

**SBS 2020 Challenge:
Crown Estate Scotland Delivery Statement**

Crown Estate Scotland is a young organisation, albeit with a history that goes back centuries. We started operating on 1 April 2017 and, as an interim body, are tasked with managing the estate until new legislation implementing long-term arrangements comes into force. The business was set up following the Scotland Act 2016, and our legislative framework includes a duty to ensure 'good management' as well as securing best consideration. In practice, this means obtaining market value (for leases, sales and other transactions) while contributing to Scotland's economic, social and environmental well-being and prosperity.

The estate is a unique mix of land, property and rights. It includes the seabed, 590km square of foreshore (just under half of Scotland's total), rural land, commercial property and the rights to wild salmon fishing and naturally occurring gold and silver. Decisions about the estate impact thousands of businesses, communities, families and organisations – as well as the wider Scottish economy and environment. While we do not directly manage land and marine resources (other than forestry), we work with our business partners and stakeholders to support and facilitate activities that protect and enhance the natural environment on which our tenants' businesses and our business depend.

Sustainability and good stewardship of the assets under our management is key to our business. We will work with the Scottish Government, business partners and communities to encourage sustainable practices, and continue to invest in public access and education facilities to enhance the public use and understanding of the natural environment.

Crown Estate Scotland's assets are significant in supporting the delivery of Scottish Government objectives relating to the environment. The 'Six Big Steps for Nature' set out in Scotland's Route Map to 2020 inform our work and are integrated into our business planning. This is demonstrated by the work we do with our tenants on ecosystem restoration, woodland management, habitat and species management and the educational work delivered through our ranger service on the Glenlivet estate and other activities. Crown Estate Scotland is also supporting the 'Investment in Natural Capital' as set out in the 2020 Routemap, by developing a trial project for land based businesses in partnership with several other organisations.

We are working to develop processes and tools to measure and monitor environmental and other non-financial impacts of our business decisions. We will use this to inform more sustainable decision-making, helping us limit our environmental impact, and sharing our learning with Small and Medium sized Enterprise's and public sectors.¹

¹ See p11 of our 2017-2020 corporate plan, available at www.crownestatescotlanmd.com

Annex 1. SBS 2020 Challenge: Crown Estate Scotland Delivery statement table

Big Steps for Nature		Contributing action	
<p>ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION</p> <p>2020 Challenge Outcome: Scotland’s ecosystems are restored to good health so that they provide robust ecosystem services and build our natural capital</p>		<p>Crown Estate Scotland Overall role:</p> <p>Incorporate the importance of ecosystems into business development</p>	<p>Route Map Priority Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Restoration of peatlands 2. Creation and restructuring of woodlands <p>Targets:</p> <p>Peatland restoration programme underway</p> <p>Expand woodland cover- 100 hectares new in-hand woodland establishment</p> <p>Restructure woodlands to improve diversity.</p>
1.1	Encourage and support ecosystem restoration and management, especially in catchments that have experienced greatest degradation	<p>Work to restore Feith Musach peatland on Glenlivet Estate. Identify other areas for potential peatland restoration.</p> <p>Enhancement of existing woodland habitats.</p> <p>Creation of new woodlands including riparian woodland.</p> <p>Restoration (return to agricultural and forest land) of the former open cast coal mine on the Whitehill Estate.</p>	
1.3	Government and public bodies will work together towards a shared agenda for action to restore ecosystem health at a catchment scale across Scotland	<p>Work with relevant stakeholders to increase collaborative work streams on enhancement of the natural environment through research and working groups.</p> <p>East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership – Crown Estate Scotland’s Glenlivet Estate will be a core land holding within this partnership, helping to contribute to the four aims of the Cairngorms National Park. The partnership will also contribute to enhancing woodland expansion, peatland restoration and priority species conservation.</p>	

