



For Discussion

Title: Managing for Visitors in the Cairngorms National Park.
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Purpose

This paper seeks the views of the Board on potential options around managing for visitors in the Cairngorms National Park. Officers are seeking a steer on the options that the Board would like staff to do further work on, to help with the preparation of the Active Cairngorms Action Plan which will be brought back to the Board in November 2023.

This paper builds on the current visitor management work in the National Park and the policies and actions as set out in the National Park Partnership Plan.

The Park Authority has prepared a Managing for Visitors Plan for each of the last three years with input from partners. The Plan is operational in nature and promotes coordination of the relevant work across the Park. The arrangements are underpinned by a regular meeting of partners through a Managing for Visitors Group, chaired by Cairngorms National Park Authority, Director of Planning and Place, or by Head of Visitor Services and Active Travel.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- a) Note the wide range of work currently underway to manage visitor pressure.
- b) Note the timetable for the Active Cairngorms Action Plan.
- c) Consider the different options set out in the paper and agree a steer for staff on which ones to investigate further.



Strategic policy consideration

1. Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP) 2023 - 2027: The NPPP, which was approved by Ministers in August 2022, is the overarching management plan for the Park the National Park. The Active Cairngorms Action Plan, which is due to be considered by the Board in November, will replace the annual Managing for Visitors Plan and the former Outdoor Access Strategy and integrate plans for similar themes in one place - including outdoor access, volunteering and the deployment of Rangers across the Park. See Appendix 1 for relevant objectives in the NPPP.
2. Cairngorms National Park Authority Corporate Plan: The Corporate Plan sets out the contribution that the Cairngorms National Park Authority will make over the next four years to the implementation of that Plan, using our grant-in-aid from the Scottish Government and other funding sources.
3. Outdoor access and other legislation: The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 sets out the rights of access that everyone has and which apply to almost all land in Scotland. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code sets out the way in which people are required to behave responsibly. The Park Authority convenes a Local Outdoor Access Forum to provide advice on all outdoor access issues. There are several other relevant pieces of important legislation that affect the management for visitors including legislation relating to litter, fires, parking, etc (See Appendix 2).
4. National Visitor Management arrangements: During the Covid pandemic a new set of arrangements was put in place to coordinate the sustainable management of visitors at a national level, coordinated by VisitScotland. Cairngorms National Park Authority officers sit on all the relevant groups and subgroups and feed in information and ideas at a national level. The Park Authority contributes regular reports every two weeks on a Red / Amber / Green basis, as part of a national system to monitor of the degree to which we all have the resources in place to deal with visitor pressures. This work is collated and reviewed by NatureScot.
5. Infrastructure for Visitors: The Park Authority has prepared a Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Plan which has been submitted to VisitScotland.
6. Sustainable Tourism: A Sustainable Tourism Action Plan has also been prepared and submitted to Europarc to underpin the status of the Park with the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas (one of only two such areas in UK). A Europarc verifier visited the Park in May and their report is awaited. Assuming a



positive report is received, the Park Authority expects to be re-awarded the Charter in late November 2023.

Strategic risk management

7. The preparation of the Active Cairngorms Action Plan is under way and officers are working with the range of partnership groups (including the Local Outdoor Access Forum, Managing for Visitors Group and the Cairngorms Tourism Partnership) to develop a new suite of actions to achieve targets in the National Park Partnership Plan. The Park Authority is taking account of all the feedback received as part of the preparation of the National Park Partnership Plan in 2021 and the feedback received recently through other consultation processes. A range of assessments are also being undertaken including Equality Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment. The Action Plan will be considered for approval by the Park Authority Board in late November.
8. Overall, the arrangements we have in place for managing for visitors in the National Park are working well. The vast majority of visitors enjoy the Park responsibly and the feedback about their visits is generally very positive. Relationships between key partner agencies and with land managers are good and there are many exemplars of positive project delivery and initiatives in place. Data about incidents of poor or anti-social behaviour are collated by Rangers across the Park and fed into Scottish Government as described above as part of a national system using standard metrics. (See Appendix 3). Some specific outdoor access issues are also discussed with the Local Outdoor Access Forum who provide advice to help find practical solutions.
9. Despite the success of this approach overall, there are some recurring problems and there have been significant calls for a change in approach in certain locations (especially in the Cairngorm and Glenmore area) and on certain issues. There are a number of strategic issues that are worthy of further consideration as we prepare to finalise the Active Cairngorms Action Plan. Each issue is considered in turn and an indication given of the proposed way forwards in order to promote discussion.

