



Core Paths Plan Review

Informal consultation summary

Background

The Cairngorms National Park Authority is undertaking a review of the Core Paths Plan. The first stage of this was an informal consultation which allowed anyone to feed into the review process and comment on the proposed amendments, the network as a whole or suggest further core path additions.

This report presents an overview of the informal consultation, the responses received, and the most popular matters raised.

Consultation overview

The informal consultation ran over three months, from 29 May to 31 August 2025.

1. Online

The consultation was presented online on the National Park's website at [Cairngorms National Park | Core Paths Plan consultation](#). This included an online map showing existing core paths and proposed amendments (additions, realignments and removals). Members of the public were able to drop pins on the map to comment on existing core paths, proposed amendments or on any location on the map to suggest an additional core path. A "thumbs-up" agree reaction could also be added to anyone else's comment.

A list of core path amendments was also available, and comments could alternatively be submitted by email.

2. Stakeholders

Where additional core paths were proposed the relevant land managers were contacted directly and invited to respond.

Various agencies, recreational bodies, landowners, ranger services, community bodies etc were also contacted and invited to view the consultation and respond.

A list of these is in Annex 1.



3. Promotion

The informal consultation was promoted on the National Park's website, social media and in the Cairn magazine (posted to all households in the National Park). It was also promoted via partner newsletters.

The Access Team also meet with several community organisation during the consultation to discuss the review further. In addition, they attended various other events including the Cairngorms community councils annual gathering. Further details in Annex 2.

Consultation responses received

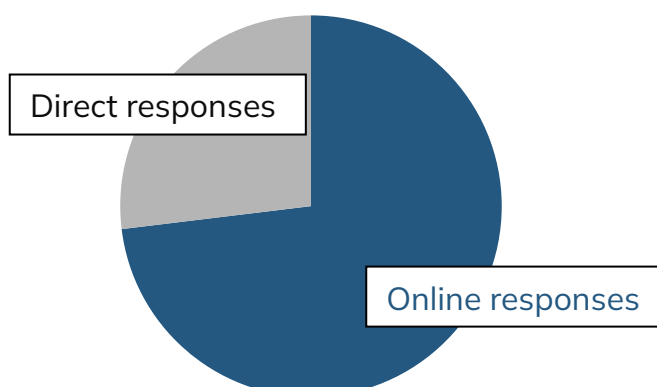
1. Responses

A total of 208 specific responses were received:

- **152 online comments*** submitted via the website
140 reactions online (agreements with comments)
- **56 direct responses** received (emails, phone calls, comments from in-person events)

