



## Scottish Natural Heritage grant programme Information sheet

### Paths and routes

#### Grants for paths and routes

We want more people in Scotland to have the chance to enjoy the natural heritage. The Paths and routes grant scheme has been set up to help people provide for access alongside other land management. Grants are available to make sure that paths and routes are suitable for all ages and abilities. This scheme will do the following.

- Help to provide paths and routes which:
  - are well planned, managed and promoted;
  - are welcoming and meet the needs of a range of users;
  - take account of land management and natural heritage interests; and
  - offer wider public benefits (health, transport and so on).
- Help more people to get out and enjoy the natural heritage, particularly close to where people live.
- Help to provide up-to-date information on outdoor access trends by monitoring the use of paths and routes.

#### Background

We have a duty to help people enjoy the natural heritage, and the Government has asked us to help them introduce the new access laws. Although most of this work will be done by local authorities and national park authorities, we will still advise them and give grants to support this work.

#### Who should apply

- Communities
- Land managers
- Recreation groups
- Local authorities

National park authorities will be able to apply on behalf of wider funding partnerships. We will also consider applications from businesses where they can show benefits to the public.

## What we will pay for

The main things we will pay for are listed below. We will also pay for other proposals which help to provide better access. Please contact us if you need more information.

- Building and improving paths, particularly close to where people live.
- Providing signposts, waymarkers, gates, bridges and other structures which help to make access to land and water easier.
- Good management of long-distance routes (except in national parks where we will only consider supporting extensions or new routes).
- Path work to protect and restore the landscape, especially in the upland areas of Scotland.
- Advice, guidance and training on technical design and management.
- Monitoring through equipment, focus groups, questionnaires and other surveys.

## Our priorities

We particularly welcome:

- land management and visitor management projects which provide paths close to where people live; and
- upland pathwork projects which protect and restore the landscape.

## How much we will pay

We will pay up to half of the total eligible cost of the project, although some community groups may qualify for more support. Eligible cost includes any 'in-kind' contributions, such as land, labour or materials donated to your project.

We may pay 75% for projects listed under 'Our priorities'. Please contact us to discuss your plans at an early stage.

## What we will not pay for

- Outdoor access strategies
- Ongoing path maintenance (other than long-distance routes)
- Feasibility studies (unless you need one to apply for funding from other sources)
- Path-management databases
- Work which qualifies for funding through Land Management Contracts or the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme

## What other information your application should include

To support your application, you should send us:

- an extract or reference to the local plan or outdoor access strategy which your project is linked to;
- details of who will benefit from the path, for example:
  - walkers;
  - cyclists;
  - horse-riders;
  - people with disabilities;
  - canoeists; and
  - land managers;
- a short outline of the work involved, including technical details;
- how the path or facilities will be promoted; and
- details of how the project will be maintained once it has been completed, and how this will be funded.

## Where to get more help

- Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Enterprise and Paths For All Partnership. (2001) *Lowland path construction: a guide to good practice*.
- Scottish Natural Heritage. (2002) *Countryside access design guide*. Perth. ISBN 1 85397 339 4
- Footpath Trust. (1999) *Upland pathwork. Construction standards for Scotland*. Perth, Scottish Natural Heritage. (Natural Heritage Management Series) ISBN 1 85397 062
- Upland Path Advisory Group. (2003?) *Upland path management: standards for delivering path projects in Scotland's mountains*. ISBN 1 85397 342 4
- Paths For All Partnership. (2000) *Signpost guidance*. Alloa.
- Scottish Natural Heritage. (2000) *Car parks in the countryside: a practical guide to planning, design and construction*. Perth. (Natural Heritage Management Series) ISBN 1 85397 087 5
- BT and Fieldfare Trust. (1997) *BT countryside for all: standards and guidelines: a good practice guide to disabled people's access in the countryside*. Sheffield.

To find these references contact your local library. If you have difficulties finding them, please contact our library by e-mailing us at [library@snh.gov.uk](mailto:library@snh.gov.uk).

## Other possible sources of funding

You will find detailed information in the leaflet 'Other sources of funding' in the application pack. Projects within this scheme may also be eligible for support from:

- local authorities and national park authorities;
- the Rural Stewardship Scheme; and
- Land Management Contracts.

