



Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Ref: EIR 2025-018
7 July 2025

REQUEST UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

We refer to your request for information, received by email on 9th June 2025. The information you have requested is environmental information, as defined in Regulation 2 of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs). We have therefore applied the exemption in section 39(2) of FOISA and dealt with your request under the EIRs alone.

Your specific requests and the Park Authority's response are provided below.

Your Request

You have asked us for:

1. Any information the National Park Authority holds about who has responsibility for this [path maintenance under The Mountains and The People Project] - and if it involves more than one organisation who took responsibility for maintaining what path.
2. Any information the National Park Authority holds about what actions have been undertaken to date by whoever assumed responsibility for maintaining these paths.

Our Response

1. **Information the National Park Authority holds about who has responsibility for maintaining paths under The Mountains and The People Project**

Context:

The Mountains and The People (TMTP) Project took place between 2013 and 2021 across a partnership led by Outdoor Access Trust Scotland. Throughout that time, the National Park Authority worked with the partners -NatureScot, Cairngorms NPA and Outdoor Access Trust

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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for Scotland - on maintenance volunteer programmes delivering inspection work and light touch maintenance. The paths created and upgraded by TMTP Project remain well used by the public across Scotland's National Parks.

While the National Park Authority does not have any formal agreement for maintenance related to TMTP programme, we do have a role in ensuring that the important upland paths in question, alongside the wider core paths network, are monitored and maintained. Our National Park Partnership Plan 2024-29 includes this specific action: "Ensuring there is a path maintenance programme (lowland and upland) which ensures these valuable assets and experiences are protected for the longer term."

The introduction to your email requesting information referenced the Conic Hill path. For the avoidance of doubt, this project was not funded by TMTP programme. The Park Authority has a formal legal maintenance agreement with the landowner and now that works are complete, we are compiling a maintenance programme which blends our staff and volunteer skillsets and capacities.

Information held:

The National Park Authority holds the following relevant information, which is included in this response to your request:

- Notes/minutes from meetings where maintenance of paths under TMTP was mentioned
- A paper which went to the Executive where maintenance of paths under TMTP was mentioned
- Email correspondence where maintenance of paths under TMTP and the Adopt a Path system were mentioned

2. Information the National Park Authority holds about what actions have been undertaken to date in maintaining paths under The Mountains and The People Project

Context:

The National Park Authority supports path maintenance on key upland routes and continue to co-ordinate and run volunteer maintenance sessions. Over the last 9 months, 5 sessions have been completed, with a focus on Ben Ledi and Ben Vorlich. This work is reactive - relying on public and landowner communications regarding the condition of the paths. At this time we are not aware of significant path condition issues on TMTP work. Work is ongoing to establish an enhanced system and process which delivers the outcomes originally envisaged through the Adopt a Path system. With specific regard to the work completed through TMTP, we have a focus on monitoring and supporting maintenance of the path sections not under Forestry Land & Scotland (FLS) management.

Information held:

The below is a table of information from the National Park Authority's volunteer management system which details activities relating to maintaining paths which were part of The Mountains and The People Project:

Activity Name	Activity Date	Primary Activity Organizer	Participation Count	Activity Hours
Ben Vorlich Maintenance	18/12/2024	[Redacted]	0	0
CANCELLED - Upland Path Maintenance (Ben Vorlich/Ben Ledi)	23/02/2025	[Redacted]	0	0
Upland Path Maintenance (Ben Vorlich/Ben Ledi)	27/02/2025	[Redacted]	2	16
Upland Path Maintenance (Ben Vorlich/Ben Ledi)	27/03/2025	[Redacted]	0	0
Ben Vorlich/Ben Ledi Upland Footpath Maintenance	27/05/2025	[Redacted]	1	8
Ben Vorlich/Ben Ledi Upland Footpath Maintenance	18/06/2025	[Redacted]	1	8
		Total Registration Count	4	
		Total Hours	32	
		Total Opportunities	6	

Yours Sincerely,

Information Management**Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority****LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

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The Mountains and The People

*Notes on Partner Meeting,
Parklands Hotel, Perth - Feb 28th 2014*

The Meeting was convened to agree the way forward subsequent to the January HLF bid in January 2014.

In Attendance

[REDACTED] – LLTNPA, [REDACTED] – FCS, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] – CNPA, [REDACTED] – COAT

Apologies

[REDACTED] - SNH

Context

DB outlined the feedback from the HLF UK Board

- The project was prioritised at 7th on a list of 17 projects submitted
- It was very positively received, but unfortunately there was only funding available for 5 projects on the day.
- COAT had been invited to resubmit the bid at a later date with some minor adjustments that may help
 - a. Try to increase partner funding whilst reducing the HLF 'ask'
 - b. Be more proscriptive as to how post project maintenance will be achieved, particularly in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs
 - c. Show an increase in provision for outreach volunteering in the project

Project Partnership

COAT

DB outlined COAT position as positive about a resubmission. He had canvassed COAT Board by e-mail and the issue would be discussed in more detail at the March Board. Directors had all been positive about resubmission, though with provision that a Cairngorms only bid be pushed forward quickly if unsuccessful. COATs main concern about a long run in was that extended hiatus in work programmes starting in the 2015+ Business Plan would inevitably lead to loss of capacity in terms of staff and contractors.

