



SUMMARY

Ben Nevis is one of Scotland's most treasured natural assets and perhaps one of the most widely known landmarks in the British Isles. This iconic status is arguably justification in itself for a feature film set in one of the UK's most dramatic and challenging environments, comprising extensive north facing cliffs, snowfields and deep gullies. With its unparalleled altitudinal range, from sea level to summit, there are some extraordinary habitats and ecosystems. These habitats are not only scarce, but are under threat from human impacts and climate change. Coupled with the drama of climbers and extreme weather the location offers prime ground for a distinctive and informative cinematic production which will appeal to a diverse audience.

The production of a high quality series of films set amongst the stunning panoramic scenery of the North Face and summit plateau of Ben Nevis is likely to be the most effective way of not only achieving the many outcomes described below, but also of reaching as wide an audience as possible with the messages of the Nevis Landscape Partnership. Around 150,000 visitors ascend the mountain each year, with many more visiting the wider Glen. For many this will be their first ever journey into such wild terrain. The iconic status of Ben Nevis and the inherent challenge of summiting the UK's highest peak will continue to attract high numbers of visitors. This density of traffic poses an environmental challenge. There is however, an as of yet unrealised potential to utilise the magnetic attraction of this powerful landmark to also attract people to the wonders of the natural world and to encourage participation in conservation.

The films will explore the ecology of Ben Nevis and the many efforts made to conserve and protect Britain's highest mountain. It will also document a five year project incorporating survey and conservation activity. The project will create both a series of mini films and a final feature length documentary. During each of the first four years a short (7-10 minute) film will be produced, with a specific focus. The final year will draw these 4 films together through an editing process, to produce a coherent 45 minute documentary.

Films will be shown each year at the Fort William Mountain Festival, uploaded to

websites, played in visitor centres and used in school outreach projects. The final edit will be made available to Colleges and Schools with supporting educational projects. It will also be offered to all visiting event organisers, especially those running the 3 Peaks Challenges, to be played on minibus journeys as a way of educating a wider audience in reducing their impacts.

Overarching Themes:

- Climate change and the UK's highest habitat
- Geodiversity and biodiversity
- Importance & fragility of wild land and mountains
- Managing Britain's highest mountain
- Community participation in conservation
- The future of Ben Nevis
- Responsible access "leave no trace"



Receding mists, Bottom of Steall Falsin Spate and Autumn tint – Alex Gillespie

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This film project is a collaborative venture between the Nevis Landscape Partnership, John Muir Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage, The Highland Mountain Culture Association, Friends of Nevis, The Highland Council, Lochaber Geopark Association, Fort William Mountain Festival and the local community. The Ben Nevis Film Project has been developed in response to a growing need to find creative ways to both educate and inspire people about the environmental importance and fragility of Ben Nevis.

The production of the films will pose a creative and technical challenge requiring collaborative input from a range of specialists and organisations with a shared concern for these issues. Ben Nevis is perhaps the UK's most iconic mountain, yet its fragile and

fascinating environment is far less widely understood. It is the purpose of this film to bring that knowledge to as wide an audience as possible in an intellectually and creatively stimulating format.

Besides professional camerawork, contributions of footage will also come from the local community and businesses which have a tradition of specialist, small-scale film making through the Fort William Mountain Festival. These elements contribute not just specialist footage, but increase the level of engagement with the whole NLP scheme as well as this particular project. These can be shared through the website and social media as short film clips bringing the projects to life for a new audience.

There is also potential to run competitions through the mountain film festival and wild Lochaber to encourage contributions. An executive producer and presenter will link this array of mini films together forming a professional documentary style film. By taking this approach the film will form a collection of key management themes in the Glen and Ben and promote environmental education, sustainability and minimal impact, which can be viewed as a whole documentary style film or broken into smaller sections for online and education purposes.

The rich mountaineering heritage of Ben Nevis is of preeminent importance within the British Isles and internationally recognised. A pioneer project between the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and local climbing guides will provide footage of some collaborative work between conservationists and climbers. Monitoring and recording of plants on some of the UK's largest cliffs is hazardous and technically challenging. Vital field data is only accessible by professionally trained climbers. Showcasing of the film at Mountain Festivals will highlight the conservation work and collaboration as an exemplar of best practice. It will also highlight some positive steps that climbers and hill walkers can take to minimise their own impacts.

The juxtaposition of powerful atmospheric scenery, extreme weather, high adrenaline adventure, rare ecosystems, environmental and climate issues presents a rich opportunity for film making. It is through this broad cinematic palette that we hope to ensure Ben Nevis is not only the first mountain for tens of thousands of people, but also be the beginning of an inspirational and educational journey.

