
Report to Enterprise and Environment Committee

Date of Meeting: 6 November 2014

Subject: Environmental Projects and Partnership Working Update

Report by: Head of Development and Environment

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. This report is a follow up to the report on 'Environmental Projects and Partnership Working Update' considered by this Committee at its meeting on 5th June 2014. The report updates the Committee on further progress with approved environmental projects, initiatives and partnership working, covering in detail the Ochils Landscape Partnership, and projects supported by the Community Environmental Improvement Fund.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Committee note the progress being made on environmental projects, initiatives and partnership working.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. Work to progress environmental projects and initiatives in Clackmannanshire includes the delivery of statutory duties, with some discretionary elements which support other Council duties and commitments. Projects are delivered both directly and in partnership with other organisations. The Council also progresses a number of mechanisms to support environmental projects, including the Local Development Plan, Biodiversity Action Plan, and the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

3.2. Development Planning

Development planning is a statutory function of the Council, and supports and promotes environmental projects in the area.

3.2.1. Local Development Plan

Following consideration at the Council Meeting of 26th June 2014, representations received during consultation on the Proposed Local Development Plan were submitted to the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals on 25th August 2014. There were 454 representations from 96 parties and these were grouped into 59 Topic Areas for the purposes

of the Examination. It is expected that the Council will receive the Reporter's Report in Spring 2015, although it may be completed before this.

The Proposed Local Development Plan was produced in consultation with Scottish Natural Heritage, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Historic Scotland, among other stakeholders. It includes significant policies on the water environment, green networks, flooding and biodiversity; it also contains supplementary guidance on energy efficiency and low carbon development; onshore wind; water; and green infrastructure. These will contribute significantly to the protection and enhancement of the environment in Clackmannanshire, while supporting sustainable development.

3.2.2. Open Space Strategy

The Draft Open Space Strategy was consulted on at the same time as the Proposed Local Development Plan. During consultation on the Open Space Strategy, representations were received from sportscotland and Scottish Natural Heritage and 5 minor text changes were agreed at the Council Meeting of 26th June 2014. These changes are being incorporated into the text and the approved Strategy will be published in Autumn 2014.

3.2.3. Built Heritage

Muckhart Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA) was adopted at the Council meeting on 26th June. A draft Dollar CAA has been completed by the Scottish Civic Trust and this will be subject to public consultation: the feedback from the consultation exercise will be considered prior to the finalised document being presented to Council. A draft CAA for Clackmannan is currently being developed, and should be completed in October; it will then be presented to Council for approval prior to public consultation.

Clackmannanshire Council is involved in the Forth Valley Traditional Building Forum which includes local authorities, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, Historic Scotland, Forth Valley College and the building industry. The Forum's objective is to support the use of traditional building techniques to retain and enhance the rich built heritage resource in the Forth valley.

Preliminary discussions are underway between the Council and Historic Scotland regarding conservation works in the Old Alloa Kirkyard.

3.3. Community Environmental Improvement Fund

As reported to Committee in June, seventeen projects were awarded funding under the 2013-14 Community Environmental Improvement Fund (CEIF) for completion by end of 2014. Some of these projects are complete and the remainder are progressing, as shown in Appendix 1.

The vast majority of CEIF projects have had significant support from Council staff on project planning and management, and often on procurement and delivery. This Council support has been vital to the success of the projects and the programme as a whole. Over time, as community groups develop project planning and management skills, this need for support by staff may diminish, but at this stage it is essential to ensure value for money and community benefit.

At its Special Meeting in February 2014, the Council agreed to establish a Community Development Fund rather than make a third allocation of funds for CEIF. Staff running the CEIF have provided Development Fund staff with examples of application forms, advice notes and terms and conditions; and offered advice on lessons learned. The community development fund as reported to the Resource and Audit committee in June 2014 established a capital grant fund for community improvements that aims to incentivise communities to work with the Council to improve the physical environment and community facilities. Three organisations have successfully met the grant criteria and awarded funding, Cambus and District Bowling Club, Alva Bowling Club and Hawkhill Community Group.

3.4. Partnership Activities

Clackmannanshire Council works with a number of partners on a range of environmental projects and issues. In some cases - such as working with SEPA to manage flood risk - it is because of a legal requirement to work in partnership. In other cases - such as the Central Scotland Green Network and the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative - it is to make the most of the skills and expertise offered by other organisations, as well as the opportunities for additional investment and funding support that they bring. In all cases the benefits to Clackmannanshire go beyond protecting and enhancing the natural environment: they include job creation, skills development, educational opportunities, developing social capital and improving local amenity.

