



Trust Managers Report – December 2009

1. Overview

The reporting period has seen a good deal of work on the planning phase of paths within the community networks project, though in some cases planning constraints are proving to be increasingly arduous. Outline development of projects to be included in COAT's next business plan has also been ongoing, with negotiation, discussion and options on fundraising to the fore. COAT's upland project development nears significant milestones with our applications for funding being approved by HIPP at stage 2, and HLF at stage 1. The Walking to Health programme continues to deliver well in the Deeside and Donside areas, with significant inroads made into the West Cairngorms.

2. 2009-11 Business Plan

Path Networks Around Communities

Development of the community paths to construction has been a little slower going than had been hoped. The Baddengorm Woods path got a flat refusal from the landowner, and alternative routes were brought in from the Draft Core Path Plan at Boat Of Garten and at Craigellachie. The latter contract has recently been allocated and is due to start early in the New Year. The route at Dulnain Bridge has been delayed with the landowner requiring assurances on liabilities. We hope to resolve this through negotiation of a path agreement in the near future.

The routes put through for planning appear to be hitting ever more extraneous requirements, with objections from SEPA for the Braemar Path on the basis of a requirements pertaining to flood evacuation and compensatory storage.

Despite these constraints Murray and Chris have worked hard to develop a range of path contracts which are currently going out to tender, with work to take place between January and March, though some of these are still dependent on agreements being reached with statutory bodies and landowners.

Path ID	Path Name	Officer	Progress	Next Stage	Budget
UBS34	Kingussie to Newtonmore via Loch Gynack	Chris Goodman	Contract awarded to Hitrak Ltd.	Work due to start week commencing 30/11	24,000
LBS99	Riverside Path, Dulnain Bridge	Chris Goodman	Discussing maintenance/liability with estate.	Arrange site meeting with factor	20,000
LBS63	Baddengorm Wood Path, Carrbridge	Chris Goodman	Landowner objected to proposal, not possible to find suitable agreement.	Path proposal not being pursued	-
LBS124	Highburnside, Aviemore	Chris Goodman	Awaiting outcome of inquiry. Route surveyed.	Seafields have given consent to survey route.	60,000

LBS128	Hill Path, Kincaig	Chris Goodman	Reporter wants Wilburn to submit 2 path routes for planning application.	Await outcome of application, then survey consented route.	20,000
LBS75	Golf Course Circular, Kingussie	Chris Goodman	BTCV completed works.		5,000
UBS2	Wildcat Trail, Newtonmore	Chris Goodman	Chasing estate for consent.	Put out to tender once permission secured.	20,000
UBS17	Gergask Path, Laggan	Chris Goodman	Path surveyed, LCA discussing septic tank with Highland Council.	Site visit with DB, await outcome from LCA.	8,000
UDE9	Society Bridge to Glenshee Road	Murray Swapp	Planning	Tendered/works to start Jan 2010	40,000
UDE4	Dinnet to Glen Tanar - Firmounth	Murray Swapp	Planning	Tender/works to start Feb 2010	24,000
UDE28	Seven Bridges Walk	Murray Swapp	Survey/Report	Further negotiations/Planning	30,000
UDE59	Dalmochie to Cambus O' May	Murray Swapp	Planning	Tender/works to start Feb 2010	37,000
UDO10	Bellabeg Circular	Murray Swapp	Preliminary site visit 2008	Survey, report to landowner	8,000
UDO5	Strathdon Bridge Path	Murray Swapp	Planning	Post planning -funding	-
615-01	Deeside Way link - Tarland to Aboyne	Murray Swapp	Negotiation with landowner(s)	Continue negotiation, site survey	75,000
LBS121	Boat of Garten	Chris Goodman	Owner wants work to be undertaken in March.	Finalise details in Jan and put out to tender. Submit planning app.	10,000
LBS30	Craigellachie Link Path	Chris Goodman	Contract awarded to Upland Contracts	Confirm start date.	10,000
LBS61	River Path, Carrbridge	Chris Goodman	Permission secured from estate, finalise details and put out to tender.	Discuss additional works/access with garage.	20,000

Lowland Path Maintenance

Lowland path maintenance has been ongoing, and will continue through the winter period.

