

CSGN Development Fund 2010 – Project Achievements

In 2010, Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) jointly launched the new Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) Development Fund. The Fund aims to help National, regional and local partners to deliver projects which will contribute towards delivery of the CSGN. Projects include transforming the area by planting new woodlands, boosting outdoor recreation opportunities, improving the landscape and regenerating vacant and derelict land.

The Fund provides grants for a range of early delivery projects, supporting activities such as site investigation work, surveys, planning and design work, mapping, data collection and community or stakeholder consultations. The focus has been on projects that will lead to real change on the ground in the next few years.

Total number of projects awarded funding = 70
Total value of grants awarded = £1,345,611

The following projects received funding from the first round of the CSGN Development Fund and were completed as follows:

CSGN 001, 002, 003 & 004 The **Scottish Agricultural College** received **£15,920** to undertake targeted **Woodland Creation Promotion** with farmers in North Ayrshire, Glasgow & the Clyde Valley, Falkirk, the Lothians and South Fife. An SAC advisor provided free, tailored advice to farmers in these areas on woodland creation opportunities on their land through the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP). Initial enquiries led to visits to 23 farms which each then received a written proposal and budgets for woodland schemes. Several farmers have indicated that they are considering going ahead with the schemes proposed.

CSGN 005 The **Central Scotland Forest Trust** received **£3,250** to undertake the **Bothwell Park Access Study** exploring access constraints and opportunities and making recommendations on improving access to this 46 ha derelict land site. The study has allowed the views of local communities to be captured and has been used to inform the development of a Forest Design Plan for this new community woodland. It is likely that the Scottish Lowland Forest District will take over from North Lanarkshire Council the site and its management. Work on the site and adjacent areas is likely to commence during 2011.

CSGN 006 Scotland's Finest Woods Award received **£5,200** to support a special **CSGN Community Woodland Prize in 2010-11** to recognise, reward and highlight excellence in CSGN community and urban woodland and social projects which engage people in creating, improving or using a local woodland environment. The award has been widely promoted as part of the International Year of Forests. The winner will be announced at the 2011 Royal Highland Show.

CSGN 007 The **Central Scotland Forest Trust** received **£7,000** to support a project to improve the gateways and approaches to the **Breich Valley Villages** in West Lothian. The project explored opportunities for enhancement at 14 sites within the Breich Valley area. Five sites were taken further with costed proposals developed for sites at Breich, Fauldhouse, Longridge, West Calder and Loganlea. Future Job Fund trainees managed by West Lothian Council have begun work on 4 of the sites bringing woodland back under management and carrying out enhancement planting. This gives the trainees the opportunity to develop skills and practical experience on a range of woodland and environmental projects.

CSGN 008 The **Lothian and Fife Green Network Partnership** received **£38,746** to develop a **Pentland Hills Woodland Strategy** to identify and specify practical actions on the ground to enhance the landscape quality of the wider area whilst providing social and recreational benefits for local people and visitors. Project partners included the Pentland Hills Regional Park Authority, City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils. Work focused on identifying opportunities for woodland creation and management in 5 priority, core areas within the Pentlands and consultation

with landowners and stakeholder groups to develop detailed designs and specifications for woodland management, enhancement or creation projects. At least 10 projects have been worked up for implementation subject to winning further funding.

CSGN 010 The Woodland Trust Scotland (WTS) received **£42,539** to undertake a **Native Woodland Promotional Campaign** across the CSGN area. The campaign has involved communication with landowners in the CSGN area through printed media, a web campaign and direct approaches to 150 landowners (with holdings of more than 50 ha) across the CSGN area. The project has also encouraged community action through the distribution of 38 community tree packs (2 in each of the 19 CSGN local authorities) provided free to community groups. Lastly, a simple guide to woodland creation grant funding targeted at smaller landowners has been produced and disseminated. This guide is available on the WTS website. During the campaign the potential to plant some 485 ha of native woodland was identified and WTS staff will continue to pursue the creation of these woodlands.

CSGN 011 Glasgow City Council received **£60,848** to develop a **Clyde Walkway Pilot Project** to rationalise and formalise all existing plans and programmes for the Clyde Walkway where it runs through Glasgow's boundaries. Outputs have included a Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Pilot Management Plans for three distinct sections of the Walkway. Action Plans have been developed to address use, biodiversity and promotion of the Walkway with the intention of implementing changes once additional funding has been identified.

CSGN 012 East Dunbartonshire Council received **£19,950** to support a **Campsie Fells Review and Action Plan** to guide future joint working in the area. Working in partnership with North Lanarkshire, Stirling and Falkirk Councils, as well as Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage and following consultation with local communities, the work has concentrated on developing strategies and costed proposals to deliver improvements to Access, Tourism and Recreation, Marketing, Economic Development and Biodiversity within the Fells.

