

Glenlivet Estate Community Questionnaire on Biodiversity 2004

Results

Background

This survey was carried out in the summer of 2004 to obtain information on the views and perceptions of local people regarding biodiversity issues in relation to the development of a local biodiversity action plan. Self completing questionnaires were delivered by post to all households on the Estate (approx 350 addresses) together with a stamped addressed return envelope and the July 2004 edition of the Estate newsletter - which also contained an article about the survey. 63 survey forms were returned.

The text of the questionnaire is included here together with the aggregated results from the returned survey forms

Questionnaire Introduction:

As part of the ongoing management of the Glenlivet Estate, we are currently working on the development of policies to help continue to protect and enhance certain habitats and the wide variety of wildlife found in the local countryside. These policies are being developed alongside existing land management activities to help compliment and develop the extensive good work that has already been undertaken by many farmers and other interests to promote conservation of our valuable natural heritage – one of the reasons for the inclusion of the area in the Cairngorms National Park. A considerable range of conservation projects have been undertaken on the Estate over the last 10 years, particularly on Estate farms, through the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) Scheme and as part of the restructuring and management of forest and woodland areas. This work has already had a significant impact on the conservation and expansion of many wetland, woodland, moorland and grassland areas on the Glenlivet Estate.

'Biodiversity' is the term now widely used to describe nature conservation and Biodiversity Action Plans are being developed all over Scotland and the UK to help identify key issues and develop plans for the protection of important habitats and species which are under threat from environmental change and other pressures. A Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) has been produced and The Crown Estate wishes to help with the implementation of this plan and continue with the development of existing policies through the development of a more locally based action plan. We wish to involve interested members of the local community in the implementation of this plan and are therefore circulating the attached questionnaire to gather information about how local people value different aspects of our natural heritage and their views on how conservation plans might be developed and implemented. In the previous community survey undertaken in July 2003 wildlife was collectively ranked as one of the most important resources on the Glenlivet Estate.

Further information about the Cairngorms LBAP can be found at
<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/lbap.aspx?ID=360>

We would therefore be very grateful if you could take 5 minutes to complete the following questionnaire and return it in the pre-paid envelope if possible before July 23rd 2004. All responses will be treated in confidence and are gratefully received.

Andrew Wells (Glenlivet Estate Head Ranger) Tel 01807 580283

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Question 1

There are 6 broad habitat types found on the Glenlivet Estate. These are broadleaved woodland, conifer woodland, upland moorland, rivers and streams, farmland and wetland. Which of these habitats do YOU value most for local wildlife?

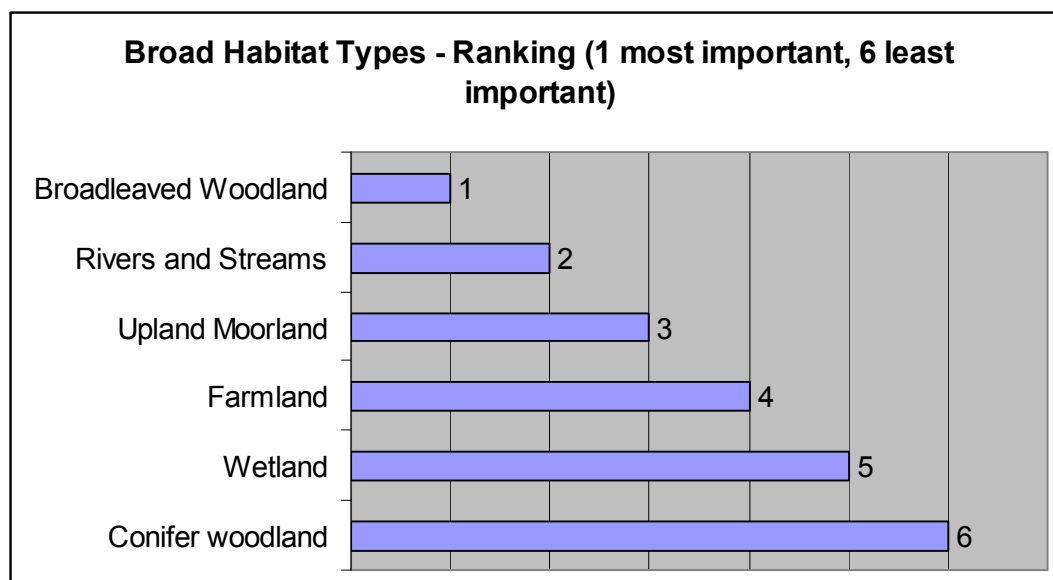
Please rank in order of priority 1 being most valuable and 6 least valuable

