



## Cairngorms Capercaillie Project Progress Report: 1 July – 30 September 2023

The information in this document is submitted and discussed as part of the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project's quarterly reporting to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

### Project summary

The Cairngorms Capercaillie Project is working to secure the long-term survival of capercaillie in the UK. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund until January 2024, the project's actions for capercaillie are being delivered across the Cairngorms National Park.

The project's key actions are:

- To enable communities to develop and deliver their own community-led actions for capercaillie;
- Raise awareness of the plight of capercaillie and how people can help;
- Research the genetic diversity of capercaillie in the Cairngorms National Park to help inform action;
- Improve and create more habitat for capercaillie and undertake predator control in key areas;
- Strengthen capercaillie monitoring to enable more informed decisions

The project is led by the Cairngorms National Park Authority and delivered in partnership with the Badenoch & Strathspey Trail Association, Balmoral Estate, Brook Forestry, Cairngorms Business Partnership, Carrbridge Capercaillie Group, Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland, Forestry and Land Scotland, Groves Forestry, Rothiemurchus Estate, RSPB, Scottish Forestry, NatureScot and Seafield and Strathspey Estates.

Project start date	22 July 2020
Grant expiry date	31 January 2024

## Progress towards the project's approved purposes

Green	Delivery is on track
Amber	Minor issues are impacting delivery
Red	Major issues are impacting delivery

## The project's three-step model for enabling community-led action for capercaillie

<b>Stage 1: Why?</b>	This stage is about defining the cause. Why does (or might) capercaillie conservation matter to the community? This is about identifying the key interest groups and leaders in the community and listening to them to identify the issues and themes at play related to capercaillie conservation.
<b>Stage 2: How?</b>	This stage is about identifying how the community feels about the cause by identifying the views held in the wider community, how widespread those views are and where the common ground is.
<b>Stage 3: What?</b>	This stage is about enabling the community to take action for the cause using the data and analysis from Stage 2 and helping the community plan how to monitor and evaluate the actions they deliver in response.

Approved purpose	Summary of progress	Status
Empower communities to help ensure the survival of capercaillie through community-led conservation, by implementing the Carrbridge Capercaillie Conservation Strategy and developing, agreeing and implementing action plans with additional communities.	<p><i>Carrbridge community – Stage 3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 22/23 Action Plan for delivering aspects of the Carrbridge Capercaillie Conservation Strategy was produced by the Carrbridge Capercaillie Group and approved by the Project Board in June 2022. It was shared with Carrbridge residents via the Carrbridge Capercaillie Newsletter. During the last quarter, the following actions have been delivered from the plan:</li> <li>Droppings collected from lek sites this spring have been analysed for internal parasites by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland as the UK capercaillie population becomes more vulnerable to the impacts of disease. A final report and recommendations for further research will be published by December.</li> <li>To celebrate the iconic capercaillie, raise awareness of the birds' plight and extend the popular Carvings Trail around Carrbridge, a new capercaillie carving has been produced by former Carve Carrbridge champion, Sam Bowsher. The community voiced support for the carving, no specific objections were made and the Highland Council (the landowner) is happy for the carving to be installed in Ellan Woods in the heart of the village this autumn.</li> <li>Visitors to Carrbridge have donated over £120 for capercaillie 'merchandise', including stickers and pin badges. The Carrbridge Capercaillie Group will give the funds to wildlife initiatives around the village.</li> <li>Work is ongoing to update the Community Paths leaflet to encourage more responsible access in capercaillie areas around the village.</li> <li>Work is also ongoing with the Landmark Forest Adventure Park to create a new capercaillie exhibit. Due to open early next year, the exhibit will enable the thousands of visitors to Landmark each year to learn more about the plight of capercaillie.</li> </ul>	

