



Press Release

10 June 2019

For immediate release

## Mountaineering and conservation

### New conservation strategy launched with a call to “Tak it Hame”

Reflecting the interests of its members, Mountaineering Scotland has launched its own conservation strategy – and marked the occasion with a hillside litter-pick.

The new policy looks at three main areas.

**Land Use & Wildlife** issues include overgrazing by wild or domestic animals, the creation of extensive monocultures through excessive muirburn or large, single-species forestry plantations, and the concept of rewilding.

**Under Wild Land & Development Activity** the strategy looks at ways of responding to increasing demands for wind turbines, hydro power schemes and new hilltracks in wild areas.

And in **Recreational Activity** the spotlight is turned on walkers and climbers themselves, looking at what people can do to minimise their impact on the environment.

Stuart Younie, Chief Executive Officer of Mountaineering Scotland, said: “Our landscape provides us the environment in which to enjoy our recreational activities, so we need to do our part to help preserve and enhance it.

“Mountaineering Scotland already has a strong record of campaigning on issues that matter to its members. We will continue to do that and by launching this strategy we hope it sends a clear message to Government and other organisations about our commitment to the conservation agenda, and also our desire to take a strategic approach and engage with other organisations to help influence change in policy and legislation.”

Vehicle roads in the uplands, whether for agriculture or field sports access, or for access to new hydropower schemes, have been a growing concern, and the organisation, while supportive of the drive for increased renewable energy, continues to object to wind farm proposals in inappropriate locations.

Over the last twelve months Mountaineering Scotland was active in the Mend Our Mountains appeal, which has raised £100,000 for path repairs on mountains in Scotland’s two national parks.

And a new campaign – Tak It Home – is encouraging members – and other walkers and climbers, to take home their own rubbish from the hills and to pick up any other rubbish they find there. Directors, staff and members all took part in a litter-pick on Birnam Hill on Saturday to mark the launch of the conservation strategy.

In a survey of Mountaineering Scotland's 14,000 members, 85% of respondents gave a high priority to campaigning to protect the wildness of Scotland's mountain areas.

The new conservation strategy is downloadable at

<https://www.mountaineering.scot/campaigns/protecting-our-mountains/conservation-strategy>

## Ends

### Notes for editors:

**Image:** [http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/Conservation\\_Strategy\\_launch\\_at\\_Birnam\\_Hill\\_Photo\\_by\\_Reuben\\_Tabner.jpg](http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/Conservation_Strategy_launch_at_Birnam_Hill_Photo_by_Reuben_Tabner.jpg)

**Caption:** Mountaineering Scotland directors and staff with members and guests at the top of Birnam Hill near Dunkeld.

[http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/Principal\\_figures\\_Conservation\\_Strategy\\_launch\\_at\\_Birnam\\_Hill\\_Photo\\_by\\_Reuben\\_Tabner.jpg](http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/Principal_figures_Conservation_Strategy_launch_at_Birnam_Hill_Photo_by_Reuben_Tabner.jpg)

**Caption:** Pictured with the new Mountaineering Scotland Conservation Strategy are, from left: Stuart Younie, CEO; Davie Black, Access & Conservation Officer; Ron Neville, Director for Access & Conservation, and Jonathan Binny, Director for Landscape & Planning.

[http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/Conservation\\_Strategy\\_launch\\_Davie\\_Black\\_talking\\_Photo\\_by\\_Reuben\\_Tabner.jpg](http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/Conservation_Strategy_launch_Davie_Black_talking_Photo_by_Reuben_Tabner.jpg)

**Caption:** Access & Conservation Officer Davie Black brings the Conservation Strategy to life for fellow members and guests at the launch event on Birnam Hill.

### Further information contact:

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### About Mountaineering Scotland:

- Mountaineering Scotland is the only recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains.
- Mountaineering Scotland provides training and information to mountain users to promote safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.
- The Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with over 14,000 members representing hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers, funded through a combination of membership subscriptions, non-governmental grants and investment

from sportscotland, which supports public initiatives and services in mountain safety, mountain training and the development and promotion of mountaineering activities.

- Mountaineering Scotland also acts for 75,000 members of the BMC or British Mountaineering Council on matters related to Landscape and Access in Scotland.
- Mountaineering Scotland landscape and access work is supported financially by the Scottish Mountaineering Trust and the BMC
- Mountaineering Scotland has launched the ClimbScotland initiative to encourage young people to participate in climbing and support their progression. It offers a dedicated website and a development team, which will introduce young people to climbing at schools, climbing walls and via youth organisations with a range of activities and events, while developing kids clubs and providing specialist support to parents, volunteers and teachers.
- Mountaineering Scotland is the national governing body for sports climbing. It offers pathways to climbing coaching, organises and promotes a range of regional and national climbing competitions, and manages the Scottish climbing and bouldering teams. It contributes to the management of the GB teams with the ultimate aim of seeing a Scottish athlete achieve a podium position in the Olympic Games.
- The MCoS is a not for profit company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Scotland. Company number SC322717.
- Mountaineering Scotland, The Granary, West Mill Street, Perth PH1 5QP