Whilst high visitor numbers on Ben Nevis are undeniable and unavoidable, many of the concomitant impacts are avoidable. One of the prime examples is that of large scale charity events such as the Three Peaks Challenge. Large groups with generally no mountain experience or knowledge of the environment have the potential to make significant impact. There is little if any time to talk with and educate this audience in-situ as they are on a tight time schedule, driving between Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon. The impact of informational leaflets and signage is often of limited success. There is a very real need for an innovative method of gaining people's attention and inspiring them sufficiently to alter their behaviours or even attitudes. An artistically and technically crafted piece of film could provide the engagement for educational messages. Furthermore, the film would provide welcome entertainment on the long minibus hauls between locations. For the vast majority of other visitors the film would provide the same opportunities for enthusing people to adopt either low impact approaches or else to directly contribute to conservation work as a volunteer.

ACTIVITIES

- Research working collaboratively with local film makers/photographers and other specialists
- Project Steering Group – identification of annual themes, key dates, locations, activities
- Script writing in collaboration with key members of the Landscape Partnership – representing expert input from Geologists, Ecologists, Mountaineers, Land Managers, Community Organisations, Conservation Trusts...
- Filming
- Editing annual short-film (x4)
- Film Premier at Mountain Festival
- Publicise competition for contributors
- Promotion/distribution/website uploads
- Smaller educational film sections (a few minutes) for website and learning material for colleges.
- Community contributions of footage
- Final editing and production of 40 minute documentary
- Develop supporting educational material: plants, animals, ecosystems, geology, issues

Project location, site name, grid reference, maps. All filming will centre on or around Ben Nevis. Exact locations to be decided through Project Steering Group and wider consultation with subject and local experts.

Site ownership, plus lease and any other management arrangements.

The summit is owned by the John Muir Trust (JMT), who have been involved in the development of this project and fully support the aims and objectives of the Landscape Partnership and this film project. The North Face and lower skirts of the mountain are owned by Rio Tinto Alcan (RTA) and forms part of their extensive landholding to provide hydroelectricity for the Lochaber aluminium smelter in Fort William. A full set of risk assessments and method statements would be submitted to both land owners and their agents, from whom formal permission for access would be sought.

This will include all the necessary Health and Safety requirements for filming in remote or steep terrain. JMT and RTA are partners in the Nevis Landscape Partnership.

Designation e.g. SSSI, Scheduled Monument etc.

The area is designated as an SSSI and SAC. All filming activity and locations will be developed in consultation with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) with all activity being checked for any consent requirement. SNH are an advisor to the Partnership and a key funding agency who will assist in ensuring the highest environmental standards are maintained throughout the project.

DELIVERABLE OUTPUTS

- One feature film(45 minutes)
- Four short films (5-10- minute) to focus on particular aspects (habitat, species, recreation, geology, climate etc.)
- Premier each year at Fort William Mountain Festival
- A selection of 3 minute edits for website and visitor centre purposes
- Free online access for Colleges etc.
- Production of 100 DVD's to distribute to event organisers
- Educational material - Inlays, photo pull out, ID chart, geology
- Annual competition for film contributors

Opportunities for local people and key specialists to contribute to script and filming
Providing welcome entertainment/education for groups travelling to the area such as charities, 3 peak challenge and other similar events.

OUTPUT INDICATORS AND TARGETS

- Production of high quality up to 45mins film for education and entertainment
- Production of 4 mini 10-15 mins film clips for education, colleges, websites and to be shown at the Mountain Film Festival
- Showing of films at 5 Mountain Festivals
- Production of 3 minute traditional visitor centre edit
- Feature length film distributed to at least 10 Colleges/Schools
- Feature length film distributed to at least 30 event organisers, charities and trusts

OUTCOMES

- Reaching a wide audience in promoting the work of the Nevis Landscape Partnership and the Conservation of Ben Nevis
- Increasing awareness of climate change, biodiversity and the sensitivity of mountain environments
- Providing a long lasting message of positive steps that climbers and hill walkers can take to minimise their own impacts
- Increasing participation in conservation activity
- Developing better relationship between conservation and recreation
- Provide rich opportunities for film making and celebration of Natural Heritage
- Encourage collaboration between organisations, local people and businesses
- Provide a learning resource for students and I visitors to the area
- Provide opportunities through engagement with competitions
- Promote the area to tourists in a responsible and sustainable way
- Providing a visually stunning and entertaining method of education that can be accessed by a wide audience

