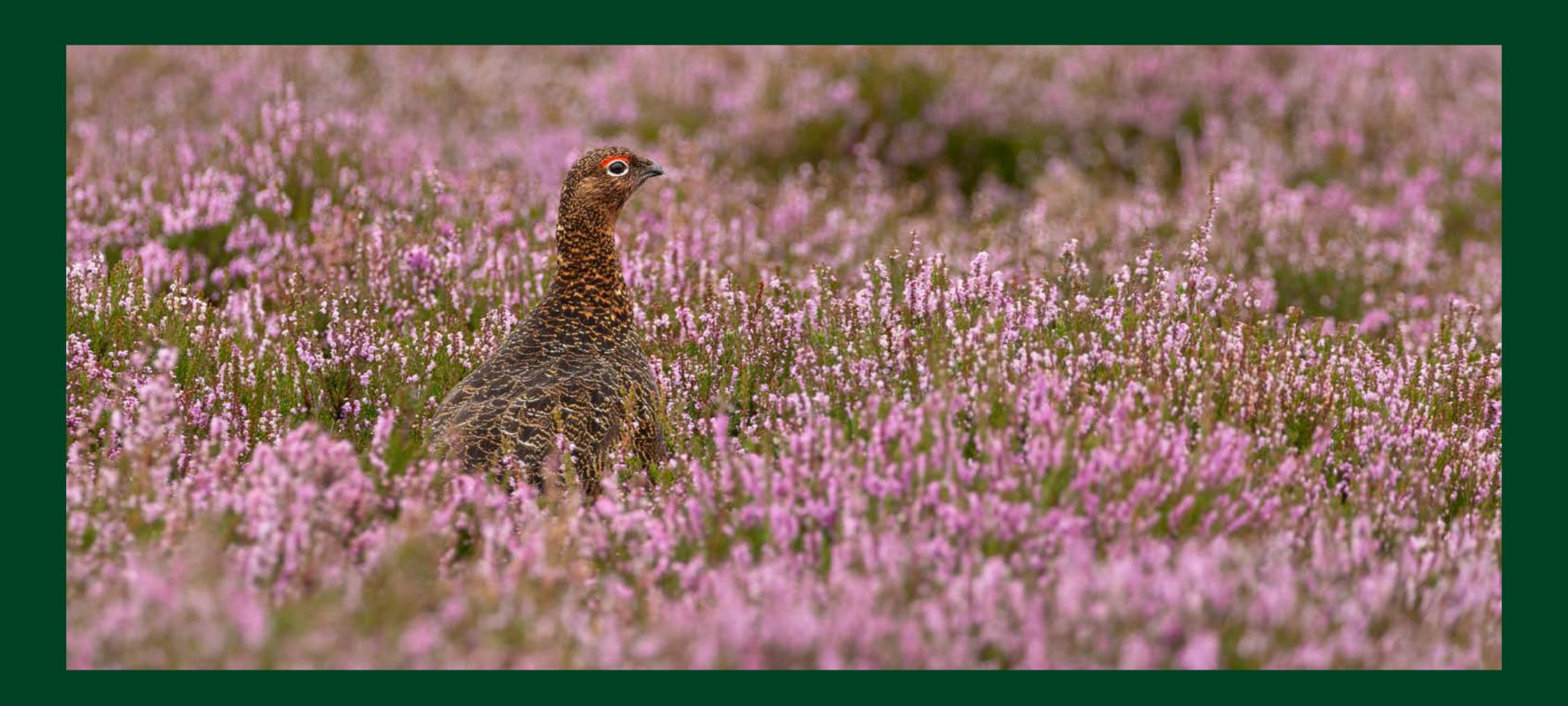# Benefits of the Proposed Development

Tackling the Nature and Climate Crisis

A carbon balance assessment was conducted to estimate the potential contribution from the Proposed Development towards the Scottish Government's climate change targets. The Proposed Development would be powered by renewable energy and the green hydrogen fuel produced would be used to displace natural gas by the end user. By displacing this natural gas, approximately 13,002 tonnes of CO_2e would be saved every year (99.3% reduction compared with natural gas).

In addition to the Hydrogen Production Facility and associated infrastructure, the Proposed Development includes biodiversity enhancement in the vicinity of the application site. It is anticipated/envisaged that production of a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan (BEP) would be a condition of any approval for the Proposed Development. The BEP would be written in consultation with NatureScot, the Highland Council and any relevant stakeholders, as required by the Highland Council. It is anticipated the BEP would include a combination of the following measures, with exact prescriptions to be confirmed when the detailed design has been completed: enhancement of bog habitats; enhancement of heath habitats; and native riparian tree planting.

Socio-economic Benefits

Cromarty Hydrogen Project would make the following vital contributions to the economy: enabling local distilleries to meet their decarbonisation objectives in a cost-effective way, supporting a just green energy transition and reduction in the wider issue of young people moving elsewhere for employment, Cromarty Hydrogen is confirmed as a Regional Hydrogen Energy Hub in the Scottish Government's Hydrogen Action Plan as a key part of its hydrogen capacity ambitions and also within the Scottish Government's Offshore Wind to Hydrogen Opportunity Assessment, and supporting community renewal through development of the hydrogen economy, which brings new skills, building on existing strengths of the region and high-wage roles.