Approved purpose	Summary of progress	Status
	<p><i>Mountain biking community – Stage 3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Guided by the Mountain Biking Recreation Management Plan for Badenoch and Strathspey developed as part of the project, over 130 hectares of capercaillie habitat has been ‘unlocked’ with no net loss to trails, i.e., the habitat is now less disturbed by mountain biking activity.</li> <li>▪ A third Trail Academy has been successfully delivered for local riders aged 12 to 18 to learn about developing trails in a sustainable way through hands-on experience under the guidance of a professional trail builder. Two more Trail Academies are scheduled for the coming months in different locations in Badenoch and Strathspey.</li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work is ongoing to pilot trail development in the Feshiebridge area to help reduce disturbance by mountain biking activity in Forestry and Land Scotland’s Vulnerable Habitats. In the previous quarter, capacity issues within Forestry and Land Scotland were negatively impacting the work. Now, other issues are impacting delivery.</li> </ul> <p>With support from the project, the Badenoch and Strathspey Trail Association held a community consultation for Feshiebridge and Kincaig residents and sought input from the Community Council regards trail development in the Feshiebridge area. Whilst the response from residents and the Community Council was broadly positive, a long-standing issue was raised regarding car parking in the area. This was not raised previously as a major issue by Forestry and Land Scotland who have now stated that the development of trails cannot be supported unless the project finds a solution with a third-party to provide more car parking in the area. This is beyond the scope of the project. Other issues impacting this work include changing expectations from Forestry and Land Scotland regards what this work can potentially achieve.</p>	<div style="background-color: #92d050; height: 100%;"></div>
	<p><i>Dog walking community – Stage 3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A part-time paid intern has been recruited to enable the dog walking community in Badenoch and Strathspey to make progress towards their vision of a ‘Dog friendly Cairngorms where wildlife can thrive’.</li> <li>▪ A briefing has been produced that sets out how the project will scope and develop plans for accessible and welcoming dog friendly spaces, places and routes in Badenoch and Strathspey to reduce disturbance to capercaillie and help to develop a dog friendly Cairngorms where wildlife can thrive. The briefing is publicly available on the project website.</li> <li>▪ The main output from this work will be a ‘Pawprint system’ that provides information for dog walkers about the measures in place to enable responsible dog walking in the areas that the dog walking community values.</li> <li>▪ Work has begun with members of the local dog walking community to identify and map the spaces, places and routes in Badenoch and Strathspey that resident dog owners and professional dog walkers value most, and to screen those areas for capercaillie disturbance impacts.</li> <li>▪ Where disturbance to capercaillie is identified as an issue, the project will work with the dog walking community and respective land managers to scope measures to reduce disturbance to capercaillie. This will enable the first draft of a ‘Pawprint system’ to be developed.</li> </ul>	<div style="background-color: #92d050; height: 100%;"></div>

