

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

1.1 Attendance:

First Name	Last Name		Organisation	
Rowan	Armstrong	RA	Galloway Fisheries Trust	GFT
Ed	Forrest	EF	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Chris	Carruthers	CC	The Robert the Bruce Commemoration Trust	RBCT
Alistair	Geddes (Cllr)	AG	Councillor (Member for Mid Galloway)	DGC
James	Grubb	JG	River Annan and District Salmon Fisheries Board	RADSFB
Ivor	Hyslop (Cllr)	IH	Councillor (Member for Lochar)	DGC
Tony	Lightley	TL	Forestry Commission Scotland	BGH
Clair	McFarlan	CMcF	Solway Heritage	SH
Alastair	McNeill	AMcN	Scottish Environment Protection Agency	SEPA
Rose Anne	Smith (Minutes)	RAS	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Chris	Wood-Gee (Chair)	CWG	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC

1.2 Apologies:

First Name	Last Name		Organisation	
Sue	Bennett	SB	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Richard	Brodie (Cllr)	RB	Councillor (Member for Annandale South)	DGC
Ian	Brown	IB	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
Jackie	Graham	JG	Galloway Fisheries Trust	GFT
Stuart	Graham	SG	Scottish Natural Heritage	SNH
Roger	Grant (Cllr)	RG	Councillor (Member for Annandale North)	DGC
Robert	Higgins (Cllr)	RH	Councillor (Member for Wigtown West)	DGC
David	Hughes-Hallett	DHH	Heritage Lottery Fund	HLF
Anna	Johnson	AJ	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Geoff	Kitt	GK	Moffat and District Community Initiative	MDCI
Brian	Lord	BL	Mid Nithsdale Angling Association	MNAA
George	MacQuarrie	GMacQ	Solway Heritage	SH
Ian	McClumpha	IMcC	The Robert the Bruce Commemoration Trust	RBCT
Karl	Munday	KM	National Trust for Scotland	NTS

Peter	Norman	PN	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
Ruth	Paterson	RP	Dumfries and Galloway Council	DGC
John	Poole	JP	The Robert the Bruce Commemoration Trust	RBCT
Jim	Rae	JR	Lockerbie Wildlife Trust	LWT
Anne	Ramsbottom	AR	Friends of Annandale and Eskdale Museums	FAEM
Chris	Rollie	CR	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	RSPB
Dorothy	Scherrer	DS	Balloch Wood Community Project	BWCP
Jamie	Smith	JS	Forestry Commission Scotland	FCS
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	DGC
Andrew	Ward	AW	Balloch Wood Community Project Mid Nithsdale Angling Association	BWCP
Ronald	Weir	RW		MNAA
Sandy	White	SW	Forestry Commission Scotland	FCS

No:		Action
2	Declaration of Interest	
	None.	
3	Minutes of last meeting – 23 May 2008	
	Proposed by: CC / Seconded by: TL	
4	Matters Arising	
	None.	
5	Progress - Sulwath Connections Project Manager's Report	
5.1	Grant Claims	
5.1.1.1	HLF Claim 5	
	Most of the information for the claim had come in from Partners on time – CWG thanked the Partners for their co-operation. Claim 5, if granted 100%, is for £165221.96, the biggest to date. The value of the Invoices + Voluntary Contributions on which the claims are based has reached £857000 approx (Claims 1-5).	
5.1.1.2	Rolling Insurance Schedule	
	CWG thanked Partners who had responded to the email of 1 July 2008. Still awaiting information for some projects which is required for the meeting with HLF on 29 July 2008.	Partners
5.1.2	SNH Grant Claims	
	£17500 was received for the last claim. CWG to process the next claim ASAP, based on HLF Claim 5.	CWG
5.2	Core Team Costs	
	HLF have approved the suggested changes to the Core Team budget. A vehicle has been leased for Core Team.	
5.3	Project Monitoring	
	The monitoring forms have been revised and sent out for completion re HLF Claim 5. CWG and EF to arrange site visits starting in the near	CWG / EF

