
CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

Title: Outdoor Access Casework

Prepared by: Fran Pothecary, Outdoor Access Officer

Purpose: To update the Forum on casework concerning upholding access rights and outdoor access casework

Advice Sought: No specific advice is sought by the Park Authority but Forum members are invited make points as they see fit.

LIVE CASES

Forum members are reminded that a column has been added to the spreadsheet which indicates the date of the last correspondence with the complainant. The casework protocol has been updated to include the following statement:

“Complainants will be updated every six months or at significant points of resolution and notified when a case is closed”

Case 2 Ballater UPDATE – the turnstile gates on the historic Cambus o’ May suspension bridge are very obstructive to bikes and pushchairs. Now the bridge is part of a Core Path, efforts are being made to remove these.

Case 3 Ballater NEW – we received notification though Ballater CC of informal parties taking place at Cambus O’ May quarry on land owned and managed by Forestry Commission Scotland. The land owner is proposing to deter vehicle access.

Case 4 Blair Atholl NEW – two locked gates on hill route offer an obstruction to horse access. We are awaiting confirmation of exact location of gates.

Case 5 Braemar UPDATE – the estate have been notified of two high stiles making access difficult for a number of users. They have indicated their willingness to either open gates or adapt stiles, and discussion with them is in progress.

Case 6 Braemar NEW – new deer fence blocks an access route up a hillside gully to a popular hill top and viewpoint. Discussion with the land owners is underway.

Case 8 Boat of Garten NEW – access point to river is obstructed by a locked stock gate. A dilapidated stile offers an alternative and whilst none of the barriers are impassable, this is a very popular launch point in the summer. Contact with Estate is awaiting resolution of other access matters.

Case 9 Carrbridge; Case 11 Dalwhinnie; Case 22 Kincaig; Case 24 Kingussie; Case 25 Kingussie and Case 27 Laggan UPDATE – all these cases concern

obstructions to horse access. Letters have been sent to all the land managers in question. Report back at meeting.

Case 10 Cromdale UPDATE – a report was received from a member of the public regarding poor signage about shooting on a right of way. The Estate have indicated willingness to remove signage but not done so to date. Reminder sent Oct 2010.

Case 20 Kincaig UPDATE – Monitoring of summer issues at river launch point and bird-watching site is being finalised and a meeting of interested parties is pending.

Case 28 Laggan NEW – Member of public complained that he had been prevented from walking a RoV and popular hill route due to stalking activity and that the signage had been inaccurate. The Council Ranger is in discussion with the Estate.

Case 30 Nethybridge NEW – local resident complained to local MSP about gates being closed onto the Speyside Way. CNPA met with the land manager and responded to the MSP. Further contact direct with complainant pending, although no access is currently blocked.

CLOSED CASES

The following cases have all been dealt with and closed in the last three months. Some came to us as new complaints and have already been dealt with; others are older cases recently closed.

Case 6 Aviemore NEW – a complaint was received about access being blocked to a local NNR. The access was found not be blocked although the lack of signage needs addressing.

Case 12 Braemar NEW – we were notified of obstructive behaviour by a walker who refused a request to wait on a stalking party for a short time. This appears to have been a one-off incident by an individual dealt with by Estate staff.

Case 15 Carrbridge NEW – a report was received of locked gate and sign at entrance to an old quarry. The track is a dead-end off a busy public road and only leads to the quarry (non-operational). There appears to be no demand for access here so the case has been closed.

Case 17 Dalwhinnie UPDATE – this case was reported by a land manager concerned about an incident in which a gate was left open allowing stock to access the A9. There have been no further issues and the case has been closed.

Case 25 Grantown UPDATE – this involved a chicane gate onto a public road erected by the Council to deter motorbike access. There are other alternatives and no complaints received about the chicane in the last few years so the case has been closed.

Cases 26 and 27 Insh NEW – these two cases involve FCS operational signage in an area of forestry currently under active harvesting. A meeting was held with FCS representatives and clarity was given on the use and location of signage. Information was sent back to complainants and the case was closed.

Case 31 Kincaig NEW – an outdoor instructor reported an altercation with another watersports provider, and asked for clarity on rights and responsibilities under access legislation. This was duly given and copied to both parties.

Case 39 Newtonmore UPDATE – a report was received about a newly locked gate leading to a popular hill and climbing area. The site was checked out and it was found that the padlock had been removed and access was open again.

Case 40 Newtonmore UPDATE – clarity was requested regarding horse access to the Sustrans route and suitability of the bridges for horse access. It was ascertained that horse riders do have access rights to the route and that it is a decision for individual riders and their horses whether they are comfortable in crossing the bridges, which are built to a very high standard.

Fran Potheary
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9 November 2010