3.4.1. *Inner Forth Landscape Initiative*

The Council is an active partner in the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative (IFLI) to deliver a programme of projects aimed at the conservation and enhancement of the landscape and heritage of the Inner Forth area. The Council approved a contribution of £20,000 per annum for 4 years to the initiative, and it is anticipated that Clackmannanshire will benefit from projects worth around £970,000.

The formal start was 1 May 2014. Year 1 projects in the county include improving woodland management along the River Black Devon and River Devon, wetland management at Cambus Pools, and wetland management and visitor improvements at the Black Devon Wetland where negotiations for a lease with Initiative partners are nearing completion. These projects will continue into years 2 to 4 of the programme with a range of path improvement projects also starting from year 2. These include path improvement works in the Black Devon and Cambus areas (year 2), Clackmannan and Alloa Park area (year 3) and Cambus and Alloa (year 4).

In addition to site-based work there are projects across the entire Inner Forth area. The Council has led in securing Coastal Communities funding for a range of projects to support skills development and employability in the area, detailed in 3.4.4, which contribute significant added value to the Initiative. These also support a range of key objectives in the Clackmannanshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan and support the Council in meeting its statutory Biodiversity Duty under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. Staff and Members attended a reception at the Scottish Parliament in late August, showcasing the contribution that the Council is making to the Initiative.

3.4.2. Ochils Landscape Partnership

The Ochils Landscape Partnership (OLP) is coming to the end of a successful 3-year, £2m Landscape Partnership Scheme delivery programme which includes 22 projects across 3 programmes- "Your Wee Bit Hill and Glen", "By the Banks of the Devon" and "The Hills of Time". These projects range from path improvements, new footbridges, interpretation boards, control of invasive non-native species, Online Virtual Landscape, Mobile App, Geo-cache trails, The Ochils Festival, Historic Kirkyards Trail, Hillfoots Diamond Jubilee Way and The Devon Trail. Central to the scheme's success has been the level of volunteer input. In June 2014 an additional 208 volunteers registered, taking the total number to over 560. The 3rd annual Ochils Festival in June 2014 saw in excess of 2000 attendees over 47 events, continuing the trend of increased participation year on year. Appendix 2 gives details of progress on all the Ochils Landscape Partnership projects.

Awareness of the work of the OLP has risen continually since 2001, with typically between a third and a half of respondents aware of specific activities of the partnership. This peaks at 56% for conservation of the natural environment. The survey indicated significant interest in seeing an improved visitor information centre (67%) and improved communications; and 97% of respondents in the 2014 *Clacks 1000* survey said that the Ochil Hills were important to them, with 70% describing them as "very important".

The OLP has begun the process to form a legacy organisation in the form of a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and is developing a business plan to maintain the current projects for at least the next 10 years and to potentially cover the whole of the county beyond the Hillfoots. The plan is to underpin future activities with a number of social enterprises, including proposals for a visitor centre, community growing and orchards. A further report will be brought to Committee detailing progress.

The Ochil's Landscape Partnership won the Fintry Development Trust's 2014 Award for Inspirational "All Round Good Egg" and a Certificate of Merit from the recent 2014 Clacks Business Awards.

3.4.3. Central Scotland Green Network

The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) is a national development which aims to transform Central Scotland into a place 'where the environment adds value to the economy and where people's lives are enriched by its quality'. This year the organisation of the project has changed, with the setting up of the Central Scotland Green Network Trust, a charity which exists to support public bodies as well as environmental and community groups in the development of the network.

The importance that Clackmannanshire's residents place on the area's natural environment can be seen in the 2014 *Clacks 1000* survey results, which show that 91% of respondents agreed that it is a good place to live; 94% agreed that it has good access to nature and open space; and 89% agreed that it has good walking networks. 95% of respondents would recommend the Ochil Hills to tourists; 89% would recommend Gartmorn Dam; and 79% would recommend the area's cycle networks.

Clackmannanshire Council's commitment to the CSGN is reflected in the draft Local Development Plan, its signing of the CSGN Concordat, and support for active travel and environmental improvement projects. Clackmannanshire Council and external partners are considering how the feasibility study for the Heritage and Climate Change Park for the area between Kilncraigs and the Forth, funded by CSGN Development Fund, can be implemented.