CSGN 013 South Ayrshire Council received **£20,440** to conduct a **Windfarm and Forest Path Network Feasibility Study** exploring connecting up to 12 wind farm projects to expand the network of off-road walking and cycling networks within the area, leading to active travel, health, recreation and tourism benefits. As well as exploring options to increase connectivity using turbine access routes and forest tracks, the study has also examined on and off road links between the local towns and villages and how they can proactively promote the network, and identified where the network should be augmented with new paths. The study will be used to inform the further development of the Council's Core Path Network, the Carrick Way and the Ayrshire Coastal Path. The study will also lead to the future prioritisation of South Ayrshire Council capital funding for path network development and has already prompted bids for external funding.

CSGN 014, 015 & 016 Scottish Woodlands received **£14,250** to undertake targeted promotion of **Native Woodland Creation** in North and East Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire. Scottish Woodlands advisors targeted landowners in woodland opportunity areas identified in the Ayrshire and Arran Woodland Strategy and the Central Scotland Forest Strategy to promote and explain the support available for native woodland creation under SRDP. Discussions with landowners have resulted in the development of 9 woodland schemes to take forward.

CSGN 017 The Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust received **£23,050** to undertake an audit and woodland condition survey of the **Edinburgh Millenium Woodlands** leading to recommendations for the future management of the woodlands. Some 70 woodlands owned by the City of Edinburgh Council have been audited, management objectives established, costed proposals prepared, and opportunities identified for sites to add to social benefits for local people through volunteering, training and education-based activities. As a result of the report, 6 priority sites have been identified for immediate improvement. A community training programme and further community projects are also being explored.

CSGN 018 The **Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust** received **£5,080** to develop a **community garden at the North Edinburgh Art Centre** in Pilton, Edinburgh. A number of community events and workshops have informed the feasibility study and design for the garden which has areas for a woodland, orchard, play, social spaces and art and ensures the garden is connected with the rest of the community in Pilton. Fundraising is underway to finance the implementation of the garden.

CSGN 019 RSPB Scotland received **£15,000** to help towards the cost of employing a project officer to undertake early development of the **Inner Forth Futurescape Project**. The project has involved the production of a strategy for delivering habitat creation and delivering advice to land managers. The momentum has been such that the project partners (which include Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Forestry Commission Scotland(FCS)) have submitted a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding to progress the project further. If, however, the bid is unsuccessful individual funding applications will be prepared for each of the habitat projects.

CSGN 020 Clackmannanshire Council received **£31,980** to support a **Green Infrastructure Mapping and Strategy Development** project that has resulted in a strategy and framework for decision-making on future investment in a range of green network projects across the Council area. Working in partnership with the Clackmannanshire Alliance (the Community Planning Partnership for Clackmannanshire), FCS and Action for Change the work involved the drawing together of information from a variety of sources to produce a vision and action plan for the future management of, and investment in, the green network in Clackmannanshire to target resources at projects which will have the biggest impact on the health and well-being of Clackmannanshire's residents. In addition, the study is seen an important element in the development of the Council's Local Development Plan and related Open Space Strategy.

CSGN 021 Clackmannanshire Council received **£24,966** to undertake the **Gartmorn Dam Green Hub Development Study** to investigate the most effective means of further developing Gartmorn Dam Country Park as a focus for active travel, environmental education, informal recreation and biodiversity in the Council area. Working in partnership with the Community Woodlands Association, FCS, Clackmannanshire Riders Access Group and private landowners the study outputs provide a framework for the future development of the site and surrounding land in the lead up to its tercentenary in 2013. Assessment of the Dam in relation to criteria for a Green Flag Award has also taken place. The stakeholder workshop brought forward a number of individuals interested in supporting the future development of the park.

CSGN 023 Central Scotland Forest Trust received **£7,005** to identify vacant and derelict land sites in North Lanarkshire suitable for woodland planting for the **International Children's Games 2011 Legacy Project**, to help the organising committee realise their ambition to deliver a carbon neutral Games. The methodology devised has identified a number of sites which are suitable for planting and the funding and implementation of these are being explored by the Trust and the Scottish Lowland Forest District. In addition, links with Beautiful North Lanarkshire have been established which should also lead to implementation of some schemes by volunteer groups.

CSGN 024 The **Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership** received **£40,000** to support the development of the **Seven Lochs Wetland Park Masterplan** as a key green network element of the Gartloch-Gartcosh community growth area which will see 4500 new homes created in the area over the next 15 years. The Masterplan sets out a vision, costed proposals for the site split over 3 phases, recommends how it should be developed and identifies possible funding sources. The Gartloch Gartcosh Strategic Delivery Partnership will now consult widely on the draft plan to secure community and political support for the project and GCVGNP will begin to make a number of funding applications to further development and creation of the Wetland Park.

