



parklife

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Daffodils © CNPA/Stewart Grant

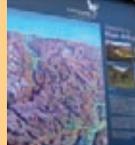
the newsletter of the
Cairngorms National Park Authority



FOOD FOR LIFE -

local food, locally sourced,
good to eat and sustainable.

PAGE TWO



THE NEW PARK -

in words and pictures, out and
about the new boundary.

CENTRE PAGES



TRACK A RAPTOR -

follow the young birds on
their travels.

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HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE - WELCOME

The Cairngorms National Park is now even bigger thanks to the welcome inclusion of Highland Perthshire. It means a number of changes to the Park and not just in terms of its size - now a fifth bigger and covering 6 per cent of Scotland. See pages 4 & 5 for further information.

The next National Park Plan

Communities in the Park are already getting involved in what the priorities for the Cairngorms National Park should be from 2012. Each community has given the CNPA statements about how they see themselves changing in the future. Their input along with that of people involved in managing the Park will feed into the second National Park Plan. It's a five year strategy that will be the basis for focusing attention on the Park's most pressing issues.



Glenbuchat © CNPA/Stewart Grant

Everybody involved in the first Park Plan has learnt a lot from preparing it and delivering it since 2007. We now have an opportunity to use what we've learnt to make the next National Park Plan even better.

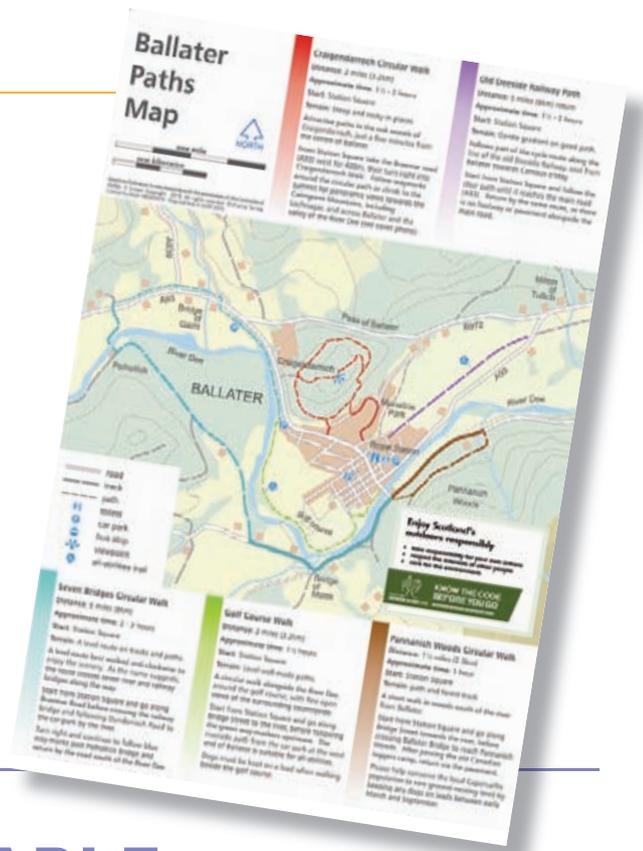
The draft National Park Plan will be published later this year for public consultation.

To find out how you can get involved and to see the statements and work being done by the communities towards the National Park Plan visit the CNPA website:
www.cairngorms.co.uk

Paths in the Park

Going for a walk in the Cairngorms National Park means you are spoilt for choice whether it's the high mountains, wild woods or beautiful lochs.

All the communities in the National Park offer a fantastic range of walks from the short to the long, each one unique in its own special way. To help sell their networks, the Cairngorms National Park Authority has supported a number of communities to develop new Community Path Leaflets. There are already new leaflets in Nethybridge, Boat of Garten, Kingussie and Ballater with many more on the way. Look out for them and enjoy exploring!



Braemar Gathering © CNPA

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM STRATEGY

In 2005 the Cairngorms became the first National Park in the UK to be accredited with the prestigious European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, in recognition of the development of the Cairngorms Sustainable Tourism Strategy.

Five years on, the Strategy has been revised and updated by the Cairngorms Sustainable Tourism Forum. A re-assessment visit for the ECSTPA will be carried out in March.



