

ATV User Guide

Looking after your open hill ground



The Cairngorms National Park is an outstanding area of international importance, and land managers play a key role in demonstrating the highest standards of management. ATVs can be essential for upland management but they can also damage fragile habitats and lead to expensive ground repairs.

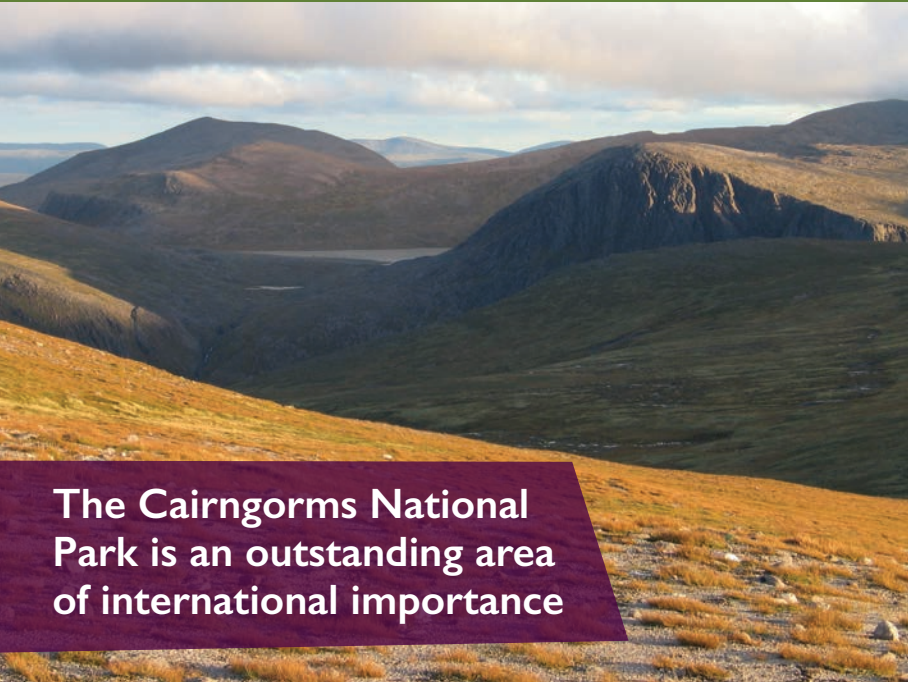
This checklist covers the use of powered vehicles such as: quad bike, Argocat and 4WD, on the open hill. It's not intended to cover forest or farm work. It will help you look after your hill ground and protect the special habitats of the Cairngorms National Park.

1 Always plan your route before setting off, and remember:

- the best routes may not be the shortest
- where possible, make use of existing constructed tracks
- always aim for tougher vegetation surfaces such as dry heath

2 Avoid fragile areas:

- wet, soft ground such as peat moss
- higher altitude delicate thin soils
- steep slopes vulnerable to wash-out
- some designated habitats



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3

Stop using your route before vegetation starts showing signs of damage.



4

Where damage is unavoidable, small scale measures such as temporary matting can help reduce the impacts.

You are likely to require planning permission for any works or structures that are installed for more than 28 days. To avoid a possible breach of planning control, please check with your local authority planning department or the Cairngorms National Park Authority at planning@cairngorms.co.uk before undertaking any work.

5

Use the right vehicle for the job and terrain.

6

Minimise the load.

7

Maintain your vehicle, including the right tyre pressure, so it runs smoothly and efficiently.

8

Ensure everyone using ATVs on your land is properly trained.

ATV Safety

It is a legal requirement for employers to provide adequate training for employees who use ATVs. This checklist is not a safety guide.

For further information visit: www.lantra.co.uk

This guidance has been produced by the Cairngorms National Park Authority, with the assistance of the Cairngorms Upland Advisory Group.

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