#### **MARK ODDY**

MRICS CEnv MIoD MIAgM MRAC

Estate Manager
Eskdale & Liddesdale Estate



## **Langholm Moor Demonstration Project**

#### WHY?

- Policymakers
- Benefits
  - Economics
  - Environment
  - Social
- Evidence















"I am of the view that management of upland areas for sporting interests can provide strong economic, social and environmental returns."

Michael Russell MSP Minister for Environment, The Scottish Government Launch Thursday, 20 September, 2007



"If extreme environmentalism was to lead to the end of grouse shooting in Scotland then the moors would not become safe havens for a rich variant of wildlife, but would instead – as Langholm has shown without management – become more and more denuded of diversity."

Michael Russell MSP Minister for Environment, The Scottish Government Launch Thursday, 20 September, 2007

#### BENEFITS OF DRIVEN GROUSE SHOOTING

- Community
- Carbon
- Bio-Diversity
- Heather Management
- Water Management
- Public Health
- Human Well Being
- Food
- Local Services



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#### **CARBON**

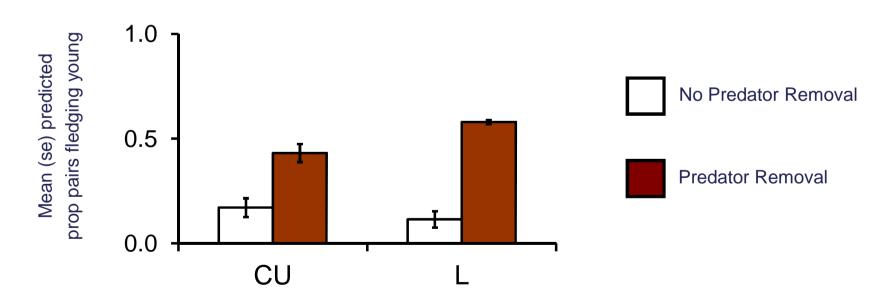
There is more carbon stored in Scottish moorlands and peat than in all of the UK's forests and woodlands combined.





#### **BIO-DIVERSITY**

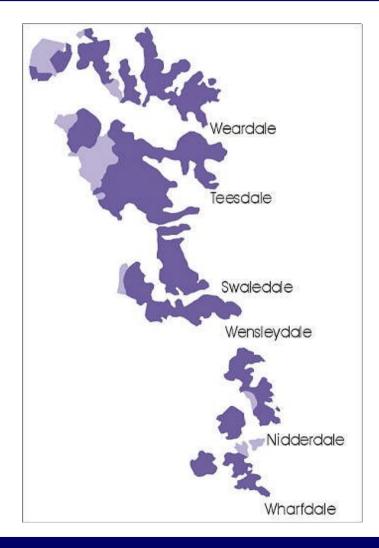
GWCT Otterburn Project started to show how grouse keepering (predator control) substantially improved the breeding success of waders



information from GWCT

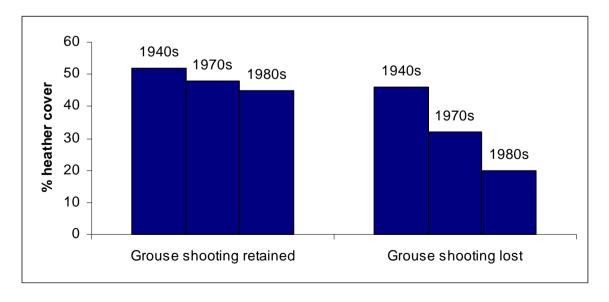
Some of the most intensively managed uplands for grouse have been designated as Special Protection Areas for birds – especially breeding waders

North Pennines	(pairs)
Merlin	136
Peregrine	15
Hen harrier	11
Golden plover	1,400
Curlew	3,930
Dunlin	330



#### HEATHER MANAGEMENT

- Where grouse shooting has been retained less heather has been lost since the 1940s
- 70% of the World's heather found in the UK







