



# Annex 1

## Core Paths Plan review – informal consultation summary

### Background

1. 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.
2. This report presents an overview of the informal consultation, the responses received, and the most popular matters raised.

### Consultation overview

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

### Online

4. 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.
5. A list of core path amendments was also available, and comments could alternatively be submitted by email.

### Stakeholders

6. Where additional core paths were proposed the relevant land managers were contacted directly and invited to respond.
7. Various agencies, recreational bodies, landowners, ranger services, community bodies etc were also contacted and invited to view the consultation and respond.
8. A list of these is in Annex 1.1



### Promotion

9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Further details in Annex 1.2.

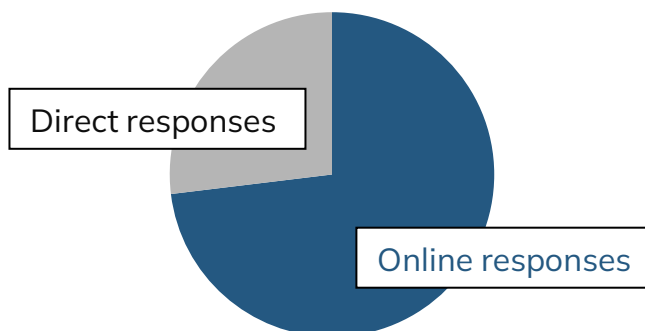
## Consultation responses received

### Responses

12. A total of 208 specific responses were received:
  - a) **152 online comments\*** submitted via the website
  - b) 140 reactions online (agreements with comments)
  - c) **56 direct responses** received (emails, phone calls, comments from in-person events)

