

## 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