

# Minutes of the Directors meeting of The SCAPE Trust

College Hall, St Mary's College, St Andrews  
27. January 2006 11.00-13.00

Present: Colin Martin (CM)  
Chris Smout (TCS) (Chairman)  
Robin Turner (RTu) (Vice Chairman)  
Jim Hansom (JH)  
George McQuitty (GM)  
Richard Tipping (RTi)

Rod McCullagh (RMcC) (Observer – Historic Scotland)  
Katinka Stentoft (KS) (Observer and minute-taker)

Apologies: Barbara Crawford  
Ben Ferrari  
Neil Galbraith  
Anna Ritchie  
John Scott  
Tom Dawson

## 1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting of the Directors of the SCAPE Trust, held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2005, were approved.

Jim Hansom was welcomed to his first SCAPE meeting as a Director.

## 2. Matters arising

### ***2.1 Action point from previous minutes: TD to meet with EH to discuss CZAS's (2.3)***

This is still **ongoing**.

### ***2.2 Internet publication of CZAS's (2.5)***

This has been completed.

### ***2.3 Launch of the SCAPE website (2.6)***

It was noted that the publication of the CZAS reports on the SCAPE website has been completed and that Historic Scotland (HS) are happy with the website. It was agreed that RMcC would contact the HS press office regarding publicizing the SCAPE website and that this would be a joint release between SCAPE and HS.

**Action Point: RMcC to liaise with KS over publicity.**

#### ***2.4 Re-publication of previous Conference Proceedings (2.7)***

Previous action point notes that TD was to write to HS to express his dissatisfaction. However, it is believed that TD may have decided to give up on this.

#### ***2.5 Aggregate Levy Scheme for projects in Scotland (2.10)***

TCS noted that SCAPE is not eligible for ALS funding.

#### ***2.6 Western Isles coastal strategy paper (2.11)***

As there has been no hurricane event comparable to last year's storms there has not been an opportunity to publish this paper. RMcC noted that the Western Isles have had very bad weather recently and that winter storms may yet happen.

JH noted that he thought SNH may be about to publish paper on the hurricane event of January '05. This paper may be a strategic document, although JH is not sure, and will enquire. JH also noted that the SNH LIDAR survey is now producing results which may be published shortly. TCS noted that it would be worth for SCAPE to co-ordinate any strategic paper with strategic documents of other organizations.

**Action Point: KS to contact Ali Rennie at SNH to enquire about SNH paper.**

#### ***2.7 ARIA representative on SCAPE Advisory Committee (2.12)***

TCS has not contacted ARIA and it was noted that ARIA may be dissolved. RTu suggested that a representative may be sought in the Highland region due to logistics, as it would be more difficult for an island based archaeologist to attend meetings.

**Action Point: TCS to liaise with RMcC re. ARIA/ALGAO contacts.**

#### ***2.8 Letter from Malcolm Cooper, Chief Inspector, Historic Scotland (4)***

TCS reported that an amended response to Malcolm Cooper had been written and submitted.

#### ***2.9 Marine and Coastal National Park (6)***

TCS noted that he and RTu had decided not to draft a response to SNH about the CMNP, at least not at this stage.

### **3. Update on funding situation**

KS reported that SCAPE had been successful in obtaining funding from the Crown Estate (£21,000 over three years) and asked RMcC for an update on potential HS funding. It was noted that no final decision has been taken on such funding.

**Action Point: KS to update Directors on funding situation at next meeting.**

### **4. Colonsay survey**

KS reported that it had been decided that SCAPE would take this survey on ourselves and not put it out to tender. The survey work will take place in TD's and KS's holidays, so as not to conflict with the HS Heritage Grant that is currently paying for their time. A desk-based assessment will be undertaken before the field work, in accordance with

recommendations made by TD. The Colonsay survey will be used as testing ground for a number of changes recommended by TD and will generate data compatible with the new ASPIRE protocol. The survey will take place between 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February. A draft report will be submitted as soon as possible after the survey, but KS noted that HS had agreed to receive this in the new financial year. GM suggested that Prof. Hugh Kennedy in Medieval History be contacted as he has connections with Colonsay and may be interested in the survey. It was also noted that Oronsay had a wealthy American owner, whose address might be useful to get.