Food for Life © CNPA Stewart Grant

FOOD for LIFE

The Cairngorms Food for Life Development Plan is a practical, yet strategic, regional food and drink plan for the National Park. The main aims of the local Plan are to increase local food production and its use and consumption in the National Park. This will improve local food economy whilst reducing the Park's carbon footprint by cutting food miles.

Working with partners the Plan seeks to: increase awareness of, and demand for, local produce; develop local skills and training; engage local schools; and, develop community initiatives. The supply, distribution and availability of local produce are known weaknesses and key areas for further work.

A Producers Directory showcasing local producers has already been produced and sent out to all those in the catering trade. A Cairngorms Food Guide is also being developed to guide residents and visitors to the places where you can buy and eat locally sourced produce.

The Food for Life Development Plan can be found on the CNPA website: www.cairngorms.co.uk or for more information email: ruathydonald@cairngorms.co.uk

FARMERS actively supporting wader and wetland project

Farmland wading birds such as lapwings and the grasslands they use, are two of the special qualities of the Cairngorms National Park. Strathspey is nationally important for waders and they are highly valued by local people and visitors.

The Strathspey Wetland and Waders Initiative is working closely with farmers to safeguard waders and enhance wetlands. This work is vital if the decline of waders experienced over the last 10 years is to be reversed. Working in partnership with the RSPB, the Cairngorms LBAP, farmers, Scottish Agricultural College and local agents, the project is promoting wader friendly management and supporting farmers in submitting collaborative plans to the Scottish Rural



Development Programme. Nearly 1,300 hectares of wader habitat is under active management through SRDP.

If you manage wader or wetland habitat and would like to get involved please contact Justin Prigmore email: justinprigmore@cairngorms.co.uk or telephone: 01479 870528.

WOODFUEL for the future

More and more people in the Cairngorms National Park are turning to wood to heat their homes.

With oil prices volatile and tough targets to cut carbon dioxide emissions, switching to a local, renewable heat source is a sensible choice. Studies have shown that undermanaged woods and forests in the Park are an untapped resource which could heat many more homes and businesses in the area.

Recent work, funded through the Clim-ATIC EU project, has attracted hundreds of people to a series of workshops on woodfuel and the Woodfuel Action

Plan has brought a range of partners together to create a blueprint for boosting the supply and demand for woodfuel throughout the Park.

The website www.lowcarboncairngorms.org is packed with useful information on all types of firewood and ways to burn it, a handy directory of suppliers and installers and a new blog featuring news, views and comments from the woodfuel world.

Woodstove © Catriona Ross



RIVER SPEY FOCUS

Anyone interested in the catchment of the River Spey - whether it's by living or working in the area, enjoying its wildlife, walking, fishing or canoeing - is invited to get involved in the new Spey Catchment Initiative.

A dedicated project officer, working on behalf of the CNPA and Scottish

Natural Heritage is kick starting the project, which aims to deliver a variety of benefits for the River Spey, its wildlife and its communities.

For more information contact Christine Skene email: christineskene@cairngorms.co.uk or telephone: 01479 810477/ 07525 233 170.

Cairngorms National Park rings the changes!



To mark the extension, a new Cairngorms National Park panorama was unveiled at the Atholl Country Life Museum in Blair Atholl by John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth and whose constituency is North Tayside. He has long campaigned for the inclusion of Highland Perthshire in the Park and said: "Highland Perthshire is now where it belongs, and where it should have been all along - within the boundaries of the National Park."

Perth & Kinross Council Leader, Councillor Ian Miller added: "From our perspective it is hugely important for the social and economic future of this area of Perth and Kinross to become an active part of the Cairngorms National Park. I believe that the future economic, cultural and social wellbeing of the area will be well served by being part of the greater National Park area. Perth and Kinross Council has already begun the process of co-operation with the CNPA and we wish them every success for the future."

In October 2010 we welcomed Highland Perthshire and the Glenshee area into the Cairngorms National Park. It now means the Park, previously 3,800 sq km, now 4,528 sq km, is twice the size of the Lake District National Park and firmly asserts

its place as the UK's largest National Park. Not just that, we also have 1000 more people - taking the population to over 17,000 - new communities like Killiecrankie and Blair Atholl and an abundance of new places to explore and things to see and do.



