

## Form for supporting or objecting to the Draft Core Paths Plan

Please note that all responses will be made public and are not valid without a full name and postal address.

Please read the explanatory notes inside the front cover and in Section 4 (see page 12) of the Draft Core Paths Plan before completing this form and return it by **30 June 2008**. Please use this form to set out your objections to or comments in support of the draft Core Paths Plan quoting the path reference number where appropriate. Further copies of this form can be photocopied, obtained from the CNPA offices or printed from our web site where you can also complete it electronically. [www.cairngorms/access/corepaths](http://www.cairngorms/access/corepaths)

### 1. Your Details (\*indicates a compulsory field.)

|                          |   |             |              |            |                 |
|--------------------------|---|-------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|
| Title                    | MR  | First Name* | IAN          | Last Name* | DOUGLAS         |
| Responding on behalf of: | THE MORAY COUNCIL   |             |              |            | (if applicable) |
| Postal Address*          | MORAY ACCESS MANAGER  |             |              |            |                 |
|                          | THE MORAY COUNCIL<br>ASHGROVE PORTAKABINS<br>ASHGROVE DEPOT<br>ASHGROVE RD, ELGIN |             |              |            |                 |
| Postcode*                |   | Telephone   | 01343 557049 |            |                 |
| Email                    | ian.douglas@moray.gov.uk  |             |              |            |                 |

2. Do you think that the proposed core paths network is sufficient to give people reasonable access throughout the area?

Please tick one

Yes



No

3. Please state clearly and fully the grounds of your objection or support to the Draft Core Paths Plan, continuing on a separate sheet where necessary.

Subject to discussion with the park's access staff it was agreed that I should submit proposals for an additional Core Path designation to link across the boundary from Moray

11 6 MAY 2008

**Form for supporting or objecting to the Draft Core Paths Plan (continued)**

4. If objecting, please indicate what change (s) you are seeking to the Draft Core Paths Plan which could resolve your objection, continuing on a separate sheet where necessary.

Not specifically an objection but a bid for an additional Core Path to link across the Border from Moray. The route that is specifically sought as a Core Path is the path from Achnascreaw around the shoulder of Dog's Craig to Gleslivet. This would link across the border with the proposed Core Path from Suie to the Cabrach that lies in the Moray area.

I can also confirm that the following are being pursued in Moray as Core Paths as discussed with your access staff

- Tomnavoulin to the Bochel path link
- Drummin Community Path link
- Speyside Way Spur

Signature

J M Douglas

Date

30/4/08

**Please return your completed form to:**

Cairngorms National Park Authority  
FREEPOST NAT 21454  
GRANTOWN-ON-SPEY  
PH26 3BR

Forms should be returned no later than **30 June 2008**. After that date you will be contacted by a representative of the Cairngorms National Park Authority with regard to your objections.

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Reference:

3/16



Murray Ferguson  
Head of Visitor Services and Recreation  
Cairngorms National Park

R J SEARLE  
BIRNAM COTTAGE  
57 GOLF ROAD  
BALLATER  
ABERDEENSHIRE  
AB35 5RU

*Dear Murray,*

*20 May*

Core Paths Plan Draft  
Your e-mail of 31 March refers

I write as a member of the British Horse Society Scotland (BHSS) Access Committee, the access member for the Park on the Grampian Branch Committee of BHSS, and as one of the access officers for the Grampian Branch of the Scottish Endurance Riding Club (SERC). However, while all these bodies expect me to comment on their behalf, I have not been briefed by any of them and therefore what I have written should be taken together with other responses from horse-owners whose knowledge of the Park may be greater than mine and who might see things differently.