3.4.4. *Clackmannanshire Forth Coastal Project*

The Forth Coastal Project has passed the half way mark with the conclusion of year one in June 2014. The first year of the project saw four trainees successfully appointed to two different host organisations. In these roles they have delivered a programme of community engagement activities, supported partnership working in the local area and used a training budget to gain skills, experience and qualifications relevant to a future career in related environmental sector employment. A project coordinator has also been employed to manage day-to-day operations relating to the trainees and the main funders.

Results from year one have been positive with the project already attaining several outcomes agreed with funders: These include the successful completion by ABPmer of an options appraisal for a potential managed realignment at Inch of Ferryton; meeting the target for engagement with hard-to-reach audiences within the IFLI community boundary; and work with local schools.

Year two officially began on the 16th June 2014. A further nine trainees have been employed by the project through its funding partnership with the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative. These individuals are hosted across a total of 6 different organisations. Year 2 trainees will continue the work started in year one, receiving industry sector training and experience while carrying out a range of community engagement activities.

The project steering group is currently in discussion with its funders to employ additional local people during year two of the project.

3.4.5. *Forestry and Woodlands*

The Stirling and Clackmannanshire Forestry and Woodlands Strategy has now been approved by both Councils. The strategy was developed with the support of Forestry Commission Scotland and the Central Scotland Green Network Trust, and aligns the Councils' approach to Forestry Commission consultations (on woodland creation and felling proposals) to the environmental, social and economic drivers in the Scottish Forestry Strategy, Scottish Planning Policy and Central Scotland Green Network.

Clackmannanshire Council is supporting the Central Scotland Green Network Trust on the IFLI-funded Coastal Clackmannanshire Woodland Network Project, which aims to enhance the riparian habitat of the lower reaches of the Devon and Black Devon rivers. Survey work will inform a management plan for the woodland, with volunteering and community engagement as key objectives of the project.

3.4.6. Biodiversity

Members of the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership have been focussing on three key strands of activity in support of the overall Clackmannanshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan: tackling invasive species, community engagement, and reviewing local nature conservation sites.

Staff are currently in the early stages of exploring options to build on initial steps taken with the Forth Fisheries Trust's Invasive Non Native Species project team to develop a more co-ordinated approach to tackling invasive species, including the potential for taking elements of this forward under the Forth Coastal Project. Staff have also engaged with the Community Health and Wellbeing Partnership in order to make links between the health and wellbeing agenda and the impacts of invasive species on wellbeing. Reactive work also continues, such as when members of the public report sightings of invasive species to staff.

The Countryside Ranger Service's community engagement work is ongoing and detailed elsewhere in this report. The two Trainee Rangers funded through the Forth Coastal Project have completed their employment. A significant element of community engagement is taking place under the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative, where a wildlife recording assistant and a communications assistant have been recruited.

The review of local nature sites is also under way supporting the Council in meeting its statutory Biodiversity Duty, as well as supporting policies within the Local Development Plan.

3.4.7. Outdoor Access and Cycling

Clackmannanshire Council's work to uphold outdoor access rights and protect and maintain paths is complemented by the work of the Local Access Forum, which advises the Council on matters relating to the exercise of access rights and on the use of core paths. The Access Forum met in July when, amongst other things, it provided the Council with advice on diverting a core path to the west of Dollar.

Work is ongoing to signpost the core path network and remove obstructions and obstacles from the network which prevent use by some legitimate user groups. Access-friendly gates have recently been installed on a core path to the east of Tillicoultry; encroaching vegetation has been controlled by Community Payback personnel, who also installed waymarkers near Dollar. Barriers which prevented wheelchair access have also been removed from paths west of Alloa, with ongoing liaison taking place with the Disability Awareness Group.

Landscape management apprenticeship projects have been developed in partnership with The Conservation Volunteers which will make core path 6 at Hawkhill Wood and core path 26 at Marshalling Yard Wood more inviting and easier for access takers to use. Both of these projects are due to be delivered in November 2014.

The path network continues to be used for a wide range of organised events, including a duathlon series at Gartmorn Dam, sponsored cycle rides on the National Cycle Network, and equestrian events using the core paths. The Council liaises with event organisers to provide advice on the suitability of the

routes they intend to use and to ensure that conflict with other users is minimised.

The Council continues to fulfil its duty to publicise the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and, to this end, has posted a range of signs covering such things as closing gates where there are fields containing livestock and encouraging horse riders not to let their horses foul on paths.

