



Stravaig

Welcome to the February edition of Stravaig



Radical Road update

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) submitted a planning application (25/06329/FUL) to partially re-open the Radical Road in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh which closed for comments on 16 January. While our concerns about the prolonged closure remain, we viewed this application as a welcome first step towards reopening.

As we also acknowledged the time pressure created by the [2026 James Hutton Tercentenary](#), we were keen not to hinder this long-overdue progress. To that end, we did not object to the planning application but did submit comments.

Our comments can be found [here](#).

Photo: Salisbury Crags with the Radical Road below © Richard Barron

Skills for the Hills

ScotWays is delighted to be attending Skills for the Hills 2026 in Stirling on Saturday, 7 March.

This exciting one-day event features presentations, demos, workshops, and displays. Our Chair, Rachel Taylor, will be delivering a talk on rights and responsibilities when accessing the hills, including the key principles of responsible access under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, rights of way, and suggestions for what to do when encountering an access issue.

Come and say hello at our stall. We would love to chat!

Find out more about the event [here](#).

Public Access in Scotland

– Know Your Rights

Brief
guide

Where you can go
What you can do

Help spread the word about access rights

We have recently reprinted our ever popular 'Public Access in Scotland - Know your Rights' leaflet. The leaflet act as a guide explaining how the law regulates public access to Scotland's outdoors.

The leaflets can be ordered completely free [here](#) until the end of 2026, thanks to continued support from NatureScot.

If you'd like to volunteer to drop off leaflets to suitable locations, please contact volunteer@scotways.com.

Photo: Cover from Public Access in Scotland - 'Know your Rights' leaflet



Fort William Mountain Festival

ScotWays had a wonderful time attending the Fort William Mountain Festival. It was great chatting with so many lovely folks about access rights, Heritage Paths, Scottish Hill Tracks, signposting, and volunteering opportunities.

We even found time to get stuck into refurbishing our 1960s signpost at Kinlochleven.

Photo: Chris Huntley and Rachel Taylor (Directors) hard at work giving our sign a new post and a new coat of paint © Neil Birch



Sign on the Gowk Stane Road

Our Access Officer, Neil Birch, was out installing a sign in January on the [Gowk Stane Road](#). This right of way has the local reputation of being an old drove road. Today it forms parts of a network of leisure routes.

Photo: ScotWays sign pointing towards Carbeth and Strathblane © Neil Birch

Ramblers Scottish Council AGM

ScotWays will be attending the 2026 Scottish Council AGM and Event at Edinburgh's John McIntyre Conference Centre on Saturday, 14 March. This one-day event brings together Ramblers Scotland members to connect, share ideas, and help shape the future of walking in Scotland.

Our Senior Access Officer, Eleisha Fahy, will be on the panel, and will be giving a presentation on access rights.

You can find out more about the event [here](#).



Heritage Path of the Month

The Heritage Path of the Month for February is the Old Road to New Cumnock to Dalquhairn. This route is shown as a road on Captain Armstrong & Sons A New Map of Ayrshire (1775) and is clearly marked on Ainslie's Map of the Southern Part of Scotland (1821).

A Cloven Stone (pictured above) is marked just to the west of the route in Glen Afton. In the Campsies, a Cloven Stone is similarly situated adjacent to the Doups Drove Loan. Both appear to be natural split rocks, although Glen Afton's Cloven Stone has had extra boulders added to it forming a cairn. It is theorised that such markers will have had particular significance to travellers. The Heritage Paths project would like to hear from anyone who has local knowledge about this feature.

Read more about this Heritage Path [here](#).

Photo: looking north from the Cloven Stone © Chris Wimbush, Geograph.

Our Mailing Address

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