



FORTH VALLEY ORCHARDS

FORTH VALLEY ORCHARD REGENERATION INITIATIVE

PHASE 1 – 2009/2010 FINAL REPORT



Forth Valley
Food Links Education and Action towards Sustainable Living



Falkirk
Environment
Trust



SCOTTISH
NATURAL
HERITAGE





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1. Project Background

The Forth Valley Orchard Regeneration Initiative was launched on 1 May 2009 with the aim of identifying and mapping the nature and extent of the orchard resource (including individual fruit trees) in Forth Valley. During this first phase the aim was to raise the profile and awareness of the potential benefits of orchards with landowners and the wider community of Forth Valley.

The project collected a range of data and evidence to build a case for further developing the initiative into a phase 2, beyond 31 March 2010.

The following report is a summary of the achievements of the data collection and engagement of landowners, schools, communities and individuals over the 11-month period of Phase 1. The outcomes and outputs of each objective are reported below:

2. Objectives:

Objective 1 - Determining the number and extent of orchards, and identify the species and variety of fruit trees in Forth Valley (Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Unitary Authority Areas)

Objective detail:

- i. A desktop study and literature review of traditional orchards and fruit trees in Forth Valley.
- ii. Identifying and visiting orchard and tree owners listed in FVFL's databases and other sources.
- iii. Development of an Orchard Survey, and Landscape Character forms to capture data from landowners.
- iv. Identification of tree species and varieties in each orchard and for each fruit tree.

Reporting & Outputs:

- i. *An Orchard Survey Form and Landscape Character forms developed and used to capture details on the owner, contact details, orchard or fruit tree location, hectareage, status, numbers, species, variety, condition, landscape character and management - Due to funding constraints, it was not possible with the time and resources available to develop a Landscape Character form to capture data on landscape characteristics.*
- ii. *A database of information captured from the above two forms. This data will also form a data set for GIS mapping – A database of information was used by the consultant, Dr Crispin Hayes to capture orchard data, which formed a basis for his report entitled, Survey of Traditional Orchards in the Forth Valley 2010, part of the Forth Valley Orchard Regeneration Initiative, Report to Forth Environment Link, Dr Crispin Hayes, January 2010.*
- iii. *A GIS map showing the extent of orchards in Forth Valley- The data gathered through various collection methods have been captured on a customised database that also includes data collected from previous Forth Environment Link and Forth Valley Food Links' orchard activities. In 90% of cases, no grid references were given so Google Earth*



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references (WGS84) were used to try to find the closest position of each orchard using satellite mapping and post codes. Digital Ordnance Survey raster layers for 1:25 000 and 1:50 000 have been ordered to allow the development of jpeg data sets to ensure compatibility with Local Authority and FV GIS systems. Digitalised themed maps derived from Google earth were presented at the final seminar.

Objective 2 - Involving landowners and communities in the mapping study, using a variety of participatory tools (including GreenMapping), to raise awareness of, increase interest in, and take 'ownership' of the orchard resource.

The participatory methods will involve a wide range of potential stakeholders, and will include GreenMapping, educational activities for schools, online questionnaires, press articles, freepost return postcards, dedicated pages and polls on Forth Valley Food Links' / FEL websites (<http://www.fvfl.org.uk> / <http://www.forthenvironmentlink.org>).

Objective Detail:

- a. Identifying locations for, and organising and delivering a series of participatory GreenMap workshops throughout the rural LEADER area to bring together landowners, community and business members.
- b. Identifying schools to participate in, organising and delivering educational activities on the theme of 'fruit trees and their benefits'.
- c. Devising and posting online questionnaires (SurveyMonkey or other similar online questionnaire provider), press articles, freepost return postcards, dedicated pages, and polls on Forth Valley Food Links website (<http://www.fvfl.org.uk>), to encourage participation and feedback.

Reporting & Outputs:

- a. Delivery of 6 participatory GreenMap workshops (Stirling x 3; Clackmannanshire x 1, Falkirk x2) - Six community GreenMapping workshops were held: United Auctions, Stirling, 18 November 2009; Bo'ness, 24 November 2009, (4 participants); Callander, 26 November 2009, (4); Balfron, 8 December 2009 (4); Stirling, 9 December 2009 (7); Tullibody, 14 January 2010 (6). Although attendances were low, the quality of the information received was excellent, and interest shown among participants to be kept updated on progress. Mapping was also done at the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Community Partnership event on 7 November 2009, and at Riverside Primary School Grounds Maintenance Day on 25 October 2009.
- b. Production of a GreenMap with icons representing the location of orchards and fruit trees, with associated data on species, numbers and varieties - Digitalised themed maps derived from the GreenMapping and other consultation processes were produced and presented at the final seminar. Photographs of the workshop maps are provided on CD.
- c. Transference of GreenMap details to the Open GreenMap website at www.opengreenmap.org – Due to funding constraints, it was not possible with the time and resources available to input this data, although Forth Environment Link will aim to recruit a volunteer to input data in 2010. The issue of Data Protection will also need to be addressed.