1.4	Establish plans and decisions about land use based on an understanding of ecosystems and take full account of land use impacts on the ecosystem services that underpin social, economic and environmental health	Promoting consideration of natural environment and the Scottish Land Use Strategy as part of the development and management of land based businesses operated by our business partners.		
INVESTMENT IN NATURAL CAPITAL 2020 Challenge outcome: Natural resources contribute to stronger sustainable economic growth in Scotland and we increase our natural capital to pass onto the next generation.		Crown Estate Scotland Overall role: Trial Natural Capital Protocol on land based businesses	Route Map Priority project: 3. Undertake natural capital trial 4. Peatland restoration	Target: Increase awareness of Natural Capital within the land management community
2.2	Use this index to influence decision-making and market-based approaches, so that wider monetary and non-monetary values for ecosystems are recognised and accounted for.	Undertake a trial of the Natural Capital Protocol on a land based business to outline the importance of ecosystems within the sector and help to influence management of soil, water, carbon and biodiversity within future business plans/development plans.		
2.3	Undertake a major programme of peatland conservation, management and restoration	We aim to work with a tenant to restore the Feith Musach peatland (near Tomintoul) which has historically been used as a small scale commercial peat cutting site. Peat production has now ceased and a plan for restoration has been drawn up. Glenlivet ranger service working with local high school on annual basis to undertaken the MICCI project (Moorlands Indicators of Climate Change Initiative) on peatland sites, providing opportunity for citizen science work and promoting importance of peatlands.		
2.4	Embed clear sustainability priorities in licensing of harvesting of natural seaweed stocks.	Maintain close collaboration with SNH and other natural heritage agencies on agreeing terms under which natural seaweed stocks may be harvested from Crown foreshore and seabed.		
QUALITY GREENSPACE FOR HEALTH AND EDUCATION BENEFITS 2020 Challenge outcome: Improved health and quality of life for the people of Scotland, through investment in the care of green space, nature and landscapes		Crown Estate Scotland Overall role: Continue to enhance the natural environment to increase the	Route Map priority projects: 5. Increase outdoor learning 6. Increase use of natural environment	Target: Increase the use of the natural environment through improved infrastructure and increased

		enjoyment of those visiting and living within it		understanding through information services
3.1	Provide opportunities for everyone to experience and enjoy nature regularly, with a particular focus on disadvantaged groups	<p>Work as part of the Highland Seashore Project to encourage local communities and visitors to learn about seashore wildlife.</p> <p>Where possible, ensure projects are targeted at disadvantaged and vulnerable people e.g. through our work with the Wilderness Foundation (see section 3.4 for further information).</p> <p>Maintain a network of waymarked trails across the rural estates (Glenlivet, Fochabers and Applegirth) that provide the infrastructure for people to enjoy and explore the countryside. In many places, this is accompanied by interpretation (e.g. leaflets, bird hides, information panels). At Glenlivet a ranger service is available who works with the community, schools and university groups to facilitate outdoor learning opportunities. They also organise open days, activities and guided walks throughout the year.</p>		
3.2	Support local authorities and communities to improve local environments and enhance biodiversity using green space and green networks, allowing nature to flourish and so enhancing the quality of life for people who live there	<p>The Tomintoul & Glenlivet Wildlife group has been set up with support from Crown Estate Scotland's Glenlivet ranger service. Events for the group are organised regularly and the group is distributing a grant scheme for wildlife projects via the Tomintoul and Glenlivet Landscape Partnership Project.</p> <p>At Glenlivet, staff work with local primary schools, assisting in school grounds works, and providing tree planting opportunities for local schools.</p>		
3.3	Build on good practice being developed by the National Health Service (NHS) and others to help encourage greenspace, green exercise and social prescribing initiatives that will improve health and wellbeing through connecting people with nature	<p>Maintain mountain biking and walking trails at Glenlivet Estate, promoting public access and recreations and the use of nature and the associated health benefits.</p> <p>Maintain a varied level of walking routes across the rural estates for public use.</p> <p>Deliver the aims of Active Cairngorms, the National Park's strategy for access and physical activity.</p>		
3.4	Increase access to nature within and close to schools, and support teachers in developing the role of outdoor learning across the Curriculum for Excellence	<p>We are supporting Education Scotland's "Developing the Young Workforce" programme in Moray, working with the Moray Council education department and teachers to make links between education and the land based sector.</p> <p>Ongoing work undertaken by the Ranger team with schools, universities and colleges at the rural estates to share knowledge about the outdoor environment. Visits directly to schools also take place, and supporting our local schools with school grounds projects.</p>		

