



► Butterflies and moths in the Cairngorms are being given a boost.

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► Phase one of the Park's point of entry signage project is almost complete.

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► Deer management needs careful planning within the Park.

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THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Parklife

Pick of the paths!



Cyclists enjoy a day out near Boat of Garten

A big “Thank You” goes out to everyone who has contributed towards the Park Authority’s work on developing a Core Paths Plan for the Park.

During September, October and November last year, lots of people attended meetings and other events and went online to tell the CNPA which paths in their community are important to them. This work marks

the first phase of developing a comprehensive Core Paths Plan, which will be an important document to help the CNPA and partners manage the paths in a better way.

Senior outdoor access officer Bob Grant explained: “Core Paths are those which are seen as main routes which provide links for people to access the wider path network. The range of core paths identified in the Plan will provide opportunities for everyone

including walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and canoeists to get about and to access a variety of other paths and places.

“Core paths will be easy to find and to follow with good signposting to give people the confidence to use them. Where possible the core paths will be barrier free to allow people of all ages and abilities to get around their area whether it be for getting to the shops, walking the dog or enjoying the outdoors.”

continued on page two

Pick of the paths! continued

Sandra Middleton, outdoor access officer added: “The response we have had has been fantastic, people have been really enthusiastic about the paths in their communities and many local land owners and recreational groups have been getting involved too.

“We have taken on board all of their comments and suggestions and we aim to have a first draft of

the Core Paths Plan completed by the end of March this year when we will be giving people the opportunity to tell us what they think of it.”

For more information about core paths planning and how you can have your say, please go to: www.cairngorms.co.uk/access or contact the CNPA’s outdoor access team on tel: 013397 53607 or email: outdooraccess@cairngorms.co.uk.



Park residents highlight the paths that are important to them

ORGANISATION

National Park elections

Voting for the locally elected seats on the CNPA board takes place in March 2007.

Of the 25 board members, ten are appointed by Scottish Ministers, ten are nominated by the four local authorities in the Park and five are elected by the public for a term of office of four years.

Candidates must be over 21

years of age, and although they do not have to live in the Park, they must gather support from ten Park residents who are on the electoral register.

Further information on the elections will appear in the local press over the course of the next few weeks with the poll itself, which will be by postal ballot, due to take

place in early March. Every person who is on the electoral roll within the Cairngorms National Park is entitled to vote and will receive a ballot paper through the post.

The Highland Council organise the elections on behalf of the Park Authority. For more information please contact John Bruce on tel: 01349 868524.



Parklife is distributed to all householders and businesses in the Park two times a year. Maps have been incorporated in this publication to assist with the identification of wards in the upcoming board member elections. Reproduction is prohibited without permission of the copyright holders. The representation of features or boundaries in which CNPA or others have an interest does not necessarily imply their true positions. The map must not be used for navigation.

WILDLIFE

Butterfly and moth boost

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION/ROY LEVERTON



Dark Bordered Beauty

Butterflies and moths in the Cairngorms are being given a boost with the appointment of a Butterfly and Moth project officer.

Butterfly Conservation Scotland, in partnership with the CNPA, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan and along with funding support from LEADER+, has employed Yvonne Malcolm to look after the initiative.

A key part of Yvonne's role is

raising awareness of the importance of the Cairngorms National Park for a range of different butterfly and moth species as well as working with landowners and managers providing advice on improving habitat for butterflies and moths.

The Cairngorms is a key area for butterfly conservation but butterflies and moths across the area are very under-recorded and there is a need for improved data on the status and

distribution of many species.

For this reason, the project also involves various events including training workshops, field trips, and volunteering events to encourage more people to get involved in recording butterflies and moths.

For more information please contact Yvonne at the CNPA's offices in Grantown-on-Spey on tel: 01479 873535 or email: enquiries@cairngorms.co.uk

PERSONNEL

New convener for CNPA

David Green has been elected as the Park Authority's new convener. He took over the position last September after Andrew Thin stood down to take up the appointment of chairman of Scottish Natural Heritage.

