

Minutes for GTTG meeting

Date: 13 November 2019

Location: Forestry Commission Scotland, Grampian Conservancy, Portsoy Road, Huntly, AB54 4SJ

Present:

Will Anderson – Chair (WA)

Paul Barron – Moray Council (PB)

Angela Funk – Aberdeenshire Council (AF)

Cameron Gillies – Euroforest (CGi)

Claire Glaister – GTTG Project Officer (CG)

Tim Gordon-Roberts – Scottish Forestry (TGR)

Lee Grigor – James Jones (LG)

Calum Murray – Tilhill (CM)

Alastair Young – FES (AY)

Catherine Wynne – Euroforest (CW)

Apologies

Mark Atherton – Moray Council

Derek Murray – Aberdeenshire Council

Hamish Murray – Forestry and Land Scotland

Derek Nelson – Scottish Forestry

Roland Stiven – TTF

Simon Stuart – Ayrshire & South Lanarkshire Timber Transport Group

Claire Wightman - Sylvaculture

Rajmund Zygodlewicz – Egger Forestry

Agenda Item	Action	Appointed person/s
7. (17/03/16)	GTTG to discuss/agree requested change to ARM classification of U144H	All
3. (12/12/16)	Discuss potential planning permission conditions for road improvements at Conyachie Road end	DM
3. (16/03/17)	Discuss potential for STTS application for an in-forest route through the Gownie road forest complex	NC/CG
6. (15/11/17)	Discuss STTS eligibility/Prior Notification requirements with RS	CG/RS
2.	Circulate Local Authority Timber Transport protocols to TGR to highlight consultation thresholds	CG
2.	Confirm minimum tonnage thresholds for consultation on felling licences	TGR
3.	Liaise with Scottish Forestry over potential for additional STTS support	AF/PB
3.	Discuss potential locations for targeted kerbing projects	AF/LG
3.	Investigate ownerships and timber volumes at potential Moray STTS bridge project locations	CG
5.	Circulate road numbers/location information to members and make available on the Local Guidance page of the GTTG website	PB/AF/CG
5.	Confirm contact details for British Cycling Championships and circulate relevant closures to GTTG members	AF/CG
7.	Circulate link to Confor article on Plant Passporting	CG
8.	CG to check involvement of FISA Haulage Working Group during development of FISA Welfare Provision Guidance	CG
8.	Circulate TTF update – November 2019 to members	CG

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

WA opened a round table introduction and welcomed CM and CW in particular as this was their first GTTG meeting.

2. Notes of last meeting on 13 March 2019 & matters arising

Action table below has been amended to reflect current status (those now completed have been shaded; carried forward actions added to current action table above.

Agenda Item	Action	Appointed person/s
7. (19/11/15)	Confirm minimum tonnage thresholds for consultation on felling licences at meeting with FCS	IC/DM
7. (17/03/16)	GTTG to discuss/agree requested change to ARM classification of U144H	All
6. (14/07/16)	Pull together events programme for discussion with members	RS/CG/LAs
3. (12/12/16)	Discuss potential planning permission conditions for road improvements at Conyachie Road end	DM
9. (12/12/16)	Confirm Prior Notification situation with Confor	RS
3. (16/03/17)	Discuss potential for STTS application for an in-forest route through the Gownie road forest complex	NC/CG
6. (15/11/17)	Discuss STTS eligibility/Prior Notification requirements with RS	CG/RS
3.	Discuss STTS proposals with Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils	CG
3.	GTTG members to discuss STTS bids for submission by 23 April 2019	All
3.	Circulate details of individual match funding contributions for consideration	RS
3.	Notify RS of match funding availability for 2019/20 RTTAS post	All
5.	Discuss development of a GTTG action plan	WA/CG/All

- **Confirm minimum tonnage thresholds for consultation on felling licences at meeting with FCS:** TGR to follow this up with the Conservancy as clarification would be useful as to what threshold is being applied, whether thinning should be included and how cumulative impacts of multiple harvesting operations on one road are taken into account. TGR highlighted that there probably wasn't a consistency of approach across all Conservancies. PB and AF confirmed that they were happy to stick with the original 1000 tonne threshold and hadn't had any issues with sites of less than this. CG to circulate timber transport protocols from difference Local Authorities to TGR for information.
- **Discuss development of a GTTG action plan:** GTTG members confirmed that they were happy with current arrangements and don't consider it necessary at this time to formalise the work of the group into an action plan.

3. Strategic Timber Transport Scheme update and future GTTG projects

3.1 Update on 2019-20 projects

3.1.1 Aberdeenshire: AF reported that all 3 schemes in Marr have been complete and that work on the C5L (Banff & Buchan) and the U68K (Kincardine & Mearns) is underway.

3.1.2 Moray: PB confirmed that all approved schemes have been completed.

- 3.1.3** Signage acknowledging STTS support was discussed and it was noted that where works were a phase 2/3 of a previous scheme, additional signs shouldn't be required as these could cause unnecessary clutter and confusion. CG advised that Scottish Forestry were keen to see signs reflecting improvement works only such that where, over time (e.g. 5 years), these improvement works were not as noticeable, signs should be removed.
- 3.1.4** WA advised that there could be some additional STTS funding available and encouraged existing STTS contract holders to liaise with Scottish Forestry to ascertain the eligibility of previous, unfunded, schemes potentially now receiving some support.

