



Cairngorms Local Outdoor Access Forum

Paper 3 - Update and forward look

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Purpose

This paper provides an update on the main areas of work both undertaken and planned.

1. Statutory Duties

Promotion of Scottish Outdoor Access Code

- New signs have been developed to support the farming community. These are narrow gate post signs with messaging about dogs & lambs and dogs & livestock.
- A new map sign has been developed to support the Capercaillie & dogs signs (distributed last year) which highlights the sensitive areas where dogs need to be walked on a lead.
- New signs also being finalised for waders & dogs (based on LOAF discussion at last meeting).
- Training session provided for new intake of seasonal rangers covering SOAC and responsible behaviour messages.
- The new [National Park Authority website](#) will be live shortly. Responsible access messages and alerts (eg paths closed or high fire risk) are now integrated into content pages. All the responsible access messages can also be found under the heading "Visiting / Need to Know".

2. Development and Management of core paths

Core Paths Plan review

- The Core Paths Plan review is planned to go live late May / early June, until 31 August. The informal consultation is being hosted on our new website where the plan can be viewed, along with our proposed amendments. Comments can be left online or submitted via email.
- Stakeholders and relevant landowners (where additional core paths are proposed) are being contacted directly and signposted to the consultation. There will also be wider public communications about the consultation.



- The consultation can be viewed here - <https://cairngorms.co.uk/consultations/core-paths-plan>
- LOAF members are welcome to respond in a personal / professional capacity. The LOAF will play a future role in reviewing any decisions about key core path plans amendments.

Speyside Way

Gate Replacement - Cromdale to Mains of Dalvey (at the Park boundary). The contractor began work at the end of April and has removed most of the outdated “rambler” style gates on this section. The self-closing pedestrian gates which have been installed where a replacement gate was required are made to the proper specifications to accommodate bikes and horses which will make this section much more user friendly.

Deeside Way

At the beginning of April, the Park Authority hosted the first project advisory group for taking forward the Deeside Way Extension. Focus initially is on developing the vision and objectives and the scoring system when considering route options before more detailed conversation can occur with landowners.

Glen Tanar Footbridge

Due to considerable amount of erosion, the bridge near the Sheil of Glen Tanar that serves the path up Mount Keen has been closed. Several options are being explored:

- Undertake riverbank restoration upstream of the bridge and shore up the abutment that has been affected by undercutting. This would involve 'green' restoration techniques such as the use of sections of trees with root plate still attached to naturally support the banking and slow down the flow of water by creating natural pools. This also benefits the river ecosystem.
- Remove the bridge entirely. This part of the river is very dynamic and maintaining a fixed structure in this location could be a constant struggle. Especially when climate change and more frequent high-water events are factored in.
- Move the bridge to a new location, this is challenging given the dynamic nature of the river and would involve new path construction.

Path Promotion

- **Website** – the Speyside Way, Deeside Way and Old Logging Way are all now featured on our new website. Each route is broken down into local sections, each section described by with distance and path grading. All the community walk routes also now have their own page on the website – this is a work in progress and more content is to follow here.



- **Community path leaflets** – this year we aim to update and redesign the leaflets for Tomintoul, Boat of Garten and potentially Nethy Bridge.

3. Wider visitor infrastructure

Snow Roads Installations

A planned preventative maintenance survey (PPM) has been undertaken based on a 5-year programme for the three Snow Roads Installations, Still, the Watchers and Connecting Contours. Within this time frame, the works have been categorised into urgent, essential, desirable & long term. No significant issues have been identified beyond general care and maintenance.