		<p>Lead project sponsor and supporter of the ‘Clyde in the Classroom’- encouraging school children to engage with nature and protect their local environment through outdoor learning.</p> <p>Working with Wilderness Foundation who organise residential courses for school children on our Glenlivet Estate, which include conservation work, estate management visits and wild camping.</p> <p>Host a Junior Ranger programme each year for local secondary school pupils at Glenlivet Estate.</p> <p>Continue to facilitate and support use of Crown Estate Scotland land for forest schools and develop our work with the Rosewell Development Trust and inner-city Edinburgh schools / Midlothian schools to provide outdoor learning opportunities.</p> <p>Continued development of the Forests for the Future online educational resource to promote use of local greenspace and develop understanding and appreciation of the role of forests in mitigating climate change.</p>		
3.5	Encourage public organisations and businesses to review their responsibilities and action for biodiversity, and recognise that increasing their positive contribution to nature and landscapes can help meet their corporate priorities and performance.	<p>Increase the knowledge and understanding of Natural Capital and Natural Capital Protocol across the estates and the long-term benefits that this can bring to a business.</p> <p>Glenlivet Estate holds the Green Business Tourism Scheme gold award, for good environmental management. Ensure standards remain.</p> <p>Knowledge transfer with small and medium enterprises.</p>		
<p>CONSERVING WILDLIFE IN SCOTLAND</p> <p>2020 Challenge outcome: The special value and international importance of Scotland’s nature and geodiversity is assured, wildlife is faring well, and we have a highly effective network of protected places.</p>		<p>Crown Estate Scotland Overall role:</p> <p>Enhancement of natural environments and key species within rural estates</p>	<p>Route Map priority projects:</p> <p>7. Enhancement of important habitats</p> <p>8. Management of key species</p>	<p>Target:</p> <p>Development of updated Biodiversity Action Plans for the rural estates</p> <p>Maintain Forest Stewardship Certification</p>
4.1	Ensure that the management of protected places for nature also provides wider public benefits	<p>Ongoing management of wildlife sanctuary at Applegirth Estate (internationally recognised for sand martin nesting banks) to enhance and protect natural environment for public enjoyment.</p> <p>Collaboration/liaison with sporting tenants regarding deer management.</p>		
4.2	Align habitat restoration on protected areas with national goals for improving ecosystem health,	Ensure habitat restoration targets key species to enhance ecosystem health through Biodiversity Action Plans on the rural estates, and through enhancement and creation of woodland areas.		

	with local priorities determined at the catchment or landscape scales	
4.3	Integrate protected areas policy with action for wider habitats to combat fragmentation and restore key habitats	Incorporate protected species into Biodiversity Action Plans to enhance key habitats.
4.4	Develop a wildlife management framework to address the key priorities for sustainable species management, conservation and conflict issues, including reintroductions and invasive non-native species	<p>Supporting monitoring and conservation management projects e.g. Scottish Wildcats, wading birds, black grouse and red squirrels.</p> <p>Crown Estate Scotland are certified under the forest certification schemes FSC® and PEFC, holding Licence Code FSC-C136407. Ensure we remain compliant with biodiversity standards outlined within the schemes including creating new and diverse woodland habitats.</p> <p>Development of Biodiversity Action Plans for rural estates, highlighting actions for priority species and habitats.</p> <p>Maintain Wildlife Estates Scotland accreditation for the Glenlivet Estate.</p> <p>Participation in trial project at Glenlivet to develop methodology for counting mountain hares.</p> <p>Participation in the East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership.</p> <p>Undertaking/facilitating projects to control invasive non-native species.</p>
4.5	Involve many more people than at present in this work and improve our understanding of the poorly known elements of nature	<p>Glenlivet Estate is working in partnership with the Cairngorms National Park to deliver and support the new Volunteer Cairngorms project hosting Volunteer Rangers.</p> <p>Glenlivet Estate also host a monthly public conservation volunteering day and work with the Mountains & People Project to deliver volunteer path repair days.</p> <p>Provide opportunities across our portfolio for volunteers, work experience placements and students to directly work alongside staff and gain an insight into environmental management / undertake student projects.</p> <p>Continue promoting the community wildlife reporting system set up at Glenlivet to develop the knowledge of local environments, and encourage Citizen Science.</p>

