



Trust welcomes wild land breakthrough

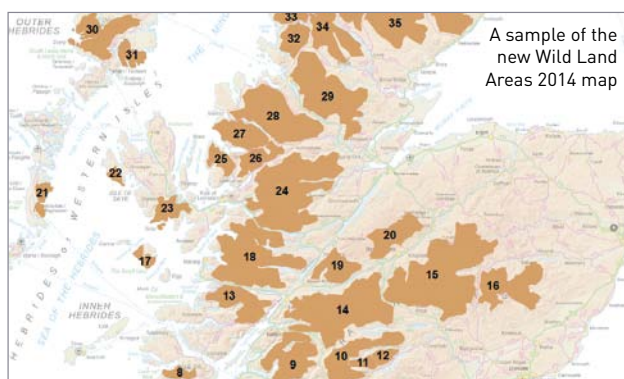
On 23 June, the Trust hailed the new Wild Land Areas 2014 map of Scotland published by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and supported by the Scottish Government as a historic breakthrough in its campaign to have Scotland's wild land recognised and protected. The map covers 19.5 per cent of Scotland's land area.

This recognition of the importance of wild land is underpinned by both the new National Planning Framework and Scottish Planning Policy documents. The National Planning Framework 3 states: 'We also want to continue our strong protection for our wildest landscapes – wild land is a nationally important asset.' (par 4.4)

The Scottish Planning Policy document states: 'Wild land character is displayed in some of Scotland's remoter upland, mountain and coastal areas, which are very sensitive to any form of intrusive human activity and have little or no capacity to accept new development. Plans should identify and safeguard the character of areas of wild land as identified on the 2014 SNH map of wild land areas.' (par 200)

Stuart Brooks, Trust chief executive, commented: "This recognition of Scotland's wild land as a nationally important asset that needs to be safeguarded marks a historic breakthrough. The John Muir Trust has fought long and hard over many years with the support of many thousands of people to achieve official recognition for wild land and we welcome this commitment."

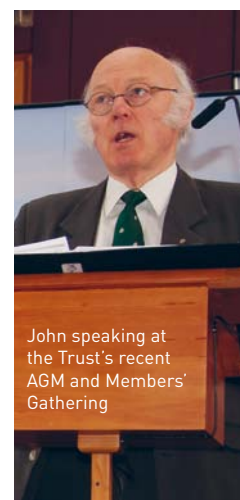
The new policy does not offer absolute protection from large-scale development but the adoption of the map should result in more consistent decision making by planners and government, and should discourage energy companies from targeting the 42



areas that make up the wild land map. It's a huge step forward for wild land, and marks a distinct shift from when the Trust first presented its petition for wild land protection to the Scottish Parliament in 2011.

"SNH's wild land map didn't even exist 18 months ago, so this is a tremendous achievement and a credit to all our staff and supporters who have driven our Wild Land Campaign," said John Hutchison, chairman of the Trust. "Of course, many of us would like it to go further, and we're disappointed that some key areas have been removed from the final map, but the big picture is that we have gained a good degree of protection for a significant percentage of Scotland despite the best efforts of vested interests to undermine the map."

The areas removed include a chunk of the Monadhliath Mountains following the decision by the Scottish Government to approve the giant Stronelairst wind farm (see p5). The Trust is still examining this case, and also looking in more detail at the implications of the new planning policy and wild land areas map.



PHOTOGRAPH: CRAIG MACLEAN

John Hutchison, MBE

We are delighted to announce that Trust chairman John Hutchison has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's birthday honours list for services to the environment and the community in the Highlands and Islands. As many members will know, John has been deeply involved in the environment and land reform movements in the Highlands and Islands for almost 20 years, particularly in Eigg and Knoydart.

Well done John on an honour that is richly deserved. For more details, see <http://bit.ly/1wro7af>



The Trust's purchase of Carreg y Saeth Isaf has been put on hold

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID LINTERN

Disappointment in Wales

A change of plan by the owner has seen the Trust reluctantly withdraw its offer to buy an area of wild land in Wales

Following the Trust's successful appeal to raise funds to buy an area of wild land – Carreg y Saeth Isaf – in Snowdonia, we are sorry to report that the owner has unexpectedly decided to sell the entire farm at Dolwreiddiog, which includes the farmhouse and gardens and not just the parcel of land the Trust was negotiating to purchase.

