



Scotland's
National Nature
Reserves

The Management Plan for Cairnsmore of Fleet National Nature Reserve 2016-2026



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Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad



The Management Plan for Cairnsmore of Fleet National Nature Reserve 2016-2026

Foreword

Cairnsmore of Fleet National Nature Reserve (NNR) is in the Stewartry District of Dumfries and Galloway, approximately 10 km from Gatehouse of Fleet and 8km from Creetown on the scenic B796 road. The National Nature Reserve covers the large area of open hill stretching from the Big Water of Fleet to the summit of Cairnsmore.

The reserve is one of a suite of NNRs in Scotland. Scotland's NNRs are special places for nature, where some of the best examples of Scotland's wildlife are managed. Every NNR is carefully managed both for nature and for people, giving visitors the opportunity to experience our rich natural heritage.

Cairnsmore of Fleet NNR offers a true taste of the Scottish uplands; it is one of the most southerly of the Galloway Hills standing above Wigtown Bay. At its heart it is one of the remotest parts of south-west Scotland. The moorland is dominated by an imposing granite hill, shaped and sculpted by the elements. The summit offers superb views over the Cree Estuary, and views south to the Lake District and the Isle of Man, west to Ireland and north to Ayrshire.

Cairnsmore's mixture of wind-clipped summit heath, heather moorland and blanket bog supports a wide range of wildlife. Birds likely to be seen or heard include wheatear, skylark, black and red grouse, peregrine falcon, hen harrier, raven and merlin and, if you're lucky, a golden eagle may also be seen soaring across the sky. You will see red deer on the hill ground while roe stay closer to woodland cover. Groups of wild goat inhabit the crags. The main habitat management measures delivered on the reserve aim to enhance structural variation and biodiversity and address climate change challenges. These include ditch blocking on peatland, livestock management to vary grazing benefits for wildlife and some wild herbivore control.

The reserve is a popular visitor attraction offering visitors a variety of experiences. The main access point onto the reserve is at Dromore (just off the B796). The visitor centre here provides an excellent introduction to the reserve and is a good starting point for exploring the many walking options around the dramatic landscape. There is a small car park and picnic area a short distance along the road below the railway viaduct, one of the most iconic features in the region. There are also a series of sculptures dotted around the reserve to challenge visitor's perceptions. Access to the top of Cairnsmore via Palnure (3 miles from Newton Stewart) is a preferred route

for many hill walkers. The National cycle route 7 connects Dromore to Clatteringshaws via the forest tracks and A712.

Cairnsmore of Fleet is the southern most of the core areas within the recently designated Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve. The reserve helps to deliver the strategy for the biosphere; providing a core area for natural heritage and an asset for local communities and for visitors.

This document provides an overview of how we plan to manage the reserve for the next 10-years; if you would like to know more about the reserve 'The Story of Cairnsmore of Fleet National Nature Reserve' is a companion publication which has more information about Cairnsmore of Fleet NNR and its history. The Story provides the foundation for managing the site and is recommended reading for those wishing to understand more about the management of this very special place.

In 2015, we carried out a review of our last Plan for Cairnsmore of Fleet NNR (2009-2015). This, together with management plan workshops and specialist advice informed the preparation of a draft of this management plan on which we consulted in 2016.

The management plan describes our vision for the reserve. The protected areas and features section describes the context we work within. Sections on natural heritage management, management for people, property management and finally planning and reporting set out the objectives and tasks needed to work towards delivering the vision. During the final year of the plan, we will review our progress to determine the future direction of our management on the reserve.

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1 Maps of Cairnsmore of Fleet NNR

Location map



Reserve map



Key

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | Parking | | Inbye Trail |
| | Toilet | | Summit Path |
| | Historic structure | | National Cycle Route |
| | Information centre | | National Nature Reserve |

2 Our Vision for Cairnsmore of Fleet NNR

Cairnsmore of Fleet National Nature Reserve is special; the aim is to keep it that way. The Management Plan 2016 -2026 sets out our vision for the reserve describing how we would like the reserve to be in 2041. We have framed the management we plan to carry out over the next 10 years with this vision in mind.

