



Meeting Notes

Environmental Liaison Group Meeting No. 29



3 March 2015, 10:00 to 13:00

Principal Contract Project Office, Rosyth

Attendees:

Elizabeth Morrison	FRC Employer's Delivery Team (EDT) - Chair
Steven Brown	FRC Employer's Delivery Team (EDT)
Maggie Paterson	FRC Employer's Delivery Team (EDT)
Liam Soden	Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors (FCBC)
Stuart Swainson	Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors (FCBC)
Niall Corbet	Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

Apologies for Absence:

Jon Moore	FRC Employer's Delivery Team (EDT)
Rod McCullagh	Historic Scotland (HS)
Wendy McCorrison	West Lothian Council (WLC)
Gavin Martin	City of Edinburgh Council (CEC)

Item	Subject	Description	Action
1	Introductions and apologies	EDT provided a welcome and apologies.	
2	Actions from previous meeting (ELG 28)	<p>EDT advised that the minutes from ELG meeting 28 have been uploaded to the website.</p> <p>EDT confirmed progress regarding actions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FCBC to re-submit Headland's report to EDT, regarding removal of the remaining section of the entrance wall at St. Margaret's Hope Lodge, as a separate report and not an appendix to Headland's Archaeological Watching Brief Report 2013. FCBC undertaking an update to the Transport Strategy Plan to address one outstanding comment. It was agreed that EDT will provide a summary report to SNH, regarding anecdotal evidence of marine mammal /ecological activity in vicinity of marine and land-based works, at the end of the project. A tabular format was considered appropriate, with input from FCBC based on their quarterly ecological reports and EDT's Ecological Clerk of Works. It was also noted that environmental structures, such as mammal ledges, would be maintained in future by Operating Companies. The Sustainability Report for M9 Junction 1a was uploaded to the project website 02/02/15. EDT review of the Fife ITS Sustainability Report is complete and the report will be uploaded to the website in March 2015. 	<p>Note</p> <p>FCBC</p> <p>FCBC</p> <p>Note</p> <p>EDT</p>
3	General		
3a	Project update	EDT advised that substantial areas of new woodland planting have been completed in areas adjacent to Dundas. The plant nursery delivered plants 23/02/15 for use in the remaining areas which are available to be planted in the south site by April 2015, including areas adjacent to the Queensferry Gyratory.	

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		<p>FCBC progressed the following works at St. Margaret's Marsh in January 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • installation of fifth internal sluice gate; • excavation and installation of pipes for the sluices in the sea wall; • cutting and removal of the rank grassland lying between the seawall and the reedbed to facilitate the establishment of saltmarsh or coastal grassland once inundation commences; and • installation of marker posts along the reedbed boundaries to facilitate monitoring the spread or dieback of reeds in response to increased inundation. <p>Following EDT's submission of copies of the most recent aerial photos of St. Margaret's Marsh to SNH in December 2014, SNH requested further updated aerial photos to identify marker posts at the reed bed boundaries.</p> <p>Review of St. Margaret's Marsh Management Plan was discussed. SNH suggested contact with RSPB regarding reed bed management. Site meeting to be arranged before summer. Advice and resource implications to be considered and incorporated into Management Plan review.</p> <p>EDT to coordinate establishment of a Steering Group to take on long term management of St Margaret's Marsh. Members to include Transport Scotland, SNH and other nature conservation / local groups.</p> <p>The Estuarine bird survey quarterly reports QR13 and Q14, June to August 2014 and Sept to Nov 2014 respectively, were issued to SNH and FCBC 12/02/2015.</p>	<p>EDT</p> <p>EDT</p> <p>EDT</p>
3b	Review/approval of environmental information for publication on website	<p>All remaining updated EMP subsidiary plans were finalised and uploaded to the project website in December 2014.</p> <p>Air Quality Monitoring Reports for November and December 2014 have been uploaded to the project website. The January 2015 report will be uploaded imminently.</p>	
3c	Complaints/issues arising	<p>No complaints of environmental significance have been recorded since the last ELG meeting.</p>	
4	Principal Contract (FCBC)		
4a	Programme December 2014 – February 2015		
	i) Land (north):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of CMC piles at Whinny Hill/Castlandhill Road almost completed. • Installation of pier protection at Jameston Viaduct completed. • Installation of beams and decks for Ferrytoll gyratory overbridges and Ferrytoll viaduct ongoing. • Construction of King Malcolm Drive road and footpath realignments ongoing. • Concrete works, steel fixing, welding, assembly and installation of launch foundations and gantry crane rail at north launch ongoing. 	
	ii) Land (south)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painting and welding works at southern launch steelwork assembly area ongoing. • Concrete finishing works at south abutment ongoing. • Excavation and rock breaking at Echline ongoing. • Utilities diversion works, road formation, drainage and kerbing works at B924 realignment ongoing. • Footpath construction and soiling or surfacing to verges at A904 and Queensferry gyratory ongoing. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting from Dundas to Echline strip woodland completed. Installation of Dundas noise barrier west completed to chainage 2800. Widening and diversion works at B800 ongoing. Installation of beams completed and deck construction works for B800 overbridge ongoing. Installation works at gantries ongoing. 	
	iii) Marine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pier lifts at N1 and S1 ongoing. 31st tower lift achieved at all the towers. Foundation at S3 completed and pier base commenced. Excavation of cofferdam at S2 ongoing in preparation for foundation works. 	
	iv) Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site-wide environmental monitoring ongoing for noise and vibration, air quality and groundwater. The programme of monitoring for groundwater may be revised after inundations at St. Margaret's Marsh have commenced. Monitoring of silt mitigation measures for site runoff ongoing. Report for bat box inspection undertaken 31/10/14 submitted to EDT. Estuarine bird surveys ongoing by EDT. 	
4b	<i>Outline proposals March – May 2015</i>	<p>All ongoing items detailed in 4a to be progressed. In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Piers S2 and S3 to be progressed. Delivery of plants to complete the areas beside the B981 and Rosyth. 	
4c	<i>Consultation requirements</i>	<p>SNH requested plans of the completed B981 to progress de-notification of the small areas currently designated as St. Margaret's Marsh SSSI. EDT to source and provide when the fence line alignment, which will define the edge of the SSSI, is finalised.</p>	EDT
5	Any other business	N/A	
6	Next meeting and venue	The next meeting is scheduled for 02/06/2015 at 10.00hrs in the Principal Contract Project Office, Rosyth.	