- Broadleaved woodland
- Upland moorland
- Farmland
- Conifer woodland
- Rivers and streams
- Wetland

Results

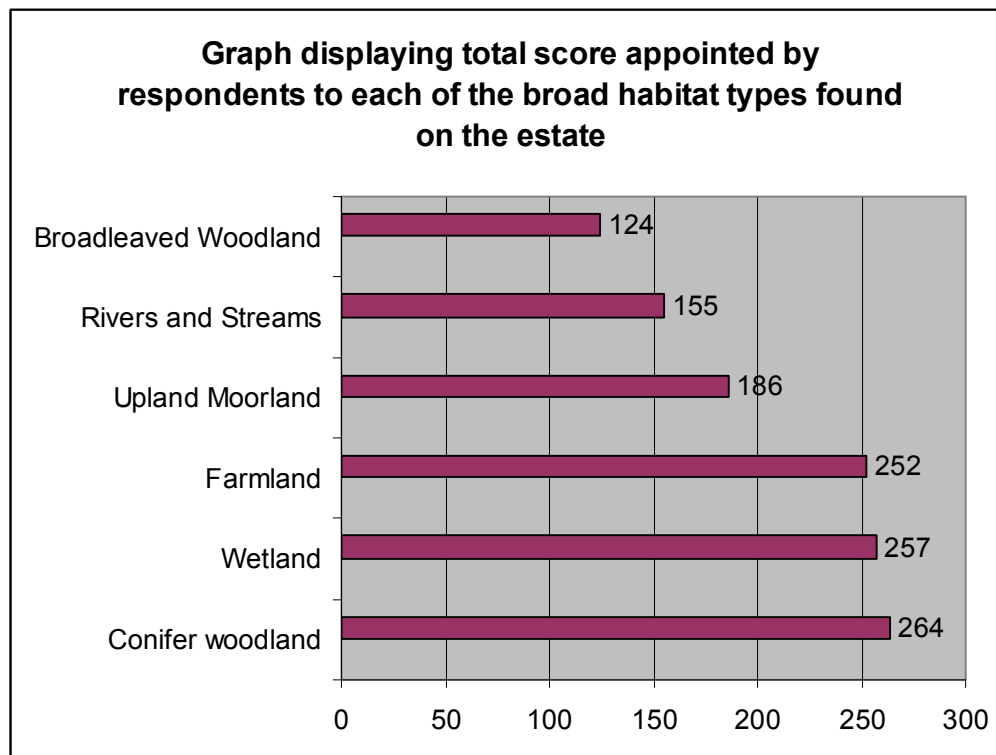
Broad Habitat Types - Ranking

	Ranking	Total scores
Conifer woodland	6	264
Wetland	5	257
Farmland	4	252
Upland Moorland	3	186
Rivers and Streams	2	155
Broadleaved Woodland	1	124



Graph 1

**Glenlivet Estate Community Questionnaire on Biodiversity 2004
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Graph 2.

Question 2

The Cairngorms LBAP identifies 7 main issues which are common to all of the main habitats found in the area. Which of the following threats to biodiversity do you think is the greatest issue on the Glenlivet Estate.