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- d. Posting one online questionnaire with closing date – A SurveyMonkey online survey was developed in conjunction with Dr Crispin Hayes and launched at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=nvKyZJ1EK1tf_2ba0h_2bAVxww_3d_3d. It was decided to keep the survey open to become an on-going data collection method. A total of 36 responses were received.
 - e. Distributing 2,000 postcards throughout community and business outlets – FREEPOST postcards were distributed to libraries, community councils, community development trusts, horticultural societies, local history societies, business centres, community centres and other public venues, with 46 returns (a 2.3% return rate).
 - f. Preparation of 11 x monthly articles for posting onto FVFL / FEL websites – Dedicated web pages were created on the Forth Valley Food Links' website at www.fvfl.org.uk. Articles were uploaded on: 26 May 2009 (x2); 12 October 2009; 26 November 2009; 5 (x2), 6 & 21 January 2010; 2 March 2010.
- In addition, a 2m x 1m pop-up banner and A3 poster were created by volunteer Claudine Vibert, and toured around libraries: Stirling Library (26 January – 1 February 2010); Falkirk Central Library (1 – 8 February 2010); Denny Library (8 – 22 February 2010); Grangemouth Library (22 February – 3 March 2010).

Objective 3 - Assessing the orchards' current and potential contributions to the culture and economy of Forth Valley.

Information and data for this objective will be captured in the reporting and outputs for Objectives 1 and 2. Throughout the participatory workshops and school activities, participants will be asked to highlight areas of interest and identify potential projects for Phase 2. Businesses and public sector organisations will be consulted on the potential economic benefits to them of the initiative.

Objective Detail:

- a. Development of an Orchard Survey, and Landscape Character forms to capture data from landowners.

Reporting & Outputs:

- a. Section of final report that evaluates the current and potential contributions to the culture and economy of Forth Valley – The report, *Survey of Traditional Orchards in the Forth Valley 2010, part of the Forth Valley Orchard Regeneration Initiative, Report to Forth Environment Link, Dr Crispin Hayes, January 2010*, contains conclusions on the orchards' status, fruit and management (p39).

Objective 4 - Assessing the natural heritage and landscape value of orchards across Forth Valley

Information and data for this objective will be captured in the reporting and outputs for Objectives 1 - 3.



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Objective Detail:

- a. Development of an Orchard Survey, and Landscape Character forms to capture data from landowners.

Reporting & Outputs:

- a. Section of final report that assesses the natural heritage and landscape value of orchards across Forth Valley – Section 5.3 (pp 35-37) of the *Survey of Traditional Orchards in the Forth Valley 2010, part of the Forth Valley Orchard Regeneration Initiative, Report to Forth Environment Link, Dr Crispin Hayes, January 2010* assesses the *Biodiversity Aspects of Orchards*. Due to funding constraints, it was not possible with the time and resources to assess the landscape value of orchards.

Objective 5 - Providing recommendations on sustainable management and enhancement options for Forth Valley orchards.

Having gathered and collected data and information from all participatory methods, the final report will make specific recommendations for action in Phase 2 – the implementation phase of the initiative.

Objective Detail:

- a. Collation of all data and information from Objectives 1 – 4.

Reporting & Outputs:

- b. Section of final report that makes recommendations on sustainable management and enhancement options for Forth Valley orchards – The *Survey of Traditional Orchards in the Forth Valley 2010, part of the Forth Valley Orchard Regeneration Initiative, Report to Forth Environment Link, Dr Crispin Hayes, January 2010* makes recommendations on the management options for orchards (p39). The report also makes further recommendations (p40) to Forth Environment Link for any further development phases.

Objective 6 - To determine the type and level of community resources (e.g. tools, expertise) available to manage and create orchards.

The participatory workshops and other consultation methods will assess participants' skills available and training needs, to enable creation and management of orchards and fruit trees.

Objective Detail:

- a. Collection of data using questionnaires and on-line survey (as per Objectives 1 & 2)

Reporting & Outputs:

- a. Section in final report, listing the expertise available and required, and tools required for Phase 2 implementation stage – The *Survey of Traditional Orchards in the Forth Valley 2010, part of the Forth Valley Orchard Regeneration Initiative, Report to Forth Environment Link, Dr*



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Crispin Hayes, January 2010 makes recommendations (p39) outlines the general requirements to implement a Phase 2 of the initiative. Thirteen Phase 2 development ideas were gathered at the 'Core Pickings' final seminar. The SurveyMonkey final question gave options for involvement in Phase 2, to which there were many positive responses.

Objective 7 - Producing information to be disseminated to landowners and communities.

The final report findings will be presented at a seminar event for participants, landowners and businesses, and will form a basis for the development of the implementation phase of the initiative.