CSGN 025 Central Scotland Forest Trust received **£34,600** to undertake an **Assessment of the Suitability of Introducing Wood Heat Systems into Council Building Stock** for heat and energy for 10 of the 19 CSGN local authorities. Overall 82 buildings and 3 district heating systems have been analysed with the potential to capture 29,453 tonnes of CO₂ and reduce energy costs for the Councils. Opportunities for bringing publicly owned woodlands in to management as a fuel source have also been explored. Each Council has expressed interest in moving forward with implementation coming on-stream as early as 2012. However, the scale of potential investment identified in woodfuel

boilers could not be met by the current availability of woodfuel to the Scottish wood energy industry so the supply side will also need to be considered.

CSGN 026 South Lanarkshire Rural Development Trust received **£4,800** to undertake a **Rural South Lanarkshire Woodfuel Feasibility Study** into the scope for woodlands in the area to supply woodfuel for heat and energy. The study has identified the volume of wood available locally and the current and near future demand for biomass, mainly in public sector developments. The study highlighted a number of small woodlands on farms with potential to supply wood but which were too small to be managed currently on a profitable basis. Next steps include the development of a LEADER application to establish a small-scale woodfuel supply business, which could develop over time as it wins contracts, and the investigation of using small log burners to supply heat to smaller premises using mobile workers who will travel daily to feed and maintain the burners thereby also creating a local employment opportunity.

CSGN 027 Carts Greenspace Trust received **£30,000** to undertake the **Glennifer Braes Country Park Feasibility Study** to explore and develop proposals for woodland management, access improvements (including mountain biking trails) and the conversion of a farm steading into a visitor centre as part of the Glennifer Braes Green Network Strategic Enhancement Plan. The report sets out proposals for the steading, including a cafe and bike hire facility, and for the creation of a 13km bike trail designed to meet a range of user needs in terms of fitness and skills. The report suggests that Glennifer Braes could be a significant mountain biking facility with greater economic potential than Renfrewshire Council had previously envisaged. This finding will feed into business planning and the future marketing of the Park. The Renfrewshire Green Network Steering Group is now exploring next steps alongside plans to use the report to inform a future Heritage Lottery Fund application.

CSGN028 Central Scotland Forest Trust received **£11,216** to develop a **Clyde and Avon Valleys Woodlands Strategy and Action Plan** to support the second stage of a Heritage Lottery Funding Landscape Partnership bid to secure £2M for the area. The report includes: a Woodland Inventory providing a baseline for the woods and linear tree features in the study area; a Woodland Action Plan identifying areas for woodland creation, expansion and management; and a Framework for monitoring and evaluating progress over the next 5 years. Thirteen core priority areas have been identified, including 44 potential sites which overall could result in 650 ha of new woodland, 850 ha of expansion woodland around existing woods and 2150 ha of woodland management. Whilst the HLF Stage Two bid is progressed, a consultant has been engaged to identify landowners willing to have work carried out on their land.

CSGN 029 West Lothian Council received **£15,000** to support a **Field Research Trial and Assessment of the potential of selected West Lothian Council owned existing and former brownfield sites to produce biomass feedstock** incorporating the use of Compost Like Output (CLO) or anaerobic digestate. Project outputs have included FC Technical Development setting up a two year trial to plant Silver Birch into a range of substitute soils, and ten site visits to unrestored or potentially restored former mining and oil shale sites to assess the potential of these sites to take CLO and produce biomass. The trial will be supported for two years with the findings also being reported to Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). The site investigations will help the Council consider whether or not to move to woody biomass as a future source of fuel.

CSGN 030 Forth Environment Link received **£21,000** to support the establishment of a **Forth Valley Orchard Group**, events with local communities, schools and volunteers to develop and manage orchards in the Forth Valley area, and a seed corn fund to help groups across the CSGN area purchase and plant fruit trees. The scheme has been heavily promoted in local media and online. £10,000 of the grant has been disbursed to 36 groups resulting in the planting of 8 ha of new orchards and 408 trees. A fruit crusher, 20L press and long-handled pruners have been purchased for loan to local groups. Engagement with existing orchard owners has resulted in the offer of a mature orchard for future training events. Next steps for the group will include building contacts with more orchard owners and winning funding to support improved data collection and management.

CSGN 031 The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens received **£13,050** to undertake a **Community Land Advisory Service Feasibility Study** to explore the setting up and development of a costed business plan for a Community Land Bank in Scotland to support community groups and land owners to identify land suitable for community growing projects. Over 20 stakeholder meetings,

presentations and events led to the development of a proposal to work with Development Trusts Association Scotland on a shared idea of a Community Land Advisory Service and a report was prepared recommending the remit and structure for the first phase of the service. This was submitted to the Scottish Government and funding has been secured for one year for a pilot phase. Additional funding is being sought to ensure the service can be maintained after the first year.