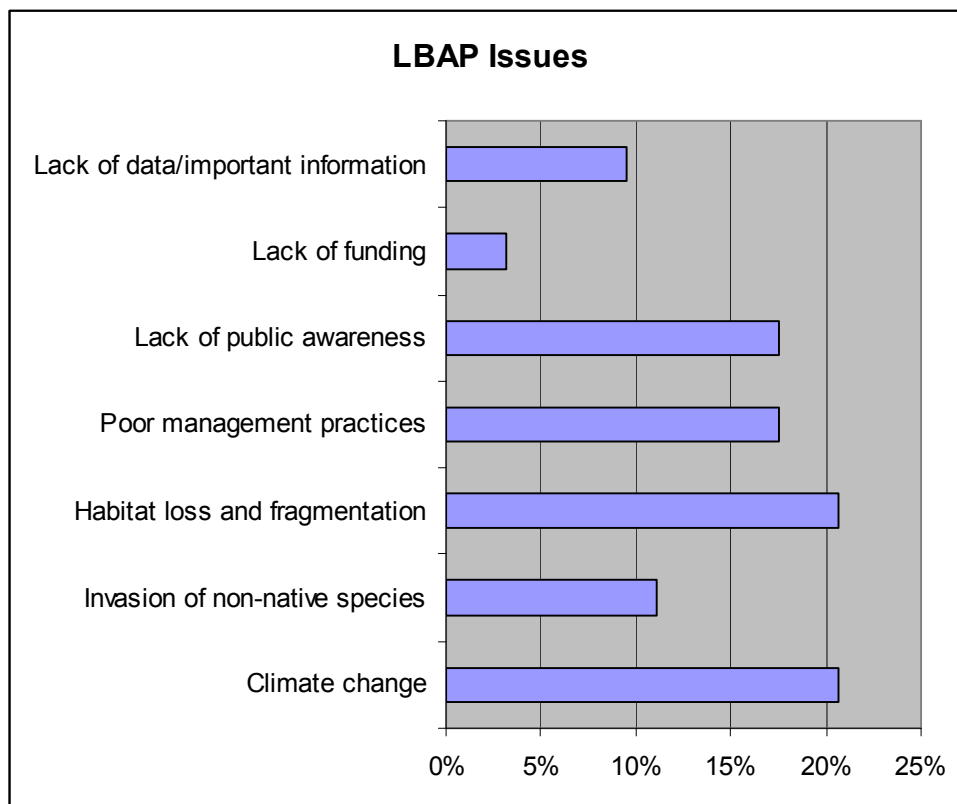
Please tick ONE ONLY:

- Climate Change
- Invasion of non-native species
- Habitat Loss and fragmentation
- Poor management practices
- Lack of public awareness
- Lack of funding
- Lack of data/important information

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LBAP Issues	Percentage of total responses	Responses
Climate change	21%	13
Invasion of non-native species	11%	7
Habitat loss and fragmentation	21%	13
Poor management practices	17%	11
Lack of public awareness	17%	11
Lack of funding	3%	2
Lack of data/important information	10%	6
	100%	63



Graph 3

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If possible, please briefly explain your answer below by giving a reason why you think this is the greatest issue:

Answers:

- Farmers have no respect for countryside
- Poor weather conditions during breeding seasons affect future of many species
- It exposes us to the risk of succumbing to pressure from a single issue interest group
- Don't know enough about funding and management. Process of elimination for the other options
- Because habitat loss & fragmentation happen very gradually for a variety of reasons, they don't attract as much publicity & aren't as 'sexy as climate change or invasion by non-native species & we don't always appreciate what large ranges some species need
- Non native species can cause untold damage to natural balance of wildlife and woodland
- No habitat = No indigenous flora + fauna and a lack of sufficient habitat to sustain the populations of flora + fauna
- Too much interference from mankind
- People coming into the area to live are not always aware of countryside living and problems
- I see a "monoculture" of sheep-farming / grouse-shooting/commercial conifer planting - monoculture is the antithesis of diversity.
- People these days have such busy lives that the countryside is not that important to them
- CO2 Emissions poison Environment
- Only threat that can not be controlled, other threats can be managed and counter acted
- Poor management probably results in habitat loss. Often due to selfish outlook. Lack of consideration of other species.
- Biomass! This would have destroyed wader nesting Habitat; consultation was TOO late
- Failure to control crow population
- Actions of minority, very vocal groups, intent on furtherance of their own dogmas by any and all means available despite the effects of their actions on existing status quo
- Mainly the diversity of our changing climate. In one week we can experience 3 seasonal weather patterns. Enough to confuse us humans let alone plant & wildlife too. With the inevitable floodwaters to date.
- Lack of care to forest at end of village bordering old military road. No clearing of fallen timber. It's a disgrace
- See sheet
- CO2 + Carbon from US
- I believe that modern farming methods i.e. widespread use of chemicals has constricted to the near demise of many of our wild creatures

