

## Proposed Glenlivet mountain bike trails

The Crown Estate is investigating opportunities to help boost the local economy by establishing a centre for mountain biking in the Carn Daimh forest, near Tomintoul. Mountain biking is increasingly popular and mountain bike centres elsewhere have brought about significant economic benefits to remote rural areas.

A leading UK mountain bike trail designer has carried out a feasibility study at Glenlivet and identified three potential forest routes, which will provide challenging downhill riding while also offering stunning views of Glenlivet's spectacular scenery. These routes would be carefully integrated into the landscape, preserve the environment and not interfere with any existing land use activities.

The Crown Estate has been working with Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Moray Council, the Cairngorms National Park and Scottish Natural Heritage to develop the project plan and the funding support, which is essential for the project to go ahead. Should it gain community and agency support, the trails would hopefully be developed over the next three to four years. Moray Council has given its full support to the project and have applied for European funding to assist with a significant proportion of the costs.

Following the completion of the feasibility study we are now seeking the communities views on these proposals.

The Proposals:

- A **bike centre** based in the woods - the proposal is for a log cabin style building set amongst the trees with car parking/toilets. This would provide opportunities for new businesses to set up e.g. Cafe and bike shop/hire.
- **Three trails** starting and finishing at the bike centre. These could be ridden independently or as one large loop.
  - Route 1 (Carn Melilch) = 10km
  - Route 2 (Cairn Ballantruan) = 8km
  - Route 3 (Carn Daimh) =21kmThe trails will be a mix of existing forest track and newly built single track.

Should the mountain bike trails go ahead this would build on the existing recreational product that has been developed at Glenlivet and attract new audiences to the area. Similar projects have proven to be drivers of economic growth, with increased visitor numbers, opportunities for new business set up, creation of new jobs and increased revenue in the local area. There would also be future projects that could be considered such as further business development (uplift services, guiding etc) and additional trails (potential link route to the Lecht centre etc).

Feedback and comments should be returned in any format (letter / email / feedback form) to the Glenlivet Estate Office by **Friday 20th November**.

**Glenlivet Estate Office, Main Street, Tomintoul, AB37 9EX** (01479 870070) or email to [info@glenlivetestate.co.uk](mailto:info@glenlivetestate.co.uk)

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Location from Tomintoul (6km)

