

Southernwood Caledonian Crescent
Gleneagles PH3 1NG

6th June, 2008

B Grant Esq.
Cairngorms National park Authority
14 The Square,
Granttown-on-Spey
PH26 3HG

Dear Mr Grant,

DRAFT CORE PATHS PLAN – Final Consultation

I am writing regarding the inclusion of the River Spey in the Draft Core Paths Plan proposed by the CNPA. I own fishing rights at Easter Elchies & Upper Arndilly; and this letter is a response to the proposal to make the River Spey a Core Path, rather than a response to the Core Paths Plan as a whole. Like The Spey Fishery Board I strongly resist and formally object to the inclusion of the main stem of the River Spey as a core path.

I understand that the CNPA Board decided on the 18th of January this year to formally propose the River Spey as a core path for three reasons: to release public funding for the development of paddler access and egress points; to develop education; and to provide sufficiency of the core paths plan as a whole. In these respects perhaps you would like to explain the following;

1. What plans does the CNPA have to develop access and egress points, where will they be and how much public money will be made available for this? Furthermore, the primary areas of intense paddler use of the River Spey lie outwith the CNPA's boundaries (particularly at Ballindalloch and Knockando). I am led to believe that the CNPA hopes that development within their area will help redistribute paddlers along the River, but the areas of the River Spey subjected to the most paddler activity are chosen for their "white water" appeal, rather than their access and egress points. How exactly does the CNPA expect to divert paddler interest from these areas and encourage a more even distribution of paddler activity along the River Spey? This is not a hypothetical question for the same thinking as the CNPA's which when applied to paddler access on the River Tay has resulted in canoes and rafts using the "white water" at Grandtully/Strathtay to the point that no angling is possible. Is that what the CNPA are trying to achieve on the Spey?
2. What are the CNPA's plans to develop educational resources that will encourage more responsible and informed behaviour by River Spey users?
3. I have difficulty comprehending how a waterway can be designated as a path, let alone a Core Path. I find it even more remarkable that a SSSI should have to be designated as a Core Path in order to ensure the sufficiency of the Cairngorms National Park's Core Paths Plan. Given the vast expanse of land within the Cairngorms National Park and the broad network of paths that already exist within it, why is the River Spey so important to the sufficiency of the Plan?

Telephone: 01764662520 e-mail: mail@mccaig.me.uk



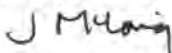
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I must also reiterate the potential deleterious economic impact of this proposal. Whereas you have a duty to consider wider outdoor access for the general public this proposal appears to me to benefit only canoeists and rafters, who form a minority of River Spey users. Angling on the River Spey generates some £11.8m per annum for the local economy and is responsible for 367 full time equivalent jobs (Scottish Executive-sponsored Economic Survey, 2003). It also ensures that over half a million pounds each year is spent on the conservation, protection and enhancement of this internationally-renowned salmon fishery. By designating the Spey as a Core Path and promoting the increased use of this finite natural resource by paddlers who contribute nothing towards its maintenance and improvement, you will in turn reduce the numbers of anglers judging by the River Tay experience visiting the area to fish the Spey. The importance of this internationally-renowned Salmon River to a fragile rural economy should not be underestimated. Nor should it be allowed to be undermined by a small minority trying to exert a disproportionate amount of pressure. In this respect, I would like to know what measures the CNPA intend to put in place to ensure their proposal will also benefit the angling fraternity and ensure that has no harmful effect on the SSSI.

More broadly, I remain concerned about the year-on-year rise in the numbers of paddlers on the River Spey, which is becoming an increasing problem. I understand that the CNPA believes that Core Path status may only lead to a modest increase in those numbers. But the cumulative impact of these increasing numbers is having a detrimental impact on angling, with what will become a knock-on effect on the local economy. There has to come a time when the utilisation of any natural and finite resource has to be regulated if it is to be conserved for the future, particularly with an area as environmentally sensitive as the River Spey. For much of the River Spey, the numbers of anglers are regulated by the Estates responsible for their respective beats are limited to ensure that the river is not over-fished. This has given rise to the unfortunate misconception that angling on the Spey is exclusive and inaccessible. It isn't — it's just limited to the numbers that can fish at any one time. Sadly, the same can not be said for paddlers, who have the right of access at any time, the only limiting factor being that they behave responsibly. In our view, responsible behaviour should take into account the sensitivity of the environment, as well as the ability of others to enjoy their own particular access to the River.

To do this effectively, I believe that the time has now come to regulate the sheer numbers of peddlers on the river. This should not be confused with an attempt to restrict people's rights. Rather it is the most effective way of ensuring that paddling activities can take place without detriment both to a SSSI of such significant environmental sensitivity, as well as to the rights of other legitimate users of the River Spey. If the CNPA is to successfully achieve wider outdoor access for the general public, it must first address this growing problem.

Yours sincerely,



James McCaig

3/27

Bob Grant,
Senior Outdoor Access Officer
Cairngorms National Park Authority,
14, The Square,
Grantown-on-Spey,
PH26 3HG.