CSGN 034 Central Scotland Forest Trust received **£9,000** to develop an **Easter Inch Moss and Seafield Law Local Nature Reserve Integrated Management Plan**. The Management Plan sets out proposals for the next 5 years in respect of water management and habitat creation and management. It will be used by Seafield Law Management Group, West Lothian Council and CSFT to identify projects that can be carried out by volunteers and as a basis for funding applications.

CSGN 038 Edinburgh Cyrenians received **£39,743** to investigate **Creating Health Promoting Greenspaces on the NHS Lothian Estate** building on pilot work by Edinburgh Cyrenians at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. Project outputs have included a report on the pilot project, running two study tours, development of a website, identification of and development of proposals for gardens at 7 other hospital sites, preparation of a 3 year business case to develop a social enterprise at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital and increase accessibility of the garden to other users, enhancing the woodland elements of, and delivering training at the pilot site. Of the new sites identified, it is likely that a community garden at Midlothian Community Hospital will be developed first following approval of a business plan which has been requested by the steering group.

CSGN 039 Cassiltoun Trust received **£6,030** to draw up a **Castlemilk Park Woodland Management Plan** drawing on the results of an earlier feasibility study and community consultation into Park improvements. Following further consultation and survey of the recourse, the Woodland Management Plan captures what is already being delivered in the woodland and sets out actions for the project's new Community Woodland Officer, who came into post on 1 May 2011, and partners to further utilise the site. The actions identified seek to encourage greater use of the woodland and to support volunteer activities. The Trust is now seeking additional funding to support implementation of the Plan.

CSGN 040 The Central Scotland Green Network Support Unit received **£24,647** to undertake **CSGN Baseline Survey Work** on hospital and health facility grounds, community growing spaces, and school and educational grounds across the CSGN area to support the 2010 CSGN Baseline Report. As part of the proposal, the methodology included employing three graduates on a short-term basis to carry out the surveys thus providing work experience at a time when graduates are finding it hard to break into the jobs market. One of the graduates was able to leave early on for a position with the Scottish Government. The reports will be presented to CSGN's Board along with recommendations on next steps. For example, the surveys have demonstrated that spatial data is not commonly available across either the Health or Education sectors and further action will be required to address information gaps.

CSGN 041 The Central Scotland Green Network Support Unit received **£34,800** for **Integrated Habitat Network and Biodiversity Projects** to explore opportunities for the development of habitats around the implementation of the Clyde RBMP, develop (with SNH) best practice guides on implementation of Integrated Habitat Network modelling, and improve the co-ordination of Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) activity across the 19 CSGN Local Authorities. Outputs have included 4 river and habitat restoration proposals worked up and costed for project partners to take forward; web-based resources for planning, development and SRDP casework staff on the use and implementation of IHNs; 4 workshops to disseminate this guidance; and a workshop and surveys with LBAP staff leading to a report setting out recommendations to improve LBAP delivery in the CSGN.

CSGN 044 Ettrick and Dochart Management Committee received **£5,000** to develop proposals improving **Hallglen Access Links** on the edge of Falkirk. The study has identified the potential to create nearly 9 km of new or upgraded access links and 14 ha on new woodland. As a result of the study, the Community Group is now working with Callendar Estates, Falkirk Council and the Helix Trust to seek funding to deliver the proposals. The proposals will be presented to the local community at Hallglen's Annual gala day in July to seek further feedback.

CSGN 045 Crispin Hayes Associates received **£18,351** for digitally **Mapping the Orchards of Central Scotland** to inform the development of future proposals for new orchard planting and orchard maintenance. The project involved making contact with local people and networks to obtain information on orchard locations; accessing and making use of existing datasets to create a new dataset which was then put online; and the encouragement of users to the website to provide feedback on the map. The project has demonstrated that there is a low level of awareness of orchards particularly in local authorities; for example, few have specific policies to support orchards. It is anticipated that further work will be required to complete the dataset (Manifest of Orchards) and encourage greater public engagement. A host for the dataset is being explored.

CSGN 046 Stirling Council received **£75,000** to develop proposals for a **Stirling Green Arc** around Stirling city, and to develop the evidence base to support green/blue corridors for inclusion in the Council's Local Development Plan and Opens Space Strategy. 14 projects have been identified within the corridors in consultation with partners and design concepts developed for each site. Next steps include incorporation of the corridors within the Council's plans, paring an Action Plan to prioritise delivery of the sites, seeking funding and using the concepts to influence private sector delivery where appropriate.

