

1. HLF Callander Landscape Partnership

α) **Little Leny Meadows**

The cutting of a large part of the vegetation in the south area is seen as an important step forward for the future management of Little Leny. The path from the bridge to the graveyard is unlikely to run close to the river for its full length as a number of wet areas will require it to divert away from the river. The graveyard is to be repaired and advice from Historic Scotland is being sought. It is hoped to obtain funding from a body that supports repairs to historic built structures. It was reported the salmon spawning near Duck Island on the north side has been quite congested this season with large numbers of salmon being present.

β) **A84 Blackbird Walk**

George Fiddes of Transport Scotland sent a recent email saying that he had not forgotten about us and that work is progressing between BEAR and himself. He will report back in due course. Since the last meeting the large growth of lime tree suckers have been cut back by BEAR. In addition photos of flooding at the second junction of Leny Feus with the A84 (during Storm Barbara) have been sent to George to highlight the basic problems with this area.

γ) **Leny Woods**

Forwarded info from Anne Gilchrist included a note which confirmed that phytophthora ramorum has been found on larch in Leny Woods. This was only on one tree, which has now been removed. Treatment, however, requires that all larch have to be felled within a 250 metres buffer zone of the infected tree before the end of March 2017. Within the buffer zone spruce will also have to be felled but are not confined to the March deadline. However, given how the species are mixed it is likely that they will be felled together. The size of the buffer zone means that the affected area will include some of the trees in the Drumardoch Estate and therefore the Cameron's have been given notice of the requirement. Most of the extraction might be on Drumardoch forest roads (discussion ongoing). Where extraction is not possible timber will be left on site. The fungal spores can be transmitted by airborne means and also by direct contact. In Anne's forwarded note there is a website listed that gives advice on how to protect the forest from direct contact. (ie. cleaning boots, etc.). There will be no replacement of larch as planting ceased three years ago.

d) **Leny Falls Bridge**

The pre-planning application for the bridge and the link paths has been submitted. Response has been favourable as this will fill gaps in the access path system. Surveys will be required. CLP will need to complete plans and submit them by August 2017. It is expected to appoint a design and build contractor for the bridge and that the bridge will need to be a destination point in its own right. The tender will go out early in 2017. It is expected to approach Creative Scotland for a grant towards the bridge. Approval could possibly be in Nov 2017 with construction in 2018. All issues need to be investigated. Wheelchair access is likely from the south side to the bridge but not along the Victorian walkway. Access by horses is unlikely to be suitable.

2. FCS Land Management Plans

**a) Wester Torrie:** A stile for pedestrian access has been fitted as requested, however a dog gate is thought to be unacceptable and will not be fitted.

**b) Callander**

Callander Crags Woodland: Mounding and erection of the deer fence are completed. Planting will start soon.

Balameanoch: The moorland access route is to be re-opened by opening a route through the windblown trees or via an alternative route, whichever is the easier. Future ownership options for this woodland are still being discussed.

Coilhallan: It was reported that the removal of rhododendrons would be done prior to any felling work. Larch in all areas are monitored frequently. Trees will be left standing as long as possible until infection is identified.

**c) West Strathyre:** The planned felling work has been done including work on the Ben Ledi hill path. The NCN7 from the Ben Ledi car park to Strathyre requires road improvements, which will take place soon. Diversions will need to be on the A84 public road as there is no alternative forest road.

**d) Cock Hill:** The buffer zone between the planted area and the road edge is to be surveyed. If this is less than 25m trees will be removed.

**3. Possible Acquisition of Woodlands and Car Parks by CCDT.**

a) Coilhallan Wood Acquisition for MBT. The Scottish Government guidelines are being worked through and the application has been submitted.

b) Acquisition of Stirling Council Assets. The application for the car parks, Callander Meadows, the Lower Wood and Camp Place play area are being drafted and the application process is being worked through.

Bracklinn Bridge roof repair has still not progressed.

*John Snodin*