

Cairngorms National Park Core Paths Plan

Consultation and Engagement Process - Stage 1

Community Engagement & Results – Glenmore and Rothiemurchus

Introduction

The core paths plan process targeted four main interest groups to engage with, these included; communities, land managers, people who recreate in the National Park (visitors and residents including businesses, national organisations and clubs e.g. Ramblers, Scottish Canoe Association, Cairngorm Club etc.) and visitors to the National Park (those who may not specifically come to the Park to recreate but may do so whilst they are here). The following report details how the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) engaged with the public for the Glenmore & Rothiemurchus area, the people who participated in the engagement process and the feedback and results that they provided.

Engaging with the Glenmore and Rothiemurchus Community

The engagement period ran from 1st September to 30th November 2006. Questionnaires for the Glenmore & Rothiemurchus area were made available on the CNPA website, through contacting the CNPA directly and at drop-in events across the National Park.

Participants in the Engagement Process

Throughout the 3 month period a total of 18 questionnaires were completed for the Glenmore and Rothiemurchus area. To help the

CNPA gauge whether or not the process successfully engaged with a wide enough cross section of the community, the questionnaires asked people to provide information on their gender, age group and where they live. The results are shown below.

Participants by Gender

Male	59%	Female	41%
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Participants by Age Group

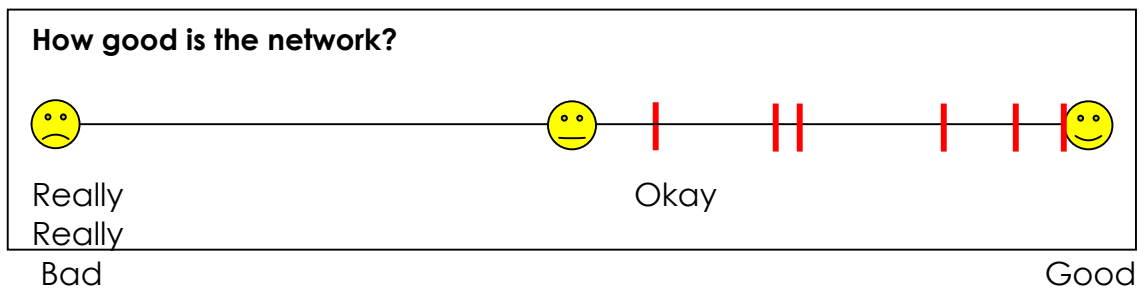
Under 16	0%	16 - 24	0%	25 - 44	40%	45 - 64	53%	65 - 74	0%	Over 75	7%
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Where people came from

% of people from each place who completed questionnaires			
Glenmore & Rothiemurchus	12%	Elsewhere	88%

Results of the Engagement Process

At the Aviemore drop-in event people were asked their views about the path network in and around Glenmore & Rothiemurchus. Participants were asked to place a mark on a line to show what they thought of the network. The results are shown below.



People were also asked what they think is good and bad about the network and what could be improved. The results are shown below, the comments are recorded exactly as written by participants.

Comments on the Glenmore and Rothiemurchus Network		
What is bad about the network?	What is good about the network?	How the network could be improved?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having to pay to walk at Loch an 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good choice of paths. There is no 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish cycle path Glenmore/Aviemor

<p>Eilean –no public transport so have to take car (two other participants agreed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pity so many trees were removed in Glenmore (one other participant agreed) • In some countries paths are also used for x country skiing and there are signs asking walkers to keep to one side so as not to spoil the down hill runs (one other participant agreed) • Re-evaluation of possible mountain bike course in Glenmore Forest 	<p>litter round Rothiemurchus (one other participant agreed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good surface on paths (one other participant agreed) • First rate walking area- variety, environmental quality, effective network of footpaths already exists, few link missing, connects to other areas (one other participant agreed) • Easy access and public transport along the road. Its also a good road to hitch hike (one other participant agreed) • Good paths network on Rothiemurchus. Most paths in good condition (one other participant agreed) 	<p>e. Hard surface (two other participants agreed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle route along main road (one other participant agreed) • Good paths and tracks for riding difficulty in past regards to access “discouraged” hopefully this will change (one other participant agreed)
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Map Results

People were given the opportunity to provide their views on the Glenmore & Rothiemurchus area via questionnaires and at events. People were asked to identify the paths that are important to them on a map in the questionnaire, they were also asked to identify any new routes or areas that they would like to have easier access to and were encouraged to make comments. Participants at events throughout the National Park were asked to annotate large maps highlighting their popular routes in detail and also adding comments. Where someone made a comment on the maps this has been listed in a table shown in Annex 1. The routes identified by people for the Glenmore & Rothiemurchus area are shown in Annex 2. Each comment has a number attributed to it to enable cross-referencing with the map in Annex 2 (only where the comment is specific to a geographic area). The routes shown in a solid line are those which people identified as

being important to them. The dashed lines are proposed routes that people identified.