The Council also continues to work closely with contractors who are working on, or close to, paths: this includes ensuring that advisory signage is posted to inform access takers on the scope and duration of any works, and making checks that the path is re-instated to its original condition. Negotiations took place to ensure that access takers could use paths outwith working hours, that they had an alternative to use while works were taking place, and that path surfaces were improved afterwards.

3.4.8. *Events*

The Ranger service has developed an events programme for 2014, which is currently being delivered by the rangers with some support from the Ochils Landscape Partnership and Inner Forth Landscape Initiative.

The Rangers based the programme on a select number of events that are known to work well: family events, children's holiday events and a few specific walks form the basis of the programme. The two summer children's weeks were very popular and both were fully booked. These events allow children to have a full 4 days out in the woods, learning about nature, developing practical skills and having lots of fun. The "Woodland magic" event" at Muckhart, attracted just short of 30 participants, despite poor weather. This event was aimed at pre-schoolers, which seems to be a market worth exploring.

As well as organising the actual paper programme, the Rangers have been much more proactive with advertising the events, contacting local schools and groups as well as producing and displaying posters and flyers. As a result the numbers have been good this year: both the four-day children's events were fully booked and the Woodland Magic event had 27 participants.

The 2014 volunteer programme is also underway. Most tasks average around 10 participants, many of whom have links with the Scottish Autism Centre. This autumn will see the group carrying out woodland and wetland work, and some core path maintenance.

3.4.9. *Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust*

Clackmannanshire Council supports the Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust by providing guidance and advice in relation to the development of projects. The Trust has continued its focus on Sauchie Tower, Tullibody Old Church and Alloa Tower. In addition, the Trust has supported the Ochils Landscape Partnership project to restore the Alva House Ice House, and is involved in the Heritage and Climate Change Park project.

3.5 Community Development Fund

The community development fund as reported to the Resource and Audit committee in June 2014 established a capital grant fund for community improvements that aims to incentivise communities to work with the Council to improve the physical environment and community facilities. Three organisations have successfully met the grant criteria and awarded funding, Cambus and District Bowling Club to carry out structure repair to facilities, Alva Bowling Club to provide disabled access and artificial bankings and Hawkhill Community Association to improve lighting.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. This report demonstrates how Clackmannanshire Council acts sustainably; there are no direct sustainability implications arising from the recommendations of the report.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. Financial Details

- 5.2. There are no new financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Yes ☒

- 5.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes ☒

5.4. Staffing

- 5.5. There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

6.0 Exempt Reports

- 6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes ☐ (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No ☒

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

- (1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box ☒)

The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Our communities are safer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vulnerable people and families are supported	<input type="checkbox"/>
Substance misuse and its effects are reduced	<input type="checkbox"/>

Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The environment is protected and enhanced for all	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?
 Yes ☐ No ☒

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ☒

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

*Appendix 1 - Progress of Projects Supported by the Community
 Environmental Improvement Fund*

Appendix 2 - Ochils Landscape Summary

11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)
 Yes ☐ (please list the documents below) No ☒

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APPENDIX 1: PROGRESS OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Organisation	Project	Progress
Alloa Town Centre Business Improvement District	Removal of chewing gum from town centre paths. Additional floral displays in Alloa town centre.	Mostly complete as at August 2014, apart from the floral welcome sign
Rotary Club of Alloa	Landscape improvement to open space adjacent to the roundabout.	Stone delivered, landscaping due to start in October/November.
Banchory Primary School:	Natural play project within school grounds.	Sandpit, stepping stones and willow sculpture in place. Completion in November/December.
Clackmannan Community Council	Floral displays in Clackmannan.	Ongoing
Clacksfirst	Provision of additional litter/recycling bins, and landscape improvements to the entrances of the BID areas.	Recycling bins in place, landscape aspect of the project under way. Alva, Alloa West and Broad Street sites are prepared with Kelliebank and raised bed at O-I to follow.
Coalsnaughton Primary School	School grounds improvements.	In progress.
St Mungo's Primary	School grounds improvements.	Sandpit in place, stepping stones and boardwalk being installed w/c 18th August, landscaping due in December.
Delph Pond Forum	Landscape Improvements at Tron Court and access improvements at Delphwood.	Work around Tron Court complete. Seeking SWT/TCV guidance on trees, pathwork due to start in October.
Menstrie Community Council	Community garden project.	Complete. Successful harvest of vegetables, mostly distributed within local community, and winter crops planted. Open day held 28 September.
Tullibody Healthy Living Initiative .	Community garden.	Planning permission secured and now working on building warrant, fencing work complete
Menstrie Primary School Parent Council	Installation of a running / access path, and a multi-use games area.	Seeking lottery funding for sports facilities. Pathwork earmarked for October school break.
Muckhart Golf Club	Repair to the Back Burn Bridge.	Complete.