Engagement with visitors and enforcement

10. We now have over 45 FTE Rangers out in the Park who operate through a unique partnership, coordinated by the Park Authority whereby some Rangers are employed directly by the Park Authority while others are grant-aided by the Authority or are stand-alone services. There are 14 different Ranger employers in Park but all



Rangers wear the Cairngorm National Park brand on their clothing and identify as part of a family of Rangers who are working together to help people enjoy their visit and to look after the National Park. Joint training, support and interaction with the national system for Rangers is coordinated by Cairngorms National Park Authority.

11. We have received very positive feedback about the work of Rangers from visitors, local communities and land managers. Furthermore, this partnership arrangement for Ranger services is seen as an example of best practice in the management of visitors in protected areas which has attracted attention from elsewhere in the UK and internationally.
12. By and large, the work of Rangers (and our approach to the management for visitors generally) is all about positive engagement – our Rangers chat to visitors, encouraging and guiding them to behave well using a range of techniques and materials. This is highly skilled and, at times, sensitive work.
13. To support this approach, a number of communications campaigns and initiatives have been prepared, in partnership with national organisations (e.g. Ramblers Association) and local groups (e.g. Cairngorms Business Partnership). Strong efforts have been made to engage with new audiences – see CEO Report for examples.
14. The Park Authority Ranger team is used flexibly across the Park to support the work of land managers in line with the Management Visitor Plan which identifies key hotspots. However, a small number of visitors (and frequently at the same locations) do not follow the guidance that is given or the legal parameters around littering, fires, parking, etc. When such problems do arise, a range of measures are employed:
 - a) Dedicated enforcement officers are called in – for example, Police Scotland deal with threats, violence or significant crime; Scottish Fire and Rescue Service extinguish fires and The Highland Council at Glenmore deal with illegal or dangerous parking.
 - b) The Park Authority (in partnership with FLS and the THC) has paid for a guaranteed Police presence at Glenmore at peak weekends and later in the evenings.
 - c) As part of their work, Rangers now routinely collect evidence and pass on concerns about issues and potential offences being committed to Police Scotland.
 - d) We have recently developed a new approach whereby people who are thought to be leaving dirty campsites or significant littering, etc receive an informal warning



letter from Police Scotland which is sent to the registered keeper of the relevant vehicle.

15. Prosecutors in Scotland have a range of options for dealing with reported offending, including taking no action, issuing warning letters, financial penalties, as well as commencing court proceedings.
16. The Rangers within the National Park do not currently have any enforcement powers. This is different to some other areas as set out below:
 - a) Staff in Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park already have powers in issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for littering offences under an amendment to the 1990 Environmental Protection Act but cannot enforce bylaws in a similar way – these require reports to Procurators Fiscal.
 - b) In Aberdeenshire Council the Seasonal Access Countryside Rangers (but not the permanent Rangers) do have powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices in relation to littering and dog fouling.
17. Increasingly, the light touch approach to enforcement in the Cairngorms is causing some community concern. Attention has been drawn to the fact that Scottish Government has, for example, developed new offences in relation to littering and higher penalties (via the new National Litter and Fly-tipping Strategy which was launched by Scottish Government in June 2023) but these do require to be enforced. The consultation on the future of National Parks may also propose Fixed Penalty Notices to byelaws making them considerably easier to enforce.
18. Any proposal to look at new enforcement powers for Rangers will need to take account of the change in nature of the role of the Rangers, the training needed and the costs of managing the enforcement process.
19. The proposed way forwards is:
 - a) Continued very strong emphasis by all Rangers and front-line staff on positive engagement with visitors, positive communications campaigns and educating visitors on how to look after the National Park.
 - b) Partnerships with key bodies on campaigns to promote and amplify responsible behaviour in an innovative and engaging way at both local and national level.
 - c) Look at potential for Park Authority Rangers to be trained to issue Fixed Penalty Notices in support of any management rules or byelaws and for littering, etc.



