

Trainees work on Estate's footpaths

ON their recent weekly walk, the Glen Tanar Health walk group met a group of footpath trainees working on the riverside path in Glen Tanar.

The improved path will enable more people to access this popular route with better surfacing, making it more accessible.

The trainees are part of the Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust's (COAT) very successful Access Skills Training Project, funded by the European Social Fund, Highland Council, The Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). The trainees enjoyed meeting the folk who will make best use of their excellent efforts. The walkers were also able to thank the trainees personally for their work as it will mean more of them can now enjoy the riverside walk.

Gordon McDonald, COAT's training officer said: "It has been great to start the project at Glen Tanar - an ideal location for the trainees to construct their first low ground path. It was an



COAT trainees and health walk group.

excellent experience for the trainees to meet the local health walk group helping to understand the rationale for constructing the path."

The Health Walks Project is funded by the Cairngorm and

Aberdeenshire LEADER programmes; CNPA, SNH and Paths for All and is also managed by COAT.

Alan Melrose, COAT's health walks co-ordinator said: "We are delighted that the two projects have

been brought together as they are exactly the vision Paths for All have for a happier, healthier, greener, more active Scotland."

COAT welcomed the support from Glen Tanar Estate. The state's

senior ranger Eric Baird said: "Glen Tanar welcomes visitors. Path improvements mean that less able folk, or families with young children, are also able to enjoy Glen Tanar."