

## Summary of Arran Geopark Seasonal Ranger Work 2024

### Volunteer Activity

With the exception of July, volunteer Days have been carried out twice monthly this season on pre-programmed days. This is a departure from previous seasons where the approach was more ad-hoc. Volunteer days have also been publicised more widely using a variety of different means. Whilst we have had a number of new people express interest in volunteering and joining the mailing group, very few have materialised into actual attendees, with the majority of volunteer days attended by the same small group that have been active for the past few seasons. The joint path clearing day with NTS was a great success and well attended. Volunteer day work to date:

- Drainage ditch clearing – Glen Sannox.
- Boardwalk repairs – Cordon to Kingscross Coastal Way.
- Path clearing – Narrachan, Lochranza.
- INNS Himalayan Balsam control – Corrie x 2.
- Path clearing - Cordon to Kingscross Coastal Way.
- Beach clean – Cleats Shore.
- Path clearing – High Corrie Goatfell path. Joint volunteer day with NTS.
- Volunteer hours:

Date	No. Volunteers	No. Hours	Volunteer Hours
14/05/2024	4	3	12
28/05/2024	4	3	12
11/06/2024	3	3	9
09/07/2024	4	3	12
16/07/2024	4	3	12
12/08/2024	3	3	9
28/08/2024	2	3	6
05/09/2024	6	5.5	33
24/09/2024	4	3	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>117</b>

### Litter

A total of 680kg of litter was collected this season. This is considerably less than last season and is due to a number of factors. 2023 saw a big push to beach clean a large section of coastline from Merkland to Kilmory. Due to other activities taking precedent and only having one ranger this year, it was just not possible to achieve anywhere near what was achieved last season. There was also a big drop in the number of 'dirty campers' encountered compared to last year.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Wild Campers/Motorhome</b>	<b>Beach Clean</b>	<b>General/ Other</b>	<b>Comments</b>
09/05/24			200	Tyres dumped by travellers at Distillery Outlet.
18/06/24	160			Brodick Beach, Sailors Grave
18/07/24		40		Kilpatrick
28/08/24		120		Cleats Shore
24/09/24		160		Cleats Shore
Sub Total	160	230	200	
<b>Total</b>	<b>680Kg</b>			

### **General Ranger activities**

Work carried out to date this season:

- Preparation for UNESCO assessment. This dominated the early part of the season and consisted of various tasks, including path clearing, infrastructure repairs/maintenance, signage improvements, liaising with local businesses, Geopark room maintenance/improvements.
- SOAC Patrols and clearing of litter and fire pits left by campers and travellers.
- Repairs to Cordon – Kingscross boardwalk. A large number of boards have been replaced, as well as some supports.
- Erosion control and construction of steps at the Kildonan Chirotherium access point.
- Cross drain clearing between Drumadoon and Kings Cave.
- Stile and gate repair on Coire Fhionn Lochan path.
- Represented Arran Geopark at Arran Waters Day and the Arran Show.
- New fence erected at Corriecravie steps, as well as various other Coastal Way improvements as part of a joint working day with Malcolm Whitmore.
- Fisherman’s Walk Cloy Burn bridge repairs.
- Co-led community walk with Arran Active.
- Bench repairs – Sannox stepping stones car park.
- Path counter checks.

- Removal of path counter from Postman's Path and relocation to south of Preaching Cave.
- Vegetation clearance in the Whitebeam enclosure - Glen Catacol.
- Repairs to steps at Corriecravie.
- Removal of fallen trees between Cordon and Kingscross.
- Catacol Whitebeam recce for Nature Scot- Glen Catacol.
- PA6 Pesticide Course completed.
- Japanese Knotweed treated along Pirnmill coast between the village shop and just north of the old tin church.
- New finger post erected at Largybeg to replace existing rotten one.
- New stobs and waymarkers installed at Porta Leacach, Kildonan following complaints of walkers transiting through resident's garden.
- Bridge repair to replace rotten boards at Strathwhillan.
- Path clearing:
  - Cladach MRT base to beach.
  - Dippen Head.
  - Largybeg/Largymore.
  - Imachar to Whitefarland.
  - High Corrie Goatfell path.
  - Fallen Rocks.
  - Kingscross.
  - Corriecravie
  - Drumadoon Chirotherium path.
  - Various locations for the Arran Trail Race.

#### Points to Note:

- Cordon to Kingscross boardwalk continues to require significant work each season to replace rotten sections. Whilst in places it is only the boards that have required replacing, on many occasions the timber supports have been found to be rotten, requiring significant repairs. This coupled with the remoteness and time/effort required to transport materials means that a significant amount of time continues to be dedicated to this section of Coastal Way.
- Further repairs have been carried out on the Corriecravie steps this season. Again, this has taken a significant amount of time due to the location and difficulty of re-building the existing rotten steps. To date 21 steps have been replaced, with 35 original steps still in place, as well as the section of boardwalk. A number of these will require re-building next season as they are showing signs of rotten supports, but time did not allow for them to be repaired this year. Approximately two thirds of the way down the narrow path is showing signs of erosion with a steep drop on the sea-ward side. This could also do with some work to widen the path and shore-up the eroding bank.
- Three litter caches are still in place at Dippen Head, and Bennan Head. These were planned to be picked up using COAST Explorer but unfortunately a suitable weather window did not materialise.

This will be made priority at the start of next season, with an alternative removal option implemented if it looks like COAST Explorer will not be a reliable option.