

# Notice of meeting and agenda

## Cammo Estate Advisory Committee

**11.00 am, Thursday, 14 August 2014**

Cammo Lodge, Cammo Estate, Edinburgh

This is a public meeting and members of the public are welcome to attend.

Please note  
the time of the  
meeting.

### Contact

E-mail: [blair.ritchie@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:blair.ritchie@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Tel: 0131 529 4085

## **1. Minutes**

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- 1.1 Minute of Meeting of 7 May 2014 (circulated)
- 1.2 Matters Arising

## **2. Items for Consideration**

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- 2.1 Cammo Home Farm
- 2.2 Cammo Estate Management Plan
- 2.3 Interpretation of the Estate - Discussion Paper from the Barnton and Cramond Community Council - (circulated)
- 2.4 Work of the Friends of Cammo
- 2.5 Nature Conservation

## **3. Date of Next Meeting**

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- 3.1 To be confirmed.

**Carol Campbell**

Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance

## **Membership**

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### **Elected Members**

Councillors Keil and Work.

### **National Trust for Scotland**

Convener (David Chamberlain)  
Christopher Cassels

### **Officers**

Alan McGregor, Pentland Hills Regional Park Manager, Services for Communities  
Jenny Hargreaves, Acting Manager of the Natural Heritage Service, Services for Communities  
Lesley Price, Estate Manager, City Development

## **Information about the Cammo Estate Advisory Committee**

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The current remit of the Advisory Committee is to meet at regular intervals and whenever necessary for consultation with or to offer advice to the proprietors of Cammo Estate or the National Trust for Scotland on the planning, development, management or maintenance of the subjects and buildings on the property.

## **Contact Information**

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If you have any questions about the agenda or meeting arrangements, please contact Blair Ritchie, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ, Tel 0131 529 4085, e-mail [blair.ritchie@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:blair.ritchie@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## Cammo Estate Advisory Committee

Edinburgh 7 May 2014

### Present:-

**Representing the National Trust for Scotland** – David Chamberlain and Kingsley Bruce (substituting for Christopher Cassells).

**Representing the City of Edinburgh Council** – Councillor Karen Keil and Norman Work.

**In Attendance:-** Nick Benge (Friends of Cammo), Marjorie Nail (Cramond Association), Peter Scott (Barnton and Cramond Community Council), Jenny Hargreaves (Acting Natural Heritage Manager, Services from Communities), Lesley Price (Estate Manager, City Development) and Blair Ritchie (Committee Services).

**Apologies:-** Christopher Cassells and Sinclair Williamson.

### 1. Chair

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David Chamberlain of the National Trust for Scotland was appointed to the Chair.

### 2. Welcome

The Convener welcomed the new members from the Cramond Association, the Barnton and Cramond Community Council and the National Trust to the Advisory Committee.

### 2. Minute

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#### Decision

The minute of the meeting of 15 January 2014 was approved as a correct record.

### 3. Cammo Estate Management Plan

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The Acting Natural Heritage Manager gave a verbal update on the following issues:

#### 3.1 Site Management:

- Weekly patrols were being carried out onsite (including a farmhouse check, car park checks, litter pick and site health and safety).
- Several more breaches at Cammo Home Farm were reported to the Estates Team and repaired.
- Heaters had been replaced at the Visitor Centre.
- There had been a report of youths with a fire and gun (for shooting rabbits), Lothian and Borders Police had been called and staff had cleared the small fire site the following day.

- There had been evidence of paintball gun use at the stables (central tower), debris had been cleared and paint reported to the CEC Specialist Services for removal.

### **3.2 Management Plan:**

- All site works carried out had to be in accordance with the adopted Management Plan.

### **3.3 Volunteers:**

- There was a Green Team of three adults and eight youths

### **3.4 Projects:**

- The Meadows had been cut by SGM
- The Atlas Cedar had been monolithed and the spruce removed by CEC Forestry
- The replacement of tree protection in the Pinetum was underway.
- The Cut and Lift of North, South and Home Fields and West Park had taken place. No early cut had been pursued - the aim was to have a complete cut and lift in September/October of 2014.
- The Cammo Walk boundary fence costs was included within NHrS workplan.

### **3.5 Forthcoming activities:**

- Costs were to be established for pineapples wall/sculptures
- On 15 May 2014, New Caledonian Woodlands and Lloyds Banking Groups' would hold a "Give and Gain Day". It was proposed that volunteers would improve the drainage and path condition between the car park and the south west corner.
- The Larch Tree Meadow chespaie fence removal was scheduled for the end of the nesting season.

The Convener indicated that this was a full programme.

### **Decision**

To note the Natural Heritage Service Cammo Estate Officer's Report.

## **6. Interpretation of the Estate**

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The Advisory Committee had previously discussed the addition of Local Nature Reserve status to interpretation and the provision of feedback of the members' views on interpretation.

The Friends of Cammo indicated that they were keen to be involved in signage for interpretation and thought that there should be more emphasis on cultural aspects. It was explained that members had to send their comments on interpretation to the Natural Heritage Service, which would then be collated and costings could be made.

