



Press Release

13th June 2014

CSGN BOOST FOR RSPB FUTURE TIDES INITIATIVE

The innovative RSPB Future Tides project has received a boost of £5000 awarded from the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) 2014 Ideas Fund.

The project - which aims to help school children of the Inner Forth region connect with their local environment is one of 50 within the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative, an HLF funded Landscape Partnership running between Stirling and Blackness.

The funding will allow Future Tides to take pupils from three schools within the area on an adventure through the ever changing landscape of the Inner Forth, exploring its wildlife and land uses to enable a greater understanding of why the landscape is shaped as it is and how it may change in the future.

RSPB Scotland hope this will help the youngsters to build a connection with their local community and the nature that surrounds them, encouraging them to take ownership of its future. The project will examine three different aspects of the landscape, wildlife, industry, agriculture, before looking at how climate change may have an effect on the landscape.

David Anderson, Inner Forth Futurescapes Officer, RSPB Scotland, said: "Over the past few years it has become apparent that children are losing touch with the natural environment and no longer engage with nature in the way they used to.

“Through the Future Tides project we aim to take a small step in changing this by helping school children of the Inner Forth connect with their local environment and understand why it is so special.”

Future Tides scooped the prize in the CSGN 2014 Ideas Fund which invited five shortlisted projects to make a presentation at its annual Forum with delegates voting for the winner.

Keith Geddes, Chair of the CSGNT, said: “As Europe’s largest greenspace initiative, we aim to support organisations in delivering the green network on the ground and the RSPB Future Ideas project is an extremely worthy winner of the CSGN Ideas Fund.

“This innovative project can have a lasting impact for these pupils and for the Inner Forth landscape by encouraging the next generation to understand and appreciate their natural environment and strive to ensure it remains a special place.”

For further information about the Central Scotland Green Network, please visit www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org

For further information about the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative please visit www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk

Ends

Issued by The BIG Partnership on behalf of the Central Scotland Green Network Trust. For further information, please contact Kay McCarthy on 0141 333 9585 / kay.mccarthy@bigpartnership.co.uk /

Notes to Editors:

The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) is one of 14 national developments for Scotland created in the Scottish Government's second National Planning Framework. The initiative is designated a national priority.

With an all-encompassing remit, far beyond just a 'green initiative', the CSGN aims to improve the social, physical, cultural and environmental health and well-being of Central Scotland, as well as assisting the area to meet the challenge of climate change.

Oversight of the CSGN initiative is provided by the CSGN Programme Committee (CSGN PC) within the Scottish Government. The CSGN PC works to ensure progress is in line with Ministers' ambitions, as expressed through the CSGN Vision, the National Planning Framework and other relevant plans, policies and strategies. For further information please visit www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org

The Central Scotland Green Network Trust devotes all of its resources to driving forward delivery of the CSGN with a wide range of stakeholders including local authorities, regional partnerships, landowners, environmental groups and local communities, in order to help realise the CSGN vision. For further information please visit www.csgnt.org.uk/

The Inner Forth Landscape Initiative is a partnership of RSPB Scotland (lead agency), Scottish Natural Heritage (Chair), Falkirk Council, Stirling Council, Clackmannanshire Council, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Central Scotland Forest Trust, Historic Scotland, and Sustrans. Other organisations contribute knowledge, expertise and links to the community through working groups and other meetings. Its intention is to reveal the hidden cultural, historical and natural wealth of the upper reaches of the Firth of Forth, restore and conserve important features, open up access, provide skills training and ultimately leave a legacy of a richer landscape and new facilities for all.

The Inner Forth Landscape Initiative area covers 202km² from Stirling Old Bridge to Blackness Castle and the western edge of Rosyth. This includes both sides of the estuary including the estuary itself, the inter-tidal zone, floodplain, coastal margins and settlements. The fifty

projects within the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative programme will be delivered between summer 2014 and April 2018. Future Tides is one such IFLI project.

In March 2014, RSPB Scotland, on behalf of the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative, received a confirmed second-round pass of £1.9 million through the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership Scheme programme. This will contribute to delivery of the £4m programme of work developed by the initiative which comprises 50 discrete but interlinked projects.