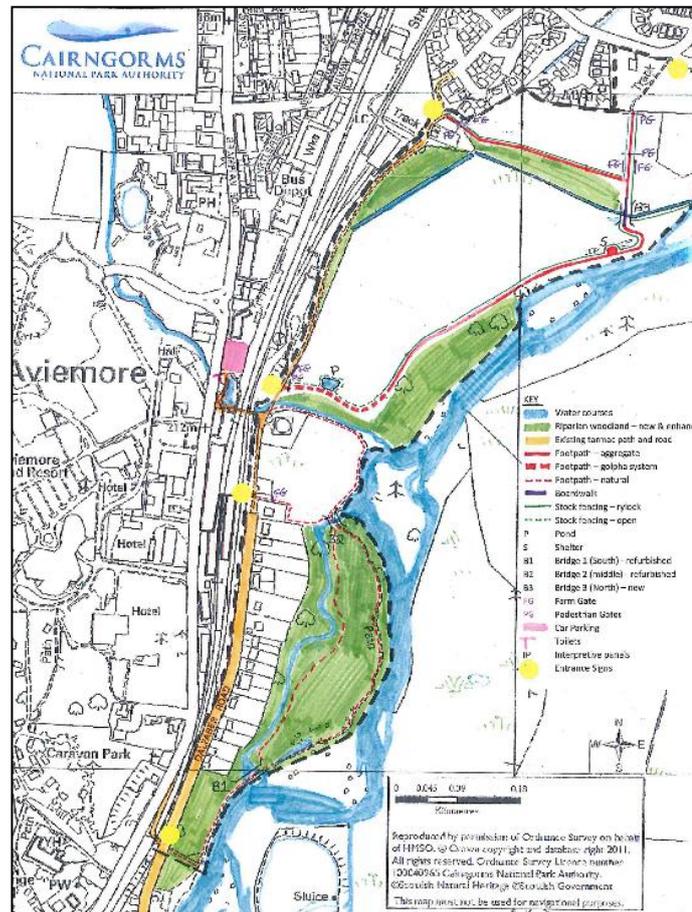




## Aviemore Riverside Park

Nov 14

In 2011 Aviemore & Vicinity Community Council (AVCC) secured a grant from the Big Lottery to develop plans for a riverside park on the banks of the River Spey. Over the following 18 months surveys were undertaken, a lease for the land agreed with Reidhaven Estates and planning permission obtained for the path and footbridge network, a shelter area and associated amenities and interpretive learning. The full package of works was costed at just over £250,000. Unfortunately the Stage 2 bid in early 2013 to secure the necessary funds for the construction phase was not successful and the project was put on hold.



Aviemore Riverside Park plan 2011

Aware of the benefits that this park could bring in terms of connecting and engaging a community with its river environment, the SCI Project Officer became involved and in the late summer of 2013 secured a significant level of funding from the Scottish Government via the Cairngorms National Park Authority “shovel ready” programme.



1.2km of new all ability footpaths and a new footbridge were constructed, associated fencing was erected and new mains water supply for livestock watering installed.



Nearly 3000 riparian trees provided by the Woodland Trust were planted through community events by local villagers, scouts, and schoolchildren as well as Spey Fishery Board personnel.



Royal Engineers from 71 Engineer Regiment refurbished two derelict footbridges and nearly 40m of raised boardwalk to reconnect an island with the main riverbank. Local scouts and community volunteers then cleared the old fisherman's path around the island to reopen what was once a popular riverside walk.

Hugely popular with visitors and locals alike, the paths now features on OS maps and offer an alternative off road route for part of the Speyside way. It has connected the residential areas of the village with the commercial end and improved the riparian environment on this section of riverbank.

Outstanding items from the original plan have still to be undertaken such as building the shelter and installing amenities and signage but responsibility for this now rests with the local community.

The Spey Catchment Initiative is supported by:

