



## Scottish Natural Heritage grant programme Information sheet

### Enjoying Scotland's outdoors

#### Grants to promote access to the outdoors

We want more opportunities for everyone in Scotland to enjoy the natural heritage responsibly. The Enjoying Scotland's outdoors grant scheme supports activities which increase public awareness and understanding of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (the 'code'), and the public's rights and responsibilities. This scheme will:

- make sure members of the public and land managers are aware of and meet their responsibilities under the code;
- make sure access authorities and key partners, such as recreation and land-management groups, are better equipped to take forward access duties and responsibilities; and
- provide up-to-date information on outdoor access trends by monitoring levels of responsible behaviour.

#### Background

We have a duty to help people enjoy the natural heritage, and the Government has asked us to help them introduce the new access laws. Although most of this work will be done by local authorities and national park authorities, we will still advise them and give grants to support this work.

#### Who should apply

Communities (including clubs and societies), land managers, recreation groups and local authorities should apply. National park authorities will be able to apply on behalf of wider funding partnerships. We will also consider applications from businesses where they can clearly show benefit to the public.

#### What we will pay for

The main things we will pay for are listed below. Please contact us if you need more information.

- Publications, signs, events and other forms of communication which help raise awareness and understanding of access rights and responsibilities – including the code – among land managers and the general public.
- Information panels and interpretive displays that encourage responsible behaviour.
- Good-practice advice, guidance and training for land and recreation managers.
- Projects and activities that promote access to and enjoyment of the natural heritage.
- Ranger services (public and non-public sectors). We plan to review our ranger policy in 2006. Please contact your local area office to discuss your plans at an early stage.
- Monitoring through focus groups, questionnaires and other surveys.

We recognise that ranger services contribute to other grant schemes, but all applications for rangers should be made to this scheme.

## Our priorities

We particularly welcome:

- materials and activities which help raise awareness and understanding of access rights and responsibilities, including the code, among land managers and the general public; and
- projects which provide good-practice advice, guidance and training for land and recreation managers.

## How much we will pay

We will pay up to half of the total eligible cost of the project, although some community groups may qualify for more support. Eligible cost includes any 'in-kind' contributions, such as land, labour or materials donated to the project.

We may pay 75% for projects listed under 'Our priorities'. Please contact us to discuss your plans at an early stage.

We fund ranger posts on fixed amounts for each post, according to the activities they carry out. If you are planning to make a ranger application, please contact us for advice at an early stage.

## What we will not pay for

- Helping local authorities and national park authorities to publicise the code locally.
- Helping local authorities and national park authorities with the costs of employing staff to do tasks usually carried out by access officers, after March 2006.
- Re-runs of publications or upgrades of exhibitions or websites.

## What other information your application should include

To support your application, you should send us the following details.

### For publications

- How many copies you will produce.
- How you will distribute the publication.
- Who your target audience is.

### For signs

You should follow the best-practice guidance from us or the Scottish Executive. For larger sites, you should draw up a plan which shows how your new signs fit into an overall interpretation and access strategy.

You should also include details of:

- who the signs are for;
- why signs are the right choice for your project;
- what you think the signs will achieve and how they will do this; and
- the text, layout and position of your signs.

### For events

How many people will attend and how you will assess the event.

### For exhibitions

How many people you expect to attend. We will need to approve the flexibility of the design, the draft layout and the text.

### For websites

How they meet the 'Access for All' recommendations.

### For ranger posts

- Three-year management strategy.
- Job description.

### Maintenance

- Details of how the project will be maintained once it has been completed, and how this will be funded.

## Where to get more help

- Guidelines for developing an access website can be found at [www.leap-frog.co.uk/internetaccess/index.html](http://www.leap-frog.co.uk/internetaccess/index.html).
- A practical guide on how to survey and assess heritage information can be found at [www.interpretscotland.org.uk/website/interpretscotland.nsf/byunique/news.html/\\$FILE/inventorymanual.pdf](http://www.interpretscotland.org.uk/website/interpretscotland.nsf/byunique/news.html/$FILE/inventorymanual.pdf).
- Scottish Natural Heritage (1996). Visitor Centres: A Practical Guide to Planning, Design and Operation. (£10) ISBN 1 85397 2142.
- Our website provides a case study which examines the 'Access for All' approach that was adopted in refurbishing the Beinn Eighe NNR Visitor Centre and creating its associated trails. It can be found at [www.snh.org.uk/ww0/Interpretation/index.htm](http://www.snh.org.uk/ww0/Interpretation/index.htm).
- Your local access forum should also be able to provide advice.
- As we are going to review our ranger policy, you should contact your local area office or Bridget Dales ([bridget.dales@snh.gov.uk](mailto:bridget.dales@snh.gov.uk)), Recreation and Access Advisory Officer, to discuss your plans.

## Other possible sources of funding

You will find detailed information in the leaflet 'Other sources of funding' in the application pack.

