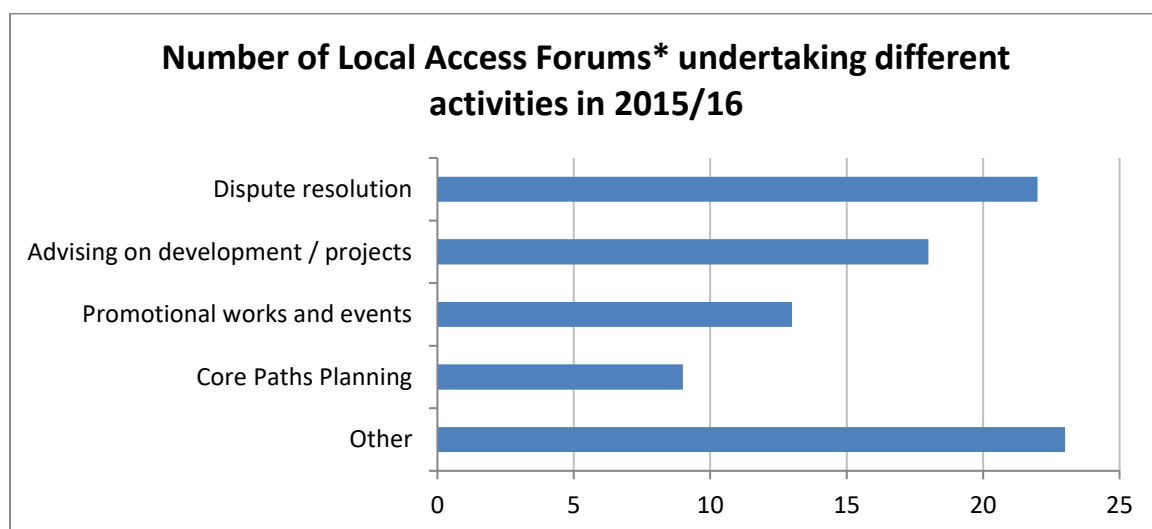
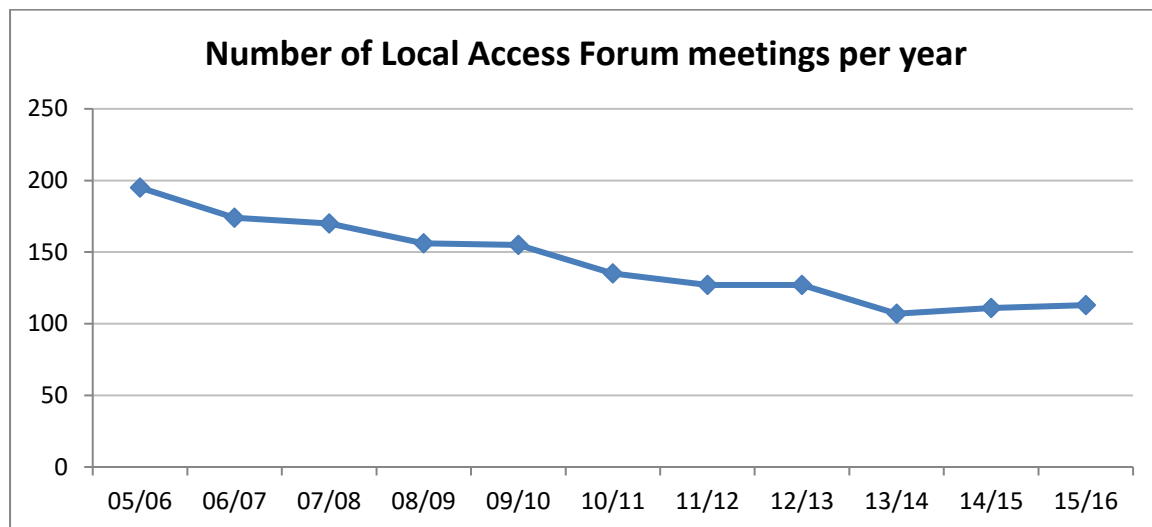


Monitoring the implementation of Part 1 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 - Summary - March 2016

A monitoring regime is in place to gather information on the duties, powers and expenditure of the 32 local authorities and two national park authorities (in their role as access authorities) in upholding and facilitating access rights, drawing up a system of core paths and giving the public reasonable access throughout their areas.

