

CONNECTING WITH NATURE IN THE NORTH WHINS AREA.

A report by Stephen Couling
NFA Councillor and Co-ordinator of the NFA North Whins Nature Spirits Group

Introduction

1. At the Park Planning Group (PPG) meeting held on Thursday 6 December 2018 one of the conditions agreed between Duneland (DL) and the PPG was:

6. During the groundwork and infrastructure stages, DL shall keep NFA (*or an identified subgroup*) informed on a suitably regular basis, of the intended programme of 'works', to enable attunement and advance communication with the nature kingdom of any envisaged disruption to their environment.

2. At the NFA Community Meeting held on Monday 14 January 2019 a number of people volunteered to be part of this Sub Group which, for now, is called the NFA North Whins Nature Spirit Group (to distinguish it from the Findhorn Nature Group). Stephen Couling, NFA Councillor, agreed to co-ordinate this group.

3. On Saturday 26 January 2019 members of this new NFA North Whins Nature Spirit Group spent time at the North Whins site in order for everyone to become familiar with the site, and to meet for the first time as a group. Maps of the site were provided and everyone was invited to record their thoughts and impressions on this map, if they wished, or to send in written submissions to the co-ordinator.

4. The minutes of the PPG meeting of 6 December 2018 :

"If DL is successful in obtaining a positive result from MC [Moray Council] (= DL application for Planning Permission in Principle) it would need to resubmit a much more detailed Application both to PPG and MC later in 2019 and this is likely to be only the first of many 'rounds' to achieve a final development 'plan'. This means that both DL and the Community have this time to collaborate, process and progress the detail, which currently is purposely left 'open'. This phase should be community driven, and so need organisations, groups and individuals to champion projects and proposals"

This walk was an important introduction to the land and a preparation for the task of communicating with the nature spirits of this land before any work takes place. Co-creation with nature, a founding principle of the Findhorn Foundation Community, and of the NFA Common Group, means creating a connection with nature before, during and after development for human habitation takes place. We believe this to be an iterative process, of receiving wisdom and guidance, and giving warning of intentions which ought to be based upon, and in accordance with, that guidance.

And in this spirit we present this report of our findings now and in the recent past.

5. Timing of this investigation

In the past a number of groups and people have engaged, or tried to engage, with Duneland (the NFA, the Findhorn Nature Group, myself) to champion attunement and co-creation with nature in the spirit of our founding principles. The work of the Listening to the Land Project has been available since 2006. However it was not really until the PPG set its conditions in December 2018 to which Duneland responded with enthusiasm (thanks to them, and Greg Paul especially) that we concerned community members felt welcomed to contribute and be heard. We understand that much work has gone into the Master Plan, but as this is still at a preliminary stage, there is scope for revision. And so we have drawn this up as quickly as possible - but it still takes time for people to attune, gather their thoughts, and make their submissions.

When archaeological remains are found in most other developments sites in the UK, changes to the development design are required to accommodate or preserve such finds. The findings herein are not physical, but as the Findhorn Community distinguishes itself as one that listens to nature, then we really ought to take careful note and revise the Master Plan for the site accordingly in order to maintain our integrity as a spiritual community working in co-operation with 'the intelligence of nature'.

6. Contributions

Contributions to this report have come from those who are nominally part of the NFA North Whins Nature Group with additions from the Findhorn Foundation Nature Group and the Park Development Subtle Activism Group. Collaboration and inclusion being such an important part of this process, it seemed only right to seek wisdom from these people also, some of whom have been concerned for the North Whins site for several years.

7. This Report

This Report is in Three Sections:

- 1 Summary of findings with map illustration**
- 2 Individual submissions, some with maps**
- 3 Appendices of supplementary information and suggestions**

It is offered in the spirit of collaboration and community involvement. It ought to be read in its entirety; however those with limited time may rely on the Summary. Any mistakes therein, or omissions, are entirely the fault of the co-ordinator, who will correct them should they be made known to him.

Finally thanks go to all who contributed by their attendance at walks, meditations, and meetings, and by sending in written contributions.

We look forward to more collaborations with people and nature spirits as time goes by.

Stephen Couling
05 March 2019

Distribution 1 - 05 March 2019

Duneland Board (via Greg Paul)
Park Planning Group (for dissemination by the Chairman)
NFA Council

All contributors: *This list may not be complete as there are also those who contributed by meditation*

Angelika Kobl, Anna Hunt Sphondylium, Fabien Barouch, Greg Paul, Ilona Kästner, Jacob ?, Jasmine Peri, Jill Denton, John Wragg, Judith Müller-Ehlen, Keith Rowswell, Kim Mawer, Liam Richardson, Loriana Pauli, Lucy Thomas, Marilyn Hamilton, Marlene Butler, Maureen McSweeney, R John Atkinson, Sarah van Zuylen, Stephen Couling, Thomas Miller, Tom MacLeod

Distribution 2 - date dependent on response from Duneland and publishing date of RB

The NFA Community via the Rainbow Bridge - to include the response from Duneland (in accordance with Rainbow Bridge Editorial Policy)

SECTION I

SUMMARY

Preamble

It is entirely understandable that communicating with the 'subtle', 'invisible' world/realm of the nature spirits is a personal enterprise and therefore the wisdoms and intuitions given herein are various and variable according to the personalities receiving them. Nonetheless there is some common consensus which will become apparent as these are listed below.

It is important to acknowledge that communication with this realm is not something new for this site. Indeed, an extensive investigation was undertaken in 2006 called ***Listening to the Land*** in which a number of still resident community members took part. The memory is still here - as is the documentation listed as a Reference at the end of this report. This report has been in the possession of Duneland Ltd since that time, and a printed copy of the Report and Appendices was given to both John Gordon and Greg Paul by Stephen Couling. Reading this again is highly recommended.