Organisation	Project	Progress
Ochils Landscape Partnership	Two sets of footpath improvements, in Alva Glen and Ochils Woodland Park.	Alva Glen: Path repairs, improvements and associated works (installation of benches and signage) has been awarded and will start shortly. The framework contract for the supply of 2 interpretation boards has been awarded, and one has been installed. Woodland Park: The stepped pathway providing access to the Ice House is now complete. Tree removal / pruning, path clearance and rhododendron removal is about to commence on site. Other path improvements will be agreed once this work is complete.
Sauchie Community Group	Fencing at Sauchie Resource Centre, and floral displays.	Fencing ordered and work programmed with Grounds Maintenance.
Sauchie Nursery School	Improving access to the Beechgrove garden area and natural play project within the garden.	Complete.
St Serf's Primary	Construction of a playground amphitheatre and growing garden.	Amphitheatre installed, surface for seating area still due. Growing area design in place and work programmed with Grounds Maintenance for next school holidays.

APPENDIX 2: OCHILS LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP - SUMMARY

The Project

The Ochils Landscape Partnership (OLP) is made up of 22 separate projects to be delivered over three years. These focus on the four key themes of the lead funder the Heritage Lottery Fund:

1. Conservation and/or restore the built and natural features that create the historic landscape character
2. Increase community participation in local heritage
3. Increase access to and learning about the landscape area and its heritage
4. Increase training opportunities in local heritage skills.

The projects aim to protect and enhance the built, cultural and natural heritage of the Ochil Hills and nearby Hillfoots villages. It provides opportunities for both local people and visitors to learn about this rich heritage and participate in its protection and development, at events, through interpretation, both actual and virtual, and through volunteering.

The Projects

The OLP will deliver a wide range of projects including path development and access improvements, riverbank stabilisation, control of invasive non-native species, restoration and research into historic structures such as kirkyards and the Alva Ice House, and interpretation, including the use of innovative social media technologies. A number of events, including the month-long Ochils Festival each June, will be run as part of the project. Below is a brief description of each project, which are organised under three headings: Your Wee Bit Hill and Glen; By The Banks of the Devon; and The Hills of Time.

Project Code	Project title	Project description	Status
Programme A: Your Wee Bit Hill and Glen			
A1	The Hillfoots Way	<p>Establishing a walking route that follows much of the old King's Highway from Logie Old Kirk in the west to Muckhart in the east along the foot of the Ochils. This project links into many of the other OLP projects.</p> <p>This involves: access improvements, path works and self-closing gates; provision of interpretation (actual and virtual) on the route; installation of signage; promotion of the route including route maps.</p>	Almost completed

Project Code	Project title	Project description	Status
A2	Bonnie Blairlogie	Improvements to the car park and access from it to Blairlogie; enhancement of biodiversity including planting, and eradication of non native invasive species.	Completed
A3	Dumyat Paths	Improvements to the paths leading to Dumyat summit from Cocksburn reservoir and Sheriffmuir Road including self-closing gates.	Almost completed
A4	Menstrie Glen	This will improve access through path improvements; the opening of view points by clearing non native species; constructing a viewing platform; repairing walls and a bridge; and providing interpretation panels and a leaflet promoting the area's historical and natural heritage.	Almost completed
A5	Alva Glen	<p>Conservation work to restore areas of high biodiversity value, providing additional habitat, planting native species, improving access, and promoting the Glen.</p> <p>Research and survey the lade. Installation of lighting in the lower glen as part of the annual 'Alva Glen Illuminations' event.</p> <p>Access improvements; creation of a 'sensory' garden for children and visually impaired users; provision of artworks around the lower Glen; Interpretation panels and a leaflet.</p>	On site
A6	Ochils Woodland Park	To encourage the exploration of the Ochils Woodland Park and enhancement of key natural features: improved access at the car park; a boardwalk within the lower park; other pathwork improvements; improve biodiversity of the woodland by clearance and planting.	On site
A7	Tillicoultry Glen	To encourage the exploration of the Tillicoultry's industrial and natural heritage by visitors and residents. Access improvements including steps, gates, bridges, railings, path repairs; restoration of the fountain in the upper glen; and scrub clearance.	Almost completed