## Objectives of the Project

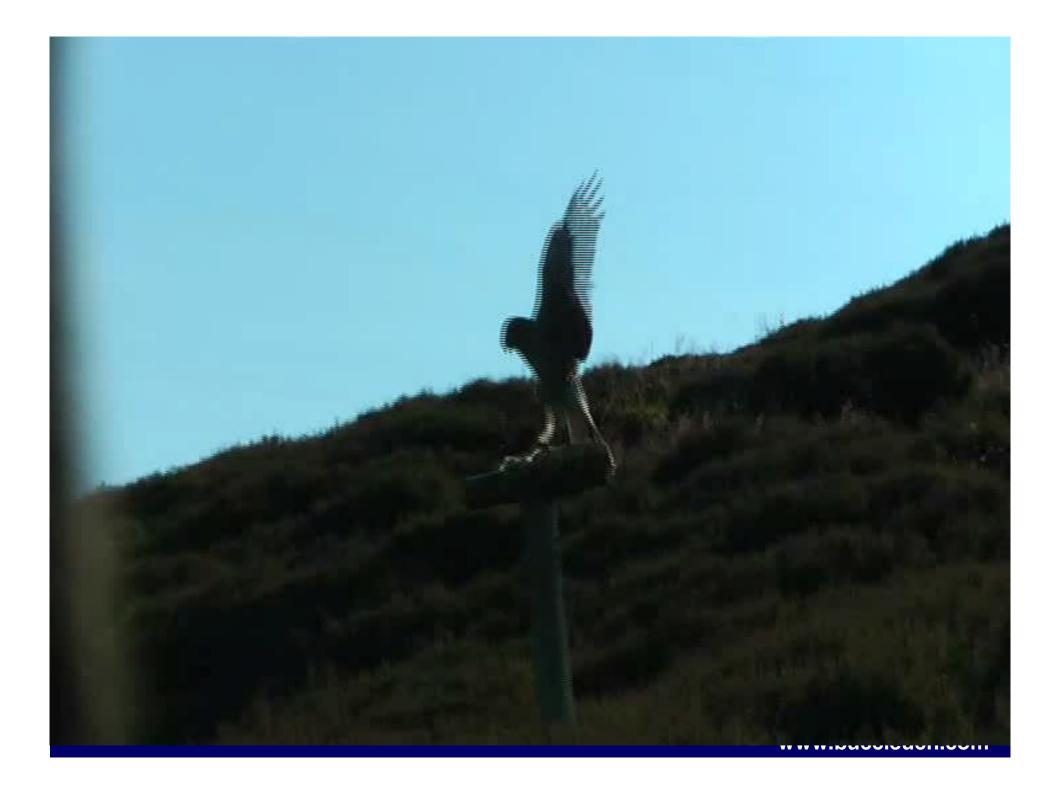
"To establish Langholm Moor as a driven grouse moor to meet the nature conservation objectives for the SPA and SSSI."

"The number of red grouse shot would be sufficient to ensure the moor reaches a financial viable state"

...a ten year project, which will be reviewed every three years...Project area covers just under twelve thousand hectares...

Three broad elements of work...





### **Visits**

- 33 separate groups
- 500+ people
- Cabinet Secretary, Ministers, Executive etc etc

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**Snaring** 

Environment minister Roseanna Cunningham

" Snaring still remains essential to countryside management in Scotland"

Response to Petitions committee, January 2010



The Label "Pilot Wildlife Estates Initiative" (PWEI)

Recognition for

The exemplary and sustainable management of wildlife estates according to the spirit Communication "Halting the loss of Biodiversity by 2010 –and beyond-sustaining ecosystem services for human well-being" and of the Countdown 2010, in the framework of the fight against climate change

Is attributed to:

**BUCCLEUCH Estates Ltd for the Langholm Project** 

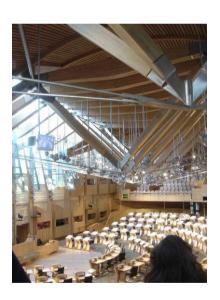
By the PWEI Evaluation Committee

## WEI

"Wildlife Estate's managers and hunters have a deep interest in sustaining wildlife habitats and sites and they should thus be seen as "solution providers" for protecting and enhancing biodiversity. This needs to be communicated to the society, which too often tends to misunderstand the vital function of these managers."







So far, little reconciliation between grouse moor and raptor interests...now untenable...can LMDP be the bridge?

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