CSGN 049 East Renfrewshire Council received **£17,500** to develop a **Barrhead Town Centre Green Network Master Plan** which would complement the town centre regeneration project which is already underway. Ideas were tested with the steering group and the community and the Master Plan will now be presented to the Barrhead Regeneration Board and then the Council's Cabinet, which will give the plan formal status as a council document. Whilst elements of tree work and path improvement have already begun, the majority of the scheme will be delivered incrementally through developer contributions as land adjacent to the Green Network comes forwards for development through the planning process.

CSGN 050 Scottish Orchards received **£9,000** to run a series of training and networking events for groups interested in developing orchards in the CSGN area, and to provide follow-up advice and support to groups with preparing detailed proposals. Gatherings and training sessions have taken place in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Falkirk and Fife and have attracted wide participation from organisations, community groups, schools, business and farmers.

CSGN 051 Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership received **£15,000** to develop an **Integrated Green Infrastructure (IGI) Communication Project** to target key decision-makers with accessible material explaining how to take forward implementation of the green network. Project outputs included hosting a seminar on Integrated Green Infrastructure at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, purchase of roller banners and an A4 double-sided information sheet and web content to support the event, and with Forest Research, GIS-based analysis of the 'green network for people' which has helped inform a Green Network Opportunities Map for the Glasgow Clyde Valley region. The IGI project continues with support from a dedicated IGI Officer. The Opportunities Mapping is being disseminated and will be applied by 4 Councils to assist with their Local Development Plan preparation.

CSGN 052 Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership received **£55,268** to draw up detailed action plans for delivery of green network enhancements at three key sites identified in the Clyde Waterfront Green Network Strategy (2010). The costed proposals and phasing plans will now be used to target internal partner budgets and development contributions and to support applications for external funding.

CSGN 053 Irvine Bay Urban Regeneration Company received **£20,000** to produce an **Irvine Bay Green Network Strategy** and action plan focusing particularly on the greening of derelict industrial sites and contaminated land to create and restore accessible greenspace and wildlife habitats. The strategy explores both permanent and temporary solutions for sites awaiting development and the action plan contains costed proposals for 5 key sites. The project partners are now investigating how to take projects forward including seeking external funding. Early action is anticipated at Riverside Business Park.

CSGN 054 Scottish Wildlife Trust received **£5,000** to develop proposals for the implementation of a **Cumbernauld Living Landscape Project**. Through a workshop and stakeholder meetings 21 projects have been identified by 12 organisations to contribute to the Living landscape programme. These projects have been developed as a portfolio which was used to support a major application for Landfill Tax funding to Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN) Biodiversity Action Fund. The result is awaited in the next few months.

CSGN 055 Oxbang Primary School received **£4,900** to develop proposals for an **Oxbang Primary School Grounds Regeneration Project** to provide places for natural play and growing, to encourage more learning outdoors and increase the accessibility and use of the grounds for local communities. A detailed design plan has been developed which meets these aims and addresses flood risk issues which were also identified. Further work will be required to deliver the project on the ground and the design plan will be a crucial document to secure further support. To drive forward the process, it is intended to establish a Friends of Oxbang group which would seek charitable status.

CSGN 056 West Dunbartonshire Council received **£18,000** to prepare a **Vale of Leven Industrial Estate Green Network Enhancement Study**. Study outputs include a masterplan prepared following two consultation events with businesses, workers, local residents and community groups, The master plan addresses key issues of recreation and amenity, biodiversity, flood management and site maintenance. Detailed proposals for three early action projects have been prepared and costed. The outputs from the study will now be fed into a masterplanning exercise getting underway for the entire Estate. Funding routes are also being explored to implement the early action projects including seeking external grants, utilising developer contributions and Business Improvement District funding.

CSGN 057 Edinburgh & Lothian Greenspace Trust received **£18,050** to prepare the **River Almond Corridor Integrated Management Plan** to consider access, woodland expansion and woodland management along the full length of the river corridor, from Cramond upstream to West Lothian. Investigation from Newbridge to the Union Canal focused on finding and negotiating a path route and addressing barriers and engineering issues. From Newbridge to Cramond the project explored habitat opportunities, access, and landowner co-operation. As a consequence of these investigations, the City of Edinburgh Council has now assigned staff time to allow the work to be progressed beyond the feasibility stage focussing on engagement, communications and raising project funding.

CSGN 058 Fife Coast and Countryside Trust received **£5,100** to support the **West Fife Woodland Project** which aimed to evaluate and audit woodland sites owned by Fife Council and develop proposals for action and future management. Six sites have been fully audited with a further 2 sites identified for assessment. The Trust will use the detailed work plans and costings to seek external funding. Some work may also be delivered by volunteer groups linked to the Trust. Lastly, the Trust will also examine the scope to supply biomass off-take from the sites to help cover costs.

