Eden 3 dialogue: Eilidh Johnston Kita (2008)

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EILIDH JOHNSTON – GREENSPACE SCOTLAND

INTERVIEWED BY REIKO GOTO

20 APRIL 2008

[ ] Text in square brackets should be checked for accuracy or spelling (for example, names) or for choice of words.

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[…] Three dots in square brackets indicate text that has been omitted for reasons of clarity – please check.

[?____] Inaudible.

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Eilidh Johnston: Is it helpful, before we look at our research, to give you the quick background on the organisation?

Reiko Goto: Sure.

Eilidh Johnston: Or have you picked up enough stuff there?

Reiko Goto: I just glanced at your website.

Eilidh Johnston: Ok. If you have something like an annual review, that should help. Basically, we were set up in about 2002 by Scottish Natural Heritage and that was to deliver on the kind of Greenspace and Urban Areas Agenda of Work. Our role was really to help support work that was going on in urban green-spaces, so we don't actually go out and do work on urban green-spaces; we try and help other organisations in a network who do that. So, that is maybe the first thing.

We are quite a small team. We were really set up to create a good case for working on green-space. Some of that was about building evidence on how Greenspace can deliver on a range of different things like health, education, economic development, regeneration and also running a network that supported and helped people who do work on Greenspace to share information. So, you might see on our website we've got a kind of network area; and the People Share Projects and so on there.

We have also published a number of basic review pieces, really. I'll give you some of these at the end, but we started with a big literature review on what Greenspace can do for things like health and economy, education and so on. We published that in a number of different ways to try and make a case nationally for investing in better green-spaces.

[1:33]

More recently, I think, we've tried to create tools that help people who are delivering on green-space – so, perhaps, local authorities and Greenspace Trusts. So, we've tried to help in terms of developing better guidance; working on planning guidance with the government – that kind of thing.

So, research-wise, there is probably a combination of things that are support tools and things that are more like literature review research that we have been involved in. I should say, our research is coordinated by a group of public agencies who we work with. We try and identify needs for research and we've worked with Community Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Health Scotland and, more recently, also the Forestry Commission, the Scottish Government and Sniffer who are The Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research. And also the Scottish Community Development Centre to work out priorities for research.

[2:38]

The first thing that group did, they set up a big literature review which was made into a document called 'Making the Links' which was about the political kind of … It linked up with the political

agenda of the day and showed how Greenspace could deliver against aspects of that. We also did a number of kind of summary leaflets.

The other thing that group really triggered was that demonstrating the links thing that you have picked up there which was a programme of action research with community groups. We do not normally work directly with communities, but this was a model that involved working with communities to give them mentoring support through a partner and asking them to generate community-level evidence and we are just finishing that up, just now. I think the challenge is to pull out evidence and trying to make some national policy connections there.

[3:33]

Other bits of research – because you were asking about this – we've been working a lot on health in Greenspace and I'm just finalising some work on health impact assessment guidance for green-spaces which sets out the evidence on how health and green-space link together; how you can maximise health in green-space proposals. So, it is mainly to help health professionals think, if they are asked to do a health impact assessment on a green-space, to know what to respond to. Also, if you are a Greenspace Master Planner (or whatever) to help you think about the health implications of what you are doing – so that will produce guidance.

[4:12]

We've been working on preparing some kind of planning guidance on creating good quality green-space in residential areas when you put together a new development.

We've been doing some scoping work on a new planning policy called SPP11 on open spaces – so, we've been looking at local authority support [side] on that.

We have also been doing a lot of work GIS mapping of green-spaces. We have worked with about twelve local authorities over the last year. That is done with consultants, but we are mapping their green-space according to a planning typology.

We have been preparing – and this is a huge piece of work – guidance on how to measure quality of your green-space as part of auditing it and that is really just coming out now.

We are doing a new literature review, actually, on the value of green-spaces which will use some more material and how that links in with the new SNP government's work.

We are likely to be doing some future work on economic development and also tying health outcomes into green-space work.

What else …

[6:03]

Reiko Goto: What is your background?

Eilidh Johnston: My own? I am trained as a geographer with a hydrology background, but I did a PhD on how environmental legislation impacted on people's views on their natural environment and whether the legal process in nature conversation – how it made them react, basically. I've also

worked for Scottish Natural Heritage – a think-tank. I've worked in sustainable development [?_____].

Reiko Goto: Geography covers everything.

Eilidh Johnston: Geography is a kind of a catch-all.

So, within this office you have people who have worked in local governments who have worked for more environmental organisations and, in fact, some art-based organisations as well.

But, what I would say is all our research is pretty much applied. It's about trying to either make a case; make the evidence for why green-space should be important or work out how can you deliver better ones; or work out how can the planning system develop and deliver better spaces, and so on.

We work well with local authorities now in trying to give them help and support. We have two development officers on our staff who would work more with local authorities, community planning partnerships and so on.

Reiko Goto: [So we know why your organisation can give that little cautionary [?_____] in what is going on in local level?]

[7:40]

Eilidh Johnston: We certainly try and maybe put them together with other local authorities here.

Reiko Goto: You go back and visit ...

