

<b>Date:</b>			
<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Policy Omission – Access paths and bridges</b>		
<b>Objector(s):</b>	DW and IM Duncan	<b>Objection ref(s):</b>	037u

<b>Reporter</b>	
<b>Procedure:</b>	written representation

## 1.0 Overview

1.1 This statement sets out the CNPA response to the objections raised to the Deposit Local Plan as modified in respect of omissions within the plan of a policy relating to access paths and bridges. It supplements the response made to those objections by the Cairngorms National Park Authority in its reports to Committee (CD7.3,4 and 5). It suggests no further change be made to the Plan.

## 2.0 Provision of the Local Plan

2.1 The Local Plan within Section 4-6 sets out a variety of policies which provide a development framework for the whole plan. These policies are to be considered together (Para 1.20) in the assessment of any development proposal. The Plan does not therefore contain numerous policies dealing with various forms of development, but rather sets a framework against which all eventualities can be assessed.

## 3.0 Summary of objection(s)

- There is no mention within the policies section of access paths and bridges into remote areas. **(037u)**

## 4.0 Summary of Cairngorms National Park Authority response

- The local plan provides a framework of policies to assess all forms of development rather than listing numerous policies on specific development types. The local plan also takes into consideration the National Park Plan (CD7.1) where there is greater detail on strategic considerations which further the aims of the Park. Further detailed policies on both paths and bridges are contained in Enjoying the Cairngorms: The Outdoor Access Strategy for the Cairngorms National Park. (CD7.11) It is therefore considered that the three documents taken together provide sufficient support and guidance. **(037u)**

## 5.0 CNPA Commendation to Reporter

5.1 It is commended to the Reporter that this objection be rejected. No issues are raised that could lead the Cairngorms National Park Authority to consider that the policy was deficient.

## 6.0 Assessment / Scope of Evidence

6.1 **037u** object to the lack of particular reference to access paths and bridges in remote areas within the policies of the Plan. The purpose of the Local Plan is to provide a development framework for the whole Park, and create a clear and consistent method to guide development

proposals and opportunities within the Park (para 1.6). The policies contained within the Plan are intended to provide this clarity without setting out numerous policies on particular types of development. This will instead be considered under all the relevant policies of the Plan (Para 1.20).

## **7.0 Strategic Issues**

7.1 The National Park Plan (CD7.1) and the Outdoor Access Strategy (CD7.11) are material considerations and the strategic objectives and policies contained within them are considered in the decision making process. The issue of access paths and bridges is a key consideration throughout the National Park Plan, but in particular within the strategic objectives for conserving and enhancing the Park (CD7.1, page 38) specific mention is made of the need to seek to minimise the effects of tracks, paths and other means of access on the experience of wildness. These are further expanded within the Outdoor Access Strategy (Policy 1, page 31 and bullet point 4, Policy 2, page 33). Together the Local Plan, National Park Plan and the Outdoor Access Strategy are therefore considered to give sufficient clarity on the issue of access paths without the need for repetition. It is not therefore considered necessary to make any change to the Local Plan in this regard.

### **List of documents (including Core Documents)**

- CD6.12 Deposit Local Plan 1<sup>st</sup> modifications
- CD6.13 Deposit Local Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> modifications
- CD7.1 Cairngorms National Park Plan 2007
- CD7.3 CNPA Committee Report Consultation May 2008
- CD7.4 CNPA Committee Report 1<sup>st</sup> Modifications October 2008
- CD7.5 CNPA Committee Report 2<sup>nd</sup> Modifications February 2009
- CD7.11 Enjoying the Cairngorms – Cairngorms National Park Outdoor Access Strategy 2007 - 2012