
CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

Title: **Paper 6 - Guidance for Land managers on Managing Recreation in Capercaillie areas**

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Purpose **This paper seeks the initial views of the Forum on the elements to be included in the guidance to assist land managers address disturbance when managing recreational access in capercaillie areas.**

Advice Sought

Views are sought from the Forum on:

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- a. on the main elements of the guidance; and
- b. the range of skills and knowledge required to be represented on the Steering Group.

Background

1. At the Local Outdoor Access Forum meeting in February, members were able to hear at first hand the potential issues concerning impacts on capercaillie populations: one of which was from recreational activity. The meeting provided the opportunity for members to question a panel of experts on the scale of the problem and how effective existing measures had been in preventing disturbance.
2. Staff within CNPA have been considering how best to take the issues that have been raised forward, both at that meeting and which have come to the fore at other meetings such as the Capercaillie Conference held in November last year.
3. It is now proposed to develop guidance on this subject. The guidance will be prepared to assist land managers manage the issues they face with recreational disturbance and will include the role of CNPA and the assistance that we can provide. The Forum's view are sought on the proposed main elements that should be included in the guidance which are outlined below;
 - A description of the importance of the Cairngorms National Park for capercaillie;
 - Summary of research on disturbance to capercaillie, and it's relevance within the National Park
 - Main messages to include:
 - i. Benefits of planning and proactive recreational management i.e. attracting people to robust sites, positive management for quiet zones, manage people away from most sensitive sites;;

- ii. Integrating capercaillie management with other aspects of land management;
 - iii. Sign guidance, including model formats and preferred wording;
 - iv. Working with local communities and repeat users of sites.
- The role of the CNPA.

Next Steps

4. Once the elements that need to be included are agreed a Steering Group will be created to help take this work forward. It will be important to ensure that the Steering Group is comprised of individuals who, collectively, can call on knowledge in land management, recreation and conservation science. Views are sought from the Forum on whether any additional skills or knowledge are required to be represented on the Steering Group.
5. The CNPA Board will provide input into the process at their meeting on 30 October. The emerging guidance will then go through an inclusive consultation process and be taken back to the Forum for advice before final decision by the CNPA Board.

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