

FOGG meeting notes – 24jan22

Attendees: Ed Dolphin, Brian Golding, Maureen Hackett, Phil Lee, Jan Metcalf, Peter Murphy, Roger Till, Mary Walden-Till, Jeremy Woodward

Apologies: Richard Eley, Chris Lockyear

FOGG Objectives:

- Reiterated from website homepage: <https://glen-goyle.vgsidmouth.co.uk/>

Water Monitoring project on the Goyle/Bickwell brook:

- This is one of 14 sites monitored monthly by 9 volunteers as part of the Sid Valley Biodiversity Group's water quality project
 - Maureen carries out monthly measurements in the stream – [phosphates, temperature, total dissolved solids and turbidity] but not during heavy rain or when in full spate
 - Phosphate levels are not high, apart from a reading of 300 ppb in October
 - There might be some run-off from watering the golf course's greens higher up
- The nature of the brook is changeable: It seems that at one moment it is a gentle, slow, clear-running stream, and the next a 'raging beast', carrying significant amounts of gravel to its mouth at the beach [as during last December's storm]
 - However, it was concluded that the stream does not move gravel down its length, but that it seems to be rather silty; furthermore, that rather than 'raging', it simply fills up the 'pond' in the shingle on the beach until the structure breaks down and empties
 - There is the question of how much damage is caused in terms of erosion [Brian's photos from July's flooding: <https://glen-goyle.vgsidmouth.co.uk/flooding>]
 - The possibility of slowing the water flow could be investigated, as this might help prevent bank erosion and soil run-off
 - The banks may be unstable in some locations due to badger activity
 - There is minimal risk of flooding south of Cotmaton; although there is some flooding to the north in Bickwell Lane/Broadway
 - Tree-planting on Wheaton Hill might mitigate flooding

Project overview:

- Plants: Ed's herbaceous survey plus the iNaturalist site have been added to the website: <https://glen-goyle.vgsidmouth.co.uk/plants-in-glen-goyle>
- History: questions re the age of the Devon banks in the Bickwell valley; traces of former streams in the golf course

Developing a plan:

- A 'master plan' for the Glen would follow on from Ed's report from April's site visit: <https://glen-goyle.vgsidmouth.co.uk/2021-april-14> and <https://glen-goyle.vgsidmouth.co.uk/site-visit-maps-april-2021>
- The Group would need to be able to present itself in a coherent and convincing way when approaching the authorities/landowners, designers/planners, funding bodies
- Project aims: it was confirmed that the Group wishes to re-create , including:

interesting planting, somewhere quiet for Sidmouthians and visitors, grass for families to picnic, ease of access through the Glen

- Further discussion would be needed to bring Group members' further ideas/wishes together re infrastructure and planting – to feed into priorities and structured planning

Immediate next steps/actions:

- Project planning: Jeremy to approach different bodies to carry out a full survey of the Glen and to map out a 'master-plan':
 - Bicton College: to propose a student project
 - National Trust: to ask for contacts re a research project
 - Sid Valley Biodiversity Group: ditto
- Walk-through: Ed to contact EDDC's Parks and Gardens team [following successful engagement on Arboretum's Connaught Gdn project] to arrange dates for a second site visit:
 - to engage their new officer re this public open space
 - to consider health & safety issues and liabilities
 - to clarify responsibility re specific areas/issues, incl infrastructure and planting

Future actions:

- Paths: Phil to work with PPP and DCC re hard infrastructure before major planting
- Website: Mary and Jeremy to continue updating with input/photos from members

Next meeting: site visit some time in February

Jeremy Woodward

29 January 2022