

Remedial Work Completion Report

The Corrieyairack Pass



at Culachy, Fort Augustus

February 2004

Remedial Work on the Corrieyairick Pass at Culachy

Remedial Work on the lower section of the Corrieyairick pass was finished at the end of January and finally signed off with the estate manager's approval on 12 February. Conditions were applied to the work which limited the outcome to resolving the safety issues and further risk of damage to this section of the Pass by washout.

There were four main work areas to address as agreed between the co-funders SNH and the Highland Access Project, with approval and support from the Culachy Estate.

- Drainage. The drainage on the section between the Ardachy Road and the Estate entrance to the Pass has been either redefined or upgraded by excavation. This work was completed sensitively to ensure that any original stone lined sections would be retained where existing.
- Surface works. Concurrent with remedial work on drainage, where specifically identified, the route was be refilled in washed out sections and a buttress constructed wall side to protect this structure from future undermining. Seven groynes have been placed to channel flash flood water flow back towards the drain and hence further protect the route and wall. A sloping surface has been laid to direct water towards the drainage channel at critical points along the lower section. The physical barriers currently in place have been reinstated to ensure that the route cannot be used by vehicles until further work is completed on an appropriate surface that would be safe for this use.
- Wall repair. Where the wall has been undermined or was in a state of near collapse, these sections have been structurally repaired.
- Vegetation clearance along the lower section has dealt with encroachment of scrub. The scrub has been completely removed, and trees that were influencing the drainage system have been removed or pruned.

The work has been successfully completed and has been approved by the estate manager. As the photographs show this work has effectively reopened a section of this route that was previously unsuitable for public use due to high safety risk factors. The route can now be handed back to the estate in a condition fit for use as a right of way. This section of the Pass in its current condition is still unsuitable for vehicles and due to this barriers have been reinstated at either end. The estate may need to look at future suitability for usage other than a non vehicular right of way.

The increased water flow along the drain created by collapsed culverts higher up the pass will continue to create excessive water flow along this section. During recent snow melt this section has again seen a flash flood, with the route remaining unaffected. However the road culvert at the Culachy Road is again experiencing sand and gravel debris as the culvert itself is in poor repair and is unable to cope with this flash flooding. This problem not due to the remedial work, although there was some silt from the drain clearing, this has been a recurring issue over the past 10 years.

David Andrews, Highland Access Project Manager, 12 February 2004

Corrieyairick Pass at Culachy - Record of remedial works

Pre-start Condition



At Ardachy Road



Wall collapse and washout



Wall collapse and washout



Top of section drain

During work



Corrieyairick Pass at Culachy - Record of remedial works

Finished route



At Ardachy Road



Buttress and drainage work



Wall reinstatement and buttressing



Drain clearance and blockers



Stock gate and vehicle blockers



One of 7 groins protecting the route



Original stone lining retained



Stone lined drain and groin