While we have been in discussion with the owner since January, we have not been able to come to an acceptable agreement. As it is a difficult property to value accurately, we understand that the owner now intends to put the property on the open market within the next few months.

"We're not in a position financially, nor do we desire, to offer to purchase the farmhouse and grounds as well as the wild land, so we have reluctantly withdrawn our offer," explained Trust chief executive Stuart Brooks. "We are obviously extremely

disappointed with this decision but remain committed to trying to secure the future of Carreg y Saeth Isaf if at all possible, and to increasing the presence of the Trust in Wales. We may have the opportunity to make another offer later this year depending on how the sale proceeds.

"We'd like to thank all our supporters who have helped us raise the agreed purchase price. It has been a fantastic achievement and demonstrates the commitment of our members and supporters to protecting wild land in Wales."

For the time being, the Trust is not accepting any new donations for Carreg y Saeth Isaf. If you have donated, you should already have been contacted. If any member has not received this communication or is in any way concerned, please email Adam Pinder at adam.pinder@jmt.org, or call the fundraising team on 0131 554 0114.

Way to go

Trust members James Brownhill and Sophie Bastable became the first people to walk the entire length of the new John Muir Way – Scotland's latest coast-to-coast route, which runs for 134 miles between Helensburgh and Dunbar.

Supported by Trustee John Thomas, James and Sophie took six days to walk the route, arriving just in time for the way's official opening by First Minister Alex Salmond on John Muir Day (21 April). Read all about their experience at www.jmt.org/members-story1.asp

For more on the John Muir Way, visit www.johnmuirway.org



James and Sophie celebrate completing their journey at the John Muir Trust stall in Dunbar on 21 April

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN THOMAS



Paul Wheelhouse, Scottish Minister for Environment and Climate Change, watches the Trust's new Wild ways film with Stuart Brooks

PHOTOGRAPH: CRAIG MACLEAN

Minister attends AGM and Members' Gathering

In the centenary year of John Muir's death, around 150 members headed to Dunbar – Muir's birthplace – for the Trust's AGM and Members' Gathering in May.

What proved to be a lively weekend began on Friday evening with an illustrated talk by nature and travel photographer John Beatty. On Saturday, chief executive Stuart Brooks used his presentation to call on the Scottish Government to leave a fitting legacy to John Muir by providing wild land protection (something that

has since become reality, see p1).

This year saw the Scottish Minister for Environment and Climate Change speak at the Gathering for the first time. Paul Wheelhouse discussed what Muir's legacy meant for the Scottish Government, flagged the recent John Muir Festival, and provided a recap of the Government's views on the need to protect our wildest places.

We were delighted that the Minister stayed on to hear the AGM, before chatting to Trust members and staff.

Give something back
to the places you love

Support our *Wild Ways*
Path Appeal

www.jmt.org/wildways
Text MUIR14 £10 to 70070



PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN MUIR TRUST

The new agreement was signed by Calum MacKay (left), chair of the North Harris Trust, and Mick Blunt the John Muir Trust's area manager for the Western Isles

A decade together

To celebrate their considerable achievements following a decade of close partnership, the John Muir Trust and North Harris Trust recently signed a new Memorandum of Understanding that will see the two organisations continue working together to protect, enhance and promote the North Harris estate.

For more than 10 years, we have collaborated on a vast range of projects, from establishing the popular Harris Mountain Festival to setting up and running the only ranger service in the Western Isles. Not only has this helped protect the estate's internationally important wildlife and habitats, but it has also greatly improved facilities for visitors and the community – efforts that have generated vital additional income for this fragile rural economy.

Wild Ways path appeal

The Trust's Wild Ways path appeal has already generated a fantastic response from members – not to mention some literary celebrity backing

In May, the Trust launched an appeal for the long-term maintenance of the path network on our properties. In the first three weeks alone, our generous supporters raised more than £54,000 in one-off donations – a fantastic response that stands us in good stead for the priority work that needs to begin on Skye this year.

In particular, we'd like to thank the Patsy Wood Trust which donated £10,000 to the appeal. As well as being an inspirational environmentalist, maverick tree planter and talented seamstress, Patsy was a devoted Trust member who walked many of the paths in the Trust's care.

