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By email to [NNR@snh.gov.uk](mailto:NNR@snh.gov.uk)

Shona Smith  
Corrie Fee NNR Reserve Manager & Area Operations Officer  
Scottish Natural Heritage  
Battleby  
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19 January 2018

Dear Ms Smith

**Corrie Fee National Nature Reserve  
Management plan 2018-2028 - Consultation**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation.

We found the consultation document to be rather brief in detail but note that the document 'The Story of Corrie Fee National Nature Reserve' (The Story) does provide more information on the challenges inherent in managing such a valuable asset.

**1. Access**

The NNR is very popular with hillwalkers and climbers and we welcome any opportunity to work with SNH to promote responsible access to our members and the wider public enjoying recreational access.

We note the comments in 'The Story' concerning late winter ice climbers. We have on record an instance where one of our members experienced a rather officious approach from a Ranger who challenged the climbers' rights to climb a boulder which was distant from a nesting site. We considered the Ranger's approach to be contrary to the spirit of the SOAC and I recall that the matter was dealt with by our then Access Officer in conjunction with SNH staff.

We are very conscious of the need to ensure that nesting birds are safeguarded. In conjunction with the RSPB and Raptor Study Groups we collate information concerning nesting birds and provide climbers with up to date information throughout the nesting season. This information is widely publicised on our website and to our member clubs. As a result, incidents involving nesting birds and climbers have largely eliminated.

Last season's website page features crags in Corrie Fee and is available to view at:  
<https://www.mountaineering.scot/campaigns/safeguarding-access/birds-and-nesting>

This will be updated from March and we encourage SNH staff to inform our Access & Conservation Officer of any developments by emailing [access@mountaineering.scot](mailto:access@mountaineering.scot) or contacting our office.

## **2. Interpretation Boards**

We recognise that provision of information can be important but would urge SNH to restrict the number of interpretation boards in the NNR to a minimum. Visitors can be directed to the Ranger Base from the car park where information may be provided in an alternative format which is less intrusive to the landscape.

## **3. Management of the heritage**

'The Story' offers some guidance on the favoured approach to herbivore management, which is clearly not without its challenges. Whilst stalking is not usually an issue for recreational access in the corrie, we ask that if culling is planned that we are told in advance so that we can advise our members, as not everyone will associate a visit to Corrie Fee with the necessity to check the Heading for the Hills website.

We hope that you will find these comments helpful.

Yours sincerely

**David Gibson**  
**CEO, Mountaineering Scotland**