As the largest funding partner, COAT had committed all that it had to the project, including in-kind contributions as a by-product of the project. What COAT would be prepared to do was commit to raising additional Private Sector and Charitable Trusts contributions over the life of the project to help raise the level of partner funding.

CNPA

PC felt that the feedback via HLF was positive and that there would be a lot of merit in resubmission. The Activity Plan was discussed and it was noted that there were

significant 'In Kind' contributions from the Partners in terms of partner bodies staff time that had not been picked up in the first application. This would include educational, ranger/warden, nature conservation and access staff. DB agreed to re-circulate the Activity Plan to enable this contribution to be identified and built into project. PC stated that CNPA would be prepared to marginally increase their contribution provided other partners would also, and that the figure would likely be £5k per year, or £25k over the 5 years of project.

LLTNPA

BJ said that LLTNPA were also keen to resubmit a joint bid, and whilst In-Kind contributions should certainly be built in from LLTNPA it was important not to build in too much time from the Ranger Service as they were already heavily committed elsewhere and during the consultation phase of the activity plan this had been highlighted. BJ queried DBs fall-back position to going for split projects should the second bid also fail, and DB re-iterated that the issue was very much to do with the vulnerability of Trusts such as COAT between major projects. Whilst Trusts should thrive on activity, capacity can rapidly dwindle without a committed work plan and if there was too much hiatus COAT would have to find something else to do or risk decline. BH confirmed that LLTNPA would be prepared to increase by £5k per year provided this was matched.

DB pointed out that he had been vague in the application submitted in January regarding the post project maintenance in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs. The Cairngorms had an established mechanism for funding and executing maintenance with the partnership approach taken between COAT, CNPA and HIE, COAT providing funding via Car parking. LW and BJ identified car parks which could be used to provide the estimated £20k per annum required for maintenance, and that LLTNP would likely use contract staff, whilst FCS may use a mixture of inhouse and contract staff for theirs.

FCS

LW pointed out that in principle funding had been discussed, though it was difficult to commit organisation funds beyond existing budgets and business plans. As such there was a level of uncertainty as to how much budget could be committed and how far ahead. LW felt that with public bodies all funded by SG that partnership to initiatives such as this should be made at the highest level between bodies, particularly with regard to the uncertainties that SNH were currently expressing. LW was concerned about timing, particularly with regard to phasing of felling work at Ben A'an, and was keen to progress the fell with a clear plan to tackle the path problem simultaneously. DB said that he would arrange to look at the lower Ben A'an path with LW to see if there was an alternative for the first section, with the trees removed. Without restriction of blanket forest it may be possible to build a machine path on the first few hundred metres at reduced cost. LW indicated that in principle FCS would be prepared to increase its contribution by £5k per year in line with the Park Authorities.

LW discussed phasing and if it was possible to bring FCS priority works forward within the project. DB said that it was if others were in agreement. The Trossachs hills in particular were possible to work all year round, but there were limits with regard to contractor capacity and cash flow as to what could be achieved in any year. LW asked if DB could provide a financial phasing that she could use for projections and DB said he would normally do a cash flow projection between stage 1 and stage 2 as part of the Project Business Plan. He would look to provide this by late summer if the stage 1 bid was successful. DB also discussed cash flow as a limiting factor and stressed the importance of partners being able to front load annual contribution on the basis of

committed costs. CNPA and LLTNPA were comfortable with this though LW said FCS would need to look into this before making any promises.

SNH

SNH did not attend the meeting, but had sent an e-mail prior to it. Their position was ambiguous about the level of their existing commitment to the project and certain that funding would not be increased, whilst it could decrease. They had also questioned the project fit to SNH priorities and had asked for additional paths to be included out-with the priorities exercise carried out in the development phase.

DB had said he thought it possible that uncertainties may be a result of the project moving between desks within SNH itself, but all agreed that clarity needed to be sought at executive level. Both NPAs and FCS agreed to establish the level of partnership from SNH through their own executives, as initiatives such as this had so much tie in between public sector bodies that there really needed to be an understood level of partnership between all bodies. The uncertainty expressed by SNH was a concern and presents a project risk for all, so it was agreed that clarity needed to be sought as soon as possible, and that contact should be made between the partners and SNH to see the level of in principle support they were prepared to offer.

Summary

It was agreed that the bid should be carried forward with submission to be targeted in April for a July HLF UK Board. The following actions were identified

- Clarity to be sought by all on where SNH stood with funding the project.
- DB to circulate the Activity Plan to identify In Kind partner contributions, particularly with regard to outreach work
- DB to redo the application with increased partner contributions, Charitable Trusts and Private Sector income - and tweak the outline management and maintenance plan for submission in mid April
- DB to visit Ben A'an with LW to look at contingency for the lower slope post felling.

Beyond The Mountains and The People

Generating Path Maintenance Funds in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs

1. The Mountains and The People – Management and Maintenance

The Mountains and The People (TMTP) is well into the second of its 5 years, and is doing well with a capital programme delivering high quality works on the prioritised paths throughout the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs, including Ben A'an, Ben Ledi, The Cobbler, Ben Venue and Ben Lomond. By the time the project has completed in July 2020, 84.251km of upland path will have been repaired/upgraded at a cost of £2.26m, and with an estimated annual maintenance cost of £16,618 at current rates.