Attached are comments by map from my own experience of the Park, on horse and on foot. There are also general points to make :

1. Overall, I think the proposed network is sufficient and offers scope for horse-riders to get about, off road – which is of first importance. Also a variety of paths cater for the wide range in ability and experience of horses and riders. I am concerned though that if upland paths through the mountain core are designated the hazard these present for horse-riders will need explanation.
2. Although I disagree, there is an argument for through routes on upland paths, but if we are to designate these as core paths logic suggests they should cross the Park boundary to boundary. So I do not understand why paths regularly ridden from Deeside to the Angus Glens in the South have been omitted – see Map 3 – when four are proposed to the North – Map 2. Note I have commented separately on two of these (CC3/4) as ill-advised.
3. More problematic is the provision for horse-drivers where access through gates present a difficult challenge for the Park Authority. There is provision but very much less than for riders, and likely to remain so, not just because of gates but also the nature of the ground. UDE 20/24 Linn of Dee Cycle Route is the only one I am confident can be driven the whole length. Other paths are possible in sections. The Deeside Way UDE 3 would be but for the barriers at intervals.
4. BHSS fought hard in all discussions pre-legislation for multi-use paths and there are no path designations by user in the Land Reform Act. However, the over-riding principle of responsible behaviour is a determinant of use and some core paths will be unsuitable for horses, particularly those used by the disabled, and in, and around, communities – but I would not expect horse owners to have any difficulty recognising these realities on the ground. Core path networks will, anyway, only include a small proportion of rideable routes throughout the Park. In this respect there is a risk that, core paths being a selection, some landowners may regard the network as a settlement of use and treat other paths more restrictively.
5. SERC's purpose as a 'discipline' is distinct from that of BHSS, which supports all horse owners. SERC rides are 'events' courtesy of landowners – permission is still required – and in that sense nothing has changed. But, as the

Club's very existence depends on these relationships the views of landowners on horse access post- legislation is important. We have to hope core path networks will have a positive effect here. SERC members ride out, like others, and have a particular interest in good off-road access to get their horses fit for long distance work.

Finally, the Draft is a credit to you and your officers, both in content and presentation. I know how much effort has gone into it. In the nature of this exercise you will not please everyone, but no-one can fault the attempt.

*Yours sincerely,*

R.J.Searle

*Rogers*

Copies:

Pat Somerville  
Access Officer  
BHSS

Julia Gourley BHSI  
Chair Grampian Branch  
BHSS

Leon Stelmach  
Secretary Grampian Branch  
SERC

## Core Paths Plan Draft

### Map 2 Central Cairngorms.

Have ridden all but Lairig Ghru CC3 – which has been ridden by others. I know it on foot. See comments on CC3/4 already submitted. Note 'ridden' is often a misnomer on upland paths like these when horses have to be led over rough ground.

### Map 5 Linn of Dee.

With exception of UDE 57 Car Park loop, all ridden, and excellent riding. UDE 24 Cycle Route can be driven.

### Map 3 Eastern Cairngorms.

Have ridden some, but all are ridden. It seems odd that the connections from Deeside to the Angus Glens, eg the Capel Mounth, the Mounth Road, have been omitted. These are regularly ridden (and walked and cycled).

### Map 6 Braemar.

Ample scope for riding here mainly on the north side of the Dee eg UDE 20/21/22, linking to through route CC6. The old road on the west side of Clunie Water UDE54 and Auchallater UDE 53/EC2 are rideable. This last has been ridden through to Glen Doll via Jock's Road – but is not to be recommended.

### Map 7 Crathie.

Section of UDE 26 on south side of Dee is ridden on past Distillery and through to Inchnabobart, but with the possible exception of UDE27 (which I do not know) these paths are not for horses.

### Map 8 Glen Tanar.

Have ridden all bar UDE 3 Deeside Way – constructed as a multi-use path – UDE63, and the start of UDE4 from the B976.

### Map 9 Ballater.

Ride the off-road section of the Dallyfour UDE 28 most weeks and years ago rode the Old Line section of the same path which has been ridden on and around the Golf Course (but not by me). The Deeside Way is a horse route and, curiously, pre-legislation, was called a 'Bridleway'. UDE 59 Dalmochie-Cambus O'May could be ridden when complete and UDE 34 Pannanich Woods circuit looks possible. I do not think UDE 30 Craigendarroch circuit should be ridden, though it could be.

### Map 10 Dinnet and Cambus O'May.

Deeside Way UDE 3 see above. Ditto UDE 4 Dinnet- Glen Tanar. UDE 39 Lochside Trail should not be ridden – a disabled path. The section to the ford of UDE 40 is ridden but not on down to the Vat UDE 42! UDE 44 is rideable. I do not know the Loch Clarack link UDE 46.