We've also received many touching notes of support for the appeal, including this one from member Brian Johnston: 'I finished the Munros in 2008 and am now not able to climb the big hills, but I take comfort in knowing that my contribution will bring the same joy and inner peace that more people will experience in the



Robert Macfarlane

future through your work'

Among the many other people who have shown their support is Trust member and acclaimed author Robert Macfarlane, who commented: "Paths are vital and subtle features of our landscapes. They connect places to places, and they connect people to people. They are – as Wordsworth put it – the ways 'into' a landscape: leading us to encounters

and adventures. I dedicated a book, *The Old Ways*, to 'those who keep the paths open,' and I keenly support the John Muir Trust's Wild Ways appeal."

The Trust spends £60,000 each year on path work – that's around 50 pence per metre of path on our properties. We still need plenty of help, especially monthly direct debits, to enable us to plan ahead and keep our costs and impact low. Please spread the word about our appeal! You can learn more and donate at www.jmt.org/wildways, call on 01796 470080, or just send a cheque (payable to 'Wild Ways') to John Muir Trust, (Wild Ways Appeal), Tower House, Station Road, Pitlochry, PH16 5AN.

Path work on film

If you've ever wondered what is involved in day-to-day path work on Trust properties, do take a look at *Our wild ways*, a new short film produced for the Trust by DX Films that offers a fascinating glimpse into this aspect of our work. The film follows Trust path officer Chris Goodman as he works in all weathers to repair and maintain paths in a way that both helps them blend into the landscape and protects the wider environment. Chris heads up the Trust's path work which, in the absence of public funding, depends entirely on donations, plus the input of many dedicated volunteers. Enjoy the film at vimeo.com/johnmuirtrust/ourwildways



Hard graft at Sandwood

PHOTOGRAPH: DX FILMS

Support for deer management findings

The Trust has welcomed recent recommendations by the Land Reform Review Group on the management of deer in Scotland

The John Muir Trust is very much in agreement with a recent report by the Scottish Government's Land Reform Review Group which concluded that there has been limited progress in addressing deer management issues in Scotland, despite many years of debate.

Section 32 of the group's report, 'Wild deer', recognises that 'Scotland's population of native red and roe deer are important national assets that should be sustainably managed in the public interest'. The report also notes that, despite repeated warnings by the responsible authorities, wild deer numbers have continued to rise for the past 50 years – a trend that has led to a range of negative social, economic, animal welfare and environmental impacts.

Among its proposals, the Land Reform Review Group recommends that changes be made to the current statutory framework governing deer

management. These include: giving Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) responsibility for determining the cull levels required in the public interest within each Deer Management Group area; and requiring land owners to apply for consent for the number of deer they plan to cull, to enable SNH to identify situations where proposed culls would be insufficient to protect the public interest.

"The report makes clear that Scotland has one of the least regulated deer management systems in Europe and the current 'voluntary approach' means that landowners can pretty much manage deer however they want, regardless of environmental impacts," commented Mike Daniels, the Trust's head of land and science. "We would urge the Scottish Government to adopt the recommendations and keenly await its response."



PHOTOGRAPH: PETER CAIRNS/2020VISION

Residents back wild land protection

While the Scottish Government and Scottish Natural Heritage were finalising their draft planning documents and wild land map of Scotland (see story on p1), the Trust commissioned a poll of 500 people in eight constituencies across the Highlands and Islands.

Our aim was to gauge the level of support for wild land protection among the people who live and work in the Highlands and Islands and therefore would have the most to gain or lose from whatever decisions were taken by the Scottish Government.

The poll, conducted by market research agency Survation, asked people for their attitude to the following: 'The Scottish Parliament is currently discussing a proposal that Scotland's wild land – land that is rugged and remote with a lack of visible built structures – should be given special protection from development such as large-scale wind farms. To what extent do you support or oppose these proposals?'

Excluding 'don't knows', the poll shows: 53% support the proposal to protect wild land; 24% oppose the proposal for wild land protection; 23% neither support nor oppose the proposal.

Since then events have moved on and the Scottish Government has recognised and protected wild land by issuing a map of Wild Land Areas 2014 (see more on p1).

