

Deeside Visitor Management Plan

Summer 2020

Overview

This Plan is a subset of the overall Cairngorms wide plan for the easing of lockdown. This plan will also tie in with specific plans being put in place by individual landowners. The timescales of these specific plans may differ, depending on the capacity each land manager has available to safely reopen facilities and services.

Timescales (based on SG Guidance)

Phase 1 - 28 May until next review on 18 June

- You will also be permitted to travel short distances for outdoor leisure and exercise but advice to stay within a short distance of your local community and travel by walk, wheel and cycle where possible.
- In this phase we are planning to allow unrestricted outdoors exercise adhering to distancing measures and non-contact outdoor activities in the local area - such as golf, hiking, canoeing, outdoor swimming, angling – consistent with the wider rules and guidance applicable to any activity in this phase.
- In this phase we are planning the gradual opening of drive through food outlets as well as the re-opening of garden centres and plant nurseries with physical distancing. Associated cafes (e.g. in garden centres) should not reopen at this stage except for take away.

Phase 2 – Potentially from 18 June but no decision until review point

- People will be able to drive locally for leisure and exercise purposes.
- Pubs and restaurants can open outdoor spaces with physical distancing and increased hygiene routines

Phase 3 – Timescale Unknown

- In this phase you can drive beyond your local area for leisure and exercise purposes.
- Pubs and restaurants can open indoor spaces with physical distancing and increased hygiene routines.

Key Times for Visitor Management

- Friday – Sun is key visitor times
- School summer holidays from 3 July

On the Ground Staff Resources

Organisation	Numbers	Date Active	Work Underway
CNPA	3 seasonal rangers + volunteer rangers in time	End June	Patrol routes being developed
Balmoral	2 Rangers	Continuing	Ongoing
Glen Tanar	1.6 Rangers	Continuing	Agreed workplan, RAs, method of work, & engagement strategy
NTS	TBC	TBC	

Police Scotland			
SNH			
FLS	One Ranger covering the Aberdeenshire area who is currently non-essential and as such working from home.		
Aberdeenshire Council	1 full-time Ranger for Marr area.	In post. Hotspot patrols to begin 29 th May, Friday to Sunday, staff resource allowing.	Hotspot monitoring patrol routes developed for all Aberdeenshire areas. Routes will be responsive to demand across Aberdeenshire.

Key Hotspots

Key Countryside Location	Risk	Manager	Car Park capacities & other info	Toilets & proposed reopening date (where known)
Muir of Dinnet	Yellow	SNH	Car park capacity is 37 and our preferred COVID capacity would be 15	Closed at present
Cambus o May	Yellow	FLS	30 car capacity	No toilets
Glen Tanar	Red	Glen Tanar Estate Glen Tanar Charitable Trust GTE GTE	Top car park 5 cars (currently closed, as next to community, proposal is to keep it closed) Visitor Centre 35 (currently closed) Swans Neck 6 (open) + overflow addition 20 (currently closed, being cut/prepared) Golf Course 000's (currently closed, will need a cut), provides surge capacity - would need Marshalling from Bridge of Ess, past GT House back onto Glen road by the Estate office	Male x1 urinal x1 toilet + x1 washbasin Female x1 + x1 washbasin + disabled x1 + x1 washbasin (shared entrance) Cleaning capacity is a significant constraint on usage
Dinnet	Yellow	COAT	20 cars	Open
Crathie	Red	Balmoral	Used mainly for Castle visitors but increasingly for the Cairns walks – 136 cars, 5 camper vans plus 8 coaches so pretty much space for 150	Loos/VIC - currently are closed no plans to reopen yet.

			cars, we also have overflow capacity.	
Loch Muick		Balmoral Estate	Glen Muick 60 spaces plus coach park, no formal marking so density varies considerably. You may be aware that we have, through OATS, applied for planning permission to construct a new "summer " car park in the field west of the Spittal burn. It strikes me that this could, with minimal work be a temporary overflow car park if we need additional capacity and to ensure that the road stays open.	A member of the Ranger team has volunteered to clean the loos subject to Aberdeenshire Council doing a deep clean before they open. The visitor centre would remain closed.
Keiloch Car Park		Invercauld Estate	40 spaces	WC Closed
Callater		Invercauld Estate	20 spaces	
Linn of Dee		NTS	Linn of Dee 76 cars. Quoich 20 cars.	
Layby's on roads		Aberdeenshire Council & landowners	Various	Mixture of open and blocked

Key Villages

Village	Risk	Manager	Car Park capacities	Toilets & proposed reopening date (where known)
Aboyne		Aberdeenshire Council	Station Square (Front) 41 free spaces 2 electric vehicle charge points (50kw) Station Square (Rear) 20 free spaces (unmarked) Shopping Square 56 free spaces 4 disabled spaces 10 non-covered cycle spaces	Ballater Road, AB34 5HY with disabled & baby change. Date tbc
Ballater		Aberdeenshire Council	Church Square	The Square, AB35 5NE with disabled and baby change. Date tbc

			<p>45 free spaces 6 free lorry/bus spaces 2 disabled spaces</p> <p>Station Square (Front) 19 free spaces 4 disabled spaces</p> <p>Station Square (Rear) 26 free spaces</p>	
Braemar		Aberdeenshire Council	<p>Balnellan Road 28 free spaces 3 disabled spaces 1 electric vehicle charge point (50kw)</p> <p>The Mews 18 free spaces (unmarked) 3 disabled spaces 14 non-covered cycle spaces</p>	Balnellan Road, AB35 5YP with disabled and baby change. Date tbc

Key Actions to progress

Signage

Action	Owner	Timescale
Consistent signage for sites & access to be developed and distributed e.g. car park full.	Adam-Streeter Smith, CNPA	Temporary signs distributed. Contract let for developing suite to be available by mid/end of June.
3x variable message signs to be deployed on Deeside in conjunction with sign at Dinnet	Pete Crane, CNPA Richard Murray, AC	In progress. Company contacted for quote

Messaging (link to main cairngorms wide comms plan)

Action	Owner	Timescale
Consistent messages deployed across partners & CNPA website kept up to date with latest information. Start to add what car parks, toilets etc are open where at the right time.	Francoise VB, CNPA + partners comms	Ongoing. Already done for all weekends so far

Car park capacity & temporary car parks

Action	Owner	Timescale
Key landowners (NTS, Glen Tanar, Balmoral) to establish potential for temporary car parks, location and capacity to use if necessary later in the summer	Landowners	Ongoing.

Webcams to be deployed where possible to provide real-time information. Hosted on CNPA website and others. Potential to link to user friendly traffic light system for car parks e.g. red full, green open and available.	Adam Street Smith, CNPA + landowners	By end of June 2020. Details being established of connectivity
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Toilets and Facilities

Action	Owner	Timescale
Key public toilets to reopen safely in due course. Key issue and need to get agreed guidance of how to do this safely	Local Authorities & site managers	Ongoing but review position prior to 18 June.
Information to be made clear where bins are not being picked up. Take your litter home key message	Site managers & AC	Message in all comms

Active Travel

Action	Owner	Timescale
Develop a Spaces for People application potentially around Loch Muick and Linn of Dee roads to make them cycle friendly.	Pete Crane, CNPA Belinda Miller, AC	Proposal in development for application in June if going ahead