

3 October 2019

To whom it may concern

Upper Cormonachan paths project

Ramblers Scotland is pleased to add our support to the Upper Cormonachan paths project and its grant application for funding for new paths and car parking facilities, as well as its efforts to raise funds from a public appeal.

Ramblers Scotland helps everyone enjoy walking and protects the places we love to walk. We are a membership organisation and the representative body for walkers in Scotland, recognised by **sportscotland** as a governing body of sport. We have around 6,500 members in Scotland with over 50 local walking groups entirely run by volunteers. These include groups based in Mid Argyll & Kintyre, Inverclyde and Helensburgh & West Dunbartonshire who enjoy walking in this area. We are part of the Ramblers, which has been campaigning across Great Britain for over 80 years to secure and facilitate access, promote walking and protect the natural beauty of the countryside.

We support the Cormonachan group's objectives to further opportunities for outdoor recreation in this area, including activities relating to skills training, native woodland management and supporting the local economy by helping to attract visitors to this area. The proposed priorities are directly in line with a number of the [public health priorities](#) set out by the Scottish Government which, among other things, aims to improve mental wellbeing and physical activity levels, recognising the value to health and wellbeing of people spending time outdoors in the natural environment.

In addition to the many benefits to health, outdoor recreation is a significant sector of Scotland's tourist industry and makes a major contribution to the national economy. [VisitScotland](#) has estimated that walking tourism alone brings £1.27 bn per year in value to the Scottish economy. It is important that we enable people to explore and learn about our natural and cultural heritage, in order to ensure their sustainable management for future generations to enjoy. We believe that this project will help in this process.

We trust these comments are helpful but would be very happy to discuss this matter further at any time.

Yours faithfully



Helen Todd
Campaigns & policy manager

Convener: Ronnie Forbes
President: Ben Dolphin
Director: Brendan Paddy

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Registered office: 2nd floor, Camelford House,
87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW