

## **APPENDIX 1: PROJECTS, PROPOSAL AND PLANS WITHIN THE ANGUS AREA OF THE CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN 2015/16 OR ARE PLANNED FOR 2016/17.**

The Cairngorms National Park was designated in 2003 by the Scottish Parliament. The Cairngorms National Park is the largest national park in the British Isles and was expanded in 2010 to encompass highland parts of Perth and Kinross. The Angus area of the Cairngorms National Park covers the isolated upper parts of the Angus Glens over an area of approximately 320sqkm including areas within Glen Isla, Glen Prosen, Glen Clova, Glen Doll and Glen Esk.

There are a number of different land uses within the Angus area of the national park from agriculture and forestry in the more lowland areas to the more wild upland areas regularly used for sport and recreation. There are a numerous projects which have taken place during 2015/16 and there are projects planned for 2016/17 which attempt to maximise the potential the park offers for sustainable developments, recreation and tourism.

### **Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2017-2022 - Consultation**

The National Park Partnership Plan is the National Park Plan required under section II of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000. The current National Park Partnership Plan covers the period 2012-2017 but a replacement plan has been prepared and is currently out for consultation. The Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2017-2022 will set out how all those with a responsibility for the National Park will co-ordinate their work to tackle the most important issues.

The plan will:-

- set out the vision and overarching strategy for managing the Park;
- guide the work of all public bodies and other partners to deliver the aims of the Park;
- provides the strategic context for the Local Development Plan;
- set out the regional landuse framework for the Park;
- show how the Park will contribute to the Scottish Government's core purpose and national outcomes.

Consultation on the 2017-2022 plan is taking place from 27 June to 30 September 2016 and sets out the big issues on which the park wants views and which partners will seek to tackle in the next 5 years.

### **Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2015**

The Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan was adopted on 27 March 2015 and replaced the Cairngorms National Park Local Plan 2010. The LDP is supported by a suite of supplementary guidance covering:-

- New Housing Development
- Supporting Economic Growth
- Sustainable Design
- Natural Heritage
- Landscape
- Renewable Energy
- Sport and Recreation
- Cultural Heritage
- Resources
- Developer Contributions

The LDP identifies the below objectives for the Angus Glens:-

- To ensure that new development respects the dispersed nature of development the Angus Glens;
- To ensure development contributes to the economic wellbeing of the remote community living in the Angus Glens;
- To retain the Angus Glens as a sparsely populated community have creative solutions to employment and economic growth can thrive; and
- To ensure that new housing can progress in a way that helps the community remain sustainable.

No housing or economic/tourism proposals or allocations are identified within the Angus area which reflects the dispersed and remote settlement pattern of the area. The next LDP is scheduled for 2019 and a development plan scheme for the preparation of that document indicates a Main Issues Report will be published in February 2017, with a proposed plan by February 2018.

### **Planning applications for development within the Angus area of the National Park**

There were 6 applications for planning permission within the Angus part of the national park received in 2014, 4 of which were called in by the park authority. Three of the proposals provided for micro hydroelectricity developments within Glen Esk at Invermark, Auchronie and Inchgrundle. It is understood that those projects will be completed during 2016. The remaining project granted planning permission was the river restoration (Pearls in Peril) scheme at Glen Doll, details of which are provided later in this appendix.

The following projects within Park were granted planning permission by Angus Council in 2015/16. Improvements to the Clova Hotel and Blair House accommodation offerings. Application 15/01007/FULL provided for alterations and extension to the Clova Hotel and application 15/00698/FULL provided for the refurbishment of the hostel at Balir House, Glen Clova. A new dwelling was granted planning permission at Roineach Mhor (15/00494/FULL); and an Apprentice Keepers Cottage at Runtaleave, Glen Prosen (15/00236/FULL).

### **Other Activities And Projects Within The National Park**

#### **Pearls in peril -Project Progress Report**

'Pearls in Peril' (PIP) is a UK-wide LIFE project to safeguard the future of the freshwater pearl mussel. The project is working to restore natural river processes and the habitat of freshwater pearl mussels and salmonids (salmon and trout):

#### **River Restoration**

During July and August 2015, 875m of rock armour bank protection was removed and three palaeochannels were re-connected on the River South Esk at Moulzie and Braedownie, and on the White Water at Acharn.

Following the physical restoration, one of the largest floods ever recorded on the South Esk occurred in December 2015. This re-worked the sections of river where bank protection had been removed, re-establishing natural river processes and providing spawning habitat for salmon and trout. The flooding kick-started the natural process of erosion and deposition of river substrates that can help sustain in-stream habitat for downstream populations of freshwater pearl mussel.

The physical works contractor VHE has entered the river restoration work for the Civil Engineering Saltire Awards. A site visit by the judges and PIP project team was undertaken on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and further news is anticipated in August 2016.

#### **Quharity Burn Riparian Enhancement**

PIP successfully applied for funding of £36k from Angus Environment Trust (AET) to undertake water margin protection along the Quharity Burn and in Autumn 2015, completing the following:

- 6km of banks protected by buffer strip fences to mitigate diffuse pollution from agricultural operations and livestock.
- 3000 trees planted in protective shelters to enhance the riparian zone.
- a pasture pump and 7 troughs installed to replace in-stream waterings for livestock and thus remove the risk of poaching from the riverbanks.

