

CNAP strategy Group meeting agenda

October 13th 2022

On line

Apologies: Jem Roberts, Simon Blackett, Doug Macadam, Clair Smith and Andy Ford

Agenda

1. Nature Team staff changes and recruitment – Sarah Henshall
2. Monitoring report – Matthew Hawkins
3. CNAP – 2024-30- Matthew Hawkins
4. Cairngorms raptor project – Sarah Henshall
5. Beaver update- Sarah Henshall
6. Update on Heritage Horizons – Matthew Hawkins
7. Big Weekend- headlines from 2022 and evolution – Josie Slade
8. AOB – CN branding,

Attached

- Raptor paper
- Monitoring report
- CNAP 2024-30 draft programme

Notes from the meeting

There are no notes from the last meeting – there was a site visit and open discussion afterwards.

1 The new team structure was presented by Sarah.

AP 1 - Sarah to share the Nature team structure diagram

2 Monitoring report

Comment on Peatland – good to see it progressing but targeted easy sites first which will make the least contribution. Worst area have not yet been targeted. Are we wasting our resources?

Peatland team has mapped the worst areas and is seeking to target these particular area.

Inaccessibility can be an issue and many of the worst areas are the least accessible. Larger moderate area can be a good preventative measure to makes sure they don't get worse.

AP2 – SH to share criteria for site selection and condition mapping

Recognised that Peatland team is doing a great job

Capercaillie - Work is continuing following the scientific report and this is being reviewed alongside the new census. New comm's will be coming once we have a response.

Discussion on capercaillie conservation – need for an evidenced based approach

AP3 – SH take caper back to the group to discuss outcomes of current thinking

3 CNAP 2024-30

It was decided to have a meeting in December to discuss this in more detail.

The reported proposal from SLC to limit land holders to 3000ha is something we will need so consider. Is this a possible threat to landscape scale projects – if the ownership is broken up? Can we bring in senior staff (Andy and Grant, and board members) in the discussion to address some of these more strategic issues.

AP4 – MH to find a date

AP 5 – All to submit items for discussion to be submitted to MH

4 Raptor Project

CNAP has funding fulltime project officer for three years to advance raptor work. A target in CNAP for raptors and this staff resource is the only way to achieve positive outcomes.

SLE will submit comments in due course but wondered why was it drawn up without input from land management sector? Advisory group for project will be used and will include land managers and GWCT. This paper was to secure funding for the project officer. Important that co-design approach to include land managers.

Trust is an important component. Raptor persecution is sensitive and assumption is that estates in NP do obey the law. Need to move beyond that and assumption is that all are on the same side and want the same objective that will help build the trust we all want.

Focus should be on the birds not the people so that the politics does not get in the way. Data is essential and collecting habitat and bird data is needed for a baseline.

Opportunity for the CNPA to take a different way and take it forward. It is potentially exciting. Possibility to include a mediation aspect, as per the common ground process for deer. Must get over prejudice and agenda to work, with respect, on this issue together.

CNPA was encouraged to reach out to the south of Scotland golden eagle project – it has been good at building trust and is achieving good results. This includes the recruitment of the new officer, we could see what criteria they used.

Awareness as well as education in the paper would be good to include.

5 Beaver

Sarah introduced the paper approved by board in June re CNPAs role and approach. National Beaver strategy now published –and guidance is to follow. We will have a project officer in post this year.

There is a meeting in November for the beaver sub-group to discuss a timeline for activity to bring beaver back to park.

Applications in LLTNP and Glen Affric are also progressing and CNPA is linked to this.

Will there be a limit to beaver numbers? Likely that beavers will move out with the NP too and what responsibility does the CNPA have for this.

Deer and beaver can interact to limit tree growth. This needs to be considered.

Representation on beaver group needs to be considered carefully and needs to include all landowners within the park. Wider than SLE and FLS for example.

6 HH update

MH gave a brief update on the three conservation NBS projects and all is progressing well though timescales are tight.

7 Big Weekend

Josie Slade gave a brief review of big weekend this year with a slide presentation.

For 2023 it is proposed to have a 9 day celebration of CN – called Big Wild Week – more events evenly spread across the period.

Three sections: Launch weekend, Engagement campaign week and finale weekend.

Comments:

- Good to see the expectation management.
- Makes sure the spread of events is NP wide. Especially the flagship events. Hw to get people to stay in engaged. Many folk are visitors and so encourage them to take this home with them across the UK.
- Agree that effectiveness is limited because of smaller numbers especially on Deeside. So reducing overlapping events is a very good idea.
- Self-led activities is good and can be enhanced by various ranger services.
- Schools will help bring in families. Volunteer rangers can be especially important in liaising with communities.

AP 6– all to speak to Josie with thoughts and observations for the proposed structure of the big weekend.

8 AOB

Branding – CN website integrated into the CNPA website and will have its own sub-brand logo.

AP 7 MH to send Hard copies of NPPP to Shaila, Anne, Karen

AP summary

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