

## **LINK Hilltracks Campaign 2017 - Brief to consultant**

The LINK Hilltracks sub-group has identified the need for a consultant to work for a 12-month period to assist in the gathering of evidence for their campaign to remove permitted development rights from hilltracks, and to show how this is relevant and would contribute to planning policy, responsible land management and the Land Use Strategy. This research will involve the production of a report and related campaign materials.

This sub-group is made up of nine LINK organisations (BSCG, CC, SCNP, RS, APRS, SWLG, RSPB, NEMT, NTS) and is co-convened by Beryl Leatherland of SWLG and Helen Todd of RS. One of the co-conveners will support the consultant and carry out formal line management of the post. The wider sub-group will act as a steering group for the project. The project is funded by contributions from Scottish Mountaineering Trust, British Mountaineering Council, Scottish Environment LINK and the member organisations.

### **Brief:**

The consultant will be required to:

- **Coordinate existing volunteer monitoring activity.** Currently, volunteer 'trackers' are monitoring 13 planning authority websites on a weekly basis for any prior notification or planning applications relating to tracks, including hydro schemes. This information is collated and screened, and any PN/full planning application which raises concerns is forwarded on to the co-conveners for their information and further action. (For example tracks in a wild land area, an application which is sub-standard in terms of information given would be reasons to forward on these applications).
- **Electronic log:** Maintaining a detailed chronological log of planning submissions sent by Trackers.
- **Hydro Schemes:** maintain an electronic log of these, alerting us to those in/intruding into wild land areas and work with sub-group to identify at least 2 of these for long term monitoring.
- **Planning Authorities:** to contact the sub-group as and when difficulties arise with online portals and to obtain advice and clarification for trackers.
- **Contribute to any 'call to action'** as appropriate and in discussion with co-conveners. This activity may include a call for photos of tracks from members of the public following media work. NB: The co-conveners will be responsible for producing any related press materials and circulating it.
- **Work with partner organisations:** Arrange for the organisations who support the work to host details on their websites, to refresh this during the year, to provide a link to the project website, to raise awareness and to encourage their members to participate.
- **Hilltracks website:** to ensure the LINK Hilltracks webpage is up to date, arranging for new material to be added as necessary.
- **LINK Reporting:** to contribute to the twice yearly LINK network reporting process in consultation with the co-conveners and to prepare brief progress updates for the Planning and Land Groups.
- **Funders:** to prepare reports/updates as required by them.
- **Identify up to 8 hilltracks to use as case studies** in consultation with the co-conveners which have a geographical spread across the country. These tracks together should highlight

deficiencies in various aspects of the current prior notification system, thus building evidence for the case to require full planning applications for all tracks

- **Produce a report** detailing the reasons these 8 tracks are being used as case studies with photos and other information regarding their history, and their current state, extent of damage caused, etc. This report will also have background text on the hilltracks campaign over the years, and text on future recommendations, as agreed with the co-conveners.
- **Meet co-conveners and/or steering group as necessary.**

#### **Proposed time scales:**

1 April 2017	Consultant appointed and brief finalised. Consultant takes over coordination of monitoring activities from week beginning 3 April.
1 March 2018	Draft report to be received by co-conveners, with sign off by end March.
31 March 2018	Contract ends.

#### **Number of hours under contract:**

It is anticipated that the work will involve an average of 5 hours per week over a one-year period. We anticipate the regular coordination of monitoring activities and maintaining databases should take around 2 hours per week, and the research and preparation of the report will take an average of 3 hours per week (although the consultant is free to do this work in a more concentrated period of time, to suit their circumstances).

#### **Flexibility**

This brief will be subject to review on an ongoing basis to ensure the objectives of the project are being met. This may lead to some alterations to the nature and balance of work.

#### **Person spec:**

##### ***Essential:***

The role requires good research and communication skills, the ability to write clearly and with good grammar, spelling and punctuation, and the ability to pay attention to detail and ensure accuracy. Excellent IT skills are a key requirement. The applicant should also be able to work independently and with personal initiative. A good knowledge of the planning system and land use/upland issues would be welcomed.

##### ***Desirable:***

The consultant should have experience of working with and supporting volunteers. An interest in conservation and environmental issues would be an advantage.

#### **Application:**

Apply by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 by sending a CV plus covering letter to [Hilltracks@scotlink.org](mailto:Hilltracks@scotlink.org). For further information on the post, contact the sub-group's co-conveners:

Helen Todd, Ramblers Scotland [helen.todd@ramblers.org.uk](mailto:helen.todd@ramblers.org.uk), Tel: 0131 472 7006

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