		Deliver events and open days as part of the Cairngorms Nature Big Weekend event, involving people through guided walks, workshops, and volunteering activities.		
4.6	Enable collaborative management of wildlife interactions by aquaculture tenants operating in the marine environment	Work with partners to deliver a wild fish monitoring protocol to inform the effective management and mitigation of potentially deleterious interactions between farmed and wild salmonids.		
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LAND AND FRESHWATER 2020 Challenge outcome: Nature is faring well, and ecosystems are resilient as a result of sustainable land and water management		Crown Estate Scotland Overall role: Working in partnership with tenants and communities to increase understanding of sustainable land management	Priority projects: 9. Promoting Biosecurity with tenants 10. Management of SSSIs 11. Flood prevention demonstration	Target: Creation of species management plan for native woodlands Increased awareness of biodiversity Increased collaborative working practices
5.1	Promote an ecosystem approach to land management that fosters sustainable use of natural resources and puts biodiversity at the heart of land-use planning and decision-making	Facilitate habitat and species management plans for native woodlands (new and existing) through collaborative working. Undertake a strategic review of the woodlands at Glenlivet, as part of the Landscape Partnership Project.		
5.2	Ensure that measures taken forward under the Common Agricultural Policy encourage land managers to develop and retain the diversity of wildlife habitats and landscape features	Work with tenants to balance improved agricultural development with increased biodiversity.		
5.3	Support 'High Nature Value' farming and forestry	Promoting biosecurity by working with Moredun Research Institute to improve the control of livestock diseases affecting cattle and sheep. With Moredun's Knowledge Transfer and Exchange Network, Crown Estate Scotland are helping farmers easily access materials that clearly outline best practice, with the overall aim of improving animal health and farm productivity. Maintain forest certification.		

		Landscape Partnership project at Glenlivet directly working with tenant farmers to promote enhancement of farmland for wading birds. Estate is facilitating site visits and examples of best practice through farm open days etc.
5.4	Put in place the management necessary to bring Scotland's protected areas into favourable condition and improve the ecological status of water bodies	Remain aware of key areas of protection and work with stakeholder and land managers to ensure where possible these areas are maintained at a favourable level or improved where required. Management of SSSI sites & other designated sites across Scotland, participate in SNH's landowners SSSI group. Ongoing internal site condition monitoring.
5.5	Ensure that biodiversity and ecosystem objectives are fully integrated into flood risk management plans, and restore wetland habitats and woodlands to provide sustainable flood management	Working in partnership with others on the Tomintoul & Glenlivet Landscape Partnership to address flood management on the River Avon, undertaking practical flood prevention works and create a farm demonstration site of green engineering techniques.
5.6	Restore and extend natural habitats as a means of building reserves of carbon and to help mitigate climate change	Enhancement and creation of existing and new woodland areas. Development of programme for peatland restoration.
5.7	Provide clear advice to land and water managers on best practice	Work with land managers and agents to ensure required support is in place to deliver best practice measures.

Partnerships

Given the nature of the work that Crown Estate Scotland undertakes, much of this involves working in partnership with other organisations, our tenants and local community groups to enhance the natural environment.

One example of this is the Natural Capital Project where we are working collaboratively with Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Land & Estates, the Scottish Forum on Natural Capital, the James Hutton Institute and SRUC (Scotland's Rural College). This project should allow for a wider understanding of the Natural Capital concept and benefit all organisations involved.

Crown Estate Scotland is working in partnership with the Cairngorms National Park, Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, RSPB, Heritage Environment Scotland, Spey Catchment Initiative, other organisations and the local community to deliver the Tomintoul &

Glenlivet Landscape Partnership. Further work is being undertaken with Cairngorms National Park Authority in relation to the East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership and we are also working alongside them to deliver and support the new Volunteer Cairngorms Project.

There is ongoing work being undertaken by the Ranger team with schools, universities and colleges at the rural estates, and also working with partners such as the Wilderness Foundation and Moray Council to delivery specific projects. Crown Estate Scotland also participates in SNH's landowners SSSI group.

For more information on any of the above please contact our policy & planning manager Ciorstaidh Couston at ciorstaidh.couston@crownestatescotland.com