Local access forums

Local access forums, including representatives of land manager and recreation interests, help resolve disputes about access rights and advise the parties involved.



In 2015/16 an average of 269.5 hours of access officer time per month was spent servicing local access forums across Scotland.

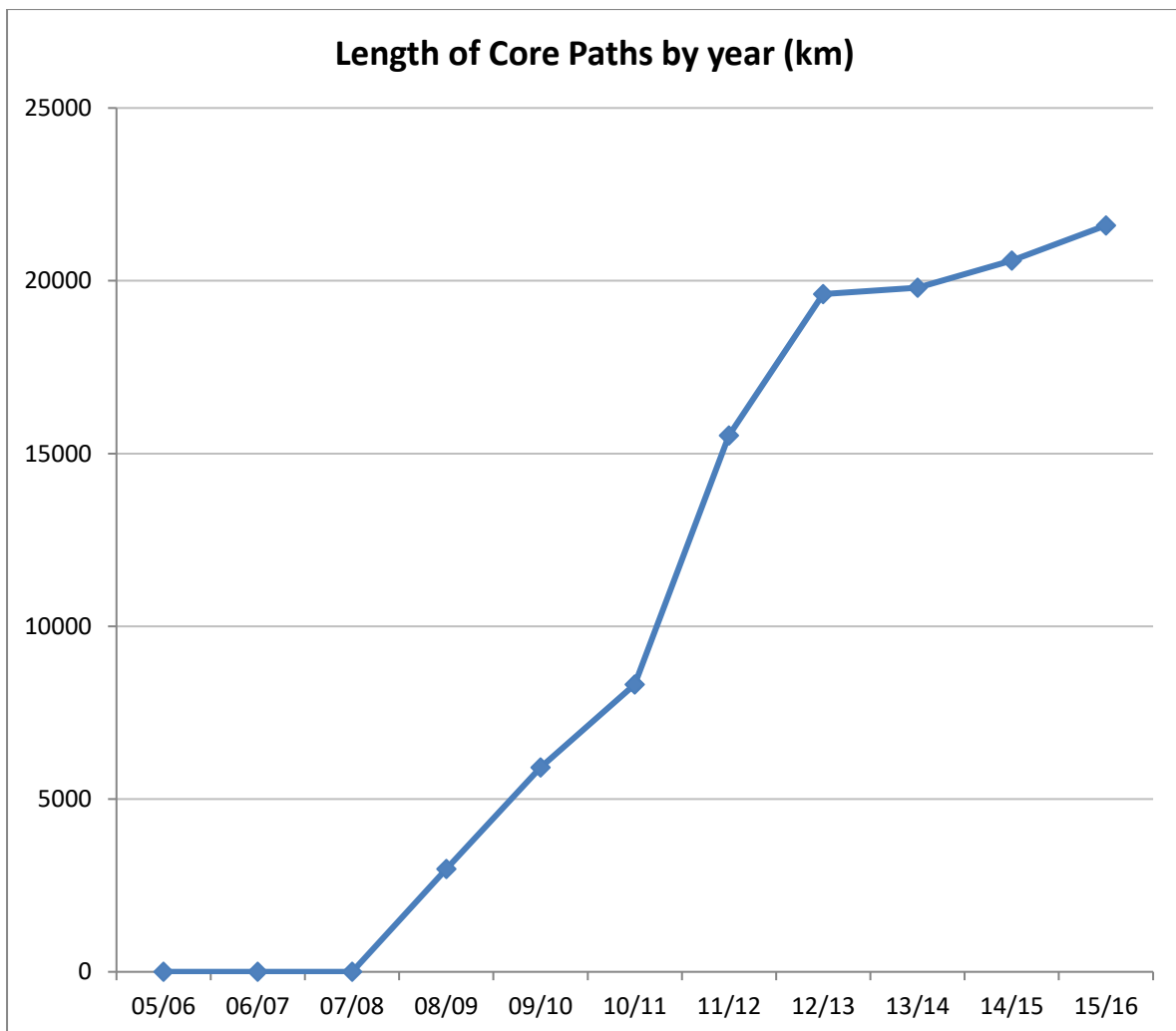
* Highland Council area is counted as 1 local access forum although 6 area forums cover the large area.