Objective Detail:

- a. Collation of all data into a final report.
- b. Dissemination of the report via an afternoon / evening seminar.

Reporting & Outputs:

- a. A final report in paper copy and in electronic format (MS Word and PDF) – The consultants' reports are available on the CD ROM accompanying this report.
- b. A final afternoon / evening seminar to disseminate the results of the final report – An evening seminar entitled '*Core Pickings' ...the outcome of the Forth Valley Orchard Regeneration Initiative Mapping & Feasibility Study*, was held on Tuesday, 16 March 2010 in the Smith Art Gallery & Museum from 7.00 – 9.00 pm, and attended by 64 people. The proceedings of the evening were recorded by volunteer, Gillian Black.

3. Future Plans

The Forth Valley Orchard Regeneration Initiative has successfully achieved most of its stated objectives, and has exceeded many, due in large part to the additional input from volunteer Claudine Vibert, and the Project Officer exceeding the initiative time allocation of 1 day per week. Some outputs have not been achieved due to the project budget being reduced at the start of the project.

From the data collected throughout the initiative, and at the '*Core Pickings*' event at the end of the project, it was made clear from participants that there was a desire to develop a second phase of the project. Several people have come forward to establish a Forth Valley orchard group, and this will be taken forward in April 2010. Funding will be sought from Forth Valley & Lomond LEADER and Scottish Natural Heritage to enable Forth Environment Link to support this developing group.

4. Additional Information

- All funding was secured by May 2009 (Falkirk Environment Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage and Forth Environment Link).



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- A consultants brief was drafted in July 2009 and the contract tendered on 25 May 2009. Three responses were received, and all three consultants were engaged. Contracts were issued to all consultants and agreed.
- All high, primary and nursery schools throughout Forth Valley were contacted by letter to invite participation in the schools' part of the initiative
- Forth Valley Food Links distributes a twice-yearly eBulletin, *The Forth Valley Foodie*. The initiative information has been distributed in the 26 November 2009 issue, and 25 January 2010 issues to over 200 recipients
- A volunteer, Claudine Vibert, Montpellier University, France has assisted the Project Officer since mid-December 2009, thus adding great value to the project. Claudine has been involved in data collection, collation and interpretation, promotion and publicity, and organising events. Volunteer Gillian Black took notes at the 'Core Pickings' final event, and Zhang Xian Ying created the sketch drawings for the themed posters.
- Statistics:
 - 36 responses to the SurveyMonkey online survey
 - 46 responses from 2,000 FREEPOST postcards
 - Banner in 4 libraries (Denny, Stirling, Falkirk and Grangemouth)
 - 6 GreenMapping workshops (Balfron, Callander, Bo'ness, Stirling, Tullibody, Stirling Auction Mart)
 - Database listings:
 - 257 orchards and fruit tree listings
 - 221 listed on map
 - 267 contacts
 - 160 orchards of 1 to 10 trees (62%)
 - 26 orchards of 10 to 20 trees (10%)
 - 10 orchards of 20 to 50 trees (4%)
 - 2 orchards of 20 to 50 trees (1%)
 - 60 unknown numbers (23%)
 - 4 orchards selling fruit commercially (1%)
 - 16 orchards giving away fruit (6%)
 - 28 orchards with fruit used by the family (10%)
 - 3 orchards with fruit used by the public (1%)
 - 17 orchards with fruit used for educational purposes (6%)
 - 11 orchards with no fruit yet (4%)
 - 2 orchards with fruit used by the community (1%)
 - 195 orchards fruit use unknown (76%)
 - 110 orchards in gardens (43%)
 - 18 farm orchards (7%)
 - 3 (perhaps more) estate orchards (1%)
 - 30 school orchards (11%)
 - 11 orchards in walled gardens (4%)
 - 1 community orchard (0.3%)
 - 0 (perhaps more) derelict site orchards 0%



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- 0 (perhaps more) sites being developed (0%)
- 4 orchards on business sites (1.5%)
- 2 orchards on allotments (2%)
- 16 orchards in public spaces (6%)
- 1 orchard in old planted hedgerow (0.3%)
- 5 potential orchard initiatives (2%)
- 3 (perhaps more) orchards in woodlands (1%)
- 64 unknown types of orchards (24%)
- 26 people wanted to be kept updated via FVFL eBulletin (78%)
- 12 people wanted a visit from an expert (36%)
- 9 people want to create and manage their own orchard (27%)
- 8 people want to create and manage a community orchard (24%)
- 26 people want help to maintain their fruit trees (78%)
- 10 people want to use their fruits (30%)
- 16 people want to set up a Forth Valley orchard group (36%)
- 30 people want to be involved in the 2nd Phase
- 6 people want to be put in touch with other owners (16%)
- 46 people want to be involved with at least 1 of any future activities

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Education and Action towards Sustainable Living

