

## Boat of Garten housing capercaillie mitigation measures: details to accompany potential planning application

The purpose of this report is to explain what mitigation measures will be delivered, who will be responsible for delivering them, and how they will be monitored, maintained and adapted if necessary for the lifetime of the proposed development. This detail is required to assess the mitigation against the tests in the Habitat Regulations.

The overall outcome sought from the mitigation measures is that there must be no increase in disturbance to the Capercaillie in Boat of Garten Wood as a result of this development. In particular, the mitigation proposals must ensure that the development will not affect the ability of the Capercaillie there to continue living and breeding successfully, at levels which sustain the meta-population.

### Measure 1: Requesting that people keep dogs on a lead on paths in the areas of medium and high brood habitat quality during the period 1st April – 15th August.

#### Overall outcome this will achieve

- No increase in disturbance to capercaillie by dogs ranging off-paths in the sensitive parts of the woods at the sensitive time of year.

#### What work will be done to deliver this measure, ensuring effective delivery of the outcome

The following measures, delivered in a collective manner, will ensure this outcome will be achieved.

- a. **Seasonal signage** – signage will be erected and be in place each year between 1 April and 15 August on each path that enters the sensitive area (shown on map in Annex 1). The signage will clearly explain the expected behaviour and why it is required. Signage will also be erected at the main entry points to the woods which will provide an overview map of the woods, the sensitive areas, the importance of the woods for capercaillie and the need to modify behaviour for dog walkers during the sensitive period in the sensitive areas. The erection, removal and maintenance of the signs will be the responsibility of CNPA.
- b. **Interpretive signage** – Permanent interpretive signs will be placed at the following entrances: Curling pond, hall, car park on Deshar Road, Kinchurdy road and the yard. These signs will provide year round information about the woods and their importance for both recreation and capercaillie. They will highlight what constitutes responsible behaviour. The erection, removal and maintenance of the signs will be the responsibility of CNPA.
- c. **Ranger** – a seasonal ranger will be engaged annually who will undertake patrols, guided walks, hold drop-in sessions, attend community meetings, maintain a blog on the community website, including submitting articles for inclusion in the BOG Standard and generally raise awareness of the sensitive nature of Boat of Garten and other nearby pinewoods and promote responsible behaviour during the period the period 1 August to 15 August. Funding for this post will be the responsibility of CNPA.
- d. **Path leaflet** – The Boat of Garten path leaflet will continue to highlight the need to follow requests on signs and that, at certain times of year, you may be asked to modify your behaviour if you are accompanied by a dog. Re-prints of the leaflet will continue to be funded by CNPA.
- e. **Resident information pack** – included in the sale of each new property will be an information pack which will highlight the sensitivities of the adjacent wood, a brief guide to why modified behaviour is required at certain times of the year and the

encouragement of such behaviour. It will include general information on the sensitivity of all nearby pinewoods. The pack will be produced by the developers of the housing and approved, prior to distribution, by CNPA and SNH.

**Arrangements for monitoring & maintenance**

The design of both seasonal and interpretive signage will be agreed between CNPA and the Community with input from Seafield and Strathspey Estates. Included in the Ranger job description will be a requirement to check that signage remains in place and to organise replacement of any missing or damaged signs.

The Ranger will be responsible for completing on-going analysis of numbers met, behaviour encountered and actions taken. A monthly review meeting will take place with the Ranger and involve both CNPA and the community to monitor how the work is progressing and to put in place any additional or modified tasks where required. A report will be completed in September each year summarising the analysis of data collected and will include any proposals for further improving behaviour in subsequent years.

The path leaflet will be re-printed on an “as needs” basis.

The effectiveness of the residents pack will be reviewed on an annual basis, through the programme of monitoring by the Ranger, following the analysis of the data collected and future recommendations can be incorporated in a re-print if it is deemed necessary.

**Arrangements for reviewing effectiveness, and for adaptive management if necessary**

A repeat of the camera survey is planned for 2013 which will allow a comparison to be made with the 2011 results. This coupled with the information collected and collated by the Ranger will provide sufficient data to determine whether the existing mechanisms are working effectively or whether further interventions are required. The results of the 2013 survey will assist in determining the further on-going monitoring requirements.

**Measure 2: Requesting that people stay on paths in the areas of medium and high brood habitat quality during the period 1st April – 15th August.**

**Overall outcome this will achieve:**

- No increase in disturbance to capercaillie by people off-paths in the sensitive parts of the woods at the sensitive time of year.

**What work will be done to deliver this measure, ensuring effective delivery of the outcome**

This will be delivered by the same promotional methods as measure 1 above.

**Arrangements for monitoring & maintenance**

This will be monitored and maintained by the same methods as measure 1 above.

