

# Raptor Persecution UK

## Glen Turret Estate under new management – eco-logical restoration is in, grouse shooting is out

RaptorPersecutionUK

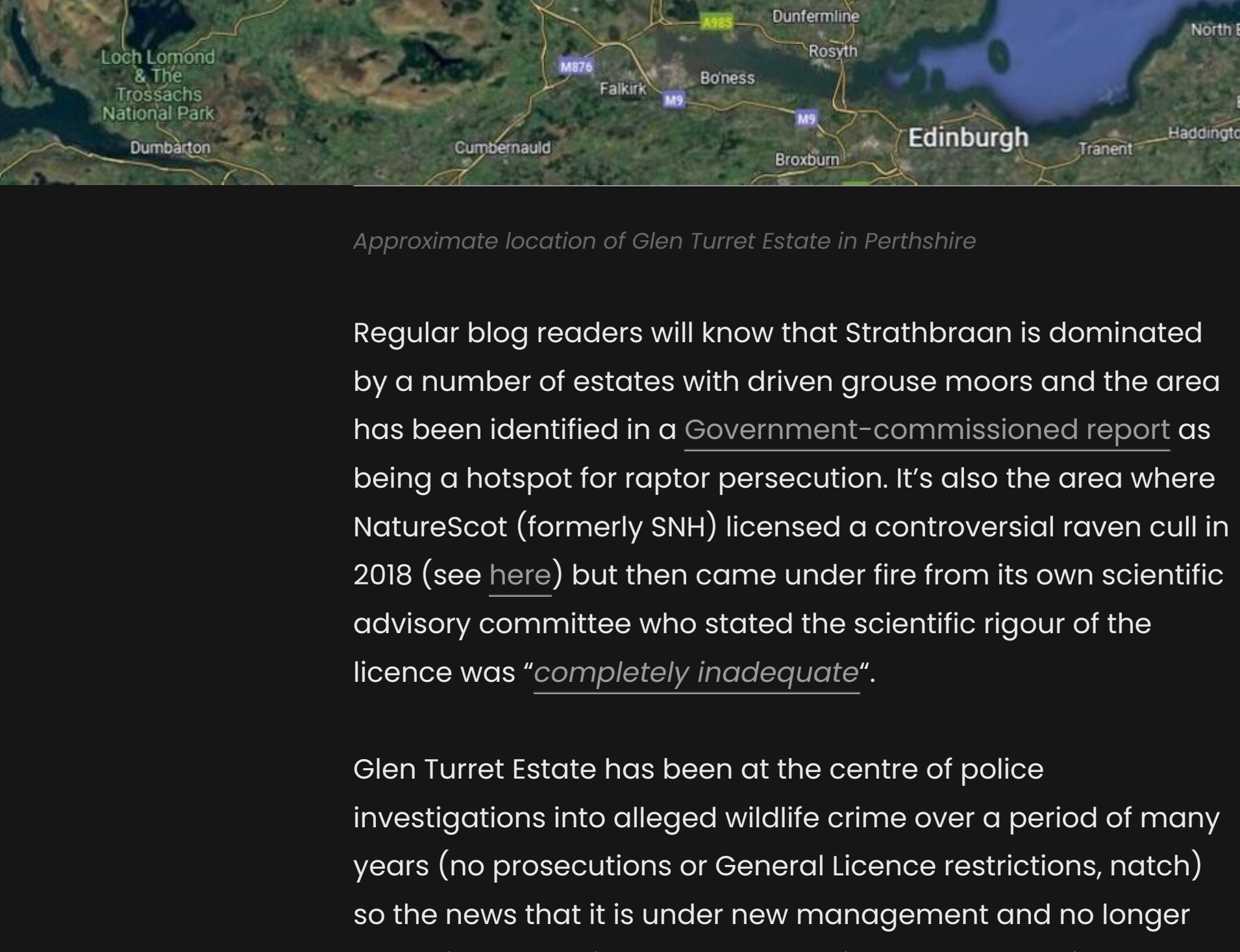
December 2, 2024

News

crow trap, gamekeeper

Some good news to start the week!

At the recent REVIVE conference in Perthshire I met a couple of people from a relatively new Scottish-based charity called the KITH Trust, who, along with the University of Edinburgh, had earlier this year bought the Glen Turret Estate in Strathbraan, Perthshire.