Core Paths Plans

Core path networks must be sufficient for giving the public reasonable access throughout access authority areas. Where appropriate core paths should:

- link up with other path networks
- provide for all types of user, including walking, cycling, horse-riding and water sports
- generally be accessible to the disabled, except where physical terrain prevents this.

Core paths are also an important means of managing public access and recreation.

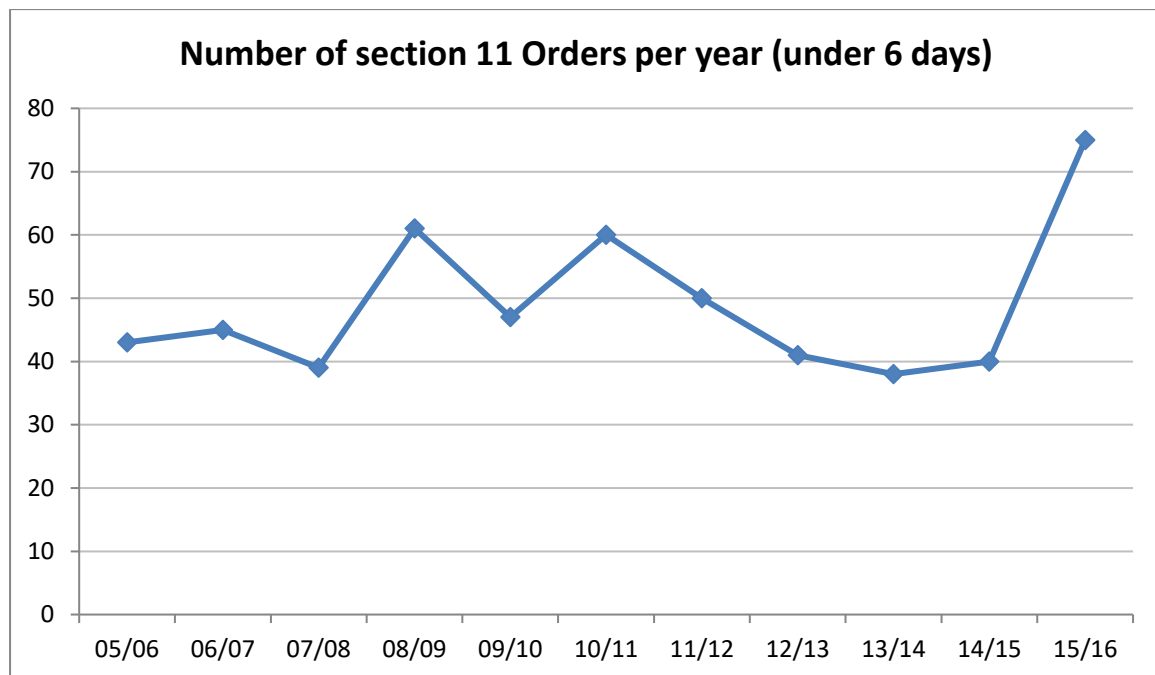


As the 34 access authorities gradually adopted their core paths plans, so the length of the core path network has increased.