A self employed crofter, David also runs a self-catering tourism business from the family croft in Achiltibuie. David is currently chair of the Crofters Commission and is a previous convener of The Highland Council. He has been a CNPA board member since the organisation was established in 2003.

Speaking of his new role David said: "It is a huge privilege to lead the National Park Authority and I am keen to work with the board and staff to look after and promote this wonderful area."

Eric Baird remains as deputy convener of the CNPA board and Sandy Park continues his role as the deputy convener of the Park Authority's planning committee. Read David Green's column on page eight.

POLICY

Plan Updates

PARK PLAN

The National Park Plan for the Cairngorms has been completed and submitted to the Scottish Executive for approval.

The National Park Plan – which sets out the long term vision (25 years) for the Park as well as priorities for the first five years of the Plan (2007-2012) – was sent to Ministers at the end of 2006. Once approved, the National Park Plan will be published and a summary will be circulated later in the year to everyone living in the Park.

Hamish Trench, national park plan officer at the CNPA explained: "The National Park Plan will guide the work of all agencies operating within the Cairngorms National Park, in working towards the aims of the Park. It is not just for the CNPA, but for everyone with an interest in creating a successful National Park.

"Having discussed what should be in the Park Plan with communities and other organisations over the last two years,

the challenge for everyone now is to make some of these things happen."

Look out for more information when the Park Plan is published.

LOCAL PLAN

The Local Plan is on course to be placed on deposit this summer. Much of last year was spent considering the comments received on the consultative draft Local Plan, developing policy and filling gaps in information.

The board will deliberate housing policy for inclusion in the Local Plan in the spring, with a view to approving the finalised Local Plan soon after.

Once the Local Plan is placed on deposit there will be a formal consultation period. However, it is likely that a Local Plan Inquiry will have to take place, which will happen in the spring of 2008.

ENVIRONMENT

Silver Green Award for CNPA!



Sarah Quirie, Mandy Mathieson and Laura Grant of the CNPA receive the silver Green Award

The CNPA's offices in Grantown-on-Spey are proving to be very 'green', having achieved a silver award through the Green Tourism Business Scheme.

The Green Tourism Business Scheme encourages businesses to adopt environmentally friendly practices in the day to day running of their premises and operations in a bid to help protect the environment.

The types of simple 'green' measures that the Park Authority has introduced include ensuring that all leaflets are printed using environmentally friendly materials, encouraging staff to think before printing and encouraging recycling of paper; aluminium cans and other waste materials by providing appropriate bins or collection points around the office.

PLANNING

E-planning arrives in the Cairngorms

Anyone with an interest in planning in the Cairngorms National Park can now access planning information online, with planning applications available to view on the CNPA website.

As part of the Scottish Executive's efficient government drive, all local authorities and national park authorities in Scotland are introducing e-planning facilities.

Planning officers' reports and minutes of the CNPA's planning committee meetings have always been available online but this new system allows people to access much more detailed information about planning applications and track their progress.

Don McKee, the CNPA's head of planning and development control said: "We have always taken a very open approach at the Park Authority however, e-planning means that people now have far greater access to information on planning applications that affect them or their communities. I think it will also help to make planning easier to understand."

TOURISM

Park signs show the way

CNPA



Point of Entry Marker at Glenlivet

The first phase of the Cairngorms National Park point of entry signage project is almost complete. Of the 21 granite markers scheduled to be installed as part of this first phase, only two have still to be put in place.

The striking markers began to make a welcome appearance last summer and vary from boulder style markers – featuring just the osprey image from the Park brand, which are located on minor country roads – to three metre markers made from three panels of silver granite, featuring the bird and the words ‘Cairngorms National Park’ in English and Gaelic inlaid in black granite. Markers have also been installed on the Speyside Way and National Cycle Route Seven.

