

Cairngorms National Park Core Paths Plan

Consultation and Engagement Process - Stage 1

Community Engagement & Results – Kincaig

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 Kincaig community, the people who participated in the engagement process and the feedback and results that they provided.

Engaging with the Kincaig Community

The engagement period ran from 1st September to 30th November 2006. Questionnaires for the community were made available on the CNPA website, through contacting the CNPA directly and at a drop-in event. The community drop-in event was run to enable people in Kincaig and the surrounding area to find out more about core paths planning and to advise the CNPA of the routes, paths and areas that are important to them and why.

The event was held at the Kincaig Village Hall on Tuesday the 31st of October from 2:30pm to 6:30pm. CNPA staff Sandra Middleton and Adam Streeter-Smith ran the event with assistance from John Anderson of the Kincaig Community Council.

Drop-in Event Promotion

The event was advertised in the Badenoch & Strathspey Herald and was also the subject of a press release. Invitations were sent out to all local land owners/tenants and the community council. An email invitation was sent out to a wide range of local activity providers, businesses and individuals. Posters were displayed around the village in advance of the event and fresh posters were put up on the day of the meeting including a large board outside the event.

Drop-in Event Format

Participants were provided with a core paths planning leaflet which included details of the core paths plan process in the Cairngorms National Park and Frequently Asked Questions. The leaflet was made available to participants along with questionnaires and maps to record their views. A questionnaire containing a map was available for each settlement in the Park as well as for the wider areas of the Park. Large maps of the wider area were also available to help people identify routes outwith settlements. There was also an opportunity for people to record their views on the path network in the area in relation to what they thought was good or bad about it or what could be improved, this was recorded in an 'H-Diagram' format.

Drop-in Event Feedback

Approximately 19 people attended the event, a total of 18 questionnaires were completed at the event and a number of people took questionnaires away to complete in their own time. 9 of the questionnaires completed at the event were for the Kinncraig settlement. Participants were asked to complete an evaluation sheet of the event, the results recorded are as follows;

	% of Participants Responding			
	Very Useful	Useful	Not Useful	Waste of Time
Location	73%	27%	0%	0%
Venue	84%	16%	0%	0%
Timing	75%	9%	16%	0%
Questionnaires	90%	10%	0%	0%
Information Available	81%	19%	0%	0%
Opportunity to speak to staff	80%*	10%	0%	0%

* Included comments – very welcoming, VG, friendly
Other Comments – “Today” poster available day before for display early in the day

Participants in the Engagement Process

Throughout the 3 month period a total of 18 questionnaires were completed for the Kincaig settlement. 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	39%	Female	61%
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Participants by Age Group

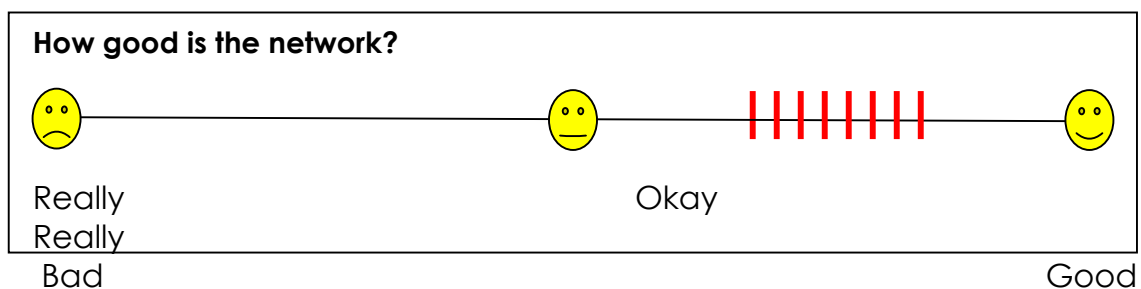
Under 16	0%	16 - 24	6%	25 - 44	6%	45 - 64	44%	65 - 74	22%	Over 75	22%
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Where people came from

% of people from each place who completed questionnaires							
Kincaig	67%	The Kincaig Community Council Area			17%	Elsewhere	16%

Results of the Engagement Process

At the drop-in event people were asked their views about the path network in and around Kincaig. 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 Kincaig 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"> • Sign posting could be better • Pedestrian access across Spey Bridge at Kincaig (1 other agreed) • Maintenance ! on understanding that adoption does not automatically bring responsibility for maintenance • Slippery stones on Speybank walk (1 other agreed) • Transport –ability to take bikes/canoes/skis, do your thing, and get a lift back to base • No public (eco-friendly) toilets • Or any public toilets at all • Badenoch Way needs to be better maintained • Trees detracting from views in places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many options (2 other agreed) • Peace and quiet (one other agreed) • Natural beauty in all directions (1 other agreed) • Lots of opportunities for horse riding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better signposting • Not too many! (1 other agreed) • Maintenance (2 others agreed) • Some paths lopsided • Leaflet of opportunities would be nice (1 other agreed) • Identify/information about places of interest and flora and fauna • Better promotion • Discreet signage and promotion

In general discussion with participants at the drop-in event people were very positive about the local network but had concerns about safety crossing the Spey Bridge.

