

CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

- Title:** Update and look forward
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- Purpose:** This paper provides an update and flavour on the main areas of work undertaken and planned which will deliver the key themes in the Outdoor Access Strategy by the CNPA staff and partners.

Action Theme 1: Improving path provision and quality

IMPLEMENTING THE CORE PATHS PLAN

1. **Path Signs** – Further funding from LEADER has been secured to develop the path signage project further. This now means Braemar and Kingussie will get new path signs.
2. **Path Projects** – Additional funding from Scottish Government to the tune of £223,000 will deliver a range of new paths around communities across the Park including Carr-Bridge, Kingussie, Bellabeg, Braemar and Glen Clova. The funding will go to the Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust and work is already underway.
3. **Speyside Way Extension** - in May we received notification that the Minister had confirmed the Path Order over Kinrara Estate. The process of getting the Path Order has taken over two years and the CNPA are now able to pick up on implementing the route. Planning permission for the path works and two bridges will need to be acquired and a funding package put together to ensure that we can deliver this 20km route on the ground.

Action Theme 2: Promoting responsible outdoor access and management

4. **Promoting the Scottish Outdoor Access Code** – the Tread Lightly resources have proved popular with Ranger Services, and reprints have been required for the leaflet and the information boards. VICs and activity providers have been approached to display and promote the resources and there has been some take-up but further work is needed to encourage a more wide-spread adoption of the Tread Lightly messages. The outdoor access page has been updated to reflect our Tread Lightly programme and resources.
5. **Outdoor Access Facebook page** – the outdoor access team will shortly be developing a presence on Facebook. Initially this is to enable us to get onto other people's Facebook pages and contribute to debate and discussion on outdoor access in the National Park. In time we will look to develop this page as a source of information and resources.
6. **Capercaillie and Outdoor Access Planning** – following on from the experiences of Boat of Garten in seeking to manage recreation on sensitive natural heritage sites in close proximity to their community, SNH and ourselves are looking at promoting

community led approaches in other communities with a similar profile – Grantown and Aviemore are two contenders. The process and mechanism for taking this work forward is still very much at an early stage of discussion between the agencies, communities and estate interests.

Action Theme 3: Promoting Visitor Information about outdoor access opportunities

7. **Community Path Leaflets** - The new leaflets for the Blair Atholl and Dalwhinnie communities are close to completion with Grantown and Laggan next on the list.
8. **Boat of Garten Ranger** – Scott Henderson has now been in post for over two months working well with the public to promote responsible access around the sensitive sites in the Boat woodlands. Forum members can keep themselves up to date with the rangers work by following his blog at <http://www.boatofgarten.com/blog/first-blog-from-new-woodland-ranger/>.

Action Theme 4: Promoting sustainable transport for enjoyment of the National Park

9. **Active Travel Audits** – The report for the Aviemore Active Travel Audit is in draft form and is currently with HITRANS for review.

Action Theme 5: Promoting healthy lifestyles

10. Health walks continue to flourish and possible funding from a Health Board is looking likely over the next two years.

Other National Park Initiatives

11. **National Park Partnership Plan** - The Minister launched the five-year (2012-2017) plans for the Cairngorms and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Parks at the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh on the 22nd June. The plans set out how each Park will be managed, together delivering outstanding tourism destinations, investing in some of Scotland's most loved landscapes and wildlife, and generating growth in rural economies. They also show how the public sector, businesses, land managers and communities will continue to come together to help keep these national assets special and achieve the four aims of the National Parks, benefitting both the people of Scotland and visitors alike.
12. **Local Biodiversity Action Plan** – Working with key stakeholders the CNPA has identified around 1200 important species for the LBAP. This will now be refined down to priority species and priority habitats with a focus on woodlands and wetlands. The draft LBAP will be available for comment in October and it is hoped the final plan will be published in early 2013 coinciding with the creation of a new wildlife partnership to deliver it.

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21 August 2012

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