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- Can cause loss of native habitat
- People need to be told the country code and conduct of themselves & dogs
- Grassy areas are fast becoming wetlands. Boggy areas are producing plants in abundance that are restricting wetlands
- Too much Estate's land is 'managed' for the benefit of the 'sporting fraternity, who do not care about the environment, only about the size of their kill. Poor clean up after tree felling and yellow footpaths, leave ugly scars on the landscape.
- The simplest to correct. Right public awareness leads to acceptance of corrective measures
- I am not sufficiently informed to make a valid selection
- Not enough info on what is going on
- Will affect a substantial number of species of both plants and animals found on Glenlivet Estate. Other issues are less likely to have such a devastating effect.
- If "Biodiversity" is a synonym for "Nature Conservation" then climate change must be the greatest threat because it will not conserve but will change the entire ecosystem
- Winters are getting milder and wetter
- Because it leads directly to loss & threat to habitat/wildlife. I include breeding game for 'recreational killing' under this head - at best it produces imbalance among species.
- Because it alters everything
- It often leads to careless use of the Estate & therefore affects several of the other choices.
- All land in area, foreign owned or managed, no real interest in wildlife habitats.
- Over afforestation by non-nature conifers
- With funding them all the poorer assessments can be made and strategies formed to make good managers and inform public of impending threats, and do something about them.

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Question 3

At least 23 of the animals and plants identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan as being priority species of conservation concern (i.e. species considered to be of high UK importance) are known to be found on the Glenlivet Estate. These are listed below.

Please tick **FIVE ONLY from all the lists below** which you consider to be of particular importance on the Glenlivet Estate which might benefit from additional conservation action.

Birds:

- Skylark
- Grey partridge
- Capercaillie
- Song thrush
- Black grouse
- Spotted flycatcher
- Linnet
- Bullfinch
- Reed bunting

Mammals :

- Pipistrelle bat
- Red squirrel
- Brown hare
- Otter
- Water vole

Invertebrates:

- Pearl bordered fritillary (butterfly)
- Northern brown argus (butterfly)
- Netted mountain moth
- Northern dart moth
- Freshwater pearl mussel

Vascular plants:

