

## ALPS update for Management Group 22nd August 2011

- A fourth (interim) claim has been submitted (15<sup>th</sup> August) to HLF to ease cash flow with a third claim made to ERDF (July 15<sup>th</sup>) and one to the Highland Council (3<sup>rd</sup> August). To date all funders are accepting progress reports and financial claims.
- A meeting was held with David Somerville (architect) at SAC Inverness on 3<sup>rd</sup> August to discuss the appointment of the main contractor. There are still some issues to be resolved regarding clarification and breakdown of figures by contractors to enable final comparisons to be made. As yet, no appointment has been made.
- Path work is now almost complete on the Beechwood Trail (Coal Shed-White Gate). Additional drains were put along the path at sites of weeping, and the majority of culverts have now been lined with stone. The final stage will involve the removal of spoil, seeding and the erection of staggered wooden barriers at both ends to restrict access onto the roads. Additional drainage has been added to the Cruary-Heritage Centre path which still needs water bars and some additional surface material added.
- Work will begin on construction the wall below the Coal Shed entrance of the path on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August using stone from a waste spoil site related to the broch. It is hoped that an element of dyke training can be incorporated into this contract.
- Listed Building Consent was required for works to the northern-most Hebridean barn. This was applied for with a decision to be made on the 12<sup>th</sup> August. Assuming a positive outcome, Martin Wildgoose is booked to start on the stonework on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August. A specification was drafted for roof works by Alistair McCowan, with the contractor opportunity advertised in the West Highland Free Press and on the ALPS website. As yet there have not yet been any expressions of interest outside of Applecross to do this work. It is hoped that at least one local contractor will put in a bid and be able to do this work.
- The third ALPS newsletter has been completed and will be printed the week of 22<sup>nd</sup> August.
- Owen Kilbride has continued to coordinate work on the presentation of the broch since the beginning of August.
- Further snedding has been undertaken by Ian Gilles on the Archaeological Trail, with only one final section remaining to complete this component of the work
- A Management Plan for Milton Loch has now been completed and is available for viewing/downloading on the ALPS website. Members of the Angling Society met on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August to experiment with vegetation management, cutting back rushes from the northern and western quadrants. This work suggests that the vegetation management element of the project can easily be undertaken by three people with scythes working for one day per year. The macrophytes of the loch were mapped on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August, with a final invertebrate survey conducted by the Wester Ross Fisheries Trust on the 1<sup>st</sup> August. A license to release 100 local provenance brown trout was applied for and granted by Marine Scotland on the 5<sup>th</sup> August. It is anticipated that fish will be released by the end of the month.

- Work has begun on drafting a management plan for Carnoch woodland (SB to lead).

**Forthcoming events:**

**27<sup>th</sup> August:** Maelrubha Festival

**3<sup>rd</sup> September:** Community archaeological Training (geofizz of Langwell)

**10<sup>th</sup> September:** Tree Festival

**23<sup>rd</sup> September:** Build your own website course

**24<sup>th</sup> September:** Introduction to bee keeping