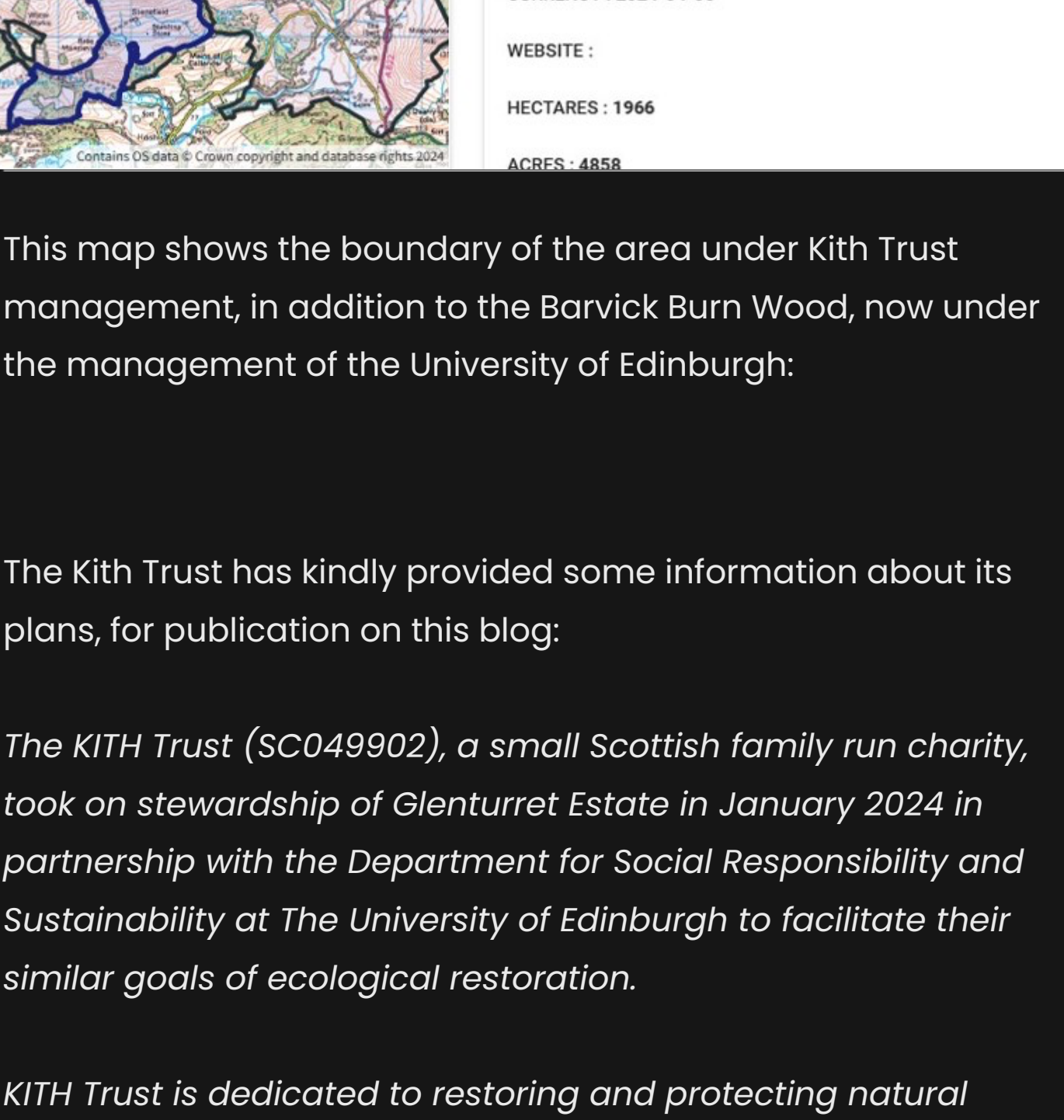


Approximate location of Glen Turret Estate in Perthshire

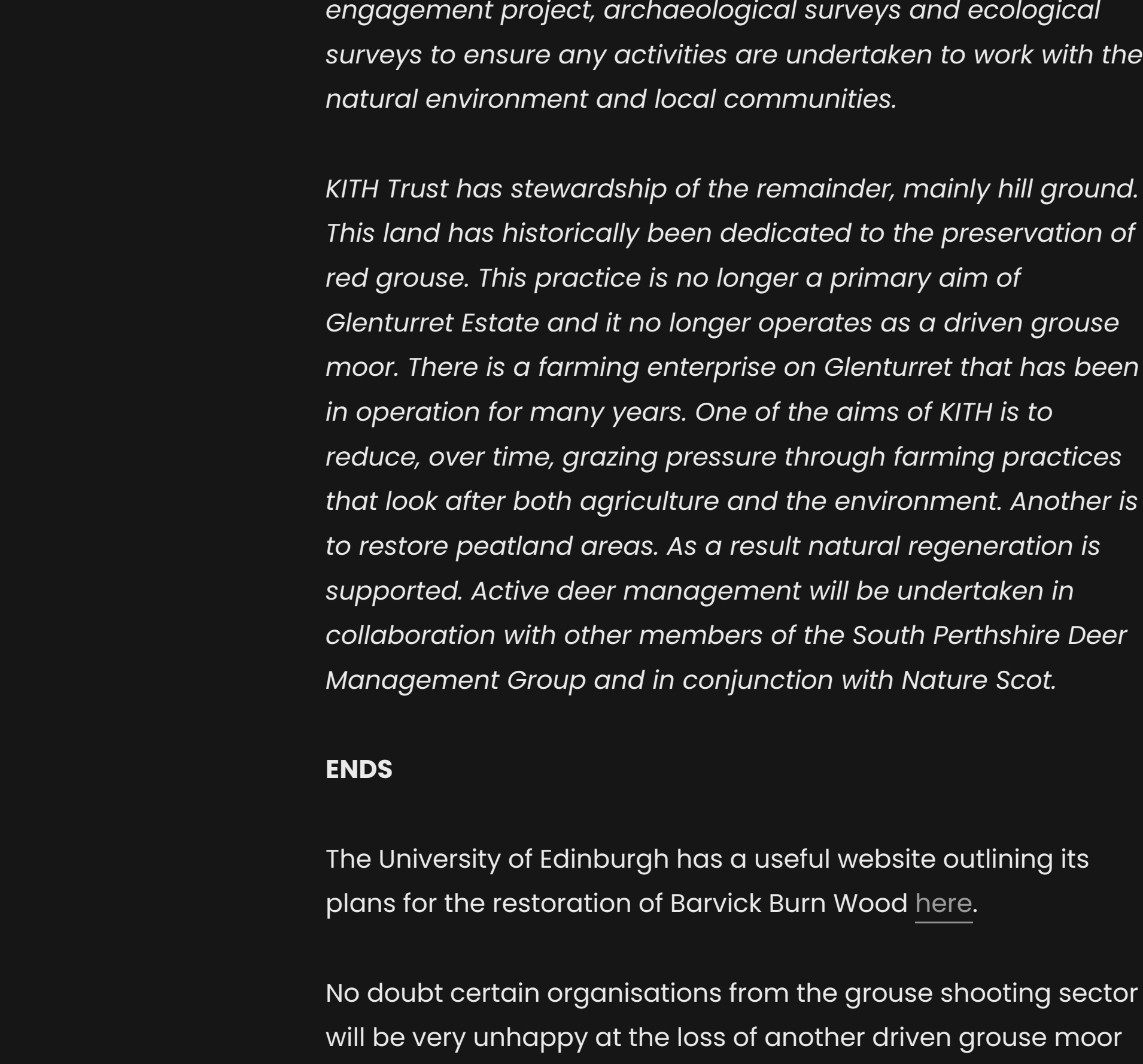
Regular blog readers will know that Strathbraan is dominated by a number of estates with driven grouse moors and the area has been identified in a Government-commissioned report as being a hotspot for raptor persecution. It's also the area where NatureScot (formerly SNH) licensed a controversial raven cull in 2018 (see here) but then came under fire from its own scientific advisory committee who stated the scientific rigour of the licence was *"completely inadequate"*.

Glen Turret Estate has been at the centre of police investigations into alleged wildlife crime over a period of many years (no prosecutions or General Licence restrictions, natch) so the news that it is under new management and no longer operating as a driven grouse moor is very welcome indeed.

This should mean an end to the use of things like crow-cage traps, commonly deployed [legally!] on grouse moors in all seasons, where non-target species like this Long-eared owl can no longer be caught and held for over 24 hrs in appalling weather conditions (photo by RSPB).



