

UPLANDS

East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership

Innovative moorland collaboration set to improve diversity in the uplands

In a unique partnership the Mar Lodge, Mar, Invercauld, Balmoral, Glenavon and Glenlivet estates are working with the Cairngorms National Park Authority to collaborate on a landscape scale.

This innovative approach is seeking to demonstrate that it's possible to combine delivery of public and private interest outcomes and achieve the successful integration of grouse moors and sporting management with other land uses.

A number of projects are being focused on:

- *wader monitoring* (with BTO) - using nest loggers to get an estimate of productivity in a Cairngorms grouse moor landscape
- *peatland restoration* - using Peatland Action funds, planning major restoration work on all six estates
- *woodland expansion* - using opportunity mapping, seeking to increase the woodland cover over the six estates from the current average of 14%
- *raptor conservation* - auditing the current raptor population with the long term aim of increasing populations
- *muirburn mapping* - auditing the current 'no burn', 'sensitive burn' and 'regular burn' areas to give a clearer picture of what is happening now and potentially looking to increase the 'no burn' area
- *mountain hare management* - using SNH/JHI methodology, to get a better picture of hare populations on the six estates and develop management plans based on this information
- *hill track mapping* - to map current hill tracks and ensure early discussions on any future proposals



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- *Deeside capercaillie conservation* - to consider opportunities for habitat improvement on the four Deeside estates where capercaillie are present and, in the long term, to consider population reinforcement
- *people engagement* - to develop an interpretation facility in Ballter and to consider options for a 'raptorwatch' project, eg beaming in pictures from a raptor nest or deer carcass