208 responses received

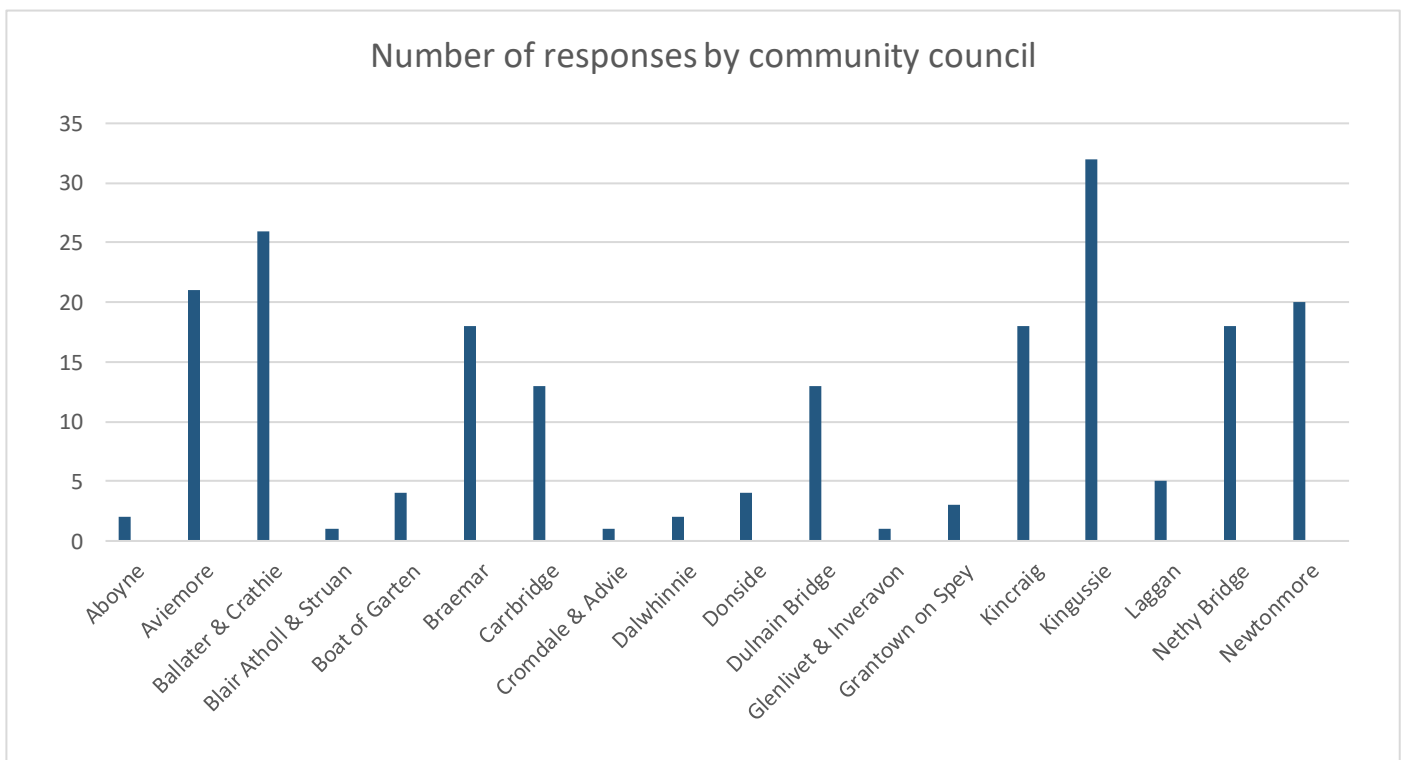
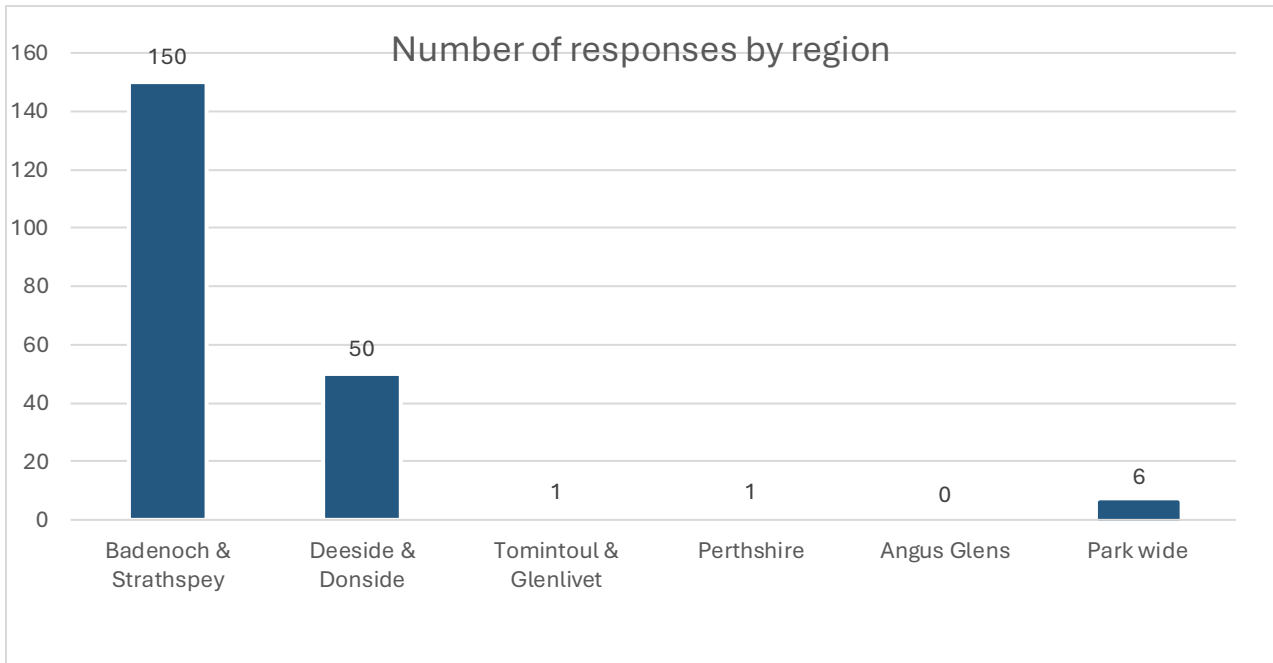
140 reactions