This map shows the boundary of the area under Kith Trust management, in addition to the Barvick Burn Wood, now under the management of the University of Edinburgh:



The Kith Trust has kindly provided some information about its plans, for publication on this blog:

*The KITH Trust (SC049902), a small Scottish family run charity, took on stewardship of Glenturret Estate in January 2024 in partnership with the Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability at The University of Edinburgh to facilitate their similar goals of ecological restoration.*

*KITH Trust is dedicated to restoring and protecting natural ecosystems and supporting biodiversity as well as supporting local community activities and enterprise.*

*The University intends to fence off part of the estate for a mixed tree planting scheme. They have carried out a community engagement project, archaeological surveys and ecological surveys to ensure any activities are undertaken to work with the natural environment and local communities.*

*KITH Trust has stewardship of the remainder, mainly hill ground. This land has historically been dedicated to the preservation of red grouse. This practice is no longer a primary aim of Glenturret Estate and it no longer operates as a driven grouse moor. There is a farming enterprise on Glenturret that has been in operation for many years. One of the aims of KITH is to reduce, over time, grazing pressure through farming practices that look after both agriculture and the environment. Another is to restore peatland areas. As a result natural regeneration is supported. Active deer management will be undertaken in collaboration with other members of the South Perthshire Deer Management Group and in conjunction with Nature Scot.*

### ENDS

The University of Edinburgh has a useful website outlining its plans for the restoration of Barvick Burn Wood [here](#).

No doubt certain organisations from the grouse shooting sector will be very unhappy at the loss of another driven grouse moor and over the coming months/years will be misrepresenting the ecological restoration work, just as they have done with other rewilding efforts (e.g. [here](#)).

Some of us don't want to wait for the buy-out of individual driven grouse moors, we'd like to see a widespread ban on driven grouse shooting sooner rather than later. If you share that view, please sign the new petition from Wild Justice calling for a ban – [HERE](#).

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10 thoughts on "Glen Turret Estate under new management – ecological restoration is in, grouse shooting is out"

**SilverBirch**

December 2, 2024 at 12:57 pm

Thank you for such positive news on a Monday morning, Ruth!

I hope we are seeing the beginning of the end of destructive 'sport' and a move toward the restoration of the land. May there be many more such examples by progressive thinking people.

Reply

**Mairi L**

December 2, 2024 at 1:46 pm

Aaah, and breathe! A breath of fresh air on this gloomy day, thank you Ruth! As with the Tarras Valley, I'll be interested to follow progress.

Reply

**paulfisher054**

December 2, 2024 at 2:14 pm

Excellent news. Let's hope they intend to leave a good amount of land to rewind itself 'just to see wh

Reply

**Keith Dancey**

December 2, 2024 at 3:34 pm

This is very welcome news, especially for sedentary species: an oasis in the middle of a mine field.

Reply

**Tim Wood**

December 2, 2024 at 9:20 pm

Which species are 'sedentary species' please I'm sorry I don't know, thanks.

Reply

**aj55**

December 2, 2024 at 3:47 pm

Nice to read some good news for a change Ruth, thank you. And excellent news that an estate with driven grouse moors has now changed ownership and that the 'KITH Trust is dedicated to restoring and protecting natural ecosystems and supporting biodiversity as well as supporting local community activities and enterprise.' Great news for all raptors, as well as other wildlife, in that area also; hoping, therefore, that it will reduce, and end, the persecution done to them by the grouse shooting fraternity over the many years

Reply

**Amadan**

December 2, 2024 at 4:15 pm

Just to nitpick – this estate is in Strathearn, not Strathbraan.

[Ed: thanks, I know, but this is the area we refer to as Strathbraan, to identify it as the same area where the so-called 'Strathbraan Community Collaboration for Waders' was given a licence to cull ravens by SNH in 2018]

Reply

**BSA**

December 2, 2024 at 4:21 pm

Very good news for an estate which, fifteen or so years ago, had several productive harriers before the lights suddenly went out with a change of management. It's in Strathearn surely, a long way from Strathbraan.

Reply

**Phil Davies**

December 2, 2024 at 4:48 pm

Fabulous news! And thanks for your website.

Reply

**Raptors Rights**

December 2, 2024 at 7:21 pm

Driven Grouse shooting is to cease but, are they still going to allow for walked up shooting?

Reply

Leave a comment

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