

PLANNING AND PLACE DIRECTORATE

OUTDOOR ACCESS OFFICER

(Band D, full time (37.5 hours/week though part-time hours of 30/week may be considered), fixed term for 2 years, based in Grantown on Spey

Responsibilities

Managing external relationships: Other

- Co-ordinate effort and lead where required on partnership working with other access authorities, community interests and agencies.
- Contribute, deliver and present to external and CNPA-led conferences, seminars, workshops etc on outdoor access.

Statutory functions

Local Outdoor Access Forum

- Organise the Cairngorms Local Outdoor Access Forum (LOAF) including recruiting new members; writing and presenting papers; developing work programme and establishing links to the wider outdoor access interests.

Promote Scottish Outdoor Access Code

- Develop and co-ordinate a programme of events, material resources and publicity to raise awareness and understanding of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, targeting specific interest groups and behaviours; and,
- Lead on the programme: “Treading Lightly in the National Park” including tasks such as seeking Board endorsement, managing a budget, and commissioning educational and promotional material.
- Support the development and implementation of area Managing for Visitor Plans.

Upholding access rights

- Negotiate, co-ordinate and implement steps to resolve access complaints from recreational users and land managers; negotiate agreement over extent of access rights and responsible land use; manage a small budget for assisting compliance; take forward formal assertion to Board level and Sherriff’s court;
- Seek and reflect legal counsel where necessary in pursuing legal duties and powers.

Plans and policies

- Contribute to the review the Outdoor Access Strategy for the Cairngorms National Park, including running further public consultation events;
- Develop outdoor access policy through contributing to the development of the Park Plan, Local Development Plan and the CNPA’s Operational and Corporate Plans;
- Formulate responses to Scottish Government and other agencies consultations on outdoor access related issues; and,
- Assist in preparing of Strategic Environmental Assessments and Equality Impact Assessments on outdoor access plans or policies.

Developing and implementing access programmes

- Manage and coordinate the development of an e-bike network across the Park including working with partners and communities to promote e-bikes and promote behaviour change.
- Co-ordinate Community Path Leaflet projects including issuing tenders, managing a budget and liaising contractors over access projects, path leaflets management and delivery; and,
- Developing appropriate visitor information about outdoor recreation opportunities including social media campaigns, web content and family cycling opportunities;
- Develop and review guidance on specialist topics such as outdoor access events, dogs in the countryside and responsible promotion, seeking CNPA Board endorsement where necessary.

Managing internal relationships

- Establish good working relations with partner organisations and stakeholders, and ensure good internal liaison and exchange of information with the other CNPA Advisory Forums;
- Represent the organisation at planning committee, CNPA Board and public inquiry hearings where outdoor access matters are under scrutiny;
- Provide advice to Development Management colleagues on specific access related planning casework; and,
- Advise colleagues on access rights and Rights of Way in respect of specific issues and wider outdoor access policy.

Knowledge, experience and training

ESSENTIAL

- Have detailed knowledge and understanding of the relevant outdoor access legislation within Scotland and in particular the provisions of Part I of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and the implications of these for the work of the CNPA, landowners, user and interest groups, communities and others;
- Have knowledge and understanding of the issues surrounding the integration of outdoor access with land management in the Cairngorms National Park, including an understanding of the main stakeholders involved in the delivery and management of outdoor access across Scotland;
- Have knowledge and experience of best practice in the provision of educational and promotional material;
- Have experience of working with communities particularly planning for and preparing community based consultation and encouraging public participation;
- Have excellent communication and influencing skills, both oral and written and demonstrate an ability to communicate at an appropriate level to a wide range of audiences, both internally and externally, and to participate effectively in meetings;
- A proven track record in encouraging public participation and working with a range of different stakeholder groups;
- Driving licence (or access to a driver if unable to drive due to disability);

- Be computer literate in Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Geographical Information Systems;
- Be creative and innovative and able to work on own initiative, with minimum supervision;
- Have a flexible approach and outlook and be able to apply skills and intellect to a range of tasks and issues as the priorities of the CNPA, as required by the outdoor access legislation, evolve and develop over time; and,
- Be able to forge strong links and work in partnership with individuals at officer level from other organisations to facilitate effective delivery of the CNPA's statutory responsibilities under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act.

October 2021