

Financial summary for 2007/08

The following summary of the Trust's income and expenditure has been drawn from the Annual Audit of Accounts 2007/08, undertaken by Accountants Grant Considine Partnership and presented at the AGM.

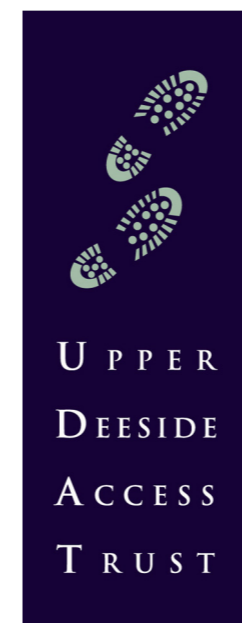


Income	£
Aberdeenshire Council	25,000
Balmoral Estate	3,000
British Gas Group	1,850
Brown Forbes Memorial Trust	15,000
Cairngorms National Park Authority	90,000
EU Funding (ECAP)	6,771
Paths for All Partnership	2,500
Scottish Natural Heritage	60,500
Sale of publications	4,133
Glen Muick Car Park	30,749
Consultancy	3,000
Donations	622
Bank Interest	4,019
Other income	1,387
Pension fund actuarial gain	(26,000)
Total income 2007/08	222,531
Balance carried forward from 06/07 (fixed and liquid assets)	155,767
Total funds (bar debtors and creditors)	378,298
Debtors (trade debtors, VAT & accrued income from funders)	84,785
Creditors (trade creditors, & accrued expenses)	(29,310)

Expenditure	£
Project Management	81,132
Trust Management	5,624
Administration	13,709
Pension costs	6,000
Travel, training & protect. clothing	5,567
Office running & equipment	15,769
Payroll, financial & legal services	4,287
Signing, interpretation & leaflets	4,643
Car park works	21,923
Mountain path repairs	12,912
Glen & low ground path devel.	60,624
Health Walks Scheme	19,670
Depreciation of fixed assets	6,142
Total expenditure 07/08	258,002
Reserve carried forward to COAT	120,296
UDAT funds 2007-08	378,298



We gratefully acknowledge the funding support from all our partners:



Unit 1
Aboyne Castle Business Centre
Aboyne
Aberdeenshire
AB34 5JP.

The Upper Deeside Access Trust (UDAT) is a non-profit making environmental charity established in Upper Deeside and was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 1st June 1998.

A word from the Chair - Pat Chalmers

The last year has been one of very considerable change. Effectively this is the last AGM of UDAT and the first of COAT. The smooth transition from one to the other has been possible because of the great goodwill and assistance of all those concerned.

During the last year the directors of UDAT were joined by David Bale from SNH, David Cameron from the Park Authority and David Fallows. The shadow board appointed a new manager, Dougie Baird, to succeed Chris York. Dougie took up his appointment at the beginning of COAT on 5th April 2008.

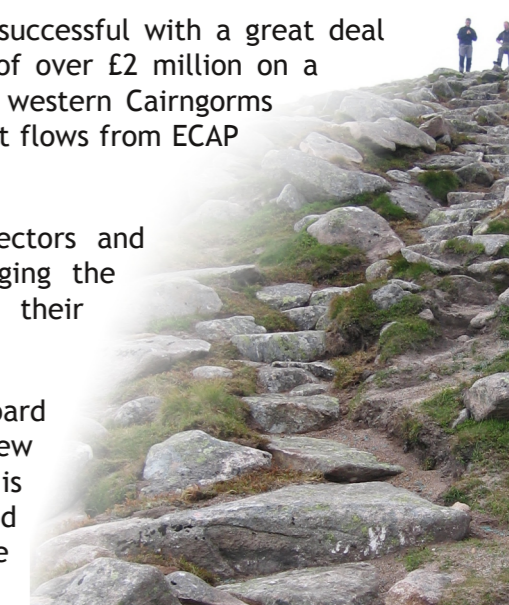
The transitional period has been somewhat longer than the directors would have liked and it has required a two year interim budget which is reflected in the accounts. The directors at their meeting in August 2008 approved an ambitious business plan for the future.

The underlying finances of the new Trust are sound, although dependant on partner funding and a healthy reserve has been carried forward from UDAT.

UDAT proved, during its ten years of existence, to be highly successful with a great deal achieved. The ECAP project particularly led to the spending of over £2 million on a variety of access projects. Now the focus must move to the western Cairngorms area, whilst not neglecting the legacy of maintenance work that flows from ECAP and other projects on Upper Deeside.