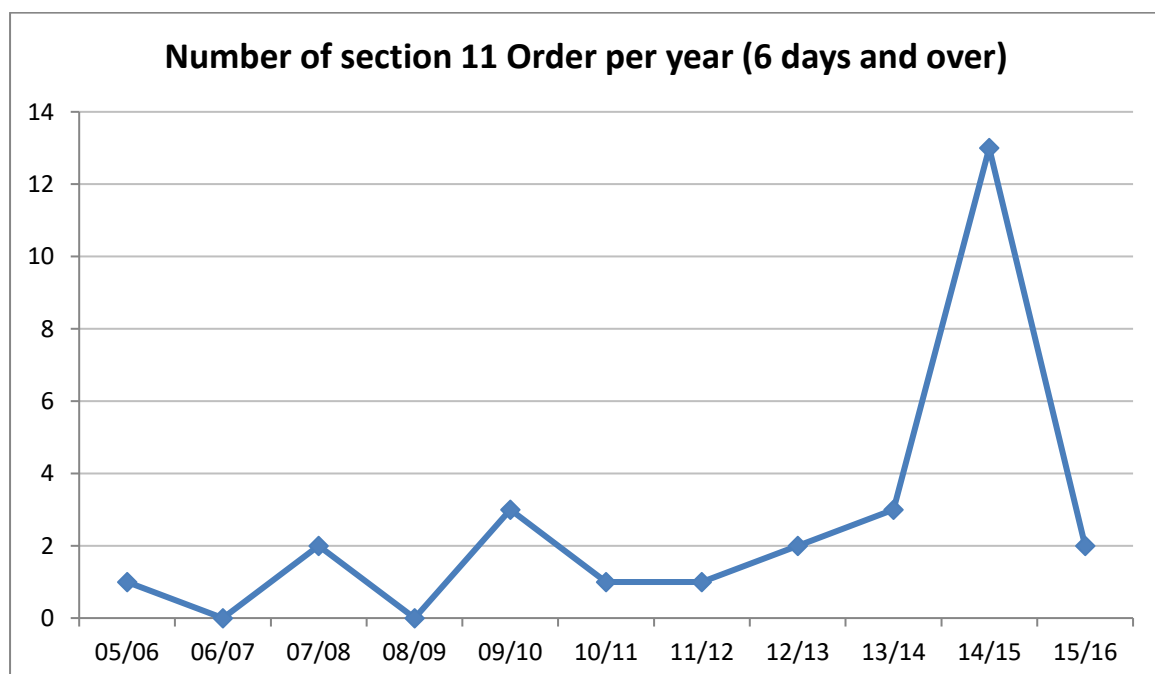
At 31 March 2016, 12,341km of the 21,602km of core paths were signposted or waymarked.

Section 11 Orders under Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003

(where the access authority exempts land from access rights for less than 6 days, or for periods of 6 days or more with confirmation by Scottish Ministers.)



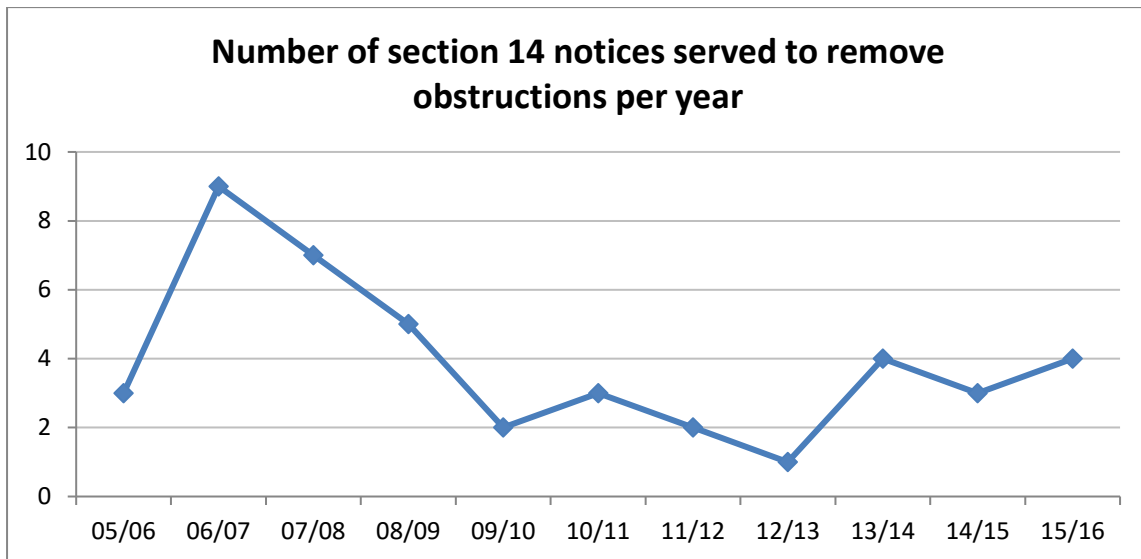
In 2015/16, 33 of the 75 section 11 Orders for under 6 days included core paths, of which 20 had alternatives to the core paths provided.