10.6.08.

DRAFT CORE PATHS PLAN-FINAL CONSULTATION.

Dear Sir,

I am dismayed and astonished at the proposal to make the River Spey a Core Path which would allow even more access for canoeists and rafters, when it is blatantly obvious that they already have freedom to paddle along the river and its tributaries at will.

They are not always well behaved or polite as they make their way along the river and sometimes they actually stop in a pool where Anglers are fishing which causes irritation to any Angler who is peacefully enjoying his or her sport.

If the proposal is accepted there has to be a system in place where the canoeists have a responsible guide to take them along the river in a way which will not spoil any Anglers sport.

I realise that the CNPA want to encourage more visitors, but if it is not carried out in a sensitive manor we could lose a lot of the Anglers who generate approximately twelve million pounds to the local economy.

The Anglers also contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the Spey fishery and without them a lot of jobs could be lost in hotels etc., as well as the people who are employed by the various estates and the river authority.

I am concerned that if the whole thing isn't handled properly then the damage could well be irreversible.

Yours
Sincerely,

John Tansley, Chairman of the River Avon Fishing Association. Tomintoul.

Meall Gaineimh,
Cults Drive,
Tomintoul
AB37 9HW.

3/28

aviemore & vicinity
community council

"Stand fast, Craigellachie"



Secretary -
Mrs Audrey MacKenzie
Tamsduchus,
10 Dalfaber Road,
Aviemore PH22 1PU

14th June, 2008

Mr. Bob Grant,
Senior Outdoor Access Officer,
Cairngorms National Park Authority,
14 The Square,
Grantown-on-Spey,
PH26 3HG

Dear Bob,

CNPA Draft Core Paths Plan – Final Public Consultation

We discussed this draft document at our April meeting but I do not appear to have sent our comments to you, for which I apologise.

The points we made are as follows:-

The latest version of the plan shows that the path LBS30 in AHR, which had been on the Consultation Draft, has been removed. Now the Orbital Path does not orbit anything.

The Badenoch Way does not conform to our preferred route. We trust our route is not now "dead in the water."

We were delighted to see that LBS124 Craigellachie has been proposed as a new path.

We note from your subsequent letter of 21st April, that you believe the new path LBS124 will address our concerns about the demise of the Orbital Route. However we understand the proposed building for the Ice Factor will be built over that part of the Orbital Route which traversed the Aviemore Resort land!!

Yours sincerely,

Audrey MacKenzie (Mrs)
Secretary

I note the plan has designated LBS36 as the Myrtlefield Path. I have lived here for more than fifty years and have never heard it called other than the Old Dalfaber Road or the Old Farm Road!!

RECEIVED
16 JUN 2008

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

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

Title	MR	First Name*	PATRICK	Last Name*	THOMPSON.
Responding on behalf of:	Ben ALDER ESTATE				(if applicable)
Postal Address*	DALWHIMIE. INVERNESS-SHIRE.				
Postcode*	PH19 1AE.	Telephone	01528522 253		
Email	Patrickbenalder@totalise.co.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.

In general there is no need for core paths on the open hill as already full access for many years. Core paths therefore present no benefit to walkers or land managers. - Unless you are going to construct & maintain formal paths.

You have proposed an extensive network of paths - you will have made mistakes in some areas. Don't be intransigent about making changes now and in the future.

LBSI - There should be no core path down the Spey in arguments well set out by Spey fishers.

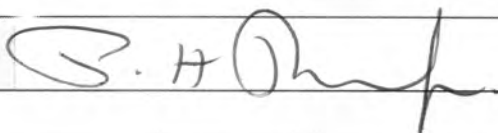
Those parties nominating core paths should be responsible for maintenance and liability thereof.

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.

No core path on the Spey.

Signature



Date

13 June 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.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Reference:

3/29

From: Mountain Innovations [abateman1@tiscali.co.uk]

Sent: 17 June 2008 16:04

To: Catriona Campbell

Subject: Re: Draft Core Paths Plan - reminder

I appreciate this might be a bit late in the day but how about a path linking Coire Cais Car park with Coire na Ciste to avoid using the ski road.

During the busy winter weekends many folks choose to walk up the road rather than wait for the shuttle bus up to Coire Cas C.P. now there is no uplift from the Ciste C.P. The road is still used by traffic making deliveries as well as those dropping passengers off and not planning to park. This could form a continuation of the all abilities path that runs above and adjacent to the Coire Cais CP. It could form a lovely, gentle, panoramic and elevated route overlooking Glenmore forest and, from my point of view, form the missing link of a circular route taking in the much overlooked north ridge of Cairngorm. The route could pass by Clach Bharraig (complete with its blast marks from WWII) and then make a very gentle "contouring" descent towards the Coire na Ciste C.P.

I hope it's a winner.

Regards,

Andrew

Andrew Bateman
Director

Mountain Innovations Ltd
at Fraoch Lodge
Tel: 01479 831 331
www.scotmountain.co.uk

(Mountain Innovations Walking Holidays & Mountain Courses - the complete adventure)