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

### Geographical distribution

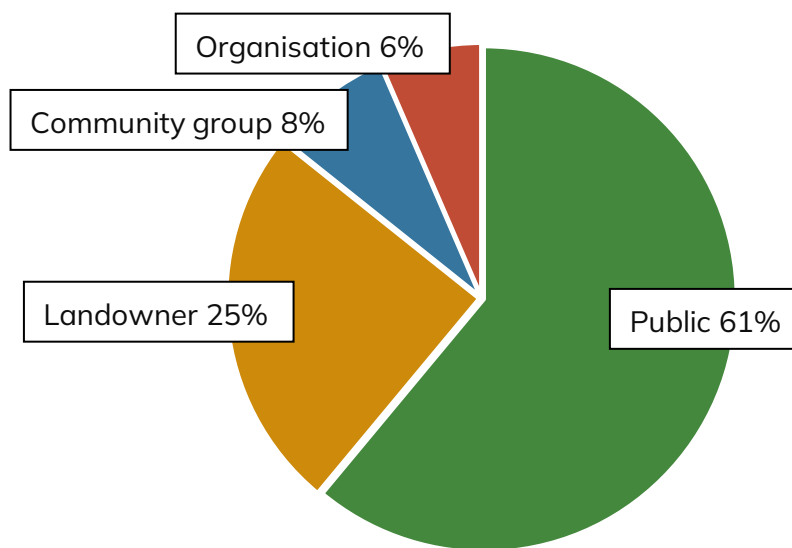
13. Most responses related to Badenoch and Strathspey, followed by Deeside.





## Respondents

14. A total of **77 people responded to the consultation**, 47 responded as a member of the public, 19 on behalf of a landowner, six on behalf of a community group (four on behalf of community councils and two on behalf of community path groups) and five on behalf of an organisation (Historic Environment Scotland, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland, British Horse Society (BHS) Scotland, Scotways and Ramblers Scotland).

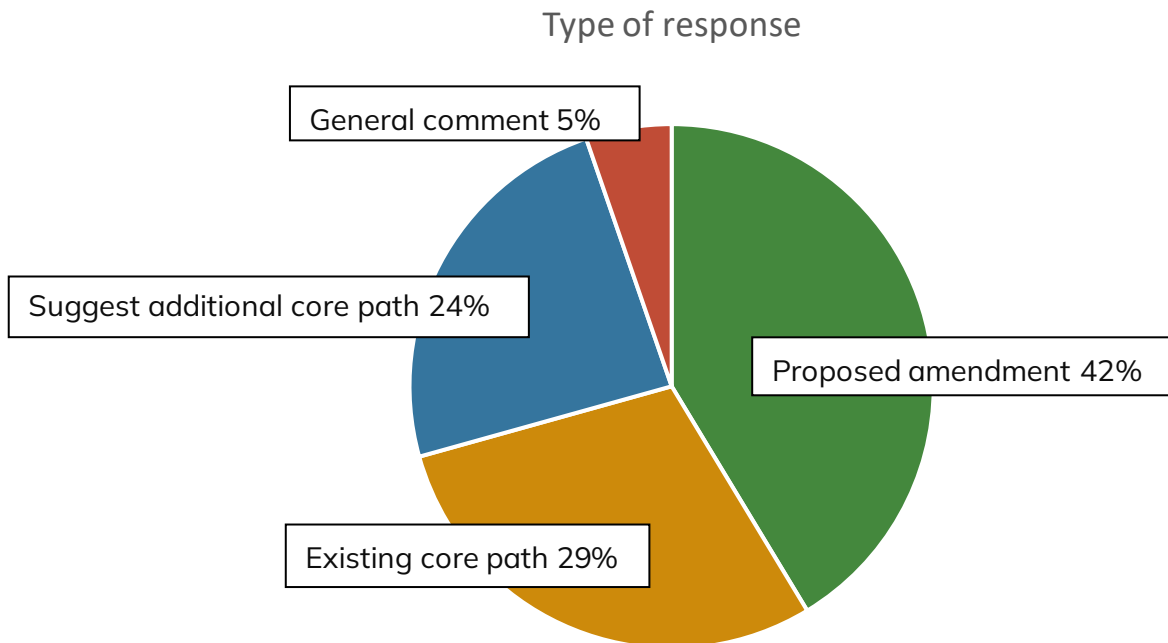


## Responses received

15. General
- a) 11 general responses which included comments on the whole network or paths in general.
16. Existing core paths
- a) 61 comments about existing core paths:
    - i. 22 related to maintenance or suggestions for upgrading routes
    - ii. 28 suggested minor realignments / mapping updates
    - iii. 11 proposed de-designating existing core paths
17. Proposing an additional core path
- a) 50 comments suggesting an additional 39 routes for core path designation, of these five were suggestions for routes that do not exist and would require construction.



