



**The Granary
West Mill Street
Perth PH1 5QP
Tel: 01738 493 942**

By email to NNR@snh.gov.uk

Wayne Fitter
Scottish Natural Heritage
Achantoul
Aviemore
Inverness
PH22 1QD

24 May 2018

Dear Mr Fitter

**Craigellachie National Nature Reserve
Management Plan 2018-2028 – Consultation**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation.

We found the consultation leaflet to be rather brief but appreciated the provision of background information given in the Preliminary Management Plan on the website to inform comment. There are a couple of topics that we wish to comment on, which may fall under the General Comments section of the consultation leaflet.

Generally, we agree with your vision statement for the reserve to maintain a high-quality Highland birch-wood, while encouraging recreational access through the wood and to the viewpoint.

Access

Footpath management is an issue in a number of places from the roadside to the viewpoint, and management of the different modes of access is rightly identified as an important issue. Sensitive path management and maintenance is essential, and the design of the means to manage walkers and mountain bikes is not apparent in the consultation draft, but the intent to discuss management is a very helpful way forward. We urge SNH to include mountain bike interests as well as local cycling clubs and of course the perspective of walkers is also important in the detail of design.

The provision of quality path construction to blend with the landscape is an important consideration and will help with managing the access routes.

The provision of interpretation is beneficial for the understanding of the natural heritage and for access management as noted above. We expect that interpretive boards will not intrude into the landscape and are sited close to existing infrastructure.

Management of the land requires annual deer culling and we trust that stalking will be arranged in ways that do not impede the enjoyment of access to the viewpoint.

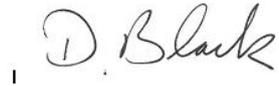
Landscape

An aspect of the NNR management that has an impact on visitor enjoyment is how the woodland looks in the landscape from vantage points outside the NNR, but still within the National Park. Soft

edges with neighbouring land ownership, or extension of woodland will require liaison and we suggest that landscape scale management is a feature of management that is worth considering in the planning for the future.

We hope that you find these comments useful, and please do contact us if you think we may be able to assist in any of the matters noted.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Black". The letter "D" is enclosed in a small circle.

Davie Black
Access & Conservation Officer
Mountaineering Scotland