#### **Rottal Estate Tree planting**

Completed Autumn 2015

- Riparian planting along 7km of riverbank
- 12ha of primarily wet woodland planted

#### **Rottal Lodge Tree Planting**

Completed May 2016

- 1200 trees planted along Rottal Burn
- 610m deer and stock fencing protecting water margins

### River Restoration



Acharn – removal of rock armour bank protection





## Moulzie - Re-connected palaeochannel



Before and After at Acharn



Re-profiled bank at Moulzie immediately after removal of boulder bank protection





Re-meandered channel with gravel bar feature, established after Storm Frank, December 2015



White Water at Acharn - Braided channel and new confluence with the River South Esk

### **Rottal Estate Tree planting**



SRDP - Rottal Estate Riparian and Wet Woodland Planting

### **The Glen Clova Contour Planting Project**

The large scale forestry project aimed at reducing peak flows in the upper South Esk catchment saw two areas of contour tree planting take place in Glen Clova and Glen Doll in 2014. The pilot project and research was supported financially by the Forestry Commission, Angus Council, Esk District Salmon Fishery Board and the Cairngorms National Park Authority with in-kind support from RSPB. This follows the example of work carried out in a number of studies, where it has been found that tree planting along the contours of a hillside can result in a flood peak reduction of around 40%. Other studies have shown that the greatest attenuation occurs for the smaller events achieving predicted flood peak reductions approaching 60–70% as complete forest coverage is attained. The effects are



less pronounced in the case of the larger events, where woodland coverage of c. 80% was reported to effect a 30% reduction in peak flow values.

The initial planting phase which took place in during 2014 cost £80,000 and at present funds for the further development of the project are being investigated. Forestry Commission Scotland would in future like to see similar work carried out in Glen Prosen which would also aid in slowing peak flow on the South Esk main stem. This project has multiple benefits not only for the river as it supports Scottish Government policies (tree planting and carbon sequestration), agriculture, low ground shooting potential and biodiversity.

### **Scottish Wildcat Action**

The Angus Glens is one of the best areas in Scotland for wildcat and maintaining a strong population is key to halting and then reversing the decline of this unique mammal. Scottish Wildcat Action is a five year collaborative project involving more than 20 partners. Its monitoring of the wildcat population will inform conservation approaches, promote land management actions beneficial to Scottish wildcats (e.g. wildcat-friendly predator control), and will promote responsible cat ownership within the local community. Whilst the Action Plan has been developed within the Scottish environmental policy context, volunteer engagement is vital for collecting valuable data on this iconic species. For 60 days from late December 2015 into 2016 18 volunteers managed 57 camera traps running in the Angus Glens across some of the best habitat for wildcats in the priority area.

### **Cairngorm National Park Authority - joint catchments project**

The River South Esk, Dee and Spey Partnerships share many common goals and encounter very similar issues. All have head waters in the Cairngorm National Park Authority area (CNPA) and all three have been invited by the CNPA to consider joint catchment approaches to issues such as diffuse pollution, woodland planting, river restoration, peatland restoration, Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) management, biodiversity enhancement and awareness raising and PR. All three partnerships aim to share good practice, and over the last year the group visited the Acharn pearls in peril site in Glen Clova and the Tweed catchment visiting the Eddleston water (a Scottish Land Use Strategy Pilot). The restoration of the national park native pine forest and reviews and amendments to their catchment management plans will be priorities over the coming year.

### **Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2026**

The Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) 2016-2026 outlines projects that will, over the next 10 years, help conserve and enhance the amazing wealth of habitats and species found in Angus. These projects, ranging from species level to landscape scale, will encourage and support community engagement and will provide development and training opportunities. Almost one third of the 138 actions in the LBAP incorporate projects within the National Park and the National Park Authority is key partner in delivering the LBAP.

### **The Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust – The Mountains and the People**

The Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust (COAT) Mountains and the People is a partnership project to protect the mountains of Scotland's National Parks and through training, volunteering, educational and promotional work to actively engage the people of Scotland in caring for their upland landscapes and habitats. The project will carry out a suite of integrated programmes with the overarching objective of involving the people of Scotland in the enhancement and protection of the wild and special qualities of the mountains within Scotland's National Parks. The Upland Path Programme includes £300,000 of repairs to seven paths in the Angus Glens. Work commenced on the Jock's Road and Glittering Skellies paths in 2015. These paths are programmed for completion in 2016, and work will then commence on Dreish and Mayar.

### **Angus Glens Walking Festival**

The annual Angus Glens Walking Festival took place on 2 to 5 June 2016 with over 323 participants. The 2016 festival involved 18 guided walks over 4 days. The 2017 event represents the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the festival and is scheduled for 1-4 June 2017.

### **Glen Clova Xtreme Duathlon**

The Glen Clova Xtreme Duathlon is a combined cycling and hill running event which involves a 20km cycle around Glen Clova and Glen Doll and a run through Glen Doll and Corrie Fee to the summits of

Mayar and Dreish before returning to Glen Clova with a final section of cycling. In 2014, 150 competitors entered and this number expanded to 180 in September 2015. The 2016 event is scheduled for 17 September 2016 and all places on the event were booked by the end of March 2016.

### **Cairngorms Nature Festival**

The Cairngorms Nature Festival is held every May and is an opportunity for everyone to see first-hand the unique nature of the Cairngorms National Park. The 2016 event took place on 14 & 15 May. In 2016 events happened from Angus to Highland and it was a fun-packed weekend for all the family attracting hundreds of people on the many walks and activities that took place. A Peregrine Watch took place in Glen Doll in on Saturday 16 May 2016.

### **Angus Council Ranger Services Projects**

- Wildcat monitoring using camera traps and feral cat trapping in association with the Cats Protection League.
- Bird of prey monitoring including participation in the National Golden Eagle Survey 2015
- Involvement in Pearls in Peril Project (detailed above)