

## **Carrbridge Capercaillie Group meeting notes**

### **Monday 29 January 2024**

#### **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 all actions and identify next steps.

#### **Actions now completed:**

1. Update the Carrbridge Paths leaflet to include reference to the seasonal signage and encourage responsible access in capercaillie areas around the village. The leaflet has been updated. Copies are currently available from the Carrbridge Studio and the Park Authority and will be available more widely in due course.
2. Purchase and install an all-weather Carrbridge Nature noticeboard to provide a central hub for sharing information about nature around the village. The noticeboard has been installed with notices on display.
3. Commission the production of small capercaillie keepsakes for visitors and residents and invest the donations received into wildlife projects around Carrbridge. Items are currently available from the Carrbridge Studio with plans ongoing for wider distribution via other points of contact with residents and visitors.
4. 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).
5. Support more habitat creation and predator control for capercaillie on Seafield Estate. A site visit to be arranged to one of the areas where habitat improvement has taken place.
6. Commission a parasitology analysis of samples collected as part of the pilot genetic lek survey to check for potential causes of chick mortality.

#### **Actions ongoing:**

1. Scope the potential for new capercaillie related experiences for visitors and residents. Landmark's new Ancient Forest Adventure, which includes a capercaillie exhibit, is still in development and not due to open completely until spring 2024. Group to keep in touch with Landmark re progress and arrange a preview visit.
2. Commission the production of a carved capercaillie to include in the Carvings Trail around Carrbridge. The carvings have been delivered. A more publicly accessible site has been identified for the carvings, subject to approval by the relevant body. The group to liaise with Carve Carrbridge to add the carving to the Carving Trail and website once the location is confirmed.
3. 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). This work is ongoing and due to be complete this spring.