Map Results

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 the event were given the opportunity 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 can be viewed on a map 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 Kincaig area. The responses to each of the questions are outlined below.

What outdoor activities do you currently do in and around Kincaig?

Activity	% of respondents who undertake the activity
Low level walking	100%
Dog walking	50%
Hillwalking*	67%
Running	0%
Getting about in a wheelchair	0%
Walking with a pushchair**	11%
Cycling on-road	61%
Cycling off-road	50%
Horse-riding	6%
Watersports	17%
Wintersports	28%
None	0%
Other***	6%

*Comment: 'less frequently'

**Comment: 'walking with a pram'

***Other activities identified were: 'Photography, Birdwatching'.

Why do you do these activities?

Reason	% of respondents who identified the reason
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To keep fit/healthy	83%
Enjoying the Countryside	94%
Travel to work/school	17%
Getting about	56%
Other	6%

*Other reasons identified were: 'Visiting friends, places & shops'.

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	39%
Dog walking	17%
Hillwalking	11%
Running	6%
Getting about in a wheelchair	11%
Walking with a pushchair	22%
Cycling on-road	28%
Cycling off-road	11%
Horse-riding	0%
Watersports	11%
Wintersports	17%
None	0%
Other*	17%

*Other activities identified were: 'Long-distance route', 'Provision at church for watersports launch/land, toilets,' and 'cycling traffic (cars etc) free, good cycling surface between villages'.

Would better opportunities for these activities encourage you to;

Reason	% of respondents who identified each activity
Walk to work/school	11%
Cycle to work/school	17%
Try new activities	0%

Get fit	22%
Get outdoors more	61%
Other*	6%

*Other reasons identified were: 'Use my bicycle more'.

Summary

During the public engagement process it was found that there is a need for better promotion of routes in the area and maintenance of routes was also a concern. There was some confusion and concern over the access around the Brae and new housing.

The most popular paths identified were predominantly on the Kincaig side of the river, the walk along the river to Speybank (72% of respondents), the woods to the south of the village (72% of respondents) and the walks along Loch Insh (61% of respondents). Across the river the routes in Inshriach Forest proved popular (61% of respondents) as well as the walk up the river to Feshiebridge (55 % of respondents).

Low-level walking was by far the most popular activity in the area followed by hill-walking and cycling on-road. Most people doing activities did so to keep fit and healthy and equally to enjoy the countryside and no one did so to get to work or school. There was a reasonably high demand for better opportunities for low level walking and for off-road cycling and also for walking with a pushchair.

Reflections

The drop-in was generally well attended with positive feedback and a number of people have returned questionnaires since. The engagement process has failed to capture any data from the under 16 age group in the Kincaig area.

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.