**Arrangements for reviewing effectiveness, and for adaptive management if necessary**

This will be reviewed, and adapted as necessary in the light of effectiveness, by the same methods as measure 1 above.

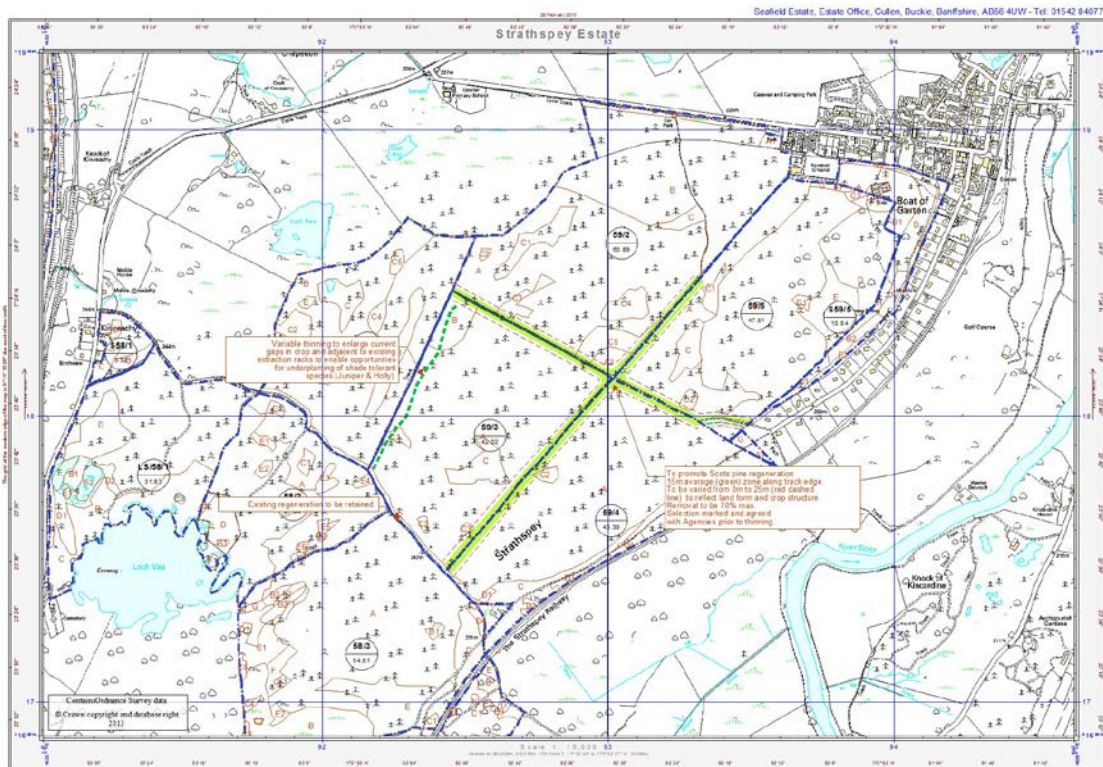
**Measure 3a: Develop native vegetation screening alongside paths in the areas of high brood habitat quality.**

**Overall outcomes this will achieve & help to achieve:**

- No increase in disturbance (especially visual disturbance) to capercaillie from an increase in people using existing paths.

Will also help to deliver:

- No increase in disturbance to capercaillie by dogs ranging off-paths in the sensitive parts of the woods.
- No increase in disturbance to capercaillie by people off-paths in the sensitive parts of the woods.
- No new informal 'desire line' paths in the woods.



**What work will be done to deliver this measure, ensuring effective delivery of the outcomes**

Methods will include select felling and scarification to obtain Scots pine regeneration and supplementary planting with suitable species (juniper and holly).

Screening using vegetation was supported by 60% of the people at the drop-in session and was again supported at the public meeting on 9 February 2012. Screening using temporary hessian fencing was much less popular, with half the people disliking the proposal, mainly because of its unnaturalness and its visual impact. Good design is very important to create a natural looking screen with variety. At the public meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012, it was suggested that some views into the woods should be safeguarded.

The wood was thinned and select felling carried out in winter 2012/13, which has produced the required areas for establishment of Scots pine regeneration screens. Ongoing deer culls are carried out in the Boat of Garten area, and an increased effort may be necessary to establish screening but from existing evidence this is unlikely. Any damage from browsing will be monitored by the Estate and reactive cull set accordingly.

The map below shows the areas select felled under Dedication (PW5/II) and Felling Licence (CB73465) Permissions. Path 17 does not require screening because it already has a good screen of regenerating Scots pine, and neither does the Speyside Way because of the topography, and because the adjacent woodland is low quality brood habitat. The corners of the crossroads of paths 12,13,15 & 9 are either already well screened or essentially low quality habitat (Capercaillie Project Officer 12/01/13) and need not be entirely screened.