Questionnaire Results

A total of 18 questionnaires were received for the Glenmore and Rothiemurchus area. The responses to each of the questions are outlined below.

What outdoor activities do you currently do in and around Glenmore & Rothiemurchus?

Activity	% of respondents who undertake the activity
Low level walking	89%
Dog walking	50%
Hillwalking	78%
Running	11%
Getting about in a wheelchair	6%
Walking with a pushchair	0%
Cycling on-road*	44%
Cycling off-road	56%
Horse-riding	6%
Watersports	11%
Wintersports	44%
None	0%
Other**	33%

* Comment; 'not for myself for the disabled'.

** Other activities identified were; 'electric chairs', 'Ski touring on forest tracks', 'orienteering', 'Photography', 'Deer stalking' and 'wildlife watching'.

Why do you do these activities?

Reason	% of respondents who identified the reason
To keep fit/healthy	83%
Enjoying the Countryside	89%

Travel to work/school	11%
Getting about	17%
Other*	28%

*Other reasons identified were; 'spiritual benefit', 'for the challenge', 'work', 'Access for walking and climbing – work and pleasure', and 'Dog exercise'.

What activities would you like to see better opportunities for in and around the area?

Activity	% of respondents who identified the activity
Low level walking	11%
Dog walking	0%
Hillwalking	11%
Running	0%
Getting about in a wheelchair*	28%
Walking with a pushchair	0%
Cycling on-road	22%
Cycling off-road	33%
Horse-riding	6%
Watersports	0%
Wintersports	11%
Other**	22%

* Comment; 'Would like to see more disabled people not myself.'

**Other activities identified were; 'orienteering', 'satisfied by current path network except existing cycle path by the ski road should have priority', 'finish off road cycle track with hard surface' and 'Glenmore is pretty good'.

Would better opportunities for these activities encourage you to;

Reason	% of respondents who identified each activity
Walk to work/school	0%

Cycle to work/school	11%
Try new activities	28%
Get fit	33%
Get outdoors more	39%
Other*	11%

*Other reasons identified were; 'visit the area' and 'to help the disabled share the pleasures'.

Summary

During the public engagement process it was found that the paths around Glenmore and Rothiemurchus offer fantastic opportunities for a wide range of users and abilities. There is a need to improve some path surface to make them more accessible to wheelchairs and there is demand for completion of an off-road cycle route between Aviemore & Glenmore.

The most popular paths identified in the area were most of the Rothiemurchus promoted paths, the Ryvoan Pass, Loch Morlich to Rothiemurchus Lodge & beyond and Lochan Eilein (all identified by 61% of respondents). Trails around Loch Morlich and Glenmore Lodge were also very popular.

Most activities proved popular in the area although low-level walking, hill-walking and cycling off-road were by far the most popular with most people doing activities to keep fit and healthy and to enjoy the countryside. There was some demand for better off-road cycling opportunities and wheelchair access.

Reflections

The engagement process has failed to capture any data from the under 16, 16-24 and 65-74 age groups in the Glenmore and Rothiemurchus area and the majority of respondents did not live in the area which may reflect the popularity of the area with visitors.

Next Steps

The issues raised and the information gathered throughout the process will be used to inform the development of selection criteria for core paths. The selection criteria will then be used to select core paths for the Cairngorms National Park. The selection criteria and maps of the selected paths will be drawn up into an Interim Draft Core Paths Plan

which will be completed by the end of March 2007. This Plan will then be made available for the public to make comment.

Cairngorms National Park Authority

1 March 2006

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Annex 1 - Comments received on maps at events and in the questionnaires

Where the comment relates to a geographic area on the map the number of the comment has been written on to the map in Annex 2.	
No.	Comment (as written by respondent)
1	Footbridge too narrow for wheelchairs
2	Many disabled people used to park at car park and use their wheelchairs and electric scooters to go along river to the footbridge which they couldn't cross because it was too narrow. Approx 3 years ago the new wider bridge was built. Wonderful! However at the same time they resurfaced the path with stones the size of oranges so they now can't use the path at all.
3	Fallen into disuse –difficult to follow
4	The path difficult to find and can be slippery
5	Won't pay at car park here
6	Electric buggy
7	Extension of cycle path on Glenmore Road would increase safety for inexperienced cyclists
8	Running- good path and tracks off road but also safer for a solo woman than in the forests
9	Routes important to me to access Cairn Gorm/Ben Macdui and Braeriach Carn Toul also shepherds hill, Meall a Bhuachaile ridge behind Glenmore. <i>(not numbered on map in Annex 2)</i>

