

Ben A'an – Case Study

Path Number

LL29

Path Name

Ben A'an

Distance

1,907m

Location

Start: NN 5095 307041

End: NN 50733 08339

Landowner

Forestry Commission Scotland

Designations

SSSI, NSA

Land Management Priorities

Forestry/Recreation

Use

Very popular path giving extensive views of Loch Katrine and the Trossachs, and heavily used by tourists and locals alike for a short steep walk giving a real mountain experience. The south facing slabs dry quickly and offer a wide range of traditional rock climbing routes, and so the hill is popular with climbers.

Previous Path Management

- ▶ The path within the forest itself was worked extensively through the Manpower Services Commission's Special Programmes in the mid to late 1980s. Most of this work has now unravelled due to scale of use and lack of maintenance.
- ▶ The upper path has been built using Pathcraft techniques in the 1990s. Some of this has been successful and some has not. Substantial sections will need to be rebuilt.

Path Management Constraints

- ▶ Machine Access will be impossible due to current tree cover and angle of slope
- ▶ Materials will have to be imported

Path Conditions

- ▶ Between the upper and lower sections there is a very wide damage zone which has never been built and desperately needs repaired. Current tree cover and steepness of slope means that work here will have to be handbuilt only, and materials will be a challenge!
- ▶ Large sections of the Pathcraft work has failed, and there is almost nothing of the MSC work left.

Recommendations

- ▶ Full build path all the way to the bridge and beyond.
- ▶ Rebuild sections on the upper slope

Maintenance

Regular maintenance and pre-emptive works will be required once work has been completed.



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- ▶ These images show the various conditions and extent of damage to the different sections of the path



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Ben A'an – Amber (Condition) Survey

A full Amber (condition) survey for Ben A'an was completed in 2013. This resulted in the works being carried out as part of the Mountains & The People project in 2015. Following the works a second Amber (condition) survey was completed.

These surveys were completed using the guidance provided in section 2.4 (pages 40-54) of the Upland Path Management document.

Before works

Overview

Weather conditions: Misty, light rain	Date: 2nd July 2013
Path Name: Ben A'an	Surveyor: Dougie Baird
Start Grid Reference: NN 5095307041	End Grid Reference: NN 50733 08339
<p>General description of the Path: Mostly failed stone pitching and some aggregate path. Very boggy in places. Previously built (1990s?) but has failed. Requires 70% rebuild. Pitching and aggregate with substantial revetment work.</p>	

Specification

Section:	5
Length:	373m
Grid Ref:	NN 5047107972
Surface Type:	Aggregate/stone pitching
Features:	Boulders
Paths/Braids:	3/4
Bare Width:	5.0m
Tramp Width:	12m
Gully Depth:	/0.7m/
LG/XF:	18/21

Condition

Roughness:	1
Drainage:	1
Erosion:	1
Dynamism:	1
Condition:	1
Urgency:	1

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After works

Overview

Weather conditions: Sunny and dry	Date: 2nd July 2018
Path Name: Ben A'an	Surveyor: Rosie Winch
Start Grid Reference: NN 5095307041	End Grid Reference: NN 50733 08339
<p>General description of the Path: New stone pitching and aggregate path with good even surface. Section in very good condition</p>	

Specification

Section:	5
Length:	373m
Grid Ref:	NN 5047107972
Surface Type:	Aggregate/ stone pitching
Features:	Boulders
Paths/Braids:	1/0
Bare Width:	1.2m
Tramp Width:	1.2m
Gully Depth:	0m
LG/XF:	18/21