The currently agreed arrangements for after the project within the Management and Maintenance Plan for the TMTP are that FCS will fund and maintain work on their land and that the Park Authority will fund and carry out the on the other TMTP paths in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs.

2. Background to Spittal of Glenmuick Car Park Arrangement

At the time that Spittal of Glenmuick Car Park arrangement between Balmoral and UDAT (as the company was at that time) was put in place it was seen as an innovative but potentially risky proposition. The mountaineering community in Scotland has long guarded against charges for access to the hills, and there was a danger that it could have been seen in this light. In fact, the arrangement has been highly successful in raising funds directly from users and critical factors to this have been

- *Transparency:* Use of a 3rd party Trust, with Charitable Status, audited published accounts and submitting an annual return to the Office of Scottish Charity Regulator gives a good deal of confidence that the funds will be used as intended and advertised.
- *Demonstrable Investment in Infrastructure:* The income generated by UDAT in the past, and COAT in our current form pays for maintenance of the hill path network and has provided seed corn funding for major infrastructure projects of work

including the £2m Eastern Cairngorms Access Project, the £2.3m Cairngorms Mountain Heritage Project and currently the £6.2m TMTP project.

3. A Proposal for Maintenance Funded via Car Parking in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs

COAT would be very interested in providing this service in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs, and to provide aftercare and maintenance for hill paths in the area. A range of potential Car Parks could be identified throughout the Park and examples discussed thus far include Ardgarten, Glen Finglas, Ben More, South Vorlich and Inverlochclairig.

The Park Authority and COAT would need to discuss the proposal with each potential landowner and enter into appropriate agreements that would enable capital funding to be raised and spent on Car Park development. Leases would need to reflect the level of investment necessary to establish charging, and it would be important to have a consistent level of rent for landowners.

Income raised from Car Parks within Loch Lomond and the Trossachs would need to be spent within the Area, and the target would be to generate surplus to provide a fighting fund for future projects as well as providing aftercare and normal maintenance for the LLTNP paths in the TMTP project.

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██████████ (COAT CEO), November 2016

The Mountains and The People Programme Team Meeting 15 January 2019 Minutes

Present

■■■■■, ■■■■■, ■■■■■, ■■■■■, ■■■■■

1.0	Previous Minutes		
	Previous meeting 23 October 2018 Any carry forwards are noted in the minutes below.		
2.0	Ben A'an LL29		
	Reroute and ramp Due to a number of issues McGowans no longer have the contract for this work and it has now been awarded to ECT Heritage. They are due to start this week and will complete both the re-route and the ramp work. The issue with path width on the re-route was discussed and ■■■■■ outlined his ideas to improve the situation. ■■■■■ agreed that they would be acceptable. The re-route should be finished in about three weeks with work on the ramp to follow. There is a concern that the ramp work could be taking place during the holiday week in February in which case arrangements may need to be made for public safety e.g. use of a diversion (quad track). ■■■■■ to liaise with ■■■■■ as he sees how work progresses. TMTP panel The design for the TMTP narrative for the panel is complete. ■■■■■ to liaise with ■■■■■ to progress. The diversion path has been removed.	■■■■■ ■■■■■	08/02 31/01
3.0	Ben Ledi LL28		
	■■■■■ has developed the spec for this path. Noted it will be light touch in many places. Whilst it meets UPAG guidance ■■■■■ has taken the opportunity to include design elements to make path more acceptable to mountain bikers. To get their views on the design ■■■■■ met with a group of mountain bikers from the Callander area, they seemed content with the design proposals. In relation to hill path designs and requirements of mountain bikers, ■■■■■ reported that TMTP are planning some experimental work on Mount Keen, to start in the Spring. This would be a good location for stimulating starter discussions with bikers and UPAG/SNH. The work on Ben Ledi (LL28) has been tendered and awarded to Hamilton Environment Ltd. The specification has been added to the FES service agreement. Work has started with no H&S or environmental issues to report. Completion expected by the end of March. Head of Glen The TMTP Steering Group has that ■■■■■ have a look at what can be	■■■■■	19/03

	be done with this path.		
4.0	Ben Venue – Loch Achray LL30		
	Wet section (general path works completed) No action to be taken.		
5.0	Ben Narnain LL04		
	Completed in the second week in December. No H&S or environmental issues to report. Closing formalities to be completed.	T	19/03
6.0	Ben lme LL03 Phase 2		
	Awaiting planning consent.		
7.0	The Cobbler LL01 Final Section		
	█ now has a draft specification with work limited by budget. In his view it is probably best to concentrate on the top section where water is the biggest issue. This was discussed with the team in agreement with this approach. █ to progress. Corporate funding from SSE – █ has been in contact with SSE but he has not heard of any response back from them.	█	19/03
8.0	Ben Venue – Loch Ard LL31		
	█ met with LL&TNP planning and there were no particular issues with the proposals with the path. We are now just waiting for the consent to come through, the delay being the volume of work sitting with the planning authority. If he does not hear from them in the next few weeks he will chase. A solution has been found for the stile under discussion at the last meeting. The workplan approval is in process.	█	08/02
9.0	Communication		
	Surveys The TMTP is now on line and there have been around 60 responses to date. These will continue to build and the intention is to also plan for on-site surveys in the Spring. Analysis of the results will be supported by Stirling University. A student is currently carrying out a their own survey and he/she will share the results with TMTP. Currently a group of eight students from Glasgow Caledonian University is working on a range of communication resources. They will complete at the end of February. Tom will then use the outputs in FY19/20. Goretex Tom updated the team on a marketing relationship with Goretex – photographic PR by Ali Horne. Before and after photos Last year one of the TMTP students took after photos of path works against the initial survey photos. These will need to be reviewed and more such taken this year as the TMTP Project moves into its final		