Hill tracks campaign update

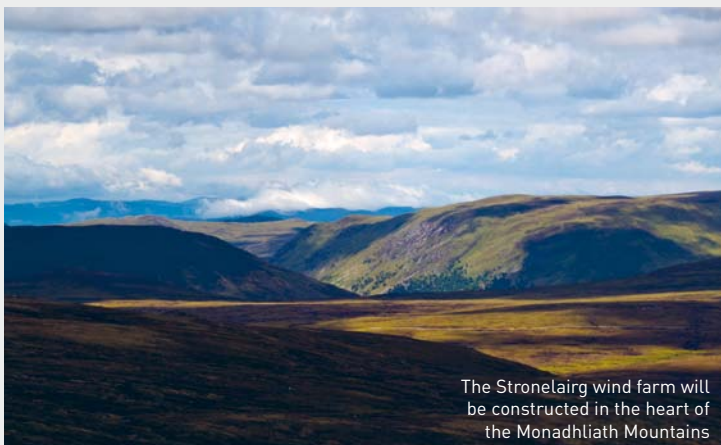
The Scottish Environment LINK hill tracks campaign, of which the Trust is part, has maintained pressure on the Scottish Government to bring to an end the current unregulated system for vehicular track construction. The campaign is keen for Trust members to contact the Environment Minister to ask when he will be making a decision and also to continue to submit images of poor tracks under construction. These can be sent to hilltracks@scotlink.org and also to your MSP. More information on the campaign can be found at www.scotlink.org/workareas/hill-tracks



A hill track showing erosion, leading to silt run-off, in and around a stream

PHOTOGRAPH: SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT LINK

Dismay over Stronelairst decision



The Stronelairst wind farm will be constructed in the heart of the Monadhliath Mountains

The Trust is hugely dismayed at the Scottish Government's recent decision to approve the giant Stronelairst wind farm development

Having fought a long, hard campaign against the proposed development, the Trust is extremely disappointed at the recent decision by Scottish Energy Minister Fergus Ewing to approve construction of the Stronelairst wind farm in the heart of one of the proposed Core Areas of Wild Land mapped by Scottish Natural Heritage (but which has since been removed, see p1).

The largest wind farm ever approved in the Highland Council area, the development by SSE will consist of 67 turbines, each 135 metres high (the height of the Forth Road Bridge), spread over an area larger than Inverness.

"This development flies in the face of advice from Scottish Natural Heritage which objected to the development on the grounds that it would destroy the character of one of Scotland's key areas of wild land," commented Helen McDade, the Trust's head of policy. "SSE is a powerful multinational company with its headquarters in Scotland, and we know this project is worth many hundreds of millions to its shareholders. It is unfortunate that SSE's views seem to hold greater sway over ministers than the opinions of the Scottish Government's own expert body on the natural environment."

Following the decision, the Trust has written to the Scottish Energy Minister Fergus Ewing to express its deep disappointment about the decision. A copy of the letter can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/1iDpREU>

North Calliachar extension rejected

In contrast to the recent approval of Stronelairst, the Trust has welcomed the decision by Perth & Kinross Council's Development Management Committee to reject an application for a further seven turbines at the North Calliachar wind farm in Highland Perthshire. The Trust had submitted papers outlining its concerns about significant errors in the conclusions of the Planning Officer's Report regarding impact on three National Scenic Areas, Schiehallion and wild land; cumulative landscape and visual assessment; plus impacts on tourism and local communities.

The Trust was also concerned about inadequate time being scheduled to hear community and objector views and raised its concerns about social and environmental injustice in an open letter to councillors ahead of the meeting.

Trust extends collaboration with conservation NGOs

The Trust continues to lobby the UK Government for better strategic thinking on energy policy to help safeguard areas of wild land. To that end, we have stepped up our collaborative work with other conservation NGOs in England and Wales by taking associate membership of Wildlife and Countryside Link – a collaborative organisation with interests that span the breadth of wildlife and countryside issues.

This association will help increase the Trust's awareness of initiatives led by other organisations that may help to protect and enhance wild land, while also raising our wider profile.