The next phase of the project – to install markers on the four trunk

roads into the Park on the A9 at Slochd and Drumochter, on the A95 and the A86 – is scheduled to take place later this year.

The markers have been manufactured by Fyfe Glenrock in Oldmeldrum from stone sourced from Deeside, with Poseidon Design, also from Oldmeldrum, crafting the black granite inlay. Aaron Lawton Associates from Pitlochry were contracted to help plan the project and design the markers and Stirling-based Ian White Associates are responsible for landscape design with Hunter Construction, from Aberdeen, in charge of installation.

Pete Crane, of the CNPA’s visitor services and recreation group said: “We are proud to say that the vast majority of products and

services associated with this project have been sourced within Scotland. First impressions matter and we have been able to produce a high quality product, giving people a real sense of arrival into the National Park. The feedback so far has been really positive and we look forward to completing the next and final phase by the end of this year.”

The cost of the project to this stage, including upgrades to car parks and lay-bys, is £522,000 with funding coming from the European Regional Development Fund; Scottish Enterprise Grampian; HIE Inverness and East Highland; The Highland Council; Moray Council; Rees Jeffries Road Fund; as well as the CNPA’s contribution of £328,000.

Free courses for all in the Park!

Anyone living or working in the Cairngorms National Park will be able to apply to take part in free courses through the Land Based Business Training Project, after it was agreed to pilot an expansion of the successful scheme.

The CNPA's Land Based Business Training Project has been running for three years and was initially set up to encourage all those working on estates, farms, crofts, nurseries, woodlands or those working in the outdoor recreation sector to take up more training opportunities.

The scheme can part fund training for land based businesses which will help improve the competitiveness and efficiency of a business such as the use and maintenance of machinery, equipment and vehicles; environmental courses; IT and business skills and health and safety.

A very popular strand of the project has been the fully funded public

benefit courses, which help land based businesses deliver the aims of the Park. It is this particular section of the programme that is being expanded, allowing anyone living or working in the Park to access these valuable training opportunities through the 'Public Benefits for All' pilot.

Courses delivered through 'Public Benefits for All' are free and will help people gain a clearer understanding of the aims of the Cairngorms National Park and some training will give them the practical skills to help deliver those aims.

The Land Based Business Training Project is funded by the CNPA and the European Social Fund. For more information please contact Kate Christie on tel: 01479 870535 / email: katechristie@cairngorms.co.uk