	evaluation stage.		
10.0	Programme Governance		
	■■■ updated the team on the split of responsibilities between him and ■■■■ It has been agreed that ■■■ continues to chair this TMTP team for FES. ■■■■ has taken over the role of FES representative on the TMTP Steering Group.		
11.0	Benefit in kind		
	Will has updated the FES worked hours to December. ■■■■ to circulate.	■■■	18/01
12.0	Training and Volunteering		
	Craigmore To complete this week. A good job done so far. The only issue left for Will is the raceway.		
13.0	Maintenance Post project and Volunteering Legacy		
	Trainees There are now no trainees. Level 2 training is complete and SQA will be with TMTP in a few weeks to verify the qualifications. There are no plans for any more such training in 2019 or 2020. It is planned to do level 3 training over the next 12 months. It is a supervisory/contract management type of qualification with numbers limited to 6. Volunteering Legacy ■■■ is pulling together a paper for the Steering Group. They will discuss and agree the approach for maintenance post project and the volunteering legacy.		
14.0	End of Project Evaluation and Project Close		
	The TMTP project will complete in May 2020 and ■■■■ outlined some of the end of project requirements to meet HLF grant conditions. These will ramp up throughout 2019. ■■■ to send ■■■■ a copy of a FES end of project report.	■■■	18/01
15.0	People Counters		
	Count figures from Ben Ledi, Conic Hill (100k in 6 months) and Ben A'an (100k in 12 months) were discussed. A counter for The Cobbler is with ■■■■ for a decision about FES funding.		
16.0	AOB		
	Nothing to report		
17.0	Next Meeting		
	Tuesday 19 march at 1.00 p.m. in Aberfoyle.		

Notes and Actions

Mountains and the People – Internal Project Group

Tuesday 5th February 2019
10:30 am, SEPA Meeting Room



Present: Kenny Auld, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] (Notes), Simon Jones (Chair), [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] (OATS), [REDACTED].
Apologies:

Agenda Item	Subject	Note / Action	By Whom	Due Date	Status
1.	Welcome and apologies	Simon opened the meeting and gave a brief background to the format of the meetings.			
2.	Project Update	[REDACTED] gave a verbal update. He explained that the project is coming to the end of the 4th year. The 5th and final year will commence in April 2019 and will end in May 2020. There are currently 7 outstanding active path construction sites within the National Park but has no concerns at present. Action: Kenny to discuss with [REDACTED] re the recent activity at Ben Glas and report back. [REDACTED] explained that there are concerns re the condition of the top section of the Conic Hill path. It was suggested that this should be raised to the Steering Group and if there is budget leftover to look at upgrading more of the path. Action: [REDACTED] / Kenny to meet with [REDACTED] to have discussions re the path at Conic Hill. <u>Training</u> – SVQ level 2 awards have been presented. The details of a SVQ level 3 awards will be coming through soon. The qualification is said to take between 6 and 9 months to complete. Action: [REDACTED] to circulate a proposal by the end of February. <u>Conservation Volunteering</u> – [REDACTED] reported that throughout the year there has been 42 volunteering days, 1869 hours with a 100% satisfaction rate with 100% of volunteers enjoying the activities. <u>Adopt a Path</u> – All proposed paths have now been adopted and path condition	Kenny [REDACTED] / Kenny [REDACTED]	28.02.19 March 19 March 19	

Notes and Actions

Mountains and the People – Internal Project Group

Tuesday 5th February 2019
10:30 am, SEPA Meeting Room



Agenda Item	Subject	Note / Action	By Whom	Due Date	Status
		reports are starting to come in. An inspection will go ahead in Spring/Autumn time and will identify any issues that there might have been. There is an increase in partner involvement and interest in the scheme. [REDACTED] explained that CNPA volunteer rangers will be trained on the 'adopt a path' reporting system. Action: Kenny and [REDACTED] to meet to discuss reporting systems for LLTNPA. Action: [REDACTED] to clarify what OATS plans are on adopt a path legacy plans going forward. <u>Education</u> - Literature will be ready soon to roll out. Action: [REDACTED] to discuss roll out and communications with schools / groups with [REDACTED] <u>Health Walks</u> - the programme is currently being pulled together for the year and will be typically 3-5 km walks. <u>Communications</u> – 8 University students have been involved in media and marketing. <u>Evaluation</u> – [REDACTED] will produce a paper and prepare an evaluation report for the end of March next year.	Kenny [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	March 19 March 19 March 19	
3.	Legacy	[REDACTED] reported that OATS are in the early stages of legacy planning. There is a maintenance commitment on infrastructure for 10 years. He explained that CNPA are keen to make the most out of the volunteering process and have the volunteer rangers doing some routine maintenance. [REDACTED] understands that there will be a £300 licence fee for the website and there will also be a requirement for administration. The Volunteer legacy paper will be a key document that will be produced mid-March and will go to the Steering Group.			