Cairnsmore of Fleet continues to be one of the wildest places to visit in Southern Scotland. At the core of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere the reserve provides a true taste of wild nature. It is accessible for visitors and provides good opportunities for exploring whether you are looking for the rugged beauty of the Galloway Hills, wildlife like red deer or wild goat or superb views out to the Cree Estuary and the Solway Firth; it offers a variety of experiences from short walks to a full day on the hill.

Visitors enjoy and appreciate the sense of place and the "wild nature" experience; a sentiment shared by local people and communities who value the reserve and the contribution it makes locally. Good interpretation means people leave the reserve with a greater appreciation and understanding of the natural heritage, and want to return.

The reserve fulfils its role as part of the Core Area of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and we contribute to the delivery of the biosphere's strategy. We work with partners and local communities on activity, learning, research and monitoring projects. These help nature and communities adapt to the challenges of climate change and create and promote a sustainable visitor experience at the core of the biosphere. We engage with local communities and specialist groups encouraging them to be actively involved in the reserve and its management; we support community led initiatives and we adopt an ecosystem services approach in delivering benefits to our communities.

The reserve is flourishing, in itself and in relation to its surroundings. The reserve is well connected ecologically within the surrounding landscape and is recognised as an important part of the setting of the Fleet Valley National Scenic Area; management of the reserve provides multiple landscape and public benefits especially in the Fleet, Moneypool and Palnure catchments.

The reserve supports a range of plants, invertebrates and birds species typical of the Galloway Hills including a re-established golden eagle territory. The moorland mosaic of heathers and montane grassland are in good condition and the blanket bog has been restored. Healthy populations of red and black grouse, songbirds, raptors, red deer and mountain hares are found on the reserve. Brown trout spawn in the rivers.

3 Protected areas and features

Cairnsmore of Fleet has been a NNR since 1975; the role of NNRs has changed considerably since then. Originally a mechanism for protecting the land the designation has in recent years evolved to recognise the importance of these sites as places valued for their role in both sustaining wildlife and providing the best places for people to experience the best of Scotland's natural heritage.

Its combined role as a place for nature and people is recognised in its recent inclusion as a core area in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve.

The reserve continues to be protected for its natural heritage value through national legislation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Cairnsmore of Fleet SSSI

Designated a National Nature Reserve in 1975 Cairnsmore of Fleet is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are those areas of land and water that Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) considers to best represent our natural heritage - its diversity of plants, animals and habitats, rocks and landforms, or a combinations of such natural features. They are the essential building blocks of Scotland's protected areas for nature conservation.

Cairnsmore of Fleet SSSI is the best example in Wigtownshire/ Stewartry of an unafforested granite massif of perched blocks, slabs and pavement, with continuity between low level moorland and montane grassland and dwarf shrub heath. An extensive area of open ground it is unusual in having the full transition of vegetation from lower ground where acid grasslands tend to dominate, through bog and heathland to the moss and sedge vegetation of the summits.

The reserve location close to the western seaboard and the open and exposed landscape combine to create conditions more readily associated with high mountain areas. The habitats and species here occur at lower elevations than you would expect and largely reflect the acid conditions created by the hard granite. The blanket bog has a rich bog moss community of *Sphagnum spp.* Flowering plants of interest include bog rosemary and petty whin. Areas with more calcareous conditions support different species including pale butterwort, mossy saxifrage, green spleenwort and tawny sedge.

Although not included as notified features, the area is also of interest for its characteristic upland fauna; peregrine falcon, raven, red grouse and meadow pipit all occur, red deer and the largest herd of feral goats in the area. There is also significant invertebrate interest, with eight species of dragonfly recorded as well as a number of rare and local spiders.

Table 1: Protected area and features

Protected Area	Feature
<u>Cairnsmore of Fleet SSSI</u>	Blanket bog
<u>Cairnsmore of Fleet SSSI</u>	Upland assemblage

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere is a UNESCO Biosphere because of its combination of special wildlife areas, rich cultural heritage and communities that care about their environment. It was the first 'new style' Biosphere in Scotland. Biospheres have three main functions; conservation, learning & research, and sustainable development. Biospheres are managed by a framework which divides the area into three complementary management zones; Core Area, Buffer Zone and Transition Area. Cairnsmore of Fleet is, alongside Silver Flow and the Merrick Kells SSSIs, one of the core areas within the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere.

