

The Sefton Coast Woodlands Forest Plan Task Group

Extraordinary Meeting – 6th March 2007, Seaforth Nature Reserve

Notes from the meeting (not minutes).

Present:

Rachel Northover, Bob Wagstaff, Nick Roche, Andrew Brockbank.

Purpose of the meeting was confirmed as being a planning meeting for the review process and a finalisation of the 2007 targets. Taking the latter point first:

Monitoring Table – Total Cumulative Progress

Year	Thinning		Coupe creation		Planting		Natural Regen.	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
Year 1 (2003)	42.39	12.89	8.49	8.32	1.02	3.85	0.00	0.00
Year 2 (2004)	18.21	6.67	3.32	3.00	8.80	6.33	2.20	0.00
Year 3 (2005)	8.52	37.43	2.42	3.54	5.04	8.50	0.00	1.90
Year 4 (2006)	15.52	10.66	1.70	2.69	2.24	3.64	0.30	0.00
Total	84.64	67.65	15.93	17.55	17.10	22.32	2.50	1.90

(for those who attended the meeting, please note the slight differences in the year 4 figures – I had managed to bring the wrong version).

Monitoring Table – Cumulative Progress by Property (yr01 – 04)

Owner	Area	Thinning		Coupe Area		Planting Area		Nat Regen	
		FP target	Achieved	FP target	Achieved	FP target	Achieved	FP target	Achieved
English Nature	160.93	19.86	11.83	4.20	5.12	2.46	4.72	1.90	1.90
Formby Golf Club	40.11	5.42	1.15	0.70	0.00	0.57	0.49	0.00	0.00
Formby Ladies Golf Club	5.46	1.24	1.48	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.60	0.00	0.00
Hesketh Golf Club	8.44	0.41	0.06	0.74	0.15	0.59	0.28	0.00	0.00
Hillside Golf Club	5.99	2.89	3.84	0.00	0.00	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lancashire Wildlife Trust	3.76	1.16	0.56	0.59	1.18	0.59	0.59	0.00	0.00
MoD	0.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
National Trust	75.26	25.26	14.60	2.30	2.10	2.44	2.55	0.00	0.00
Asparagus Cottage	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Private, FDH	1.03	1.03	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Golf Cottage	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lark Hill Farm	1.36	1.36	1.36	0.37	0.61	0.37	0.42	0.00	0.00
Lark Hill Farm House	1.23	1.23	1.23	0.40	0.20	0.40	0.20	0.00	0.00
Pilkington Estate	2.54	2.54	0.00	0.60	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.30	0.00
Shorrocks Hill	9.91	9.90	9.90	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60	0.00	0.00
RFCA	28.78	4.72	8.26	0.00	0.00	0.97	3.60	0.00	0.00
Royal Birkdale Golf Club	3.46	0.74	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.16	0.00	0.00
SMBC, CCS	53.84	4.97	11.00	3.70	3.29	5.02	5.04	0.30	0.00
SMBC, LSD	3.83	0.90	0.53	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00
S&A Golf Club	2.39	0.56	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.81	0.00	0.00	0.00
St Josephs Nursing Home	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
St Lukes Church	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
SUM		84.64	67.37	15.93	14.55	17.10	20.40	2.50	1.90

Monitoring Table – Adjusted Targets by Property, Year 05 (2007)