### Map 12 Strathdon.

UDE 4/6/7/8/9 familiar from SERC rides. UDO 11 and UDO 12, from a section of UDO 10, look likely, but I do not know them. Nor the rest.

### Map 13 Glenlivet and Tomintoul.

GT 22 Tomintoul to Dorback very familiar but why not linked through via Ryvoan to Glenmore Lodge as an extension to CC 6? I am assured most Glenlivet tracks are rideable, but I understand the Speyside Way GT 24 is not clear yet.

Map 14 Tomintoul.

See above. GT 19 OMR .GT 21 link to Dorback GT22 ridden.

Map 15 Drumin and Tomnavoulin.

Apart from Speyside Spur GT 24 – terra incognita.

Map 16 Lower Badenoch and Strathspey.

Have ridden most of these outside the main settlements. See above re Dorback-Glenmore missing link.

Map 17 Grantown on Spey and Cromdale.

Apart from LB 55 Dava Way and LBS 116 Speyside Way cannot comment.

Map 18 Dulnain Bridge and Nethy Bridge.

LBS Speyside Way, otherwise no comment.

Map 19 Carr-Bridge.

I know Sustrans Routes – here LBS 53 and LBS 114 – can be ridden. Unknown area.

Map 20 Boat of Garten.

Sustrans 7 and Speyside Way see above.

Map 21 Aviemore.

Glenmore Off-road LBS 42/29 are rideable minor roads. Speyside Way again. I cannot see the majority of these as suitable for horses centred as they are in and around a large settlement.

Map 22 Kincaig and Insh.

Have ridden on tracks through the Inshriach Forest and on the Badenoch Way LBS 72. Proposed Speyside Way extension LBS 140 will add to the many rideable paths here like LBS 109/139.

Map 23 Kingussie.

LBS Badenoch Way again. Ditto Sustrans 7 LBS 80. UBS 34 to Newtonmore looks promising.

Map 24 Upper Badenoch and Strathspey.

Have ridden sections of Sustrans 7 UBS 28 beside the A9.

Map 25 Newtonmore.

UBS 34 Kingussie link see above. Ditto Sustrans 7 LBS 80. Sections of the Wildcat Trail UBS 2 etc could be ridden, but better not.

Map 26 Laggan.

Rode from Laggan Bridge and on OMR UBS 30 en route Fort Augustus via Corrieyairack on Silver Boot 2003. I do not know any of the other paths here but OMR UBS 31, a continuation of UBS 30, will be rideable.

Map 27 Dalwhinnie.

Sustrans 7 UBS 9/28 as above. Have ridden through Dalwhinnie on UBS 35 to Ben Alder Estate heading west.

Map 28 Glenmore and Rothiemurchus.

Familiar ground as through routes from Inshriach/Loch an Eilein to Ryvoan GR 2 to LBS 127, excluding the ski route GR 12, Lochs Walk GR 4, Quiet Walk GR 5, The Sluggan GR 6, and other minor circuit paths – some of which may be rideable. LBS \* 29 Glenmore Off-Road is for the greater part of its length on the 'main' minor road in to Loch Morlich. SERC Highland Branch has rides in the Rothiemurchus every year.

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R.J.Searle  
20 May 2008

\*see attached



Murray Ferguson  
Head of Visitor Services and Recreation  
Cairngorms National Park



Dear Murray,

Core Paths Plan Draft  
Further to my letter of 20 May

As you will have seen, I got the Glenmore Off-Road, LBS 24/29 completely wrong. I should have realised this was being constructed parallel to the Cairngorm access road, and will, presumably, be similar to the track alongside the road up to Glenmore Lodge which is a joy to ride despite being for cycles!

Yours,  
R.J.Searle  
22 May 2008

Hogew





*Safeguarding public access in Scotland since 1845*

Cairngorms National Park Authority  
FREEPOST NAT 21454  
Grantown-on-Spey  
PH26 3BR



20 May 2008

### **Core Paths Plan Draft**

At the outset we would like to commend the CNPA for substantial changes in the Draft Plan compared to the Interim Draft of April 2007. You have clearly listened to the initial responses and acted on them. From our perspective, the biggest improvement has been the inclusion of many more of the long-distance routes which are such a key feature of the Cairngorms.

