

SKYE & LOCHALSH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

MEETING on 6th September 2013

Agenda Item	4
Report No	SLLAF-02-13

LOCAL ACCESS ISSUES

Report by the Access Officer

SUMMARY

This Report details local access issues in Skye & Lochalsh and recommends, where appropriate, a course of action to be taken.

1 SL24.02/01 Public Access, Ord

1.1 Background

Since buying Ord House in 2011, the current owners have disputed the right of members of the public to be on a short linking path within their grounds with measures to discourage access deployed at various times since then. At present 'private' signs are covered up and gates unlocked, however, local residents have complained that the path has become overgrown and very difficult to negotiate and asked the Access Officer (AO) to enquire about the possibility of voluntary vegetation clearance work. The landowner agreed to clearance work to be carried out but only by Highland Council employees and suggested that the overgrown state of the path was an indication of how little it was used.

1.2 Current Status

The AO and a colleague from the Highland Council Ranger Service carried out vegetation clearance over the period of a morning as a 'one off' event to ascertain if higher usage, resulting from improved conditions underfoot and better path definition, would result in vegetation being kept down. The success or otherwise of these measures will be reviewed during the spring/summer of 2014.

2 SL03.07/02 Wild Camping, Irishman's Point, Broadford

2.1 Background

The AO received a complaint from a member of the public who had intended wild camping at Irishman's Point near Broadford after a day of sea kayaking. The landowner was of the opinion that there was not a right to wild camp and told them to move on.

2.2 Current Status

The AO phoned the landowner to ascertain his views on the incident. He explained that there had been instances of campers on his land starting fires, posing a danger to themselves and surrounding flora and fauna. There was also a litter problem.

The AO explained the rights and responsibilities of wild camping under the current access legislation.

3 SL16.08 Public Access to Cave of Gold, Borneskitaig

3.1 Background

The AO Received a complaint from a member of the public regarding signs deterring public access to the Borneskitaig headland, also know as the Cave of Gold walk.

3.2 Current Status

The AO contacted the land manager who agreed to remove the signs. Replacement compliant signage, explaining the management issues, was offered to the land manager but there has been no further progress regarding this at the time of writing.

<h4>4.0 Recommendation</h4>

<p>The Forum is invited to note the Report</p>
--

Designation: Skye & Lochalsh Access Officer

Date: 27 August 2013

Ref:

Background Papers