

Annex 1

Managing outdoor access at sensitive sites

1. The Cairngorms National Park is rich both environmentally and culturally: Two attributes that attract large numbers to come to and enjoy this special place and which provide a rich backdrop for people who live and work in the National Park. Some parts of the Park are, however, especially sensitive to disturbance or are easily damaged and therefore careful planning, management and promotion is required.
2. An holistic approach is required for the management of access that takes into account the prevention of damage to natural and cultural heritage sites within the constraints of the new rights of responsible access. Such an approach will help reduce existing negative impacts through positive promotion of robust areas and paths and through encouraging responsible behaviour by providing appropriate interpretation and advice about minimising adverse impacts. The existing regulatory framework is already well established for formally protected sites (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest) and for developments that require planning permission or other consents.
3. The National Park provides an ideal setting to develop of new techniques or approaches to the management of access at sensitive sites and the lessons learned are likely to have significance beyond the boundaries of the National Park. It will be important therefore to promote such innovation and to share information with other interested parties.

OAS Policy 5: Managing outdoor access at sensitive sites

Management measures are required to reduce the impacts of recreation at sensitive natural and cultural heritage sites. As such:

- Impacts on the natural and cultural heritage should be considered when any new or upgrading of infrastructure is being planned or proposed and appropriate mitigating measures agreed and implemented;
- Where recreational use is currently having a negative impact, consideration should be given to promotion of alternative, more robust sites;
- Best practice standards in relation to path design and management should be used at all sensitive sites;
- Extra efforts should be made to clearly explain to the public the sensitive nature of the site and how responsible behaviour can help to conserve the site's special qualities;
- Innovative approaches should be used to manage the impacts of recreation on natural and cultural heritage and the results should be disseminated to a nation-wide audience.