

Glen Nevis Visitor Centre Ionad Nibheis

Ben Nevis, Three Peaks and Glen Nevis events guidance

Introduction

Organised events are an important part of Scotland's outdoor life, encouraging people to enjoy the natural environment and helping to support good causes. With its status as both Scotland's and the UK's highest summit Ben Nevis inevitably attracts many such events some involving only Ben Nevis while others also include the highest summits in other countries of the UK. "The Ben" also attracts many other walkers and climbers and this guidance and the work of the Visitor Centre staff is designed to try and minimise any adverse effects on other users, the environment or residents.

Legal context

In February 2005 the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 came into effect and gave Scotland some of the most progressive access legislation in Europe, giving everyone a statutory right of responsible access to most land and inland water. These access rights are explained more fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) - which also gives more guidance for the organisers of events. The full code, brief summaries and guidance for countryside users, land managers and event organisers can be found at www.outdooraccess-scotland.com.

Organised events

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code and related guidance recognises that organised events are an important part of Scotland's outdoor life, encouraging people to enjoy the natural environment and helping to support good causes while specifying that organisers should obtain the permission of the relevant land manager(s) if their event:

- Needs new or temporary facilities and services (such as car parking, fencing, signs, litter bins, marked courses or toilets); or
- Due to its nature or to the number of participants or spectators, is likely, to an unreasonable extent, to hinder land management operations, interfere with other people enjoying the outdoors or affect the environment.

Specific guidance for organisers and land managers on outdoor events in Scotland (which can be downloaded from www.outdooraccess-scotland.com) also gives a number of instances where event organisers **must** liaise with and / or gain the permission of landowners and these include where:

- Large numbers of participants or spectators will be in areas that are particularly popular for recreation
- Large numbers of people will be on narrow paths, passing in short timescales
- Participants are likely to be racing, with potential risk to other users
- The event takes place close in time to other events on the same land and their combined effects unreasonably interfere with other people's enjoyment

In practice most if not all of the above scenarios will apply to any organised event on Ben Nevis. To facilitate this liaison, the Highland Council acts as a single point of contact for event organisers and can liaise where required with both Rio Tinto Alcan and the John Muir Trust both of whom also own land on Ben Nevis (For more information on John Muir Trust policies for this land see <http://www.jmt.org/policy-ben-nevis-summit-management.asp>). In addition to following the Scottish Outdoor Access Code event organisers should be familiar with and follow the Institute of

Fundraising code of practice for Outdoor UK Challenge Events available at www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/Resources/Institute%20of%20Fundraising/Codes/Outdoor%20UK%20Challenge%20Events%20Updated%20July%202010%20-%20CHECK.pdf

Why events on Ben Nevis need careful management

Events often have a greater impact than individuals because of the following characteristics:

- Events generally cater for larger groups than otherwise use the hills which, if unmanaged can dominate parking areas, toilet and visitor facilities etc. to the detriment of others.
- Those participating in competitive events often have a different motivation than the sight-seer or mountaineer, which results in different behaviour e.g. a desire to complete a route more quickly can result in participants taking direct routes between points damaging vulnerable habitats
- Charity Events by their nature cater for large numbers of people who have little or no experience of the outdoors, and as a result participants may be unfamiliar with what is widely accepted behaviour in the outdoors and their obligations under the SOAC.

To help reduce these impacts organisers are therefore asked to liaise with the Visitor Centre manager and to plan on starting all events from the Visitor Centre as appropriate parking and facilities are not available elsewhere in the glen. Guidance accompanying the SOAC also recognises that *"it is reasonable to charge in a way that is closely tied to the cost of drawing up any written agreements, management time or facilities that the land manager will need to provide"*. The Highland Council makes a charge for organised events designed to cover these additional costs.

Charges & services provided

Participants

Under 10	No additional charge but participants pay normal parking charges
10 – 25	£50
25 – 50	£100
50 – 100	£150
Over 100	£250

- Providing advice, local contacts and liaising with other landowners prior to an event.
- Management of an anti-clash diary to assist organisers in selecting event dates.
- Extended opening of toilets (including overnight if required) along with additional cleaning cycles on event days.
- Provision of a dedicated event skip for rubbish disposal
- Provision of an organisers area on the day and, if required, the day before an event.
- Parking for up to 3 organisers vehicles.*

* A charging regime is in force in the Visitor Centre car park. Permits will be issued for organisers vehicles and, where arranged in advance, for one minibus / coach. Free coach parking is available in Fort William for those offering a shuttle service. Participants choosing to come by car will be required to pay the normal parking charges.

Useful contacts

Glen Nevis Visitor Centre
Fort William
PH33 6ST

Open daily: Summer: 8.30 – 6.00 Spring / Autumn 9.00 – 5.00 Winter: 9.00 – 3.00

Scottish Outdoor Access code and advice

John Muir Trust

Mountain weather forecasts

Local Police Station and Mountain Rescue

Institute of Fundraising
Fundraising Standards Board

01397 705922

glen.nevis@highland.gov.uk

www.highland.gov.uk/glennevisvc

www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

<http://www.jmt.org>

www.bennevisweather.co.uk

www.mwis.org.uk

01397 702361

www.lochabermrt.co.uk

www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk

www.frsb.org.uk

Booking Form

Your event			
Event name / title		Proposed date	

Contact details			
Event Co-ordinator			
Contact address			
Telephone		Mobile	
E-mail			

Event details				
Proposed times	Start		Finish	
Expected number of participants				
Number / details of organisers vehicles				
Details of other requirements e.g. starter's tent				
Do you require the toilets to be left open overnight	Yes / No (please delete as appropriate)			
If yes, date and time toilet access required	Date		Time	
Contact details of safety support				

Event organisers are required to undertake a risk assessment and to have public liability insurance for their event. Proof of these should be supplied at least one month before the event. The Highland Council do not approve or advise on the adequacy of risk assessments – these are submitted solely to provide proof that risks have been considered by the event organiser.

I enclose a completed risk assessment I enclose a copy of our public liability insurance

I wish to book the event described above and agree to the charges detailed in the guidance note.

Signed:.....Date:.....

Please note that this information may also be shared with The Institute of Fundraising (the professional membership body for UK fundraising) and the Fundraising Standards Board (the independent self-regulatory body for UK fundraising). Where 3 peaks events are concerned this information may also be shared with the National Trust in the Lake District and Snowdonia National Park Authority.