CSGN 059 East Ayrshire Woodlands received **£7,868** to develop the **Darnconner Restoration and Management Plan** to prepare proposals for a 30ha surface mining site between Cumnock and Auckinleck which has lain vacant and derelict since mining operations ceased. Stakeholder engagement, an all day drop-in session for local people, technical discussions and site analysis have all helped to shape a proposal which will now be submitted for planning consent. The restoration plan retains the main water body, proposes new wetland, woodland and hedgerows and will deliver upgraded access for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Subject to planning consent, earthmoving could commence in the summer of 2011 to allow planting in the spring of 2012. In the meantime, fifteen unemployed 18-25 year olds were employed in March to gain vocational land-based skills and valuable work experience by implementing some of the habitat management work. In the longer-term, the site owner is seeking to formalise management of the site with East Ayrshire Woodlands enabling further habitat creation over the next three to five years and safeguarding the site.

CSGN 060 Pentland Hills Regional Park (PHRP), working in partnership with Edinburgh, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils, received **£12,744** to undertake a study identifying priority improvements to the connectivity of the path network in the Regional Park with the surrounding path network. This project has identified a range of path and signage improvements between the PHRP and surrounding settlements to encourage people to travel to the Park by foot, bike, or horse. Specification has been provided for four routes together with recommendations for funding mechanisms.

CSGN 062 Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit received **£17,000** to develop a methodology for identifying land throughout the whole of Ayrshire suitable for woodland creation, taking into account environmental sensitivities, to inform a revised forestry and woodland strategy for Ayrshire. A GIS-based modelling tool has been developed for classifying land according to its suitability for woodland expansion. The Study has reported and has been carried out in such a way as to facilitate the production of Strategic Environmental Assessment. It is proposed to reconvene the Ayrshire & Arran Woodland Partnership, as a sub-group of the Ayrshire Green Network Partnership, and to undertake a full review of the current woodland strategy commencing summer 2011.

CSGN 067 West Dunbartonshire Council received **£19,206** to undertake the Kilpatrick Hills Study to explore the potential of the hills to contribute to the CSGN and to identify a number of priority projects to be taken forward by the Council and its partners. The study recommends the establishment of a Kilpatrick Hills Working Group to take forward 6 actions around: developing a Communications Strategy to raise awareness; improvements to existing parking at major access points; linking three native woodlands to reduce fragmentation; hedgerow improvements; providing a link from Mugdock to Balloch (as part of the proposed John Muir Trail); and other access/information improvements to improve the quality of the experience for residents and visitors. The partners are now considering how to implement the proposals.

CSGN 068 East Lothian Council received **£4,000** as a contribution towards the creation of a **Countryside Volunteer Strategy**. Currently, East Lothian Council enjoys the support of 825 volunteer days annually. The Council staff are unable to work with any more volunteers, yet they know that there is significantly higher potential. The feasibility study reviews the current situation; looks at good practice in other countryside areas and makes recommendations for the short to medium term to assist conservation volunteering within East Lothian. Following on from the study, the Council is now looking to establish a Path Warden project and start-up funding for clothing and equipment for the volunteers. A post to co-ordinate volunteer activities is also being explored using a mix of internal and external funding.

CSGN 069 Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit received **£23,000** to undertake a study into green network enhancement opportunities across Ayrshire and to prepare proposals for action that will inform the prioritisation of future work programmes by the Councils and their partners. The outputs from the study are a report setting out a methodology/GIS mapping tool for identifying green network features, their potential functional benefits and actual performance. The approach, which benefits from several years of development work in the North of England, has highlighted priorities for action both thematically and spatially. In addition, the report has looked at various organisational arrangements to help inform discussions in Ayrshire on possible organisational structures. The intention is to now form a green network partnership within Ayrshire.

CSGN 070 Active Stirling received **£20,000** to undertake site investigations and prepare a **Forthbank Loop Masterplan and Business Plan** to provide enhanced opportunities for recreation and health improvement to local residents. The plan proposes developing Forthbank Loop as a new community and recreational asset with improved links to neighbourhoods, 5 km of new paths set in 12 ha of new woodland and other habitats. The business case presents a financial appraisal and management model to ensure the project is viable, deliverable and sustainable. The Raploch URC Environment Task Force will help develop and manage the site providing employment, skills development and work experience for local disadvantaged individuals. The project partners are now finalising a three phase programme and seeking funding to deliver the path and woodland works as phase 1. This will be followed by more formal sporting provision and then the restoration of an historic steading, the Borrowmeadow, as a visitor/educational resource.