	future to look at progress.	
5.4	Councillor Representation	
	IH and AG both attended today's meeting. AG was introduced and welcomed to the group.	
5.5	Site Visits	
5.5.1	01 October 2008 - A site visit, including Dalton Church, Castle Loch, Bruce's Motte and Bailey, Annan Fisheries, Ae Village, East Stewartry NSA and Mersehead has been proposed. Final details to be arranged nearer the time. Please contact RAS by end of July 2008 or ASAP after if you wish to put your name down for the visit to enable us to hire a suitable vehicle for the numbers.	Partners / RAS
5.5.2	A visit encompassing the projects on the west side of the Sulwath area will be arranged for spring 2009.	
5.6	Permissions to Start the Projects	
	The last 3 out of 23 projects, CHC, HL and WBLKI do not have permission to start yet. It is hoped that they will achieve permission in the near future.	CWG / EF
5.7	Core Team Development Work	
	Development of supporting paperwork is in progress.	
5.8	Acknowledging your Grant	
5.9	Press and Publicity	
5.9.1	Sulwath MiniWeb statistics continue to rise.	
5.9.2	Press Profile – it is intended to push launches, e.g. KLT and BWH.	
5.10	Project Progress – updates	
5.10.1	Part of Page 1 of the Overall HLF Claim 5 form, including project summaries was tabled for information. Partners gave additional verbal updates round the table.	
5.10.2	AWP – EdeZ who is on maternity leave worked extra hours in advance carrying out survey work on 5 sites. CMcF intends to progress this further.	
5.10.3	AD – work on disabled angling platforms and access has now started and is moving quickly.	
5.10.4	AW - Landowner agreements are being progressed.	
5.10.5	BWH – The recent Spring Fling event was an excellent community use of the site involving children as well as adults.	
5.10.6	BGH – trees are now planted. Vegetation management is intended late July / August 2008. TL reported that there is still no sign of black grouse on the site although there are red grouse. An annual survey will take place to check on improvement. The pond will increase wetland wildlife.	
5.10.7	BMB – Felling is completed. The fence has been put back to prevent erosion. The gates are being restored. Path work will be completed by the end of the summer. Seats are to be made from felled trees for the BMB and RBT projects.	
5.10.8	CL – Woodland work now completed path work ongoing. Parking area has been created. The following is planned: replace fishing platforms / fencing / interpretation panels.	
5.10.9	CBA - A summary of Wildlife Educational Events – Summer 08 was tabled for information.	
5.10.10	CHC – Solway Heritage have been appointed to manage the project. It is expected that work will progress quickly once Permission to Start the	

	Project has been achieved. Vegetation of all the buildings will be done this year.	
5.10.11	ERM – work on the ground has not yet started. Full cost recovery has been agreed with HLF for GFT time.	
5.10.12	GBH – Work is progressing well. Fencing will be included in the next claim.	
5.10.13	GNHLKRD – Gus Keys to replace Paul Collin in August 2008.	
5.10.14	GRKT – The new interpretation structure by A Rigg is in place. The original one (wrong size) to be moved to New Galloway.	
5.10.15	HL – A woodland plan to assess the value of timber for entry into a Woodland Grant scheme is being developed.	
5.10.16	KLT – CWG to discuss launch of project with FCS.	CWG
5.10.17	MNH2 – work has now started on Education Centre. Volunteer accommodation is planned for the upper floor. It is hoped that a Minister will launch the “Sulwath Education Centre” once completed.	
5.10.18	NSAP – Permission to start has recently been achieved. IB (NSA Ranger) continues to organise voluntary groups to carry out work in the area and production of newsletters, posted on the Sulwath MiniWeb. AJ (NSA Officer) will progress the “View from the Road” project at Powillimont this year. Steading conversion of traditional farm buildings will follow, including the development of Design Guidance for architects, etc.	
5.10.19	RKAH – fencing work is ongoing. Interpretation is to be progressed in the near future.	
5.10.20	RBT – Permission to start has recently been achieved and work on the ground will commence soon. SS Crome has been appointed (design and management team).	
5.10.21	TW – EF reported that a meeting has been arranged with NTS to progress the project. All-ability access, hide replacement and the creation of wetland to be carried out.	
5.10.22	WBLKI – Permission to start the project has been delayed due to a hole in the funding. CWG to progress this. Interviews for the Seasonal Wildlife Attendant post have taken place. Applications have been lodged with Amey for brown tourist signs. First drafts of artwork for banners have been progressed.	CWG
6	Under Spend	
	None.	
7	Potential Sulwath Connections 2 – Project Ideas	
	CWG and EF met with Sandy Colvine, the European Funding Officer. <u>A Special Steering Group Meeting to be arranged in August 2008 and Sandy Colvine will be invited to speak.</u> CWG to email SG Partners to ascertain the best date when ALL can attend as a matter of urgency.	CWG
8	AOCB	
	None.	
9	Meeting Schedules	
9.1	CWG suggested that the meeting schedules should be reviewed. It was proposed that the number of meetings be reduced from 6 to 4 per year, based round the timing of the HLF Claims. This would allow CWG and EF to have more site meetings on specific project issues. Discussion followed. Agreed: PGM to be reduced to 4 per year with immediate effect. RAS to send out a revised Schedule of meetings for the year.	RAS

	Agreed: A revised schedule of meetings for the year to be created for SGM and put forward for approval at the next Steering Group Meeting.	
9.2	Date and venue of next Partners' Group meeting:	
	Friday 19 September 2007 at 10am Venue: Lesser Town Hall, St Andrew's Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1DE	
9.3	Date and venue of next Steering Group meeting:	
	tba 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