Approved purpose	Summary of progress	Status
	<p><i>Business community – Stage 3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Targeted and engaging online content for visitors has been produced which promotes behaviours that stand to benefit the area’s natural heritage, including capercaillie. Work is ongoing by the Business Engagement Officer, funded by the project, to encourage all 400+ Cairngorms Business Partnership (CBP) members to use the content.</li> <li>▪ Work is also ongoing to encourage and enable CBP members to promote the capercaillie-friendly gravel cycling routes to their guests. The routes have been developed through the Cairngorms Gravel project which is part of the Business Community Action Plan.</li> </ul>	
	<p><i>Visitor community – Stage 3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The vision for this work is to develop and maintain high quality, sustainable visitor experiences and thriving capercaillie areas in Abernethy National Nature Reserve, Glenmore Forest Park and Rothiemurchus. To help achieve this vision, visitor research and an audit of visitor experiences has been completed to enable a greater understanding of the motivations and values that are driving visitor behaviour across the three sites.</li> <li>▪ In response to the findings from the visitor research and visitor experience audit Rothiemurchus are working to improve their visitor journey, including through pre-arrival messaging and onsite interpretation.</li> </ul> <p>The RSPB have installed a new remote camera in Abernethy enabling people to watch capercaillie in real-time without disturbing them. Work is also underway to deliver a training programme to help Abernethy staff continue to develop and maintain high quality, sustainable visitor experiences and thriving capercaillie areas in Abernethy Forest.</p> <p>Forestry and Land Scotland have begun work to produce a film which promotes the special qualities of Glenmore Forest Park in a way that speaks directly to the motivations and values of visitors identified through the visitor research. Preparatory work is also underway in Glenmore Forest Park to re-direct visitors away from a trail that runs through a sensitive area for capercaillie and encourage use of an alternative trail.</p>	
	<p><i>Deeside communities – Stage 3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work is ongoing with Lateral North to create a virtual capercaillie lek experience in Balmoral Castle for residents and visitors to enjoy. The experience, which is due to open in November, aims to provide an immersive way for people to ‘see’ capercaillie lekking, raise awareness of the plight of capercaillie and tell the story of capercaillie in Deeside.</li> <li>▪ A trial has been completed which aimed to reduce disturbance to capercaillie on Balmoral by installing seasonal signage advising people to take an alternative route away from a sensitive area. Capercaillie activity in the area was surveyed before and after the signage was installed and a case study is currently being written summarising the findings, perceived impacts and recommendations.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work is ongoing with Deeside landmanagers to identify how to effectively assess habitat suitability for capercaillie in Deeside to help inform action in the area post project. A desk-based assessment has been discussed, but the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) used in Europe appears to offer more potential.  The HSI is an accepted and standardised index of abundance and habitat suitability for capercaillie used in central Europe, especially countries with a lack of capercaillie and habitat. It is used effectively in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France. Scope exists to adapt and trial the index in Deeside. However, land managers and scientists at a Capercaillie Workshop in August felt that the measure for evaluating capercaillie habitat developed by Robert Moss et al in the 1990s (peer reviewed and published in 1992) is still fit for purpose and recommended re-using / re-establishing this method.</li> <li>▪ Work is underway with Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland, the North East Adventure Tourism (NEAT) Project and the Aberdeenshire Trail Association to map all mountain biking trails in Deeside alongside capercaillie data to enable strategic planning in Deeside regards mountain biking activity. This will be facilitated by the NEAT Project once the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project comes to an end.</li> </ul>	
<p>Raise awareness and increase understanding of the challenges facing capercaillie through a variety of means including social media activities and events, a new online engagement platform, volunteer work, a public app, new resources for schools and genetics analysis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This quarter the website attracted 1,439 new visitors, the Facebook page now has 2,400 followers and the project featured in the following outlets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Guardian</li> <li>- Inverness Courier</li> <li>- The National</li> <li>- Nature World News</li> <li>- Northern Times</li> <li>- Press and Journal</li> <li>- Scotsman</li> <li>- Scottish Daily Mail</li> <li>- Scottish Field</li> <li>- Strathspey Herald</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ This quarter the following events and activities have taken place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Habitat improvement volunteer sessions</li> <li>- Lek It Be survey for birders, photographers and wildlife guides</li> <li>- Presentation at the Cairngorms Connect Conference about the project's work with the mountain biking community in Badenoch and Strathspey</li> <li>- Presentation at the Cairngorms Ranger Gathering about the Lek It Be campaign</li> <li>- Gathering for organisations, groups and volunteers involved in the project, to reflect on all that has been achieved over the last five years as we approach the end of the project</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ To date, volunteers aged 16 to 60+ have donated over 3,825 hours of unskilled, skilled and professional time to the project. This is an in-kind contribution of £85,375.</li> <li>▪ Work is ongoing led by RZSS to develop and test capercaillie related learning experiences for delivery at the Highland Wildlife Park post project.</li> <li>▪ The project led the development and delivery of a workshop for 60+ stakeholders to progress plans for the next phase of work for capercaillie from 2024 onwards, following direction from Scottish Government.</li> </ul>	