4 Natural Heritage Management

Objective NH1: Maintain and enhance semi-natural vegetation to maintain SSSI notified interests.

Cairnsmore shows a succession of semi-natural vegetation from the lower areas where acidic grasslands tend to dominate, through bog and heathland to the moss and sedge vegetation of the summit area.

One of the main factors influencing the condition of all of the habitats on the reserve is the level of grazing. The site is home to a combination of domestic livestock and wild herbivores and we need to manage these to create conditions for the habitats to maintain or develop.

We control deer and wild goats with our neighbours as this is the most effective way of ensuring the appropriate numbers across a wide area.

The site has flocks of sheep managed by SNH and the neighbouring landowners who manage part of the NNR; how many and where they graze is determined in relation to both habitat condition and the numbers of wild herbivores.

In addition to managing the herbivores we will also use a variety of methods including a combination of burning and swiping in areas to encourage heather and dwarf shrubs and other species.

On the blanket bog we will work to increase the water table aiding the recovery of this habitat first. A combination of blocking and re-profiling of ditches and hags will have a positive effect on the water table and therefore encourage sphagnum growth, alter the current vegetation dynamics and resume the active formation of peat.

We will monitor the effectiveness of the management measures we implement on Cairnsmore of Fleet NNR.

Projects planned to deliver Objective NH1 during life of plan:

Task No.	Task description
NH1.1	Produce a grazing management strategy by dividing the reserve into units based on heather density and age class, <i>Molinia</i> and <i>Nardus</i> distribution and set priorities for management.
NH1.2	Determine wild herbivores cull targets by monitoring numbers and distribution across the reserve. Working with neighbours control deer and goats to avoid trampling and over grazing.
NH1.3	Manage domestic livestock to achieve appropriate grazing levels to enable habitat objectives. Monitor domestic stock impacts across the reserve to inform management.
NH1.4	Manage blanket bog, wet heath and dry heath through burning & swiping guided by heather density & age structure map.

Task No.	Task description
NH1.5	Encourage natural recovery for 3 key habitats by reducing inhibiting factors (bracken, Molinia, litter & seed source).
NH1.6	Prevent further peat hag erosion within the Mid Hill by excluding domestic livestock, restoring and re-vegetating eroded areas.
NH1.7	Block and re-profile existing grip, ditches and hags located on the Mid and High Hill to raise water tables and encourage peat growth.
NH1.8	Complete Peat Depth Survey on blanket bog, wet heath and tussock grassland.
NH1.9	Set and review hydrological monitoring on drained areas located on blanket bog, wet heath & tussock grassland using data loggers.
NH1.10	Monitor the water table and vegetation before and after restoration works at key locations within the blanket bog.
NH1.11	Deploy and maintain data loggers & automatic rain gauge
NH1.12	Deliver heather monitoring programme (survey and reporting) within and outwith sheep & cattle grazing compartments (consider partnership with FCS to monitor Craignelder & Craighonald areas)

Objective NH2: Monitor ecological dynamics associated with land management practice and climate change to inform long term trends.

The spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) and pathogens can have serious impacts on our native habitats and species. We will monitor and where necessary control INNS. We will minimise the risk of introducing pathogens to the reserve and will monitor for their presence. If it is possible we will take action to prevent their spread.

As the Scottish climate changes there is likely to be an effect on habitats and species across the reserve. To detect change we need to have good records of the current habitats and species and be able to monitor these for comparison with past and future records. We will monitor using a combination of remote sensing surveys and on the ground surveys including volunteers in gathering information where possible. To determine the best methods we will set out a monitoring plan including details of any individual species or features which will indicate change.

We will liaise with local partners and organisations who monitor specific species or groups to inform management on the reserve.