18. Commenting on a proposed amendment
- a) 86 comments in relation to the suggested amendments; 43 agreeing, 34 disagreeing and nine general comments



### Matters arising

19. The following themes have emerged from the informal consultation as being the most popular matters of interest, by volume of comments received.
- a) Nethy Bridge – the Tulloch moor track
  - b) Glenmore – the Allt Mor path from Glenmore to Cairngorm Mountain
  - c) Dulnain bridge to Balnaan road (unclassified road to Carrbridge)
  - d) Kingussie – the Speyside Way to Ruthven barracks
  - e) Aviemore – Carrbridge proposed NMU (non-motorised user route)
  - f) Newtonmore – the Wildcat trail at Allt Laraidh gorge
  - g) Laggan – core paths on main roads
  - h) Removal of core paths over private level crossings

### What happens next

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



21. 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 1.1

### Stakeholders

1. The following stakeholders were contacted regarding the informal consultation:
2. Agencies:
  - a) Cairngorms Business Partnership
  - b) Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS)
  - c) Historic Environment Scotland
  - d) National Trust for Scotland (Mar Lodge Estate)
  - e) NatureScot
  - f) Network Rail
  - g) RSPB (national and Abernethy and Insh reserves)
  - h) Strategic Transport Partnerships (HiTrans and Nestrans)
3. Land based:
  - a) Cairngorms Crofters and Farmers group
  - b) Individual landowners - 29 land managers (where additional core paths proposed on land)
  - c) Managing for Visitors working group
  - d) National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS)
  - e) Scottish Land and Estates
  - f) Rangers Services in the National Park:
    - i. Angus Alive
    - ii. Aberdeenshire council
    - iii. Balmoral Estate
    - iv. Cairngorm Mountain
    - v. EDF Energy
    - vi. Forestry and Land Scotland
    - vii. Glen Tanar Estate
    - viii. Invercauld Estate
    - ix. National Trust for Scotland (Killiecrankie / Mar Lodge)
    - x. NatureScot (Dinnet reserve)
    - xi. Rothiemurchus Estate



4. Recreational bodies:
  - a) Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland (DMinBS)
  - b) Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland (OATS)
  - c) Scottish Orienteering
  - d) Sport Scotland (Glenmore Lodge)
  - e) Sustrans
  - f) Scottish Outdoor Recreation Alliance (SORA):
    - i. BHS Scotland
    - ii. CyclingScotland
    - iii. Mountaineering Scotland
    - iv. PaddleScotland
    - v. Ramblers Scotland
    - vi. Scottish Sports Association
    - vii. ScotWays
  
5. Community bodies:
  - a) Community councils
  - b) Community path groups
  - c) Health Walk leaders
  - d) Marr Area Partnership (MAP)
  - e) Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey (VABS)
  - f) Community Woodlands:
    - i. Anagach Woods Trust
    - ii. Insh Community Holdings
    - iii. Kingussie Community Development Company (KCDC)
    - iv. Braemar Community Limited
    - v. Laggan Forest Trust
  
6. Other:
  - a) Cairngorms National Park's Equality Advisory Panel - consulted in January prior to the informal consultation.
  - b) Cairngorms Volunteer rangers
  - c) Outdoor Access officers at:



- i. Highland council
- ii. Aberdeenshire council
- iii. Perth and Kinross council
- iv. Moray council
- v. Angus council



## Annex 1.2

### Promotion

7. The informal consultation was promoted through publicity and events:  
(all dates 2025)
8. Publicity:
  - a) **News item** - Cairngorms National Park news item "[Call for views on Core paths plan review](#)" – on website and social media (June)
  - b) **Social media** - Cairngorms National Park social media reminder (August)
  - c) **Cairn magazine** – snippet in magazine posted to all households in the National Park (August)
  - d) **Newsletters:**
    - i. Highlands and Islands Climate Hub newsletter (June and July editions)
    - ii. Highlands Environmental Forum (2 x July editions and August edition)
    - iii. Marr Area Partnership newsletter (August edition)
9. Events:
  - a) Community events:
    - i. **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).
    - ii. **Laggan Community Paths and Playpark event** – attendance and display at drop in evening event (June)
    - iii. **Kingussie community meeting** – presentation on core paths and discussion session with representatives from Kingussie Community Development Company (KCDC), community council, path group and health walks group (August)
    - iv. **Health Walk leaders** (Badenoch and Strathspey) – presentation at event (May)
  - b) **Cairngorms Volunteer rangers** (new intake) – updated at event (May)