

ATTG Meeting held at Inveraray on the 18 March 2014

In attendance:		
Beaton, Neil NB	FE	
Coy, Dennis CD	FE	
Duncan, Niall ND	Scottish Woodlands	
Hansom, Stuart SH	Euroforest	
Hunt, Andy AH	FE	
Jamieson, Elaine EJ	FCS	
Johnston, Allan AJ	Coille Haulage	
Knight, Andy AK	TSL Contractors Ltd	
MacDonald, Ewan EM	Iggesund Forestry	
McDonald, John JM	STTSS	
MacDonald, Peter PM	Police Scotland	
McKerral, Peter PMK	Peter McKerral & Co	
Miller, Steve SM	UPM Tilhill	
Moody, Iain IM	UPM Tilhill	
Nelson, Derek DN	STTS	
Robb, Kirsty KR	ATTG PO	
Robertson, Callum CR	A&BC	
Stiven, Roland RS	TTF	
Tong, Stephen ST	UPM Tilhill	
Tickell, Fergus FT	ATTG Chairman	
Welch, Jonathan JW	A&BC	
Introduction and apologies: Apologies: John Hair, Neil Proctor, Stewart Clark, Roderick Leslie-Melville, Sean Clemie, Mike Yerbury, Gavin Brown, David Jardine, Andy Powell Round table introductions. FT Welcomed new faces in attendance and introduced Derek Nelson who has taken over the STTS role that Andy Leitch held until recently. Andy will now be focussing on his involvement with the Timber Development Programme. Derek has previous experience of STTS having been involved in the past.		
Item no.	Item	Action
2	Notes from the Previous Meeting <u>Peter Macdonald – Rest Closure Update</u> - PM advised that the relief road operated successfully during the recent closure of the A83 and the maximum wait time was approximately 25 minutes. The Police are not satisfied with night operations due to lack of lighting on road and Police Scotland will liaise with Transport Scotland	

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	regarding improvements to route. CR – ATTG wanted the bypass located on the opposite side of the Glen and the risk remains that the bypass is located on the same slope prone to landslips. Additional lighting at tight bends would assist. FT – Butterbridge area being re-planted which should assist in this location All - Discussion then moved to the time taken to re-open key roads following road traffic accidents. PM – Road deaths have to be treated seriously, until condition of casualty known, accident investigation teams required, can take a long time to extract casualties from vehicles. Police work as quickly as possible but not really possible to do this any quicker. 6-8 hours is the minimum time required for a serious/fatal accident. PM- Police want roads open asap to avoid criticism but every accident is different. CR – Need to revisit communications between ABC, police and trunk roads to ensure there are no unnecessary delays re-opening roads e.g. time taken for road to be cleared of debris.	
3	<u>Matters arising:</u> <u>In-forest haul road meeting notes and actions</u> EJ – Disease update - Circulated update EJ – Helicopter surveys will be undertaken in May to ascertain the spread of P Ramorum. FT – Updated the group on local in-forest haul route management issues. KR – Sub-group meeting was successful – 2 STTS routes - WLA/South West Cowal routes had issues.(Meeting notes circulated) ST - Still some repairs to be done on Ormidale route, due to wet conditions and trying to reduce haulage on this route until it dries out. Ormidale route never received any funding for repair/upgrading – this could be a potential STTS project for upgrade of Ormidale route. EM – Portavadie Pier – meeting held recently with Department of Transport to discuss FFG – work in progress. CR –The inability to use in-forest routes as agreed results in public complaints due to volumes of timber traffic on local roads. Important that there is a maintenance regime to enable in-forest routes to continue to be used during most weather conditions. CR – South West Cowal (SWC) is particular issue at present. RS – Expectation was that SWC would remove large volume of timber traffic from public network. Roads must be fit for purpose FCS will possibly have to be more specific on future standards of routes. RS – Need to be clearer on funding of future costs e.g. more formal structures. ST – SWC route – quality of stone this was surfaced with was an issue. KR – There is potentially a special case for the SWC route, as timber has to be moved in different direction – special case to STTS. RS – Meeting required between all parties to try and agree short term solution.	KR

