
CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

Title: Outdoor Access Casework

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Purpose:

This paper presents the statistics for the period from August to November 2011

Advice Sought

This paper is for information so no advice is sought but Forum members are welcome to make comments as they see fit.

Live cases (active) are presented at the top of the sheet; and cases that have been dealt with and **closed** during the year so far at the bottom of the sheet.

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|---------------|----------------|
| YEAR | 2011-12 |
| Live | 28 |
| Closed | 34 |
| TOTAL | 61 |

Overall Impression

There have been **nine** new cases reported to us in the last quarter since the last Local Outdoor Access Forum meeting in August. **Three** remain as live cases and the other **six** have been closed following advice, practical intervention and/or mediation.

LIVE CASES

NEW - new cases are marked in a red box in Column B.

Case 6 Boat of Garten – these cases both concern the Salmon Trail, a core path in Boat. One concerns the replacement of awkward stiles at the steam railway crossing point. Contact made with Strathspey Steam Railway re replacing stiles

Case 7 Boat of Garten – this case concerns the lack of stock fencing on a long section of core path which has intimidated one user. The route has always been open to stock that graze from open woodland to rivers edge over about a 2kms section and would be impractical to fence.

Case 18 Glen Clova – this relates to a previous complaint about an electric fence. A map has been received from Angus Council showing the extent of the fence and crossing points and verification is being sought from the complainant. No response as yet.

UPDATES - Updated cases are marked by a yellow box in Column B.

Case 1 Ballater – Aberdeenshire Council have expressed their concern that bikes ridden at speed over the Cambus o' May bridge could cause excess wear on the structure. A suggestion for a barrier which would slow cyclists down/ encourage them to walk across would reduce this and the Council are looking at this option.

Case 3 Blair Atholl – a horse rider reported difficult to open cattle grids next to road access. Complainant agreed to approach farmer with other horse-riders with a view to improving ease of use. FP to contact ranger re other gates with wire over them

Case 5 Boat of Garten – the CNPA are still receiving complaints about access here and are pressing the forest agents for a reply to the offer of gates.

Case 10 and 11 Dalwhinnie – CNPA are still awaiting a response from SSE regarding gates at either end of the leat track from Dalwhinnie to Meall a Chuaich, following a reminder in early October. We suspect that additionally the route may be (temporarily) affected by the works on the power lines.

Case 17 Dulnain Bridge – the case concerns a ranger gate blocking horse access between the old and new A95. The CNPA has tracked down a new forest agent who has responded positively and will put us in touch with the local manager for a site visit.

Case 21 Killiecrankie – see paper

Case 24 Kingussie – contact has been at last established with the Factor for the Estate and a site visit arranged for mid October. Early indications are that there is an acceptance of the need for easier access here.

Case 25 Kingussie – on the same route as above but under a different ownership, a concern was raised about an old cattle grid, restricting equestrian access. The estate is changing hands and the new owners have expressed agreement that the grid may be modified or removed in due course. CNPA will revert to them when the sale is concluded.

CLOSED CASES – new and updated

Case 6 Ballater NEW – a hazardous obstruction in the Dee at Ballater was reported to the CNPA by a local resident. The Estate was informed and the obstruction – sheet metal – was removed by estate staff.

Case 10 Boat of Garten NEW – a local person complained about an intimidating new fence and gate which has been placed across the Salmon Trail where there is no apparent need for one. CNPA access team referred the matter to the Development Management team who are taking it forward.

Case 15 Donside UPDATE – CNPA commissioned blue and white land manager signs to assist management of the public past a busy farmyard and working hill farm.

Case 26 Kincaig NEW – a complaint was received about canoeists on a hitherto little used lochan on FCS land. Advice was given to the FCS on the Code and the extent of rights and responsibilities of commercial and educational groups.

Case 27 Kincaig NEW – a complaint was received about travellers setting up camp near loch Insh. The complainant was advised to contact the Police.

Case 30 Newtonmore NEW – a complaint was received from a land manager who was concerned that dogs with walkers on the Wild Cat trail were scaring pigs through an electric fence. The CNPA commissioned blue and white land manager signs to warn the public to keep their dogs under control whilst passing this area.

Case 31 Nethybridge UPDATE – a new gate (self-closing side gate to all-abilities standard) has been installed where an informal track leads onto the Speyside Way through a farm.

Case 32 Nethybridge NEW – this case was reported by the ranger from Explore Abernethy. A fence has been erected over an old section of railway which is substantially grown over with trees and terminates at a burn. It is very little used and does not constitute a path at the moment – the CNPA opinion is that this could be seen as part of a long term development and best taken forward through the next round of CPP.

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