Condition

Roughness:	5
Drainage:	5
Erosion:	5
Dynamism:	5
Condition:	5
Urgency:	5

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Before works



After works

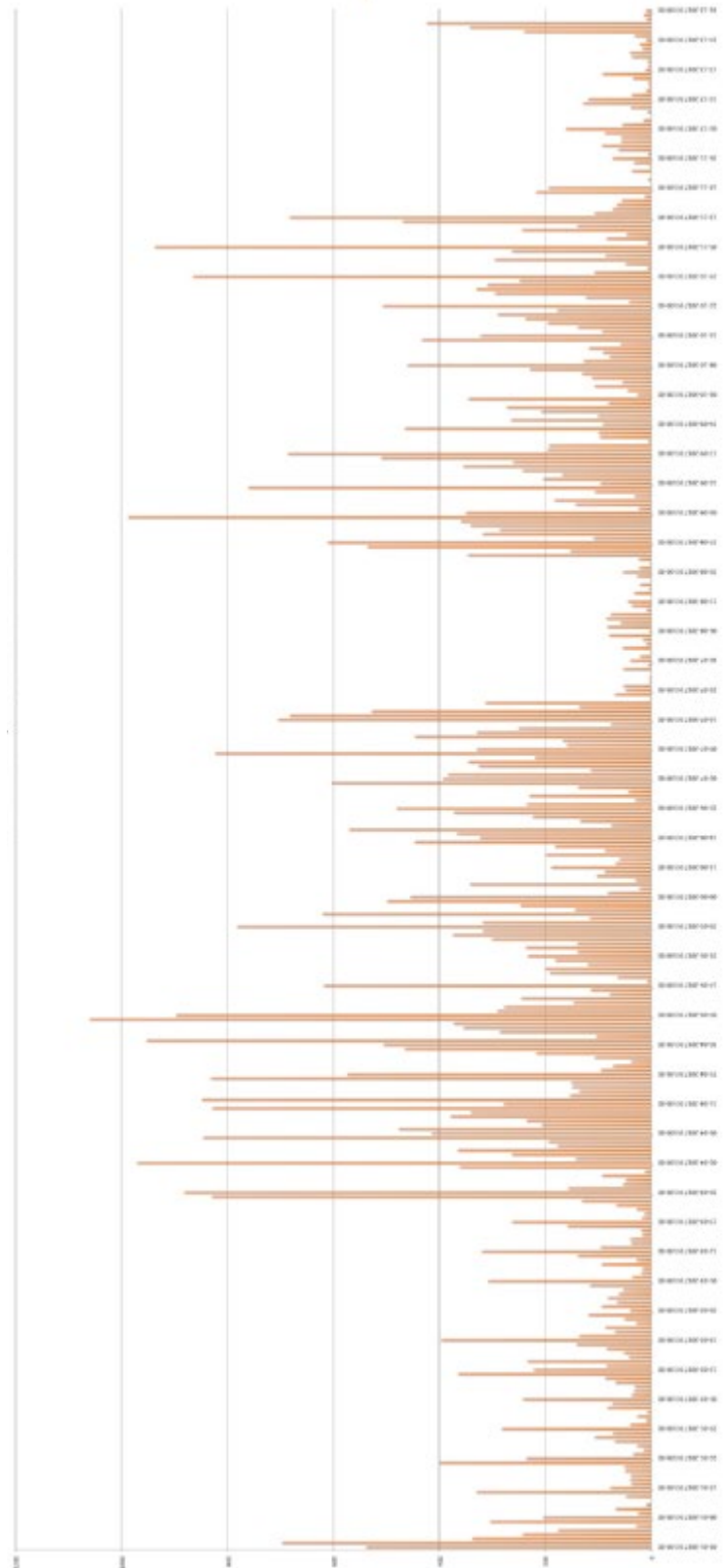


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Ben A'an People Counter Data: 1 January 2017 – 31 December 2017

People counter data for Ben A'an near Aberfoyle in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Data was collected by an Eco-counter placed at the beginning of the path.
<https://www.eco-compteur.com/en/>



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Ben A'an Rainfall Data in millimeters

Rainfall data for Loch Katrine near Aberfoyle in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

This data was provided by Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) Evidence & Flooding Advice Helpdesk.