1

1. Participants learn about the geology of the Park
CNPA

2. 'Using wood fuel' is a course taking place in 2007
CNPA

3. 'Disability Awareness' training is also taking place
CNPA/STEWART GRANT

4. Learn about wildflowers like these forget-me-nots
JIMMY MITCHELL

5. People learning how to monitor habitats
CNPA



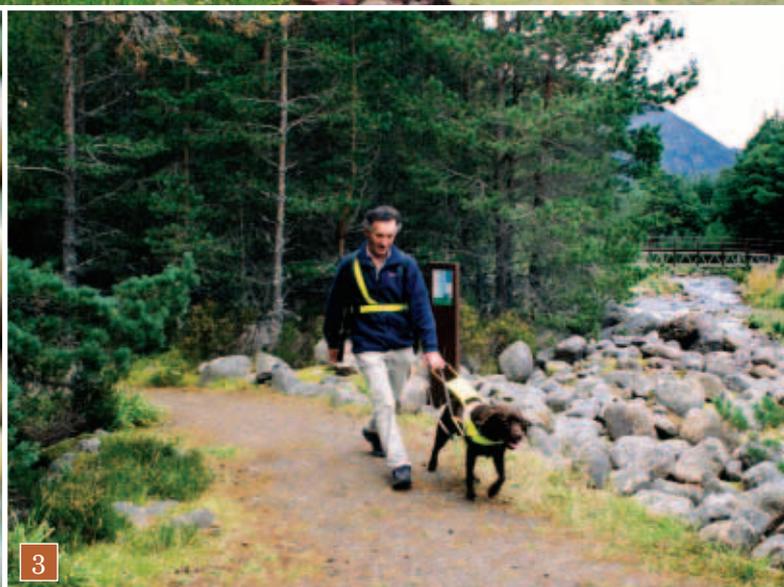


Free courses to look out for in 2007

- * Butterfly Management
- * Conserving the Cairngorms
- * Wildflower Management & Identification
- * The Use of Wood Fuel
- * How the Countryside Sector Works
- * The Geology of the Cairngorms
- * Pond Creation & Habitat Management



2



3



4



5

- * Tick Control
- * The Scottish Outdoor Access Code
- * Understanding the Planning System
- * Disability Awareness
- ...and many, many more!!



CNPA/STEWART GRANT

THE GREEN OUTLOOK

David Green, convener of the Cairngorms National Park Authority

I've been Convener of the Cairngorms National Park Authority for over five months now and I've really enjoyed getting out and about around the area, meeting up with individuals and groups that I've not had the chance to sit down and have a chat with before.

I obviously can't go round the whole Park meeting everyone individually so I thought I'd use Parklife to let you know a bit about myself and my aspirations for the Park.

I stay up in Achiltibuie, working as a fully diversified crofter running a few sheep and a small self catering business on the croft. Having brought up a family of four here with my wife

Sheila – who was born on the family croft up the road in Achnahaird – I understand the issues facing the Park, which are similar to the north west coast. Spiralling house prices outwith the reach of young folk and the steady drift of our youngsters away from the area are unfortunately common challenges across the Highlands and Islands.

Being a crofter, naturally I'm involved with the Crofters Commission and I'm a previous chair of The Highland Council – positions that have come with their own unique challenges and valuable learning experiences.

With fellow board members and partners I am passionate about promoting and protecting, and looking after the people and the communities in the Cairngorms, which is designated a national park for its special qualities. This includes the rare species and habitats that can

be found here and we need to ensure the utmost protection and enhancement for these.

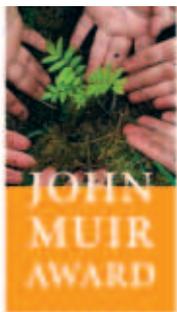
Of course there is so much more to the area, and so many things happening are dependent on other factors. Take young people – they are key to the future of the Park and without a young and well trained workforce, who can afford to live in the Park, we risk becoming nothing more than a retirement or a holiday location.

Of course, housing that is affordable plays a crucial role in encouraging young people to stay here or return so the Park's developing housing policy has to be effective.

There is an opportunity for this Park to be an exemplar for Scotland and beyond. This should be an area where new and innovative policies can be tried and tested and if successful, rolled out to other areas of Scotland facing similar challenges.

EDUCATION

John Muir Award set to continue



Wild Places
discover - explore
conserve - share

The John Muir Award in the Cairngorms has been so successful that the project is being extended for a further year.

The John Muir Award is the educational initiative of the John Muir Trust and is managed locally by the CNPA. It encourages groups or individuals of any age to discover, explore, conserve and share their experiences of wild places, whether they are on the doorstep or much further afield.

In the three years that the John Muir Award has been running in the Cairngorms over 2,300 people aged from primary school pupils to pensioners have achieved varying levels of the Award, helping to generate a greater understanding and awareness of the special qualities of the Park.

Alan Smith, the John Muir Award manager for the Cairngorms said:

"The extension of the project recognises the importance of the Award in enabling people to find out what a fantastic place the Cairngorms National Park is and encourages people to get involved in doing something to conserve it for current and future generations."

The John Muir Award in the Cairngorms is funded by the Park Authority, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Cairngorms LEADER+ programme.