Management of wildfire risk

20. The changing climate will make wildfire risk considerably higher in the future. This year there has already been a number of incidents in the National Park and there have been large wildfires just outside the Park at Daviot and Cannich. The Park Authority has also received expressions of community concern on this issue (see Glenmore section below).
21. The Park Authority has already committed in the NPPP to establish an Integrated Wildfire Management Plan (IWMP) for the Park. Preparation of this plan will be led by the Land Management team within Cairngorms National Park Authority and work has started recently. The purpose of the IWMP is to increase the ability of land managers across the Park to:
 - a) minimise the risk of wildfires starting.
 - b) respond effectively to wildfires that do start.
 - c) reduce the impact of any wildfires in the landscape.
22. The development of the IWMP was discussed at the Cairngorms Upland Advisory Group on 30 August. The IWMP will also have to take into account the changing legislation around muirburn licencing in Scotland.
23. Park Authority officers were invited to the recent Fire Summit hosted by Kate Forbes MSP in July 2023 to give an overview of this work.
24. Wildfire risk is mitigated through a number of current approaches:
 - a) Promotion of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC)– Education, Signage, Leaflets and Communications.
 - b) Estate Fire Management Plans and staff training .
 - c) Ranger Services across the Park (see summary of number of fires extinguished in Appendix 3)
 - d) Wildfire Groups – operational in various parts of the National Park
25. There are a number of options that could be considered to reduce fire risk further in the National Park.
 - a) Change to SOAC – There may be an opportunity through the Land Reform Scotland Bill to look at amending access rights to exclude fires/BBQ's outside of private curtilages. The current text on fires in SOAC is in Appendix 4.



- b) Fire Management Byelaws – Look at an option to stop open fires and BBQs outside of private curtilages in the National Park. There is potential to look at this as part of Integrated Wildfire Management Plan or to undertake the work in parallel. If this route is taken significant resource would be required to enforce the bylaws. A summary of issues relating to fire management byelaws is set out in Appendix 5.
- c) Training Ranger Services in fire management – Potential to look at training and providing equipment for NPA Rangers (and others) to provide support to SFRS if a wildfire starts in the NP.
- d) Encourage local authorities to lead on emergency and resilience planning for wildfires (as currently happens for flooding) with priority given to the Cairngorm and Glenmore area.
- e) Review signage and communication about fire risk as part of national approach and prioritise the development of consistent signage across the Park.

Managing visitors and the disturbance to wildlife

- 26. In the NPPP there is an action to ‘consider all potential mechanisms to reduce disturbance on key species and recreational impacts on high ground.’
- 27. It is important to note that we already give significant attention to minimising the disturbance of wildlife in dealing with planning applications and designating features such as core paths.
- 28. The Park Authority and partners have already undertaken significant work, most recently through the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project to develop community-led approaches to reducing recreational disturbance. This has worked especially well with the community of mountain-bikers and work has just begun with the dog-walking community. The “Lek it Be” campaign (promoting the approach of not going looking for capercaillie from March to August) was developed with members of the birdwatching, photography and wildlife-guiding community and has been very successful.
- 29. NatureScot has worked with Cairngorms National Park Authority and the Local Outdoor Access Forum to develop management rules, restricting watercraft and swimming at the lochs at the Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve. Significant improvements in breeding success of Goldeneye were reported in 2023 – the best breeding return in more than a decade.



30. However, more needs to be done to limit and reduce recreational disturbance in key areas of the Park. In part this approach is necessary due to the requirements of particular species (e.g. Capercaillie - see separate Board paper) and in part by observations of behaviour in particular areas (e.g. around smalls lochs and areas of freshwater or regarding dogs and the effects on ground-nesting birds).
31. To be clear, the work required is not about restricting peoples' outdoor access rights – but more work is being undertaken to identify parts of the Park where special approaches will be taken to reduce disturbance, either through infrastructure projects or behaviour-change initiatives (e.g. signage, patrolling of Rangers, etc).
32. The proposed way forwards is:
- a) Develop the legacy plan for Capercaillie project and develop further the community-based, voluntary approach to reducing recreational disturbance.
 - b) Identify, as part of the Active Cairngorms Action Plan, a series of “quiet areas for nature” which will be used to further develop the range of infrastructure and behavioural initiatives to reduce disturbance on key species and habitats. Monitor closely and, if approaches are not working, look at alternative approaches.
 - c) Develop a suite of resources and training content regarding recreational disturbance of species and habitats to be delivered with partners.
 - d) Increase promotion of environmentally robust routes including the extensive core paths network, the Speyside Way and other strategic routes.

