

Improving Digital Connectivity

Broadband & Mobile



Progress Update 4 - May 2013

Cairngorms National Park Authority continue to work with Partners to improve Broadband in the National Park. We are also working with a nationwide Government project to deliver improved mobile coverage to those areas with very poor mobile reception. Watch this space for further updates.

Scottish Government (SG) and Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE) are working with Local Authorities to deliver superfast Broadband to the whole of Scotland by 2020 with a step-change by 2015. The aim for 2015 is to have 75-85% of the population receiving 40Mbps or above – the remaining 15-25% should have at least 2Mbps. To get an update [click here](#).

VisitScotland Report

POOR wi-fi, broadband and mobile phone access is the biggest area of concern for visitors to Scotland, a survey has found. VisitScotland's survey of more than 3300 people who took holidays in Scotland found there were complaints about large swathes of the country. To find out more [click here](#).

Community Broadband Scotland's Pioneering Communities Seminar, Aviemore

On 24th & 25th of April participants from across Scotland gathered at Community Broadband Scotland's (CBS) Pioneering Communities Seminar in Aviemore. The event was a chance for existing community broadband projects and CBS pioneer projects to come together with partners, guest speakers and other community groups, as well as the newly formed CBS team, whose role will be focused on providing advice and guidance to community-led broadband initiatives.

The seminar included an overview of the Scottish Government's Digital Strategy and how CBS fits into the government's connectivity vision. Also, representatives from the 6 pioneer communities (including two from the Cairngorms National Park; Tomintoul & Glenlivet, and Corgarff & Glenbuchat) and 4 existing projects (including Badenoch Broadband) gave presentations about their projects. Each community's presentation depicted the progress made, challenges faced and the solutions used to overcome these. The input from the pioneer and existing projects proved to be some of the most highly regarded of the event.

CBS plan to use this feedback to develop a suite of support services for community-led broadband initiatives. The website will become an information hub for existing and aspiring community broadband projects: full of resources, tools, blogs and case studies. CNPA would encourage any communities with an interest in developing a project to [get in touch with CBS](#) to tap into the range of expertise and information available.

Pioneer Projects in the CNP: Each pioneer project has a dedicated page on the CBS website, which will be further populated over the coming months with updates and blogs sharing their experiences and learning.

Tomintoul and Glenlivet and Corgarff & Glenbuchat are both working closely with Community Broadband Scotland and CNPA and are both currently undertaking mapping exercises to assess the geographical and technological challenges involved. Also in March both groups visited Badenoch Broadband in Laggan to "speak to them about their experiences, learn and share knowledge as they embark on their own projects."

For more information contact [David Watson](#) at Cairngorms National Park Authority.



Corgarff and Glenbuchat

Corgarff and Glenbuchat consists of a number of small dispersed settlements within glens. The area is also remote from serving BT exchanges with many residents currently relying on a satellite broadband provision. The Corgarff & Glenbuchat pioneer project is located in Aberdeenshire on the edge of the Cairngorms National Park and hopes to serve over 100 properties in the region.

The Community is working with CBS on this project, with additional advice and support given by Deeside:Donside Development Project, Aberdeenshire Council and CNPA.



Tomintoul and Glenlivet

Tomintoul and Glenlivet contains a number of remote, inland mountain communities mostly located within The Moray Council area of the Cairngorms National Park. The area includes the highest village (Tomintoul) in the Highlands and is remote from many services. Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust are working with CBS to assist in an area that will cover an estimated 800 properties. The project offers many challenges to any broadband project due to the remote and mountainous location that is distanced from many services and from the BT service exchange. The area also has patchy mobile coverage.

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