

Looking after the Cairngorms National Park – a bit about our associates

The **Cairngorms National Park Authority** been around since 2003 and has been set up in such a way that it does not duplicate the work of other agencies and organisations operating within the Park. It's designed to be an 'enabling' organisation, promoting partnership and giving leadership to all those involved in the Park, ensuring a joined-up approach to looking after this very special place.

The National Park has four aims: to conserve and enhance the Park's natural and cultural heritage; to promote sustainable use of the Park's natural resources; to promote understanding and enjoyment of the Park's special qualities and to promote sustainable economic and social development of the Park's communities. The CNPA has two key statutory functions: managing outdoor access in the Park and planning and development management.

The **Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust** was set up in 2008. It is an innovative environmental charity promoting sustainable access to the Cairngorms area. It has funding from a variety of sources including the CNPA, Scottish Natural Heritage, LEADER, Paths to Health, Heritage Lottery Fund and the Highlands & Islands Partnership Programme ERDF. COAT has five main strands of work:

- Community Path Networks – upgrading and develop new paths in, around and between communities to provide more and higher quality access opportunities for all.
- Upland Paths – repairing eroded paths in the mountains so that access can be sustained without damaging the landscape and environment.
- Walking to Health – developing a range of structured health walks in communities led by volunteer walk leaders.
- Strategic Routes – looking at the delivery of strategic long distance routes.
- Promotion and Interpretation – providing information about outdoor access through leaflets, interpretation boards and signposting.

The **Cairngorms Business Partnership** is an innovative organisation representing businesses across the Cairngorms National Park. It has around 250 members and looks after three main strands of work:

- Promotion of the area through PR and marketing.
- Development of local businesses and their destination.
- Advocacy for members, representing their interests as a strong business voice for the area.

The CBP is supported by, and works closely with, the public sector to deliver a range of activities and has secured a three year funding package with key agencies including the CNPA, VisitScotland and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.