

Sulwath Connections Landscape Project
Minutes of Partners' Group Meeting held on Friday 19 September 2008
Venue: Castle Douglas Lesser Town Hall, St Andrew's Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1DE

1.1 Attendance:

| First Name | Last Name | | Organisation | |
|------------|---------------------|-----|---|--------|
| Chris | Carruthers | CC | The Robert the Bruce Commemoration Trust | RBCT |
| 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 |
| Dorothy | Scherrer | DS | Balloch Wood Community Project | BWCP |
| 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 | |
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| Rowan | Armstrong | RA | Galloway Fisheries Trust | GFT |
| 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 |
| Ed | Forrest | EF | 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 |
| 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 |
| Ivor | Hyslop (Cllr) | IH | Councillor (Member for Lochar Moffat and District Community) | DGC |
| Geoff | Kitt | GK | Initiative | MDCI |
| Tony | Lightley | TL | Forestry Commission Scotland | BGH |
| Brian | Lord | BL | Mid Nithsdale Angling Association | MNAA |
| George | MacQuarrie | GMacQ | Solway Heritage | SH |
| Ian | McClumpha | IMcC | The Robert the Bruce Commemoration Trust | RBCT |
| Clair | McFarlan | CMcF | Solway Heritage | SH |
| Alastair | McNeill | AMcN | Scottish Environment Protection Agency | SEPA |
| 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 | RBCT |

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| Jim | Rae | JR | Commemoration Trust | LWT |
| Anne | Ramsbottom | AR | Lockerbie Wildlife Trust | FAEM |
| Chris | Rollie | CR | Friends of Annandale and Eskdale Museums | RSPB |
| Jamie | Smith | JS | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds | FCS |
| Duncan | Stevenson | DS | Forestry Commission Scotland | NTS |
| Mairi | Telford-Jammeh | MTJ | National Trust for Scotland | DGC |
| Alan | Thomson | AT | Dumfries and Galloway Council | AI |
| Elizabeth | Tindal | ET | Annan Initiative | DGC |
| Andrew | Ward | AW | Dumfries and Galloway Council | BWCP |
| Ronald | Weir | RW | Balloch Wood Community Project | MNAA |
| Sandy | White | SW | Mid Nithsdale Angling Association | FCS |
| | | | Forestry Commission Scotland | |

| No: | | Action |
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| 2 | Declaration of Interest | |
| | None. | |
| 3 | Minutes of last meeting – 18 July 2008 | |
| | Proposed by: CC / Seconded by: JG | |
| 4 | Matters Arising | |
| | None. | |
| 5 | Progress - Sulwath Connections Project Manager's Report | |
| 5.1 | Grant Claims | |
| 5.1.1 | HLF – A letter was received on 10 September 2008 confirming £165221.96 (HLF Claim 5) was received. RAS to distribute the monies to Partners as soon as possible. | RAS |
| | RAS was thanked by Partners for ensuring claim paperwork was completed and delivered in good time. | |
| 5.1.2 | SNH – CWG to finalise SNH claim based on the HLF Claim 5 paperwork week commencing 22 September 2008. | CWG |
| 5.2 | Insurance Schedule | |
| | Partners who have not provided the information required are asked to do so as a matter of urgency. CWG thanked Partners who have done so already. | Partners |
| 5.3 | Project Monitoring | |
| | CWG in process of writing an Annual Report based on the information provided by Partners in the Monitoring sheets up to 31 March 2008 (Year 1 of the Project). | CWG / SG |
| | Evaluation of the data was discussed. The data provided indicated that approx 93 contractors / suppliers (mostly local) had been used. Events / activities have taken place over the year involving community groups, school pupils and volunteers. Various newsletters, leaflets, etc have been created. Training courses for staff and volunteers have taken place. | |
| | SG asked if the data provided shows if Sulwath was meeting HLF's targets and suggested that the information could be put in a graph for Partners as an early warning tool and offered to help with this. CWG to | |

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| | let him know. | |
| 5.4 | Site Tour – Wednesday 1 October 2008 | |
| 5.4.1 | CWG explained the route of the tour as noted in his Report. To date 7 people had confirmed that they would attend and 7 people had confirmed that they were unable to attend. CWG has requested that anyone who has NOT notified us should do so as a matter of urgency to allow arrangements to be made. | Partners |
| 5.4.2 | AJ suggested that CWG contact DGC Life Magazine. | CWG |
| 5.5 | Permissions to Start the Projects | |
| | CHC gained permission to start the project on 1/9/08 (approx). Only HL and WBLKI do not have permission to start yet. It is hoped that they will achieve permission in the near future. | CWG / EF |
| 5.6 | Core Team Development Work | |
| | RAS - Funding / Grant record. | |
| | CWG - Annual Report covering Year 1 of the project. | |
| | EF / CWG – Monitoring Evaluation. | |
| 5.7 | Acknowledging your Grant | |
| | Although SNH's logo has changed, CWG advised that the discs for fence posts, etc can still be used showing the old logo. | |
| 5.8 | Press and Publicity | |
| 5.8.1 | MiniWeb Statistics continue to show improved interest in the project. | |
| 5.8.2 | New Sulwath Connections MiniWeb – EF to progress this in the near future. The Council are in the process of revamping their website. | EF |
| 5.9 | Project Progress – CWG provided a presentation of photographs, etc | |
| | AWP – It is hoped that landowners would provided In Kind support for the project. | |
| | AD – Access work has been started. Fishing platforms will be completed by summer 2009. A buddy system is planned to help disabled anglers. CWG stated that AD is the first of its kind in Scotland and it was suggested that it should have publicity to play on that. | |
| | AW – a verbal agreement re the stretch at Rammerscales has been reached. It is thought that all written agreements will be in place soon, despite the previous difficulties. Repairs to Spedlin Bridge are required. The estate will pay for the majority of the work needed. Work on Brocklerigg Bridge has been completed. No major problems are now envisaged to prevent the route being progressed. | |
| | BWH – DS gave a short presentation of the “Creehenge” interpretation, in the form of 7 granite standing stones. Poems provided by local school children will be carved onto the stones. Lucy Burnett has carried out research and is writing a book on Balloch Wood. | |
| | BGH – nothing new to report. | |
| | BMB – Fencing has been put in place again to prevent erosion on the site after an issue with Historic Scotland had been resolved re the fencing. | |
| | CL – Paths are now in place. Wood has been cleared. By December 2008 Fishing platforms to be in place. A contract to be put out re the bridge replacement in the near future. Rangers have been involved in making nesting boxes with the help of local school pupils (shown on Border TV). Interpretation boards are being considered. The interpretation may be linked to RBT project. | |