ACTIVITIES AND TIMETABLE

July 2014 – Project Steering Group Meeting – project planning stage 1
July 2014 – appoint specialist film crew to work on North Face Survey
Aug 2014 – Filming of Climbers and Botanists on the North face Survey
Sep 2014 – Script and educational material developed with North Face Survey Team, NLP staff and specialist advisors
Oct 2014 – 1st stage editing
Dec 2014 – Filming of Ben Nevis in winter conditions (focus on Arctic-Alpine plants)
Jan 2015 – Final editing (10 minute mini film)
Feb 2015 – Premier at Mountain Festival
Feb 2015 – Launch of competition
Mar 2015 - Project Steering Group Meeting – project planning stage2
Mar 2015 – Filming of Ben Nevis in winter conditions (focus on wildlife)
Mar 2015 – Upload of mini film to websites
Mar 2015 – School outreach activity supported by North Face Survey film
May 2015 – Filming of Lepidoptera and other key species
Sep 2015 – 2nd stage script and educational material
Oct 2015 – Competition Entries Judged
Oct 2015 – Filming of wildlife in Autumn
Nov 2015 – 2nd stage editing
Feb 2016 – Premier at Mountain Festival
Feb 2016 – Competition announcements and launch of next stage
Mar 2016 - Project Steering Group Meeting –planning stage3
Mar 2016 - Upload of mini film to websites
Mar 2016 – School outreach activity
Apr to Dec 2016 – Stage 3 filming, script, educational material and editing
Oct 2016 - Competition Entries Judged
Feb 2017 – Premier at Mountain Festival
Feb 2017 – Competition announcements and launch of next stage
Mar 2017 - Project Steering Group Meeting –planning stage4
Mar 2017 - Upload of mini film to websites
Mar 2017 – School outreach activity
Apr to Dec 2017 – Stage 4 filming, script, educational material and editing
Oct 2017 - Competition Entries Judged
Feb 2018 – Premier at Mountain Festival
Mar 2018 - Project Steering Group Meeting –planning feature length edit
Mar 2018 - Upload of mini film to websites
Mar 2018 – School outreach activity
Apr to Dec 2018 – Feature length film: script and editing
Feb 2019 – Premier of feature length film at Mountain Festival
Mar 2019 – Project evaluation
Mar 2019 – distribution of feature length film

EVIDENCE, REVIEW AND REPORTING

The production and showing of the films at the Mountain Festival will provide tangible evidence of project delivery, as will upload to websites. Numbers of audience will be measured through attendance at the Festival, hits on websites and distribution of the films to schools, colleges and event organisers.

Annual review meetings will take place with the Project Steering Group, Executive Producer and NLP staff.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

NATURAL HERITAGE

- Increased awareness of impacts of human recreation, targeted at specific climbing/walking groups (for example 3 peak challenge) and at a wider audience including visitors and local community.
- Greater feeling of responsibility and ownership of area for locals and visitors through deeper understanding, education and feeling they can make a difference on individual level
- A sustainable education resource has been provided that could be used by multiple organisations to contribute to long term benefits to natural heritage.
- Showcasing the unique species of the Ben and Glen along with the ecosystems and landscapes in a way that sparks interest and educates.
- Widening access and audiences to natural heritage of an important and unique site.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Promoting historical value of region – mountain culture, meteorology and recreation
- Documenting and preserving memories of the local community
- Documenting traditions and events along with their impacts- Ben Race
- Highlighting the importance of Gaelic in the landscape- although no longer spoken as a first language, still plays a role in place names and day to day life in the Glen
- Folklore – traditional plant uses in the glen.

BUILT HERITAGE

- Raise awareness of built heritage in the area – especially the historic Ben Nevis Mountain Path and the summit buildings
- Impact management of visitors to built heritage – memorial cairns, path maintenance

BENEFICIARIES AND COMMUNICATION

- Scotland's natural capital
- Scotland's people
- Local community
- Local economy
- Local businesses
- Visitors
- Family
- Mountaineering organisations
- Event organisers/charities
- Schools
- Young people
- Students
- Local landscape
- Local flora and fauna

- Conservation organisations
- Stake holders
- Partners

How you will ensure volunteers, staff, contractors, visitors and the wider public understand what you are doing and why?

- Communication through press, websites, outreach and Festivals
- Updating and using social media interactively
- Thorough briefing/evaluation for involved parties and Project Steering Group meetings
- Communication media to be utilised:
 - Press
 - Twitter
 - Facebook
 - Instagram
 - Radio
 - Website

How you will store heritage information, update it and make sure it is accessible in the future? Material will be available online, through the website, social media and colleges. DVDs will also be produced which will be sent out to organisations for ongoing use.



