

**Sulwath Connections Landscape Project**  
**Minutes of Partners' Group Meeting held on Friday 18 January 2008**  
**Venue: Castle Douglas Lesser Town Hall, St Andrew's Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1DE**

**1.1 Attendance:**

First Name	Last Name		Organisation	
Richard	Brodie (Cllr)	RB	Councillor (Member for Annandale South)	DGC
Ian	Brown	IB	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Chris	Carruthers	CC	The Robert the Bruce Commemoration Trust	RBCT
Ed	Forrest	EF	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Stuart	Graham	SG	Scottish Natural Heritage	SNH
James	Grubb	JG	River Annan and District Salmon Fisheries Board	RADSFB
Anna	Johnson	AJ	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Tony	Lightley	TL	Forestry Commission Scotland	BGH
George	MacQuarrie	GMacQ	Solway Heritage	SH
Peter	Norman	PN	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Chris	Rollie	CR	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	RSPB
Dorothy	Scherrer	DS	Balloch Wood Community Project	BWCP
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
Nick	Chisholm	NC	River Annan and District Salmon Fisheries Board	RADSFB
Eykolina	de Zwart	EdeZ	Solway Heritage	SH
Simon	Fieldhouse	SF	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Alistair	Geddes (Cllr)	AG	Councillor (Member for Mid Galloway)	DGC
Jackie	Graham	JG	Galloway Fisheries Trust	GFT
Robert	Higgins (Cllr)	RH	Councillor (Member for Wigtown West)	DGC
Chris	Hopkin	CH	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
David	Hughes-Hallett	DHH	Heritage Lottery Fund	HLF
Ivor	Hyslop (Cllr)	IH	Councillor (Member for Lochar Moffat and District Community Initiative)	DGC
Geoff	Kitt	GK	Mid Nithsdale Angling Association	MDCI
Brian	Lord	BL	The Robert the Bruce Commemoration Trust	MNAA
Ian	McClumpha	IMcC	Commemoration Trust	RBCT

Clair	McFarlan	CMcF	Solway Heritage Scottish Environment Protection	SH
Alastair	McNeill	AMcN	Agency	SEPA
Karl	Munday	KM	National Trust for Scotland	NTS
Ruth	Paterson	RP	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
John	Poole	JP	The Robert the Bruce Commemoration Trust	RBCT
Jim	Rae	JR	Lockerbie Wildlife Trust Friends of Annandale and	LWT
Anne	Ramsbottom	AR	Eskdale Museums	FAEM
Duncan	Stevenson	DS	National Trust for Scotland	NTS
Mairi	Telford-Jammeh	MTJ	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Alan	Thomson	AT	Annan Initiative	AI
Elizabeth	Tindal	ET	Dumfries and Galloway Council Mid Nithsdale Angling	DGC
Ronald	Weir	RW	Association	MNAA
Sandy	White	SW	Forestry Commission Scotland	FCS

No:		Action
<b>2</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest</b>	
	None.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of last meeting – 23 November 2007</b>	
	Proposed by: PN Seconded by: TL	
<b>4</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> – CWG thanked Partners for meeting the deadline for HLF Claim 3.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Progress - Sulwath Connections Project Manager's Report</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Grant Claims</b>	
<b>5.1.1</b>	HLF: Monitoring and Evaluation - CWG gave a presentation on the Output Monitoring paperwork that he had been working on which has still to be finalised. The finalised version will be emailed to Partners who will update it and email it to RAS with the HLF Claim paperwork on a quarterly basis.	<b>CWG + Partners</b>
	HLF require Partners to provide information on values for the Maintenance Plan schedule by May 2008 at the latest.	<b>Partners</b>
	HLF require Partners to provide information on Insurances to allow the Core Team to create an Insurance Schedule for the whole project.	<b>Partners</b>
	Photographs showing progress of various projects were shown including AW, AWP, BWH, BMB, CBA, GBH, NSAP and RKAH. Tony Lightley was thanked for his assistance in carrying out a bat survey re BMB.	
<b>5.1.2</b>	SNH: CWG thanked Partners for getting projects off the ground and supplying invoices for claims. However, it was stressed that to meet the SNH target by the end of the year, everyone's co-operation was needed.	
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Permissions to Start the Project</b> Projects still to achieve permission to start are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CHC – Lead Partner: Dumfries and Galloway Council</li> <li>• ERM – Lead Partner: Galloway Fisheries Trust</li> <li>• HL – Lead Partner: Dumfries and Galloway Council</li> <li>• NSAP – Lead Partner: Dumfries and Galloway Council</li> <li>• RBT – Lead Partner: The Robert the Bruce Commemoration Trust</li> <li>• WBLKI – Lead Partner: Dumfries and Galloway Council</li> </ul> Good progress was reported - CWG would keep Partners informed.	<b>CWG + EF</b>