Griffin wind farm from Birnam Hill, with Schiehallion behind

Talladh-a-Bheithe wind farm campaign

An application for a 24-turbine wind farm on land to the north of Loch Rannoch is expected to be submitted soon and the Trust anticipates that this will be of major concern given its impact on wild land in the area, and on the Trust's nearby property at Schiehallion. This proposed development will be the latest in a series of major developments impacting on wild land in the area, from the Beauly-Denny transmission line to Griffin and Calliachar wind farms. A local objectors' group website, Keep Rannoch Wild, provides links to further information about the project and outlines steps that those concerned might take to oppose this development. www.keeperannochwild.org.uk

Policy casework update

Since February, the policy team has evaluated dozens of wind farm applications and identified those that are contrary to our policies. Specifically, we have objected to Creag a' Bhairst (near Dunkeld), Calliachar Extension (successful, see story opposite), Beinn Mhor (nr Glen Affric), Cruach Brenfield (Argyll), and have commented on Windy Standard 3 (Dumfries & Galloway), Beinneun Extension (nr Fort Augustus), Aberarder (south of Loch Ness), Caplich (South Lanarkshire) and Millennium South (nr Invergarry). We are also actively pursuing the Cairn Duhie application (nr Nairn) by lobbying Highland Council councillors and committee members.

In addition, we are looking to engage with Moray Council and the Cairngorm National Park Planning Committee to present a united front to the Highland Council Planning Committee (South). Look out for more updates online as well as in our print communications.

Boost for outdoor learning in England

England's new National Curriculum, which comes into force in September, should allow more scope for incorporating outdoor learning approaches into everyday education – including use of the John Muir Award.

The National Curriculum provides an outline of core education around which teachers are free to develop exciting and stimulating lessons. Its aim is to promote the development of pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills, while also providing time within the school day to range beyond the National Curriculum.

It is already well recognised that outdoor learning experiences can enrich a curriculum, with the John Muir Award a perfect tool for helping teachers deliver hands-on learning beyond the classroom.

As one teacher from Garrett Hall Primary School near Wigan commented: "The new curriculum allows us more freedom to design learning in a way which we feel suits our school and pupils – so we're heading outdoors! The John Muir Award will really enhance what we've got planned."

For more on how the John Muir Award can contribute to learning in schools, see <http://bit.ly/1njMiAB>

Urban jungle

The John Muir Trust has signed up as a Friend of the Greater London National Park*, the world's first urban national park (*officially a Notional Park). It's an inspiring initiative that draws attention to the idea of national parks, as well as celebrating the area's beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage. See who else is a Friend at <http://bit.ly/LondonNP>, sign up yourself, and join the campaign to make London the world's first National Park City.



Award participants from Noranside Open Estate Prison on a visit to the Cairngorms National Park

PHOTOGRAPH: SCOTTISH-PRISON SERVICE

Engagement with all

The John Muir Award has produced a new 'inclusion' resource that demonstrates how the Award engages with people from all backgrounds

A new resource produced by the John Muir Award team, 'Inclusion, Wild Places and the John Muir Award', reinforces the message that social circumstances should not be a barrier to opportunities to experience wild places.

Aimed at a broad audience – from schools, youth work and mental health support to addiction recovery and those engaging with at-risk families or ex-offenders – the resource highlights how those working in both public and third sector areas can use the Award as a tool to engage and inspire hard-to-reach-audiences.

The document provides further information on who is already using the Award in relation to inclusion themes; why it is used to support people experiencing disadvantage (be it through ethnicity, age,

health, unemployment or other factors); case studies from inclusion sectors on how the Award works; how it contributes to national policy; and, of course, how to get involved.

Engaging with people from all backgrounds has been at the very heart of the Award since its beginnings in 1997 and today, even with substantial year-on-year growth throughout the UK, at least one in four Awards are achieved by people experiencing some form of disadvantage.

More than 300 organisations across the UK that are dedicated to supporting people who experience some form of disadvantage already use the John Muir Award ... although we'd love to work with even more. The inclusion document can be read in full at <http://bit.ly/1n1CGeT>



PHOTOGRAPH: ROB MCDUGALL

What if Muir was on Twitter?