The rationale is that the relatively undisturbed wood on the south western quadrant will benefit most from screening, followed by the south eastern quadrant. These two areas are the furthest from the village, and so the least disturbed.

### **Scots pine regeneration**

There is good existing Scots pine regeneration in places, showing that this method does work at Boat of Garten Wood. Regeneration will be achieved by thinning and select felling, so that there is enough light, and scarifying to prepare a seed bed. Thinning and select felling was completed in February 2013. Ground disturbance has taken place during the harvesting process and this provides for a seed bed in some parts of the site. Further mechanical scarification will take place in autumn 2013 after the sensitive capercaillie lekking and breeding season. Not every year is a good seed year for Scots pine so there might not be an immediate response. Scots pine thickets can be very thick and would provide good cover for capercaillie, but in the long term are likely to thin out again as the pines grow. Regeneration is likely to provide close cover for about 20 years from the point of establishment, after which time the natural death of lower branches may reduce the effectiveness of the screen. Monitoring and adaptive management will determine whether the effectiveness of the screen is reducing through time and further scarification will be carried out in conjunction with silvicultural operations if required. The existing regeneration demonstrates that fencing would not be needed.

### **Planting**

Suitable species include juniper and holly. All are native in Badenoch and Strathspey. Holly is very palatable when it is young and will be preferentially browsed by deer. Individual protection by tree guards will be required to establish this species. Species which would be likely to grow, and which would visually and biologically enrich the wood, but which would be less useful for screening, especially in winter, include aspen, birch, willow and rowan. Other species such as blackthorn, hazel, and yew were considered, but rejected as unlikely to thrive at Boat of Garten Wood, as they prefer situations with a mineral soil and which are less acidic. Only native species will be used, to benefit the pine woodland habitat and to avoid introducing species which are invasive and could cause woodland management problems in the long term. Non-native species were also unpopular at the community meetings.

Juniper and holly will be planted, particularly alongside path 14 where the provision of light in the stand is more difficult and the use of shade tolerant species preferred. These species will create interest for walkers by increasing variety of the appearance of the wood, so adding value to the experience of walking on the paths.

### **Delivery**

This work is considered necessary by the Estate and Agencies not only in mitigation against any increase in housing at Boat of Garten but to address current recreational and silvicultural planning issues to protect the natural heritage interest whilst allowing continuation of timber production and employment and maintaining recreational access to the woodland.

As a result of work already completed the Estate has legal obligation to restock the select felled areas under Felling Licence and Dedication permissions. This will be achieved by encouraging natural regeneration of Scots pine by increasing light levels through select felling and scarification of the ground surface to provide an adequate seed bed. It has undertaken to supplement this with group planting of 1,500 individually protected trees of holly and juniper which will be planted in early March 2013 in areas agreed with the Agencies to provide screening in sections of the woodland where shade tolerant species are required due to stand structure.

The Estate will maintain these areas to ensure establishment.

### **Conclusions**

The main method of screening will be natural regeneration of Scots pine. This will be supplemented by planting with juniper and holly.

**Measure 3b: Prior to any new housing being occupied, install temporary screening (eg hessian) into areas necessary to deliver an effective screen before vegetation grows sufficiently.**

#### **Overall outcomes this will achieve / help to achieve:**

- No increase in disturbance (especially visual disturbance) to capercaillie from an increase in people using existing paths.

Will also help to deliver:

- No increase in disturbance to capercaillie by dogs ranging off-paths in the sensitive parts of the woods.
- No increase in disturbance to capercaillie by people off-paths in the sensitive parts of the woods.
- No new informal 'desire line' paths in the woods.

#### **What work will be done to deliver this measure, ensuring effective delivery of the outcomes**

Temporary screens will be created using a variety of methods, as appropriate, in different parts of the wood as described below. The screens will be different length in different places, depending on the topography and existing cover. Screens will not need to be continuous and this variety will look better than long stretches of one type of screen. Screens will not normally be right next to the path, but set back into the wood by 10 – 50 m in a staggered fashion, to avoid creating a tunnel like effect. The priority locations for screening are the paths next to high or medium brood quality habitat, and the areas where lekking birds have been seen. In these situations, reducing disturbance from people and dogs on paths could significantly improve habitat quality and availability for capercaillie.

In some places, the path has a break of slope above it and this break is an appropriate place to put the screening.