<b>5.3</b>	Press and Publicity	
<b>5.3.1</b>	Generating press and public profile – All Partners were requested to ensure that the milestone section on the claim form was fully completed on each claim. Any Partners who had not responded to the Work Programme update request were asked to do so as soon as possible. EF to pull together a press and public profile schedule from the information provided.	<b>Partners + EF</b>
<b>5.3.2</b>	Interpretation – CWG presented the new logos, designed by the Council's graphics section. Examples of the corporate frame for RSPB projects and FCS were shown. Examples of the discs for fence posts including AWP, showing an additional funder were also shown. Discussion followed. The majority of Partners were in favour of the new designs with only one Partner coming down strongly against the design. The motion was carried to accept the new designs. EF to progress.	<b>EF</b>
<b>5.3.3</b>	Sulwath Website The Sulwath Connections new Domain Name is: <a href="http://www.sulwathconnections.org">www.sulwathconnections.org</a>	
<b>5.3.4.</b>	Environmental Fair – 8 March 2008 – Partners were invited to join forces on a Sulwath stand. Interested parties to let RAS know ASAP so that arrangements can be made.	<b>Partners + RAS</b>
<b>5.3.5</b>	BMB – Local press photographers had taken photographs of the vegetation clearance work being carried out at Bruce's Motte and Bailey site.	
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Progress Updates</b> – Up to date progress summaries from HLF Claim 3 forms had been copied into CWG's Report for information to all Partners. In addition, Partners were invited to give additional updates round the table.	
	CL – Tenders due in from contractors next week. EF reported that the value of timber has gone up.	
	CHC – Brief nearly finalised. It was reported that training in traditional skills had achieved a place on a national agenda. GMacQ stated that this would benefit the project's intended training programme in "Skill in the use of traditional lime mortars". Some organisations had found that training sessions of 3-5 days created a loss of income and GMacQ suggested that twilight sessions might be more practicable if available.	
	GBH – procurement issue being progressed with HLF.	
	GRKT – Meetings have taken place to discuss extending the scope of this project. A secondary project bringing approx £19K new money to be ratified by the Stewartry Area Committee.	
	MNH1 – The Voluntary Contribution budget has already been exceeded at HLF Claim 3. Although the excess is not claimable, it will be recorded on the Overall Claim form for information to HLF. It was agreed that further voluntary work, where applicable, would come under the umbrella of the NSAP. Ian Brown to liaise with RSPB's Dave Fairlamb (DF).	<b>IB + DF</b>
	NSAP – AJ and IB updated Partners on progress. AJ tabled a flyer for Developing Nature Tourism Attraction, a free event on 20 February 2008 – 10am to 3pm at The Browne House, Crichton University Campus. 16 places were still available on a first-come-first-served basis. Booking details: Phone 01387 260095 or register online – <a href="http://www.browne.org.uk">www.browne.org.uk</a> . IB tabled the latest edition of the newsletter – Countryside Volunteer News.	
	TW – NTS to take over the farmhouse at Threave which may be transformed into a Visitors Centre, thus improving the project overall.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Under spend</b> – not discussed	
<b>7</b>	<b>Potential Sulwath Connections 2 – Project Ideas</b> – CWG to check with HLF if current projects could be extended. The following topics were mentioned as potential ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hilltop follies.</li> </ul>	<b>CWG</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Path to Criffel.</li> <li>• Loch Ken Bridge.</li> <li>• Christian Trail</li> <li>• Solway Coastal Trail</li> <li>• Rationalisation of paths within whole of D&amp;G area. Revamp signage and interpretation.</li> </ul> <p>More project ideas required and this topic to be discussed in detail later in the year.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>AOCB</b> - none	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Date and venue of next Partners' Group meeting:</b> (Please see Steering and Partners Group Meeting Timetable 2008 for dates for the year.)  Friday 14 March 2008 at 10am  Venue: Lesser Town Hall, St Andrew's Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1DE</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Date and venue of next Steering Group meeting:</b> (Please see Steering and Partners Group Meeting Timetable 2008 for dates for the year.)  Wednesday 13 February 2008 at 10am  Venue: Meeting Room, Council Offices, Newall Terrace, Dumfries DG1 1LW</p>	

### 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