

03/31

17 June 2008

R Grant
Senior Outdoor Access Officer
Cairngorms National Park Authority
14 The Square
Granton on Spey
Moray
PH26 3HG




SMITHSGORE

Our Ref RMC/AR/AFL/1
Your Ref

Dear Mr Grant

**Arndilly Fishings – The River Spey
Draft Core Paths Plan – Final Consultation**

I act as managing agent for the Arndilly beat on the River Spey, this being one of the major salmon fisheries on the river and lying approximately 1 mile downstream from Craigellachie.

The Arndilly beat provides full time employment for three fishing ghillies and apart from a few weeks each year retained by my clients the beat is let to tenants throughout the entire salmon fishing season from 11 February to 30 September. With the fishing accommodation is also let to tenants, this providing permanent employment for a housekeeper and part time seasonal employment for a further two people.

Through the employment of staff and the local expenditure of fishing tenants the Arndilly beat makes a substantial contribution to the economic activity of the Spey Valley and this is entirely due to the sport of salmon fishing of prime quality which this beat provides. A similar situation will pertain upon the other major fishing beats of the middle and lower Spey which is renowned world wide for the quality of sport which it provides.

I write in connection with your Authority's proposal to designate that part of the Spey which lies within their area of jurisdiction as a Core Path in terms of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Of particular concern is the fact that your proposed designation of the river can only encourage greater use of it by canoeists and rafters, not only within your area of jurisdiction but also further downstream at a time when there is no evidence to suggest that measures are being put in hand to regulate the intensity of use of the river or the adoption of reasonable behaviour by these canoeists and rafters.

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The stock of salmon returning each year to the River Spey is a resource shared between all the proprietors and all anglers who come to the Spey to fish. Disturbance of salmon and sea trout, particularly as the year progresses and the spawning season approaches, in any part of the river system is detrimental to their spawning success. Already in some parts of the river disturbance by canoeists and in particular by ill-disciplined rafters, disturbs and adversely affects the fish and also impacts upon angling. In the circumstances I suggest that it is quite inappropriate that your Authority should not seek to designate any part of the Spey as a Core path, a proposal that can only increase the disturbance and impact upon the river's valuable salmon and sea trout stocks.

Recognising the very substantial contribution to the local economy derived from the sport of salmon fishing on the Spey, which vastly outweighs the modest financial activity associated with canoeing and rafting on the river, I urge you to reconsider your proposal that any part of the Spey should be designated as a Core Path.

Yours sincerely



Sir Robert M Clerk Bt. OBE FRICS
Consultant

e robert.clerk@smithsgore.co.uk • t Direct: 01968 677443

From: automailer@cairngorms.co.uk
Sent: 18 June 2008 21:34
To: Core Path Planning
Subject: Core Paths Planning Comments

Name: Mr Andrew MacKenzie

Address: Speyside Trust

Badaguish Cairngorm Outdoor Centre

AVIEMORE

Postcode: PH22 1QU

Email: andrew.m@badaguish.org

Phone: 01479 861285

Responding on behalf of: Speyside Trust

1. Do you think that the proposed core paths network is sufficient to give people reasonable access throughout the area? No
2. Please state clearly and fully the grounds of your objection or support to the Draft Core Paths Plan: The objections are:

1) That the GR7 Meall a Bhuachaille trek should be extended to include the popular and natural desire line to complete the ridge walk to Craigowrie.

2) That the GR6 Sluggan trek should pass through Badaguish Outdoor Centre thereby:

a. Maximise the benefit of the publicly funded and publicly accessible infrastructure provided there for car parking, toilets, refreshments and other services.

b. Maximise the opportunity for local economic benefit from the associated revenue that could be available to sustain a local social enterprise dependent on trading and charitable income to fund and provide local equal opportunity access to outdoor education, training and care services for people with disabilities.

3. If objecting, please indicate what change(s) you are seeking to the Draft Core Paths Plan which could resolve your objection: Extend the GR7 Meall a Bhuachaille trek to Craigowrie and utilise Badaguish infrastructure to provide car parking, toilet and refreshment services.

Route the GR 6 Sluggan trek to pass through Badaguish Outdoor Centre to maximise the benefit of the services available there.