Wider Context

This project will be supported by many of the Nevis Landscape Partnership's other projects. It will be able to draw upon the resources and expertise embedded within these specific projects, as well as making use of project activities for filming. The film will document the work of the Partnership and engage a national audience.

Key projects which will support the film include:

- North Face Survey project
- Citizen science/wildlife projects
- Celebrating the Wild and Mountain Festival
- Geology publication
- Future Forests project

- Conservation Volunteer Training project
- Minimal impact project
- Ben Nevis Path project
- Interpretation and visitor management projects

PARTNERS / CONTRACTORS ETC.

This is a collaborative project which will draw upon a wide range of expertise from the staff, consultants and advisors attached to the projects identified above. In addition a dedicated executive producer will be appointed to oversee the production and the appointment of specialist film crews and contributors.

Within the Nevis Landscape Partnership key support will come from the John Muir Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage, Highland Mountain Culture Association, Mountaineering Council of Scotland, Outdoor Capital UK, The Fort William Mountain Festival will be a key supporter in this project.

EXTERNAL CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

1. Specifications of services required

The ability to produce full broadcast standard HD film using a variety of cameras (including specialist miniature cameras and remote control helicopters) and techniques. The need, under supervision, to access remote locations including working at height in all weathers. Where necessary, the use of rope and other techniques, which may involve climbing and on/off piste skiing to access locations. A range of sound equipment (including gun & radio microphones) capable of producing broadcast standard audio and an understanding of location audio techniques.

2. Specifications of skills, experience & qualifications

The ability to remain calm under pressure in remote and potentially dangerous situations under supervision. An understanding of mountain environments in both summer and winter. Experience of producing broadcast standard material to current HD specifications. An ability to work as individually and also as part of a team. An awareness of current H&S standards and practice in a variety of situations including mountain environments in all weathers.

3. Procurement strategy

Detailed tender documents will be produced for all the film segments and an assessment made on the basis of written applications, previous work ('show reel') and, where appropriate, interview.

BUDGETS

£10,000 – Filming and editing of year one 10 minute film (Arctic-Alpine species and Climate Change)

£10,000 – Filming and editing of year two 10 minute film (Wildlife and Ecosystems)

£10,000 – Filming and editing of year three 10 minute film (Conservation and Management)

£10,000 – Filming and editing of year four 10 minute film (Recreation and Minimal Impact)

£10,000 – Executive Producer, project management and final edit of film for feature length documentary and mini-clips

£5,000 – Presenters and specialist input

£5,000 – Education material, promotion, production of DVD's

Cost - £60,000

VAT - £12,000

PERMISSIONS AND COMPLIANCE

- Prior to the commencement of any filming, detailed proposals containing risk assessments, a method statement and site management plan (demonstrating compliance with Site Designations, Access Legislation, Health and Safety Regulations) will be sent to and be approved by the landowner, planning authority and other agencies (SNH, FCS, SEPA) as required.
- All parties contracted to carry out works will be required to provide satisfactory, documentary evidence of appropriate competence, certification, insurance and standard operating procedures which adhere to HSE guidance and regulatory requirements.
- All parties contracted to carry out works will hold full public liability insurance.
- All parties contracted to carry out works will hold full responsibility for Health and Safety management within the area designated as a site of work during operations.
- Liability for workers, volunteers and work affecting visitors will not fall to the landowner. During operations, liability for works within the site area will reside with either an appointed Project Manager or the party contracted to manage the works.
- School risk assessments and appropriate H&S arrangements (training, supervision, PPE, PCB checks, etc.) will be completed prior to any field trips.PCB checks.
- The area where project activity will be focused lies within the Ben Nevis SSSI/SAC. SNH will be consulted prior to any project activity to discern whether the planned actions fall within the parameters for Operations Requiring Consent. If required, consent will be negotiated so as to adhere to any requirements ordained by SNH or other concerned agencies.

LEGACY AND MAINTENANCE

The films will have significant legacy, being uploaded to partner websites, online film sites such as Youtube and Vimeo; and through distribution to schools and colleges for educational purposes.

RISKS AND RISK MITIGATION

A full set of risk assessments and method statements will be required for all filming work. This will be submitted to both land owners and their agents, from whom formal permission for access would be sought. This will include all the necessary Health and Safety requirements for filming in remote or steep terrain. JMT and RTA are partners in the Nevis Landscape Partnership.



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