

ALPS update for Management Group 11th June 2012

- **Reporting:** A 7th claim to HLF, a 5th LEADER ALPS claim/report and a final LEADER Clachan report/claim have been submitted. We are currently up to date on all reporting to funders.
- **Audit** ALPS is being audited by the European Regional Development Fund on the 7th June (every ERDF-funded project goes through this), and will be visited by HLF assessors on the 18th June and LEADER assessors on the 28th June.
- **Clachan Church:** All works are now complete except for the installation of one pane of glass that was broken in transit and narrowing/landscaping of the track. The first event (wedding) will be held on the 4th May. Gordon Cameron is preparing Interpretation for the church and the burial ground.
- **Lost Path/Archaeological Trail:** All path works are now complete with waymarking now being the focus of attention. Owen has asked for a minor adjustment to the line of the Lost Path. This will not involve path works.
- **Interpretation:** An Events Programme for 2012 and flyers for the Guided Walks programme have been printed and distributed. The Milton, Càrnach and new Walks leaflet are currently being printed. Attention is now focusing on the production of four orientation panels to be located at Clachan, the walled Garden, the campsite and near the carpark close to the Visitor centre/Inn.
- **South Coast Deer Fence** The fencers have reached Milltown. Work has paused whilst we wait for the delivery of a deer grid. This is likely to be the end of June.
- **Milton Loch** Both fishing stances have now been completed.
- **Interpretive dyking benches** Dan Macrae has completed work on the Beechwood seat. Some additional turfing is required.
- **Community Archaeological Training** A successful training session undertaking test pitting in the vicinity of the broch was done on 19th/20th May. Three visitors and three locals attended this event. Further test pitting is scheduled for the 16th June.
- **Hebridean Barns** Martin Wildgoose has completed all stone work on the southern barn and has begun work on the northern barn. As part of this work Martin trained five people (for local) on the use of lime mortar.
- **Land conditioning/habitat improvement** Archie now has information on areas of bracken within each township. A public meeting to discuss bracken control has been arranged for the 11th June.
- **Gateway Woodland** Scottish Woodlands and UPM Tillhill have still to visit the site with their harvesting teams to discuss extraction. No full costings have been delivered. The final Long Term Management Plan (undertaken by Scottish woodlands under a separate, non ALPS budget) has not yet been approved by the Forestry Commission.
- **Hazel Woods project** The northern-most section of Càrnach has now been fenced and can be used to experiment with management techniques. Mike Ellis will advise the Traditional Walks &

Crafts Group when he visits on the 2nd and 3rd June. The final roof beams are now in place on the Roundhouse. Eight people volunteered their time to do this for one day.

- **Events and festivals** The following events took place in May/early June: Nettle day (19th) (ca. 20 people attended a display on the use of nettles organized by Leslie and Tom Kilbride at Cuaig); Plant lore (26th) (12 people attended a morning walk around Milltown Loch discussing plant uses and flower ID); Green woodworking 2nd & 3rd June (11 people attended a course a green word working course).