JIMMY MITCHELL

Your gateway to discovering the Cairngorms

MANAGEMENT

Park Authority spells out deer role

JIMMY MITCHELL



Red Deer

Native red and roe deer are superb natural assets within the Park and are economically important in terms of deer stalking and venison production, which create jobs. However deer grazing can prevent young trees from growing and deer can also damage farm crops.

Deer damage has been the cause of much conflict in the Cairngorms over many years and reducing the conflict surrounding deer is a priority for the Park Authority.

Colin MacClean, one of the CNPA's integrated land management officers explained: "In order to reduce conflict, deer have to be carefully managed so we need a balance between the benefits of deer and the damage they cause. We want

to develop the planning behind deer management so that a wide range of interested parties are consulted about the decisions deer managers take.

"A key issue for us is also about improving communication and we would like to see the public better informed about deer and their management."

A key public policy over the next few years will be the protection of Natura designated sites from damage caused by deer. Natura sites cover some 25 per cent of the Park and agencies like the Deer Commission for Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry Commission Scotland have a legal duty to prevent damage on these sites.

Scientific evidence about grazing impacts on Natura sites and the animals which are causing them is being gathered, and where there is strong evidence that deer are causing damage, the Deer Commission can enforce reductions. Deer reductions may not be required on all sites and decisions will be based on scientific evidence. However the drive to protect Natura sites is likely to lead to lower deer populations in the Cairngorms as a whole.

Colin MacClean added: "The protection of Natura sites is a national policy, driven by the agencies already mentioned. Within the Cairngorms, the Park Authority will influence the process but will not drive it."



CNPA/STEWART GRANT

A wintery Granttown-on-Spey

POLICY

CNPA annual report

The Park Authority's annual report for 2005/06 is now available. To obtain a copy please contact the CNPA offices in Granttown-on-Spey on tel: 01479 873535 or email: enquiries@cairngorms.co.uk. Alternatively, the annual report can be accessed online at www.cairngorms.co.uk. The annual report is also available in large print format.

COMMUNICATIONS

Park news

Don't forget – Parklife is available in a variety of formats. You can read the newsletter on our website, www.cairngorms.co.uk, or we can provide you with copies of all the articles in large print. It's also available on audio cassette.

Also, the CNPA has a monthly e-bulletin service so that people – anywhere in the world – can keep up to date with the work of the Park Authority!

To subscribe to the CNPA's e-bulletin service, please log on to: www.cairngorms.co.uk and click on the e-bulletin button on the homepage.

Parklife
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Park's bold housing plan

THE CNPA HAS OUTLINED HOW IT HOPES TO TACKLE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROBLEMS IN THE PARK, IN A BID TO ACHIEVE MORE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES IN THE FUTURE.

The lack of access to affordable and good quality homes has been identified by many communities as a key issue facing the National Park. Young people and those on low incomes in particular need better opportunities to secure homes in their communities. Board members have agreed a preferred strategic direction for affordable housing in the area. Among the measures to be investigated further are: the principle of residency criteria to ensure that new market housing is meeting the economic and social needs of communities; exploring a change to planning legislation to the effect that a change of use from a permanent home into a second or holiday home would require planning permission; encouraging greater private sector investment and encouraging and supporting community owned low cost rented housing.

Studies carried out by Heriot-Watt and Manchester Universities for the Park Authority and based on current trends, has predicted that the number of people aged 60-74 living in the Park will increase by 85 per cent from 2001 to 2025 while the number of people

continued on page two

POLICY

Changes to planning committee and board meetings

The CNPA is changing the way it does business with new arrangements for its planning committee and board meetings. Planning committee meetings will continue to take place every two weeks but decisions on planning applications will now only happen once a month, with the call-ins list being dealt with every fortnight as normal.

The CNPA's board meetings are also changing. Rather than being held once a month for an afternoon, the board meetings will be held every other month over an entire day. The open meetings – which take place on the eve of a board meeting – are set to continue. Anyone can come along to these evening meetings, which take place in various locations across the National Park, to find out more about the work of the CNPA and raise any issues with board members.