CSGN 071 Buglife received **£16,311** to undertake the first phase of a project **'All of a Buzz'** to identify and evaluate the existing and potential ecological resource of existing brownfield sites in Central Scotland for their potential to qualify as the UK Biodiversity Action Plan 'Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land', prior to planning for the protection, management, and enhancement of urban invertebrate populations. Overall 1,248 sites were assessed, of which 324 have been identified for ground-truthing to examine if they may qualify as priority sites. Buglife is now seeking funding to take forward the ground-truthing phase and discussions have begun with Falkirk, South Lanarkshire and Stirling Councils regarding the protection and management of brownfield sites

in their areas. Future phases of the study will develop advice on surveying sites for invertebrate interest and developing appropriate habitats, including green and brown roofs.

CSGN 073 Sustrans received **£13,500** to prepare costed proposals for the future development and management of **Parkhouse Cutting Community Greenspace Project** in Adrossan in North Ayrshire as a valued community greenspace. The 2.5 ha site had been developed by partners as a local nature reserve but had fallen into disrepair. Over 40 local residents participated in a workshop and gave their views on priorities and aspirations for the site and commented on draft proposals. Subsequent to this, a fully costed proposal and report have been prepared. Discussions are now under way regarding ownership and management of the site and opportunities for volunteer action. If funding can be sourced, Sustrans would like to implement improvements in 2012/13.

CSGN 074 Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust received **£26,548** to undertake the **Edinburgh Greening Project** to test the feasibility of temporarily or permanently greening vacant and derelict and/or brownfield sites within the City of Edinburgh and preparing site specific proposals for pilot sites. The study has identified a number of opportunities with ideas for 8 target sites developed to allow further discussions with landowners and stakeholders. E&LGT is now in discussion with Council staff, the Port of Leith Housing Association and Edinburgh Zoo to progress ideas and with greenspace scotland in respect of strategic action. Funding from a number of sources will be needed to take the project ideas forward.

CSGN 076 West Lothian Council received **£17,875** to explore **Blue Network Enhance Projects** focused around Linlithgow Loch and the River Almond. A study has identified a series of projects to address flooding and remediate the quality of the water within Linlithgow Loch, address aspects of biodiversity and landscape quality, and improve community awareness of the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). In partnership with the Forth Fisheries Trust an integrated plan has been prepared for the control/eradication of invasive non-native plant species (Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed) within the riparian corridors of the River Almond. The Council will be working with the Linlithgow Local Catchment Management Partnership and the Forth Fisheries Trust to ensure the reports are factored into existing plans and programmes. Funding is also being investigated to allow both schemes to be implemented.

CSGN 077 Fife Council received **£9,339** to develop a **Pittencrieff Park Woodland Survey and Management Plan** for this important park in Dunfermline. Work has included a condition survey of all of the parkland trees, and a tree and woodland management plan to safeguard the future health of individual trees and woodland blocks. The information is being used to apply for Woodland In and Around Towns funding.

CSGN078 Central Scotland Forest Trust received **£4,335** to develop **Winchburgh Heritage Park Woodland and Greenspace Proposals** to identify opportunities and constraints for tree planting and woodland management, greenspace and green infrastructure and access links in a discrete area between Broxburn and Winchburgh which is likely to be subject to significant development within coming years. The project report highlights proposals which seek to secure the landscape setting of the settlements and create a recreational resource for local communities. Proposals include access works, woodland creation and management, and hedgerow. The opportunities identified will be developed for discussion with land owners and managers. The Council will also seek to ensure that the proposals are incorporated into the masterplans for the Core Development Areas.

CSGN 080 The David Livingstone Trust received **£10,746** to prepare a **David Livingstone Centre Landscape Masterplan** for the grounds of the centre at Blantyre in South Lanarkshire. The masterplan will be used to encourage active use of the grounds and the museum, bring in a new generation of visitors, and guide the future development and management of the grounds, including enhanced links to local communities and adjacent SSSI woodlands along the Clyde Valley. The Trust is now actively fundraising to enable detailed proposals to be developed with a view to bidding for Heritage Lottery Funding Parks for People programme.

CSGN 081 Inverclyde Council received **£22,743** to prepare a **Coves Local Nature Reserve Management Plan** for this site which lies between Greenock and Gourrock to guide the future development and management of the reserve. The Management Plan (and a Case Study for community involvement) provide baseline information on biodiversity and habitats; existing community

use, perceptions and aspirations; sets out a vision for the future and proposes achievable actions to enhance the use, management and maintenance of the Reserve, and considers local partners and funding sources. A Green Gym programme is now underway so biodiversity activities are more likely to progress. A number of maintenance models are now being considered.