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4	<u>STTS Update and ATTG projects</u> DN – Fund will continue to support Timberlink. Ministers have confirmed one more round of funding in 2015/16 of £3m including Timberlink KR – A study compiling a strategic overview of infrastructure in Argyll following the SCOTS exit point project. KR – Transfer areas for hauliers– requirement where timber can be transferred to regular artics for onward transport to market. KR Lephinmore in-forest haul road to avoid the B8000 and access the A 886 via the existing FC route. CR – This is the last year of accelerated capital funds, programme can change where roads start to deteriorate. FT – Need to get call for projects early to enable more complicated projects to be pulled together/developed. ST – Re-visit previous proposals for strategic in-forest haul road to access forest on East Loch Striven avoiding the C10.	
5	<u>Partners Review/Stakeholder Updates</u> NB – Stressed the negative impact of WLATHR not being available for use as a large percentage of the West Argyll harvesting plan is scheduled for this forest over next few years AH – FE Won't accept road back until it is fit for purpose for forestry use. An ATTG letter would be useful with formal comment on the significance of this route. RS - £1M of STTS money went into this route – 20% of costs. EJ – Public roadside loading, police in Perthshire called to haulier loading at side of road. ST – This is done in Argyll with proper consultation and signage. CR – ABC would try to discourage ad-hoc loading on road. KR – Also mess from harvesting on road. AH – FE would encourage consultation on transfer points as they have designated areas available and actively discourage transfer being carried out in unsuitable places ST – Glenmore timber - UPM would propose taking this out using Hells Glen. CR – Money spent on Hells Glen, if timber heading for Sandbank this could use Hells Glen, any possibility for in-forest route here? ST – Could re-visit but difficult to construct. KR – Hells Glen is consultation route so any haulage planned for this road should be discussed with the ABC prior to harvesting commencing as per agreed protocols RS – See TTF update attached CR – East Loch Awe/Inverneill Hill improved. Also pinch points in Argyll. B842 Kintyre – major issue due to SSE construction works and timber haulage. Volume of vehicles is an issue – in discussions with SSE/hauliers. AK – Contractor has been reporting issues on B8035 – little response from ABC. FT – Access forum – some forestry representation would be a good idea	KR

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	AH – FE will nominate a representative	AH
6	<u>ARM and TTMP's in use</u> KR – Presented council webpage to group. KR – A TTMP does not remove the requirement to consult with ABC on consultation routes, consultation is required to enable ABC manage routes accordingly. CR – Maintenance is under-funded and focus must be where damage can be prevented. NB – Environmental e.g. nesting constraints mean some timber operations will have to be undertaken during winter. Makes it very difficult to forward plan. CR – Working to ensure that contact with ABC is consistent e.g. area technical officers. KR/JM – Provided update on Future of Timber Transport project. (presentation attached) JM has joined forces with other consultants to form the Scotland Timber Traffic Survey Syndicate (STTSS) who will be contacting all landowners and their agents in the near future to collect the exit point data, all ATTG members asked to participate and encourage responses RS – Looking for exit points and 15 year forecast volumes in 5 yearly slots. This will enable future investment in local road networks to be prioritised. FT – This project could also inform future STTS bids where significant volumes of timber will be coming to market. EJ – How do we keep information up to date? KR – Every 3-5 years and through local knowledge. EJ – There is a potential to integrate this data with Forest Plans. FT – SCOTS may be able to fund future exercises	
7	<u>AOCB</u> FT – Advised group of recent changes in senior ABC management and will arrange a meeting with new managers to advise them of the ATTG work.	KR/CR
8	<u>Date of next meeting</u> FT – Potential for another STTS workshop in advance of bids. Next meeting - Tuesday 21st October 2014	KR