Projects planned to deliver Objective NH2 during life of plan:

Task No.	Task description
NH2.1	Monitor and where necessary control Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS).
NH2.2	Monitor presence/absence of pathogens on the reserve (i.e. Phytophthora etc.) and if possible take appropriate action to prevent spread.
NH2.3	Set monitoring protocols to investigate climate change effects on upland & freshwater habitats to identify long term trends.
NH2.4	Set monitoring protocol to investigate long term management impact on upland habitats.
NH2.5	Assess on-going dynamic processes using historical data (e.g. using remote sensing survey i.e. UAV once every 10 years / Vegetation survey against 1992 baseline/ full HIA using Commissioned report 196) and use of volunteer recording.
NH2.6	Assess changes in the habitat and vegetation structure of the lower ground of the reserve.
NH2.7	Keep phenological records annually from frost and snow cover to key species.
NH2.8	Review Quality Indicator Species found on the reserve. Set monitoring baseline using LBAP, UKBAP & key species present within the wider Biosphere and monitor long term trends.
NH2.9	Map Quality Indicator habitats (i.e. habitats of conservation value: blanket bog, wet heath, dry heath, tall herbs, sub-alpine dry dwarf-shrub

Task No.	Task description
	heath).
NH2.10	Map location of Quality Indicator Species (i.e. species of conservation value including LBAP, UKBAP & key species managed within the Biosphere and main vegetation components such as <i>Nardus</i> , <i>Molinia</i> , heather, bracken).
NH2.11	Monitor plant, invertebrate, fish, birds and mammals of conservation and management interest.

Objective NH3: Improve biodiversity by creating wildlife corridors and managing key species to improve resilience.

Over time many of the habitats on the reserve have been fragmented. We believe that many species will be more resilient to changes resulting from climate change for example if the populations are robust. To provide suitable conditions for key species on the reserve we will work to improve habitats by linking up existing areas both on and adjacent to the reserve. Ideally we will work in partnership to improve habitat connectivity across the core area and its merger with the buffer zone of the biosphere.

For some species on the reserve predation can be an issue. Where we think there is evidence that pest species (fox and carrion crow) are having an impact we will consider controlling them to further conservation objectives. Before introducing any more predator control an assessment will be made using the Wildlife Management Framework.

We will also identify areas on the reserve where the current conservation value is low and look for opportunities to improve the overall biodiversity on these areas of the reserve. Again if we can work with neighbours to improve conditions across boundaries then we will also try to do that.

We will monitor changes as a result of management and will map and record an agreed list of quality indicators to inform our management. We will share monitoring results with national schemes such as the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme.

We think there is potential through improving habitats to improve existing populations of certain species but also to create suitable conditions for potential species. Our focus will be on those identified in the Biosphere Natural Heritage Management Plan and the local Biodiversity Action Plan and we will look for ways to encourage those species noted in the tasks below. For some species this may not involve direct action for them it is more about us taking into consideration their needs when planning other work on site. For instance how we manage the habitats adjacent to water courses can have an impact on water quality and has an influence on water ecosystem further downstream.

Projects planned to deliver Objective NH3 during life of plan:

Task No.	Task description
NH3.1	Improve connectivity across the suite of key habitats located across and adjacent to the reserve and in the wider Biosphere (Dromore in-bye & Forestry plantation, native woodland and woodland fringe, peatland and wetlands, the Fleet, Moneypool and Palnure systems)
NH3.2	Where necessary to further conservation objectives, control pest species (fox, carrion, crow and mink) keeping appropriate geographical and biometric records.
NH3.3	Establish baseline information on Quality Indicator Species: LBAP, UKBAP & key species managed within the Biosphere

Task No.	Task description
NH3.4	Define areas of lesser conservation value on the reserve and in-bye land where biodiversity can be enhanced.
NH3.5	Encourage key LBAP and other plant species of conservation value (juniper, downy willow, western gorse and aspen).
NH3.6	Encourage key invertebrate species (e.g. azure hawk, large heath) through habitat management.
NH3.7	Support work of Galloway Fisheries Trust on habitat and water quality improvements. Ensure habitat management is not detrimental to water courses with trout.
NH3.8	Take management measures to encourage key bird species (black grouse, red grouse, raptors, curlew, redshank, lapwing, ring ouzel).
NH3.9	Take management measures to encourage key mammal species (water voles, mountain and brown hare).
NH3.10	Contribute to national monitoring schemes: UKBMS, BBS, dragonfly surveys, WeBS, Bird Atlas especially using volunteers and encouraging citizen science.

