

**Resolution CM/ResDip(2018)19
on the revised regulations for the European Diploma for Protected Areas**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 4 July 2018
at the 1321th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)¹*

Appendix 5: Model plan for annual reports

Annual report for the year 2024

Annual reports should describe the changes that have taken place since the previous year in dynamic terms of management and function and not be limited to basic data. Any new text or map introducing a change in the situation of the area should be attached to the annual report.

State: Scotland, United Kingdom

Name of the area: Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve

Year and number of years since the award or renewal of the European Diploma for Protected Areas:

Year 7 – renewal from 4 July 2018

Central authority concerned:

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¹ As amended by Resolution CM/ResDip(2014)2 on 2 July 2014 at the 1204th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.
Internet : <http://www.coe.int/cm>

1. Conditions: List here all conditions which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the conditions have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the conditions. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

N/A

2. Recommendations: List here all recommendations which were attached to the award or the renewal of the European Diploma. Explain either how the recommendations have been totally complied with or detail the progress in complying with the recommendations. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

1. make a comprehensive mid-term assessment of the implementation of the Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve Management Plan (2015-2026) in 2020 and revise the relevant parts of the plan as appropriate;

Completed in 2020.

2. prepare a revised management plan, taking an appropriately long-term view based on adaptation to the effects of climate change, by the end of 2026;

This recommendation is due in 2026, however we have started the process of reviewing our management plan, with the aim of having a new NNR plan published in 2025. A strong element of this will be to consider the future, and make the habitats more resilient to climate change, but also to the biodiversity crisis, and the threats of disease.

3. ensure the continuance of monitoring of, and research on, the flora and fauna for the conservation of the native species, to derive appropriate performance and conservation indicators, and to assess the effects of climate change;

In 2024 we commissioned an independent Habitat Impact Assessment covering the whole Nature Reserve. This report will inform our deer management on the site to ensure we are achieving the right balance between herbivores and habitats. The results from the HIA were very positive and showed the work we have done to reduce herbivore impacts in our woodland priority zone has been successful, which is resulting in the woodland natural regenerating where the ground conditions allow (which we also monitor through our annual regeneration surveys). Our fixed-point photography project has been published online at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/6b645896d1d84e45a59adbcea693c994>. We continue to work with our neighbours through the landscape-scale Glen Torridon Partnership on wider nature conservation and monitoring.

4. devise and implement with local stakeholders a tourism development strategy and a prioritised action plan so that the infrastructure of facilities can be developed for the benefit of both the national nature reserve and the economic well-being of the people who live in the area;

We continue to work to our Visitor Management Plan. We are looking to upgrade some of the family-friendly interactive elements of the Visitor Centre in 2025. We will be consulting the local community on our new management plan. The Community Deer Stalking Scheme is progressing well, where we are training locally-living people to enable them to undertake deer shooting on the NNR, which will allow them to keep the venison they shoot, giving them access to sustainable, low-food miles meat.

5. develop further awareness-raising and educational activities on the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services, particularly targeting children and youths.

In 2024 we started a Junior Ranger programme which targets children of all areas that live in the local area. There remains a big issue with rural de-population (especially younger people) in the area with several of the local Primary schools now closed, meaning the children need to take a 30min bus ride to school. This has limited the options for us to engage with school-age children as the schools can often not afford the transport costs. However, the Junior Ranger programme has been popular, and gives us an opportunity to engage young people in environmental activities.

3. Site Management: List here any changes to the European Diploma holding site management, in relation to both terrestrial and aquatic environments (as appropriate), and in relation to staff and finances, since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

Following our independent HIA report, we are reviewing habitat management which will feed into our updated Management Plan scheduled for 2025. The results were positive, as our targets were met in all but one habitat type, and that habitat is moving in the right direction. Therefore it is likely that the majority of

management interventions will stay the same. Budgetary constraints remain an issue which is likely to limit the staffing resource and project budget.

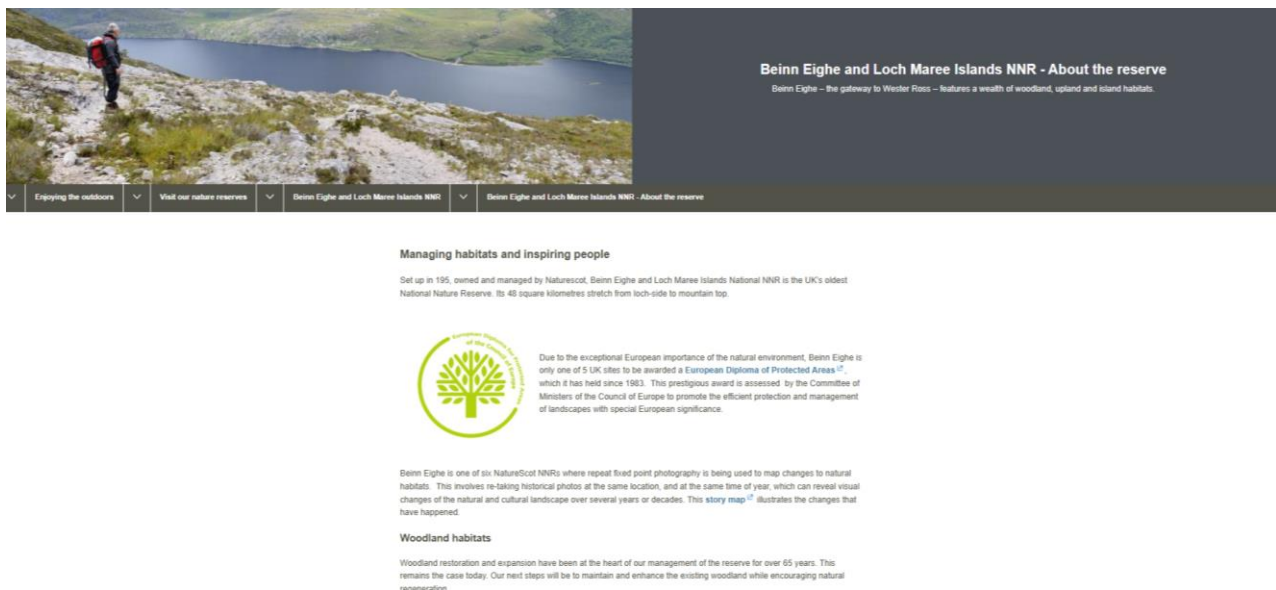
4. Boundaries: Give details of any changes to the boundaries of the European Diploma holding site since the last annual report was submitted to the Council of Europe. If there are any changes, please attach an appropriate map to this report. Please also indicate any unresolved difficulties that you have encountered.