However, we would still like to see Glen Tromie, the Gaick Pass and the Minigaig included as Core Paths. The Gaick Pass is included by Perth & Kinross as a Core Path up to the Park boundary. The Minigaig is not, and we have asked Perth & Kinross to reconsider this decision. These are both major historic cross-country rights of way, although we appreciate that the Minigaig is not entirely straightforward to follow.

Regarding the plan itself:

- We liked the fold-out maps which make the whole document easy handle.
- However, it was not very easy to compare the two versions of the plan due to the different numbering of the maps, eg Map1 in the Interim Draft is the "Eastern Cairngorms" and in the Draft CPP Map 1 is the whole "Cairngorms National Park" and the "Eastern Cairngorms" is map 3. "Braemar" changes from Map 3 to Map 6; in the Interim Draft at least the Overview Area is noted underneath, eg Braemar/Upper Deeside, but in the Draft CPP Map 6 is entitled just "Braemar".
- In the Index to the maps on page 03, it would be helpful to have the ones which are Overview Maps highlighted to identify them clearly.
- Also, the map legends are different; there is a "Wider Path Network" on the Overview maps of the Interim Draft (Maps 1,2,8 etc) but not on the Local Maps here or anywhere on the new DCCP.
- In each section it would have been helpful to show which routes had been dropped and which introduced in comparison to the Interim Draft, with reasons.

Yours sincerely,

*Janet Clark*

Janet Clark & Peter Woods  
ScotWays Core Paths Volunteers

The Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society 24 Annandale Street Edinburgh EH7 4AN (Registered Office)  
Tel/Fax 0131 558 1222 e-mail: info@scotways.com web: www.scotways.com

## Form for supporting or objecting to the Draft Core Paths Plan

Please note that all responses will be made public and are not valid without a full name and postal address.

Please read the explanatory notes inside the front cover and in Section 4 (see page 12) of the Draft Core Paths Plan before completing this form and return it by **30 June 2008**. Please use this form to set out your objections to or comments in support of the draft Core Paths Plan quoting the path reference number where appropriate. Further copies of this form can be photocopied, obtained from the CNPA offices or printed from our web site where you can also complete it electronically, [www.cairngorms/access/corepaths](http://www.cairngorms/access/corepaths)

### 1. Your Details (\*indicates a compulsory field.)

|                          |   |             |              |            |       |
|--------------------------|---|-------------|--------------|------------|-------|
| Title                    | MR  | First Name* | ROGER        | Last Name* | CLEGG |
| Responding on behalf of: | KIRRIEMUIR LANDWARD WEST C.C. (if applicable) |             |              |            |       |
| Postal Address*          | EASTER DERRY<br>KILRY<br>BLAIRGOWRIE          |             |              |            |       |
| Postcode*                | PH11 8JA                                      | Telephone   | 01575 560274 |            |       |
| Email                    |   |             |              |            |       |

2. Do you think that the proposed core paths network is sufficient to give people reasonable access throughout the area?

Please tick one

Yes

No



3. Please state clearly and fully the grounds of your objection or support to the Draft Core Paths Plan, continuing on a separate sheet where necessary.

See over

**Form for supporting or objecting to the Draft Core Paths Plan (continued)**

4. If objecting, please indicate what change (s) you are seeking to the Draft Core Paths Plan which could resolve your objection, continuing on a separate sheet where necessary.

Map 3 Eastern Cairngorms

I am concerned that Jock's Road, from Glen Doll through to Loch Callater and thence to Braemar, is not included as a Core Path.

It is an old and well established path and frequently mentioned in books and guides, not least the current 'Outdoor Angus' leaflet; it also has a 'Nature Trail' label on my OS Sheet 43 1:50,000 map. It seems likely therefore to attract walkers looking for a route through the south eastern Cairngorms which would then link into the other main routes, e.g. the Lairig Ghru, which are included in the plan. I accept that the path is in a poor state in the higher sections and that this may have been at least part of the reason for excluding it from the Core Paths Plan. However it is a route that is publicised and likely to be tackled by 'through' walkers and the fact that the track is in good condition at either end (EC1 and EC12) is only likely to lure people up to the heights. It seems therefore that a case could be made for upgrading the path on health and safety grounds. I can't help thinking that the reason that the route has not been included is because there is unlikely to be funding available to carry out the necessary restoration work and it would seem that the viability of the whole Core Paths Plan could be jeopardised if there is no readily accessible money for maintenance and repairs.