<p>Work with landowners to implement plans to improve and manage around 9,000 hectares of habitat across six estates for the benefit of capercaillie; enable landowners to play their part in capercaillie conservation via a third-party grant scheme targeting landholdings in capercaillie areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To avoid disturbance to capercaillie, limited habitat improvement work has been carried out this quarter. On Rothiemurchus and Seafield Estate, predator and deer control has taken place and in Tom an Uird Forest, enhanced deer control has also been carried out where appropriate.</li> <li>▪ In partnership with BASC, a grant has been secured for £52,405 from the Wildlife Habitat Charitable Trust to mark or remove over 10km of unmarked fencing within 1km of lek sites in Badenoch and Strathspey. The work is due to be complete before the project ends and will achieve a measurable reduction of known threats to capercaillie.</li> <li>▪ Members of the project team met with the Anagach Woods Trust to review ways to improve habitat for capercaillie in Anagach Woods.</li> </ul>
<p>Monitor, test and evaluate ideas throughout delivery, applying learning from the project to refine activities including habitat improvement work, survey techniques, promotional activities and the community action planning model.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work has begun to gather evaluation data and prepare a detailed final evaluation of the project which will be available in December.</li> </ul>
<p>Develop an innovative and replicable model for community-led species conservation that enables communities to successfully coexist with their natural heritage, sharing the project's findings internally and externally with UK organisations, and further afield, to create a legacy of learning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The model for community-led species conservation, developed through initial work in Carrbridge and subsequently modified through adaptive learning continues to be used effectively across the project, including, most recently, with the dog walking community.</li> <li>▪ Work by the James Hutton Institute is ongoing to document the Trail Feathers project on film, i.e. the project's work with the mountain biking community, to provide inspiration and key learnings in a way that can stimulate further debate and learning. An early 'teaser' of the film was shared at the Cairngorms Connect Conference.</li> </ul>

## Milestones

Green	Delivery is on track
Amber	Minor issues are impacting delivery
Red	Major issues are impacting delivery

	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Recruitment</b>				
Recruit Project Officer, Communications Officer, Project Administrator, Community Ranger and Capercaillie Advisory Assistant				
<b>Raising awareness</b>				
Develop a Comms Plan				
Launch a new project website				
Commission the design of capercaillie related resources for primary schools				
<b>Genetic research</b>				
Analyse DNA from capercaillie feathers collected from across the National Park				
Present the findings from the DNA analysis and use them to inform wider work as appropriate				
Trial a genetic lek survey				
<b>Habitat improvement</b>				
Improve over 300 hectares of habitat for capercaillie in Abernethy Forest				
Improve over 30 hectares of habitat for capercaillie in Baddengorm Woods				
Improve over 400 hectares of habitat for capercaillie on Balmoral Estate				
Improve over 300 hectares of habitat for capercaillie in Tom an Uird Forest				
Improve over 4,500 hectares of habitat for capercaillie on Rothiemurchus Estate (includes predator control)				
Improve over 3,000 hectares of habitat for capercaillie on Seafield and Strathspey Estates (includes predator control)				
Launch a grant scheme to enable further habitat improvement for capercaillie				

	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Capercaillie monitoring</b>				
Launch a public capercaillie monitoring app				
Conduct brood, lek and occupancy surveys				
<b>Project monitoring and evaluation</b>				
Develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework				
<b>Community-led action - Carrbridge community</b> (researching community views was completed in the previous phase)				
Plan actions				
Deliver actions				
<b>Community-led action – mountain biking community</b>				
Research community views				
Plan actions				
Deliver actions				
<b>Community-led action – visitor community</b>				
Research community views				
Plan actions				
Deliver actions				
<b>Community-led action – business community</b>				
Research community views				
Plan actions				
Deliver actions				
<b>Community-led action – Deeside communities</b>				
Research community views				
Plan actions				
Deliver actions				
<b>Community-led action – dog walking community</b>				
Research community views				
Plan actions				
Deliver actions				