5 Management for People

Objective VM1: Promote Cairnsmore of Fleet's relevance to a wider audience.

We would like to improve awareness of Cairnsmore of Fleet NNR locally and nationally so that more people understand, value and enjoy Cairnsmore of Fleet as they come to visit and explore the reserve and its wider area.

Cairnsmore of Fleet does not sit in isolation but is at the core of the South Galloway Biosphere and the top of the Fleet Valley National Scenic Area (NSA). We intend to produce a communication plan for the reserve and will set this in the context of the biosphere and NSA where this fits with the themes promoted for them. We will work with key partners to share opportunities for promotion when and wherever we can.

To inform our approach we will complete a survey in the local area and use feedback to guide us. The plan will look at a combination of improvements to existing communications, opportunities for new promotions and mechanisms for delivering these.

We will work with relevant partners to provide familiarisation days on the reserve to raise awareness of the reserve and the role it plays in the local area. By working with local tourism businesses we can promote the reserve to them, benefiting them by providing information that may encourage visitors to stay and explore the local area so more people can enjoy the reserve.

Projects planned to deliver Objective VM1 during life of plan:

Task No.	Task description
VM1.1	Write and deliver a communication plan for the reserve based on an ecosystem services approach to fit closely with Biosphere themes.
VM1.2	Run visitor and local community perception study & collate community feedback to inform communications.
VM1.3	Deliver promotion as per communication plan themes and recommendations.
VM1.4	Promote Cairnsmore's relevance to local businesses (tourism industry) including providing familiarisation training for tourism providers and Visit Scotland staff.
VM1.5	Update the information held on the NNR web site.
VM1.6	Review main reserve and walks leaflets and revise and upgrade as required
VM1.7	Promote the reserve and its partners using social media (NNR blog, Facebook, twitter.)
VM1.8	Contribute to news, articles and event information to local communities newsletters
VM1.9	Promote access routes for those climbing the main hills from all

Task No.	Task description
	approaches
VM1.10	Integrate with promotion and interpretation of the Fleet Valley NSA, including in complementary external sites.
VM1.11	Work with key local partners to deliver promotion initiatives (i.e. Forestry Commission, main local settlements/communities, Biosphere interests, and key interest groups).

Objective VM2: Improve visitors' experience so people value and enjoy their visit to the reserve and the wider area.

Over the course of the plan we will review and update the information we provide onsite. We would like to make Cairnsmore of Fleet a key information hub about the natural heritage and its landscape for visitors to the reserve, the NSA and the wider biosphere. We will work in partnership to ensure that any development for visitors is integrated where possible with neighbours and key partners to ensure a cohesive visitor experience within the Fleet Valley and the core areas of the biosphere.

The visitor centre is our main information point and we will review and refresh the content; the extent of any changes will be determined by an evaluation of the current information but will also be dependent on available budgets. We will also review and upgrade signage and external orientation panels.

Working in partnership we believe there are opportunities to improve the connections between the facilities and access at the reserve and neighbouring properties. We will explore opportunities and prioritise those which are not detrimental to the natural heritage but provide the best experience for visitors.

We also recognise the importance of face-to-face engagement and will offer a programme of events on the reserve for visitors.

Projects planned to deliver Objective VM2 during life of plan:

Task No.	Task description
VM2.1	Review and update the on-site interpretation plan (review themes, objectives and exhibition strategy), considering Biosphere themes and SNH key partners' objectives. Make Cairnsmore a key information hub for the natural heritage of the Biosphere.
VM2.2	Update or replace interpretation based on revised plan.
VM2.3	Replace signs and orientation panels.
VM2.4	Deliver a programme of events to engage with public.
VM2.5	Work in partnership to improve access routes for those climbing the main hills from all approaches.
VM2.6	Work in partnership to improve walking and cycling routes and connections to surrounding areas and facilities subject to compatibility with biodiversity objectives.
VM2.7	Work with key partners to deliver an integrated approach to visitor management. (i.e. the Forestry Commission, main local settlements, communities, Biosphere interests, and interest groups).
VM2.8	Monitor visitor numbers, using people and vehicle counters on a daily basis and record attendance at events to determine trends.

