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## CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

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**Title:** Outdoor Access Casework – access issues 2013-14

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**Purpose:** This paper presents the statistics from the year beginning April 2013

### Advice Sought

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

### Review of Last Year access issues

**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.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>2013-14</b>
<b>Live</b>	10
<b>Closed</b>	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>

The casework this year has been at its lowest ever. We have seen some significant long-term cases close, others very near to conclusion and one that was nearly closed but reversed at the last minute!

### Live Cases

**Case 1 NEW Aviemore, Burnside** – A local resident has complained that a new fence round a horse-field is constricting access. A site visit has been undertaken and it appears that there is still plenty of room for access.

**Case 3 Ballater, Abergeldie** – Glyn Jones of the neighbouring Balmoral Estate did a power of work persuading the land manager at Abergeldie to accept a wide deer-fence high kissing gate that would allow passage of bikes and buggies as well as walkers. We were at the point of installation when he changed his mind not convinced that it would offer 100%

protection against deer movements. This is a disappointing set-back as this was our longest standing unresolved issue.

**Case 4 Dalwhinnie, Phones** – we are very near conclusion on this case. SSE has agreed to modify the access over the Truim here by installing a new side gate whilst retaining a locked vehicle gate. They are funding this under Beaully-Denny community improvements.

**Cases 6-7 Kincaig, Alvie** – the land owner has upgraded two to three vehicle gates and is considering further designs from the Countryside Access Design Guide we have supplied him with.

**Case 8 Laggan, Ardverikie** – a new gate was installed by the Estate but unfortunately it is a kissing gate so not accessible to horse-riders or easily to cyclists. As the route is a Core Path and a RoW this does need to be addressed. We are awaiting a response from the Estate.

**Cases 9-10 NEW Newtonmore, Glen Banchor** - A complaint was received from a member of the public about very old 'no camping signs' in Glen Banchor. On speaking to the Estate, it appears that camping and drinking have been issues here this year. A site visit however did not uncover any evidence of fires in the vicinity of Shepherd's Bridge and the river. The Estate has been asked for further details of Police involvement etc.

### Closed Cases

**Case 2 NEW Aviemore Islands** – litter and broken glass as a result of partying on the Spey Islands. Advice given re SOAC and involving Police and Council ranger for monitoring.

**Case 3 NEW Boat of Garten, Abernethy** – RSPB reported two cases of people refusing to put dogs on leads at Loch Mallachie. Advice was given by CNPA.

**Case 4 NEW Braemar, Invercauld** – an altercation with a fishing ghillie was publicised by Andy Wightman and had a good degree of public exposure. The situation was quickly defused by further communication and an apology between the landowner to Andy.

**Case 5 NEW Braemar, Mar Lodge** – a locked gate, reported by a very wet and tired DoE group coming down off a hill after an safety incident, was resolved by Estate staff – before the access officer had even arrived to do a site visit. The quickest access case resolution in our history!

**Case 6 NEW Ballater, Balmoral** – the Estate factor asked for advice about dealing with horse-riders concerns about lipped hill drains. Some drains have been adapted but the cost

of this is not sustainable. The Estate has drawn up a map and an advisory note for horse-riders and where these will be encountered.

**Case 8 NEW Cromdale, Glen Lochy** – a local MIC with a Mountain Leader group reported an incident on the hill when he was walking off a ridge in July with a group and accosted by a Keeper. He made contact with the Keeper later to advise when he would next be taking a group in the area but had no response. No further action.

**Cases 9-10 Dalwhinnie, Phones** – the new Head Keeper has been very positive about making a changes to hill access at Meall a' Cuaich. New deer awareness signage is being progressed and a new gate has been purchased and will be installed adjacent to the locked vehicle gate in the autumn

**Case 11 NEW Glenmore, Rothiemurchus** – there was a report about unauthorised congregational camping by a large European youth group. The group were identified and the Access Officer made contact and advised them of access rights and responsibilities for future journeys to Scotland.

**Case 13 NEW Kincaig, Loch Insh** – the Highland Council Ranger requested a new sign at the put-in point on to the Spey at Insh Church, asking people to avoid the ospreys nest.

**Case 14 NEW Kingussie, Glen Tromie** – a group of young people reported an altercation with a land owner in Glen Tromie. They were walking on a popular Right of Way as part of an expedition. The identity of the land owner was not confirmed so no further action was taken but the case noted.

**Case 16 Laggan, Cluny** – Cluny Estate removed a permanent “shooting in progress” sign which had been in place for at least 3 years. In that time, the Estate has never responded to any correspondence from the Park Authority.

**Case 17 NEW Nethybridge, Dell Woods** – SNH constructed a new all-abilities path in Dell woods. The route followed the line of an existing popular multi-activity route and SNH were concerned that subsequent use by horses and cyclists was damaging the track. A site visit revealed that the issue primarily stemmed from poor path construction (too much top dressing) which should consolidate in time.

**Case 18 NEW Nethybridge, Dell Woods** – a large fire was reported and dealt with by neighbouring Estate staff. There has been discussion with the NNR Manager regarding Tread Lightly resources.

**Case 19 NEW Newtonmore, Glen Banchor** – the Estate factor reported camping and drinking at Shepherd's Bridge over the summer. The Council ranger went and investigated

and couldn't find any evidence but the CNPA is considering taking forward action to help improve the car parking area, and deal with dog waste issues, which also links into issues on the Wild Cat Trail.

**Case 20 NEW Newtonmore, Strone** – the RSPB Futurescapes Officer was concerned that dogs off lead were having an impact of an important area for waders in the Strone common grazings area. New signage has been agreed and will be progressed by CNPA; the RSPB officer will contact the crofters to gather their support for the signage.

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