In 2015/16, one of the two section 11 Orders for 6 days and over included core paths, and alternatives to the core paths were provided. In 2014/15 there were 9 long-term section 11 Orders for the Commonwealth Games.

Section 14 notices under Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003

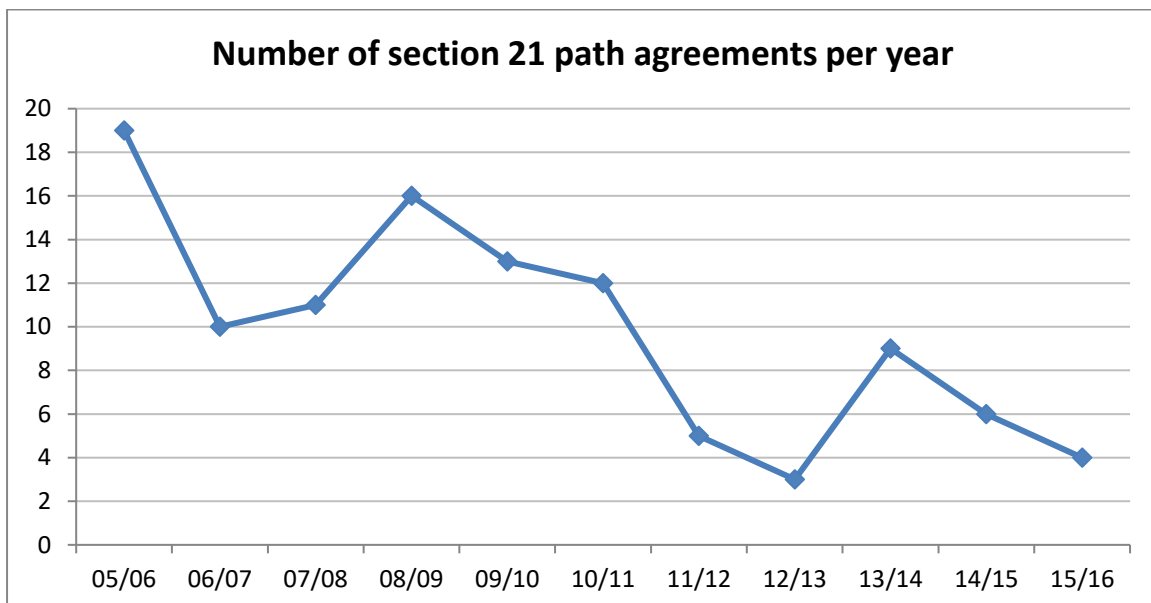
(where the access authority has served written notice on the land owner requiring remedial action where obstructions must be removed.)



The land owner can appeal such a notice to the sheriff court. In 2015/16, all of the 4 section 14 notices served were satisfactorily resolved out of court.

Section 21 path agreements under Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003

(when the access authority wants to enter into agreement on for example the maintenance or creation of a path, sometimes involving a fee.)



Expenditure on paths capital works

This is the total capital expenditure on path infrastructure works, undertaken by the access authority during the monitoring period (under section 15 or other powers).

