

Cairngorms Capercaillie Project

Project Board Meeting

Date & time: Wed 24 Apr, 2pm – 4pm

Venue: CNPA Office, Grantown-on-Spey

Attendees: Will Anderson (Seafield Estate), Giles Brockman (SF/F&LS), George Campbell (RSPB), Andy Ford (CNPA), Debbie Greene (SNH), Pete Mayhew (CNPA & Chair), Martyn O'Reilly (Carrbridge Capercaillie Community Working Group), Carolyn Robertson (CNPA)

Meeting notes

1. Volunteer time is assigned a monetary value (set by the NLHF) in order to recognise financially the voluntary contribution people are making to the project, e.g. through lek surveys, attending working group meetings etc. Once monetised the value of volunteer time is used as match funding. This is standard practice and has always been part of the funding package for the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project.
2. Work to develop and test an app was discussed as a new edition to the Development Phase Project Plan. The RSPB will lead on creating the prototype for testing this summer. It will enable people to report capercaillie droppings, feathers and undertake rapid habitat assessments in the CNP to help inform capercaillie monitoring work from 2020 to 2028. All data will be protected once submitted.
3. The Development Phase Project Plan has been revised to remove safe spaces (refuges) as a discrete output. Advice related to disturbance (i.e. safe spaces related advice) will be integrated instead in to Habitat Plans as appropriate & in accordance with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.
4. The small grants scheme planned for the Delivery Phase will be developed & tested with land owners & managers during July & August. The scheme will help fund habitat creation & improvement for capercaillie in the CNP where funding is otherwise unavailable; not viable, e.g. for smaller landowners; or additional funding is required.
5. The Long-term Survival Working Group are currently reviewing the project's communications related to predator management work in the Development and Delivery Phase to ensure it's clear and up to date.
6. The project's approach to genetic monitoring work is now focused on collecting capercaillie feathers within the CNP. Feathers are currently being collected by estate & agency staff and will be collected by volunteers supervised by the Carrbridge Capercaillie Community Ranger in order to trial volunteer involvement in the process. A tender will be issued in August to assess the genetic health of capercaillie populations in the CNP using the feathers collected.
7. Following an extended period of listening & learning in Carrbridge, Project Board agreed in principle to a revised approach to the project's activities in the village subject to feedback from the Carrbridge Capercaillie Community Working Group. It was highlighted that the Development Phase is designed to test ideas and approaches in order to inform and strengthen Delivery Phase work. It was acknowledged that Carrbridge residents and the Carrbridge Capercaillie Community Working Group had made a significant contribution to this process; helping the project to reflect and learn.
8. Martyn outlined the need to engage with key interest groups & audiences in Carrbridge and the need to focus on multiple benefits. Achieving multiple benefits is one of the four principles of a Woodlands for People & Wildlife Plan which is currently suggested as a way forward in Carrbridge.
9. Listening exercises are planned with Delivery Phase communities from August onwards. The focus will be listening to the community's initial thoughts and any issues related to working collaboratively with them in 2020 to develop localised Woodlands for People and Wildlife Plans. An external community development professional will be employed to convene and deliver all listening exercises.
10. Ideas related to visitors and primary schools have already been generated by the project's activities in Carrbridge and will also come from listening to Delivery Phase communities, e.g. by listening to local accommodation providers, wildlife tour guides, mountain bikers, land managers etc. The ideas related to visitors previously developed by partners still remain, but following guidance from the NLHF and learning to date in Carrbridge it's considered important to allow for ideas to generate organically from communities as far as possible.

Actions: 24 April 2019	Responsible	Deadline
Confirm options for potential underspend with the NLHF.	Carolyn & Andy	Complete
Reschedule next Project Board meeting.	Carolyn	Complete
Update the project's Partnership Agreement and circulate for approval.	Carolyn	31 May
Keep Project Board informed re plans for the NLHF's visit 5 June.	Andy	31 May
Include a step in the revised Project Plan to identify commonality and any contradictions within the ideas and issues shared by communities re their Woodlands for People & Wildlife Plans. (Scope to upscale where commonality exists, e.g. if more than one community identifies the same opportunity.)	Carolyn	Complete

Actions: 30 Jan 2019	Responsible	Status
Include the revised Project Plan in the next Highlight Report.	Carolyn	Complete
Update the Risk Register.	Carolyn	Complete
Circulate a copy of the next Progress Report submitted to the NLHF.	Carolyn	Complete

Actions: 3 Dec 2018	Responsible	Status
Liaise with FCS re their match funding for the project.	Carolyn	Complete