

CNAP strategy Group meeting agenda

29th March 2023

Online - 2:30pm-4:30pm

Attendees

Thomas, Andy F, Andy W, Sarah, Matthew, Peter, Richard, Anne, Josie, Ian

Agenda

1. Last meeting actions (See below)
2. CNAP 2024-30- update Matthew Hawkins
3. Beaver update- Sarah Henshall
4. Cairngorm's raptor project – Sarah Henshall
5. Actions and outcomes of Capercaillie action report – Sarah Henshall
6. Cairngorms Nature Festival – Josie Slade
7. Update on Heritage Horizons – Matthew Hawkins
8. AOB

Attached

- Notes from October meeting
- Notes from December meeting on CNAP 2024-30

1 Last meeting actions (See below)

AP	description	SG member	Completed
1	Distribute CNPA Nature team structure	SH	completed
2	Share site selection criteria for peatland action	SH	Will be done asap
3	Bring actions and outcomes of Capercaillie action report back to CNSG group	SH	Agenda item 5
4	Find a date in mid-December for CNAP 2024-2030 discussion	MH	Done
5	Agenda items for above discussion to be sent to Matthew	ALL	Done
6	Feedback on the proposals for the Big Weekend 2023 to be sent to Josie	All	closed
7	Hard copies of NPPP to Shaila, Anne, Karen	MH	done

Introductions for Peter Gilbert from RSPB

2 CNAP 2024-30- update Matthew Hawkins

The data that wildland has got could be added to CNI. There will be big questions for the group – eg - how the AP delivers for the SBS and NPPP on issues such as networks and 30x30 and which bits will have oversight of?

Much of what we are doing has been delivering these things but not labelled as such – we need to make sure this is counted.

3 Beaver update- Sarah Henshall

Beaver blethers – the informal engagement events is going well. Four events supported by NatureScot and the beaver trust, NFUS. Also, more formal focused discussions on land owners and estates. Catchment modelling was used to show the groups. 60 individuals came along, including land managers, school groups, wildlife tourism businesses and communities. To date most feedback is positive, but we have had a few worries. Often based upon misunderstanding to what will or won't happen. We have been able to reassure in most cases.

Johnathon Willet is now in post as the Beaver Officer. He is designing formal consultation process which will be done in the summer.

Catchment modelling will include areas outside the CNP. This will also include theoretical release sites. SEA for the Spey catchment is about to begin too. 5 land managers have expressed interest in being release sites in Badenoch. Application to NatureScot will be done in later summer for a licence. Hope to release in Autumn-winter 23/24. We will map areas where they will be beneficial and whether they may be a problem? This may prevent them becoming a polarising species. We shall model how the population will grow in 5-10 and more years and where they will disperse too. NS already have framework on management for problems. We recognise that there are real concerns as well as excitement. We will continue to offer support to land managers on resolving any issues arising.

The capacity for the population will be part of the application and an exit strategy if there is problems arising. Not necessarily the numbers but the location and the impacts they have may be more important. Perhaps we can summarise what the management options are for problems. Website resources do this, including video.

AP1 - Jonathan will come along in a future meeting to bring updates on developments.

A way to avoid conflict with farmers is to compensate for the loss of land from flooding. This is something we are looking at but may be included with the new agri' – bill and farm payments should include this.

Focus will be how do we live alongside beavers not how do we remove them if they get to become a problem. If we do this well then it may mean other reintroductions easier – eg wildcat and lynx.w

4 Cairngorm's raptor project – Sarah Henshall

Short update – Post has been advertised, interviewing in April. NPPP Action is to eliminate persecution in the park.

Modelling work on eagle habitat occupancy potential has been commissioned. Will develop this for hen harrier and peregrine next year. This will allow us to target action and resources. Comms and engagement work will commence to support the evidence collection and highlight the issues to the wider community.

CNPA should remember to give credit to organisations that do have raptors on the ground. We also need to make sure the strategies are all inclusive. This can be done through sharing knowledge and comms can celebrate good news stories.

The project will start when the new officer is in post. Three years from that date. Some work has already started however. We will look at ways to maintain the momentum beyond the three years when the project is running. Legacy planning is part of the project. The data is very valuable, and we want to ensure it is made available widely.

5 Actions and outcomes of Capercaillie action report – Andy Ford

Caper and raptors were the only two red actions in the NPPP carrying forward. Still waiting for SG response to report.

Caper project is planning legacy – especially recreation and disturbance – eg the “lek it be” campaign (digital and press aimed specifically at bird watchers). Video will be put onto YouTube and promoted via social media. Any branding might usefully include land managers as well as organisations.

6 Cairngorms Nature Festival – Josie Slade

A great deal happening at the moment. Now a bigger event – 12-21st May – Not the big weekend anymore but the Nature Festival. We are going into schools via the art competition etc. 80 events across the period. Engaging new groups, eg refugees.

Radio take over this year- comms will be saturated on radio including digital stations. MFR competition. This is experimental and will be evaluated carefully afterwards. Also, key print press advertising as a door flyer for CNP residents. Three interns brought in to help deliver the festival. They will manage data and create content for the festival and afterwards.

New website for the festival created. Launch publicly first week in April. More events are being added.

AP2 - Josie to email links to the new website and other information.

7 Update on Heritage Horizons – Matthew Hawkins

Approaching critical stages with interim review meeting April 20/21st. Big focus on learning and engagement during the development stage.

8 AOB

Ministerial appointment will be made within a few weeks – we will then look for a new chair of the group at that point.

Andy will bow out of the group, but his input and chairing has been very much appreciated and we thank him most gratefully for his great efforts.

Next meeting Wednesday 6th September

Action Point summary
AP1 - Jonathan Willet will come along in a future meeting to bring updates on beaver project.
AP2 - Josie to email links to the new website and other information.