Mountain Paths

Upland Path Project

Our application has been recommended for ERDF funding by HIPP, with the value of the ERDF grant at £722,502. The project has also been given a Stage 1 pass by HLF board, with a grant of £720,000 requested. All of the match funders, including CNPA, HIE, RSPB and SNH have confirmed their funding to the project, which has an overall value of just under £2.1 million. The first year of this project will be delivered next year, with the remaining 3.25 years delivered in the subsequent business plan.

Work will be required to develop the project to Stage 2 for HLF. They will require some detailed project planning documents, including Gantt charts, Activity plans and a detailed Interpretive Plan to demonstrate the public learning attributes of the project. The project will also include a vocational training project at SVQ Level 2, to develop workers in the area who can go on and take up employment opportunities generated by the project.

Whilst a good deal of work will need to be done before a stage 2 pass can be received from HLF, we must now plan now to start the project quickly with anticipated start-up during July/August. Specifications and tenders will be worked up to just before commitment stage on a number of sizeable contracts to enable us to get the best out of the summer/autumn

season next year, and it is recommended that we proceed with recruitment of the project staff posts during May with a view to offering posts formally in June.

Upland Path Maintenance

The upland path maintenance contract has completed, and evaluated by COAT, HIE and NTS. The opinion was overwhelmingly favourable to the project and all parties are keen to continue the arrangement.

Glas Allt - Balmoral

The contract has been allocated to Upland Access Ltd, and they started work in November. The site will likely carry on to early January, but good progress has been made on the section beneath the footbridge, and a good start on the zig-zags near the bottom. The quality of work so far is up to UALtd usual excellent standards.

Quinaig

COAT oversaw this work on behalf of JMT on a management and training basis. Chris did the supervision, with DB and CG providing the specification. The work was very well received by the JMT Trustees, and they are keen to approach us for similar work in the future.

Strategic Routes

COAT has been contracted by Aberdeenshire Council to provide specifications for the next stage of Deeside Way. Specification work is also being carried out on the Speyside Way Extension.

CNPA are keen for COAT to take over management of the maintenance on the existing Speyside Way. A draft brief will be prepared and circulated describing the tasks that COAT would be liable for.

Health and wellbeing

The health walks programme continues to develop with new health specific walks now being delivered, as well as a good deal of progress in the west of the park in terms of supporting what were formally the Step It Up Highland walks through the project, and setting up new walks in consultation with community groups and health professionals. Alan has started a new project worker, Mandy Way, to carry the Co-ordinator workload on the West side of the Park.

Walk ID	Walk Name	Progress	Next Stage
HW01	<i>Braemar Health Walk Group</i>	Currently not meeting. Trained volunteers still keen to develop group in 2010	Meet with GP, volunteers, new contacts in early spring.
HW02	<i>Ballater Health Walk Group</i>	Meeting regularly with good attendance. Volunteers very committed.	Recruit and support new volunteers, engage GP in referring clients to group
HW03	<i>Logie Coldstone Health Walk Group</i>	Meeting regularly, ageing attendees, excellent group for promoting other activities	Village has new residents, possible links with Tarland, poss new community paths required.
HW04	<i>Tarland Health Walk Group - Day</i>	Recently started with good attendance of participants and volunteers	Meet with GP, Chemist and encourage a new group of walkers
HW05	<i>Tarland Health Walk Group - Eve</i>	Meets from April to Oct incl. in the evening. Recently held a reflective evaluation session, very positive	Meet volunteers to discuss monthly health walks on a sunday aft, plan a meeting in early spring.
HW06	<i>Aboyne Health Walk Group</i>	Meeting regularly in Bonty Court. Good group, wide community representation.	Continue support and recruit new members from Aboyne health practice.