Discussion took place about the possible designation of Cammo as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). It was explained that this would be considered by the Transport and Environment Committee on 3 June and there would then be a public consultation.

It was reported that there were proposals to build on land adjacent to Cammo. If a significant number of houses were built, this would increase the number of people visiting the estate.

Discussion took place about possible LNR designation of this land, the use of the land near the tower, and the National Trust for Scotland registering an interest on plans for housing, in area.

### **Decision**

- 1) That the Friends of Cammo contact the Senior Natural Heritage Officer about work on signage, to enhance interpretation.
- 2) That Councillor Keil forward information to Committee Services, on interpretation, for circulation.
- 3) That the National Trust investigate if they could express an interest on the planning application, for building near the tower, on the neighbouring estate.

(Reference – Cammo Estate Advisory Committee 15 January 2014 (item 6.)

## **7. Cammo Home Farm**

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The Advisory Committee had previously discussed the proposed sale of the Home Farm.

The Estate Manager reported that the closing date for the submission of notes of interest for the sale of the Home Farm was 28 May 2014 and provided details of the number of notes of interest. It was hoped that the building would be restored. The conservation agreement would be safeguarded, as the National Trust for Scotland would have to give its consent to the application. Details were then provided of the process for dealing with the notes of interest and the timescales involved.

Discussion took place about the possible use of the land, the need to ensure a binding agreement, with the purchaser, and the use of the funds from the sale of the property. It was explained that funding was required for work which had to be carried out on the estate.

### **Decision**

- 1) That the Estate Manager sends the details of the offers for the Home Farm to Committee Services, for circulation.
- 2) That the Estate Manager send the conservation agreement on the Home Farm with the plan of the estate to Committee Services, for circulation

(Reference – Cammo Estate Advisory Committee January 2014 (item 7).

## 8. Any Other Business

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### 8.1 Work Carried out on the Estate

It was reported that the Cramond Association was planning to tidy the woodlands around Cramond Kirk and would welcome advice from the Natural Heritage Service.

Discussion took place about the need to undertake work on the estate, such as on paths, and it was asked if this was part of the annual work program for the estate. It was explained that the Natural Heritage Service had a work plan, based on financial priorities. There were other sites which had to be considered and some of the work involved high spending. It was suggested that the work plan should be revised and clarified, on a yearly basis, to enable the local associations to coordinate their activities.

#### **Decision**

To note the position.

### 8.2 Friends of Cammo

The Friends of Cammo indicated that a large amount of work was being carried out by them, however, they would like to have more input in what work was allocated to them. They had, for example, an especial interest in environmental aspects. The Friends had a range of skills and resources, which could be utilised for the estate.

#### **Decision**

- 1) That the Friends of Cammo suggest to the Advisory Committee the type of work that they would want to be involved in and that this be considered by the Natural Heritage Service, which would provide a response.
- 2) That the work of the Friends of Cammo be included as a separate item on the agenda of the Advisory Committee.
- 3) That an additional item on nature conservation be included on the agenda.

## 9. Date of Next Meeting

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Thursday 14 August 2014 at 11.00 am in the Cammo Lodge.

## Introduction

At recent meetings of Friends of Cammo and Cammo Estate Advisory Committee (May 2014), credit was expressed for the valuable interpretation provision at Cammo Lodge (e.g. displays, publications), the Pinetum and wildflower site, but concerns were expressed at the lack of on-site interpretation of the important cultural heritage interests of Cammo Estate. It was agreed at both meetings that initial ideas for interpretation should be sought and discussed.

This brief paper has been prepared to stimulate discussion by the Friends of Cammo Committee (July meeting), and subject to their observations and potential amendments, to be forwarded for consideration at the Cammo Estate Advisory Committee (August). Subsequently, the ideas, subject to any amendments, will be fed into the deliberations of the Cramond, River Almond Walkway and Cammo Interpretation Liaison Group at which Simon Gillam represents Friends of Cammo and which is liaising with Susan Dickson of CEC's Natural Heritage Service.

## Current Provision and Management Plan Proposals

Current interpretation provision comprises -

- range of interpretation and information at Cammo Lodge (restricted opening hours)
- Friends of Cammo publications, including *A Short History of Cammo Estate* and self-guided walks leaflet
- illustrative boards at the Pinetum and the wildflower site at the top of Home Field
- brief historical information the Estate and its buildings on orientation maps at the Lodge and entrance car parks
- guided walks provided by the Natural Heritage Service and Friends of Cammo.

There is no other on-site interpretation of the rich cultural heritage interests of the Estate (e.g. designed landscape, historic buildings and structures).

