

ALPS update for Management Group 4th April 2011

- Works on the Clachan church have been advertised in the Press & Journal, the West Highland Free Press, the Scottish Government's Public Contracts website, and locally. So far there have been 16 notes of interest in addition to the original preferred contractor. David Somerville has suggested a pre-qualification system to make sure that only those contractors with the prerequisite skills and experience go through to the second stage. The deadline for tenders is the 2nd May (Monday).
- Cathy Dagg (archaeologist) was contracted to do a 'Written Scheme of Investigation' (WSI) on March 14th in response to queries made by Historic Scotland on the lines of the proposed bay paths. This has been completed and Historic Scotland are now satisfied.
- Planning for three of the paths planned for construction/repair has been approved, with work due to start in the second week in April on the Cruary-Heritage Centre path. There is likely to be disruption to access to the initial 50m of the Cruary-Sand path for about four weeks, and also to the Heritage centre carpark that will act as an access route to the central section of the path. Final planning conditions have not yet been received, but will involve a 'watching 'archaeological brief' for the final descent to the Heritage Centre.
- Scheduled Monument consent and a new planning application will be required for the Heritage Centre-Estate Road path that would skirt around Clachan. It is possible, but not certain, that this will be granted. The process may take a few months to conclude. John Malcolm (Historic Scotland) is currently considering our proposals informally to help give an initial steer of our chances of success.
- Work continued intermittently on Smiddy Wood during March.
- The Council continued working throughout May on repairing priority sections of the Bealach dykes.
- Five locals successfully attained their LANTRA level 1 dry stone dyking certificate on the 19th March.
- A community 'archaeological' Timewalk was organized for the 12th March to finalise the route of the proposed Archaeological/heritage trail. Bob Brown (NT path expert) was subsequently contracted to investigate the route which is radically different from that originally proposed in October 2009 for which we have specifications which acted as the basis for funding. A report has not yet been received but is likely to recommend vegetation management as opposed to actual path construction.
- Martin Wildgoose visited the limekiln and Hebridean barns on the 31st March to update and finalise a specification for recommended works. This will act as a basis for tenders to undertake the work of the limekiln (in 2011), and remedial work on the barns if funding is forthcoming.
- A specification has been finalized for the archaeological training project. This contract opportunity has been advertised locally, in the West Highland Free Press and via the Scottish Group of the Institute for Archaeologists. The deadline for tenders is the 21st April.

- The ALPS website has been translated into Gaelic and will be live before Easter. It is currently being proof read.
- A draft management plan for Milton Loch has been drafted. Some specialist information on plant diversity around the loch is still required, and once received, the plan will be circulated for comment. It is aimed at the community and the anglers rather than at planners.
- The Trustee visited Applecross on the 16th March. SB gave a talk on ALPS progress and made an additional request for funds to 1) conduct immediate remedial work on the Hebridean barns to prevent imminent collapse, 2) enable the repair of Smiddy dykes, 3) fund a portion of what is likely to be a ca. £40K shortfall of the South Coast Deer Fence, even assuming a successful CCAGS application. They are considering these requests.
- Work has continued on developing an ALPS training plan. This is a funding requirement and needs to be completed by the time of the next HLF report. It is hoped that a draft will be available for comments late April/early May.