



Press Release

13 May 2019

For immediate release

New ways for national park Munros

Work starts on £100,000 project to restore popular hill paths

A £100,000 appeal to fund much needed repairs to Scottish hill paths has reached its target and work has now started on one of two major projects.

The Mend Out Mountains: Make One Million appeal, which has run over the last year, is headed by the BMC UK-wide and Mountaineering Scotland north of the border, and aims to raise up to £1 million for pathwork in each of the UK's national parks. In Scotland the target was £100,000 for work in the Cairngorms National Park and the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park.

Skilled pathworkers began work in April on the badly eroded path up Ben Vane in the Arrochar Alps, in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park.

£40,000 of the Scottish total has been allocated for work which is expected to take eight months to complete, finishing in November.

Work on the other project, the unsightly scar of the path up Beinn a Ghlo in the southern Cairngorms, is due to start in June and will take four months, with completion scheduled for September. Work on the Beinn a Ghlo path, which has for years been an eroded trench visible from the A9, will cost £60,000.

All the pathwork is being overseen and coordinated by the Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland.

Donations came from all quarters during the year-long appeal, including individuals, climbing and walking clubs, and organisations. A grant of £26,500 came from the European Outdoor Conservation Association, and £20,000 from the Scottish Mountaineering Trust, as well as £10,000 from the BFMF. And pupils from Loretto School in Musselburgh celebrated their own connection with Beinn a Ghlo by raising £1500 through climbs of Beinn a Ghlo and Arthur's Seat, and a sponsored abseil in Fife.

Stuart Younie, Chief Executive of Mountaineering Scotland said: "This has been a great project to raise funds for badly needed path restoration projects on two very popular mountains. It's fantastic to see so many people getting outdoors enjoying the countryside and the benefits of getting physically active but one of the unfortunate legacies is the wear and tear on our hill paths and tracks. I'd like to thank everyone in the outdoors community who has embraced our collective responsibility to help look after the hills and been involved supporting Mend our Mountains."

Dougie Baird, CEO of Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland, said: "These are two of the most eroded paths in the UK, and repairing the damage will be so important for both the landscape and the visitor experience. With public funds under so much pressure, it was important that the public support this

type of work and we are delighted that those who care for the mountains took this opportunity to give something back.”

Carey Davies, BMC hill walking officer and lead for the Mend Our Mountains: Make One Million appeal, said: “A few scruffy paths might not sound like a big problem, but the consequences of path erosion can be really serious. Without intervention these scars can grow to 30 metres or more across – as wide as a motorway. That scarring can endanger rare vegetation or wildlife, disturb habitats, expose carbon-capturing peat or harm the health of waterways.

It is fantastic that these repair projects can now go ahead having smashed their targets, and it is testament to the great affinity so many people have for the Scottish landscape, both in Scotland and beyond.”

Ends

Notes for editors:

Images:

Mend Our Mountains logo.

http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/MOM_LOGO_SCOTLAND_Final.png

Eroded path on Beinn a Ghlo. Photo by Neil Reid

<http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/DSC01646.JPG>

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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.
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