

CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

- Title:** Update and look forward
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- Purpose:** This paper provides an update on the main areas of work both undertaken and planned which will deliver the five year outcomes from the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17.

Long term outcome: People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences

Key work package 9 - Active Cairngorms

1. **Promoting Active Enjoyment:** The Walking to Health programme is moving towards consolidating the existing groups with training being provided for existing members and leaders on subjects ranging from website design to other forms of exercise.
2. The Cycling Action Plan will be considered at the Board meeting on 27 September and will provide a framework for how cycling will be delivered in the National Park over the next 5 years.
3. **Promoting the Scottish Outdoor Access Code** – new Tread Lightly material has been ordered and a re-print of existing material. All Frame ‘sandwich’ boards, banner flag and a pop up banner have all been added to the suite of material available for public events.
4. **Community Path Leaflets** – The new Aviemore community path leaflet has been published. The Grantown and Laggan leaflet are currently under development and Carr Bridge and Tomintoul are to be reprinted with some minor edits. This leaves Newtonmore and Kincaig as the only communities without a leaflet.

Key work package 12 - Visitor and access infrastructure

5. **Management of core paths and outdoor access:**
 - a) **Low ground path development** – Works have recently been completed at Kincaig and Kingussie as well as further works in Strathdon around the school. Additional projects completed include a new bridge at Bachnagairn. Going forward, COAT have met with the Newtonmore Community Woodlands Trust and will be working up the specifications for improvements to the Wildcat Trail.

- b) **Path Signs** – Advertisement consent for new signs in Aviemore is currently been sought and staff are working with The Anagach Woods Trust and the Community Council to update the signage around Grantown.
- c) **Upland paths** – Remote accommodation units have been installed on Braeriach allowing contractors to stay longer on site. Maintenance contracts are now up and running for Deeside.

Other National Park Initiatives

- 6. **Cairngorms Nature** – Park Authority staff has been promoting the Cairngorms Nature Action plan widely at a variety of events such as the Lonach Games and the Grantown show.

Other access matters

- 7. **Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (modification) Order 2013- Consultation on Draft Order and Accompanying Statutory Guidance-** At present, core paths, which are intended to facilitate public access, cannot be formally exempted from access rights even if the surrounding land is exempted. The Scottish Government is undertaking a consultation on a draft order to amend the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, to provide for the temporary exemption of core paths from access rights (for ease and convenience referred to as 'closure'). The circumstances in which the draft order applies are:

- a) in the event of an outbreak of animal disease
- b) where exemptions from access rights are sought under section 11 orders.

This matter has been discussed at the National Access Forum and Scottish Ministers are of the view that access authorities should be able to temporarily close a core path by a section 11 order, when there are legitimate reasons to do so. The Scottish Government has also drawn up revised statutory Guidance for Local Authorities and National Park Authorities on the proposed new power to temporarily close core paths by a section 11 order

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