HW07	<i>Alford Health Walk Group</i>	Meeting regularly, promoting independant health walks, good contact with GP practice	Continue support, ensure core path plan is aware of need for local health walk routes.
HW08	<i>Strathdon Health Walk Group</i>	Meeting regularly, good volunteers well organised, trips outwith Strathdon, GP very supportive.	Promote more independent walking, encourage more contact with GP to refer clients to generic group.
HW09	<i>Grantown Health Walk Group</i>	Meet regularly, Mandy has been very involved recently, leaders will transfer to Carrbridge and start a new group in due course.	Recruit new Grantown leaders, train and support, encourage GP to use generic group for referrals.
HW10	<i>Aviemore Health Walk Group</i>	Will stop at Christmas but will meet occasionally for a walk and tea. Mandy has been in touch regularly to support volunteers and introduce COAT.	Arrange a planning meeting in early march to increase numbers, promote independant health walks etc.
HW11	<i>Nethy Health Walk Group</i>	First walk on 17th Nov 09, good volunteers, coming to First Aid and Vol training.	Mandy, and I initially, will give a high level of support to volunteers.
HW12	<i>Carr-bridge Health Walk Group</i>	In development, met with Carrbridge CC to promote COAT/Health walks and identify new volunteers	Transfer existing Grantown leaders to Carrbridge, recruit, train and support new vols, new routes
HW13	<i>Laggan Health Walk Group</i>	In development, promoting health walks in Strathay, meeting community activists etc	Identify a key community contact to work closely with that will be involved in delivery
HW14	<i>Kingussie Health Walk Group</i>	In development, promoting health walks in Strathay, meeting community activists etc	Identify a key community contact to work closely with that will be involved in delivery
HW15	<i>Alzheimers Health Walk Group -Nordic walking</i>	Meeting regularly, volunteers trained to deliver Nordic walking, good press event in May.	Working with Alz Service Manager to develop an additional group, very successful, good
HW16	<i>Alzheimers Health Walk Group Cafe</i>	Meets regularly with a varied programme, excellent attendance 18-22.	Continue support, encourage more independent health walking, press event to highlight health benefit
HW17	<i>Cancer care -CLAN</i>	Initial development as taster sessions have went well, good response and positive feedback.	Meet with CLAN staff and volunteer walk leaders to develop a programme for 2010.
HW18	<i>Diabetes -Strathdon</i>	In development, met health practice staff, developing strategy for recruitment.	Meet with GP and staff and push forward development strategy
HW19	<i>Smoking Cessation - Grantown</i>	Has started on 5th Nov 09, small attendance ALL referrals from physiotherapy section, nurse has identified further participants	Continue positive contact with GP practice, recruit more participants through health professionals
HW20	<i>Mental Health -Aviemore</i>	In development, met with Healthy Minds Co-ordinator, will offer a health walk to participants.	Meet group on Tues 24th Nov, identify need and plan a programme to suit, CPN to refer..
HW21	<i>Weight Management - Glen Tanar</i>	In development, met Head Ranger Nov 09, will offer a weekly health walk for Aboyne Health Centre staff to refer patients.	Meet Health Centre staff, gain support for professional staff to be involved,start early spring 2010
HW22	<i>Weight Management - Newtonmore</i>	In development, met with Badenoch physio team to promote/develop Health walks,	Mandy to meet with Badenoch GP practices and develop group
HW23	<i>Promotion of COAT Health Walks</i>	Going well with 2 national conferences, LEADER Seminar, local press, Nordic event, all went well.	Continue to look for opportunities to develop the profile of COAT and the Health Walks Project

Associated visitor infrastructure

Interpretive Boards

Maps are now available via the standards exercise carried out via CNPA. Murray has started work to replace the Spittal Of Glenmuick board, with the Braemar and Ballater boards to go next year.

Promotion, marketing and development

Leaflets

The same National Park contract as above will provide an updated Ballater Walks leaflet. COAT has agreed to take back the work on the All-Abilities leaflet which had been planned for this standards based contract.

Web Design

The website continues to develop, with COAT staff working up content. A training session on running an on-line forum has taken place, and it is hoped that in the long term this will provide a high degree of communication with and between our affiliates and other stakeholders

Dougie Baird – December 2009