Project Code	Project title	Project description	Status
A8	Dollar Glen	To carry out an archaeological survey and dig on the settlement site above Castle Campbell making findings available by website and signage and involving local people and groups. Bracken removal will be required prior to any works on site.	Almost completed
A9	Restoration of Mill Green	Return the Mill Green to its pre-1980 state by: clearing brambles, broom, gorse; some tree pruning and clearance; interpretation; access improvements.	Completed
A10	Dollar Burn Education and Interpretation	Design and installation of interpretation on the wildlife of Dollar Burn. The construction and installation of dipping platform and associated educational materials for use by the local primary schools.	Completed
A11	Dollar Burn Water Race Course Restoration	Restoration/conservation of the historic stepped water race on Dollar Burn including a fish pass and interpretation.	Under review. Estimated completion in Spring 2015
A12	Muckhart Nature Park	Enhance the habitats within the Nature Park through planting of native species of trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Creation of a wetland area to compliment habitat enhancements. Creation of a waymarked wildlife trail that will include the production and installation of artwork, benches, signage, interpretation, leaflets.	Almost completed
A13	Control of Bracken	Systematic control of bracken within selected locations in the Ochils, through the chemical spraying of the affected areas, by approved contractors to improve access to the Glen.	Completed
Programme B: By the Banks of the Devon			
B1	Devon Trail	The River Devon Trail is a waymarked route through the River Devon corridor from Glenfoot to Vicar's Bridge. It will provide a link between and give access to most of the OLP projects upon the River Devon. It includes: upgrading the car park, tree planting, path improvements, installing signs, waymarkers, and other structures, e.g. gates, benches, and path counters; various	On site

Project Code	Project title	Project description	Status
		interpretation materials and leaflets.	
B2	Reinstatement of Natural Wetlands	To reinstate and enhance wetlands to benefit biodiversity, and to contribute towards flood alleviation: lower and move back the floodplain; create backwater channels; create scrapes on the floodplain; tree planting, planting reeds.	Under review. Unlikely to be carried out due to prohibitive costs.
B3	Riverbank Stabilisation	To stabilise the banks of the River Devon in specific locations where a small woodland is being undercut: cut a new channel; removal of a gravel bar and tree debris; construction of a berm; bank stabilisation and reprofiling (willow spiling); and tree planting.	Under review. Unlikely to be carried out due to prohibitive costs.
B4	Control of Invasive non-native Species	To undertake the systematic control of invasive non-native plant species along the River Devon corridor: Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, Giant Hogweed; American mink; grey squirrel.	Almost completed
Programme C: The Hills of Time			
C1	Ochils Orientation	<p>The Ochils Orientation works across the whole OLP project.</p> <p>Develop a Volunteer Strategy for engagement with local people.</p> <p>Interpretation strategy and design: signage, leaflets, way markers, etc</p> <p>Historic research strategy including training in oral history and palaeography (historic handwriting) techniques for volunteers.</p> <p>Investigate the use of virtual 3D landscape that can be navigated on-line so that people can see the landscape without leaving their homes and podcasts. Also the use of other new and social media technologies, e.g. bluetooth, QR codes, Facebook, Flickr.</p>	Almost completed
C2	Ochils Festival	A four week-long annual Festival in celebration of the area's landscape heritage around June each year which will include a series of events, walks, workshops, talks, etc to encourage engagement with the project by locals and visitors alike.	Completed. Outline programme being developed for 2015.

Project Code	Project title	Project description	Status
C3	Historic Kirkyards	The project will raise awareness of the Kirkyards of the OLP area and actively contribute to their repair and conservation. Data recording of stones and research into their origins; improve access by path and vegetation clearance; biodiversity survey; interpretative materials (both on site and on line); promotion of the findings, e.g. a leaflet to promote the Kirkyards trail, guided walks, talks, etc.	On site
C4	Mining and Minerals	<p>To promote the importance of the Ochils industrial heritage linked to its geology by focusing on minerals and mining. It will focus on Silver Glen, Alva using this to highlight and interpret the mining features of the whole area.</p> <p>Silver Glen: make safe the entrance to former silver mines to be more accessible for guided walks: path clearance and a way marked route from the Ochils Woodland Park; a burn crossing; promotion via lectures, workshops, volunteer research, interpretation materials actual and virtual.</p>	Almost completed
C5	Alva Ice House	The project aims to prevent further decline in the state of the unusual octagonal ice house in the Woodland Park: pathworks; excavation of the lower half of the icehouse by an archaeologist; community archaeology project; lectures, guided walks, etc. Sensitive interpretation of Ice House both actual and virtual.	On site