This year has really seen John Muir leap to prominence in Scotland, with a long-distance trail, a festival, a conference ... not to mention a recent trend for fine beards (ok, that might just be coincidence). But what does the younger generation really make of a man who left Dunbar for America aged 10, became an adventurer and conservation visionary, helped set up the National Parks movement, and died 100 years ago? We asked them – and discovered some fascinating facts, interesting insights, and whether Muir's message has relevance to young people today. Watch John Muir – Back to the Future, a five-minute film created by the Trust at <http://vimeo.com/95260067>

New Wild Space exhibition

Visitors to the Wild Space visitor centre in Pitlochry this summer will be treated to a wonderful exhibition that runs until the end of July

A spectacular collection of acrylic and mixed media paintings on canvas exploring the changeable mood and character of some of the wildest landscapes in the Highlands and Islands is the latest exhibition to be unveiled at the Trust's Wild Space visitor centre.

Entitled 'In-Sight: Horizons that Inspire', the exhibition offers a new perspective on landscape by artist-ecologist, Liz Green (pictured right). Self-taught, a long career as a field plant ecologist has developed her eye for pattern, subtle changes in colour, hidden clues of past land management and a strong emotional connection to landscape.



Triple buttress of Coire Mhic Fhearchair

PICTURE: LIZ GREEN



"We have been blown away by the quality of this exhibition," commented Jane Grimley, Wild Space manager. "We have held a number of photographic and art exhibitions since the Wild Space opened last year, and we're confident the public will love the drama and colour of In-Sight."

'In-Sight: Horizons that Inspire' by Liz Green is on show at the Wild Space until 31 July. www.jmt.org/wildspace.asp

Thank you, thank you

The Trust would like to say a big thank you to Wilderness Scotland for its support as a Gold Corporate Member. Staff from the leading adventure travel organisation worked recently with our conservation officer Don O'Driscoll on an epic day (and night) of fence removal in Assynt. Director Paul Easto also dropped by the Wild Space in Pitlochry to present us with a share of the company's profits – a very generous cheque for £2,000.

Hats off also to Dan Duxbury who recently finished a round of the Munros in just 42 days, 23 hours and 52 minutes. Here's what we wrote about his endeavour on Facebook: 'Mission complete! Many congratulations to Dan Duxbury who has finished his Munro Round when



Paul Easto (right) and Trust chief executive Stuart Brooks in the Wild Space visitor centre

he reached the summit of Ben Hope at 8.22 this morning (read more at <http://danmunro2014.blogspot.co.uk>). And also huge thanks to everyone who supported his fundraising for the Trust (www.justgiving.com/danduxbury) ... heroes one and all!

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN MUIR TRUST

Welcome to our newest subscribers

Skye-based Murdo, Katy and their father are among the latest people to sign up for our monthly newsletter and win a goody bag when their names were picked in our prize draw. Ten-year-old Murdo is already a committed environmentalist and attends events and outings with the RSPB Skylarks whenever possible. He also helps out with the family's Highland cows on their croft which forms part of a corncrake and bee scheme under the SRDP.

Legacies:

Perpetua (Pip) Pope,
29 May, 1916 – 31 May, 2013

The death, at the age of 97, of Perpetua (Pip) Pope in 2013 was a sad loss. A hugely gifted painter of Scotland's wild and remote areas, Pip was also a long-standing member and great supporter of the Trust. She once said of her work: "I have tried to paint the intense pleasure I get from being in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. I don't want to paint views particularly, it's more the feeling of freedom – the changing light, the subtle colour of the countryside, the sand blown by the wind, the wild flowers, the machair and the sand dunes and always the feeling of space and air."

The work of the Trust depends on gifts and legacies, and we're always grateful for donations that allow us to continue protecting and looking after some of Scotland's finest wild places. If the time is ever right for you to consider remembering the John Muir Trust in your will, please contact Adam Pinder on 0131 554 0114, or adam.pinder@jmt.org

For much more on Pip's work, see www.scottish-gallery.co.uk/artist/perpetua_pope



All go at Glen Tanar and Mar Lodge

The North East Group's monthly conservation work parties at Glen Tanar on Royal Deeside achieved much over the spring months, including clearing winter flood debris from riverside paths and planting tree plugs on a small flood defence embankment near the Braealoine Visitor Centre.



PHOTOGRAPH: JAMES BROWNHILL

A large section of fence comes down at Mar Lodge

The longer days also allowed work higher up the glen which, to our delight, turned out to be close to a well-populated black grouse lek. In May, we returned to the remote top of the glen – the lower slopes of Mount Keen – to repair some of the small deer exclosures that had been planted more than 15 years ago.

