

## CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

## Update and forward look

Prepared by: Adam Streeter-Smith, Recreation and Access Manager

Purpose: This paper provides an update on the main areas of work both undertaken and planned.

## 1. Development and Management of core paths:

### **Old Logging Way**

Old Logging Way- In late 2023 it was surveyed by Cycletherapy from its off-road start point at Inverdruie to Glenmore. The resulting report recommends a range of interventions from repairs, surface refurbishment, realignments and upgrades.

Main Issues to be addressed include:

- Some sections are too narrow.
- Some sections suffer badly in **wet weather, submerging** parts of the track.
  - Some sections are too steep.
- Vegetation hinders **visibility** for two-way traffic and at road crossing points.
- Road crossing visibility for users and drivers is decreasing as vegetation encroaches on visibility splays.
  - **Signage** is insufficient.
  - Speed control wooden chicanes aren't suitable for all types of users.

The blind bend (opposite Colyumbridge Hotel) is in the process of being redesigned along with the chicanes at the Inverdruie and the campsite end of this section and this work will be out to tender hopefully by the end of 2024.

#### **Speyside Way**

- <u>Directional signage</u> The directional signage (fingerposts and waymarkers) between
  Aviemore and the Park boundary (beyond Cromdale) is currently being updated. These
  works will upgrade the remainder of the dated brown posts to new green posts in line with
  the rest of the trail. The works are expected to be completed by the end of 2024 (weather
  dependent).
- Speyside Way Kincraig. Planning permission to realign a section of the route near Kincraig that is very steep has been secured and OATS have secured a contractor who is



due to start the work mid-November. The path will need to be closed at this section (with a rough diversion in place) for approx. two weeks while the works are being carried out.

• Speyside Way – Park boundary (north) to Nethy Bridge section. Tender currently being written to remove, modify or replace where appropriate the gates (notably the dated "rambler" style). This is hoped to go out to local contractors by the end of November.

### 2. Other Path Projects-

#### **Charter Chest Path**

The Charter Chest path linking Braemar and Keiloch is now complete and was officially opened on 1<sup>st</sup> November. Waymarking is currently being produced to be installed. It is also planned to install seating and interpretation.

#### **Community Path Leaflets**

The Strathdon path leaflet has been revised and updated in collaboration with the Strathdon path group. Leaflet can be viewed <u>on our website</u>. The panels proposed alongside this are on hold due to the budget situation.

# 3. Boat of Garten dog walking pilot

A community "thank-you" day was held in Boat of Garten at the end of September following the spring / summer campaign aimed at residents to be good Capercaillie neighbours. The feedback from this event will help shape the decisions about the work being planned for next year. This is to be confirmed, but likely to be a phase II in Boat of Garten addressing some of the points raised during the pilot, shifting messaging to target the 'frequent visitor' audience and expanding the geographical area to include neighbouring sections of Abernethy NNR.

Trends from the monitoring work suggest that more dogs were on leads this year and positive indicators of Capercaillie breeding increased.