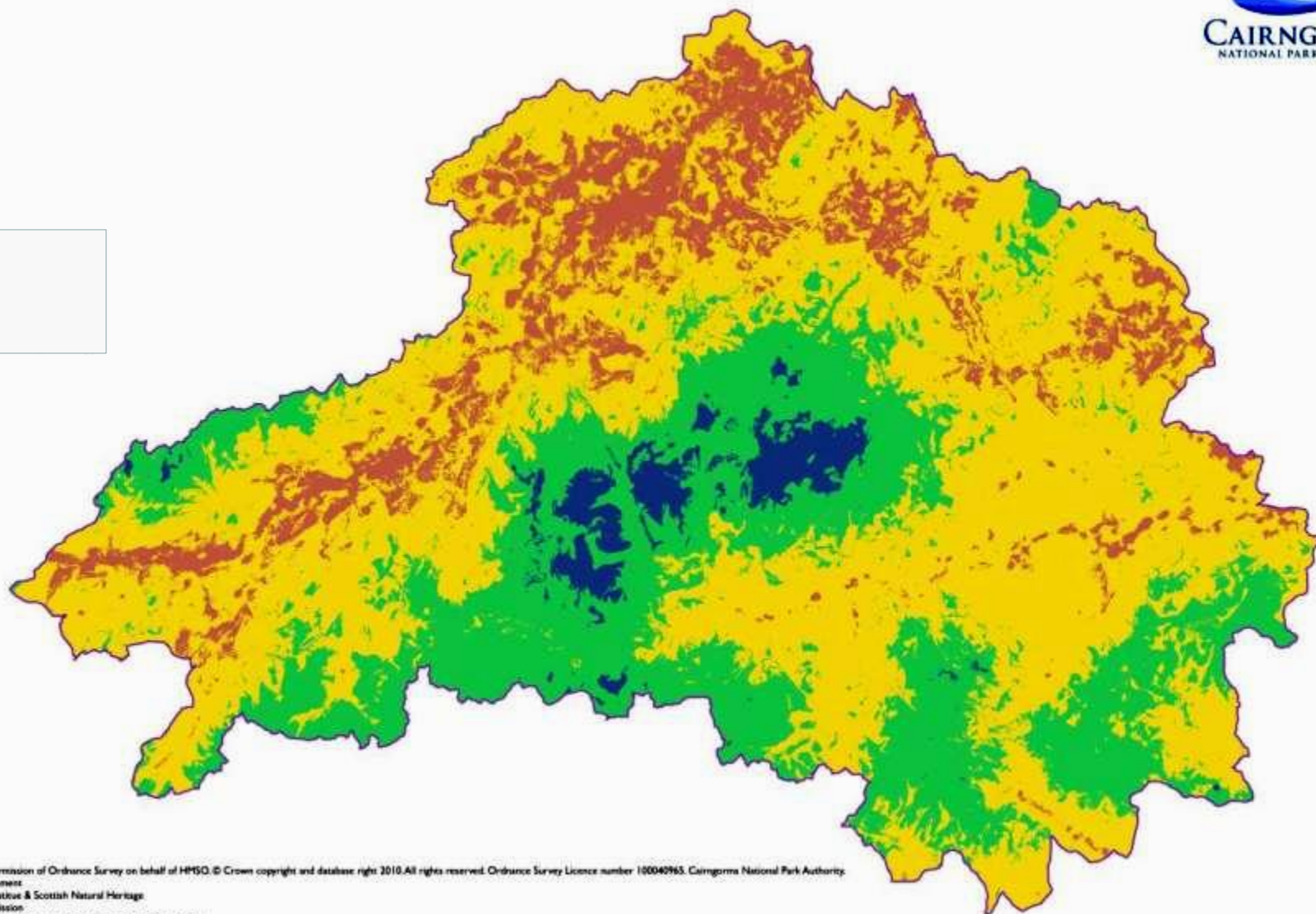
- Local Plan
  - No policy on wild land
  - Supplementary Planning Guidance to be produced

