

## REMOTE ACCOMODATION SYSTEM 2013 DEPLOYMENT



### PLANNING APPLICATION SUPPORTING STATEMENT Jan 2013

#### RATIONALE

The Cairngorm Outdoor Access Trust is undertaking a 4 year Mountain Heritage Project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to build and repair footpaths across the East Cairngorms. In 2013 work will begin on footpaths on Braeriach. The sites scheduled to undergo repair in 2013 all have a walk in well in excess of 1hr 30mins, this would have a significant impact on productivity over the length of the contract. Realistically, walk in time at this level could account for almost 40% of the total contract cost. There is also a small window of opportunity to carry out work at these sites given the weather constraints at this altitude and it is therefore essential to maximise time spent on site.

The proposed worksites for 2013 are by accepted industry standards classed as 'remote', As a result Health and Safety requirements alter. In the event of an injury or accident evacuation is always the preferred option. In less remotes sites in with a half hour walk in or good mobile phone signal the alarm can be raised quickly and a casualty can be dealt with on site with survival blankets and basic first aid kit until help arrives. However, when a site is geographically remote and has little or no mobile phone coverage this will take the casualty out-with the 'golden hour' before they receive professional assistance. In addition, conditions in the Cairngorms can deteriorate rapidly and for long periods further complicating evacuation of the casualty whilst also compromising the safety of others onsite who cannot abandon their colleague. In this situation the remote accommodation provides a vital and essential emergency shelter keeping the casualty safe and secure until evacuation can be implemented.

Further a long daily walk in to and out from a worksite on rough and steep terrain can also contribute to damage of knee and ankle joints of path workers, the extent of which may be difficult to ascertain until the damage is irreversible.

Locating the remote systems in the desired location will allow contractors to maximise time spent onsite and make the best possible use of the weather window, it shall also contribute immeasurably to site safety and workers wellbeing.

#### PROPOSED LOCATION

NH 95296 025911, Elevation 745m

The site is a remote wilderness area. The proposed site location offers a flat, level area ideal for siting the camp. The ground is relatively dry with short heather and grasses mix atop granite soils offering a fairly robust and well drained area. The site is at an elevation of approximately 745m. (Sample photos below).



## DURATION

The siting of the Remote Access System would be for a period of 7 months from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31st October 2013. This time period would maximise the window of opportunity for operating in this environment, allowing sufficient time to deploy the system and carryout the essential work required, whilst building in a margin for delays in deploying and removing the system due to weather conditions.

## REMOTE ACCOMMODATION SYSTEM

The Remote Accommodation System comprises four cabins each fulfilling a separate function: kitchen/dining, bunkroom, toilet and store/drying room. There are four external vermin and water proof storage containers for food and waste storage. All cabins are elevated from direct ground contact by means of timber pads to minimise damage to vegetation through shading and compaction. Pathways between the cabins and around the camp are protected with temporary walkway to prevent trampling of the vegetation. Power is supplied by two 15KVA generators and an inverter system with batteries to minimise fuel consumption. The generators are powered by diesel stored in two 500L double bunded oil tank and spill kits will be available on site at all times. Advice has been sought from SEPA and all fuel will be stored and transferred in accordance with the Scottish Oil Storage Regulations.

Fresh water supply will come from the Allt a' Choire Ghuirm burn, approximate tank location NH952028 and will pass through a UV filter prior to use by the inhabitants. Grey water from dish washing and personal hygiene is to be taken to a partial soakaway approved by SEPA. There is no shower. All cleaning and personal hygiene products will be fully biodegradable. Rainwater run-off from cabin roofs will also be taken to a partial soakaway. There are no other drainage requirements.

The system is serviced with a Biolett composting toilet, an entirely self-contained unit which has no incoming water supply or outgoing drainage requirement. The system converts all human waste and toilet paper into dry compost granules. All compost granules will be bagged, stored in a water proof container, prior to being removed from site at the end of the deployment.

All refuse and food waste will be stored in the vermin and water proof container. It will be sorted on site into recyclable and other rubbish and compacted to minimise storage volume for processing once removed from site. No waste products are left on site.



2012 Shelter Stone Camp



Typical Cabin

## DEPLOYMENT & REMOVAL

The system is flown into and out of the site by helicopter and takes approximately 7 hours to deliver and assemble. It requires two teams of four at either end, with two certified lifters supplied by helicopter provider.



2012 Deployment

Over winter the system is stored and maintained at National Trust for Scotland's Mar Lodge Estate. Prior to deployment a dummy set up is carried out on the estate to check all components and equipment to minimise the requirement for on-site maintenance.



2012 Dummy set-up at Mar Lodge Estate