208 responses received

140 reactions

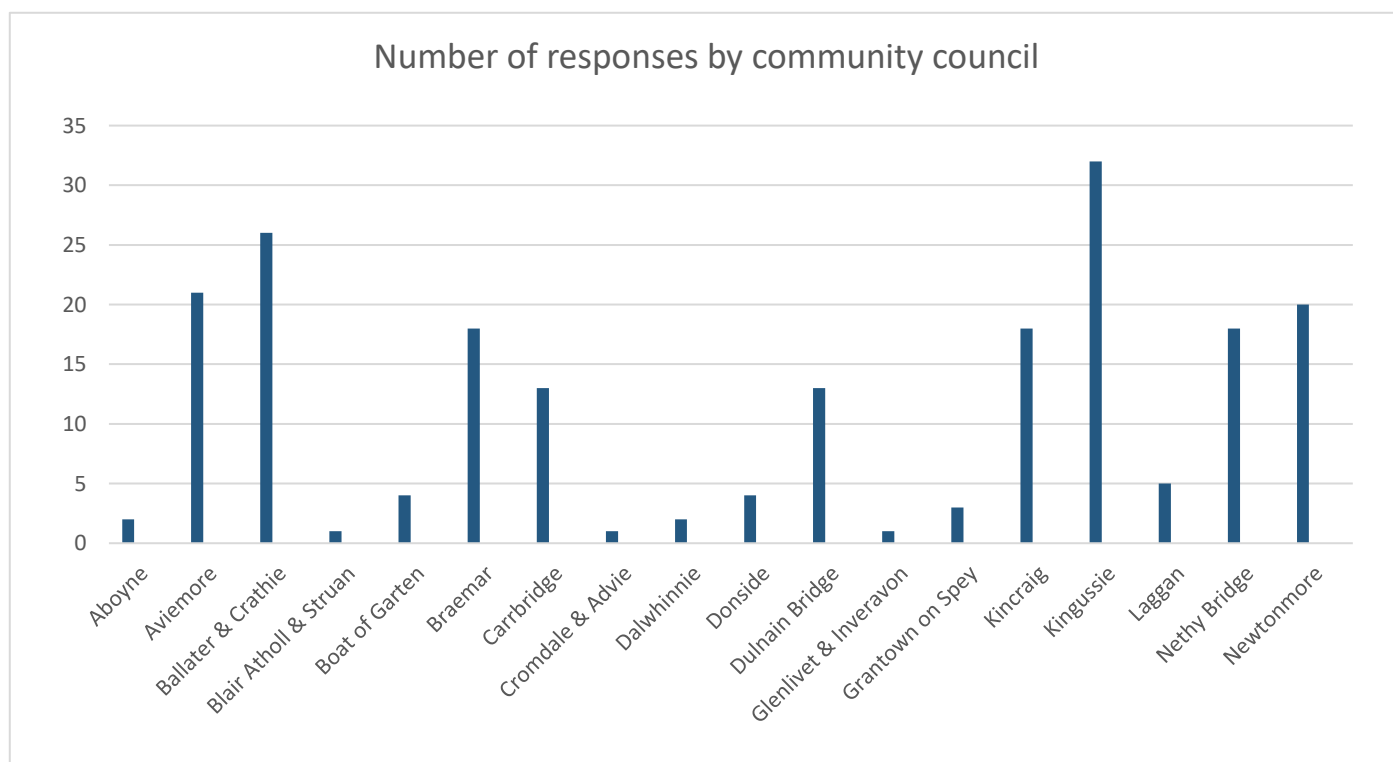
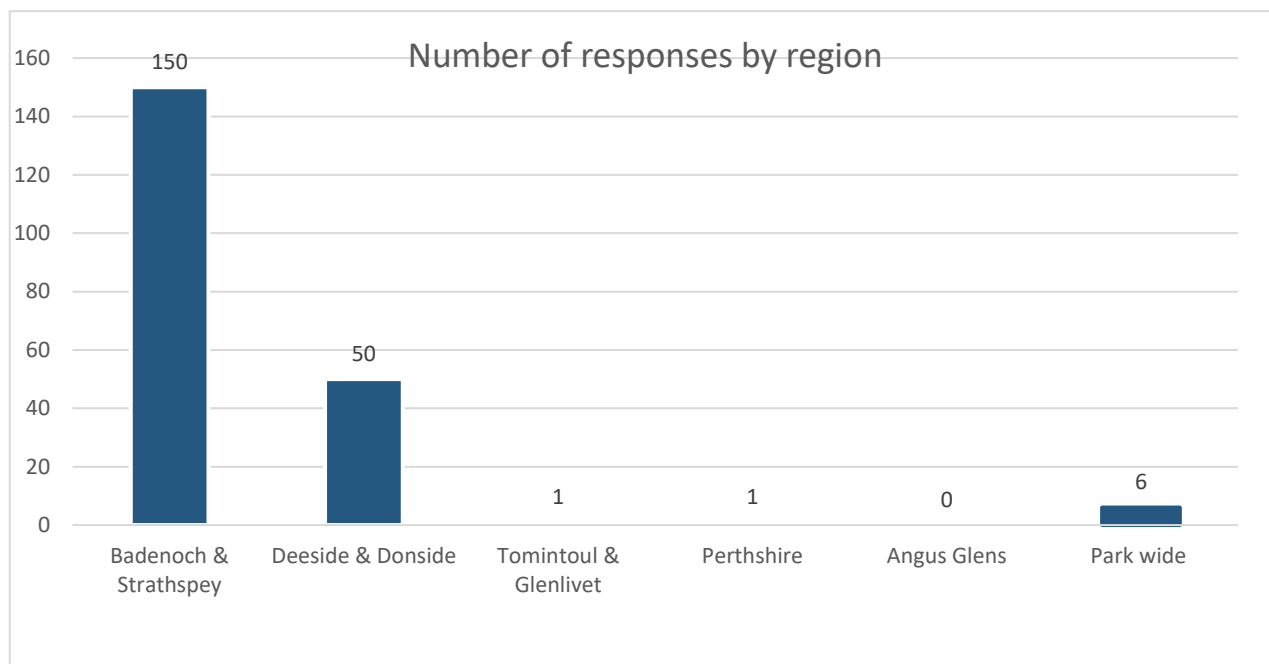