There are a number of ways of achieving temporary screening. See below for the advantages and disadvantages of each. At the drop-in session, the Boat of Garten community gave a strong view against hessian fences, but the alternatives may be no more acceptable to the community. An adaptive management approach will be taken towards temporary screening, so that the better established the vegetation screen at the time any houses are occupied, the less temporary screening will be required. This will be agreed with CNPA and SNH prior to the first houses being occupied and could include a phased element, depending on the phasing of the housing. For example, if ten houses would be occupied by 2015 but another twenty not occupied until 2020, the temporary screening could also be phased because the impacts would be less from the occupants of ten houses, and it is reasonable to assume that the vegetation screening would grow higher before 2020. The baseline temporary screening described below is based on the existing height of the vegetation. This is considered the maximum amount of screening that will be needed. Changes from this baseline will be determined by site visit and will need to be agreed by both CNPA and SNH before the first houses are occupied.

When planning temporary screening, the level of the path compared to the adjacent woodland is important in deciding which areas most need to be screened. Some areas are already screened by existing vegetation, by soil mounds or the topography and these do not require temporary screens.

It is important that the screens do not block harvesting racks as these are used as flight lines by Capercaillie (Capercaillie Project Officer 12/01/13)

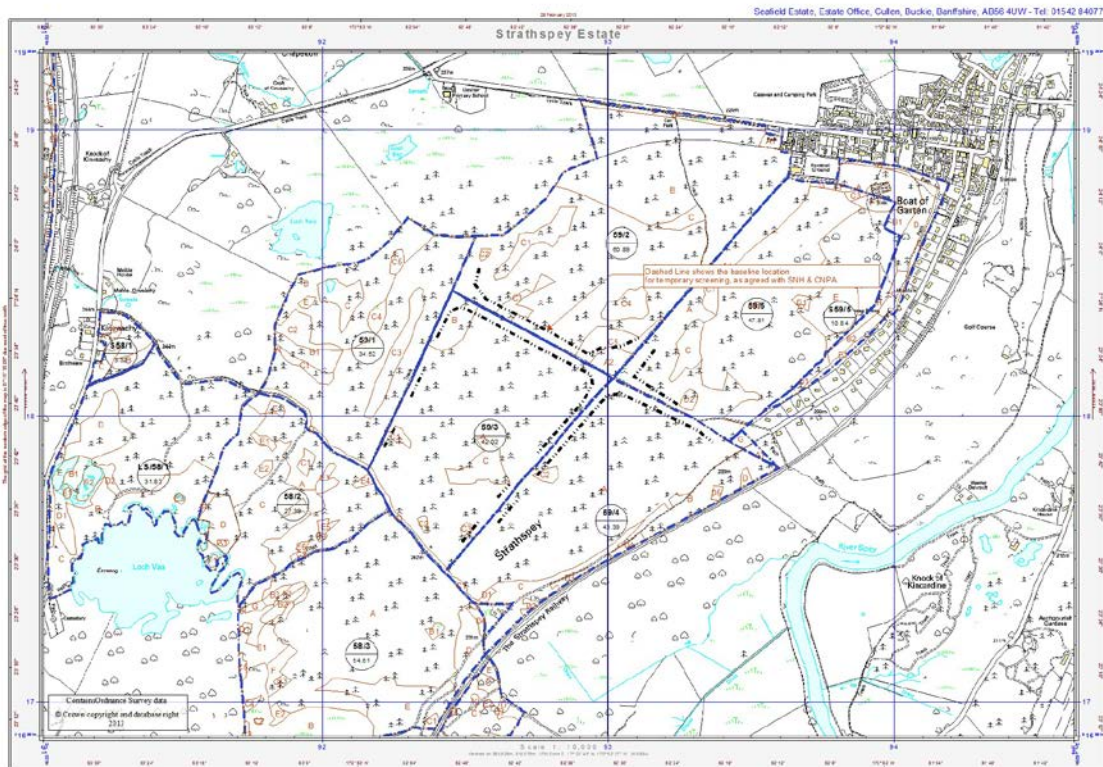
The map below shows the initial proposal for targeted temporary screening effort, based on capercaillie use of the wood and existing screening. This has been agreed with SNH, CNPA and the Capercaillie Project Officer. Temporary screening will be installed in the locations identified; the exact type and amount in each location to be agreed with SNH and CNPA prior to the first houses being occupied.

It is clearly necessary to plan for temporary screening and the most sensitive sites have been identified in conjunction with the Agencies. Because of its high cost, possible limited durability of some methods, and negative reaction from the community, temporary screening should not be installed until it is necessary. A mix of different types of temporary screening will be used subject to agreement with Agencies and taking account of site features.

The principle for adaptive management in this case is to provide for the maximum screening or worst case scenario at planning but then agree to reduce following monitoring of site conditions as they develop over time.

The need for temporary screening will be discussed and agreed with agencies to enable the installation of a suitable length and type of screen before occupancy of any houses in the development site. The need for screening will take account of the development of the vegetative screens outlined in section 3a.

Preferentially, low maintenance screens such as mounds, brash bales or root windrows will be used as, being semi-permanent, they require less maintenance and monitoring and effectiveness is less likely to fail between monitoring visits than if hessian screening were to be used.



