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By email to NNR@snh.gov.uk

Wayne Fitter
Scottish Natural Heritage
Achantoul
Aviemore
Inverness
PH22 1QD

17 May 2018

Dear Mr Fitter

**Invereshie & Inshriach 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 promote to visitors outdoor experiences from low levels through to the mountainous areas. The intent to create a diverse mosaic of habitats, from roadside to montane scrub and beyond is to be supported.

Access

We support your statement that Invereshie and Inshriach NNR is specifically a long-established place for hillwalking and mountaineering. The acknowledgement of this and the intent to facilitate both formal and informal recreational opportunities with a quality wildlife experience is welcomed.

Footpath management can be an issue where visitors are encouraged. The provision of quality path construction to blend with the landscape is an important consideration and will help with managing the access routes.

We would expect a natural look to the upper reaches of the reserve where hillwalkers are able to reach the tops without intrusive path development and welcome the intention to restrict built infrastructure to promoted trails only.

The provision of interpretation is beneficial for the understanding of the natural heritage and for access management as noted above. We trust that your siting of interpretive boards will not intrude into the landscape and are sited close to existing infrastructure where they will not be an unexpected feature.

Management of the land requires annual deer culling and we expect that stalking will be arranged in ways that do not impede the enjoyment of access to the various tops that lie within and beyond

the Reserve.

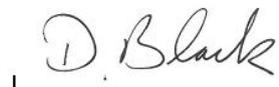
Landscape

An aspect of the NNR management that has an impact on visitor enjoyment is how the woodland looks in the landscape from various vantage points. Soft edges with adjoining land ownership, or extension of woodland will require liaison and we support the statements that commit to landscape scale management with neighbouring landowners.

We would support management that encourages the regeneration of semi-natural habitats to create a 'natural' look and function to the reserve.

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 signature is written in a cursive style with a small vertical line to the left of the first letter.

Davie Black
Access & Conservation Officer
Mountaineering Scotland