No change.

5. Other information: List here any other information about the European Diploma holding site which you consider should be provided to the Council of Europe.

Following recommendations in previous feedback from the CoE, we have added the information on the EDPA to our website, including the EDPA logo and weblink as detailed in the below screenshot.

<https://www.nature.scot/enjoying-outdoors/visit-our-nature-reserves/beinn-eighe-and-loch-maree-islands-nnr/beinn-eighe-and-loch-maree-islands-nnr-about-reserve>



Beinn Eighe and Loch Maree Islands NNR - About the reserve
Beinn Eighe – the gateway to Wester Ross – features a wealth of woodland, upland and island habitats.

Managing habitats and inspiring people

Set up in 195, owned and managed by NatureScot, Beinn Eighe and Loch Maree Islands National NNR is the UK's oldest National Nature Reserve. Its 48 square kilometres stretch from loch-side to mountain top.

Due to the exceptional European importance of the natural environment, Beinn Eighe is only one of 5 UK sites to be awarded a European Diploma of Protected Areas¹⁷, which it has held since 1983. This prestigious award is assessed by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to promote the efficient protection and management of landscapes with special European significance.

Beinn Eighe is one of six NatureScot NNRs where repeat fixed point photography is being used to map changes to natural habitats. This involves re-taking historical photos at the same location, and at the same time of year, which can reveal visual changes of the natural and cultural landscape over several years or decades. This [story map](#)¹⁸ illustrates the changes that have happened.

Woodland habitats

Woodland restoration and expansion have been at the heart of our management of the reserve for over 65 years. This remains the case today. Our next steps will be to maintain and enhance the existing woodland while encouraging natural regeneration.

The following sections of the form should only be filled in if your area is in the year before a renewal of its European Diploma for Protected Areas, i.e. year 4 after the award of the European Diploma or year 9 after its renewal.

6. Natural heritage (general abiotic description: geomorphology, geology and hydrogeology, habitats, flora, fauna, landscape) – State of conservation

- 6.1. Environment: changes or deterioration in the environment, of natural or anthropic origin, accidental or permanent, actual or anticipated
- 6.2. Flora and vegetation: changes in the plant population and in the vegetational cover; presumed causes
- 6.3. Fauna: changes in the sedentary or migratory populations; congregating, egg-laying and breeding grounds

7. Cultural heritage and socio-economic context

- 7.1. Cultural heritage
 - 7.1.1. Changes concerning cultural heritage
- 7.2. Socio-economic context
 - 7.2.1. Changes concerning the socio-economic context

8. Education and scientific interest

- 8.1. Visitors – Information policy
 - 8.1.1. Arrangements for receiving and informing the public (building, booklets, maps, cards, etc.)
 - 8.1.2. Frequentation by visitors and behavior (number, distribution in time and space)
 - 8.1.3. Special visits (distinguished persons, groups, etc.)
- 8.2. Scientific research
 - 8.2.1. Current or completed research (observation, experimentation, etc.; identification or inventory of the species listed in the appendices to the Bern Convention, etc.)
 - 8.2.2. Scientific publications

9. Site description (vulnerability, protection status, ownership, documentation)

- 9.1. Changes in legislation or regulations
- 9.2. Changes in ownership title (conversion to public property, rentals, etc.)
- 9.3. Extension or transfer, new uses (for example, conversion into total reserve)

10. Site management (management plans, budget and personnel)

- 10.1. Improvements made
 - 10.1.1. Ecological action affecting the flora and biotopes; controls of fauna
 - 10.1.2. Protection against the elements (fire, water regime)
 - 10.1.3. Approaches and thoroughfares (paths, roads, car parks, signposting, fencing, etc.)
 - 10.1.4. Field equipment (hides and study facilities)
 - 10.1.5. Waste management
 - 10.1.6. Use of renewable energy systems
- 10.2. Management
 - 10.2.1. Administrative department: changes made
 - 10.2.2. Wardens' department: changes made
 - 10.2.3. Internal policing measures
 - 10.2.4. Infringement of regulations and damage; legal action

11. Influence of the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas

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