Glenmore

33. The Glenmore area is by far the busiest area of the Park and is also in public ownership, managed by Forest and Land Scotland. The main issues are around car parking, behaviour on the beach associated with camping, fires and campervans. The challenge of managing these issues has raised questions about the level of staffing resource in place to address these issues and responsiveness to issues beyond normal working hours.
34. In June 2023, following a public meeting to discuss increased community-led management of the area, the Aviemore and Glenmore Community Trust and the Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council wrote to Cairngorms National Park Authority calling for new bylaws to control:
- a) the lighting of any fire including any charcoal barbeque within the forest areas of Glenmore including on the beach and foreshore of Loch Morlich.



- b) All camping on the beach and foreshore of Loch Morlich, and in particular within 100 metres of the Loch other than on a designated campsite.
35. Fire is a particular issue in Glenmore and if a wildfire was to start in this area we could lose some of our most precious woodland. Loch Morlich is a key visitor management hot spot and fires are a continual issue in the area. Even after been spoken to by Rangers and all fires being extinguished, many fires are lit again later in the evening. Concern has also been expressed about safety issues for residents and visitors in the area.
36. Regarding transport and traffic management, a project in the Cairngorms 2030 Programme is looking at the transport solutions for the area in the medium to long term with the emphasis on reducing cars. In the meantime, Forest and Land Scotland have developed a Parking/ Traffic Plan and have made arrangements for additional temporary capacity at the Hayfield and investigating potential for a new path on roadside by Loch Morlich. A new, hourly bus service, "The Aviemore Adventurer", which can carry bikes was introduced in May to Cairngorm Mountain. And the Highland Council are consulting on speed and parking restrictions; and discussions are under way about integrated management of roads and carparks in the area.
37. There are a number of options that could be considered:
- a) CNPA will review the Cairngorm and Glenmore Strategy (from 2016) with a view to completion by June 2024.
 - b) Continued discussion with FLS to:
 - i. Increase staff capacity to manage Glenmore Forest Park and get the level of provision of staffing and facilities better aligned with demand and resource capacity - for example, one option proposed is of 24 hour warden for Loch Morlich beach from 1 May to 30 September each year
 - ii. Keep under review the need for site specific bylaws in relation to camping and fires.
 - c) Emphasis given to traffic and parking management to ensure that parking provision is appropriate, well-managed and reduce cars in the area over time:
 - i. In short/medium term – put in place traffic restrictions, encourage more public transport, encourage THC and FLS to reach agreement re management of parking and enforcement and a rationalise permissions for campervans in only selected areas. All this work will help alleviate camping pressure at Loch Morlich beach.
 - ii. In medium / long term – implement the Cairngorms 2030 project to significantly reduce car-based travel to Glenmore.



- d) Fires: see the proposals above regarding Integrated Wildfire Management Plan and bylaws.

Visitor Infrastructure

38. Many issues concerning the management for visitors can be resolved through provision of good infrastructure. The Park Authority has an approved Plan which we will work with partners to implement.

39. The proposed way forwards is:

- a) Delivery of Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Plan
- b) Delivery of active travel projects in the Cairngorms 2030 Programme
- c) Continuation of Park Authority Visitor Infrastructure Improvement Programme

Next Steps

40. The next steps are to engage with stakeholders in developing:

- a) Active Cairngorms Action Plan and Integrated Wildfire Management Plan.
- b) Establish costs and resource implications for options including timescales.



Appendix 1: Relevant objectives and policies from the National Park

Partnership Plan

Objective A7 - Ensure that all managed burning (muirburn) follows best practice as defined by the muirburn licensing scheme, supporting habitat restoration and recovery.

Target A7 - Reduce wildfire risk by developing an integrated wildfire management plan for the National Park.

Actions:

- a) Develop an integrated wildfire management plan for the National Park, including strategic firebreaks.
- b) Develop and agree a National Park approach on campfires and barbecues.

Objective C5 - Work to stabilise visitor numbers in the peak season, focusing growth on quieter months and on those areas that have the infrastructure and capacity to accommodate additional visitors.