I am grateful, as ever, for the support of my fellow directors and especially to David Cameron for his commitment to managing the transition and as always I am grateful to our staff for their dedication, loyalty and hard work.

I have intimated to the board that I wish to retire from the board at an early opportunity and that they should seek to find a new chairman. I do so content in the knowledge that the new Trust is set fair and in good hands to face the challenges and opportunities ahead and I wish COAT every good fortune for the future.



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Project Manager's Report

A significant amount of management time was spent investigating the options for expanding the operational area and preparing for the organisational changes that would be required for that transition. Resources were focussed on preparing new areas of project activity and reviewing existing maintenance requirements.

And change there was: Kevin Fairclough, Project Access Officer left for pastures new in May 2007. We also said farewell to Gillian Gibson and Susie Townend, who had provided administration of the Trust. Francis Farquharson, our car park attendant at Spittal of Glen Muick retired at the end of March 2008.



Chris York

Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust

In April 2008 the Board of Directors of the Upper Deeside Access Trust formally implemented a change to Company's the Memorandum and Articles of Association, to become the Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust. In doing so, the company expanded its operational area to include the whole of the Cairngorms National Park, and adapted its governance structure to reflect the changing needs of its operations.

Opening of Clarack Loch path and launch of COAT



Murray Swapp continued in his role as Project Access Officer and we were joined by Sandra Holt as Administrator, Mark Haggar and Owen Bass who job-shared as Project Access Officer and Alan Melrose, the Health Walks Coordinator.

We are grateful to the Chairman and Board of Directors for their continued support and as well as the officers who represent our funding partners for their considerable input to the Trust's work during the year.

We are also grateful for the loyal support of our Affiliate Members, and in particular the two representatives, Robin Blyth and Ken Thomson, who have contributed so positively to the Management Group.

Mountain Paths

The main effort in 2007-08 went into gaining a better understanding of the condition and ongoing maintenance needs of the paths that UDAT has repaired during the last ten years. The legacy of the Eastern Cairngorms Access Project is a requirement to keep the infrastructure in good repair and we needed to know both the scale of the task and to decide how best to manage this work.

The Cairngorms National Park Authority asked UDAT to undertake a strategic investigation of mountain paths across the National Park. This involved contacting all the land managers and collating a huge array of information about the location of popular mountain paths within the National Park, and to begin to prioritise paths that are in most urgent need of repair. In March 2008, UDAT held a workshop for key stakeholders across the National Park to draw together ideas on which paths require management. The workshop helped to identify the scale of the task ahead and gives the Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust a sound basis on which to progress development of the management of mountain paths across the National Park.

Low Ground Paths

UDAT had limited resources available for path development in 2007-08 and we restricted our main activities to path improvements in Glen Tanar and constructing a new all-abilities path from Dinnet to Clarack Loch.



The Brown Forbes Memorial Fund kindly provided financial assistance towards the work in Glen Tanar, which was focussed around improving the accessibility of two trails for a wider range of visitors. The 'Juniper Trail' was upgraded using a mix of aggregate path and constructed grass surface path to make barrier-free access on this short woodland loop. Work on the 'Riverside Trail' focussed on removing existing barriers, such as stiles, and improving the surface on short sections of the path.

The Clarack Loch path was constructed to all-abilities standards and provides wheelchair-friendly access to the Loch, including a viewing platform at the water's edge.

UDAT was also able to repair the Lion's Face path near Braemar, which had been closed due to storm damage.

The Lion's Face path reopened after storm damage



Visitor Management and Information Provision

UDAT was pleased to incorporate the Upper Deeside Health Walks Scheme into its programme in 2007-08, by providing management and administrative support to this project that was originally developed by the Upper Deeside Community Development Group.



The scheme is supported by the Paths for All Partnership and helps to get people outdoors and walking and is particularly aimed at people who are currently inactive across Upper Deeside. We undertook an evaluation of the scheme and found that those involved were extremely positive about the benefits of Health Walks in Upper Deeside. Both the volunteer leaders and those who join the walks are able to recognise the improvements to physical health and mental well-being.

"I had no energy and was overweight. I can now walk uphill effortlessly - when I joined WTH group I dreaded if a route took us up a slope. Now I walk to the village every day."

"My friend recently said to me 'Looking at you now I can see that you have found a life' - and that is what I feel like."

UDAT also continued the management of the Car Park at the Spittal of Glen Muick and undertook a major phase of maintenance of the infrastructure. The car park is a keystone of UDAT's success, demonstrating the opportunity for visitors to contribute directly to the management of paths through the provision of high quality facilities.