**155 website comments but included three duplicate responses (submitted twice by the same person)*



2. Geographical distribution

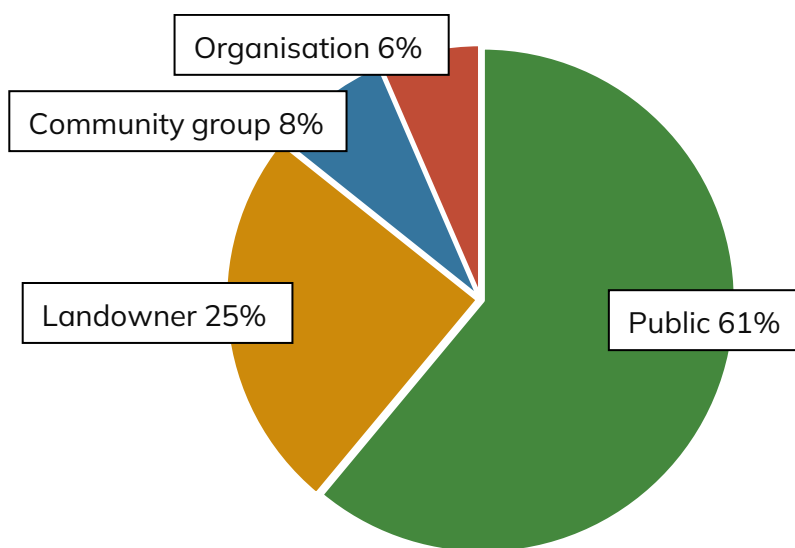
Most responses related to Badenoch and Strathspey, followed by Deeside.





3. Respondents

A total of **77 people responded to the consultation**, 47 responded as a member of the public, 19 on behalf of a landowner, 6 on behalf of a community group (4 on behalf of community councils and 2 on behalf of community path groups) and 5 on behalf of an organisation (Historic Environment Scotland, RSPB Scotland, BHS Scotland, Scotways and Ramblers Scotland).



4. Responses received

4.1. General

- 11 general responses which included comments on the whole network or paths in general.

4.2. Existing core paths

- 61 comments about existing core paths:
 - 22 related to maintenance or suggestions for upgrading routes
 - 28 suggested minor realignments / mapping updates
 - 11 proposed de-designating existing core paths

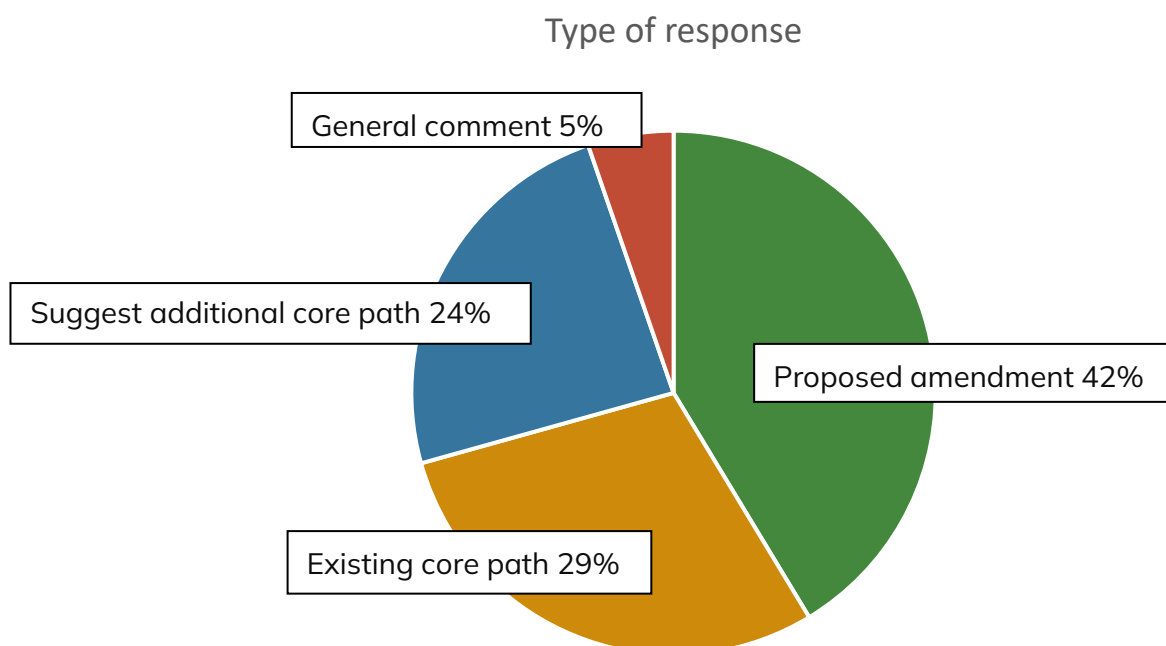
4.3. Proposing an additional core path

- 50 comments suggesting an additional 39 routes for core path designation, of these 5 were suggestions for routes that don't exist and would require construction.