## **Mounding**

Soil from the development site will be used to create mounds high enough to screen the woodland. This method provides a good seed bed for Scots pine regeneration and will be an effective long term screen with low maintenance. Some existing vegetation can be recovered to surface any mounds created but in parts it could take the vegetation some time to re-establish. While it lasts, bare soil can provide a conservation benefit for some species, for example for invertebrates, and dust bathing for capercaillie.

## **Temporary screening - Hessian fencing**

Hessian fences will be stock or deer fence height, depending on the topography. It will not be a continuous length, and will be broken up by staggering lengths of fence, or by planting/scarified areas. This will allow access for those who require it, i.e., to retrieve a dog. The top strand supporting the hessian will be rope or the supporting fence posts will be closer, to allow the net to be stapled to the posts. Capercaillie collisions happen because they don't see traditional fences until too late. The Capercaillie Project Officer has recommended any such fence be constructed without the use of a top wire.

In contrast to screening using vegetation, hessian screening was supported outright by just 23% of people at the drop-in session, and another 21% indicated they might support it. 48% said that they definitely would not support this proposal.

In order to ensure that the community and the wider general public fully appreciate the purpose of the screening, an explanation of the purpose will be included in the information pack and in the Ranger information provided through the Ranger blog. Information on this will be included in the Community Newsletter, as it may have a wider readership than the blog.



The screen will be set back off the path to avoid creating a 'tunnel effect' for walkers, i.e., 10 – 40m back from the path. Snow is likely to damage the hessian every winter. Hessian will be vulnerable to wilful fire raising. It will need to be regularly checked for damage and replaced when required. The fence may need to be replaced several times until vegetation has grown to create an effective screen. If the vegetation screens grow well, less hessian fence will be needed by the time any housing was nearing completion.

### **Barrier netting fencing**

Orange or black plastic barrier netting has been used to mark many existing wire fences in woods containing capercaillie, to reduce the chance of capercaillie colliding with the fences. This will be used for screening, without using wire, at Boat of Garten Wood. Black plastic will be used in preference to orange as this is less visually intrusive. It will be placed at least 10+ metres into the wood to reduce the visual impact to people on the paths and is a viable and less management intensive alternative to hessian fencing.

### **Dead wood**

Normal silvicultural thinning has taken place during winter 2012/13 and where practical some brash was retained by asking the harvester operator not to process or cut up the crowns of felled trees. Where feasible, this was moved to form a barrier/screen along the edge of the regeneration zone and/or along the internal harvesting racks. However, the trees at Boat of Garten wood do not have much branch on the stems and the crowns are small, so only a limited amount of brash has been produced.

A limited number of trees throughout the crop have been pushed over by the harvester to provide cover/gritting opportunities for capercaillie, in locations where they are not subject to disturbance.

The root plates of trees removed from the footprint of the development site will be used to form screens. This is an alternative to the use of brash bales and is generally similar in visual appearance. Using root plates or brash from Boat wood has the advantage that there are no biosecurity issues, i.e., there is no danger of introducing a disease or pathogens from other woodlands.

### **Brash bales**

Brash is baled for sale as wood fuel. Brash bales are the size of large straw bales and will be used for screening. They blend into the background of the wood so will limit visual impact. They degrade naturally, so they will not need to be removed. They create a habitat for fungi and invertebrates. Capercaillie are not likely to fly into them as they form a solid barrier. It is important to use bales from a local source to avoid importing any pathogens.

## **Arrangements for monitoring & maintenance**

Preferentially, low maintenance screens such as mounds, brash bales or root windrows will be used as, being semi-permanent, they require less maintenance and monitoring and effectiveness is less likely to fail between monitoring visits than if hessian screening were to be used. If hessian screens or barrier netting are used these will be monitored in March, May, August and December to ensure the screens are effective during the most sensitive

period for Capercaillie.

Passive ongoing monitoring will be achieved by feedback from the ranger during their contract period which coincides with the most sensitive period for Capercaillie. Screens other than hessian or barrier netting will be monitored in February annually to ensure any remedial work can be carried out before the breeding season, in consultation with CNPA.

Responsibility for this will lie with the developer in agreement with the Estate.

**Arrangements for reviewing effectiveness, and for adaptive management if necessary**

Adaptive management measures will be maintained to ensure the vegetation and temporary screening is effective. This will be the responsibility of the Estate, with agreement from CNPA and SNH.

**Measure 4: Limit construction access to the development site, and retain a screen of trees around the site.**

**Overall outcome this will achieve / help to achieve:**

- No increase in disturbance of capercaillie arising from construction.

**What work will be done to deliver this measure, ensuring effective delivery of the outcome**

Prior to the commencement of construction, 2m high HERAS fencing with barrier netting of Netlon TDP FenceNet will be erected around the development site. No tree felling or construction activity will be permitted outwith the fenced area.

