

MINUTES OF THE GRAMPIAN TIMBER TRANSPORT GROUP (GTTG)



Date: Thursday 23rd September 2010

Location: Grampian Conservancy Office, Huntly

Present: Bob Main – BM (Forestry Commission Civil Engineering)
Alastair Young – AY (Forest Enterprise Scotland)
Johnny Morren - JM (Moray Council)
Ralph Singleton – RS (Aberdeenshire Council)
Matt Young – MY (Forestry Commission Scotland)
Emily Maclean – EM (Rural Development Initiatives)

Apologies: Morven Bridges – MB (Forestry Commission Engineering)
Alasdair Cameron – AC (UPM Kymmene)
Sandy Hogg - SH (James Jones)
Rab Dickson – RD (NESTRANS)
Roland Stiven – RS (Timber Transport Forum)
John Sutherland – JS (Scottish Woodlands)
Malcolm Christie – MC (Aberdeenshire Council)
Will Anderson – WA (Seafield Estates)
Andrew Nicol – AN (Andrew Nicol Chartered Forester)
Bob Wilson – BW (Scottish Woodlands)

Agenda item	Action	Appointed person(s)
3.1	Circulate updated SRDP guidance note to members	EM
3.1	Investigate potential demand for haulier information day on driver CPC requirements	EM
3.2	Send local First Aid training contact details to Roland	EM
3.2	Investigate CPC training provider requirements	EM
3.2	Draft Timber Code of Practice to be circulated to members	RS & EM
3.2	Planning/felling process diagram to Council representatives	MY & EM
4	Pursue potential replacement for GTTG Chair	EM
6	Investigate potential CTI/TPC demo for next meeting	EM

1. Notes of last meeting on 25th June 2010

These were accepted by those present with no comments made. Matters arising taken in conjunction with subsequent agenda items

2. Matters Arising

No matters presented to the Group.

3. Timber Transport Project Officer Update

3.1. REGIONAL

Data collection process

Draft letter for circulation to agents and owners was presented to the Group and main comments are detailed below:

- Letter to also be issued to timber merchants – links to approved timber sales and raise awareness of ARM's.
- Include details of how data from original collection has been used i.e. STTS funding support, Local Authority maintenance and funding towards heavily used rural roads.
- Use opportunity to state agreed maximum limit of 1000 tonnes, unless A or B road OR upgraded to suitable standard OR prior agreement with local authority Roads Department. Councils must be consulted with regards to excessive use at all times.
- Letter issued with request for information and include details of follow up meeting
- Tonnages need to be calculated per exit point (rather than block/coup figures) and include details of direction of travel and public road reference.
- 2011/12 and 2012/13 collected as annual figures then 5 year averages: 2013 – 2018, 2018-2023 and 2023+.

Haulier support programme

Following recent haulier liaison seminars it is evident there is a need for hauliers to increase knowledge levels of current driver CPC requirements. RTTPO will investigate willingness of local businesses to attend a dedicated information event and issue invites (if appropriate) to relevant speakers to discuss options i.e. Dan Cathcart from *Freight Best Practice* and Chris Campbell from *Skills for Logistics*.

Promotion of SRDP opportunities

SRDP guidance note produced by Jamie Farquhar of ConFor to be circulated with data collection letters. Includes details of potential timber transport related options for forest/woodland managers and could potentially assist with upgrading existing exit points, increasing safety at junctions and in-forest access.

3.2. NATIONAL

*** See attached TTF update from Roland**

STTS

Unlikely to hear any news regarding potential new round of STTS before Christmas and initial feedback indicates a 12-month scheme most likely result. Match funding will be increasingly difficult to find from project partners. Onus will be much more on TTG's to assist with bid preparations than in previous years. TTF meeting with Rosanna Cunningham on 6th September proved to be positive but no indication of final decision.

Best Practice Guide

6-8 page generic document to act as industry "Toolkit". GB wide document and need to balance out strong Scottish emphasis. Revised draft will be available for wider comment soon.

Road Haulage of Round Timber Code of Practice

4th Edition currently being updated and is effectively AFAG equivalent and covers both public and forest road haulage. At present no Local Authority representative on Working Group. Plans to reprint by end of financial year. Aim: "*professionalism of the timber industry*"

Regional workshops

Workshops could raise awareness of planning and felling licence process. Could link to other regional issues i.e. archaeology. Communications are currently good between GTTG and Local Authority representatives, but sometimes internal Council communications between Planning and Roads is not efficient. Forestry Commission and Forest Enterprise internal communications currently being reviewed.

