Cairngorms National Park Core Paths Plan

Consultation and Engagement Process – Stage 2

Public Consultation Meeting – Carr-Bridge

Date: Tuesday 24rd April 2007
Time: 7:30pm
Venue: Carr-Bridge Village Hall
Location: Carr-Bridge
No. Attending: 12

Introduction

This report details the feedback obtained at a public meeting where people were asked to give their views on the Interim Draft Core Paths Plan.

Summary

During the meeting the following issues were raised:

- Formalising the existing network
A concern was raised that designating the informal network might result in development that negatively effects the local character of the path. There was a strong desire to keep some routes informal in their nature. It was explained that any path could be a core path and its designation didn't indicate a particular build standard. A Core Path could be anything from a beaten grass sward to a sealed bitumen surface.

- Snakey Bridge
The omission of the path linking the woodland to the village over the Snakey Bridge would effect the sufficiency of the network as it is very popular.

- Informal and formal consultation

Clarification was sought as to which stage of the process communities would have the greatest influence on the number of paths and their location. All were encouraged to respond during the current consultation as the options for further refinement are likely to be less during the formal consultation which is expected to take place in the spring of next year.

- Core Paths and maintenance

Clarification was sought as to whether there would be a minimum standard of maintenance of core paths. It was noted that there already existed a wide range of maintenance options, such as land management contracts, and this would still be the case regarding Core Paths.
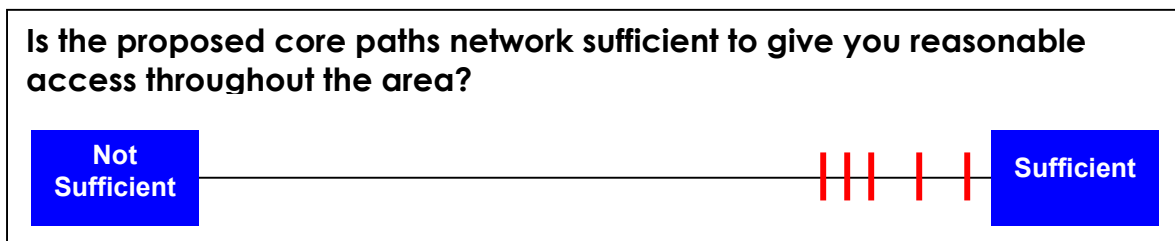
- Forestry Impacts

The issue was raised that ongoing forestry practices are causing water logging and damage to the existing network. This issue had come out of other consultation meetings and was an on-going problem where forestry was such an important land use. The benefits of such paths becoming core paths would assist in ensuring appropriate re-instatement and afford protection from development.

- Accuracy of lines on maps

A number of errors were noted with regard to path lines and advice was given on where they should more accurately be drawn.

- Extent of the network

One respondent had concerns that the network was not nearly extensive enough with only one route being shown linking Slochd to Carr-bridge. A number of additional paths were suggested by the respondent to address the issue.

Is the proposed core paths network sufficient to give you reasonable access throughout the area?

Not Sufficient |————————————————————||| | || |———— **Sufficient**

Overall, attendees were happy with the sufficiency of the network providing that the lines on the maps are more accurate, there was a keen interest in ensuring there were enough paths to make up an orbital route around the village.

All comments made on maps and diagrams at the event have been recorded in Annex 1.

Next Steps

The comments and issues raised at this meeting will inform revisions to the Interim Draft Core Paths Plan as part of the wider consultation process. A revised version will be considered by the CNPA Board in December 2007 and the revised Plan will then be submitted to Scottish Ministers in February 2008.

Cairngorms National Park Authority
25 April 2007
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Annex 1

Comments made on maps and diagrams are shown below and have been recorded exactly as written by participants:

H Diagram
What is good about it?
• Improved outdoor access good for dog walkers
What is bad about it?
• Condition of some paths need to be upgraded to make access easier/ safer for elderly/less able people
How could it be improved?
• Funding needed
• Another crossing of Dulnain to the east of the current bridge (to reduce need to use A936)
Map comments
Carr-Bridge Map
• Boundary walk around whole of Carr- Bridge
• LBS53 – Line of path is a forest edge
• LBS55 – path doesn't exist
• LBS60 link to LBS56 is incomplete
• LBS63 Flooded and crosses existing ford
Dulnain Bridge Map
• Locked gates on Dulnain Bridge to Grantown Caravan Park – lots of locked gates but not yet on Core Path Network
Aviemore Map
• Bridge to Cambusmore
Lower Badenoch and Strathspey map
• LBS63 – Route 7 badly rutted by forestry ops – now needs grading and clearing
• Abernethy Forest- There is a loop comprising the RSPB "Red route" and the old red route- both ones important for walkers and cyclists
• Speyside Way not easily found from Aviemore
• Increased tree planting screening traffic noise from Aviemore residents.
• Beautiful walk in Inshraich
Upper Badenoch and Strathspey map
• UBS9 – 2 years ago the old A9 was barely passable on bike due to tress and moss. Who maintains it?
• UBS8 – Streams between Dalballoch and Glenballoch difficult to ford
Upper Donside and Glenlivet map
• The military roads should be designated core paths

Participants were asked to evaluate the event, the results are as follows:

	% of Participants Responding			
	Very Useful	Useful	Not Useful	Waste of Time
Location	100%	0%	0%	0%
Venue	100%	0%	0%	0%
Timing	100%	0%	0%	0%
Presentations	100%	0%	0%	0%
Information Available	100%	0%	0%	0%
Opportunity to speak to staff	100%	0%	0%	0%