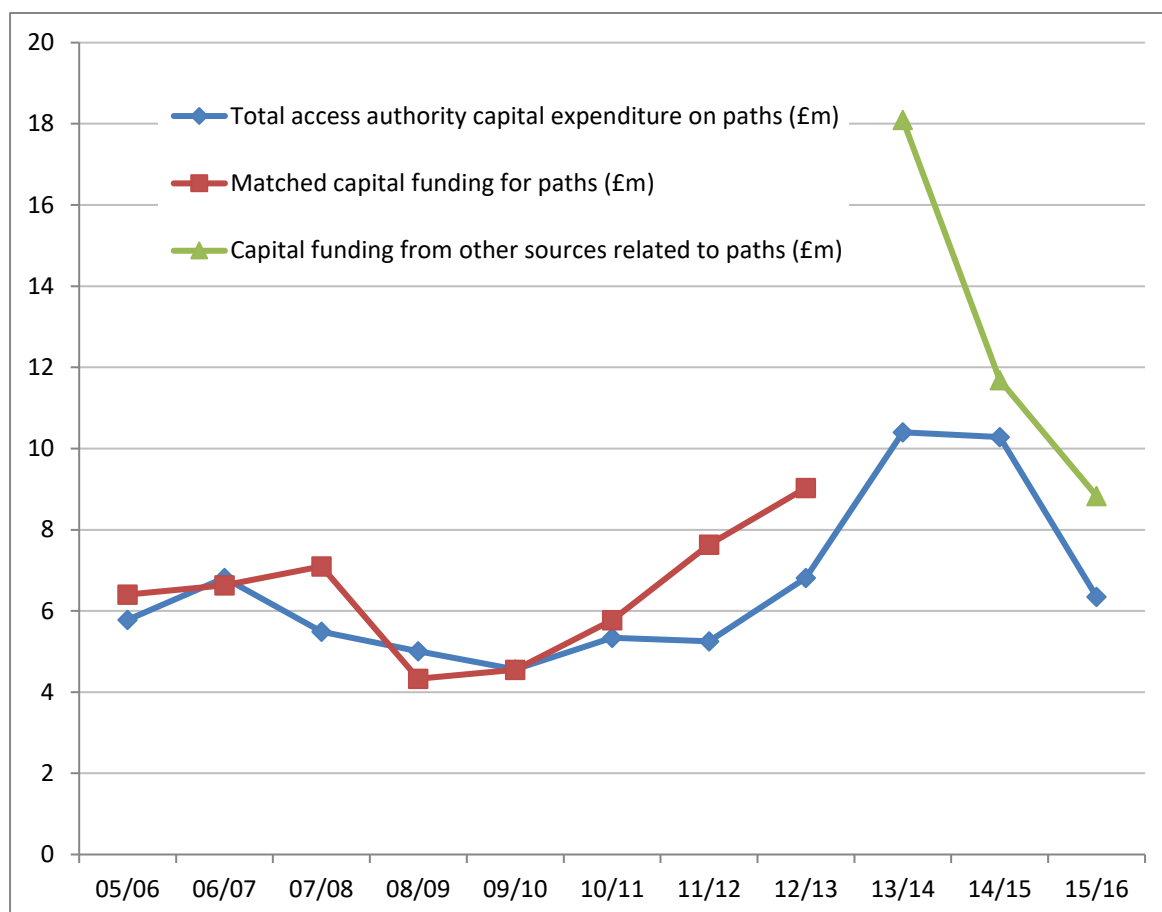
Capital works include:

- new paths, and
- upgrades to existing paths.

Work may include surveys and specifications, drainage, path surfacing, access infrastructure (like gates and bridges), signposts / waymarkers and landscaping. Emergency works may be included under capital eg. major repairs to path required as a result of flood damage.

Paths capital funding from other sources

This records the total amount of external funds, irrespective of sources, which have added to capital expenditure by the access authority during the period.

