

Police appeal for information about trapped bird of prey

Wildlife officers appeal for information after a protected bird of prey was found dead in a trap near Balerno.

The dead peregrine falcon was found about 100 yards from a public path on the edge of a small woodland south of Wester Bavelaw on Thursday, 23 November, 2023.

Wildlife Crime Officer, Detective Constable Daniel Crilley, said: "This protected bird was found in a baited pole trap that is illegal.

"Peregrine falcons are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and forensic tests are being done as part of our ongoing enquiries to establish the full circumstances.

"We are asking anyone who saw anything suspicious in the area or who has information that could help our investigation to get in touch.

"If you can help please contact us via 101, quoting incident number 1376 of Friday, 24 November, or make a call anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

More information on wildlife crime can be found on the Police Scotland

website: <https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/wildlife-crime/>

Ross Ewing, Director of Moorland at Scottish Land & Estates,

said: "We support the police appeal for information over this disturbing and perplexing case.

"Anyone with information should contact Police Scotland without hesitation as it is essential that the full facts are established as soon as possible.

"It is apparent that this discovery is not connected to grouse moor management. The land where the pole trap was found is managed for farming and conservation. It is very disappointing that some have rushed to link this truly awful incident with grouse moor management in order to bolster their own agendas.

"This is a distressing discovery of an iconic bird of prey and the Police Scotland should be supported in their appeal for information as they strive to establish the facts.

"We and our members will do all we can to help Police Scotland and hope others do the same."