*Cammo Estate Management Plan 2011-2020*, (CEC Countryside Ranger Service, 2011) identifies interpretation objectives for CEC properties under the Ranger Service's (now Natural Heritage Service's) management for Cammo Estate, which include –

- *Explain and promote the archaeology and landscaping heritage of the area – interesting buildings and plantings you see today*
- *Interpret the Pinetum trees, what a pinetum is and why they are kept.*

Operational objectives of most relevance include to –

- *Enhance the experience of existing visitors and encourage new visitors to Cammo Estate – Improve and ensure a welcome at access points; Improve interpretation of the site*
- *Encourage specialist interest... - Promote, interpret and improve the understanding of the Estate's archaeology and history; Convey historical interest of Pinetum collection; Explore opportunities to expand school use of site; Encourage interest in archaeological aspects...*

The Plan states that interpretation should be produced in consultation with the community, the Council's Archaeology Service and Historic Scotland and may be communicated by an interactive trail, art or other media (e.g. 'smart phone' access to information) and supported by leaflets and other literature available from the Lodge. Various sources of historical information are available to support interpretation, including an Historical Landscape Survey. The Plan notes that the educational value of the site is high, but restricted by limited interpretation and the opening hours of the Visitor Centre, although the Rangers provide guided walks. The *Ten Year Programme* proposes expenditure of £30,000/year on *appropriate interpretative signage* over 2011-2020, but limited expenditures appear to have been forthcoming.

Funds for investment in projects such as interpretation may be forthcoming as a result of the sale of Cammo Home Farm.



## Initial Ideas for On-site Interpretation

The table below presents some initial ideas for on-site interpretation, focusing on the cultural heritage of Cammo Estate, including the historic buildings, designed landscapes and the heritage trees and habitats and species these support. These ideas are intended to stimulate discussion, which may be followed up by the further development of selected themes, story-lines and illustrations by a professional interpretation advisor, subject to funding availability.

### Cammo On-Site Interpretation – Some Initial Ideas

Key topics	Potential features and stories	On-Site provision
<b>Cammo House</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cammo House – building, its history, inhabitants, demise</li> </ul>	<b>Priority: high</b> Site: House ruins Provision: interpretation board + QR code <sup>1</sup> ; self-guided trail <sup>2</sup>
<b>Designed Landscapes</b>	Change over time: designed landscape > intentional neglect > management for nature. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C18<sup>th</sup> designed landscapes – formal gardens, vistas, avenues, canal, etc.</li> <li>C19<sup>th</sup> additions – Water Tower, Pinetum, etc.</li> <li>C20<sup>th</sup> neglect – house, parkland, golf course</li> <li>C21<sup>st</sup> management for nature (LNR)</li> </ul>	<b>Priority: high</b> Site: vicinity of canal or north end of South Avenue Provision: interpretation board + QR code <sup>1</sup> ; self-guided trail <sup>2</sup>
<b>Mauseley Hill, Tower and Portugal Garden</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mauseley Hill roundel</li> <li>Water Tower</li> <li>Portugal Garden</li> <li>Stables and associated buildings</li> </ul>	<b>Priority: medium</b> Site: near stables overlooking Mauseley Hill Provision: interpretation board + QR code <sup>1</sup> ; self-guided trail <sup>2</sup>
<b>Historic Trees</b>	Historic trees, woodlands and ecology these support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Veteran trees – planting history, what to look for (species, age, form), management issues</li> <li>Habitats and species they support</li> </ul>	<b>Priority: high</b> Site: to be selected Provision: interpretation board + QR code <sup>1</sup> ; self-guided trail <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> QR codes are graphic devices with coded information, which can be read by smart phones and other hand-held IT devices (e.g. tablets) to access text, verbal or visual images.

<sup>2</sup> A self-guided trail could be supported by a professionally designed free leaflet describing the main features, providing a map, and with waymark/numbered information posts and QR codes at key sites, which could prompt those wishing more detail to purchase Friends of Cammo's Self-guided Walks or Short History booklets

## Next Steps

Potential stages in progressing the ideas for interpretation outlined in this Paper include –

- Consideration of this Paper by Cammo Estate Advisory Committee, and subject to any modifications, seeking members' support for wider consultations on, and the further development of, the ideas to provide firm proposals and a costed implementation programme.
- Identification by the Advisory Committee of individuals, or a small working group, to progress the elements outlined below and any other tasks identified by the Committee.
- Consultations with key organisations with interests in the management and interpretation of Cammo Estate; in particular –
  - City of Edinburgh Council's Natural Heritage Service
  - National Trust for Scotland
  - Friends of Cammo <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Friends of Cammo Committee discussed and generally endorsed the ideas set out in this Paper at their meeting on 29 July 2014.

- the informal Cramond, River Almond Walkway and Cammo Estate Interpretation Liaison Group, which comprises representatives of the Community Council, Cramond Association, Cramond Heritage Trust, Friends of the River Almond Walkway and Friends of Cammo. This group is in the process of involving the Natural Heritage Service in its work and as its proposals progress will invite representation from the Neighbourhood Partnership.
- d. Work up the content, design, costs, funding opportunities and implementation proposals for interpretation at Cammo - independently of wider proposals for interpretation at Cramond and on the Walkway, but in a compatible format, or as part of a larger, collaborative project for these areas and Cammo Estate
- e. Investigate potential funding sources, including from the budgetary proposals within the Cammo Estate Management Plan and proceeds from the sale of Cammo Home Farm.

### **Feedback**

Comments on the contents of this Paper and suggestions as to how the ideas may best be progressed are welcome and should be forwarded to the author at the e-mail address below.

Peter Scott

30/8/2014