



Cairngorms Local Outdoor Access Forum

Paper 3 - Recreation Access and Infrastructure Manager Report

Adam Streeter-Smith, Recreation Access and Infrastructure Manager 10 June 2026

Purpose

This paper provides an update on the main areas of work both undertaken and planned. LOAF Members are invited to discuss the items presented

1. Statutory Duties

Casework

- **Access rights across heritage railway line**

Query received if access rights exist across heritage railway lines, prompted by the closure of a private level crossing near Aviemore over the Strathspey steam railway line. Following discussions new pedestrian crossing of line to be established to allow pedestrian crossing at this point to be permitted again.

- **Peatland restoration sites diversions**

Query from our peatland team regarding if public could be asked to avoid restoration sites for first year or two as recreational pressure was damaging repaired habitat. Access team concluded that this was acceptable (similar to avoiding disturbing sensitive species, same principle would apply to sensitive habitats). A sign is being developed.

2. Development and Management of core paths, paths and wider visitor infrastructure

Speyside Way

Replacing rambler gates between Grantown and Nethy Bridge- work will begin this summer to remove the outdated rambler gates on this section of the Speyside Way. They will be replaced with self-closing gates, making the route more accessible for cyclists and horse riders. It has been agreed with key landowners that some stock gates can be left open and only closed when moving livestock.

Carrbridge Path

The Park Authority has agreed the route alignment linking Carr Road to the playing field, providing a safer off-road alternative and is working on the outline design for planning permission.



Alltmore Bridge

Working with Nethy Bridge community the Park Authority has completed the replacement of the bridge which gives access to the school and woodland.

Path Promotion

Leaflets - New 'Paths around Tomintoul' leaflet produced and printed. Nethy Bridge leaflet and Braemar leaflet being updated next.

Accessible Paths

Toolkit on accessible paths has been finalised, (summary of path criteria, how to assess and audit potential accessible paths). Training being provided to groups at the Community Path Group gathering on 13 June.

Accessible paths fund for community groups has been put in place, with an initial £16,000 allocated, grants of £300-£2,000 available to make accessibility improvements to existing paths.

Campervans

Resources being produced to support responsible campervan parking; new campervan leaflet, webpage and online facilities map.

Snow Roads Installations

A contract has been let to repair the gabion baskets steps at Still. This will include covering the existing steps with slabs.

Design and specifications are being developed to upgrade the path at The Watchers to make the site more accessible.