



Sulwath Connections Landscape Project
Minutes of Partners' Group Meeting held on Friday 20 March 2009
Venue: Sulwath Centre, RSPB Mersehead Reserve, Southwick, Dumfries, DG2 8AH

1.1 Attendance:

First Name	Last Name		Organisation	
Chris	Carruthers	CC	The Robert the Bruce Commemoration Trust	RBCT
Nick	Chisholm	NC	River Annan and District Salmon Fisheries Board	RADSFb
Stuart	Graham	SG	Scottish Natural Heritage	SNH
Anna	Johnson	AJ	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Brian	Lord	BL	Mid Nithsdale Angling Association	MNAA
Peter	Norman	PN	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Ruth	Paterson	RP	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Chris	Rollie	CR	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	RSPB
Rose Anne	Smith (Minutes)	RAS	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Andrew	Ward	AW	Balloch Wood Community Project	BWCP
Chris	Wood-Gee (Chair)	CWG	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC

1.2 Apologies:

First Name	Last Name		Organisation	
Rowan	Armstrong	RA	Galloway Fisheries Trust	GFT
Sue	Bennett	SB	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Ian	Brown	IB	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Eykolina	de Zwart	EdeZ	Solway Heritage	SH
Michael	Dickie (Cllr)	MD	Councillor (Member for Annandale North)	DGC
Simon	Fieldhouse	SF	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Ed	Forrest	EF	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Alistair	Geddes (Cllr)	AG	Councillor (Member for Mid Galloway)	DGC
Jackie	Graham	JG	Galloway Fisheries Trust	GFT
Roger	Grant (Cllr)	RG	Councillor (Member for Annandale North)	DGC
James	Grubb	JG	River Annan and District Salmon Fisheries Board	RADSFb
David	Hughes-Hallett	DHH	Heritage Lottery Fund	HLF
Ivor	Hyslop (Cllr)	IH	Councillor (Member for Lochar)	DGC
Geoff	Kitt	GK	Moffat and District Community Initiative	MDCI
Tony	Lightley	TL	Forestry Commission Scotland	BGH
Ian	McClumpha	IMcC	The Robert the Bruce Commemoration Trust	RBCT
Clair	McFarlan	CMcF	Solway Heritage	SH
Alastair	McNeill	AMcN	Scottish Environment Protection Agency	SEPA
Archie	McNeillie	ArMcN	Forestry Commission Scotland	FCS
Karl	Munday	KM	National Trust for Scotland	NTS



John	Poole	JP	The Robert the Bruce Commemoration Trust	RBCT
George	Prentice (Cllr)	GP	Councillor (Member for Castle Douglas and Glenkens)	DGC
Jim	Rae	JR	Lockerbie Wildlife Trust	LWT
Anne	Ramsbottom	AR	Friends of Annandale and Eskdale Museums	FAEM
Dorothy	Scherrer	DS	Balloch Wood Community Project	BWCP
Duncan	Stevenson	DS	National Trust for Scotland	NTS
Alan	Thomson	AT	Annan Initiative	AI
Elizabeth	Tindal	ET	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Ronald	Weir	RW	Mid Nithsdale Angling Association	MNAA

No:		Action
2	Declaration of Interest	
	None.	
3	Minutes of last meeting – 5 December 2008	
	Proposed by: NC / Seconded by: SG	
4	Matters Arising	
	None.	
5	Progress - Sulwath Connections Project Manager's Report	
5.1	Grant Claims	
5.1.1	HLF – HLF Claim 7 approved and paid out to Partners. Approx £1.3m has been spent overall, in line with projections. Big orders have been sent out and Claim 8 is expected to be bigger. Paperwork for HLF Claim 8 has been sent out to Partners. Bar charts for individual projects were discussed.	
5.1.2	SNH – The SNH claim based on HLF Claim 7 has been passed to SNH.	
5.2	Insurance Schedule	
	Not discussed.	
5.3	HLF Project Monitoring	
	CWG gave a presentation on the new HLF monitoring system. Each page of the form was examined. CWG / EF propose to visit each project twice yearly and insert the information provided by the Partners into an electronic copy of the form on their laptop. The current Sulwath Monitoring System completed quarterly by Partners will continue to run parallel with HLF's system.	
5.4	Site Tour	
	CWG to contact Partners and interested parties to arrange a site tour in May 2009, date to be confirmed.	CWG
5.5	Permissions to Start the Projects	
	Permission to start the Project has been applied for re Hightae Loch, the last outstanding project.	
5.6	Press and Publicity	
	Sulwath Website - "Wee Sleekit" has been appointed to redo the Website which will be externally hosted but linked with the Council system. It should be ready within 6 weeks. Discussion followed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners would like a rolling slideshow with text showing all the projects, similar to CWG's presentation. CR suggested revolving pictures. AW suggested moving images like those on YouTube. <u>CWG asked all Partners to produce a description of their projects and an update with photographs and send to RAS.</u>	Partners / RAS
5.7	Project Progress	
	AWP – EdeZ will be returning from maternity leave next month and will progress the project.	
	AD – BL said that progress was slow currently due to RW being very busy with	



