

Carse of Gowrie Group Paths Project



Co-ordinator Iain Ledingham
Project Officer Eileen Ledingham

Summary of Achievements

This summary report covers the first six months of the Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust grant (1st October 2006 to 31st March 2007). Detailed information is contained in three progress reports prepared by the Project Co-ordinator (5th September, 2006, 3rd November, 2006 and 15th February, 2007).

Following appointment of the interim Paths Project Officer (Eileen Ledingham) and the Project Co-ordinator (Iain Ledingham) and in conjunction with PKCT Project officer (Robbie Gordon), PKC Access Officer (Dave Stubbs) and representatives of the CoGG Paths Group, implementation of the project action plan has been initiated.

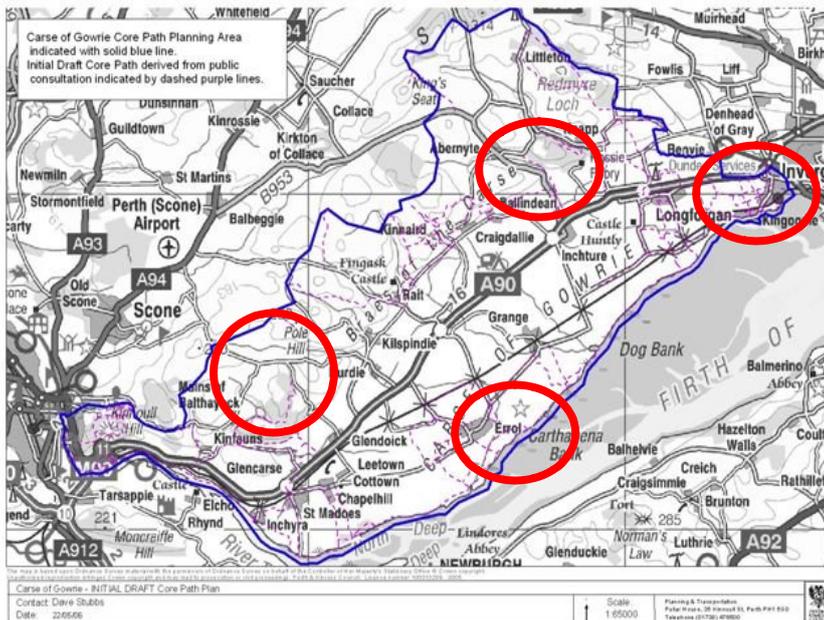
The aims of the action plan are to:

- identify and prioritise development of a small number of routes within the existing local paths network.
- negotiate development of these routes with relevant land managers, public bodies and other stakeholders.
- implement development of these routes, including, where necessary, sourcing of funds and management of contracts.
- promote responsible access to these routes by a wide range of users, both local and visitors.
- monitor and record these activities, for broad educational and general administrative purposes and for the use of funding partners.

Identification of routes

The routes identified on the accompanying OS map of the Carse are entirely provisional. From east to west these routes are:

- *Invergowrie-Longforan* – a choice of options is being considered,
- *Ballindean* - linking Inchturre/Rossie Priory to the deserted Pitmiddle Village and beyond,
- *Errol* – an extensive network of paths, principally between the village and the Tay,
- *Balthayock* – an interesting route between Glencarse and the hills behind.



Provisionally selected areas of interest for routes development

Initial consultation with the principal land managers in the case of all four routes has been completed.

In the case of *Invergowrie/Longforgan* three routes have been identified and consultation with land managers is progressing.

In the case of *Ballindean* an appropriate through route has identified and relevant works agreed with the landowners. These include drainage, fence construction and signage. The works are currently being prepared for contract.

The landowners in the *Errol* area are supportive of a paths network development and initial routes have been identified. A feasibility study of selected routes is being arranged, with particular reference to possible drainage requirements and a tree survey.

Following an initial meeting with the principal landowner at *Balthayock* a feasibility study of possible route options is being arranged.

It is emphasized that the foregoing choice of routes is a first step towards a much wider linking of local settlements and existing routes with potentially far-reaching enhancement of the quality of life for residents and visitors. To this end a number of *satellite groups* have been established throughout the Carse. Nine local co-ordinators have been appointed and briefing meetings held to agree strategy and lines of communication. Initial reports have been received from two of the local co-ordinators.

Website development

A website specifically dedicated to the Carse of Gowrie Group Paths Project is at an advanced stage of development.

The website has been set up to:

- record and share the *plans, programmes* and *progress* of the Carse of Gowrie Paths Project
- encourage wide *participation* in the project development
- facilitate *exchange of information* and
- promote group and individual *achievements*.

A launch date of mid-April is anticipated.

Sites of Interest

Sites of historic, wildlife and cultural interest will become integrated into the paths system and should prove popular ‘honeypots’ for a broad range of users. In this context funding has been received from Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust for preservation work on the medieval Westtown Chapel as part of the mid-Carse paths network development. The chapel is a scheduled ancient monument and the work is being carried out in collaboration with Historic Scotland.

Recording, Monitoring and Collaboration

State-of-the-art project management software is in current use to record and monitor progress of all the above activities. This facilitates communication between the involved parties within CoGG and with the relevant funding and advisory bodies. Particular importance is attached to developing links with similar groups within the Perth and Kinross area and complementing the Council’s Core Path Plan.

Iain Ledingham (Paths Project Co-ordinator)
31st March 2007