## Risks and Issues

Risk / Issue	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation	Priority
1. Reduced capacity in the last months of the project due to staff leaving fixed-term posts early to secure future employment.	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing conversations with project staff to ensure early notice of intentions / plans to leave their posts.</li> <li>Scope to change existing part-time contracts to full time if required.</li> <li>Existing ways of working lend themselves to project staff being able to pick up work relatively easily from colleagues if required.</li> </ul>	High <i>No change</i>
2. Reduced ability to deliver actions in the last months of the project due to time constraints and contractor availability.	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dynamic approach to project planning and timetabling.</li> <li>Issues raised and discussed with the Project Board and Operational Management Team</li> </ul>	High <i>No change</i>
3. The diverse range of interests and priorities of the organisations and groups involved in the project presents challenges to effective partnership working.	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All partners and areas of work are represented on the Operational Management Team.</li> <li>The Operational Management Team operates under a Partnership Agreement.</li> <li>Members of the Park Authority Board and Senior Management Team are members of the Project Board.</li> <li>The Project Board operate under a Memorandum of Agreement.</li> </ul>	High <i>No change</i>
4. Project information is used to undermine public support for the project.	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Board have strategic responsibility for project communications.</li> <li>A Comms Plan is in place and ongoing strategic support is provided by the Park Authority Comms Teams.</li> <li>All project documents are written for a public audience and published on the project website (as far as appropriate).</li> </ul>	High <i>No change</i>
5. Monitoring and evaluation information and processes are not used effectively to strengthen the project; inform legacy planning; and help safeguard the project from inherent risks.	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Evaluation Framework is in place.</li> <li>Interim evaluation conducted.</li> <li>A culture of reflection is embedded in the project and professionally facilitated where possible.</li> </ul>	Medium <i>No change</i>

Risk / Issue	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation	Priority
6. Community-led elements are not conducted in an effective, transparent and defensible way limiting benefits and causing disengagement and mistrust in communities.	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All learning captured from the development phase and ongoing learning in the delivery phase is being applied.</li> <li>The Operational Management Team includes representatives from all community groups and organisations involved.</li> <li>A three-stage model is in place to ensure work with communities is only carried out if it's considered within the scope of the project and the community is considered viable to work with with the project resource available.</li> </ul>	Medium <i>No change</i>
7. The project increases capercaillie disturbance or is perceived to do so.	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff work closely with landowners, landmanagers and community members to stay informed and respond to any issues or perceptions related to disturbance.</li> <li>Comms assets are actively shared with partners and third parties to reduce the need for capercaillie filming and photography.</li> <li>All survey work is completed under licence and all habitat improvement and monitoring work is carried out in accordance with relevant legislation.</li> <li>The project operates within the Capercaillie Data Sharing Policy.</li> </ul>	Medium <i>No change</i>
8. Habitat improvement work delayed or unviable due to changes onsite, delays in the process of applying for FGS funding and or conflicting advice.	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners applying for FGS funding are experienced in the process and have a good track record of securing funding.</li> <li>Additional resource is provided by the project to help strengthen applications.</li> <li>Scottish Forestry and NatureScot are project partners and members of the Operational Management Team.</li> </ul>	Low <i>No change</i>
9. Project activities conflict with other initiatives, e.g. wader conservation.	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisations involved in potentially conflicting activities are project partners represented on the Operational Management Team and Project Board, operating respectively under a Partnership Agreement and MoA.</li> </ul>	Low <i>No change</i>
10. Continued cold and wet weather during capercaillie nesting and breeding season could overwhelm the benefits of the project.	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue delivery - the project's work is vital to enhance capercaillie survival, even in difficult years; maintain proactive comms internally and externally; review the issue at Project Board to identify a way forward.</li> </ul>	Low <i>No change</i>

## Budget

Income	Expected	Received to date
National Lottery Heritage Fund	2,036,100	1,132,749
Cairngorms National Park Authority	60,280	67,042
NatureScot	50,000	50,000
Scottish Forestry	28,000	28,000
Forestry Grant Scheme / SRDP	127,473	85,786
RSPB	40,000	45,000
RSPB Abernethy	10,000	3,080
Seafield and Strathspey Estates	224,144	107,036
Rothiemurchus Estate	41,669	55,002
Balmoral Estate	11,500	2,500
Baddengorm Woods	48,240	0
Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland	75,000	1,440
Volunteer time (in-kind)	120,000	80.947
RSPB in-kind (technical support for capercaillie and fence monitoring apps)	27,800	3,593
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,900,206</b>	<b>1,581,309</b>