Objective VM3: Involve the local community and Communities of interest on and off site.

We would like to see more people connecting with and contributing to the management of Cairnsmore of Fleet. We see an important role for the reserve in the local area and would like to encourage better involvement of the local community, businesses and communities of interest.

We will run a perception study in the local area and use feedback to inform the development of an engagement plan setting out opportunities for improving how we engage with neighbours, partner organisations, local communities, businesses and other interested groups.

We want to look at ways of managing Cairnsmore of Fleet NNR within the wider landscape with a focus on working jointly on key areas such as improving the condition of blanket bog, water and species management. By considering a larger scale we can have a positive impact on the surrounding area; supporting a landscape more resilient to climate change.

We will look at the potential to encourage people to become more directly involved in all aspect of the management of the reserve. This may include providing volunteering, encouraging people to deliver species and habitat surveys, identify ways to manage these, help us with promotion, engagement and maintenance tasks as these occur during the life time of the plan.

We will encourage research and business initiatives which are compatible with the management of the reserve. To this end we will also consider whether there is potential to develop by products and other business activity on the reserve. For instance a number of our reserves provide locations for keeping bee hives or grazing cattle, or leading visitors on planned events.

We will encourage and where possible support educational visits for schools and tertiary education.

Projects planned to deliver Objective VM3 during life of plan:

Task No.	Task description
VM3.1	Develop and deliver an engagement plan.
VM3.2	Run perception study twice during the management plan period & collate feedback to inform future engagement.
VM3.3	Engage with neighbours & SSSI landowners to initiate/ reinforce partnership at landscape scale by focussing on key habitats or species (blanket bog, water, grouse, deer and goat management.)
VM3.4	Engage with local businesses on relevant opportunities under Biosphere objectives (e.g. encourage trial on by-products and sustainable use of the reserve).
VM3.5	Engage with specialist community to deliver management tasks

Task No.	Task description
	(management of the heritage/ for people and property) on and off the reserve
VM3.6	Work jointly with relevant partners to support the management of the key habitats and benefits they provide to wider ecosystem services.
VM3.7	Engage with the local communities to identify ways for people to become involved with and instil a sense of ownership of the reserve. Test interest in establishing a 'Friends of Cairnsmore of Fleet' group.
VM3.8	Encourage and support individuals to become involved by developing volunteering opportunities on and around Cairnsmore of Fleet.
VM3.9	Encourage and support research on Cairnsmore of Fleet SSSI, NNR, Dromore in-byre and the wider area.
VM3.10	Enable teachers to use the reserve by highlighting Cairnsmore of Fleet's relevance to the Curriculum for Excellence by promoting natural and cultural heritage links through a landscape approach to education providers.
VM3.11	Support educational visits to the reserve.

6 Property Management

Objective PM1: Manage the reserve property responsibly following best practice.

We will manage the reserve and SNH Property responsibly following Best Practice and providing Good Value for Money.

We manage the infrastructure and do regular maintenance and health and safety checks. We maintain equipment used on site and ensure it conforms to the appropriate regulations.

We have responsibility for the upkeep of a number of buildings on site; we inspect these on a regular basis to ensure they are fit for purpose.

The built infrastructure includes an office base for staff and visitor centre with toilets. In addition to this we have facilities for managing livestock and barns and sheds for storage of equipment and materials. Our requirements for building management are set out in a property asset plan.

We will manage SNH owned livestock by observing the industry best practice and the relevant animal welfare regulations.

We will develop Dromore taking into account operational needs, people's perceptions and biodiversity interests.

