## ALPS update for Management Group 20th August 2012

- ➤ ALPS Project Manager: Sam Bridgewater has accepted a permanent nature conservation position in Devon, and will be leaving his current post at the end of September. There is a need to think about a replacement. As many of the ALPS projects are complete or near complete it may not be necessary to recruit a full-time replacement, but a presence (which could be part time) to ensure final delivery of project outputs and assist with reporting will be required. Various models of a successor are possible. Their suitability to be discussed at the next management group meeting.
- ➤ Clachan Church: David Somerville, Sam Bridgewater and Alistair McCowan met with the glass manufacturer to discuss the coloured glass. It was explained that the patterning of the glass was an inherent feature of the glass which has been manufactured to replicate old style coloured panes. It was subsequently agreed that an existing cracked pane would be replaced along with the final missing pane, and the manufacturer has provided written confirmation that glass figurations are not lines of weakness.
- ▶ Bealach na Bà interpretation: Between the time that the stone was delivered and Dan Macrae started work, a number of stones were stolen. These have been replaced. All ground works have been completed and initial placement of the stones undertaken. However, there is a requirement to re-orientate the stones again which are slightly out of alignment. Dan Macrae is currently working as a ghillie and will undertake this work once his time is free again.
- ➤ **Bealach dykes** The initial agreed work has been completed. The Trustees have expressed an interest in funding shortfalls of additional dyking work and Geoff Walker/Darren Jones are preparing a list of works related to Smiddy, with one obvious area being the visible collapsed dyking corner close to the deer grid as one descends past Smiddy.
- Interpretation: Proofs of the Wildlife Walks and Heritage Walks booklets are currently being proofed. It is hoped that these can be printed in September. Gaelic translations of the orientation panels has been received. Initial quotes for manufacturing signage has also been received although contractors have all since been asked to revise their quotes. Arrina and Kenmore/Ardheslaig paths: Bob Munro has been contracted to install a kissing gate at Arrina woodland with George Mundell to add additional waymarking between the plantation and Cuaig. Work continues on the Kenmore to Ardheslaig path which is still on target to be completed by mid September. This will complete all ALPS path building although with available contingency it may be possible to undertake additional work.
- > Lime kiln: Martin Wildgoose began the Phase 1 consolidation stonework at the start of August.
- ➤ Hebridean barns: All stonework consolidation has been completed. All but one pit have been in-filled with Donald Gillanders asked to provide a quote for constructing a suitable fence around the pit which has been left open. James Goldthorpe has begun to cut the scarf joints for the roof of the northern-most barn. Planning have communicated that they are minded to grant consent for adding a roof to the southern-most barn, but are waiting for Historic Scotland to respond before final confirmation.

- ➤ Bracken spraying: Bracken spraying took place at Milltown, Keppoch, Callakille, Fearnmore, and Ardheslaig in early August. Despite the issue being discussed at a previous open meeting, with an agreement that crofters would decide what was suitable for their land with members of the public directing their individual concerns to them, a small number of local people have since strongly expressed their opposition to what was done. In particular there was some concern that residential houses had been sprayed. Samuel Bridgewater/Archie have tried to allay such fears as no residential houses were targeted, and only areas carefully mapped and agreed with relevant crofting parties beforehand. SB/AM have since contacted the helicopter company to confirm this. The misunderstanding seems to relate to the helicopter being observed doing observational flights and turning whilst not spraying. This was always going to be a contentious issue.
- ➤ Gateway woodland project: After publication on the Public Contracts website, a further two organisations (in addition to Scottish Woodland and Tillhill) expressed an interest in tendering: Highland Forestry and Highland Birchwoods. Both have submitted a Pre Qualification Questionnaire and have since been asked to submit full tenders by the 10th September. The Applecross Trustees meet on the 13th and 14th September. It is recommended that the management group meets on the 11th or 12th for 1/2 hour presentations given by all contractors on their tenders to conclude the procurement process. As the degree of road building/mulching etc. has significant cost implications to the Trust, the Trustees need to agree on the tender to be accepted.
- > South Coast Deer Fence Work on the construction of a layby should start on the 27th August.
- Events and festivals The following events took place in July/August: Applecross Bird and mammal Watch (14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July; 10 people); Archaeological Walk (21<sup>st</sup> July; 15 people); Gaelic in the Landscape (27<sup>th</sup> July; 15 people); Applecross Place Names (3<sup>rd</sup> August; 6 people); Herbal workshop (4<sup>th</sup> August; 10 people).