# Supplementary Planning Guidance

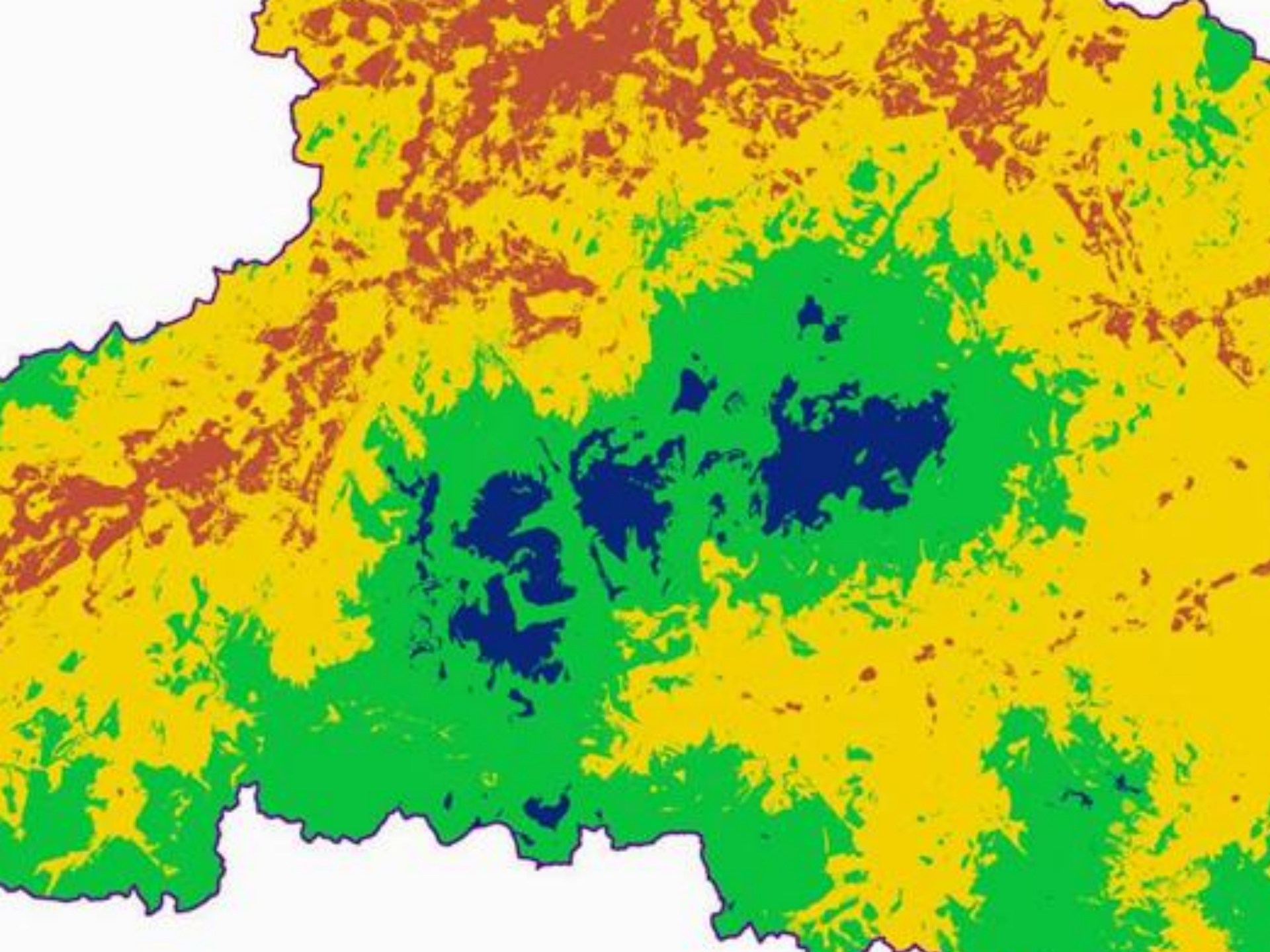
Would zoning enable sustainable development in appropriate areas and assist wild land conservation in others?

The following slides are just examples of how wildness could be categorised in order to guide development, visitor management etc.

