

CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

Title: CNP Capercaillie Framework Update

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Purpose: This paper provides an update on the Capercaillie Framework to date

Advice Sought

No advice sought at this time, update only. Ongoing advice is requested from the LOAF into the delivery of Phase 2.

Update

1. Final Report for Phase 1. complete and ratified by the CNPA Board in Dec '14 following a minor tweak. Final sign-off given from Capercaillie Framework Project Board in Feb '15. Final Report attached as Appendix 1. along with the summary Infographic, Appendix 2.
2. Implementation of Phase 2. approved as a priority in the new CNPA Corporate Plan for delivery over the next 3 years.
3. Phase 2. currently underway with detailed Project Plan being developed and reformed Project Team established. As part of prioritisation for delivery of Phase 2, high priority “quick wins” have been targeted for immediate focus. Early progress includes the following:
 - a) The top priority fence identified for removal at Cawdor Estate (in Carrbridge) due to a number of known deaths from strikes, has been taken out through CNPA funding.
 - b) People counters purchased to start work on people monitoring programme. Counters will look at i.) Refuge creation with an experiment being set up on a potential path removal candidate to obtain baseline data on current use; ii.) Community use where there is anticipated development pressure to obtain baseline

data at current levels and continued to assess changes and effectiveness of mitigation measures post development; iii.) Mountain biking impact assessment targeting specific purpose built trails or modified natural features on Kinveachy to assess if mountain biking impacts on caper are similar to those identified from multi-use paths.

- c) Communications and Marketing Session – seminar held to consider what we need to do to develop a consistent and effective campaign to improve a sense of pride and engage people with capercaillie conservation. Experts in social science, access and behaviour in relation to people and dogs, and interpretation were involved and have advised that early focus should be on building pride rather than responsible behaviour.
- d) SRDP Premium – maps produce through the Caper Framework have been approved by FCS and Scottish Government and will be used to target a 10% premium payment for woodland creation within the highlighted areas.

Next steps

- 4. Complete Project Plan and continue focussing on delivery of Recommendations in prioritised areas, including Recreation Management Planning.
- 5. Investigate and assess potential appropriate funding sources to target major work packages.

Appendix 1. Capercaillie Framework Phase I Report

Appendix 2. Capercaillie Framework Infographic

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