

Minutes

Cammo Estate Advisory Committee

Edinburgh 11 February 2020

Present:-

Representing the National Trust for Scotland – David Chamberlain (Convener) and Colin Wren.

Representing the City of Edinburgh Council – Councillor Work.

In Attendance:- Nick Benge, Simon Gillam (Friends of Cammo), David Kyles (Natural Heritage Officer), Bert Scott (Cramond Association), and Blair Ritchie (Committee Services).

Apologies:- Peter Scott.

1. Minute

Cammo Estate Advisory Committee of 5 November 2019.

Decision

To approve the minute as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 – Relationship between the National Trust and Cammo Estate (item 2.1)

To note that the new set up in the National Trust made it difficult to identify the appropriate officers, however, the Convener would continue to pursue the matter.

2.2 – Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society (item 3.4 - Decision 7)

The Convener had contacted the Botanic Gardens and they were still interested in the maintenance of Iconic Trees. There was already a supply of Iconic Tree species, however, there was the issue of space near the Pinetum.

Decision

The Convener would discuss this matter further with the Botanic Gardens.

3. Cammo Estate Management Plan

The Natural Heritage Officer gave an update on the Cammo Estate Management Plan.

3.1 General Maintenance

- A new hedgerow had been planted on the north east boundary of south field by the Friends of Cammo.
- There had been woodchip replenishment to the Forest Kindergarten site, included mulching of newly planted trees and boggy field entrances.
- New planting had taken place round the north car park perimeter.
- Cammo Lodge had been surveyed by CEC Estates to produce an exact plan of the building as it seems to be missing from their records.
- Edinburgh South Orienteering Club (ESOC) events had taken place.
- The North Edinburgh Arts Group / Creative Art Works were using Lodge/site the week beginning 20 January and 29/02/2020.
- Suggestions had been put forward for street names in adjacent developments.

3.2 Forthcoming Activities:

- It was hoped there would be final agreement on Phase 2 improvement works.
- There would be a bulletin update / website information update regarding progress and proposed works.
- Cammo Cottage consolidation, interpretation and access improvement
- Removal of graffiti from the Stables would take place
- Investigation for the Cammo Lodge lease would proceed. Forest Kindergarten infrastructure installations would take place.
- A meeting was planned with the CEC Archaeologist regarding wetland proposals.
- There would be an assessment of stables with costing for vegetation removal/consolidation
- An orienteering course marker replacement would be installed.

3.3 Cammo Improvement Project

- Phase 1 improvements included the following: Path upgrades and installations complete on specified routes in central, northern and western areas of the park. North Car Park was complete. North perimeter fencing was complete. Wall repairs by Turnhouse Golf Course were complete. New gate/fencing at south west corner was complete. Post and wire fence installation between Cammo Estate and Cammo Tower fields complete. Replacement fencing and carriageway edge scraping along Cammo Walk were complete. Works amounted to a total of £75.5k, which included additional gates, missing height restriction barrier from spec and subtle changes to path and tree planting specifications.
- Snagging works would include the installation of a ditch and drain at low point on path in the low meadow; the installation of drain in the low point in path to the

rear of west park; the scraping, supply of stone and compacted and rolled at entrance to north car park.

- Phase 2 would include the following: a survey and cost of stables for consolidation; the wetland and boardwalk project; furniture/sculpture and interpretation installations; Cammo Cottage consolidation work, Walled Garden remedials – this would reveal the wall through subtle vegetation removal and make further assessment; continued enrichment to grassland.

3.4 Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society (EAFS)

- Latest work included finalising Cammo Cottage explorations. A meeting would take place in late February to discuss spoil removal, access, consolidation work and interpretation of the site.
- Work was continuing across the path in the piggery/kennels with vegetation clearance undertaken across the winter period. Contact had been made with the adjacent landowner regarding the possibility of investigating the structure adjoining the piggery/kennels due to its location on the privately-owned field margin.

Discussion took place and the following issues were raised:

- The loss of some equipment.
- The use of the Lodge by Edinburgh Arts Group
- That Cammo Lodge had been surveyed by estates.
- Funding issues
- Safety issues in respect of the stables.
- That the Lodge should continue to be used as a visitor centre.
- The possible use of the Lodge as a coffee place.
- The cost of securing the boundary of the site.
- That the work completed looked quite impressive.
- That consolidation work should be done with Cammo Cottage and the Stables at the same time.
- It was necessary to focus on actual requirements.
- That it would be useful for the soil to be removed, which had been caused by the archaeological work.
- The possible advantages of leaving the work exposed.

Decision

- 1) To consider the use of funding from the capital receipt to carry out safety work on the stables.
- 2) The Natural Heritage Officer to check out the marketability of the Lodge.