Images, clockwise from top left picture:

Cairngorms Boundary
© CNPA Angus Findlay

New Park Map © CNPA

Auchaven © George Logan

Glen Shee © BETA GTA

Cycling © CNPA

Ancient Trees © CNPA

New Markers © CNPA

Creeping Azelia, Loch Erchanan
© CNPA/Will Boyd Wallis

The size of the Park isn't the only thing to change with the boundary extension; there are now 19 members on the Board of the CNPA instead of 25 and they are responsible for ensuring the aims of the National Park are upheld. There are also five Local Authority areas in the Park - Highland, Aberdeenshire, Moray, Angus and now Perth and Kinross.

It means we welcome Councillor Kate Howie on to the Board from Perth and Kinross Council. Councillor Allan Wright also joins us from Moray Council. We have four new members appointed by Scottish Ministers, they are

Angela Douglas, Gregor Hutcheon, Brian Wood and Gordon Riddler.

Six of the board members are elected by Park residents and in the coming months there will be the opportunity to stand for election to the Board and also vote for who you'd like to represent you. Nominations close on 10th February 2011, ballot papers will be sent out a couple of weeks later and you have until 17th March to vote.

If you're interested in becoming a Board member please keep an eye on our website and the local press for information www.cairngorms.co.uk

Track a RAPTOR

Species of raptors, never satellite tagged before in the UK, can now be followed day and night on the internet.

The project has seen tags put on two peregrine falcons, two hen harriers, a hobby and a merlin. More young golden eagles have also been tagged in 2010, to follow up the earlier satellite tagging of eagles and ospreys in the Park.

The partnership project involves the Highland Foundation for Wildlife, CNPA, Scottish Natural Heritage and RSPB as well as local land managers. Additional funding has come from the Partnership Against Wildlife Crime, Cairngorms Local Action Plan and Cairngorms LAG.

Raptor Track (www.raptortrack.org) aims to raise awareness of the movements of raptors within the Park, as well as their travels across Scotland and further afield. It also gathers information on the lives and movements of the birds, which will help with future protection and conservation efforts.



Rangers © Atholl Estate



RANGER Services

Raising the Profile of the National Park

The ranger services of the Cairngorms National Park are preparing for the busy season ahead helping people to make the most of their visit to the National Park. They are helping to arrange the Celebrating Nature - Big Bio Buzz Event planned for later in the summer, along with countless other events. But

their role is much wider than providing a welcome to visitors - they also do a lot of education work with both schools and groups. Last year alone over 2,460 young people in education spent time with a ranger in the Park working on curriculum projects.

Following with the boundary change last October there is now 13 Ranger Services making up the Cairngorms National Park family of Rangers, which now also includes Atholl Estates Rangers. These services are employed by local authorities, private estates, trusts and a community group and collectively they do a vital job encouraging people to understand and appreciate the area, and to behave responsibly in this special place.



Heritage Connections © CNPA

HERITAGE CONNECTIONS

Following the success of the Cairngorms Cultural Heritage Conference, which was held at Boat of Garten in June 2010, a follow-up has been organised in the form of 'Making Heritage Connections' visits.

Delegates at the conference were asked their preference for a conference legacy, and the overwhelming demand was for cultural heritage groups to visit other groups in the Park. There is a wealth of experience and some extremely innovative projects which have been initiated. These visits will give groups the opportunity to learn from this experience and to network with others undertaking cultural heritage activities. Funded by Cairngorms Local Action Group and the CNPA, visits will be organised throughout the spring and summer of 2011.

**For further information contact Fiona McLean
email: fionamclean@cairngorms.co.uk
or telephone: 01479 870564.**

Leader Funding for Film and Food Projects



Research for "Lost Project" © Aboyne Academy

The Cairngorms Local Action Group has been "dishing" out New LEADER funds across the National Park.

Cairngorms Food on Film has secured almost £4,000 to make a series of short films, in which primary school children visit food producers in the National Park and ask them about how they produce their food. These films will then be produced on DVD and distributed to schools and community groups across the Park and beyond.

Another youth group - 'Lost' Youth Cultural Enterprise Project at Aboyne Academy - was awarded £5,000 for a project involving young people looking into the history of Auchtavan Cottage in Deeside. Their research will culminate in a DVD and an exhibition about the locally important building, which will then go on display at Braemar Castle.