I also note that another well known route, over the Capel Mounth from Glen Clova to Ballater is excluded.

These two omissions are both surprising and disappointing.

|           |   |      |          |
|-----------|---|------|----------|
| Signature |  | Date | 14.05.08 |
|-----------|---|------|----------|

**Please return your completed form to:**

Cairngorms National Park Authority  
FREEPOST NAT 21454  
GRANTOWN-ON-SPEY  
PH26 3BR

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|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| OFFICIAL USE ONLY | Reference: 3/19 |
|-------------------|-----------------|



3/20  
THE ESTATES OFFICE  
BALMORAL  
BALLATER  
ABERDEENSHIRE AB35 5TB

Resident Factor:  
P.J. Ord, LVO, B.Sc., F.B.A., F.R.I.C.S.  
Our Ref: PJO/MMc  
26<sup>th</sup> May 2008

Tel (Switchboard): (013397) 42534  
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Cairngorms National Park Authority,  
14 The Square,  
GRANTOWN-ON-SPEY,  
Moray,  
PH26 3HG.



Dear Sirs,

### DRAFT CORE PATHS PLAN

Before commenting on the proposed Core Paths on Balmoral Estate please may I first make some general observations about your proposals to designate Core Paths within the Cairngorms National Park:

One serious issue is "responsibility". I do not believe that it is a responsible approach for any agency to promote certain tracks that have serious health and safety risks associated with them. Who is going to accept the responsibility for things going wrong? This question applies to exposed or high level routes and to others which may for example use privately-owned bridges or rope-ways to cross fast-flowing streams/rivers. The Balmoral Estate Ranger Service often has to assist and offer transport to those who find themselves in difficulty even on the low-level path around Loch Muick. The Lairig Ghru for example is a very much more difficult and dangerous proposition.

I believe that it is unacceptable for the CNPA and any other agency to leave the issue of path maintenance dangling in the air. It is shirking its responsibilities if it promotes certain paths and then washes its hands of responsibility for their state of repair or the liabilities associated with their use.

I believe it would be more sensible for Core Paths to be designated around communities and not necessarily between them. This is a matter of scale. If two communities are located close to each other it is likely that core paths around each will intersect to create links between them. If communities are more distant one should not seek to create or to designate core paths between them. The normal access provisions contained in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act should be sufficient for most purposes.

There are nearly 250 kms of paths and tracks on land owned by Balmoral Estate, on which the public may walk, and if the path is appropriate cycle or ride under the normal access provisions contained in the Land Reform Act. You have proposed that nearly 30 kms of these paths and tracks on Balmoral Estate should be designated as Core Paths in your Draft Core Path Plan. I have the following observations on some of these:

- Path EC8 around Loch Muick. I think you would appreciate a designated extension of this path to link it with the car park owned by Balmoral Estate and operated by the Upper Deeside Access Trust at the Spittal of Glenmuick. To this I should have no objection.
- Path/

- Path EC8 around Loch Muick. As previously discussed between us, please route this path around the back (north-west side) of the Glas Allt wood to avoid it passing directly in front of the Glas Allt Shiel on the lawns and through the private area surrounding the house.
- Path UDE28: The Bridge over the River Muick to Polhollick Bridge over the River Dee. I believe it would be helpful if you could create a new footpath on the roadside verge on the south side of the local authority road between the Bridge of Muick and Dalliefour Farm. This is quite a dangerous road along which traffic moves particularly quickly and you should consider the safety of those whom you encourage to use this route.
- Path UDE20 across The Old Bridge of Dee. I note that at some time in the future you may wish to create a path between the Old Bridge of Dee and the path UDE17 (Creag Chonnich to Braemar). You would need to find a route on the north side of the Old Bridge of Dee on land which is part of Balmoral Estate. I request that you acknowledge and respect the private area surrounding the Old Bridge of Dee Cottage currently occupied by Mr. Charlie Wright and that you find a way to maintain the privacy of those who live in this cottage.

I look forward to continuing our dialogue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter J. Ord', with a horizontal line underneath.

Peter J. Ord