Owner	Area	Thinning		Coupe Creation		Planting		Natural Regeneration	
		FP target	Adj target	FP target	Adj target	FP target	Adj target	FP target	Adj target
English Nature	160.93	4.06	12.09	2.50	1.58		-2.26		0.00
Formby Golf Club	40.11	12.91	17.18	1.20	1.90	0.25	0.33		0.00
Formby Ladies Golf Club	5.46		-0.24		-0.30		-0.60		0.00
Hesketh Golf Club	8.44		0.35	0.06	0.65	0.33	0.64		0.00
Hillside Golf Club	5.99		-0.95		0.00		0.32		0.00
Lancashire Wildlife Trust	3.76		0.60		-0.59		0.00		0.00
MoD	0.97		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00
National Trust	75.26	15.21	25.87		0.20	0.20	0.09		0.00
Asparagus Cottage	0.11		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00
FDH Trustees (NE)	1.03		0.47		0.00		0.00		0.00
Private, Golf Cottage	0.20		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00
Lark Hill Farm	1.36		0.00		-0.24		-0.05		0.00
Lark Hill Farm House	1.23		0.00		0.20		0.20		0.00
Pilkington Estate	2.54		2.54		0.60		0.30		0.30
Shorrocks Hill	9.91		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00
RFCA	28.78		-3.54		0.00		-2.63		0.00
Royal Birkdale Golf Club	3.46		0.18	0.20	0.20		0.00		0.00
SMBC, CCS	53.84		-6.03		0.41	0.60	0.58		0.30
SMBC, LSD	3.83	1.28	1.65		0.10		-0.15	0.10	0.10
S&A Golf Club	2.39	0.05	0.61		0.38	0.05	0.86		0.00
St Josephs Nursing Home	1.75		0.00		0.25		0.25		0.00
St Lukes Church	0.45		0.00		0.00		0.25		0.00
Calculated Sum		33.51	50.78	3.96	5.34	1.43	-1.87	0.10	0.70

The figures for the adjusted targets for year 05 (2007) have been arrived at by calculating year-on-year progress and subtracting it from the achievements and then adding the yr05 targets from the Forest Plan database.

URGENT

TASK 1

Each landowner/manager needs to check the figures in both 'property' tables for accuracy and then assess whether there are sufficient resources to carry out the work in 2007.

If adjustments need to be made, then the landowner/manager should **inform Nick Roche at The Mersey Forest of the final figure by 10:00am 19th March 2007** at the latest (this is an absolute deadline, based on submission of articles to Coastlines and to the Partnership for its annual report). A formal declaration of adjustments can be made at the next Task Group meeting in May and it may be necessary to write to the Forestry Commission as well to seek approval.

TASK 2

The Review table must be finalised and the figures in the monitoring tables should be matched up with the Review table. Some attempt to reconcile the two has been made, but it needs to be checked. As the figures are to be used in Coastlines and the annual report, it is essential that you feed back to Nick Roche by 10:00am of 19th March 2007.

The Review

Several principles have been agreed:

That there will be an event each month between May and October 2007;

That there will be a steady trickle of information and articles released through the local press – including Coastlines;

That there will be two key public meetings, one of which will be the Forum in July, the other an event in Formby;

That the Task Group will run a web-based 'blog' to provide an opportunity for people to interact with the owners on issues.

Discussion

The following schedule has been proposed:

13th June 2007, Formby open meeting, drop-in and consultation, St Lukes Church 2:00 to 8:00pm – St Lukes church could offer tours of the Church woodland during the day

18th June 2007, Altcar Rifle Range 7:00pm walk to look at the woodland work and other matters of conservation interest

7th July 2007, Sefton Coast Partnership Forum.

11th July 2007, a woodland plan walk at the National Trust property

August 2007, an event to look at work on Freshfield Dune Heath and Formby Golf Course

22nd August 2007, NNR to organise a woodland plan walk, evening

20th September 2007, a woodland plan walk with SMBC

1st to 7th October 2007 will offer an opportunity to link with Squirrel week. LWT to organise an activity with a focus on the Forest Plan

Dates to be confirmed by 10:00am 19th March 2007 where possible.

It was noted that the woodland walks organised since the inception of the Plan have not always attracted a big attendance. This may be a good thing in a sense, but owners/managers could think about linking the event with something else (for example LWT with the squirrel week) if they are concerned about numbers.

There will be steady trickle of information to the local press, using either the Sefton Coast Partnership press mechanisms or The Mersey Forest press system.

The Mersey Forest will help to pull together a web-based blog to provide a forum for interactive discussion. Probably hosted on TMF web-site and up and running by June, it will have some simple restrictions – nothing abusive, only material related to the objectives of the consultation. A suggestion was made that there should be an additional schools 'blog' to be informative and generate some 'youth' participation in the process. LWT, SMBC and TMF to take this up with the appropriate staff.

Additional Points

Next planning meeting scheduled for 23rd April 2007, 2:00pm at the National Trust office.

Next Task group meeting re-scheduled for 17th May 2007, 2:00pm, the venue will remain as the meeting room at Altcar Rifle Range HQ.