



MCofS News Release

7 January 2011

For immediate release

Minimal Impact Mountaineering Advice (MIMA)

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS) has launched its comprehensive guide to environmental good practice in the form of an online document called “Minimal Impact Mountaineering Advice” or MIMA.

Scottish Access Rights are a balance of having statutory rights of access to land and exercising those rights in a responsible manner. MIMA provides detailed information on a wide range of topics that hill walkers, climbers, ski tourers, instructors and other leaders can refer to in order to gain a better understanding of the practical steps they can take to exercise their access rights in an environmentally responsible manner, and to help pass on that knowledge to other people.

MIMA contains sections on erosion minimisation, nesting birds, dogs, camping, winter climbing, sanitation, beyond Scotland’s borders, and more. The text has been widely consulted upon and is available at www.mcofs.org.uk/advice-and-policies.asp.

MCofS President Chris Townsend said: “Scottish Access Rights depend on us being responsible, but it is not always very clear what that actually means. A visit to the MCofS website to read through the advice contained in MIMA should provide anyone who goes out into the Scottish mountains with a better understanding of what they should be doing in order to have minimal impact on the environment.”

MCofS Access and Conservation Officer Hebe Carus said: “I receive regular requests asking where to find information about what mountaineers should actually be doing in practice. Providing directions to the relevant advice had become more and more difficult as the information sources became increasingly dispersed. So, the answer is a one-stop-shop for advice relevant to all mountaineering activities. MIMA is a source of essential advice, and directs the reader to more detailed information on various topics.”

The MCofS is running MIMA training events later in the year. Please contact Hebe Carus for more details.

For further information contact Hebe Carus on hebe@mcofs.org.uk or go to the MCoFS website at: <http://www.mcofs.org.uk>.

Ends

Notes for Editors:

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCoFS) acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering.

MCoFS is a membership organisation with 10,500 members representing hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers, funded through a combination of membership subscriptions, grants, and investment from sportscotland, which supports public initiatives and services in mountain safety, mountain weather information services, mountain leader training and the development and promotion of mountaineering activities. MCoFS is a not for profit company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Scotland. Company number SC322717.