Group volunteers also returned to the National Trust for Scotland's Mar Lodge Estate for a two-day

event. It was a great success, with significant sections of deer fence removed from now mature planted woodland, plus a day of tree ringing in areas of planted forest.

Finally, the North East Group would like to thank Chris Goodman, Trust footpaths officer, for a fantastic illustrated talk in March about his walk across the Haute Pyrenees.

Sugar Loaf outing

The South West England Members Group enjoyed a fabulous outing in May with a walk over Sugar Loaf in the Welsh borders. Eschewing the tourist route, we climbed through impressive Atlantic oakwoods to the Deri ridge from where we spied a superb show of May blossom and noted regeneration of birch, willow and rowan – all the time serenaded by skylark, meadow pipit, stonechat and willow warbler.

At 596m, the summit provided panoramic views, including the Brecon Beacons to the west and Bloreng, with its interesting industrial history, to the south. Wandering back down, crossing the boundary bank of an ancient deer park, we were greeted with carpets of bluebells in the woods above Parc Lodge, and also encountered evidence of sympathetic land management in the form of a flock of 'conservation grade' Hebridean sheep. Altogether, it was a really enjoyable day, with good company, great weather and abundant animal and plant life.

Philphaugh talk enthralled Borders group

The Borders Group saw a good turnout of members and friends at the end of January for a talk on enlightened management of the Philphaugh Estate by Sir Michael Strang-Steel. With the presentation covering everything from the 13th century origins of this wonderful estate near Selkirk to the complexities of installing a 200kw in-river

power station in the Yarrow last year, the audience was engrossed throughout.

Sir Michael also explained how he had added tourism and renewable energy (not wind, but hydro) to the more traditional farming, forestry and sporting activities of the estate, plus his commitment to the care and maintenance of the landscape around Selkirk.

Follow us online



The Trust is increasingly engaging with people online via our website (www.jmt.org), monthly enews and social media such as Facebook and Twitter (follow us @JohnMuirTrust). We have 10,000 more unique website visitors per month now than we did two years ago, while Twitter has leapt from 411 followers in 2010 to more than 11,000 today. Our monthly enews is delivered to more than 7,000 people every

month and is a great way to keep up-to-date with developments. If a member of the Trust, sign up by sending an email to keith.anderson@jmt.org and quoting your membership number, or you can sign up on the front page of our website, in our Wild Space visitor centre, or at an event. You can also receive your Journal and Members' News electronically – please just email membership@jmt.org

LOCAL MEMBERS' GROUPS FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Scottish Borders

7 July Guided tour of the in-river hydro scheme near Selkirk by Sir Michael Strang-Steel. Contact: John Thomas j.p.r.t@btinternet.com

Edinburgh

15 November Annual Gathering, with guest speakers Helen McDade, the Trust's head of policy, Denis Mollison, former trustee, and author Peter Wright. Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. Contact: Richard Ellis, rellis.consultancy@virgin.net

North East Scotland

19 July, 16 August, 20 September Glen Tanar work parties.

Contact: james@brownhill.us

25 September Guest speaker Shaila Rao, ecologist at Mar Lodge, Taylor Building, Aberdeen University. Contact: r.beyts@btinternet.com

North West Scotland

27 July Wild flower walk. Meet at Sheigra Cemetery car park.

Contact: ian.evans.nedd@gmail.com or call **01571 833241**

Forum – date to be confirmed (see e-newsletter and website for more details).

North West England

11 October Inaugural meeting for new members' Group, Bryce Institute, Burneside, Kendal (preceded by a work party in Hardknott Forest). Contact: dominick@env.leeds.ac.uk

Southern England

19 October Welsh waterfalls walk, meet at the Cwm Porth car park.

Contact: southernmembersgroup@jmt.org

15 November Southern Members Gathering, Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol.

Contact: southernmembersgroup@jmt.org

Tell us your news!

What have Trust members and local groups been up to? Tell us your news and stories. Call Iona on **01796 470080** or email promotions@jmt.org

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GREYLAG GOOSE (ANSER ANSER)
PAIR ON EDGE OF LOCH NEAR
NESTING SITE, SCOTLAND,
MARK HAMBLIN/2020VISION