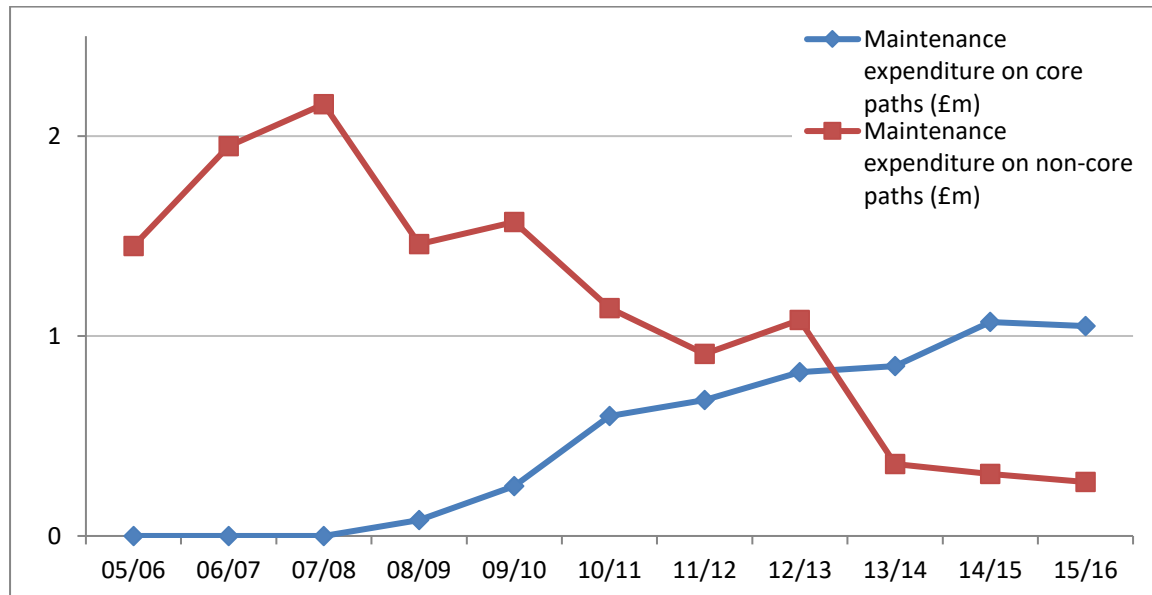


In 2015/16, 69% of the access authority capital expenditure, and 59% of the capital funding from other sources, was spent on core paths.

Note: From 2014/15 the monitoring question was reworded, asking for funding from all other sources rather than just “matched” funding. This is considered as a new time series starting in 2013/2014.

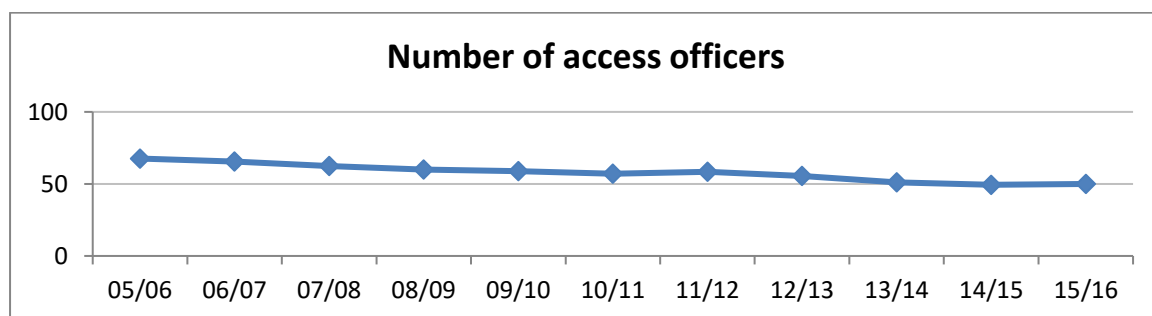
Maintenance expenditure on paths

This shows the expenditure by the access authority on maintaining paths and path infrastructure. Maintenance works on paths would include spend on routine maintenance tasks which keep a new or established path in a fit condition for use - eg. clearing blocked drains, litter collection, repairs to surface, signs and furniture, or strimming verges and overhanging vegetation.



Access officer posts

This records the number of full-time equivalents in the access officer post in the access authority.



Note that Part 1 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 came into force on 9 February 2005. All data for 2005/06 relates to the period 9 February 2005 to 31 March 2006. All other years' data relates to the relevant financial year. All annual returns are based on 34 access authorities except 2014/15 and 2015/16 which are based on 33.

Directorate for Environment and Forestry
Natural Resources Division
Landscape and Involvement with the Natural Environment branch
March 2017