

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs

Local Access Forum

Agenda Item 6

Access Team Update



Upholding Access Rights

1.1 Section 13 Public Access

Ardlui/ Garristuck

The non-compliant signage has now been removed

Drumlean

We have developed a series of recommendations on how to improve access through the Estate while at the same time trying to balance the security and privacy requirements of the farmhouse and adjacent farm buildings. A first draft was sent to the Estate on 20 August and following comments via email we met Estate representatives on 6 February 2019. We have agreed an action plan that provides access from the Altskeith and Kennels gates but avoids the farmhouse and adjacent compound. The details and maps are included with this update. The Estate has said they could complete these works by Easter 2019.

Other access issues

- Auchendennan House

Complaints about non-compliant signage and a fence preventing access have now been resolved.

- Luss Beach

Following complaints about a fence and locked gate on the north end of Luss beach, the NPA monitored the situation and can report the gate is no longer locked.

- Ben More

As previously reported, locked deer gates on a Ben More approach route were problematic for recreational visitors. FCS has now installed self-closing access gates.

- Kinlochard

There are a number of access issues in and around the village of Kinlochard:

- A long standing locked gate by Bridge of Chon House is now open.
- A padlocked gate, leading from the road by Kinlochard Cottages to a wooden bridge over the Water of Chon, was unlocked in the summer. Unfortunately it has been re-locked.
- Historical garden encroachment and fencing has led to a loss of access along the loch-shore. This has been exacerbated by recently erected post and rail fencing out into the loch and we are pursuing this from both a breach of planning conditions and Land Reform Act perspective.
- Couligarten House – a plethora of non-compliant signs were erected in 2017. Some have been removed but others remain and we are tracing the landowner to get these signs removed too.

- Ballimore Farm, Balguhidder

There have been access issues here since 2006 when a deer enclosure and locked gates prevented access to Gleann Dubh. A diversion path was agreed in 2017 which takes users across the hillside for 600 metres. Unfortunately the first access gate is broken and tied up with wire and the second (agreed by the landowner) access gate does not exist and a fence still has

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to be climbed. Apart from an advisory sign on the first gate, there is no way-marking or other signage and the route is not clear. The landowner has gone on record several times how he doesn't want any walkers on his land. We have developed a set of proposals to take to the landowner to improve this situation. The land is within the Balquhidder Deer Management Group area and one of the actions in the plan is to 'continue to promote the taking and providing of responsible access'. The current situation at Ballimore does not meet this and we are looking at what influence the Deer Management Group can bring to this.

- Strathyre and Queen Elizabeth Forests

There are two locked deer gates in these Forests to the east of Strathyre and Loch Lubnaig. One is on FCS land where a forest road exits onto the Sgiath a Chaise ridge and we are working with FCS to have this re-opened. The second is near the Anie Burn and on Drumardoch Estate land. We have highlighted this with the landowner and are awaiting a response. In both cases deer management has been the justification for locking the gates. These are within the Glenartney Deer Management Group area and as with the Balquhidder DMG, there are actions relating to access that are not being adhered to.

- Loch Lubnaig

The no camping signs at the Forest Holidays site have been removed.

- South Loch Earn Road

The no camping and no access signs on Crieff Hydro land at the St Fillans end of the south Loch Earn Road have been removed. Working with the Visitor Operations and Ranger Teams we have installed three Camping Management Zone signs in this area and these were instrumental in both Crieff Hydro and Lochearn Moorings in agreeing to remove their non-compliant signs.

- Kendrum Bridge, Lochearnhead

A no camping and no fires sign is on a metal field gate which leads to a Scottish Water Treatment Works compound. The gate is padlocked but there is a kissing gate to the side. Neither Scottish Water nor the adjacent landowner knows who put the signs up although the landowner is aware they have been there a long time. We are arranging to have the signs removed.

2.0 Outdoor Recreation Plan delivery

2.1 Priority project updates

Dukes Weekender

Following the success of the 2018 event, the organisers have started planning the 2019 event. The event is set to grow in scope and scale and will be supported again by the NPA.

West Highland Way

Following the release of SNH capital funding, the NPA is upgrading 1km of path at Keilator Farm, Crianlarich - the work will take place over the next 5-6 weeks.

