



# NLOAF NEWS

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Issue 1

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### Land Reform Review

The Land Reform Review Group is an independent review group, set up by the Scottish Government to develop innovative and radical proposals that will contribute to Scotland's future success. Much of the work of the group is outside the direct scope of interest of Access Officers and Local Access Forum's, however, there are some notable suggestions for change that should assist our work in the future.

The Review Group published their Final Report in May 2014 and it can be accessed [here](#): with pages 209-213 inclusive being of particular note. Access Officers (working regularly with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Guidance produced by the Government to support us) have been inputting into the review process through the Scottish Outdoor Access Network (SOAN), who represent their views.

As a quick highlight, we can expect, from a recommendation:

Scottish Ministers should, as part of that, update the Guidance provided to access authorities under Section 27 of the 2003 Act.

Common law public rights over the foreshore, inland water and seabed should be replaced by statutory public rights that are integrated with the public's statutory access rights over land under Part 1 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003

Parliament is currently considering changes to the access provisions in the Bill; we will keep you updated with progress.

### New grant scheme for community greenspaces

A new grant scheme is being launched which will provide funding for community greenspaces through local community groups.

The grant scheme, which is funded by the carrier bag levy, will provide up to £12,000 to create better and happier places where you live. The grant scheme will be run by 'Groundwork' and opened on October 19th, 2015. The first round closed on November 30th, 2015 and nearly 5000 applications were received. The next opportunity to apply to the scheme is anticipated to be April 2016. Potential applicants can [sign up to Groundwork's E-News](#) to be kept up to date of details of the next funding round.

## Autumn Step Count Challenge 2015

The Step Count Challenge is an initiative led by Paths for All (PfA), a Scottish Government funded organisation. The main objective for PfA is to reduce the proportion of the population who are physically inactive through a national walking programme, by promoting and sharing news of the number, quality and accessibility of walking paths across Scotland.

[Paths for All](#) launched the 'Step Count Challenge' in 2011. Since then thousands of people have taken part in the challenge from workplaces across Scotland and taken more than 7.5 billion steps.

North Lanarkshire Council's 'Greenspace Development' (of which the Access Team are part) entered 3 teams of 5 people for the Autumn 2015 step count challenge, recording our steps for a month with a pedometer. We all managed to reach our virtual destinations of Shetland, Rome and Dorset.

Over 260 workplaces and some 1800 people took part in the challenge. Our teams were placed 9th, 30th and 147th overall. The event was great fun to take part in, and we would recommend it to others who are maybe toying with the idea of putting up a team for the next step count challenge in April 2016!

## National Walking Strategy

The [National Walking Strategy](#) outlines a vision of a Scotland where everyone benefits from walking. The general aim is to see more people making walking their first choice for short journeys and make more trips over longer distances by a combination of walking and public transport. The strategy was launched on 13th June, 2014.

The 3 Strategic Aims are:

1. Create a culture of walking where everyone walks more often as part of their everyday travel and for recreation and well-being
2. Better quality walking environments with attractive, well designed and managed built and natural spaces for everyone
3. Enable easy, convenient and safe independent mobility for everyone.

***“Scotland has outstanding opportunities for walking in both urban and rural areas. With its spectacular scenery, range of green spaces (including parks), walkable urban centres and metropolitan cities, community routes, long-distance route networks and its world-class access rights, Scotland has a unique set of ‘walking-friendly’ factors to entice people to the great outdoors.”***

Minister for Public Health, Michael Matheson

## The Scottish Rural Development Programme

The [Scottish Rural Development Programme 2014 - 2020](#) delivers Pillar 2 of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It funds economic, environmental and social measures for the benefit of rural Scotland. The key purpose of the SRDP 2014 - 2020 is to help achieve sustainable economic growth in Scotland's rural areas and the priorities remains broadly the same as the previous programme: The main priorities are:

1. Enhancing the rural economy
2. Supporting agricultural and forestry businesses
3. *Protecting and improving the natural environment*
4. Addressing the impact of climate change
5. Supporting rural communities

After extensive negotiations, the SRDP 2014 - 2020 was formally approved by the European Commission on 26 May 2015. The final 2014 - 2020 [programme document](#) is now available.

## Kelvin Valley & Falkirk LEADER

[LEADER](#) (Liaisons Entre Actions de Developement de L'Economie Rurale /Links between actions for the development of the rural community) is a European Union Community Initiative aimed at promoting economic and community development within rural areas.

The LEADER programme uses a partnership based approach in order to build new and experimental approaches to rural development, which will improve the quality of life and make the rural communities more sustainable. The aim is to further develop the local rural communities and make the rural area more competitive by supporting the opportunities available.

LEADER is also about the added value that flows from the bottom-up and partnership approach through better identification of local needs and local solutions, more engagement on the part of local stakeholders and greater scope for innovation.

The 2014-2020 Kelvin Valley and Falkirk LEADER Programme is a new programme covering rural areas within East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and Falkirk. The programme is managed by a Local Action Group (LAG), details of which can be found [here](#).