Objective C6 - Secure the National Park's reputation as an international exemplar in sustainable tourism and the management of protected areas.

Objective C9 - Welcome visitors and provide a high-quality experience while managing their impacts through providing better infrastructure and high-quality ranger services.

Policy C4 Develop plans to help manage visitor pressure in key areas, including:

- a) Ensuring high-quality facilities and infrastructure are designed to manage the effects of visitor pressures on the natural heritage and communities.
- b) Ensuring that the upgrading or refurbishment of visitor hubs improves accessibility for all potential users and incorporates disabled access toilets and Changing Places facilities where possible.
- c) Enhancing the provision of Ranger Services to deliver a warm visitor welcome and promote responsible access.
- d) Reducing fire risk by limiting or excluding barbecues and open fires in key areas of the National Park, such as in areas of woodland and peatland.
- e) Reducing impacts on sensitive habitats.
- f) Ensuring appropriate transport management to facilitate and enhance the visitor experience.



Appendix 2: Summary of aspects of the Legislation relating to the Management of Visitors

Issue	Offences
Fires	<p>Section 56 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 indicates that any person who lays or lights a fire in a public place so as to endanger any other person, or to give reasonable cause for alarm or annoyance, or so as to endanger any property is guilty of an offence (a public place is any place to which the public have unrestricted access).</p> <p>Specific offences also apply to fires which cause particular types of damage, for example to trees. The offence of vandalism (under section 52 of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995) applies to any person who, without reasonable excuse, wilfully or recklessly destroys or damages any property belonging to another, and the common law offence of malicious mischief also extends to intentional damage to growing trees.</p> <p>Under the Trespass (Scotland) Act 1865, it is an offence to light a fire on or near any private road, on enclosed or cultivated land, or in or near any plantation, without the consent of the owner or land manager.</p>
Parking	<p>Road Traffic Act 1988 (Section 34 and 22) "It is an offence to drive a motor vehicle without lawful authority on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• and of any description (not forming part of a road), or• a footpath or bridleway except in an emergency." <p>Section 34 makes an allowance for a motor vehicle to be driven off-road for no more than 15 yards solely in order to park the vehicle. However, it specifically notes that this exception does not confer any right to park the vehicle on the land, and clarifies that this may constitute trespass if done</p>



	without lawful authority. Section 22 makes it an offence to park or leave a vehicle or its trailer in a position likely to cause danger to other road-users.
Litter	<p>Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Section 87) It is an offence to drop or deposit and leave litter in any public open place (a place in the open air where you can go without paying).</p> <p>Note: The New National Litter and Fly Tipping Strategy and Action Plan (June 2023) has proposals for new crimes and increased penalties https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-litter-flytipping-strategy/documents/</p>



Appendix 3: Summary of metrics for the Management of Visitors, coordinated by NatureScot April to August 2023

	No. of people engaged with	No. negative engagements	No. tents encountered	No. of overnighting campervans	No. of dogs on a lead (or under very close control) encountered	No. of dogs off the lead (or not under very close control) encountered	No. of live fires/BBQs extinguished	No. of old fire/BBQ remains cleared	No. of bags of litter collected (black bin bags to the nearest 0.25)
CNPA Ranger data	7315	82	1454	1290	2502	300	117	457	571
CNP Ranger Family data	12328	27	841	1211	1552	579	81	64	141
TOTAL	19,643	109	2,295	2,501	4,054	879	198	521	712



Appendix 4 – Scottish Outdoor Access Code: Fires

The Outdoor Access Code says:

“Wherever possible, use a stove rather than light an open fire. If you do wish to light an open fire, keep it small, under control, and supervised - fires that get out of control can cause major damage, for which you might be liable. Never light an open fire during prolonged dry periods or in areas such as forests, woods, farmland or on peaty ground or near to buildings or in cultural heritage sites where damage can be easily caused. Heed all advice at times of high risk. Remove all traces of an open fire before you leave.”



Appendix 5 – A summary of issues relating to fire management byelaws

Legislation

Schedule 2 of the 2000 Act provides at paragraph 8(1) that the National Park Authority may make byelaws for the Park for the purposes of:

- “(a) protecting the natural and cultural heritage of the National Park,*
- (b) preventing damage to the land or anything in, on or under it,*
- (c) securing the public’s enjoyment of, and safety in, the National Park.”*

In particular, paragraph 8(2) provides that the Authority may make byelaws under subparagraph (1) *“to regulate or prohibit the lighting of fires”*.

