

# Cairngorms Capercaillie Project

## Operational Management Team - Meeting Notes

**Meeting date:** 28 September 2021, 14:00 - 15.30

**Attendees:** Carolyn Robertson (Project Manager, CNPA)  
Ewan Archer (Head Keeper, Seafield Estate)  
Jocasta Mann (Communications Officer, CNPA)  
Naomi Kaye (Project Co-ordinator, CNPA)  
Peter Ferguson (Biodiversity Manager, Rothiemurchus Estate)  
Ruari Watt (Highland Mountain Bike Development Coordinator, DMBinS)

**Apologies:** Andy Ford (Head of Conservation, CNPA)  
Anne Elliott (Area Officer, NatureScot)  
Issie Inglis (Carrbridge Capercaillie Group)  
Joan Cumming (North Region Environment Adviser, FLS)  
Keir Smith (Senior Operations Manager, Scottish Forestry)  
Mark Tate (CEO, Cairngorms Business Partnership)  
Neil Wilson (Badenoch and Strathspey Trail Association)  
Richard Gledson (Factor, Balmoral Estate)  
Uwe Stoneman (Senior Site Manager - Abernethy, RSPB)

This meeting was an open, informal discussion. This is a summary of the topics that arose and the discussion that followed.

### 1. Winter messaging about capercaillie

A discussion was had about the often overlooked impact of disturbance on capercaillie during the winter when the birds are working hard to conserve energy, and the opportunity to create a new infographic for use on social media about how we can all help to keep capercaillie 'winter fit'. The project's infographic about disturbance during the breeding season was shared over 130 times on social media and reached around 30,000 people indicating an appetite for this type of content.

### 2. Communications

Jocasta shared an update on the latest comms activities. A discussion was had about the protocol for partners endorsing project activities which they are not directly involved in, i.e. activities led by other partners. As project activities reach key milestones, all partners are invited to provide endorsement if they wish, regardless of their involvement.

### 3. Mountain biking community (Trail Feathers project)

Ruari shared an update on the Trail Feathers project including the latest action to develop a strategic plan for mountain biking in Strathspey to help deliver a net gain for the environment and capercaillie. Ruari invited Ewan and Peter to meet with the Trail Feathers group to help the group develop their thinking and understanding regarding land management in capercaillie areas.