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Drymen to Balmaha

Planning permission for footway widening and surfacing from Shalloch to just before Balmaha is still underway with tree and outstanding bat surveys having been completed. Feasibility work to develop the final linkages into Balmaha, design work for cycle hubs at both Balmaha and Drymen plus an audit of the whole route are continuing thanks to £35,000 secured from the Sustrans Community Links Fund.

Loch Earn Railway Path Project

This project continues apace and Phases 4 and 5 are being constructed and designed. This includes the design of the Fortrenn section which the LAF has visited previously.

Other shared-use projects

The RSPB has approached Sustrans for feasibility funding for a link from the Loch Lomond reserve to Gartocharn. Sustrans has responded by suggesting that wider links to Balloch and potentially Drymen be investigated at the same time and we will work with all partners to support and help develop this bid.

SNH Improving Public Access funding (IPA)

The Rob Roy Way restoration project has completed 1km of new path through the Invertrossachs area - making a welcome improvement on previous conditions.

Rob Roy Way before & after



The Lochgoilhead Community Riverside Walk has been completed, and the new all-abilities path is supporting use by residents and visitors. The new path has opened-up a previously inaccessible area of woodland alongside the picturesque confluence of the River Goil and River Donich. The improvement has also stimulated community aspirations to redevelop the old curling pond / rifle range into a new park, climbing area, allotment and performance space.

Unfortunately, the NPA funding application to replace the aging core-path bridge between Arrochar and Succoth was unsuccessful. The NPA are looking into alternative sources of funding.

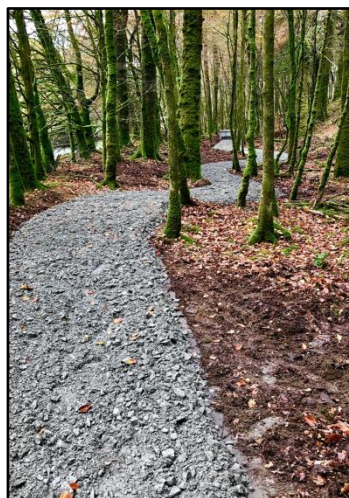
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We have secured £73,000 IPA funding for the new path from the Callander Craggs car park to the Bracklinn Falls car park. The planning application is due to be submitted this month and a September 2019 start date is planned.

Lochgoilhead path construction



3.0 Other access projects

The Mountains and The People

Path work was recently completed on Ben Narnain, with other paths in the planning stages. Discussions regarding legacy maintenance are ongoing. Include mid-term review at meeting

Balloch Placemaking project

Works have started on site for the Village Square this month with completion scheduled for June 2019.

Callander Streetscapes project.

Sustrans funding has been secured for a traffic and people movement study along the Callander Main Street. This is to help ascertain the reasons for traffic queues at various points along the main street and will inform any design or highway improvements to improve pedestrian and cyclist permeability throughout the area. Stirling Council has procured consultants and is leading on this study with our and other partners support. We are waiting for a report on this study.

Callander Landscape Project

The Access Team is continuing to support the CLP Explore projects at Falls of Leny, Little Leny Meadows and Callander Craggs. Work is ongoing at the Falls of Leny to allay concerns raised by Transport Scotland about safe crossing times of the A84 and visibility distances for motorists. Phase 1 of the Callander Craggs Path (from Ancaster Road to the FCS car park) is underway and a path has been built by Stirling Council. There are issues with the construction of this path and we are working with SC and others to provide a solution to these.

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3.0 Other partnership working

Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) VIEW project

This is a multi-million pound project to mitigate the continuing landscape impact of the electricity power lines through the National Park, following the decision not to underground the lines. The bulk of the money, if the bid to OFGEM is successful, is for tree planting and deer fencing in an attempt to block the views of the pylons. There is some funding available for access improvements but we are of the view that more funding could and should be allocated to provide a more tangible and more immediate public benefit. The area in question is from Glen Gyle, past Loch Katrine, through Strathard and Loch Ard Forest and over towards Drymen. We have suggested, and continue to push for, improvements to be made to the aqueduct path from Loch Katrine through Strathard and for this to be considered as a longer distance trail following the pipeline to Glasgow.

Authors:

Kenny Auld, Recreation, Access & Health Manager

Guy Keating, Recreation & Access Adviser

Dave Robinson, Recreation & Access Adviser

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