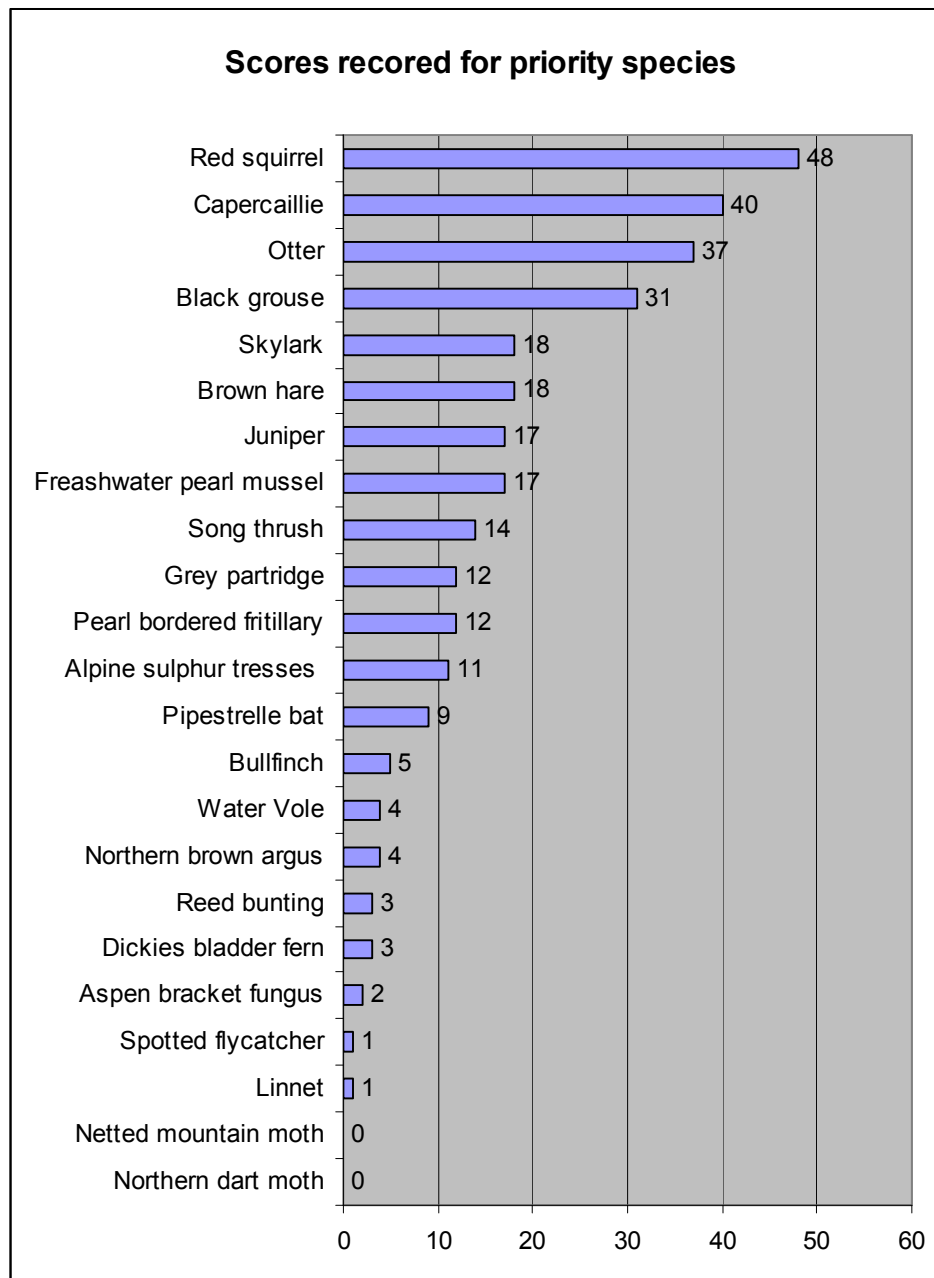
- Juniper

Lower plants:

- Alpine sulphur tresses (lichen)
- Dickies bladder fern
- Aspen bracket fungus

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Graph 4

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3a. Please list any other species of animals or plants (not listed in question 3) that YOU value highly and feel are of key importance in the local area.

Answers:

- Salmon and sea trout
- Wild Cat
- I value everything highly and wouldn't want to see anything endangered. Especially species that are regarded as more common. That said I like Seeing owls, woodpeckers, bumble bees, orchids
- Birds of prey
- Eagle, All birds of prey, owls
- Oyster catcher; field poppy; buzzards; mimulus; deer; flag iris; owls; badger; heather/ling; pine marten; primroses
- Common Lizard
- Peewits
- The return of some lost wild flowers cowslips, corn, marigolds, corn flowers, bluebells, corn cockle
- Edible fungi, Large birds of prey
- Deer
- Deer
- people, WE need them to live here and we need them to visit. Keep our main (tourists) financial income
- Lapwings
- Siskins, woodpecker
- Roe deer, primroses
- Cattle & Sheep
- Dandelions, fluff, linnets, twites
- Blue Hare, Northern Marsh Orchid, Merlin, Bearberry
- Deer, Lapwing, Skylark, Mountain hare
- Wild deer populations should be preserved (whilst considering local farmers needs)
- Pine Marten, Weasel owls
- Grouse/deer/ raptors
- Stoat
- The lapwing, once seen in great numbers, seems to have virtually disappeared from the area