The obligation will be placed on the developer and contractor under (a) the provisions of contract (b) CDM regulations requiring that the construction site will be securely fenced to prevent unauthorised access by members of the public (c) Conditions attached to any planning permission.

**Arrangements for monitoring & maintenance**

Monitoring will be the responsibility of

- a) The CDM co-coordinator, required under CDM regulation and employed by the developer / contractor
- b) CDM inspectorate
- c) CNPA enforcement officer

**Arrangements for reviewing effectiveness, and for adaptive management if necessary**

The effectiveness of the above will be assessed at monthly site meetings with the project manager and embodied in the minutes thereof.

**Measure 5: Double fencing any new development within the woodland, and providing a single direct access to the woods at the east end of the development.**

**Overall outcome this will achieve / help to achieve:**

- No new informal 'desire line' paths in the woods.

**What work will be done to deliver this measure, ensuring effective delivery of the outcome**

A 2m high vertical closed boarded fence will be erected on the East, West and South boundaries of the development prior to the occupation of any houses in these phases. The provision of this measure will be the responsibility of the developer as detailed in the conditions attached to any planning permission to the effect that no openings or gates are permitted on plot boundaries. This will involve the removal of permitted developments rights by the CNPA. In order to ensure that householders are sufficiently aware of the restrictions, it will also be incorporated into the title deeds of each property. A path will be formed from the southern edge of the development to connect with the existing path to the south east, away from more sensitive areas to the West.

**Arrangements for monitoring & maintenance**

A factoring agreement will be in place prior to the occupation of any house to ensure proper planned maintenance of all common areas. This will be put in place by the developer and require an inspection of boundary fences, coincident with planting maintenance schedules. To ensure that no gates have been formed.

**Arrangements for reviewing effectiveness, and for adaptive management if necessary**

Under the terms of condition attached to any planning permission, the CNPA will be empowered to take enforcement action against anyone breaching the conditions requiring that the fences are to remain imperforate or forming gates without planning permission. It is envisaged that the CNPA will arrange regular inspections by its enforcements officers. Similarly a burden will be incorporated in the title deeds of each property forbidding the formation of any openings in the perimeter fence. This will ensure that any subsequent purchasers are aware of the restriction.

**Measure 6: Promoting, improving and/or developing alternative off-lead dog walking areas and routes close to the village.**

**Overall outcome this will achieve / help to achieve:**

- No increase in disturbance to capercaillie by dogs ranging off-paths in the sensitive parts of the woods at the sensitive times of year.

**What work will be done to deliver this measure, ensuring effective delivery of the outcome**

The rationale behind this measure is that if people are being asked to keep dogs on the lead within the wood during capercaillie breeding season, they are more likely to respect this if they have high quality alternative walks that meet their needs.

For this reason promoting, improving and developing alternative, off lead, dog walking areas will help to reduce disturbance from existing levels of recreational use, in addition to being a requirement of development. The requirement has been to find routes or places that are available all year round and where off lead dog walking can be promoted.

The alternatives have been discussed with the Community during the consultation meeting held on 11 January 2012. The points brought out from the consultation inform the rationale behind the structure of any alternative routes to be promoted.

1. There was no overall preference for a single route, although circular routes in the north and north east corners of the woods (closest to the bulk of population) appeared the most popular.
2. The most popular places for walking dogs aside from Boat woods were the Bonfire Field, Garten woods paths in Abernethy, and the Salmon Trail. Loch Vaa was also identified. A significant factor which would make the Salmon Trail more attractive to dog walkers was separation from livestock as a bull and cow and calves are run in open fields at times throughout the year.

The use of the woodland by dog walkers is long established and encouraging changes in behaviour of current users is recognised as being challenging (*People and Dogs in the Outdoors – Jenkinson 2011*). The modification of behaviour of existing users could be considered more important than the impact of additional users resident in any development. The information provided to residents of the development regarding mitigation of off lead dog walking as part of a resident's pack is direct and targeted but the impact could be lost if the new residents perceive that they are being asked to comply to a degree that is being ignored by existing users.

The behaviour of the dog walking public is discussed in "People and Dogs in the Outdoors – Research Report for Cairngorms National Park Authority – Jenkinson 2011". The basis for these proposals is section 7.3 Zoning. The report notes that common factors for success include: -

- ensuring a sufficient range of off lead opportunities are always available, and that dog owners still feel welcome
- orientation information on arrival, backed up by clear credible signage of zone boundaries
- signage that varies to reflect seasonal sensitivities for wildlife and changing locations of livestock
- working with dog owners as part of the implementation process

While the development can address specific issues relating to the residents of any new houses it is considered incumbent on CNPA as access authority to address issues relating to existing use. The following will be delivered as per Measure 1. The rationale for the zoning is described below.