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| | CBA – The CBA September 08 Bulletin was discussed including the Ae Banking Wildlife Project, educational events, including First Aid training, Strimming and Brush cutter training, and 13 wildlife training events. | |
| | CHC – Vegetation clearance at Dalton, Sark, Minigaff and Wigtown to take place as soon as possible to show what work is required. Consolidation works to be started at Dalton soon. A leaflet or book is being considered instead of or as well as Interpretation Panels. | |
| | ERM – Progress is ongoing. Impediments are being removed to allow fish free access. | |
| | GBH – Tree clearance, fencing and rock placement work is ongoing. | |
| | GNHLKRD – Steady progress is being made. Gus Keys has taken over as manager. A fuller update will be provided for the next claim. | |
| | GRKT – The interpretation shelter issue has now been resolved (it has been moved to New Galloway). | |
| | HL – A study to ascertain the value of the wood has taken place. A meeting with the landowner is arranged. | |
| | KLT – As a result of a site visit by CWG / EF a meeting with AMcN was held to discuss clear and visible Interpretation of the trail. This has now been put in place. The project will be launched in October 2008. Local press will be involved. | |
| | MNH – The education centre is near completion and will be launched in the spring. CWG to contact HLF re launch as it is the single biggest item of expenditure in the Sulwath project. | CWG |
| | NSAP – Volunteer activities are working well. AJ tabled the NSA newsletter written by IB. Planning consent has been applied for re Powillimont. Another hedge-laying course is being arranged. | |
| | RKAH – JG reported good progress re landowner agreements and fencing work. Tenders to go out in the New Year for fencing. CWG has provided a spreadsheet to improve the system. | |
| | RBT – SS Crome and SH are developing the project. Interpretation is being considered. SS Crome is doing the interpretation for BMB and intends to use the same style for consistency. Guide books situated at various sites are planned. | |
| | TW – hides to be started soon. Wetland creation to follow. | |
| | WBLKI – Osprey staff are in place (at risk, as permission to start has not been received to date). The officers will finish at the end of the season and the posts to be re-advertised for the following season. Interpretation (for the whole area – not just Sulwath sites) is being considered. There is still a small hole in the funding preventing permission to be granted. | |
| 6 | Under Spend | |
| | None. | |
| 7 | Potential Sulwath Connections 2 – Project Ideas | |
| | <p>A Special Steering Group Meeting was held on 2 September 2008. Draft minutes and EU Funding information sheets (including links) were sent out to all Partners for information.</p> <p>HLF Funding – Future funding from HLF is not guaranteed. HLF rules have also changed.</p> <p>SNH Funding - SG reported that changes to the method of SNH funding have changed. As a result SNH may lose some influence to ensure projects are environment based. Grant money may still be available for projects but will be managed differently.</p> <p><u>European Funding - To achieve European Funding there will be a massive amount of work with a very quick turnaround required to</u></p> | CWG / EF / RAS / Partners |

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| | <p><u>submit the bids in time. CWG stated that the Core Team cannot do all the work for driving on a Sulwath Connections 2 at the same time as running the current project, therefore if a new phase is to go ahead it will have to be driven by the Partners.</u></p> <p>Workshop – Friday 5 December 2008 – A workshop to replace the planned Partners Group meeting. CWG to contact all Partners with further details. Attendance is <u>VERY</u> important.</p> <p>Partners are requested to provide names and addresses of any possible interested parties for Sulwath 2 by the end of September 2008, so they can be included on the invitation list for the Workshop.</p> | |
| 8 | AOCB | |
| | None. | |
| 9.1 | Date and venue of next Partners' Group meeting / Workshop: | |
| | Friday 5 December 2008 at 10am Venue: Lesser Town Hall, St Andrew's Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1DE | RAS |
| 9.2 | Date and venue of next Steering Group meeting: | |
| | Wednesday 15 October 2008 Venue: Sulwath Office, Newall Terrace, Dumfries, DG1 1LW | |

Project Glossary

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| 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 |