Notes and Actions

Mountains and the People – Internal Project Group

Tuesday 5th February 2019
10:30 am, SEPA Meeting Room



Agenda Item	Subject	Note / Action	By Whom	Due Date	Status
		Simon explained that LLTNPA have already started to think about post project legacy planning going forward and asked that once further progression is made this will be discussed at future meetings. He also requested that Comms are included in future discussions. Discussion took place re paths and the maintenance plan. It was highlighted that it is important that going forward that plans for the wider National park path network and people involved (volunteers, staff and/or contractors) are joined up. Countryside Trust and FES involvement were also discussed. It was noted that the 3 VR path maintenance pilots are actually on FES land Action: [REDACTED] to speak with [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	28.02.19	Complete
4.	In Kind Contributions	[REDACTED] highlighted the importance of recording time spent on TMTP Project so this can be fed into the evaluation report. Action: [REDACTED] to send Simon the spreadsheet for completion. Action: Simon to email out to those involved (past and present) asking for estimated hours spent on the project. Action: All staff involved are asked to calculate and record the number of hours spent on TMTP work by end of March so that [REDACTED] can include the information the next Steering Group report,.	[REDACTED] Simon All	28.02.19 28.02.19 31.03.19	Version sent to TW for agreement 11.2.19 prior to sending to SJ
5.	Date of next meeting	It was agreed that the next meeting should be scheduled for May (following the Steering Group meeting that will take place in April) Action: [REDACTED] to send	[REDACTED]	28.02.19	

Notes and Actions

Mountains and the People – Internal Project Group

Tuesday 5th February 2019
10:30 am, SEPA Meeting Room



Agenda Item	Subject	Note / Action	By Whom	Due Date	Status
		a meeting request. Simon to advise on attendee's for the meeting.			

Executive Meeting

Agenda Item 12



THE MOUNTAINS & THE PEOPLE PROJECT – Mid-term update

Paper for noting

1. Purpose

To note the mid-term review of The Mountains & The People (TMTP) project.

2. Recommendation

Executive are asked to:

- a) Note the outputs of The Mountains & The People project to date:
- b) Note the Park Authority need to:
 - i. Support the concluding stages of the project
 - ii. Develop a plan to deliver the post project legacy requirements of path maintenance

3. Introduction

The Mountains and the People project has enhanced and protected the special qualities of the mountain environment within both Scottish National Parks. The work has included significant upgrades to key mountain paths and engaged many people through training, volunteering and educational programmes. This paper summarises project metrics and achievements to date and recommends developing a strategy to safeguard the legacy for future generations.

4. Delivery

- 1. TMTP is a 5 year (2015-20), largely Heritage Lottery Fund UK supported project with two fundamental aims:
 - a) To support recreation and conserve the special qualities of the National Parks' mountains
 - b) Involve the people of Scotland in the enhancement with training; education; volunteering and visitor participation.

Before submitting, have you checked in with and considered the following:

Executive Sponsor	☒	Finance	☐	Equality Impact Assessment	☐	Climate Change Impact	☐
HR	☐	Legal	☐	Health & Safety Impact	☐	Best Value	☐

Executive Meeting

Agenda Item 12

THE MOUNTAINS & THE PEOPLE PROJECT – Mid-term update

5. Success Measures

The key measure is delivery of outputs agreed with Heritage Lottery fund for the National Park, these are:

- a) 44 km of mountain paths upgraded
- b) 23 mountain paths monitored and 'adopted' by volunteers
- c) 600 days of volunteering
- d) 50 conservation work parties

6. Finance

The project is a multi-partner project with a wide range of sources of income including; Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority, Cairngorms National Park Authority, Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.

The project contains substantial 'In Kind' contribution from a range of sources, including COAT Volunteers, post project maintenance and a collectively large contribution from the public bodies. There is input to site management from Forestry Commission Scotland staff. Staff from both National Park Authorities are involved in the Activity Plan and there is a ten year commitment to post project maintenance funding.

The total project value = £6,168,383

Financial contributions

Partner	5 Yr. contribution
HLF	£3,260,000
LLT NPA	£525,000
CNPA	£275,000
SNH	£200,000
FCS	£525,000
SMT	£25,000
COAT	£348,000
Charitable Trusts	£152,000
Private Sector / Donations	£11,795

Before submitting, have you checked in with and considered the following:

Executive Sponsor	☒	Finance	☐	Equality Impact Assessment	☐	Climate Change Impact	☐
HR	☐	Legal	☐	Health & Safety Impact	☐	Best Value	☐

Executive Meeting

Agenda Item 12

THE MOUNTAINS & THE PEOPLE PROJECT – Mid-term update

Project management costs incurred by OATS have to date exceeded expectations, largely due to under estimating the amount of input required on planning, communications, partnership engagement, and site management. Additional time is required to complete the charitable trust and corporate fundraising requirements. Contingency is budgeted for and available, and a request can be placed with HLF to cover such costs.

