

Isle of Tiree Access Forum

Tiree Access Forum was established in 2008 to address issues relating to access on the land. The Forum led by Tiree Rural Development Ltd (TRD) works in partnership with Tiree Community Development Trust, Discover Tiree, SNH, RSPB, Argyll Estates and Caledonian MacBrayne.



The Forum secured funding from SNH and Argyll Estates for the provision of an Access and Conservation officer on the island in 2008. This continued in 2009, 2010 & 2011.

The Forum provides a 'one stop shop' for anyone wishing information on access and conservation issues, but the group's main focus to date has been responding to the effects of the increased numbers of people accessing the beaches in motorised vehicles and the impact that is having on the machair and natural environment



Machair grassland is a distinctive and complex habitat restricted to approximately 25,000ha in the world with 17,500ha in Scotland. Of this Tiree and Coll make up 4000ha. Tiree is considered to have the most extensive and diverse area of Machair out with the Outer Hebrides, covering 24% of the island's land cover. It is an extremely important habitat for a number of plants and animals such as the Corncrake and the great yellow bumblebee.

Tiree machair and many of its associated species of flora and fauna are protected under European and UK legislation such as RAMSAR, SSSI, SAC and SPA. Machair is listed as a priority habitat in the EU Biodiversity Action Plan, the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and Argyll & Bute Council Local Biodiversity Action plan.