Potential Type of Byelaw (not Park Authority position)

- A Park-wide byelaw to prohibit the lighting of fires or BBQ’s throughout the year except:
 - If the fire or BBQ is in a private curtilage and is under the control of the owners / tenants of the property;
 - If the fire is set under licence as part of a muirburn plan;
 - If the fire is in a fireplace connected with a bothy;
 - If the fire/bbq is in an official camping and caravan site.

Four potential variables that need consideration:

- Whether fires should only be restricted for certain times of the year e.g. only prohibited February to October.
- Whether fires should be restricted only during high fire risk.
- Whether fires within curtilages should be covered at time of high fire risk as well?
- Whether bothies should be covered at times of high fire risk?

Enforcement

One of the most significant issues is around how enforceable a byelaw is - and what resources are needed for enforcement. From an enforcement perspective, the Authority



would be entitled to seek to enforce the byelaws via its own properly-authorized employees in the first instance, with any failure to comply being reported to Police Scotland.

Process to get byelaws in place

Schedule 2 to the 2000 Act provides at paragraph 9 for the procedure to be followed where the Park Authority proposes to make byelaws. Sections 202 to 204 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 will also apply in relation to the proposed byelaws. These impose additional requirements in relation to the adoption and revocation of byelaws.

The following steps will be required in order to promote and confirm byelaws under the 2000 Act:

- The byelaws would have to be drafted by competent legal professionals. It will be important for the drafting to be both detailed and precise.
- The Authority would then have to obtain approval from the CNPA Board to allow the proposed byelaws to be publicised – this process will align with Park Authority timescales and frequency of relevant Board meetings;
- The proposed byelaws must then be made available for public inspection for at least 12 weeks and publicised in such manner as the Park Authority thinks fit;
- The Park Authority must consult: every local authority and community council any part of whose area is within the area to which the proposed byelaws would apply (the “byelaw area”); such persons as appear to the Authority to be representative of the interests of those who live, work, carry on business or engage in recreational activities in the byelaw area; and such other persons as the Authority thinks fit;
- Account must be taken of any views or comments provided by the consultees during the consultation period. The Authority may consider that the byelaws should remain the same or should be modified. It is estimated that consideration of the comments may take another month at the end of the consultation period, although that may be longer or shorter depending on the number of objections and comments received and the nature thereof;



- The Park Authority would then have to obtain authority to seek confirmation of the byelaws from CNPA Board – this process will align with internal Authority timescales and frequency of relevant Board meetings;
- At least one month before application for confirmation of the byelaws is made, notice of: the intention to apply for confirmation; the place where a copy of the byelaws may be inspected; and of the authority to whom objections may be notified – i.e. the Scottish Ministers – must be given in a newspaper circulating in the byelaw area. A copy of the byelaws must also be deposited at the offices of the Authority and shall at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment. A copy of the byelaws should be provided to any person upon request;
- Within one month after publication of the notice, any person can submit a written objection to the Scottish Ministers;
- Before confirming the byelaws, the Scottish Ministers must take into account any objections received and may hold a local inquiry or cause a local inquiry to be held;
- The Scottish Ministers may confirm the byelaws with or without modification or may refuse to confirm. They may fix the date on which the byelaws come into operation. If no date is fixed, the byelaws will come into operation one month after the date of confirmation; and
- The Authority must, as soon as practicable after receiving intimation of the confirmation of the byelaws, give notice of: the confirmation; the date on which the byelaws are to come into operation; and the place where a copy of the byelaws as confirmed may be inspected, to be given in a newspaper circulating in the byelaw area or in such other manner as the Scottish Ministers on the application of the Authority may determine to be sufficient in the circumstances.

Estimated timescale

The estimated timescale to under take the steps outlined above totals 10 – 12 months, assuming that no inquiry is needed and that each stage moves seamlessly into the next. Some of the timescales relative to each stage may be shorter or longer than estimated. For example, if a decision to proceed is taken at the November 2023 Park Authority Board meeting then the earliest the byelaw would come into effect would be early in 2025.