**Action Point: KS to contact Hugh Kennedy.**

## 5. Other coastal surveys

KS reported that SCAPE had been successful in obtaining HS grants for two other projects in this financial year: A CZAS of East Lothian and Borders and the desk-based assessment element of a CZAS of the east coasts of North Uist, Benbecula and South Uist. RMcC confirmed that money had been granted for these surveys, and that SCAPE is free to award contracts on this occasion without going out to tender. KS noted that the East Lothian and Borders survey will be awarded to EASE Archaeology and that the Uist east coast DBA will probably be undertaken by GUARD. It was also noted that these grants come from an end of year underspend and so projects must be completed by March 31<sup>st</sup>. RMcC could not remember whether any funding had been allocated in the new financial year for the field work element of the Uist east coast surveys.

Directors agreed that they were content with TD's choice of units. RTu asked whether the East Lothian and Border and Uist east coast surveys will use the ASPIRE protocol, to which the answer was 'yes'.

## 6. SAN article (Public Value conference, Shorewatch web statistics)

RTu reported on a conference on Public Value in heritage which both he and TD attended - discussion came back to the issue of using volunteers to investigate threatened sites which professional archaeologists do not have the resources to deal with. The idea of an accreditation scheme was raised and the need for discussion and dialogue with other bodies working in this field (such as the IFA, the CSA, the National Training Forum etc) was emphasized, but also to communicate with those who may have objections to such a scheme. The Directors discussed who might teach the volunteers, and universities and commercial units were mentioned as was the IFA for its potential role as evaluators. The benefits of enabling distance learning were mentioned, but CM commented that a training course should have a significant practical component with an emphasis on traditional hands-on recording techniques (not hi-tech). RMcC asked what SCAPE's interest in this was, and some Directors mentioned 'monitoring and recording eroding sites'. RMcC commented that monitoring quickly can become dull, and that there may be a need for more challenging and complex projects for the volunteers to be involved in. It was also noted that training of volunteers should include report writing skills. It was noted that an accreditation scheme may also be useful for recent archaeology graduates who can receive training in how to train volunteers. Returning to the question of SCAPE's

involvement in this RMcC commented that SCAPE needs to be taken into account by those who are going to progress the accreditation scheme idea, but that SCAPE has little funding or resources to invest. CM noted that HLF project funding could employ trainers and TCS noted that SCAPE would need a development officer, as TD and KS have no time to spare, and GM drew attention to the potential interest of Elmwood College Cupar. TCS also commented that it would be better for SCAPE to look to what other organizations have done, rather than work in isolation, and not to 're-invent the wheel'. RTu and RMcC mentioned UHI Orkney College as an example of outreach. RMcC also drew attention to an HS consultation paper available on the internet called 'Valuing Volunteers' and suggested that everyone in SCAPE read it. Consultation closes 3<sup>rd</sup> March. RTu commented that this document was very inward looking. It was suggested that SCAPE approached UHI and Highlands and Islands Enterprise with a view to undertaking a feasibility study. A sum of £20,000 was mentioned as the approximate cost of such a study. RMcC noted that Sally Foster had had a meeting with the National Training Forum who were keen to collaborate with HS.

**Action Point: RTu to approach UHI and Sally Foster, but RTu notes that he is very busy and asked the Directors to be patient.**

RTu summarized some of the viewpoints presented at the 'Public Value' conference, and noted that Sport, Arts and Heritage compete with each other for 50% of the total lottery funding. Issues that were raised at the conference included the question of how much the public values heritage and how to measure this. The idea of 'community planning' was explored, asking people what they want for their environment. People need to learn about values to appreciate and care about them; professionals need to cut the 'public value blah' and address what people really want, not what we think they want. The difficulty of measuring non-economic values were noted, and also that we do respect other people's values for things, even though we don't engage with them ourselves.