7. Policy & Strategic Context

The project is led by Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland (OATS) and supported by four principle partners: Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA); Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority (LLTNPA); Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

The project delivered against 3 policy areas in the National Park Partnership Plan 2012 – 2017:

- Recreation and Access – VE13, VE14
Outcome: Responsible and managed outdoor access to the National Park that leads to improved health benefits for West and Central Scotland
- Education, Outreach and Volunteering – VE16, VE18 and VE19
Outcome: Increased engagement in the Park through education, outreach and volunteering opportunities leading to greater appreciation and improved behaviour

TMTP also facilitates delivery of targeted upland path upgrades through Action 5: Upland Paths Project in the LLTNPA 2013 Outdoor Recreation Plan.

The project delivers against 5 Outcomes of the current National Park Partnership Plan 2018 – 2023, through enhancing, protecting and conserving the mountain environment, supporting and promoting recreation, and providing volunteering, training and employment opportunities

Outcome 1: Natural Capital, The Park's natural resources are enhanced for future generations: important habitats are protected, restored and better connected on a landscape scale.

Outcome 2: Landscape Qualities, The Park's special landscape qualities and sense of place are conserved and enhanced with more opportunities to enjoy and experience them.

Before submitting, have you checked in with and considered the following:

Executive Sponsor	☒	Finance	☐	Equality Impact Assessment	☐	Climate Change Impact	☐
HR	☐	Legal	☐	Health & Safety Impact	☐	Best Value	☐

Executive Meeting

Agenda Item 12

THE MOUNTAINS & THE PEOPLE PROJECT – Mid-term update

Outcome 5: Recreation Opportunities, The National Park has a wide variety of well promoted and managed outdoor recreation opportunities providing for a range of abilities and interests.

Outcome 9: Health & Learning, People from a wider range of backgrounds are enjoying, valuing and helping manage the National Park. It is used more as a place for people to realise the personal health and wellbeing benefits of active recreation and connecting with nature.

Outcome 11: Sustainable Growth, The rural economy has been strengthened with sustainable business growth and diversification.

8. Monitoring Data

Monitoring data indicates the Park's mountain paths sustain a sizable number of users each year. The mean values derived from several years monitoring are;

The Cobbler c.42k / annum
Ben Lomond c.40k / annum
Ben A'an c.45k / annum

Annual weather variation has a clear effect of visitor numbers, however NPA monitoring over the past 5 year period indicates a general trend of increasing numbers of hillwalkers in the range of 2-5% / annum at monitored sites.

9. Mountain Paths & Infrastructure

To date, the project has completed 9 sections of path in the National Park including; Ben A'an, Ben Lomond, Ben Narnain, Ben Ledi (main path) and two phases on the Cobbler. The work has provided a cumulative total of 28km of new-built path.

Work is still required on 11 sections of path to complete the capital programme, these sections are either being prepared, awaiting planning permission, or partially complete. Once complete, the capital programme will provide 44km of new mountain path in the Park. No significant risks to completion have been identified at this stage.

Before submitting, have you checked in with and considered the following:

Executive Sponsor	☒	Finance	☐	Equality Impact Assessment	☐	Climate Change Impact	☐
HR	☐	Legal	☐	Health & Safety Impact	☐	Best Value	☐

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The project has also installed three bridges. Two bridges (Ben A'an and Ben Lomond) are located on FCS owned land. The third bridge is located on privately owned land, crossing the Allt Gleann Auchreoch on the approach to Beinn Dubhchraig.

- a) To date, the capital programme has encountered three problematic sections of path in the Park:
- i. Beinglas (LL15) – due to the scarcity of suitable local construction material, improving this route will be a challenge. OATS are examining options.
 - ii. The Cobbler (LL01, 1st section) – The landowner (FCS) regard the route as a mountain path which must be maintained to a suitable standard for hill access. Scottish Water has a right of motorised access to the hydro dam (Grid ref. OS 280,051), and any damage to the forest road or hill path due to motorised access will need to be repaired.
 - iii. Ben Ledi (LL28, Stank Glen) – the route is a popular mountain bike descent and due to topography, path braiding and drainage issues, improving and consolidating the route will be challenging. OATS are currently assessing alignment options.

10. Training

The project has trained 24 people in path construction techniques also providing a Level 2 Scottish Vocational Qualification in Environmental Conservation. A number of trainees are now working in the path building industry, with others progressing on to other related work-areas or further education.

11. Volunteering

There are two elements to this work; conservation volunteering and the Adopt a Path initiative. To date, 71 individual work parties have been delivered in the Park, providing 562 volunteering days (3374 hours) on path improvement and maintenance.

The Adopt a Path scheme has 14 volunteers taking care of light maintenance and reporting on 13 individual paths in the NPA. A further 9 paths (including Ben Vorlich – Sloy, Beinn Dubhchraig, Ben Vane, Ben Venue and Balquhider) will be available for adoption once capital works are complete.