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From: automailer@cairngorms.co.uk
Sent: 18 June 2008 20:18
To: Core Path Planning
Subject: Core Paths Planning Comments

Name: John Grant

Address: Rothiemurchus Estate Office

AVIEMORE

Inverness-shire

Postcode: PH22 1QH

Email: johnnie.grant@rothie.net

Phone: 01479810647

Responding on behalf of: Rothiemurchus Estate

1. Do you think that the proposed core paths network is sufficient to give people reasonable access throughout the area? Yes
2. Please state clearly and fully the grounds of your objection or support to the Draft Core Paths Plan: Rothiemurchus Estate objects to the proposed core paths within the estate that pass through Natura 2000 sites. The grounds for the objections are two fold

1. The paths are insufficiently engineered for the proposed use as core paths. They are insufficiently robust and too narrow to be promoted as public paths as well as continuing to take the estate's use in the long term.

2. As agreed with the Cairngorms National Park Authority for the Aviemore to Glenmore off road route a high standard of maintenance is required in the Rothiemurchus Forest because of its unique nature and sensitivity. Maintenance of the paths identified in the core path plan in terms of litter clearance and resurfacing is currently carried out by the estate with proportionate public funding; currently that funding is neither sufficient nor automatic and there is no guarantee that it will continue for the period that the proposed core paths are in place. If no action is taken the result would be loss of amenity for customers and the owners of the estate as well as potential damage to Natura 2000 interests.

3. If objecting, please indicate what change(s) you are seeking to the Draft Core Paths Plan which could resolve your objection: This objection could be withdrawn given legal public commitment to improve the paths and associated works in terms of width, strength and surfacing and to ongoing maintenance according to the standards to which commitment has been made for the Aviemore to Glenmore route.

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From: automailer@cairngorms.co.uk
Sent: 18 June 2008 15:57
To: Core Path Planning
Subject: Core Paths Planning Comments

Name: Mr Donnie Grant

Address: Suilven, Green Lane

Kingussie

Postcode: PH21 1JU

Email: donniejan@btinternet.com

Phone: 01540 661546

Responding on behalf of: Kingussie Paths Group

1. Do you think that the proposed core paths network is sufficient to give people reasonable access throughout the area? No
2. Please state clearly and fully the grounds of your objection or support to the Draft Core Paths Plan: As well as UBS34 we will shortly be opening new Paths
 1. from LBS73 above Kerrow Farm to Raitts Souterrain at Lynchat, we have also amended LBS73 to accomodate this connection
 - 2 from Ruthven Barracks to Invertromie and return by Torcroy or tromie bridge connecting to LBS1
 - 3 We also require a connection between Acres Road and Tombaraidh Wood to be retained as Acres fields are zoned for housing
3. If objecting, please indicate what change(s) you are seeking to the Draft Core Paths Plan which could resolve your objection: 1,2 and 3 as listed above

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From: automailer@cairngorms.co.uk
Sent: 18 June 2008 14:18
To: Core Path Planning
Subject: Core Paths Planning Comments

Name: mr ian mitchell

Address: 6 st johns terrace

mannofield

aberdeen

Postcode: ab157ph

Email: ian.mitchell@petro-canada.com

Phone: 01224 315769

Responding on behalf of:

1. Do you think that the proposed core paths network is sufficient to give people reasonable access throughout the area? No
2. Please state clearly and fully the grounds of your objection or support to the Draft Core Paths Plan: I am in support of the plan, though really just have a recommendation wrt the central and eastern Cairngorm sections specifically the Lairig Ghru and access path between Ballater and Braemar Given that there is an established long distance walkway in the Speyside Way and also plans in place for a similarly long Deeside Way (the proposal extending from Aberdeen to Ballater), it would be a fantastic asset to the Park if it were possible to link the two with this in place I could see this being a real tourist attraction benefiting a wide range of villages along the way Additionally for certain sections of the path (ie the Lairig Ghru middle portion) the path surface is fairly rough going. If this path surface was improved this would open up the area to a greater number of people, again increasing the tourist potential though also providing a great asset for local use too
3. If objecting, please indicate what change(s) you are seeking to the Draft Core Paths Plan which could resolve your objection:

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