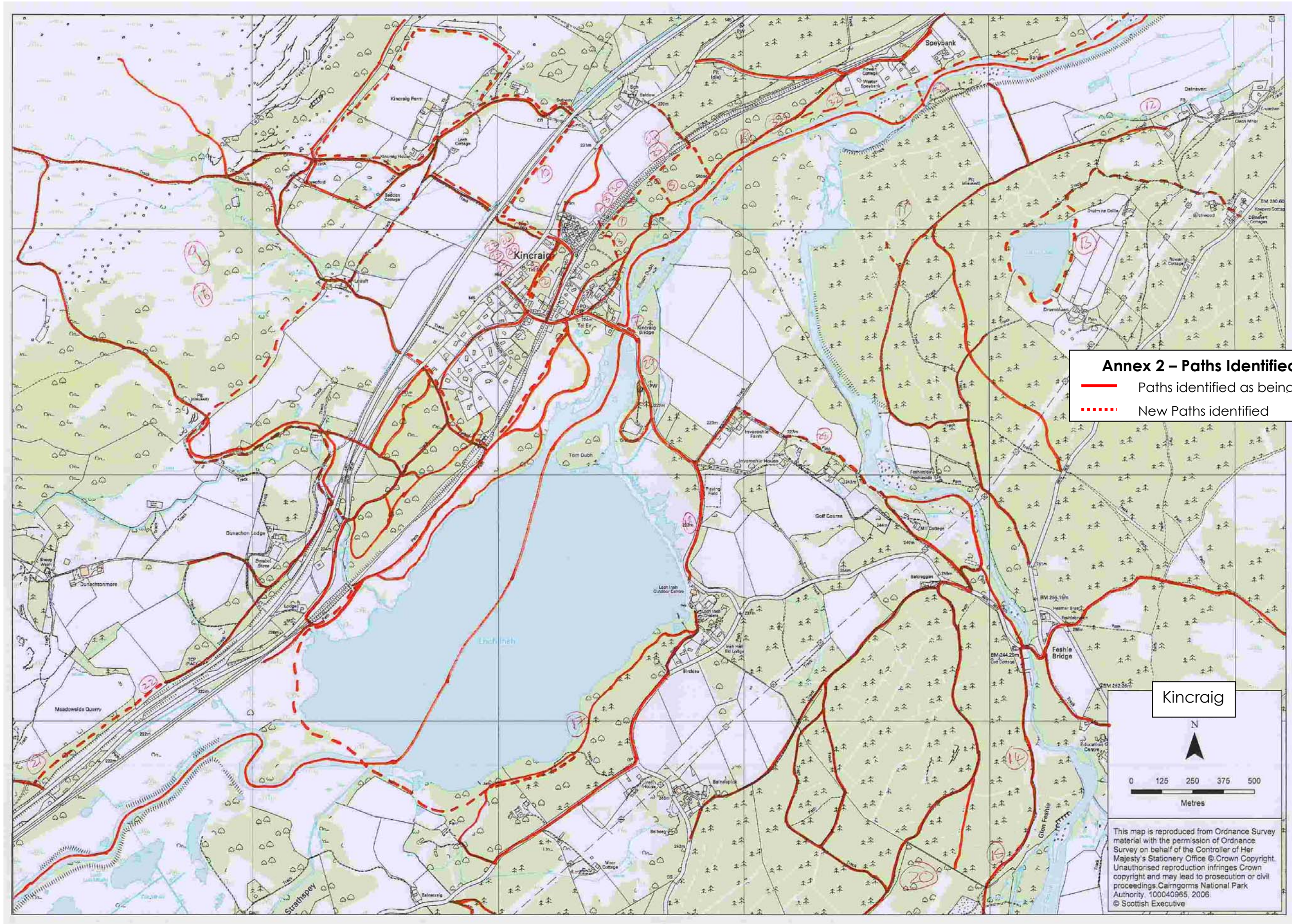
Cairngorms National Park Authority
1 March 2007

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Annex 1 - Comments received on maps at the 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	Pathway going down to tunnel beyond Macrae Crescent and step up at other side of tunnel very difficult and dangerous walk up beside sewage then joins up to Spey bank walk. Some of the wood paths around Spey Bank walk are getting a little bit dangerous (path slopes)
2	Replace right of way from community hall over hill coming out by The Christian Centre
3	Use access to sewage works
4	Access to tunnel under railway very bad, steep very dangerous up onto wall. Repairs washed away
5	Path used up the side of water works along railway fence to cross fence very narrow meets Speybank walk near seat (above steep brae) brae getting risky with loose small stones
6	Replacement of Right of Way from Suidhe Crescent to the Brae, this access has been blocked for over a year
7	Pedestrian bridge
8	Walk through tunnel
9	Unfamiliar with this area but will have root around someday cannot comment until then
10	Path to subway for access from KinCraig onto hill
11	Access to Viking(??) mound
12	Suggest adopt Badenoch Way to Core Path Status
13	A very attractive walk could be developed round this lochan
14	Core path?
15	Core Path, since right of way to upper Glen Feshie, Glen Tilt, Braemar etc

16	A designated circular path route from Kincaig via subway above Kincaig farm towards heath and back to Kincaig would be useful for locals and tourist alike
17	Core path?
18	Core path?
19	Core path?
20	Good horse riding routes
21	Link (walk/cycle) wanted between Kincaig/Kingussie on land north of Spey
22	Wade Road lost at quarry and in arable field adjacent the also at HWP
23	Replace "Right of Way" from Village Hall to the Brae
24	Replace right of way from community hall over the hill to Christian centre
25	Establish right of way across hill by new housing by telephone exchange
26	Route from Suidhe Cres and new houses to The Brae should be through new housing path
27	It would be good to be able to bypass near it (see comment above?)
28	Heavily used sections can get very muddy and problems with horse droppings (2 agreed)
29	Launching/landing
30	Establish upgrade to current unofficial track under railway from c. houses and new houses
31	New footbridge would be good
32	Path along river below Speybank link to forest (E) and to Speybank to w
33	Speybank walk steep brae nearest seat and burn loose stones cause problems
34	Present path leading to burn and path under railway from Macrae Crescent very poor. Step up onto ledge very dangerous our attempts to repair are usually washed away
35	Path behind water works to boundary fence (alive) linking to Speybank Walk at gate. This path used a lot –alongside railway fence



Annex 2 – Paths Identified
 — Paths identified as being
 - - - - - New Paths identified

Kincairdie



0 125 250 375 500
Metres

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