4.4. Commenting on a proposed amendment

- 86 comments in relation to the suggested amendments; 43 agreeing, 34 disagreeing and 9 general comments



4.5. Matters arising

The following themes have emerged from the informal consultation as being the most popular matters of interest, by volume of comments received.

- Nethy Bridge – the Tulloch moor track
- Glenmore – the Allt Mor path from Glenmore to Cairngorm Mountain
- Dulnain bridge to Balnaan road (unclassified road to Carrbridge)
- Kingussie – the Speyside Way to Ruthven barracks
- Aviemore – Carrbridge proposed NMU (non-motorised user route)
- Newtonmore – the Wildcat trail at Allt Laraidh gorge
- Laggan – core paths on main roads
- Removal of core paths over private level crossings

What happens next

All the feedback and comments received during the informal consultation will be reviewed and assessed as required, and the Local Outdoor Access Forum consulted.



Following this review period, the next stage will be to produce the **Draft** Core Paths Plan. The Draft Plan will then go out for a further formal 12-week consultation (expected Spring 2026).



Annex 1

Stakeholders

The following stakeholders were contacted regarding the informal consultation:

Agencies

- Cairngorms Business Partnership
- Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS)
- Historic Environment Scotland
- National Trust for Scotland (Mar Lodge Estate)
- NatureScot
- Network Rail
- RSPB (national and Abernethy and Insh reserves)
- Strategic Transport Partnerships (HiTrans and Nestrans)

Land based

- Cairngorms Crofters and Farmers group
- Individual landowners - 29 land managers (where additional core paths proposed on land)
- Managing for Visitors working group
- National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS)
- Rangers Services in the National Park:
 - Angus Alive
 - Aberdeenshire council
 - Balmoral Estate
 - Cairngorm Mountain
 - EDF Energy
 - Forestry and Land Scotland
 - Glen Tanar Estate
 - Invercauld Estate
 - National Trust for Scotland (Killiecrankie / Mar Lodge)
 - NatureScot (Dinnet reserve)
 - Rothiemurchus Estate
- Scottish Land and Estates



Recreational bodies

- Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland (DMinBS)
- Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland (OATS)
- Scottish Orienteering
- Scottish Outdoor Recreation Alliance (SORA):
 - British Horse Society Scotland
 - CyclingScotland
 - Mountaineering Scotland
 - PaddleScotland
 - Ramblers Scotland
 - Scottish Sports Association
 - ScotWays
- Sport Scotland (Glenmore Lodge)
- Sustrans

Community bodies

- Community councils
- Community path groups
- Community Woodlands:
 - Anagach Woods Trust
 - Insh Community Holdings
 - Kingussie Community Development Company (KCDC)
 - Braemar Community Limited
 - Laggan Forest Trust
- Health Walk leaders
- Marr Area Partnership (MAP)
- Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS)

Other

- Outdoor Access officers at:
 - Highland council
 - Aberdeenshire council
 - Perth & Kinross council
 - Moray council
 - Angus council
- Cairngorms National Park's Equality Advisory Panel - consulted in January prior to the informal consultation.
- Cairngorms Volunteer rangers



Annex 2

Promotion

The informal consultation was promoted through publicity and events:
(all dates 2025)

Publicity

- **News item** - Cairngorms National Park news item "[Call for views on Core paths plan review](#)" – on website and social media (June)
- **Social media** - Cairngorms National Park social media reminder (August)
- **Cairn magazine** – snippet in magazine posted to all households in the National Park (August)
- **Newsletters:**
 - Highlands & Islands Climate Hub newsletter (June and July editions)
 - Highlands Environmental Forum (2 x July editions and August edition)
 - Marr Area Partnership newsletter (August edition)

Events

- **Community events:**
 - **Gathering of Community Councils** - attendance and display at Cairngorms 'Gathering of community councils' event (April). Information about, and links to, the consultation in two emails to all Community Councils (April).
 - **Laggan Community Paths & Playpark event** – attendance and display at drop in evening event (June)
 - **Kingussie community meeting** – presentation on core paths and discussion session with representatives from KCDC, community council, path group and health walks group (August)
 - **Health Walk leaders** (Badenoch & Strathspey) – presentation at event (May)
- **Cairngorms Volunteer rangers** (new intake) – updated at event (May)