	lambing, etc.	
	AW – The project is making good progress. Waymarks due to be finished by middle of April 2009.	
	BWH – The project has made excellent progress. Landscaping is now completed. AW arranging to get counters from FCS to record numbers of visitors.	
	BGH – The habitat is being encouraged re swiping, scrapes and tree planting. TL has purchased another 3000 trees / tubes and stakes and they should be planted by next week.	
	BMB –Tree surgery and felling has taken place to allow the site to be seen more easily. Gates have been ordered. Benches have been cut out of felled trees and interpretation to be carved into them.	
	CL – Work had been progressing well, including a replacement bridge over Vallison Burn. Rangers have been working with local schools to make community bird boxes. Tree felling / horse logging has taken place. Fishing platforms to be repaired / replaced as necessary. Boardwalks have been built.	
	CBA – Updates on projects can be found in the latest <u>Community Biodiversity Action Feb / Mar 09 Bulletin published on the Sulwath Website</u> including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ae Banking Wildlife Project - there will be an official opening at Ae banking re path, boardwalk and bridge put in place. • Whithorn Evergreens, Castlehill Park Biodiversity Project • Allanton Wildlife Garden to be created near Auldgirth. • Rhonehouse Fair Green – 25/04/09 opening event. Ongoing management of grassland on the Fair Green attending to gorse stands and trees. More trees to be planted. • Amisfield Gardening Group / Amisfield Community Woodland – site to be further developed as a community wildlife area with school involvement. • Langholm Community Initiative to develop Galaside Community Woodland. • Lockerbie Wildlife Trust – Environmental Education Centre proposals submitted to planning. • School Visits and Wildlife Learning Events – ongoing. 	
	CHC – Vegetation clearance has taken place to allow consolidation work to commence at the three sites.	
	CT – no update	
	ERM – no update	
	GBH – Work has been ongoing re high brashing, tree clearance, fencing and water gates. Vegetation growth is apparent.	
	GNHLKRD – CR to meet with Martin Henderson re access in the near future. New boardwalk / access to hide.	
	GRKT – Planning permission for the interpretation structures at Parton and New Galloway was passed on 25/11/08. Interpretation panels to go on the structures are being designed by a company in Gretna. Four additional panels are being developed for businesses on the trail.	
	HL – awaiting permission to start the project.	
	KLT – The lade trail has been created and a chicane put in. Interpretation is in place. Work still to be carried out to improve the area around the dam.	
	MNH1 – Area scraped in advance of reed bed creation and moth catching event. Tina had moved to SEPA.	
	MNH2 – Dave Fairlamb invited the Partners to inspect the Sulwath Centre at the end of the meeting. CR said the Centre has been fantastic allowing growth including meeting rooms / field teachers /volunteer accommodation, etc. Still to be completed.	
	NSAP – The tender for a brief re Design Guidance (reuse of farm buildings) will be going out soon. The View to the Road project at Powillimont is progressing well. The issue of natterjack toads has been managed well by IB (NSA Ranger). Volunteer teams have been working well on various projects including vegetation clearance. Further information can be found on the regular NSA newsletters on the Sulwath Website.	
	RKAH – Fencing work is going well and ongoing.	
	RBT – Work at the Buittle lay-by to be carried out this coming weekend. All the design work for the panels has been completed and approved. The guide is at proof reading stage. Orders are beginning to be placed for production and installation.	
	TW – work is beginning in earnest after delays at the start.	
	WBLKI – Banners have been produced for outside the County Buildings at Wigtown. Interviews will take place for Seasonal Wildlife Assistants on 9 April 2009.	
6	Under Spend	
	Not discussed.	
7	Potential Sulwath Connections 2 – Project Ideas	



	<u>CWG again proffered his apologies for the lack of progress due to volume of work and will endeavour to progress as a matter of urgency and keep Partners informed.</u>	CWG
8	AOCB	
	None.	
9.1	Date and venue of next Partners' Group meeting	
	Friday 19 June 2009 at 10am Venue: Lesser Town Hall, St Andrew's Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1DE	
9.2	Date and venue of next Steering Group meeting:	
	Wednesday 22 April 2009 at 10am Venue: Sulwath Office, Newall Terrace, Dumfries, DG1 1LW	

Project Glossary		
1	Action for Wood Pastures	AWP
2	Angling for Disabled	AD
3	Annandale Way	AW
4	Balloch Wood Heritage	BWH
5	Black Grouse Habitat	BGH
6	Bruce's Motte and Bailey	BMB
7	Castle Loch	CL
8	Community Biodiversity Action	CBA
9	Conservation of Historic Churchyards	CHC
10	Core Team	CT
11	Esk Riparian Management	ERM
12	Galloway Bankside Habitat	GBH
13	Galloway Natural Heritage Loch Ken and River Dee	GNHLKRD
14	Galloway Red Kite Trail	GRKT
15	Hightae Loch	HL
16	Kirroughtree Lade Trail	KLT
17	Mersehead Natural Heritage 1	MNH1
18	Mersehead Natural Heritage 2	MNH2
19	National Scenic Area Potential	NSAP
20	Rivers Kirtle and Annan Habitat	RKAH
21	Robert the Bruce Trail	RBT
22	Threave Wetlands	TW
23	Wigtown Bay to Loch Ken Interpretation	WBLKI