- 3) That a costing be carried out in January/February 2020 on stable's consolidation and vegetable removal and an update be provided at the next weekend
- 4) The Natural Heritage Officer to report on the Wetland project at the next meeting.
- 5) To agree that the following work would proceed:
 - (a) Stables – consolidation of work
 - (b) Appropriate permissions for wetland proposals.
 - (c) Furniture and interpretation
 - (d) Consolidation work at Cammo Cottage.
 - (e) Some remedial work and assessment for Walled Garden.
 - (f) Enrichment
- 6) The Natural Heritage Officer to liaise with the Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society regarding the soil and archaeological work.

4. Walled Garden

The Natural Heritage Officer indicated that there were no new developments to report in respect of the Walled Garden (WG).

Discussion took place and the following points were made:

- Whether consolidation work on the WG required the backing of the National Trust.
- Possible options for securing the WG.
- The amount of capital that had been allocated.
- The possible growth of vegetation to limit access and enhance safety.

Decision

To note the update.

5. Interpretation of the Estate

The Natural Heritage Officer gave an update on the Interpretation of the Estate.

An interpretation meeting had been held. It was decided that Waymarker inserts were to be produced. The installation was likely to occur in the new financial year once a powered auger was purchased for use by the Estates Team.

The Friends of Cammo had carried out extensive activity in relation to interpretation, which included the following:

- Work taking place on two panels, the hedgerow flower and Cammo House ruin.
- It was hoped to have the finger posts, and waymarking posts in place.

- Phase 2 should include suitable furniture, the canal could have animals and wildlife plants related to the canal and there should be one sculpture related to the water tower,
- For the play area, it was hoped to have discussions with the Forest Kindergarten in April.

Discussion took place and the following points were made:

- That the approach seemed a good balance between having interpretation and would not imposing excessive signage.
- There were some concerns about the use of the powered augur.

Decision

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To thank the Friends of Cammo for their work with Interpretation.

6. Work of Friends of Cammo

The Natural Heritage Officer gave an update the work of Friends of Cammo (FOC). He indicated that concerted efforts had been made towards woodland floor habitat improvement, site cleanliness, wildflower and meadow management. There was continual liaison with Council officers.

The representative of the FOC added that the Friends had carried out the following activities:

- Planting a considerable number of trees and shrubs in south field, including a Beech Tree; these had been paid for out of capital receipt.
- Planting 108 shrubs and trees around the car park, putting wood chip round “pinch points” and muddy bits, replacing the Tawny Owl Box.
- Getting rid of unwelcome deadwood, with the help of volunteers, such as “dirty weekenders” and scouts.
- Updating their website.
- Ensuring that the bees were doing well.

Decision

To thank the Friends of Cammo for their work on the estate.

7. Nature Conservation

The Natural Heritage Officer reported on Nature Conservation which included the following:

- There was an enrichment project through the capital receipt. This include plugs, seeds and tree planting.
- New habitat boxes had been installed.
- Woodland ground layer habitat promotion and creation through deadwood provision had taken place. This was carried out by Nick Bengé and the Friends of Cammo.
- Large field areas had been cut, there had been some damage to trees and alternative arrangement would be investigated for the next season.

Discussion took place and the following points were made:

- That a Cut and Lift Machine was being considered.
- There was an issue with the disposal of “arisings.”
- There was a need to protect young trees during the “cutting” process.
- That nature conservation was going well.

Decision

To note the update.

8. Forest Kindergarten

The Natural Heritage Officer reported that after successful pilot periods throughout several parks in Edinburgh including Cammo, Forest Kindergarten would become long term features within Edinburgh parks. Streamlining the processes for access/ drop-off/collection, lunch provision, materials and storage and welfare had been discussed and a decision to provide better more secure facilities had been agreed. To this end, bespoke units were being constructed that would consist of secure storage, welfare and shelter and were to be located within good logistical access of entrance points to sites and areas being used for activity. The units were now to have power and possibly water supplies, use of compost toilets will still be made. The units were to be painted with assistance/input from local community.

Ground investigations were required and had been done. Oberlanders, Morrison Construction, Hub South East Scotland and CEC Children and Families Facility Planners were the design delivery team with input from CEC Parks, CEC were currently applying for a certificate of lawfulness to enable compliance for installation. Formal consultation was already underway with local community groups and stakeholders with exhibitions of proposals to tour local libraries and community centres. The proposed location at Cammo had been changed due to the views of the community.

Discussion took place and the following points were made:

- That the Forest Kindergarten initiative was a result of statutory requirement for nursery provision.
- Cammo was a pilot for this project.

- That the Advisory Committee had a positive impact on the way the initiative had been implemented on the estate.
- That there had been a significant increase in the number of children on site.
- Whether it was possible for other sites, with woodland, to be considered.
- That there was extra traffic on site.
- Possible measures to prevent dog fouling.
- The effectiveness of the voluntary code of conduct.
- Professional dog walkers generally complied with the code, but the number of dogs was sometimes an issue.

Decision

To note the update.

9. Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.