CSGN 084 The Wildlife Information Centre, the Lothian and Borders based organisation specialising in the management of biological records, received **£37,341** to undertake an **Edinburgh and Lothians Local Biodiversity Sites Survey Project** to survey 145 sites across the region. Two surveyors were employed to record the site boundaries and habitats of the chosen sites. The Centre made contact with all owners in advance, with the majority of owners readily agreeing to allow the surveys to go ahead. The information gathered will be made available to the relevant Local Biodiversity Site Groups. The Species records will also be made available to partners immediately and to all through the National Biodiversity Network Gateway during 2011/12. A GIS layer of Phase 1 surveys has also been generated and will be used to create an updated Phase 1 dataset for the region. Additional survey work is required to capture summer data and is likely to be the subject of further funding bids and also a focus for volunteer action.

CSGN 085 British Waterways Scotland received **£16,000** to carry out a **Health Impact Survey of Scotland's Lowland Canals** to improve understanding of the health benefits generated through the canal network. This is particularly important in the central Scotland area where the canal winds its way through a number of areas with high levels of social deprivation. Based on assessment techniques being developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO), surveyors have collected data from 800 interviews/webs surveys and observational surveys on the canals. Analysis has included assessing road safety issues and time spent cycling in fresh air rather than on-road. The assessment also captures use of the canal by third sector groups promoting healthy activities. The evidence base will be updated as the WHO Tool is finalised and to capture summer visits along the canals. The approach is one that is applicable to all types of greenspace. BWS intends to use the research to develop a baseline of the contribution of canals to national health and to argue for ongoing investment in the canals to secure active travel and recreational opportunities throughout Central Scotland.

CSGN 087 Glasgow City Council received **£90,000** for a **Glasgow Community Growing Project** to develop 151 new growing opportunities for some of the 756 people currently on the waiting list for a plot. 7 new sites were developed during the Spring of 2011 providing plots at Bellahouston Educational Walled Garden, Mansewood Allotment, Royston Growing Spaces, Temple Growing Spaces, Tolcross Park Allotments and Kingsway Growing Spaces. The sites are supported by dedicated Allotment Officer.

CSGN 091 The City of Edinburgh Council received on behalf of the West Edinburgh Development Partnership, **£39,960** to prepare the **West Edinburgh Landscape Planning Framework and Management Plan**, which will guide future development and management of the area by the City Council, BAA Edinburgh, the Royal Highland Centre and other private landowners. Project outputs include a Landscape Framework, Landscape and Habitat Management Plan and Phasing Schedule designed to deliver multifunctional green spaces. It is anticipated that the Framework and Management Plan will now be adopted as planning guidance ensuring consistent implementation of the concept over the next 20 - 30 years.

CSGN 093 enviroscience received **£12,800** for a **Pilot Study to Maximise the Role of Trees in Flood Control**. The study has a number of aims including seeking to at least double effective infiltration rates of sustainable drainage schemes and with lower installation costs than current approaches. Trials have been set up at 5 pilot sites where there will be immediate attenuations benefits from the action and providing different climatic and soil conditions to test the methodology. Sites will be monitored for the next 12 months and the results analysed and published on completion. Further trials have been identified and funding will also be sought to enable these to begin.

CSGN 094 Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust received **£4,875** for the **Swanston Farm Woodland Project** which aims to address a prominent landscape feature of the Pentland Hills Regional Park, as a potential quick win project as part of the ongoing Pentland Hills Woodland Strategy (CSGN 08). Project outputs have included review and analysis of available survey data, consultation with landowner and stakeholders and the development of a Woodland Action Plan.

Discussions will continue with the landowner with a view to implementing the scheme once funding has been secured.

CSGN 095 Fife Council received **£26,500** to prepare the **Leven Valley Green Network Masterplan** as part of a broader regeneration proposal for the area being developed by the Council, major landowning interests, local colleges, businesses and trusts. Extensive consultation has been required and the Masterplan has been well-received. The Masterplan seeks to continue the Leven Valley parkland to the seafront developing new wetlands, woodlands and meadows and improving access. Former industrial areas will require to be cleared and there are plans to generate energy from the waste mine water and sewage for use in new enterprises on and around the park. The proposals are now being publicised locally to win support and plans are in progress to develop a phasing plan and a funding plan to support some early wins on the ground.

CSGN 098 Fife Council received **£13,654** to establish the Fife Core Path Improvement Project to survey and make proposals for improvements of the core paths and adjacent green corridors. 782 km of path have been surveyed in west and central Fife, capturing not only the condition of the paths and built features (seats, signage etc.) but also the condition of habitats adjacent to these paths. Following training from the Fieldfare Trust, accessibility information has also been captured and included in the Trust's own "Phototrails" project. Costed specifications for path improvements have been developed for 15 core paths and will be taken forward using Capital spend and externally won funding.

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