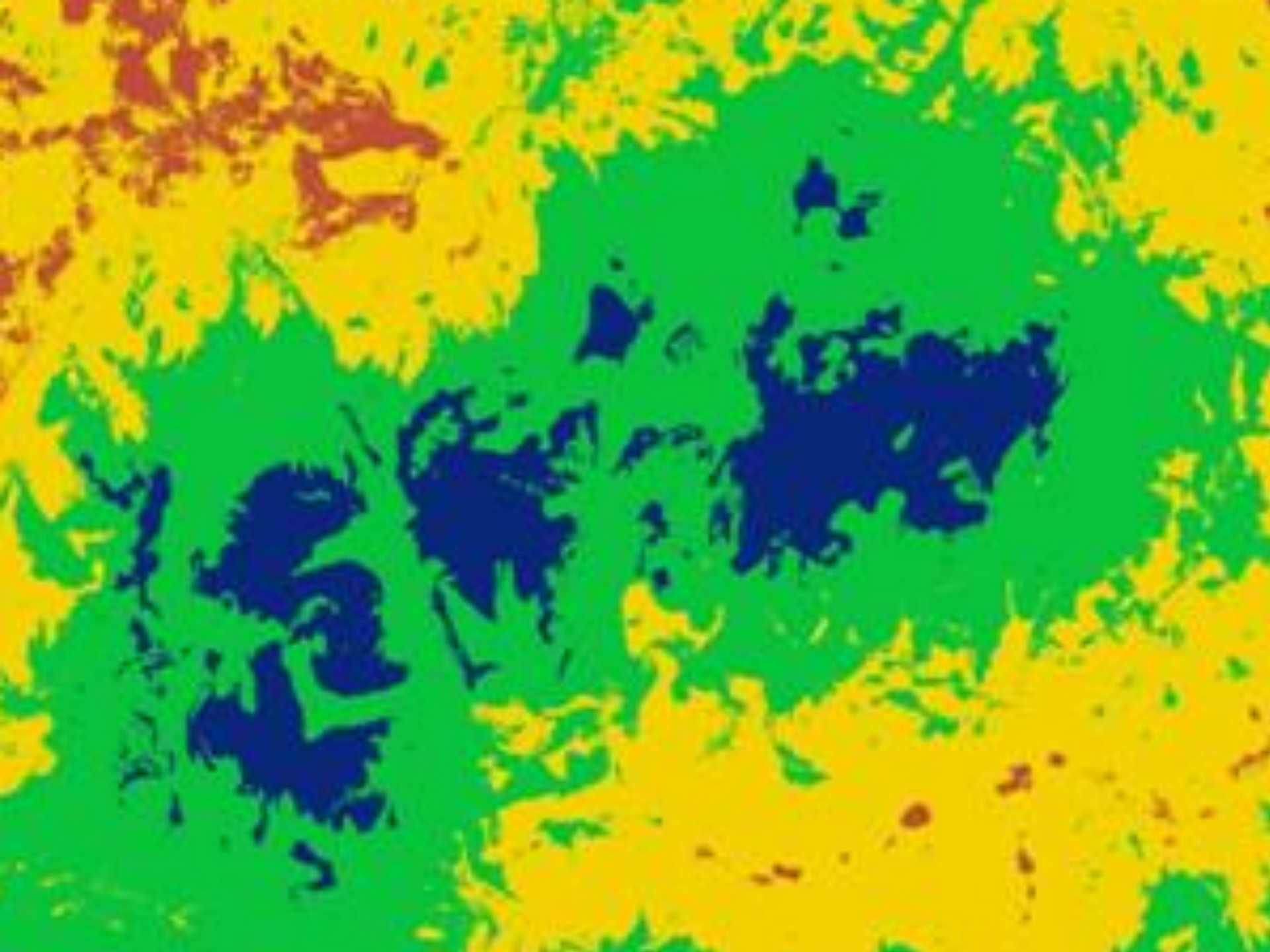
Blue being the least developed areas (and therefore most sensitive to change and red being the most developed.











Wildness needs to be  
relevant to society

Need to enable people to  
enjoy and appreciate wild  
land



The John Muir Award is the main educational initiative of the John Muir Trust. It is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places which encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration. It is non-competitive and open to all.

Wild Places  
discover - explore  
conserve - share

## John Muir Award news spring 2008



Ready to go: a team from Outward Bound Ulster get to work with the Forestry Commission in Whinlatter Forest, Cumbria



Up to all sorts: a pupil from Portree High School helps 'Keep Scotland Tidy', top; Dick Clark with a newly built home for sand martins

MAIN PICTURE: JEFF H. BROWN

The John Muir Award is playing a vital part in engaging all sectors of society, young and old, in getting out and **experiencing**, **exploring** and **defending** wild land.



*Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life!*

John Muir ~ 1838-1914

