

LL&T Access Forum Meeting

Agenda Item 6



Access team update paper

Park Authority Access Team Update – for period 29 September 2016 to 11 January 2017

1.0 Upholding Access Rights

1.1 Section 13 Public Access

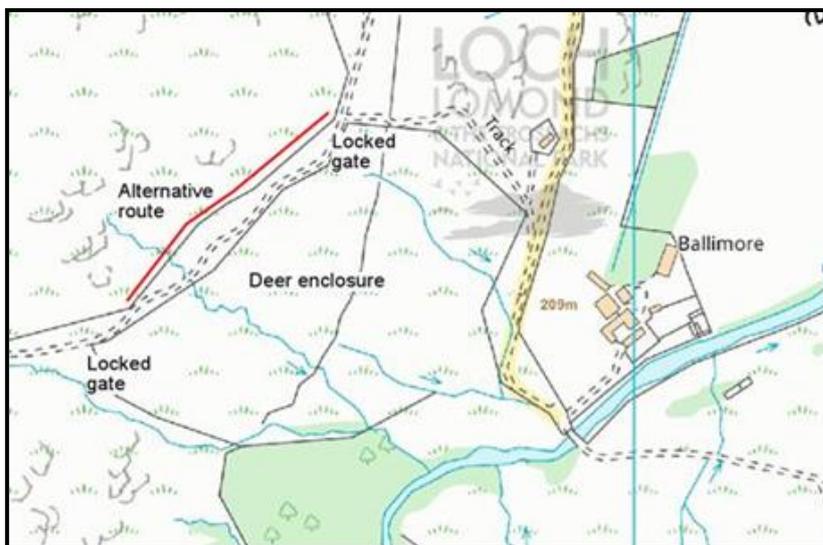
Glen Auchreoch, Crianlarich

Over the past few years, a locked deer gate and signage have resulted in a number of complaints from the public wishing to access Glen Auchreoch, and Park Authority efforts to resolve the issue were stymied by a lack of information on landownership. However new information has become available and we have now managed to discuss the issue with the appropriate contact and a new self-closing gate and compliant signage has been assured for 2017.

Ballimore Farm, Balquhidder

Following more recent complaints, the Park Authority made a site visit with the landowner to revisit this longstanding access issue. We assessed the locked gates, stock / enclosure management and the localised path network. The track through the deer enclosure is not a core path, the main core path used to access Creagan nan Sgiath and the informal route to Creag Mhor are unaffected.

The landowner was generally supportive of public access in the area and gave valid reasons for locking the access track gates in the deer enclosure. The gates were unlocked in the past and despite advisory signage and self-closing mechanisms, have been mistakenly left open by visitors, leading to significant stock management problems e.g. stock escaping, bulls mating at the wrong time, safety issues with the resident stags etc. Fortunately, a good local alternative exists, running parallel to the enclosure track – this is only c.200m long and is not additionally onerous for hill walkers.



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We agreed to use LRA compliant signage to direct walkers to the alternative route, which provides a pragmatic and reasonable solution at this time. We will monitor the situation and review the arrangement in 6 months time.

Drumlean – An interim decision was received from the Sheriff Appeal Court in November which supported the Park Authority position around “timing” (i.e. pre 2003 consideration) and also the position that the original Sheriff was wrong to deem the Officer case notes as inadmissible when deciding on the “main purpose” of the landowner. Consequently the Sheriff Appeal Court decided that it was best placed to make a judgement of the “main purpose” and set an additional hearing for December 8th. The hearing went well with interest from a number of observers including Scottish Government officers, SNH, Ramblers Scotland, Scotways and Edinburgh Council. We hope for a decision in the coming months.

2.0 Outdoor Recreation Plan delivery

2.1 Priority projects 2016/17 updates

West Loch Lomond Cycle Path

Preparations for installing the new directional fingerposts off the A82 have commenced.

St Fillans to Lochearnhead

Phase two continues to proceed slightly behind schedule. All funding is secured.

Drymen to Balmaha

Stirling Council are finalising traffic calming measures for Balmaha and Milton of Buchanan. Works are scheduled imminently for resurfacing of the link section within Buchanan Castle Estate. TP&E (consultants) have provided a quote for project development and delivery.

Balloch to Gartocharn

Following the completion of the Feasibility and Design Report the Community Paths Group have released a position statement and decided to pursue the recommended Phase 1 which would link Gartocharn to the War memorial and the RSPB visitor centre.

Parkmobility Project

This Project has now moved into Callander through a partnership with the local charity Trossachs Mobility (mentioned by Paul Prescott at the previous meeting). They have secured funding and a three year rental of a premises on Callander Main St. The Park Authority are in discussions about future funding. Trossachs Mobility are also looking into Wheelie Boat availability which is also an ORP Action.

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3.0 Other access projects

The Mountains and The People

Trainees have completed their training course and preparations for the next course and intake are underway. The final trainee path improvements on the Lauder Memorial (Glenbranter) with stone pitching, hand rails and a new self-closing gate are complete.

Path works are underway with contactors on Ben Venue, subject to weather conditions. Information from the people counter, installed on Ben Lomond main path in the spring, shows 77,000 people to date.

Work on the main Cobbler and summit return path is now complete, repairs to the final lower section (dam to forest road) is scheduled for 2018.

Planning permission for the Ben Ledi path work has been received and repair work will commence shortly.

Balloch Placemaking Project

Sustrans held a second consultation event on 17th November which 50 (approx) people attended. Feedback was varied but constructive. Sustrans held a subsequent event with all local businesses and are now digesting all feedback and ideas and working on initial draft concepts and plans.

Callander Placemaking Project

The tendering process has been delayed by Stirling Council however the project remains on target for design phase delivery by April 2017.

Park Authority people counter network

As part of the Mountains and The People project, a new automatic counter has been installed to record visitor numbers on Ben A'an.

Justice in the Park

In the first tranche of projects, West Dunbartonshire Council Community Payback Team (CPT) have improved sections of the West Loch Lomond Cycle Path - leaf litter, encroachment and overhanging branches have been removed from a section near Loch Lomond golf club. Stirling Council CPT have done an excellent job of improving conditions on the NCN7 path between Croftamie / Drymen and will also work on the Aberfoyle – Milton off-highway path.

Argyll and Bute Council CPT plan to maintain the Lochgoilhead war memorial, litter pick local visitor sites and address encroachment on the Inveronich core path link.

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4.0 Work with local partners

Stirling

The Rec & Access Team continue to work with SC to progress active travel and public realm projects in Callander and around Drymen. SC have also secured direct funding from Sustrans to resurface NCN7 at Callander.

West Dunbartonshire

The Park Authority are working with WDC on the Balloch Placemaking Project and have committed £1.2M to the project.

Perth & Kinross

P&K Countryside Trust is a partner within the 3 Saints Way Project and for signage around St Fillans.

FCS

In November 2016, NPA met with FCS for our quarterly access and recreation meeting. Verbal update can be provided at meeting.

6.0 SOAN update

SOAN

The November event was held in Battleby and looked at Core Path Planning and the impacts of recent changes to the LRA. The event was extremely informative and a good starting point for the NPA Core Path Review.

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