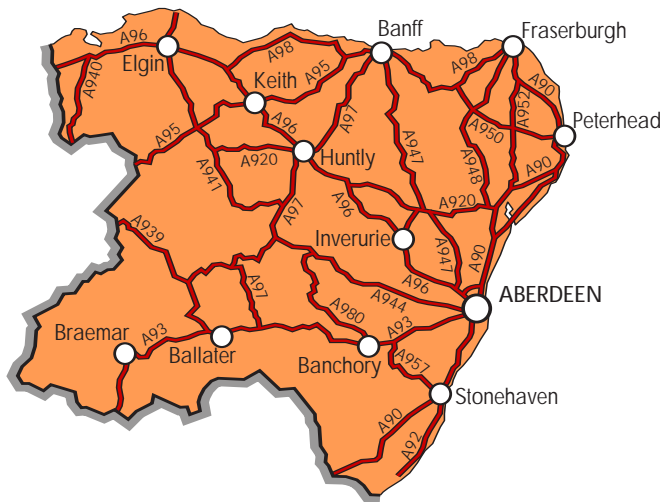


Scottish Natural Heritage in West Aberdeenshire & Kincardine



This map shows the SNH Grampian Area, in which the West Aberdeenshire & Kincardine constituency is located.



www.snh.org.uk

Ten SNH Priorities

Scottish Natural Heritage's ten priorities over the lifetime of the next Scottish Parliament are to:

- Provide more opportunities for people to enjoy Scotland's natural heritage.
- Maintain and restore Scotland's rich diversity of animal and plant life.
- Promote the importance of the marine heritage.
- Promote the human and economic benefits to the nation of a high quality natural environment.
- Promote a sustainable and integrated approach to land and water management.
- Improve the quality of life for people in urban areas through better access to green open spaces.
- Help people to care for their local environment.
- Listen to our customers and partners and reflect their needs in our policies and procedures.
- Make information available more simply to more people.
- Increase our reputation as an authoritative and reliable organisation both nationally and internationally.

Key Areas of Work for SNH in Grampian Area

- Schemes for positive management of designated lowland bogs and grasslands, and management of goose grazing on farmland at Strathbeg.
- Working with local authorities to develop footpath networks around settlements, and promote the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.
- Implementing catchment management plans for the Rivers Dee and Spey, through partnership.
- Working with the National Park Authority for the benefit of the Cairngorms.
- Continued input into Local Biodiversity Action Plans and related projects.
- Grant aid to help others enjoy the natural heritage.

The Natural Heritage of Aberdeen City

From the sea to Cairngorm summits, this area's varied landscapes are a highly valued asset. Inland, extensive pinewoods and moorland provide tourism and other economic benefits, but also challenges in managing for red deer, capercaillie and birds of prey. Farmland, still important for wintering geese, brown hare and no-longer-common corn bunting, has particularly valuable small pockets of woodland, bog and grassland. The mainly rocky coast includes world-famous geological sites, the seabird colonies of Fowlsheugh and the wildflower haven of St Cyrus. The rich variety of habitats has been recently acknowledged in the Cairngorms National Park, and in the European designation of the River Dee for salmon, otter and freshwater pearl mussel and Loch of Skene for its geese and swans. Throughout the area, people enjoy some of the best countryside access opportunities in Britain but there are also some particularly challenging access issues.

West Aberdeenshire & Kincardine Key Features

Important Habitats:

Uplands, woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, coastal

Designations:

48 SSSI

13 Special Areas of Conservation

8 Special Protection Areas

16 Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes

(1.1% of Local Authority area)

1 Country Park; 1 Local Nature Reserve

Countryside Enjoyment:

- 14 Ranger posts supported

- £167,000 in grant aid to Upper Deeside Access Trust and Clachnaben Footpath Trust

- £48,000 grant aid for community land projects

- Part of £87,000 grant aid for Aberdeenshire Council Access Strategy

- £12,500 in grant aid for Environmental Education and Interpretation

Scottish Natural Heritage – Our Role

Scotland's natural heritage is truly special:

- It's a cornerstone of Scotland's character,
- It's vital to tourism and outdoor recreation,
- Rural industries such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture depend on it,
- It contributes to our overall quality of life and to wider health, education, employment, and social justice agendas.

SNH's job is to promote:

- The care and improvement,
- The responsible enjoyment,
- The greater understanding and appreciation, and
- The sustainable use of the natural heritage.

SNH's work includes:

- Advising Government and Parliament,
- Designated Sites such as the Natura series and Sites of Special Scientific Interest,
- Looking after 73 National Nature Reserves,
- Implementing Scotland's new access legislation and grant-aiding footpath networks,
- Grants for environmental projects and community initiatives,
- Supporting ranger services and projects with schools.

Finding out more about SNH

- Our Area Offices are local sources of information,
- Our Headquarters details are in this leaflet,
- Consult our publications,
- Fact & Figures gives statistics on a wide range of our activities and our expenditure,
- Visit our website www.snh.gov.uk .

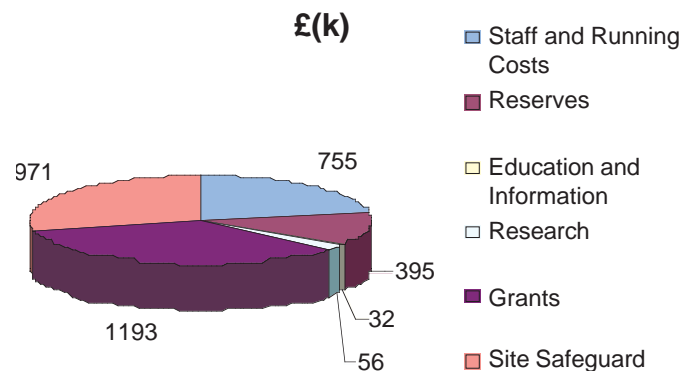
Four Objectives for Aberdeen City

We have four key objectives for the West Aberdeenshire & Kincardine area. These are set out in our Natural Heritage Futures documents, which help build up a vision for Scotland's natural heritage for the next two decades and beyond.

Our objectives are:

- To enhance upland habitats and species, including those of high plateaux. Allow river systems to function naturally and improve the status of freshwater habitats and species.
- To promote multi-purpose forest management, enhance its native character and increase the value of non-native woods.
- To encourage sensitive provision and management of outdoor recreation in balance with the needs of the natural heritage, land management and local communities.
- To achieve better integration of settlements with the natural heritage, ensuring that open spaces and new developments complement and enhance local landscapes and wildlife.

The SNH Grampian Area Budget



Key Contacts

Of the total SNH complement of over 730 full-time equivalent staff posts, there are currently 48 staff based in SNH's Grampian Area.

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SNH East Areas Board

Our East Areas Board is the local SNH Board for the Grampian Area. The Areas Board oversees SSSI designations and guides staff on local approaches and initiatives.

East Areas Board

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