

## **Carrbridge Capercaillie Group meeting notes**

### **Monday 5 June 2023**

#### **Action Plan: 2022 - 2023**

The Action Plan for 2022 - 2023 was approved by the Project Board on 23 June 2022. The Cairngorms Capercaillie Project Team are supporting the Carrbridge Capercaillie Group to deliver the Action Plan. The group met with members of the Project Team to review the progress made against actions and identify next steps.

**Action from the Action Plan 22/23:** Update the Carrbridge Paths leaflet to include reference to the seasonal signage and encourage responsible access in capercaillie areas around the village.

**Update:** The reprint of the Carrbridge leaflet is now expected to be completed during summer 2023.

**Action:** Keep in touch with the Park Authority Recreation and Access Team regards content and timescales for the reprint.

**Action from the Action Plan 22/23:** Purchase and install an all-weather Carrbridge Nature noticeboard to provide a central hub for sharing information about nature around the village.

**Update:** The noticeboard will be installed in early June

**ACTION:** Invite Carrbridge Primary, Seafield Estate, Carrbridge Nature, the Woodland Trust and the Community Orchard project to contribute content to the noticeboard

**Action from the Action Plan 22/23:** Scope the potential for new capercaillie related experiences for visitors and residents.

**Update:** Landmark's new Ancient Forest Adventure, which includes a capercaillie exhibit, is still in development. The capercaillie station is due to be completed this summer, with the whole trail to open later in the year.

**ACTION:** Keep in touch with Landmark re progress and their communications plans for the opening of the exhibit.

**Action from the Action Plan 22/23:** Commission the production of small capercaillie keepsakes for visitors and residents and invest the donations received into wildlife projects around Carrbridge.

**Update:** Items have been ordered and delivered.

**Action from the Action Plan 22/23:** Commission the production of a carved capercaillie to include in the Carvings Trail around Carrbridge.

**Update:** A drop-in event was held on 20 April for residents to find out more about the proposed carvings and the new site. Overall, the response was positive, no specific objections were received and the landowner, The Highland Council, are happy for the plans to proceed. The carvings will be ready for installation in September.

**ACTION:** Arrange site visit to confirm specification for the carvings, base preparations and liaise with Sam Bowsher.

**Actions from the Action Plan 22/23:** Work with the Park Authority Ranger Team and land managers to install seasonal signage around Carrbridge (developed and tested as part of the 2021 Action Plan) to promote responsible access and dog walking in capercaillie areas during the 2022 and 2023 breeding seasons.

**Update:** The seasonal signage has been re-installed. In response to feedback from the community last year, a new sign has been developed and installed to make it easier for dog walkers to know when they are leaving a sensitive area. Areas where dogs can be exercised off lead have also been highlighted using the Carrbridge News Facebook page. The group also supported the Lek it Be campaign to safeguard local lek sites during the breeding season.

**Action from the Action Plan 22/23:** Support more habitat creation and predator control for capercaillie on Seafield Estate.

**Update:** The group met with gamekeeper, David Clark, who provided an update on his work to improve habitat and reduce predator pressure for capercaillie on Seafield Estate.

**Action from the Action Plan 22/23:** Support the second phase of the pilot genetic lek survey aimed at developing a more accurate approach to estimating the size of local capercaillie populations using genetic material (droppings).

**Update:** This work is ongoing.

**Action from the Action Plan 22/23:** Commission a parasitology analysis of samples collected as part of the pilot genetic lek survey to check for potential causes of mortality.

**Update:** All the samples have been analysed and the final report is due in July.