All CNPA planning committee and board meetings are open to the public. Please check local press or the CNPA website for details of dates, times and venues for planning committee and board meetings in 2007.

Contact:

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www.cairngorms.co.uk

YOUR FEEDBACK

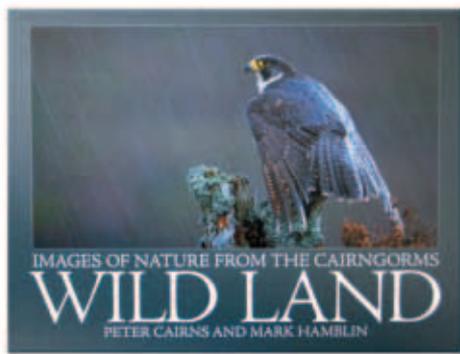
FEEDBACK FORM

Introduction

The Cairngorms National Park Authority distributes Parklife to all householders and businesses in the area twice a year. We hope that our readers find it interesting and informative, giving an insight into the varied work and projects which the Park Authority is involved in.

It is a priority for us to inform the local communities about the work of the CNPA and it's important that we communicate this information in the most relevant way for you. We would like to take this opportunity to hear your views and comments about Parklife so that we can plan how we might develop this service in the future.

We have compiled a short questionnaire and would be grateful if you could take a few moments to complete this. There is a FREEPOST address for returning it to us.



All completed forms will be put into a draw and the winner will receive a copy of the stunning book 'Wild Land: Images of nature from the Cairngorms' by Peter Cairns and Mark Hamblin. The draw will take place on Friday 30 March.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to hearing from you.

please tick

1 Do you read Parklife?

- Always (go to Q3)
 Sometimes (go to Q3)
 Never (go to Q2)

2 If you never read Parklife, please explain briefly why not (go to Q8)

3 Do you find Parklife

- Informative and useful
 Worth a quick read
 Uninformative

4 Which articles/sections do you find most interesting?

- Community
 Convener's column
 Environment
 Future meetings
 Tourism
 Housing
 Wildlife
 Training courses
 Recreation
 Others (please list)

5 What other subjects would you like to read about?

6 Do you find the newsletter easy to read?

- Yes (please go to Q8)
 No (please go to Q7)

7 What changes could we make to the newsletter to make it easier to read?

8 Do you read information about the Cairngorms National Park Authority elsewhere?

- No
 Newspapers
 Cairngorms National Park Authority website
 Community meetings
 Community newsletters

questionnaire
continued
overleaf

Please detach and return this form to:

Cairngorms National Park Authority FREEPOST NAT21454 Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3BR

YOUR FEEDBACK

FEEDBACK FORM

Garva Bridge over the River Spey



Glen Feshie



please tick

9 Do you know that Parklife is available in different formats?

Large print
 Yes No

Audio cassette
 Yes No

pdf on Cairngorms National Park Authority website
 Yes No

10 Would you like to continue to receive Parklife?

Yes
 No

11 Do you know that there is a monthly e-bulletin which you can sign up for on the CNPA website (www.cairngorms.co.uk)?

Yes (please go to Q12)
 No (please go to Q13)

12 Have you signed up for the CNPA ebulletin?

Yes
 No

13 Are there other ways in which you would like the Cairngorms National Park Authority to keep you informed about its work?

14 What age group are you in?

under 20
 21 – 40
 41 – 60
 61 +

15 Are you

Male
 Female

16 Which area of the Park do you live in?

Moray
 Deeside/Donside
 Badenoch and Strathspey
 Angus

If you wish to be entered into the draw for 'Wild Land', please complete the following details:

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

Telephone

Data Protection Act 1998: the personal details you supply will be used only by the Cairngorms National Park Authority and will not be made available to a third party.

Please detach and return this form to:
Cairngorms National Park Authority FREEPOST NAT21454 Granttown-on-Spey PH26 3BR

