

Minutes for GTTG meeting

Date: 27 November 2024

Location: Hybrid – Grampian Conservancy office and via Teams

Present:

Will Anderson – Chair (WA)

Julie Ballantyne – Moray Council (JB)

Iain Catterwell – Timber Transport Forum (IC)

William Clark – Scottish Forestry (WiC)

Alasdair Duncan – AW Jenkinson (AD)

Niall Duncan – Scottish Woodlands (ND)

Cameron Gillies – Euroforest (CGi)

Claire Glaister – GTTG Project Officer (CG)

Lee Grigor – James Jones (LG)

John Mackie – Scottish Forestry (JM)

Jonathan Sharp – Aberdeenshire Council (JS)

Apologies

Euan Christie – AW Jenkinson

Ben Lennon – Bowls

Paul Mathieson - Tilhill

Agenda Item	Action	Appointed person/s
6. (05/10/22)	Arrange visits with roads department staff	CG
5. (28/06/23)	Circulate FISA roadside safety guide, once published	CG
5. (02/11/24)	Organise meeting with planning department representatives	BD/CG
4. (21/02/24)	Circulate new Scottish Forestry engagement guidance	CG
3.	Add link to Local Authority gritting routes maps to GTTG web page	CG
4.	Follow up initial meeting with Planning Dept.	CG
4.	Organise meeting with planning and road safety colleagues	CG/JB/JS
5.	Follow up ARM title options and bring to next meeting	CG/LG

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

WA welcomed all those present in person and invited introductions as AD, whilst a long-standing member of the S&TTTG, is a new face on the GTTG.

2. Review of notes of last meeting on 21 February 2024 & matters arising

GTTG members were happy to accept the minutes of the last meeting as an accurate record of discussions.

Agenda Item	Action	Appointed person/s
5. (13/11/19)	Colour up all B-class road default Agreed Routes	CG/JE
6. (05/10/22)	Arrange visits with roads department staff	CG
5. (08/03/23)	Organise visits to forest management companies to promote GTTG and timber transport initiatives/good practice	CG
4. (28/06/23)	Update ARM website with updated Moray ARM classifications	CG/JE
5. (28/06/23)	Circulate FISA roadside safety guide, once published	CG
5. (02/11/24)	Organise meeting with planning department representatives	BD/CG
3.	Confirm match funding contributions	All
3.	Discuss future funding of RTTAS role	All
4.	Circulate new Scottish Forestry engagement guidance	CG

2.1 Organise meetings/visits with roads and planning department representatives – in progress.

3. Strategic Timber Transport Scheme update and future GTTG projects

3.1. STTF budgets

WC updated members on the 2024/25 STTS bidding round and how the STTF is allocated (Timberlink, Small Projects, RTTPOs and the STTS (including PPGs)); examples of the Small Projects that have been previously supported include the FISA strapping leaflets and Police Scotland training and funding for this allocation is typically for schemes up to £10,000.

Members discussed whether Police Scotland was represented on RTTGs. CG advised that in some areas, yes, but not in GTTG.

WC advised that were there to be any underspend, members were welcome to come forward with Small Project proposals. CGi asked if STTS could be used for gritting roads as there have been many incidents in Aberdeenshire where loads are effectively landlocked when roads are not gritted. WC confirmed that no, STTS cannot be used to grit public roads. JB noted that Moray Council shows priority gritting route maps on their website; CG to add link (and for Aberdeenshire Council) to the GTTG Local Guidance web page.

WA asked WC if RTTAS 2025/26 funding is likely to be similar to this year. WC advised this is likely to be the case.

4. Public road infrastructure

- 4.1. Members discussed several cases (LTFPs, FPAs, WC) where consultation with local authorities had highlighted an expectation that passing places should be constructed or accesses built above the specifications provided in the GTTG Local Guidance web page prior to haulage commencing; often, the requirement came from the planning dept. or road safety teams, but commonly varied across different councils and different staff within the same council. All agreed that the industry should speak with the timber transport roads representative before submitting any planning applications so they could best advise on what may be required.

IC noted that this is an issue that should be raised at a SCOTS-level so a consistent approach could be taken and that one of the roles of the TTF role is to liaise at this level.

JS advised that pre-planning consultation from the industry has been working well but recognised the benefit in inviting representatives from the planning/safety teams to these meetings. CG to follow up initial discussions with Aberdeenshire Council planning department to arrange further meeting.

WA suggested a similar meeting be arranged with Moray Council and that an equivalent of Highland Council's [Technical Advice Note Forestry Extraction, 2013](#) be developed either for each local authority or as a joint document. CG to follow up with JB and JS.

5. Agreed Routes Map

5.1. Moray Agreed Routes

CG confirmed that the Moray ARM changes have now gone live and invited feedback. Thanks were extended to James England for providing the GIS support.

5.2. Changing the Agreed Routes Map name to Voluntary Timber Transport Routes Map

Members discussed a suggestion to change the title of the Agreed Routes Map to something that better reflects that any public road can be used by timber lorries unless they carry a TRO (e.g. weight restriction); one suggestion had been to change the title to Voluntary Routes Map and another to Timber Transport Routes Map. Members recognised that using the term "Agreed" can give the wrong impression to wider stakeholders, resulting in clarification being required, but that it is a useful reminder to hauliers and drivers. IC noted that the TTF is producing a series of FAQs, which may help address this issue. CG to follow up options with LG and bring to next meeting.

6. GTTG members updates

6.1. Round table updates and topical discussion

6.1.1. Member updates

- JM reminded members of the [FGS Forest Infrastructure Grant](#) option, the aim of which is to provide support for new access infrastructure that will bring small scale, undermanaged or inaccessible existing woodlands back into active management (this option is limited to existing woodlands of up to 50 hectares in size);
- CG updated members on an initial query received regarding timber haulage from the Clash;
- CGi advised members of two concurrent road closures – on the A95 and A96 – and that the A96 diversion was onto a Consultation Route. Members discussed that as this was the published diversion, this is the route lorries should take. He also noted that a closure on the A939 is anticipated to carry out repairs following a landslip.

6.1.2. TTF update

IC advised members that he was now 3 months into the post and that the initial focus has been on the industry good practice guides and the APF demo. He also noted that the funders were keen to raise timber transport at a higher level, so we were giving a consistent message

6.1.3. FISA Haulage Working Group update

No update has been provided but IC has been invited to input into the roadside working document. Members discussed how it needs to have a practical level of implementation appropriate to the risk.

7. Provisional dates/locations for next meetings

7.1. February, June (excluding first two weeks), November 2025