A map of the eligible areas can be found here: [KVF LEADER Area](#)

### Scotland's Environment Web

Scotland's Environment Web is a reference gateway to lots of information about Scotland's environment, bringing together information and data from a range of organisations involved in protecting and improving Scotland's environment.

The website is managed by Scotland's Environment Web partnership, chaired by the Scottish Government.

There is a useful, [zoomable map](#) of Scottish Core Paths, which is fairly basic in detail, but quick to use, and can be handy if you're thinking of taking a trip to another authority's area.

### Walking and cycling makes Scotland's economy healthier

New evidence from Sustrans Scotland shows that health benefits of walking and cycling journeys on the National Cycle Network in 2014 were worth a staggering £321 million. The new finding has been calculated using the World Health Organisation's (WHO) '[Health economic assessment tool](#)' (HEAT) and gives the value of reduced mortality resulting from walking and cycling.

New figures collected by the charity show that the estimated number of walking and cycling trips on the [National Cycle Network in Scotland](#), which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, was 121 million in 2014.

Sustrans' surveys also found that 58.4% of users of walking and cycling routes reported that they met their recommended level physical activity of 30 minutes on five days a week.

### Common land to be reviewed

Land Reform Minister Aileen McLeod intends to refer the issue of Common Land to the new Scottish Land Commission (when established) and invite them to conduct a review as part of their programme of work. This work reflects concern that there may be insufficient protection for common land in Scotland and that individuals could use existing legislation and procedures to claim common land against the wider interest.

The Scottish Government intends that the review by the Scottish Land Commission will also cover common good land.

A commonty is an old form of land tenure where the rights of property or use are shared by two or more neighbouring landowners.

The Minister is also writing to the Scottish Law Commission to ask that they review the Division of Commonties Act 1695 with a view to its repeal.

The Scottish Law Commission has ongoing work relating to the repeal of obsolete legislation and the Government is asking the Scottish Law Commission to review the Commonties Act to ensure that there would be no unexpected consequences from its repeal.

## National Park Byelaws

Investment in improving the quality and number of camping places in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs will accompany new seasonal byelaws being introduced in environmentally sensitive areas covering 3.7 per cent of Scotland's first National Park.

Environment Minister Aileen McLeod has approved new camping management byelaws as part of plans to invest in better camping places and introduce measures to manage camping in four 'hot spot' areas, where the environment is suffering from damage caused by a combination of high volume and antisocial camping.

Having been adjusted to take account of comments during the Park's consultation, these seasonal byelaws will be in force for seven months of the year.

The byelaws will be modified so that they come into effect on March 1, 2017 to allow the initial provision of 300 camping places as part of the Park's longer-term camping development plans.

The Minister said:

*"In making this decision, I have listened very carefully to the views of those who are concerned that the byelaws will impact upon those who camp responsibly. Although I have approved the byelaws, I have delayed their implementation to ensure the introduction of an initial 300 camping places in the small but environmentally sensitive area of the Park affected. Combined, these measures will allow for the better management of camping in these 'hot spots', while ensuring the measures are thoroughly*

## SNH promotional campaigns

### Campaign 1: Know the Code before you go

**Dog owner leaflet:** Jess the dog describes the main responsibilities of dog owners when enjoying the outdoors with their dog in the [Dog owners' leaflet](#).

**Dog owner passport:** These credit-card sized 'passports' provide key messages about access with dogs. There is a choice of 3 versions which include different messages about [conservation, land management](#) and [enjoying the outdoors](#). These are a great way to strike up conversation with dog walkers to remind them of their responsibilities.

**Event resource:** If you're running an outdoor event you can hire our '[smelly sheep, Baa-bara](#)'. She's a great way again to strike up conversation with dog walkers with a view to discussing responsible behaviour around farm animals.

## SNH promotional campaigns

### Campaign 2: 'Your dog doesn't know any better, make sure you do' featuring the dogs Dotty, Daftie and Loopy

Daftie poster This poster aims to raise awareness about the dangers of cattle-who can react aggressively.

Dotty poster To be used for advertising events or adding local information or advice this poster also raises awareness of the five key messages about disturbance to livestock, nesting birds, dangers of cattle, avoiding planted fields and contamination of growing crops and the importance of picking up dog waste.

Loopy poster This poster aims to raise awareness about never allowing your dog

## SNH promotional campaigns

### Campaign 3: 'Jess the dog'

The most recent campaign targeting the general public features Jess the collie dog. The dog owners' leaflet features Jess and accompanies 3 radio adverts about dog fouling and farm animals.

Radio advert 1 - Pick up after your dog in the park

Radio advert 2 - Pick up after your dog in the countryside

Radio advert 3 - Control your dog near farm animals

For further information on these campaigns targeting dog owners and dog walkers, please email Scottish Natural Heritage at: [recreationandaccess@snh.gov.uk](mailto:recreationandaccess@snh.gov.uk).

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