

SCA Local Access Advisor



The current Scottish white water guide book describes some 360 rivers. In addition, Scotland has hundreds of miles of coast and innumerable lochs. It is not possible for everyone within the SCA to have current knowledge about all of these sites and for this reason the SCA appoints Access Advisors who are interested in and knowledgeable with regard to a particular stretch of water.

Purpose:

- To be a point of contact for information for paddlers, landowners, local authorities etc. regarding a particular river, loch or area of coast. The main areas of knowledge and information being access, safety and environment
- To support the SCA to assist paddlers who are planning to use a particular stretch of water or area
- To identify and bring matters of interest/concern to be decided by the Access Committee and/ or Environment Committee
- To represent the SCA locally and be an ambassador for the SCA and British Canoeing

Key Responsibilities:

- To remain up-to-date with developments in the areas of Access and Environment
- To provide access advice and sources of further information to paddlers
- To flag up any access issues or safety hazards to SCA staff so that these can be published on the SCA website and social media
- To identify issues which require input from the Access Committee and/or Environment Committee and pass these on to the committees
- To develop effective working relationships with paddlers, clubs, centres, land owners, local authorities, local access fora etc.
- To promote the benefits SCA membership in supporting the access and environment work that is undertaken in Scotland
- To develop good local links with the Regional groups of the Coaching and Development Committee to support SCA clubs and SCA members
- When requested by the SCA, to lead on, or assist with, any negotiations that are required between the SCA and land owners, government bodies or developers (e.g. for hydro-electric schemes) – in line with SCA policies

Person Specification:

- Have a good understanding of the access situation in Scotland (including the responsibilities set out in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code) and the key ways that paddlers should protect the environment
- Have specific knowledge of and contacts within the stretch of water for which they are the advisor
- Have excellent interpersonal skills, including an ability to engage with a variety of individuals, build effective working relationships and positively address issues without creating or fuelling conflict
- Be comfortable working independently and as part of a team
- Be confident to explain the SCA's position on matters including access and environment
- Have the ability to communicate clearly and effectively through a variety of means, both written and verbal
- Be a current SCA Voting Member on appointment (i.e. an individual member who is over 18) and remain as one during their term

Appointment:

- SCA Local Access Advisors are appointed by the Access Committee on a 3 year basis. An open advert through SCA communication channels will invite interested parties to volunteer. The Access Committee will review the notes of interest and appoint suitable individuals to provide appropriate coverage of inland and coastal waters
- The Access Committee will ensure all those being appointed meet the role criteria and are suitably inducted and supported
- The Access Committee will refer to the SCA Appointments Committee in the event of any queries
- There is no limit to the number of terms an individual may volunteer or be appointed
- Local Access Advisors are subject to all SCA policies including the Conflict of Interests policy and required to complete a Register of Interests form