New LEADER is a European funded programme operating across the Cairngorms National Park. It is managed locally by the Cairngorms Local Action Group with support from the Cairngorms National Park Authority.

Funds are still available until the end of 2012 with a remaining £340,000 for community projects, community centres, village halls, and facilities for young people.

For more information visit www.cairngorms-leader.org or contact Patricia Methven telephone: 01479 870543.



Kingussie Bee Products © Kingussie Food on Film

David Green

© CNPA/Stewart Grant



The Green outlook

David Green, Convener of the Cairngorms National Park Authority

I'm really impressed and encouraged by how our communities in the Park are getting involved in not only deciding what in their areas needs improved but also making it happen!

The first communities to produce Community Action Plans with help from Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS) were Dalwhinnie, Laggan, Newtonmore and Kingussie. They achieved a lot very quickly, like putting up community notice boards. Now in Kingussie they'd like to try and transform the derelict museum site and in Newtonmore, provide somewhere for young people to meet.

Helping young people is also a big priority for communities in Aviemore, Glenmore and Rothiemurchus, who last year got the ball rolling and have now identified projects. They're also keen to see traffic congestion reduced in Aviemore and more homes for local people. Their plans are ambitious and why not? The next stage will involve working with agencies and authorities with support from the CNPA, The Highland Council and VABS.

In Deeside and Donside, following the appointment of a development manager, we should soon see projects get off the ground. Here, communities are especially keen to improve communications and get broadband to help businesses and individuals.



Quick updates

Local Plan

The first Local Plan for a Scottish National Park was officially adopted on Friday 29th October 2010. The Local Plan sets out policies to guide development in the Park over the coming years and applies to the whole Park with the exception of that part recently included in Highland Perthshire. A number of supplementary planning guidance documents were approved on the same day, setting out detailed information on topics including sustainable design and natural heritage interests.

Big Biobuzz Day

May 2010 saw over 700 people in Ballater, Grantown and Kingussie out experiencing the wildlife on their doorstep. This successful one-day event, incorporating dozens of nature-based activities for all ages, is to be repeated in June 2011 in Deeside and Strathspey. Biodiversity officers and countryside rangers are currently putting together a programme that will be advertised shortly.

Wildlife Records

Hopefully you have had a busy year noting down all the wildlife that you have seen in and around the Cairngorms National Park. Your records are helpful and very important in the management of the Park. Send your records to NESBReC, Room G29, University of Aberdeen, 23 St. Machar Drive, Aberdeen AB24 3RY.

Can't wait for the next edition of Parklife?

Keep right up to date with the work of the CNPA by signing up for the bi-monthly e-bulletin. Just visit the Park Authority website: www.cairngorms.co.uk and click on the e-bulletin link on the homepage to subscribe.

Don't forget that Parklife is available in a variety of formats

You can read the newsletter on our website: www.cairngorms.co.uk. If you require this in another format please contact the Communications Team at the contact details below.

We're always pleased to receive feedback, comments and suggestions. Please contact:

**Communications Team, Cairngorms National Park Authority,
14 The Square, Grantown-on-Spey, Moray PH26 3HG.
Tel: 01479 873535. Email: enquiries@cairngorms.co.uk**

What's on?

Cairngorms National Park Authority meetings 2011

January 7

Planning Committee
Boat of Garten

January 21

Board meeting
Grantown

February 4

Planning committee
Aviemore

February 18

Board meeting
Ballater

March 4

Planning committee
Nethy Bridge

March 18

Board meeting
Ballater

April 1

Planning committee
Boat of Garten

April 15

Board meeting
Tomintoul

April 29

Planning committee
Ballater

May 13

Board meeting
Blair Atholl

May 27

Planning committee
Newtonmore

June 10

Board meeting
Ballater

June 24

Planning Committee
Kingussie

July 8

Board meeting
& Planning committee
Grantown

August 5

Board meeting
& Planning committee
Angus Glens

**All venues TBC.
Please check the CNPA website
for further details of dates,
times and venues:
[www.cairngorms.co.uk/park authority](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk/park_authority)**