## Breakdown of income / contributions received

Partner / Funder	Nature of contribution	Total to date
National Lottery Heritage Fund	Grant	1,132,749
Cairngorms National Park Authority	Donation	60,280
NatureScot	Donation	50,000
Scottish Forestry	Donation	28,000
Forestry Grant Scheme / SRDP	Heather cutting (robocutting) on Rothiemurchus Estate	382
Forestry Grant Scheme / SRDP	Predator control on Rothiemurchus Estate	24,266
Forestry Grant Scheme / SRDP	Woodland restructuring on Rothiemurchus Estate	1,674
Forestry Grant Scheme / SRDP	Fence marking on Rothiemurchus Estate (Pityoulish)	13,905
Forestry Grant Scheme / SRDP	Fence marking on Rothiemurchus Estate (Moormore)	5,522
Forestry Grant Scheme / SRDP	Woodland regeneration on Seafield and Strathspey Estates	11,613
RSPB	Donation	40,000
RSPB Abernethy	Contractor payment - field layer survey prior to heather cutting	3,080
Seafield and Strathspey Estates	Contractor payment - replanting	38,184
Seafield and Strathspey Estates	Contractor payment - fence removal & repair prior to replanting	36,092
Seafield and Strathspey Estates	Contractor payment - groundwork prior to felling and replanting	17,460
Seafield and Strathspey Estates	Contractor payment - fence removal, replacement and marking	15,300
Balmoral Estate	Contractor payment - removal of 1,100m of deer fence	2,500
Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland	Contractor payment - trail maintenance and inspection training	1,440
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,482,447</b>

Partner / Funder	Nature of contribution (Added value - not in the original budget)	Total to date
Cairngorms National Park Authority	6-month internship to support MTB community work	6,762
Forestry Grant Scheme / SRDP	Fence marking on Seafield Estate	22,752
Forestry Grant Scheme / SRDP	Scarifying to promote natural regeneration on Seafield Estate	5,672
Rothiemurchus Estate	Estate contribution to fence removal, replacement and remarking	55,002
RSPB	Pilot genetic lek survey	5,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>95,188</b>

<b>Volunteer time (in-kind contribution)</b>	<b>Total to date</b>
Carrbridge Capercaillie Group	20,419
Mountain biking (Trail Feathers) group	18,913
Dog walking community volunteers	2,036
Volunteers delivering habitat improvement work	5,443
Fence Monitoring Volunteers	13,436
Capercaillie monitoring and safeguarding	10,254
Digital volunteer (project website design, development and maintenance)	9,975
Comms support (Lek It Be campaign)	4,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,376</b>

<b>RSPB (in-kind contribution)</b>	<b>Total to date</b>
Capercaillie monitoring app development	3,593
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,593</b>

## Breakdown of expenditure / investment (spent and committed)

Community	Community-led action	Total
Carrbridge	Printing and production of trial signs to encourage responsible access in capercaillie areas around Carrbridge and stakes to install the signs	847
	Path surveys and feasibility work to enable thriving capercaillie areas around Carrbridge and paths and outdoor spaces for all residents and visitors to enjoy	6,465
	Carrbridge Village Hall hire for community events and consultations to build stronger community involvement and participation	144
	Hapi Capi production (small wooden capercaillies) to build stronger community involvement and participation	1,014
	Small capercaillie keepsakes for visitors and residents to build stronger community involvement and participation	1,905
	Tree surgery (preparatory works for a carved capercaillie to include in the Carvings Trail around the village)	480
	A carved capercaillie to include in the Carvings Trail around the village for residents and visitors to enjoy and to increase awareness of the plight of capercaillie	1,400
	All-weather noticeboard to provide a central hub for sharing information about nature around the village to build stronger community involvement and participation	2,185
	New capercaillie related experience at Landmark for visitors and residents to enjoy and to increase awareness of the plight of capercaillie	10,000
	Parasitology analysis of droppings to provide an initial overview of the detectable prevalence of pathogenic organisms in capercaillie populations and increase our understanding of factors affecting capercaillie	6,347
	Contribution towards a pilot genetic lek survey aimed at developing a more accurate approach to estimating the size of local capercaillie populations using droppings	12,275
	Revised national capercaillie population estimate to help inform action and increase awareness of the plight of capercaillie	2,400
	Journal publishing cost for the national capercaillie population estimate above	2,100
	Study of predator activity in capercaillie areas in Kinveachy Forest to help inform action	7,260
	Habitat improvement and predator control for capercaillie to improve conditions for capercaillie in Kinveachy Forest	29,000
Brood surveys (2022 and 2023) around Carrbridge to help measure impact of habitat improvement work, predator control and community-led action to reduce disturbance	4,000	
<b>Total</b>		<b>87,822</b>