Before submitting, have you checked in with and considered the following:

Executive Sponsor	☒	Finance	☐	Equality Impact Assessment	☐	Climate Change Impact	☐
HR	☐	Legal	☐	Health & Safety Impact	☐	Best Value	☐

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12. Education

The project has supported the National Park Junior Ranger programmes with practical pathwork conservation tasks annually, with two schools engaged in 2017 and three in 2018. Dates are currently being secured for the 2019 Junior Ranger Programme.

As part of the development of the Education Resources and Case studies for schools to learn about the project, the Activity Project Officer held workshops with Geography teachers at the annual Scottish Association of Geography Teachers conference to promote the project and NPA resources / support available. This allowed informal feedback, new contacts and feedback on the resource pack.

The NPA will support and promote the new education resource as well as planned teacher CPD training in 2019.

13. Finance

The National Park Authority makes a capital contribution of £105,000 per year towards the delivery of the project.

The four public partners and OATS have committed financial support for the delivery of the project.

14. Discussion

- a) So far TMTP project has delivered positive and progressive outcomes for both Scottish National Parks, including well-built mountain paths, skills and training which have led to qualifications and employment, and a range of volunteering opportunities.

The 28km of built-path has been recognised for its quality by the outdoor community, and the Park Authority has received many positive comments about the improvements, removing participation barriers and contributing to a national legacy of conservation and recreation in the mountain environment.

Before submitting, have you checked in with and considered the following:

Executive Sponsor	☒	Finance	☐	Equality Impact Assessment	☐	Climate Change Impact	☐
HR	☐	Legal	☐	Health & Safety Impact	☐	Best Value	☐

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- b) To ensure the post-2020 TMTP legacy is safe-guarded for future generations, Section 6 of the HLF Stage 2 application details maintenance responsibilities for the paths and interpretative boards resides with OATS, with costs being satisfied through revenue streams created within OATS, both National Park Authorities and partners. There is a shared understanding that Park Authority partners will continue to support the volunteer programmes.
- c) Elsewhere in the UK, different models have developed for sustainable long-term path maintenance, ranging from charitable trusts, local authority support, and volunteer networks. One example is the 'Fix the Fells' initiative in the Lake District National Park, where maintenance and capital repairs are delivered through a matrix of financial support, volunteering including training (path work, mountain skills, first-aid etc.), maintenance walks, supervised 'work parties', corporate endorsement and using NPA rangers. The project has rolling programme of recruitment and around 130 volunteers, providing over 2,200 days in 2017.
- d) Work is currently being undertaken by Park Authority staff to develop and deliver a sustainable legacy and maintenance programme which places realistic responsibilities upon the NPA and all partners when the capital phase finishes in 2020. It is likely that a mixed approach to maintenance will be developed which maximises the legacy benefits of the established volunteer and training programmes. There are opportunities to develop the legacy further to offering new maintenance, management and funding opportunities across the wider path network with programme opportunities around long distance routes, lowland paths, green job creation and integrated health initiatives.

15. Conclusion

Executive are asked to note the above information. The Project is on course to deliver the intended length of path work on the targeted priority upland routes. The volunteer and training elements of the project have surpassed original expectations and offer legacy opportunities which can spread to other projects and initiatives.

Author: [REDACTED]

Executive Sponsor: Simon Jones, Director of Conservation & Visitor Operations

Before submitting, have you checked in with and considered the following:

Executive Sponsor	☒	Finance	☐	Equality Impact Assessment	☐	Climate Change Impact	☐
HR	☐	Legal	☐	Health & Safety Impact	☐	Best Value	☐

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Simon Jones](#); [Gordon Watson](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: LLTNPA Car Parks and Maintenance
Date: 30 November 2016 00:15:20
Attachments: [LLTNPA Car Parks and Maintenance.doc](#)

Hi [REDACTED]

I had meant to get something to you earlier but [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I've attached an outline proposal for managing car parks to generate funds for hill path maintenance. I've also discussed separately with FCS, and I assume you are aware of their views on the matter.

They have governance/procurement concerns with engaging directly with COAT on a service level agreement, but would I think be happy to do business with an agreement between FCS and LLTNPA, provided there was agreement in place between COAT and LLTNPA. They have also suggested we submit a proposal for the Ardgarten Car Park site on open tender next year (thus providing transparency on procurement), and I will hopefully get a chance to discuss all of this with Board on Thursday before I take leave for the rest of December to help out my poor beleaguered missus! As I say I assume you are aware of this, but please let me know if you have concerns.

I'd like to get something to you regarding the West Highland Way, but am keen to have sight of the draft report you've had commissioned recently. If you could send me a copy I'd really appreciate it?

As discussed I am certain we could do a job for you, and in my view the process would be audit of current status of infrastructure, remedial costs, identifying capital programme, fund raising, implementation and maintenance/marketing. As discussed we would also be interested in developing capacity to market the route, and this could well be done in conjunction with fundraising for the long term aftercare and maintenance of the LDR.

For the Car Parks/Maintenance I would like us to establish a principle for engagement of us by LLTNPA, and then formalise this in some kind of MOU. The key will be how we present this arrangement to landowners of future potential sites.