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- Deer, Pine Marten, Buzzard, Eagle
- Lapwings, nesting sights in use have been ploughed up in the past by farmers. Red admiral butterflies have declined in past 12 yrs. Never seen an eagle in 12 yrs
- Owls, raptors, peewits, curlews, gold crests, redstarts, wild orchids, primrose, red campion, wild roses, gean, bud cherry, buck, rowan
- Birds of Prey, Foxes
- Pine Marten
- Birds of prey, upland waders
- Red & Roe Deer
- Crossbill
- Buzzards - the pair nesting at Auchnarrow seem to have disappeared
- Salmon, trout
- Red deer. Buzzard/Eagle. Wild meadow flowers
- Buzzards, golden eagles, other hawks.
- List attached to sheet
- Snow or blue hare - all inspect life

Question 4

Please list any other issues that you feel have a negative impact on local biodiversity.

Answers:

- Clear felling large areas of plantations
- Too many estate roads
- People using community paths to ride motor cycles in a disturbing manner. Causing danger to walkers and children in Tomnavoulin. It makes it impossible to look for squirrel or other shy animals
- rabbits, crows/rooks, ground elder, sheep ticks, poor drainage of pasture land, moles
- Pollution & so-called game management
- Too many weed killers & sprays
- High density sheep farming, Deer & Grouse - shooting = recreational killing
- Rabbits
- I find these big words LBAP and ESA and all that so difficult to comprehend. A bit of plain talking please
- Security lights disturb nesting birds. When they go wrong, which they often do constantly opposite - also drive me mad. (see sheet for further comments)

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- Verge Cutting: Would like to see a policy of cutting at junctions only, for visibility. Many stretches could be left to produce butterfly orchids etc
- Tomintoul's sewage system. The extent of new housing
- Careful consideration should be taken when an interest in introducing new industries to the area especially the environmental aspects to our plant/wildlife and human interferences
- EU CAP. i.e. the pressures on local farmers to grow subsidised crops (e.g. rapeseed) rather than traditional crops/grazing
- Uncontrolled building increase
- Illegal killing & trapping of wildlife
- Lack of residence awareness and visitors. Residents mainly need more advice on how to be part of the larger plan to help the area, what to grow etc.
- The failure to restore areas of commercial forestry once felling has taken place. The repellent and anti social behaviour of the 'sporting' set -the sharp decline in birds of prey is, I am sure, connected.
- Gamekeepers
- Lack of small ponds as opposed to streams
- Overgrazing by cattle and sheep (although beneficial at a certain level to maintain a low sward) in some areas, e.g. Deskie moor, has occurred and loss of moorland and bog species due to silage being fed over a large areas in winter and bogging and compacting of the ground. At the head of the watershed. Over production of peasants leading to competition with wildlife for food.
- Reckless driving (killing animals on the road)
- Worming on the Avon + the Livet. These rivers should be fly only.
- Too many deer & pheasants
- Careless road side slashing. Over burning. Carelessly planned hill tracks.
- Use of pesticides and herbicides . Over cutting of hedgerows. Total clearance when felling trees. Not enough planting of deciduous or Scots fir trees

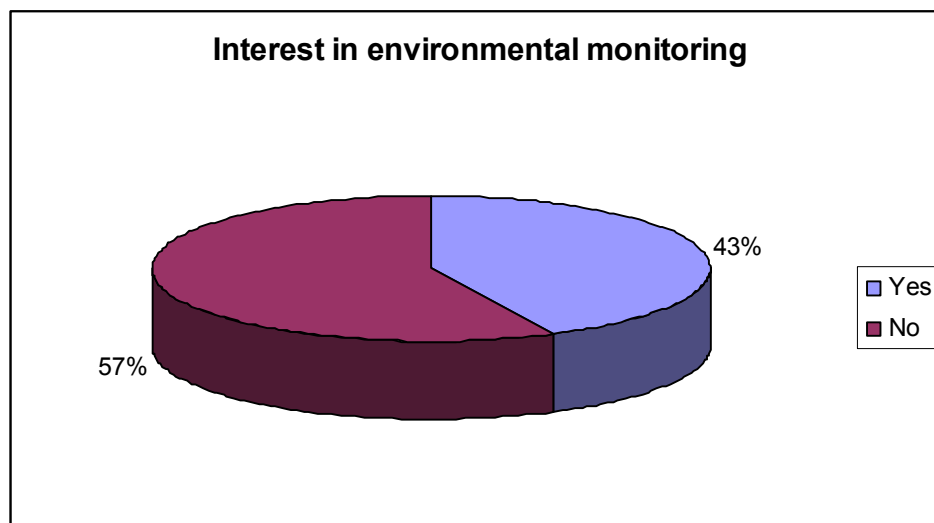
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Question 5