### **Short Distance Walk Provision**

The results of the Community consultation clearly, and unsurprisingly, show a preference for circular routes in the north and northeast of the woods, closer to the bulk of the population. In common with other walking opportunities, the further residents have to travel to access an off lead area the less likelihood there is for support and ongoing use of an area.

The woodland around the Fairy Hill is seldom used by capercaillie. The existing level of usage would be almost impossible to significantly alter and it is therefore proposed to promote this zone as a short distance off lead walking area and to build on this through information provision by signage and the ranger service. Advisory threshold signage and boundary signs where paths exit into the sensitive areas will be introduced to inform users and the area overseen by the ranger to promote compliance and positive behaviour.

The Ranger will put particular effort into careful communication so that people understand the subtle difference as to why off lead walking is acceptable in the Fairy Hill area but not elsewhere in the woods.

This is not the only short walk provision as residents also have access to the Milton Loch walks and the use of the Bonfire Field when stock are absent.

### **Medium Distance Walks**

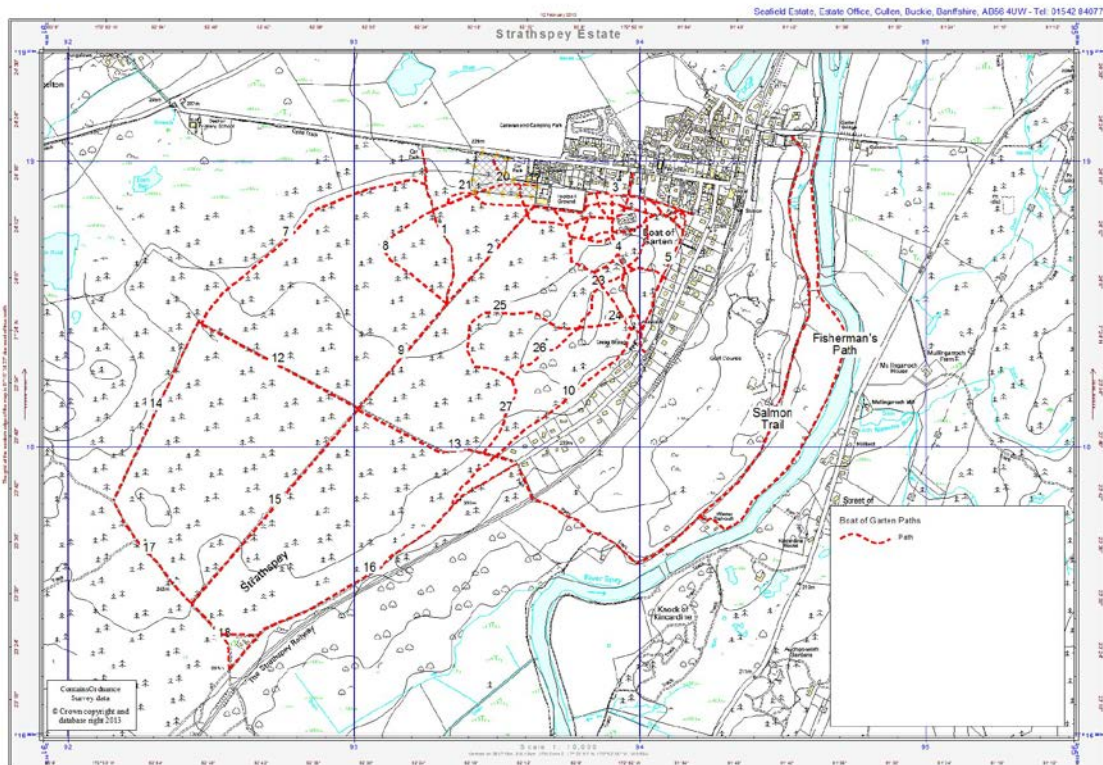
The Salmon trail is an existing route which is currently promoted through publication of the Boat of Garten walks leaflet which is supported by CNPA. This route is considered acceptable by local users although the wish for separation from livestock was strongly expressed. Subjective comments on the fact that users experience the need to have dogs under close control when passing livestock are undoubtedly valid but there has been no objective assessment of the route in terms of the periods when livestock are present or whether this affects the whole route or particular sections or of the impact of any deterrent effect of stock presence on users. The fact that the route continues to be promoted in its current form suggests that it is adequate for many users. However, it is clear from the community consultation that most dog walkers consider it unsuitable for off-lead dog walking at present. Improvements to make it more suitable, if carried out, would take the form of additional fencing, but this is not practical for land management reasons and will not be taken forward.

There is an existing “fisherman’s path” along the banks of the Spey and this will be fenced to separate the riparian zone and path from the main grazed area in the agricultural fields. Work will take place to upgrade the existing boardwalk and small footbridge to improve accessibility onto the beaten sward path along the river.