Community	Community-led action	Total
Mountain biking	Professional facilitation to aid community-led action planning and delivery	2,993
	Trail Association website to increase visibility, build awareness and support	786
	Trail Association insurance to deliver community-led action	1,127
	Equipment and training to repair trails to reduce habitat loss and fragmentation	12,492
	Habitat improvement for capercaillie (variable thinning)	4,500
	Printing and production of seasonal signage to encourage responsible riding during the breeding season	861
	Contribution towards the Laggan Forest Trust's Pilot Cycling Programme for primary school children to inspire and enable responsible riding	1,000
	Trail Academies for riders aged 12 - 18 to inspire and enable responsible and sustainable trail development	8,111
	Trail development at Laggan Wolftrax to provide a compelling alternative to riding in sensitive capercaillie areas	15,000
	Pilot trail development to help reduce disturbance by mountain bikers in Forestry and Land Scotland's Vulnerable Habitats	40,064
Monitoring equipment and licensing to help measure impact	1,034	
<b>Total</b>		<b>87,968</b>

Community	Community-led action	Total
Dog walking community	Professional facilitation to aid community-led action planning and delivery	13,004
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,004</b>

Community	Community-led action	Total
Business community	Professional facilitation to aid community-led action planning and delivery	1,500
	Promoted cycling routes and information to inspire and enable the business community, e.g., accommodation providers and bike shops, to promote responsible enjoyment of the National Park by bike	13,800
	Targeted, positive and engaging online consumer facing content, that the business community can use to promote behaviours that will be of benefit to the area's natural heritage, including capercaillie	36,571
	Segmentation of visitor survey data to enable draft online consumer facing content to be tested on different visitor segments	430
	Videos that the business community can use to promote behaviours that will be of benefit to the area's natural heritage, including capercaillie	4,711
	A technology solution to enable the easy sharing of the online consumer facing content above by businesses across the National Park.	11,424
	Business Engagement Officer and Cairngorms Business Partnership staff costs to enable the delivery of the community-led action above	37,400
<b>Total</b>		<b>105,836</b>

Community	Community-led action	Total
Visitor community	An audit of where and how Abernethy National Nature Reserve, Glenmore Forest Park and Rothiemurchus 'speak' to the visitor segments identified through the visitor research	15,800
	Workshop to review findings from the visitor experience audit above and plan next steps	264
	Visitor journey research and mapping, and interpretation, wayfinding and messaging on Rothiemurchus to develop and maintain thriving capercaillie areas and high quality, sustainable visitor experiences	33,000
	Support from Heritage Pathfinder Ltd. to aid the above work on Rothiemurchus	450
	Capercaillie viewing experiences via a remote camera on the Abernethy National Nature Reserve to help develop and maintain thriving capercaillie areas and high quality, sustainable visitor experiences	9,900
	A film which promotes the special qualities of Glenmore Forest Park in a way that speaks directly to the motivations and values of visitors identified through the project's visitor research, and wayfinding and messaging in Glenmore Forest Park to develop and maintain thriving capercaillie areas and high quality, sustainable visitor experiences	20,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>79,414</b>

Community	Community-led action	Total
Deeside community	Professional facilitation and room hire to enable community-led action planning and delivery	2,525
	Scoping work for a virtual capercaillie lek experience in Balmoral Castle for residents and visitors to enjoy	3,600
	Development and delivery of a virtual capercaillie lek experience in Balmoral Castle	55,197
	Advertising costs for the tenders above	35
	Professionally produced Hapi Capis to engage businesses and visitors in Deeside	2,630
	Researching and mapping mountain biking trails in Deeside to identify ways to reduce disturbance to capercaillie by mountain biking activity now and in the future	10,000
	Take down and removal of 900 metres on deer fencing on Balmoral Estate to reduce risk of capercaillie colliding with the fence	6,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>79,987</b>