Furthermore, Dorothy MacLean wrote a letter to the whole community in 2006 (see Section III)

"We need to become aware of the views of the intelligence of nature, when from our own wholeness we attune to the wholeness of nature and ask for specific help. I don't know how many of us really believe in listening to that intelligence, not just asking it if our particular view is OK."

Our view is that we should be attuning first to seek their wisdom and guidance, and not simply telling the nature spirits what we intend to do.

In that spirit the map presented here is a summary of the intuitions and attunements of a number of people and there is a remarkable consistency in one area particularly. It is this attunement guidance which we offer in the hope that the Master Plan can be revised to allow for the number of dwellings deemed necessary, to and preserve that part of the site which we feel we have been asked to preserve.

Detailed analysis of findings

The Summary Map has a Legend for reference and listed below are references to the sources for these designations.

/... see next page



Areas A.J.D No development - left as wild as possible. Humans to stay out - same as the area in the Original Garden reserved for nature spirits. (A = Viki Hart's "Nursery" for new nature spirits)

Sources: Anna Sphondylium, Angelika Kobl, Ilona Kästner, Jill Denton, Viki Hart, John Wragg, Stephen Couling. *Listening to the Land*

Area A = This is crucial and keeps coming up again and again. Almost everyone engaged in this exercise feels very strongly that this is a powerful area and should be preserved. It is also possible that this was the area to which Dorothy MacLean refers in 'Encounters with Nature Spirits' on page 190 (first paragraph); a place amongst the acres of gorse where Dorothy used to go to find peace and harmony in Nature away from people. When she took ROC there he said that this place was Pan's headquarters in the area. Brian Nobbs (artist of Pan and nature spirits) describes it as being at the end of the runway, over to the gorse near Cullerne Gardens in a valley secluded at that time. This seems to be the place where the seat is and water has been sensed. It has been a special place for years as different people have found it to be very connected to what they seek in Nature. (Keith Rowswell - currently sharing a house with Brian Nobbs)

Area A₁ Protected for nature (= part of Viki Hart's "Nursery" for new nature spirits)

Sources: *Angelika Kobl, Jill Denton, Viki Hart, John Wragg, Stephen Couling*

Areas B Protected / gardens / fruit trees / bushes (A = Viki Hart's "School" for nature spirits)

Sources: *Anna Sphondylium, Angelika Kobl, Jill Denton, Viki Hart, Stephen Couling*

This area could be turned into very beautiful terraced gardens full of flowers, fruit trees & bushes and other deciduous trees - like Lyles Wood. Viki Hart calls this the School area for new nature spirits being born to help heal the planet. Carefully planned and executed houses might be built on the very lower slopes on small plots like the West Whins single house plots.

Area C Off-grid building / sacred geometry / natural building in garden setting

Sources: *Anna Sphondylium, Ilona Kästner, Viki Hart, Stephen Couling*

This could be tucked away in the new terraces gardens area. Note that it is next to an area of great sensitivity, home to a community of nature spirits (Anna Sphondylium) that should be left wild. It might be turned into a garden if the nature spirits agreed.

Area E Families & Affordable Housing (already planned) - take care of trees towards Wilkies Wood

Sources: *Listening to the Land, Stephen Couling, Angelika Kobl*

These need to be carefully planned to respect the views to and energies from Wilkies Wood.

Area F Community building / cafe

Sources: *Angelika Kobl, Liam Richardson*

This could be a very nice place for a community cafe / playhouse. It seemed to have a playful feeling (Angelika Kobl)

Area G Protected area - not scheduled for development

Sources: *Ilona Kästner*

Area H₁ Water source / spring - beside A

Sources: *Angelika Kobl, Ilona Kästner*

As in Area A above - dowsing has taken place here and confirmed that water lies beneath (Ilona Kästner with input from Michael Shaw). The lack of gorse and abundance of moss indicates a wet patch to confirm this. It has a very feminine aura.

Area H₂ Water source / spring - beside Cullerne Garden fence

Sources: *Liam Richardson*

It would be wise to be aware of this sensitivity even though it comes from only one member of the group

Area J Areas around and beyond the Power Points West & North - none planned

Sources: *Marlene Butler, Sarah van Zuylen,*

Power Point There may be an energy/power point at the northern point of the site that radiates strong energy over the whole site.

Sources: *Marlene Butler, Sarah van Zuylen,*

Dwellings Marked as Terraces, Single houses & the Off Grid house + new Eco-lodge/hostel

Not to scale, but a close approximation based on the sizes of the terraced houses in West Whins, and the single houses on West Whins. Up to 9 units could be built this way (based on the size of the West Whins affordable housing) which could be for young people/single people/couples.

A site is proposed for a proposed Eco-Hostel for temporary residents/Foundation workers/guests.

The single houses to the centre-north of the site could be sold with small plots and the land behind them scheduled for wilderness or new gardens with deciduous trees, fruit & nut bushes (*Liam Richardson, Viki Hart*)

All potential positions for dwellings should be determined by dowsing or other attunement.

A SUBTLE ENERGY ENHANCEMENT DEED could be attached to each plot or area and its meaning be explained to the purchasers of the site. (see Section 3 for examples of such Deeds)

Roads

The West road would terminate at the present path from Cullerne Garden. It would still provide access for terrace housing near the Cullerne Garden fence.

Road to access single houses in the centre-north would continue from the West Whins turning circle to join the road and car parking for the single houses & Community building/cafe.

There is still some question about the road and parking to the east of the site next to Wilkies Wood.

It is also suggested that cars and parking spaces be kept to a minimum in the North Whins site.