Both fencing and the minor improvements to the path will be the responsibility of the Estate and will be undertaken in advance of the first house being occupied.

This path will link with the Salmon Trail near Kinchurdy road and will provide opportunities for circular walks along the Spey with access or return through the Salmon Trail or Kinchurdy Road and without need to enter the woodlands. The creation of this additional loop of path will significantly improve the resource for medium length walks away from the woodland while addressing the requirement for separation from stock, thereby making it suitable for promotion as an off-lead walking route.

The signage element of this measure and maintenance of the recreational infrastructure will be monitored and maintained by the methods described for measure 1, above, with the same lead roles. The Estate will be responsible for the maintenance of the fencing.



### Long Distance Walks

From discussion with CNPA and SNH it is accepted that the existing Speyside Way towards Aviemore currently provides sufficient opportunities for a long walk, will continue to be accessible and is managed and maintained by CNPA and Sustrans as part of the long distance route and national cycle networks. Signage on routes off the Speyside Way into the sensitive areas is recognised as being acceptable mitigation should users choose to leave the Way.

### Promotion of all three off-lead dog walking routes

In order for these alternative routes to successfully attract off-lead dog walkers away from the sensitive parts of the woods, they will be clearly and widely promoted as being the best places to walk dogs off-lead around Boat of Garten. This promotion will be done by CNPA through signage, information boards and the Ranger. Promotion of all three routes will take care to ensure that the best off-lead route is clearly highlighted, and to emphasise the need to keep dogs under close control or on a short lead if using adjacent and nearby routes where there are stock or capercaillie sensitivities.

### Arrangements for monitoring & maintenance

The signage element of this measure will be monitored and maintained by the methods described for measure 1, above, with the same lead roles. Responsibility for maintaining the Speyside Way rests with CNPA. Existing desire line paths within the woodland have proven robust surfaces and from historical evidence are unlikely to require maintenance. The "Fisherman's Path" is a similar beaten surface and, with the exception of identified sections of board walk, which are to be upgraded, has proven robust and suitable for the level of use. In all similar situations, minor desire line deviations may take place should short sections deteriorate and this is considered acceptable and normal. Monitoring of path condition will

be carried out by the Ranger and decisions taken on the need for intervention on a case by case basis should significant deterioration occur. As noted, the likelihood of this requirement is low. Fencing along the Spey will be maintained by the Estate.

**Arrangements for reviewing effectiveness, and for adaptive management if necessary**

The behavioural component of this measure will be reviewed and adapted by the methods described for measure 1, above, with the same lead roles.

Measure	Specific proposal	Delivery responsibility	Delivery timescale
<b>1. Requesting that people keep dogs on a lead on paths in the areas of medium and high brood habitat quality during the period 1st April – 15th August.</b>	Seasonal signage	CNPA	Current
	Interpretive signage	CNPA	Current
	Ranger	CNPA	Current
	Path Leaflet	CNPA	Current, to be reprinted as required
	Resident Information Pack	Developer	Before occupation of first houses
<b>2. Requesting that people stay on paths in the areas of medium and high brood habitat quality during the period 1st April – 15th August.</b>	Seasonal signage	CNPA	Current
	Interpretive signage	CNPA	Current
	Ranger	CNPA	Current
	Path Leaflet	CNPA	Current, to be reprinted as required
	Resident Information Pack	Developer	Before occupation of first houses
<b>3a. Develop native vegetation screening alongside paths in the areas of high brood habitat quality.</b>	Select felling	Estate	Complete
	Scarification	Estate	Fully completed by spring 2014
	Temporary Screening	Developer	Adaptive management before occupation of first houses
	Planting	Estate	Spring 2013

<b>3b: Prior to any new housing being occupied, install temporary screening (eg hessian) into areas necessary to deliver an effective screen before vegetation grows sufficiently.</b>	Temporary Screening	Developer	Adaptive management before occupation of first houses
<b>4: Limit construction access to the development site, and retain a screen of trees around the site.</b>	2 metre high fencing around site perimeter with net screen.	Developer	Prior to commencement of construction
<b>5: Double fencing any new development within the woodland, and providing a single direct access to the woods at the east end of the development.</b>	A 2m high vertical closed boarded fence will be erected on the East, West and South boundaries of the development	Developer	Prior to the occupation of the first houses
<b>6: Promoting, improving and/or developing alternative off-lead dog walking areas and routes close to the village.</b>	Short Distance Walk Provision	CNPA/Estate	Prior to the occupation of the first houses
	Medium Distance Walk Provision	CNPA/Estate	Prior to the occupation of the first houses
	Long Distance Walk Provision	CNPA/SNH	Current



Annex 1