Landholding	Habitat improvement work	Total
Abernethy	Heather cutting (with a robocutter) to improve c300 ha of habitat	50,000
Abernethy	Additioanl heather cutting (with a robocutter) to improve habitat	5,000
Baddengorm	Replanting woodland with native species to expand habitat	6,800
Baddengorm	Marking fencing with wooden markers to avoid collisions	5,000
Balmoral Estate	Heather cutting, fence removal and marking fences with wooden markers to improve c400 ha of habitat and avoid collisions	18,900
Balmoral Estate	Restructuring woodlands (removing non-native trees) to expand habitat	4,770
Brook Forestry	Deer control to improve field layer	10,880
Dorback Estate	Heather cutting equipment to improve habitat	5,000
Invercauld Estate	Marking fences to avoid collisions	4,640
Lynamer, Nethy Bridge	Restructuring woodlands (removing non-native trees) to expand habitat	2,673
Rothiemurchus Estate	Screening trackside edges to reduce human disturbance	158
Rothiemurchus Estate	Heather cutting (with a robocutter) and grit piles to improve habitat	4,076
Rothiemurchus Estate	Marking fences to avoid collisions	5,522
Rothiemurchus Estate	Predator control to enhance capercaillie survival in key areas	101,089
Rothiemurchus Estate	Restructuring woodlands (removing non-native trees) to expand habitat	1,326
Rothiemurchus Estate	Heather cutting (with a robocutter) to improve habitat	5,500
Seafield and Strathspey Estates	Planting native trees to expand habitat by c90ha	58,290
Seafield and Strathspey Estates	Removing, replacing and marking strategic fences to avoid collisions	15,300
Seafield and Strathspey Estates	Marking fences and maintaining fence marking to avoid collisions	17,643
Tombain Plantation	Marking fencing with wooden markers to avoid collisions	4,944
<b>Total</b>		<b>327,511</b>

Contractor	Work	Total
Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT)	Brood surveys to help measure impact of habitat improvement work, predator control and community-led action to reduce disturbance	4,650
RZSS	Researching the genetic diversity of capercaillie in the Cairngorms National Park to inform action	62,768
RZSS	Developing a new approach to estimating the size of the UK capercaillie population using genetic material	9,853
James Hutton Institute	Evaluation film to share the learning and achievements of the mountain biking community; working to deliver conservation solutions in the Cairngorms National Park	18,000
The Evaluator	Monitoring and evaluating the project to measure impact	9,100
The Evaluator	Researching public attitudes and beliefs about the Deeside area and capercaillie conservation to inform community-led action planning in Deeside	7,443
Heritage Pathfinder Ltd.	Researching visitor attitudes and beliefs to inform action to enable thriving capercaillie areas and high quality, sustainable visitor experiences	33,160
Heritage Pathfinder Ltd.	Monitoring and evaluating the project to measure impact	27,510
<b>Total</b>		<b>172,484</b>

Project staff	Work	Total *
Capercaillie Advisory Assistant (P/T)	Capercaillie monitoring to inform work and measure impact	54,763
Capercaillie Advisory Officer (P/T)	Strategic support for capercaillie monitoring & habitat improvement	51,303
Communications Officer (P/T)	Raising awareness about capercaillie and the project	89,819
Gamekeeper (F/T)	Predator control and habitat improvement on Seafield Estate	202,612
Highland Development Co-Ordinator	Strategic support for community-led action	55,000
Project Manager (F/T)	Managing the project as a whole, including staff and contractors	204,747
Project Officer (P/T)	Supporting project delivery	128,630
Trail Development Coordinator (P/T)	Supporting mountain biking community-led action	22,673
Dog walking community Intern (P/T)	Supporting dog walking community-led action	12,050
<b>Total</b>		<b>821,597</b>

\* Total salary, equipment and overhead costs for the delivery phase, i.e. 2020 – 2024