Would you be interested in participating in an environmental monitoring programme?
(An environmental monitoring programme would involve recording any sightings of key animals or plants and supplying the information to the Estate for adding to a database of records).

Yes No

Results



If no please go to question 7

Question 6

If you are willing to participate would it help if: (Please tick all that apply)

- Data could be submitted via the internet
- Data recording sheets were readily available.
- Guided walks/training days were available to demonstrate what type of information was required and to help with species identification.

Results

Data Preference	% of total responses	Responses
Data could be submitted via the internet	21%	9
Data recording sheets were readily available	36%	15
Guided walks/ training days available	43%	18
	100%	42

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Question 7

In time The Crown Estate hope to build a database of biological records using information that is already available and through further survey and monitoring work.

If you would you like to be kept informed via email of biodiversity matters, research projects and other relevant conservation management issues in relation to the Glenlivet Estate please give your email address below. Please note: email addresses will only be used to circulate relevant information on an infrequent basis and for keeping you in touch with local conservation issues.

If you do not have an email address and wish to be involved, please give your name and address below.

Results

17 email addresses were given and 19 addresses (a total of 36 responses from 63 returned questionnaires)

Question 8

Do you currently have any species/biological records that you would be willing to submit for addition to a local biological database.

Yes No

If yes please give details about the extent and format of these records and how we might contact you (If you have not given contact details in Question 7 above) please give them in the box below.

Availability of current records

Yes	5%	3
No	95%	59
	100%	62

Question 9

The local biodiversity action plan will focus on a number of key priorities and identify ways in which various stakeholders can work together to help develop existing and new initiatives and projects to benefit the wildlife and countryside on the Estate.

If you have any comments on what these key priorities should be or have any other relevant matters you wish to raise please list them in the box below or on a separate sheet of paper. Thank you for your help and for submitting this information. The results of this questionnaire survey will be used to help identify priorities for action and to develop local conservation management policies. If you have provided an email or postal address further details of these plans and how you may be able to participate will be forwarded to you in due course. Further details about progress with this project will also be publicised in 'The Toulter' and the Estate newsletter.

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Answers:

- Education and legislation of farmers if that doesn't work annihilation
- A very well run estate
- Sustaining the 1-5 habitat types, maintaining & developing eco-friendly practices in agriculture & forestry, Developing & publicizing the estate's bio diverse assets for local residents & visitors
- Afforestation with indigenous species to reduce the amount of moorland 'desert': Agricultural diversification away from sheep-farming towards growing food for locals - hedge reinstatement!
- Just like the people I mentioned earlier. I have a very busy life. I think though we must be made aware and locally how little or big an input we call make to Life and the State of our Estate
- Maintain wildness. i.e. Balance with tourism, don't overdo footpaths & accessibility aspect. A good network exists already, leave wild pockets & corridors, please.
- Reading the newsletter taking trees out of forests on the estate. Very often spoil the whole forest as the trees that are left fall down in the windy times.
- The Crown Estate professes concern for the environment and its wildlife. It should stop allowing its land to be used as a playground for those only interested in the slaughter of wildlife.
- Creation of Wild flower meadows
- See attached letter
- I think the breeding of game for the purposes of recreational killing is inimical to the aims implicit in this questionnaire. I would like to see it phased out & balanced & natural order of bio-diversity encouraged (By general habitat improvement - as opposed to setting hill sides alight & shooting game predators.
- Discourage conifer planting. Encourage or renew Caledonian forest. Stop degradation of farmland & grazing areas.

Andrew Wells

Nov 2004