Timber Haulier CPC Training

GTTG could facilitate workshops to improve information dissemination for business to comply with regulations. SAFED style training course materials have been sent out to all local hauliers and follow up enquiries to be carried out to ascertain level of demand for awareness raising event.

First Aid CPC

Lots of forest based First Aid courses available locally which could be easily adapted for timber haulage businesses. Training providers are readily available and could potentially become CPC registered. RTTPO to investigate registration requirements for providers to deliver CPC courses.

4. GTTG Chair Vacancy

Item to be placed on next meeting agenda for confirmation as insufficient numbers present today to vote unanimously. In the past the role of the Group has been to support STTS applications and public sector bodies were heavily involved. There is now a move towards

professionalism of the whole industry and may be more appropriate for a private sector representative to Chair the Group. RTTPO to pursue potential replacement by next meeting.

5. Update from GTTG members

Alastair Young (Forest Enterprise Scotland)

Civil Engineering is currently a separate entity and operational team serves Districts from central office in Inverness, but currently moving “in-house” to be based within local offices. Will no longer be separate business unit due to efficiency review. Similar cuts are happening in all Government Departments. FC Roads Department not effected at moment, but under same efficiency pressures.

Bob Main (Forestry Commission Civil Engineering)

Morven Bridges who usually attends GTTG meetings also attends Argyll TTG and could provide potentially useful links. Significant financial pressures in Moray and Aberdeenshire areas at present. Recent Road-Ex event at Mosstodloch focused on testing Tyre Pressure Control (TPC) systems and more data will be available in due course. More routes are becoming TPC stipulated to protect fragile rural roads and may provide final incentive for businesses to fit technology. More of an issue in Highland with single track, peat based roads.

Ralph Singleton (Aberdeenshire Council)

Winter conditions could create significant issues again and use of shared resources in the past removed some pressures from the Council. FC Huntly tractor was used to clear Portsoy Road last year and very grateful for similar arrangement this year. Many farmers are contracted for snow clearance as ploughs can run on red diesel.

6. AOCB

Woodland Carbon Code

Importance of commercial forestry is recognised, but lower planting figures have reduced potential impact on CO2 reduction. Increase of native broadleaved woodlands also reduced mitigating effects. Firewood is listed as “carbon sustaining” and not neutral, but is replacing fossil fuels. No mention of timber transport in current document.

7. Date of next meeting

Thursday 9th December

Location TBC – (Deeside area)

Timber Transport Forum Update September 2010

1. STTS

(extract from TTF draft minutes)

‘Andy Leitch noted changes to administration of the Strategic Timber Transport Scheme (STTS) which have arisen because Russ Collins has moved to another post within FC. For the present the administration of the STTF will be undertaken by FC Scotland administration staff with technical issues dealt with by Roland Stiven and Andy Leitch. There will be more onus on regional groups and project officers to prepare any future STTS applications well, clearly following the guidance and scheme criteria. Regional groups will be informed of these changes directly.’

2. Best Practice Guide

TTF is still working on a best practice guide and a revised version will be circulated widely for comment.

3. Road Haulage of Round Timber Code of Practice

The Code of Practice working group is reconvening with a view to updating this in this financial year.

4. Conference/Seminar

The Forum has agreed that rather than hold a full national TT conference in early 2011, we shall aim to hold smaller seminars

- An event to raise awareness of timber transport partnership approaches in Wales.
- A workshop with local authorities and other TTG members to look at both communications at TTG level and the collection, management and use of timber transport information. **Feedback and ideas from Regional TTGs welcome on this subject.**

5. Timber Haulier CPC training

The Driver Training for Timber Haulage training material has been made available to the industry. <http://www.timbertransportforum.org.uk/Publications.aspx?pid=14&id=140>

It is hoped that hauliers and training providers will make use of the material to devise appropriate CPC registered training courses that suit their requirements and training budgets.

6. First Aid CPC

An FC Internal Review has highlighted the need for more appropriate first aid training suited to forestry situations. UKFPA is running a pilot course for harvesters and hauliers and is keen to see this approved for Driver CPC. **Feedback from Regional TTGs welcome on this subject.**