

A Manifesto for Scotland's Outdoors

Ramblers Scotland's proposals for the 2011 Scottish Parliament election

Our Manifesto for Scotland's Outdoors highlights key ideas which we think should be addressed by the administration after the 2011 election.

Wildland protection and enhancement

- Landscape – there should be a commitment to endorse and drive forward the implementation of Scotland's Landscape Charter.
- Wildland protection through strengthened National Scenic Area status.
- Review of Permitted Development Rights, including bringing the erection of electrified deer fencing and bulldozed hilltracks into the planning system, as recommended to Government in the Heriot Watt report of 2007.
- Pursue UNESCO World Heritage status for the Cairngorms National Park.
- Establish Scotland's third national park in Harris.
- Beaulieu-Denny – a reconsideration of the planning decision to take into account information regarding the cost of alternative methods of power transmission.

Access legislation implementation

- Ensure local authorities are upholding their duties in terms of enforcement of the legislation, including use of Compulsory Purchase Orders and Path Creation Orders.
- Development of path networks and core path plans
- Review of Scotland Rural Development Programme funding mechanisms.
- Secure new policy for non motorised crossing points on major trunk roads

Health & physical activity

- Active travel – need for 10% of transport budgets to be spent on walking and cycling.
- Active travel – 20mph zones in urban areas to help people feel safer on our streets and encourage more walking and cycling.
- Support for NGOs to work in partnership with public and private sectors to deliver the Scottish Physical Activity Strategy. Outdoor recreation is a key way of engaging people in enjoyable physical activities at low cost, but NGOs need to increase their capacity to enable this to happen.

Olympic & Commonwealth Games Legacy

- Form partnerships to deliver funding for projects relating to the legacy
- Support NGOs to capitalise on the opportunity for raising physical activity levels in Scotland inspired by the Olympic and Commonwealth Games. This is best achieved by encouraging a wide section of the population across Scotland to take up walking as a means of getting fit and using this as a springboard towards taking up other forms of physical activity and sport.

Enjoyment of the outdoors emphasised in policy making and delivery

- Currently the responsibility for the protection and enhancement outdoor recreation and the outdoor environment is split amongst various public bodies, including SNH, **sportscotland**, VisitScotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, Paths for All and Greenspace Scotland. We would like to see one body acting as champion for outdoor recreation, and suggest this is **sportscotland** which then becomes the body for outdoor recreation and sport.