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## CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

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**Title:** Outdoor Access Casework

**Prepared by:** Fran Potheary, Outdoor Access Officer

**Purpose:** To update the Forum on casework concerning upholding access rights and outdoor access casework

### Advice Sought:

No specific advice is sought by the Park Authority but Forum members are invited make points as they see fit.

### LIVE CASES

Forum members are reminded that a column has been added to the spreadsheet which indicates the date of the last correspondence with the complainant.

### NEW CASES

**Case 3 Ballater** – this is a fresh complaint over an old case. It concerns a narrow deer fence kissing gate which is inaccessible to bikes. CNPA staff will attend the next Ballater Community Council meeting in an effort to get community support or intervention in approaching the land owner.

**Case 4 Ballater** – this is a fresh complaint over an old case. It concerns a gate which is difficult to open – though unlocked. CNPA staff will attend the next Ballater Community Council meeting in an effort to get community support or intervention in approaching the land owner.

**Case 5 Ballater** – this is a fresh complaint over an old case. It concerns a locked gate on a boundary between FCS and private estate ground on a route up a popular local hill. The gate has been temporarily locked in the past – the complainant has been asked to check it again and a member of CNPA staff will be contacting the Estate to discuss the obstruction.

**Case 7 Braemar** – a member of public notified us of a locked gate on a suspension bridge over the Dee at Ballochbuie. The Estate has been identified and contact made, we are awaiting a response.

**Case 12 Dalwhinnie** – a member of public notified us of a locked stock gate at the start of the track to a popular Munro, Meall a' Cuaich. The gate is off the A9 which may be a factor in why it is now locked (prevention of sheep straying onto trunk road). The Estate has been contacted and we are awaiting a response.

**Case 13 Dalwhinnie** – this case concerns the duelling of the A9 at Crubenmore just south of Ralia, and the difficulties it poses for safe crossing of the trunk road, especially for horse-

riders wishing to access the tracks and right of way at Etteridge. See LOAF Paper 2 for more details.

**Case 17 Glenlivet** – this case involves reports of walkers being harassed by an aggressive reindeer on the Hills of Cromdale. Meetings have been held with the reindeer proprietors and action taken to identify and contain the offending beast and erect warning signage for the time when the animals are loose on the hill.

**Case 21 River Garry, Perthshire** – CNPA were copied in a letter from Pitlochry Angling Club to the NTS about concern that commercial rafting is interfering with fishing at Pass of Killiecrankie. Access staff have been in touch with colleagues at Perth and Kinross Council and established that this is a long standing issue. CNPA have responded to PAC and offered to help with solutions jointly with PKC.

## UPDATES

**Case 2 Ballater** – the turnstile gates on the historic Cambus o' May suspension bridge are very obstructive to bikes and pushchairs. It appears that there should be no issue with removing the gates as they do not form part of the Listed Structure, however there could be an issue of additional loading as a result of increasing access and this is being looked into by a local authority engineer at present.

**Case 9 Boat of Garten** - access point to river is obstructed by a locked stock gate. A dilapidated stile offers an alternative and whilst none of the barriers are impassable, this is a very popular launch point in the summer. The Estate is amenable to a new gate, now awaiting progress of planning application which will lay open the opportunity to improve access.

**Case 22 Kincaig** – Several issues associated with human fouling; bird disturbance; pike fishing and provision of public toilets at popular bird-watching, canoe launching and sight seeing sites on the Spey. A Visitor Management Plan is proposed and a meeting between Estates and Community Council pending.

**Case 29 Laggan/ Newtonmore** – Member of public complained that he had been prevented from walking a RoW and popular hill route due to stalking activity and that the signage had been inaccurate. We are awaiting feedback from Highland Council Ranger who was in discussion with the stalker.

**Case 31 Nethybridge** – local resident complained to local MSP about a difficult-to-open gate being closed from farmyard onto the Speyside Way. CNPA met with the complainant and will go back to land owner with a suggestion for modifying the gate.

## CLOSED CASES

**Case 11 Blair Atholl** – two locked gates on hill route offer an obstruction to horse access. The Estate installed two new self horse-friendly gates.

**Case 15 Braemar** – new deer fence blocks an access route up a hillside gully to a popular hill top and viewpoint. New access gates have been installed which give reasonable access to the forestry block and onwards to the summit, though they are not installed to the gully.

**Case 19 Cromdale** – a report was received from a member of the public regarding poor signage about shooting on a right of way. The Estate has removed the sign.

**Case 26 Glenmore NEW** – concerns were raised by the FCS about walkers damaging machine-pisted cross country ski tracks during the cold spell in December. Help with informational signage was offered.

## **HORSE ISSUES**

Following the last LOAF meeting, the Park Authority is giving further consideration to the matter of access for hill riding on horseback e.g. long distance riding or cross-Scotland treks. The next stage will be to identify hill-riding contacts in the Park and convene a meeting - the purpose of which will be to explain the role of the Park Authority in upholding access rights; give feedback from CNPA's contact with Estates regarding horse-riding access; and collate shared information and contacts. Using maps, the opportunity will be taken to confirm the major routes connecting across the Park. The meeting will be focused on upland access issues and is not intended to replicate the work of the CNP Riding Centre Marketing initiative. Currently work is underway to identify the main contacts and find a date for a gathering.

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