For the WHW proposal I am assuming you would like outline costs for at least the initial audit/engagement phase? That is why I am keen to see your report, as it will likely provide a lot of useful and current context

Hope everything is good with you

Best regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Kenny Auld](#); [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Post TMTP Volunteering Opportunities
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Hi Folks

Draft email for volunteers for comment

Volunteering and Post TMTP Arrangements

I am writing to thank you for all your efforts in supporting The Mountains and The People, and to update you on current and post project arrangements.

First of all, as I am sure you are aware it has been impossible to do path work on the hills since late March. We ceased all site works then, and are working with contractors to find a safe and appropriate way for workers, the public and local residents to enable a return to site work in the near future.

We are also looking at ways to bring back Volunteering, but this will take a while longer and we must follow Scottish Government guidance on this as it becomes available.

The TMTP project will now finish in December 2020, to allow time for remaining site works to complete, and we would be delighted if we could bring back volunteering a ahead of this.

Discussions with the TMTP partners has been ongoing, and we are all keen to make sure that Volunteering opportunities do not stop at the end of the project.

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority will be managing Volunteering and Maintenance through their staff, and volunteers are very welcome to join them, with contact through -----

Cairngorms National Park Authority will also be offering a range of Volunteering opportunities through_____.

OATS will also carry on with Volunteering on our various initiatives around Scotland, in particular with post TMTP path maintenance and we will extend a warm welcome all who would wish to carry on with us.

In the meantime we would like to thank you for all that you have done in the TMTP project, and hope to see you back out on the hill soon!

Kindest regards

[REDACTED]
Chief Executive
Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland
1 Atholl Crescent
PERTH PH1 5NG

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Outdoor_Trust_logo_S1



*Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland is a registered Scottish charity, No. SC028028 and a company limited by guarantee No. SC186301
Registered office: Johnstone House, 52-54 Rose Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1HA*

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Perth Meeting
Date: 13 December 2018 13:53:16

Hi Folks

I thought it was a good meet and positive re looking forward to the post project arrangements. I was aware that not everyone at the meeting was involved in the development of the Management and Maintenance Plan, and thought it would be useful copying the note from the key meeting on this in Perth in 2014 (please ignore the filename, the correct date is in the note of the meeting)

We had just missed out on the first submission to the HLF ([REDACTED]). We had been encouraged to resubmit, to consider match funding increase, and a more robust management and maintenance arrangement for LLTNP, and this meet was primarily to agree these things, A wee trip down memory lane for me, and whilst you were there Pete, nobody else on the Steering Group was so thought it would be useful for context
Kindest regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 March 2014 19:59
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Perth Meeting
Hi All

This is a draft note of the discussions at Perth last Friday

Could you please let me know if you are content with it or let me know of amendments you would like?

When finished I will file and circulate to [REDACTED]

Best regards

[REDACTED]

From: [Kenny Auld](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Urgent action needed : Adopt a Path Website
Date: 20 June 2025 13:45:26
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.jpg](#)

Kenny Auld

Head of Visitor Services

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority

www.lochlomond-trossachs.org

www.twitter.com/lomondtrossachs

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From: [REDACTED]@forestryandland.gov.scot

Sent: 01 November 2021 11:52

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Urgent action needed : Adopt a Path Website
[REDACTED]

I still think there is potential for a wider roll out of Adopt a Path and would be keen to explore it's wider use by FLS.

My memory is getting fuzzy these days – so I may be misremembering. But I think we were all awaiting a proposal from OATS. I think in the whole lockdown this was one of the actions that was forgotten about.

So just wanted to say would be keen to work with others to explore an agreement around adopt a path.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

Forestry and Land Scotland, Mariner Court, 8 South Avenue, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2NR

[REDACTED]



Forestry and Land Scotland is an executive agency of the Scottish Government

Consider the environment. Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 29 October 2021 13:33

To: Kenny Auld [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Urgent action needed : Adopt a Path Website

Hi Kenny

Hope you are keeping well and things are going well for you.

I've attached a copy of our annual report, which is just out after our AGM yesterday.

As you know we never did reach an agreement to provide Adopt A Path for you beyond the end of TMTP, though we did spend a bit on time on considering the various options.

We are currently recruiting an officer post who will review OATS volunteering and carry forward including Adopt A Path. I will ask that person to get in touch with you once in post to discuss future options for the LLTNP paths.

All the best

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Chief Executive

Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland

1 Atholl Crescent

PERTH PH1 5NG

Tel: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Outdoor_Trust_logo_S1



From: Kenny Auld <[REDACTED]>

Sent: 11 October 2021 11:14

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Urgent action needed : Adopt a Path Website

Morning both,

I'm afraid I'm having to chase up on how we can save the AaP website and system. By all accounts it is now not usable. If OATS are not looking to use or maintain the site we need to make a firm plan on how we can take some legacy aspects out of the system.

We seem to have been using the system the most so I can look at taking over the site if that is the best scenario but I'm unsure on existing relationships (ie Woodland Trust) and other interesting parties.

Would really appreciate a quick response on this so I can keep momentum across our staff and volunteers who were using the system.

Thanks

Kenny

Kenny Auld

Head of Visitor Services

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority

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