An email written by TD to RTu outlining his thoughts after having attended the same conference as RTu was passed around the table.

RTi commented that informing the public of the value of heritage may result in 'information overload' and that many people would simply opt out and decide to not engage with things they weren't already interested in. RMcC commented that if this were the case, then we, as heritage professionals, would have to change our strategy. GM commented that a system is needed that can check the benefit of future community projects.

To finish off this point on the agenda KS noted that the Shorewatch web statistics show a noticeable increase in hits and page loads around the time of publication of several recent articles and press releases. KS also noted that an email had been received by TD from a member of the Orkney Shorewatch group, informing him that they had been offered funding to continue their coastal monitoring work. KS noted that neither she nor TD were aware of the source of this funding, but that the fact that other people and organizations appreciate the work of the Orkney group is a positive thing. KS also noted that Carol Knott, who used to be very involved with Shorewatch, is now the assistant to the Western

Isles archaeologist, Mary Mcleod. Finally, KS noted the intention of TD and KS to resubmit the failed Baile Sear excavation proposal to HS, referring to comments by TD in his email to RTu, that HS non-commitment to a rescue dig at Baile Sear would cause a negative reaction in the local community. RMcC commented that he would confirm the refusal of funding in writing and that SCAPE should then consider writing to Malcolm Cooper. RMcC did acknowledge the difficult situation and the enormous public interest in the Baile Sear project.

## 7. Photographic competition

KS noted that a photographic competition and exhibition had been proposed as one of the outcomes of the Crown Estate funding, and that preparations were now underway. KS asked the Directors to think of 'big names' that we can ask to be on the panel of judges, and for the Directors to think of what contacts they might have. KS also asked the Directors for their opinion on whether the competition should have several categories (e.g. for certain age groups, amateurs, professionals etc.) and the Directors agreed that there should be several categories. KS noted the intention to have the exhibition coincide with a short lecture series, for which we would look to get some other 'big names' to talk about coastal erosion/coastal archaeology/community involvement. All seemed to think that a photographic competition/exhibition and lecture series was a good idea. Possible names for the panel of judges were mentioned and these included the editor of the BBC website photo gallery (if one exists); Liz Forgan, chair of the HLF (apparently she has a cottage in North Ronaldsay and may have an interest in coastal erosion...); artist Andy Goldsworthy, Lotte Glob and Bernard Planterose. It was noted that it would be good to tie this in with a big news paper article, which would help raise SCAPE's profile. It was also noted that SCAPE would need to clarify issues of copyright and use of images prior to the competition.

## 8. TD's draft coastal archaeology review

The report was welcomed, though it was considered rather long in its present form. It would be best to provide a one-page executive summary with key points at the start, and perhaps to place some of the text in appendices. It should have the names of the directors at the front, and a brief preamble by the chairman making it clear that it was submitted by Tom on their behalf. JH suggested that TD should show the draft report to Stuart Angus at SNH as many of TD's points overlapped with their work. TCS encouraged the Directors to email TD individually with their comments.

**Action Point: KS to prompt absent Directors to read and comment on the report.**

## 9. AOCB

RTi noted that he had received an email on 26.01.06 regarding the possibility of collaboration between SCAPE and other organizations (?). Collaboration would be eligible for a Strategic Research Development Grant. RMcC noted that a HS grant of £25,000 previously offered to SCAPE to progress an analysis on the CZAS's could be useful in allowing SCAPE to enter into such collaboration.

**KS awaiting further information from RTi on this.**

#### 10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be the AGM. 31<sup>st</sup> May or 8<sup>th</sup> June 2006 was suggested as possible dates. A date will be fixed via email in due course.