3.2 Proposals for 2020-21 projects

3.2.1 Aberdeenshire:

AF informed the group that, following discussions with Derek Nelson, they would be keen to consider targeted sections of kerbing for future projects. Such work would focus on sections of road where open drains needed to be protected (i.e. where there was limited space between edge of carriageway and drain) and/or where road safety was an issue. PB suggested that 45 degree splayed kerbs would be required to avoid damage to tyres etc. and that in Moray, kerbing of inside bends is widespread. LG highlighted some of the technical issues that kerbing can cause and requested that James Jones be included in discussions as to specific locations so that they can invite comment from hauliers directly. AF confirmed that she's raised this at the meeting for just this sort of feedback and would be happy to work with James Jones when developing any bid.

3.2.2 Moray:

PB advised that Moray Council is keen to consider Phase 2/3 works on the C11E (Conicavel) and B9009 (Dufftown-Tomintoul) and improvements on a couple of bridges. WA highlighted that bridge improvements could involve significant cost so would need to serve significant forestry catchments with high timber volumes. CG to investigate timber volumes/ownerships etc. and pass to PB for consideration.

AF asked if Aberdeenshire Council had progressed their initial bridge improvement proposals; CG confirmed that they had not come back with further plans.

3.2.3 Regional Timber Transport Advisory Service:

CG reminded members that the role of Project Officer was itself an STTS-funded project and therefore needs the support of the group if future applications are to be considered/submitted. All members confirmed that they wished to see the role continue and would therefore be happy to support an application for STTS funding.

3.2.4 Other:

Nothing to report – at this stage

4. Forest output and exit point data survey

- 4.1** CG advised members of the very low response rate to the exit point survey to date, highlighting that this was a Scotland-wide issue, not just across Grampian.
- 4.2** A joint email from WA and the survey team has been emailed to those within the GTTG area from whom a response is awaited to remind them of the survey, highlight its importance – not least in providing evidence of timber volumes for STTS applications – and encourage them to return information. CG (along with the rest of the survey team for other areas) will review responses at the end of November, chase up those yet to return information and liaise with Scottish Forestry to discuss potential option of collating data from LTFPs/LMPs etc..

5. Agreed Routes Map update

- 5.1** CG confirmed that, following a very prompt and decisive response to the suggestion that we colour up all B-class default Consultation Routes on the ARM, this work will now be done.
- 5.2** CM asked if there was information on road numbers and locations that could be made available on the GTTG web pages. PB advised that Moray Council have a booklet which provides this very information and that he would send an electric copy to CG (please see [HERE](#) to view). AF confirmed that she would investigate would is/could be made available for Aberdeenshire.
- 5.3** AF advised that the British Cycling Championships would be taking place between in September 2020 and that some of the route may be along Agreed Routes. AF to confirm contact details so that CG can follow up and advise GTTG members of any relevant closures.

6. Industry-Local Authority engagement

- 6.1** CG updated members on a very productive meeting held between Angus Council Roads Supervisors and James Jones & Sons at the JJ sawmill in Kirriemuir; the main aim of the meeting was to introduce Council staff to those working within the forest and timber industry (and vice versa) and share views/ideas etc. on timber transport/road asset protection. As feedback from the meeting had been positive, the opportunity for running similar events for Moray and Aberdeenshire Councils was discussed with AF and PB suggesting they would find such a session useful. CG to liaise with LG (and Jonathan Ritchie), AF and PB to propose dates/venues/format etc..

7. Plant passporting

WA/LG advised members that the new plant passporting process would be coming into effect from 14 December 2019. Members discussed how current advice note records are being changed to incorporate the new requirements. CG to circulate [THIS LINK](#) to the Confor article for general information.

8. GTTG members updates

8.1 Round table updates and topical discussion

8.1.1 Member updates

- In conjunction with the discussion around 1000 tonne thresholds, LG raised question of when is a convoy a convoy; 2 lorries, 2 lorries when empty/when loaded etc.? CGi and AY highlighted that in the winter, it was preferable to have more than 1 lorry on site to help control risks associated with lone working. Members agreed that each site/road could be different, reinforcing the need for consultation with the Local Authority prior to haulage commencing.
- AY advised members of the emerging FISA welfare guidance and highlighted that this seems to suggest that all users, including timber hauliers, may be included. LG asked if timber hauliers shouldn't be considered transient workers, in which case, the requirements may be different. CGi suggested that whilst still in draft, the FISA guidance seemed to be a higher standard than the legal requirement and advised that they, along with other larger companies, have received non-compliance notices, including for a lack of hot water provision. WA stressed the need for the guidance to be as simple as possible. CG to ask Neil Stoddart, Chair of the FISA Haulage Working Group, if he/the WG, have been involved in the development of the guidance. **Subsequent to the meeting, FISA have published the [WELFARE GUIDE](#) and invited comment during an 18 month review period.**
- Members also discussed other FISA work which is looking into working at heights and the pilot CPC training module being run in Lockerbie on 30 November 2019. Updates will be provided at the next GTTG meeting.
- The Timber Transport Forum update for November is to be circulated with the minutes but key activities include the launch of new [illustrations](#) for typical minimum strapping for common timber lorry loads and the [Transporting Timber on Public Roads: Consultation and Engagement \(Scotland\) 2019](#) publication and the forthcoming review of the [Road Haulage of Road Timber Code of Practice](#).

9. Date of next meeting/s

9.1 Thursday 26th March 2020 (pm) - provisional