

# Adopt a Path

## Volunteer Role Description

### Overview of Role

Adopt a path is a flagship volunteering initiative of the Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland which is resuming after a large, funded project The Mountains and The People ended in 2020.

Adopt a Path allows those most passionate about Scotland's mountains to become custodians of their favourite hills, conserving fragile upland landscapes by reporting on erosion damage or potential path issues and allowing maintenance to be targeted to best effect. Adopt a Path volunteers will receive training and support to undertake their path survey in a safe manner which provides the type of information we require to ensure these iconic paths are maintained for generations to come.

### Where and When

We have paths available for adoption across both of Scotland's National Parks; Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and the Cairngorms National Park and will be expanding into other areas including hills on the West Coast and Skye. Each path is unique, some short and gentle and others long or remote. Once registered you can choose which path you would like to adopt, from the list of available routes.

Adopt a Path volunteers are required to survey their path at least once a year. Ideally we would like two surveys per year, one in the spring (March / April) and one at the end of summer (Aug / Sept). Volunteers decide when they can undertake the survey, there are no set dates.

### Key Tasks

- To undertake a visual path survey by walking the path route.
- To take photographs of path issues and record information about the nature of the problem and its location.
- To use our Adopt a Path website to report path issues.
- To attend and participate in Adopt a Path training sessions and meetings with other volunteers.
- To promote the work of The Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland and maintain good working relationships with landowners, the public, local communities etc.
- To follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

### Skills, Experience and Knowledge

In order to undertake this role, we expect volunteers to have following skills and experience.

Adopt a Path volunteers will:

- be used to spending time outdoors
- be experienced hill walkers
- have good physical fitness
- be self-reliant in mountain / upland environments
- be confident lone working
- have good health and safety awareness.

It would also be desirable for our volunteers to:

- have an interest in upland paths
- have good map reading and navigation skills
- have local knowledge of the area where the adopted path is located.

## Training and Support

We do not expect new volunteers to come with detailed knowledge of path construction and reporting. Support will be provided to ensure that you are confident in these areas to a level which will allow you to undertake the required tasks.

All new volunteers must attend a one day Adopt a Path induction session that includes training on basic mountain awareness, our safe systems of work, how to recognise common path problems and how to use our website for reporting problems. Volunteers will also receive an Adopt a Path Volunteer Information Pack to help you undertake the tasks of this role. Volunteers are supported by the Activity Project Officer, who is the first port of call should you need any assistance or support.

## How to Apply

If you are interested in becoming an Adopt a Path volunteer, then contact the Activity Project Officer and they will start the process. This involves completing a volunteer registration form, signing a volunteer agreement and attending an induction day. Volunteers can then select a path they would like to adopt. Paths are allocated on a first come first served basis.

## Contact

Activity Project Manager  
Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland  
Unit 4  
Fountain Mews  
Bridge Of Allan  
FK9 4EN

Tel: 07957203028

Email: [shona@outdooraccesstrustforscotland.org.uk](mailto:shona@outdooraccesstrustforscotland.org.uk)