Projects planned to deliver Objective PM1 during life of plan:

Task No.	Task description
PM1.1	Maintain the Visitor Centre and all visitor infrastructure (trails, car park, toilets, viewpoint etc.) in good condition for visitors.
PM1.2	Carry out quarterly safety and condition assessments of all visitor infrastructures and keep accurate records.
PM1.3	Ensure property and equipment is maintained and conforms to Health & Safety Regulations including risk assessment and fire plan reviews.
PM1.4	Ensure payments made for Nature Reserve Agreement and other annual payments.
PM1.5	Review cost effective options for delivering domestic livestock grazing in year 1 and 2.
PM1.6	Manage livestock following Best Management Practice and animal welfare regulations. Where maintaining own stock offset costs with income from livestock based products (wool, venison and stock).
PM1.7	Contract livestock management and off-wintering for SNH stock.
PM1.8	Define & deliver management on the in-by taking into account operational needs, LCA (local landscape, people's perception studies & biodiversity interests) & best management practice to deliver multiple

Task No.	Task description
	benefits at a landscape scale.
PM1.9	Liaise with FCS to deliver landscape scale management operations (habitat management, species management) and people engagement projects
PM1.10	Liaise with Glenure Estate and tenant to deliver management monitoring, grazing, deer and goat management operations and property projects on the reserve
PM1.11	Liaise with Property Services to maintain building, associated supplies (sewage, water, power etc.).
PM1.12	Liaise with Local Authority on the maintenance of access road and Property Services and neighbours on the maintenance of internal tracks and paths.
PM1.13	Liaise with Property staff to maintain and upgrade existing renewable energy system (solar panels, ground source heat pump heating system) as required and develop opportunities for upgrade and expansion.
PM1.14	Liaise with ISS to ensuring that all ICT hardware and software, communications, networks and telephones meet the needs of staff on and off the reserve.
PM1.15	Continue to operate the greening plan for the site and maintain the gold award for the visitor centre.

7 Planning and reporting

Objective PR1: Planning & reporting: Ensure management planning is adaptive and effective.

The reserve plan provides valuable continuity however it is only part of the process and will be monitored and reviewed on an on-going basis with formal milestones at regular intervals.

An interim review will be completed mid-plan unless there are significant changes that require an earlier review. We will review the plan in the final year to inform preparation of the next management plan.

Task No.	Task description
PR1.1	Update annual budget in Q3 for bidding.
PR1.2	Report on finance and projects in corporate systems.
PR1.3	Update annual report at least every quarter and finalise by end of Q1 of following financial year.
PR1.4	Do interim review of management plan.
PR1.5	Review current reserve plan and complete new management plan.

8 Summary

During the next ten years we will focus on the continued enhancement of the notified features of the reserve; blanket bog and upland habitats. Management of the water table and reduction in areas of erosion will help restore the blanket bog. Balancing grazing pressure across the site by carefully managing domestic stock as well as controlling wild grazers will be key to steer the vegetative dynamic on the reserve. Wherever we can, we will deliver specific species focused projects to support the Biosphere Natural Heritage Management Plan.

We will set up a more consistent monitoring programme to inform future management and monitor the impact of Climate Change. Data collated on the reserve will be provided to national and local monitoring schemes.

In order to improve biodiversity on the reserve we will look for opportunities to work with neighbours and partners to deliver joint projects and work across boundaries.

We also wish to continue to spread the word about this special place and build on our reputation as a great nature day out for visitors. We want to promote the reserve through events, online and social media, volunteering, business engagement and contact with other local attractions as part of the NSA and the biosphere.

We will develop a communication plan in the early years of the plan to inform our delivery of promotion and communication tasks. We will continue to provide for visitors and will review the existing provision at both the visitor centre and on the reserve. As we update the information provided we will look for opportunities to integrate with the themes of the Fleet Valley and the biosphere.

We will maintain the infrastructure and buildings on the reserve.

9 Document properties

Photography: Annelise Clebant.

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Links:

For information about Scotland's National Nature Reserves and further information about Cairnsmore of Fleet NNR please visit [Scotland's NNR website](#).

For information on the protected areas associated with Cairnsmore of Fleet NNR please go to the [SNHi website](#).

Other useful links:

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere. <http://www.gsabiosphere.org.uk/>

Joint Nature Conservation Committee www.jncc.gov.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage www.snh.org.uk