Eilidh Johnston: We try and help them network a bit; we try and share good practice between different authorities and we try and give them support tools when we can. That's the kind of role overall there.

We would also try and advise Government on green-space issues and, if we're learning things about barriers to green-space or problems we would try and feed those up, and similarly we will try and feed international policy guidance and so on, where we can.

I'm trying to think if I've missed any research projects there. We did some work on community consultation as well which ties into the measuring quality work. But I think that roughly covers the lot of the work we've been doing over the last year.

Reiko Goto: Is policy changing now?

Eilidh Johnston: Big policy change on open spaces. There is this new planning policy which requires local authorities to audit their open space and prepare a strategy for it which has increased the kind ... There was a previous planning policy that suggested they should do that but that has been strengthened and now they will all be working on auditing how much space they have and what quality it is, and preparing a strategy for how they would develop it in the future.

Reiko Goto: Right.

[8:37]

Eilidh Johnston: So that's changed a lot. The new government has set different priorities in Scotland – the new SNP government. The economy is to be a strong driver at everything, but there are cross-cutting themes about things being greener and safer and healthier and so on.

Reiko Goto: [I can see how those things occur.]

Eilidh Johnston: Yes, but there is an increased focus on local authorities delivering against those government priorities, and the government has devolved, they would say a lot of power to the local authorities and funding and they are asking them to report against big outcomes. They have set a kind of framework of outcomes that tie to these themes and local authorities have some choice about how they deliver on them, and so on.

[9:59]

So, there is probably a bit of a focus on local authorities delivering against these agendas and there are some new planning things that also would drive action on green-space. These are maybe the big changes I would flag.

So, you also want to talk about ways of engaging with the environment? Do you have more questions there?

Reiko Goto: I think, right now, I am having a little bit of a hard time to understand the culture differences. The US … The place I came from was a very industrial place, but here is more rural or really cultivated land and managed land – and this management is very, very, strict. It treats green-space like a park and safety issues are very important.

Like yesterday, I was biking towards Banchory [on the cycle trail] – it is really wonderful, especially the Peterculter area – you know, it is really good. But after that, you know – I wanted to go further, but it's a really, really, [?_____] route and then the more I see the land, I keep losing about what I was thinking about it, because nature has its really controlled places and then it is owned by somebody (I don't know who owns the land).

[12:05]

So, I guess, what I would like to hear from you is how people really engage with these green-spaces and then, is there any new way to engage – new ideas; new technology because, you know, thinking about post-industrial places (well – the US, but more like maybe West Midlands) – I saw lots of new creations – woodlands and grassland in the West Midlands.

But how about here? Is there any new technology introduced to the communities? Or are the communities doing something in creating new woodlands, new places?

[12:53]

Eilidh Johnston: It is not something I know much about, to be honest. We deal only in urban areas. This is something I need to make clear to you. Greenspace, and Greenspace Scotland only applies to urban Scotland – so, not the whole rural – Banchory would not be part of things.

Reiko Goto: Right, right.

Eilidh Johnston: I should give you something on what we think about quality because that might be relevant here. We've spent a lot of time thinking about what a high quality green-space should be and you can look at it from a facilities management sort of view and say, "It's lighting and seating and so on." We've taken the view that it should not be about that. It should be about user needs and that a good quality space fit for purpose. So, if what people around it need it to be is a play park, then the best quality for that area would have a play park in it and so on. If, like a wilderness space, is more important, or it is an important area for biodiversity – those are the priorities for it.

So, that creates a kind of variable definition of quality. It depends on … You need to understand what our users need, then it needs to be fit for purpose to deliver on that.

Reiko Goto: I see.

Eilidh Johnston: So, that is something that is quite difficult.

Reiko Goto: So, it is coming from communities, that you are looking for?

Eilidh Johnston: Basically, yes – you need to know what users need across an area and different types of spaces are going to deliver differently there. And that is more difficult to measure than looking at …

[14:29]

Reiko Goto: Somebody sent me this article about this – are you familiar with this? I think it is in Glasgow. I have never been there.

Eilidh Johnston: Yes. Is this Pollok Park?

Reiko Goto: Yes – Pollok Park. This is really coming from the community – what they would like to see.

Eilidh Johnston: Well, yes … *[doubtful]* Well, we'll see, I guess, because I'm not sure … I would need to know … It is difficult to know there because some people, I am sure, would like the adventure playground.

[15.05]

Reiko Goto: Hmm.

Eilidh Johnston: That's what we've been thinking about quality, there. The other things we've been looking at – we've been looking at an approach called 'place-making' which comes from a New York based organisation called 'Project for Project Spaces'. That is the kind of consultation approach in public spaces – so, we've done a number of pilot projects on that. It brings together different stakeholders and user groups and looks at how they want to use the space. The focus there, again, is about users.

A successful space should be one that people want to be in and want to use in some way. We did some work in Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh, for example, on that. We've done some work in Inverclyde and various places on that.

[16:05]

So, we have some ideas linked to specific sites and how people want to engage with spaces. What I think is maybe missing, knowledge-wise, is we ask a lot for design guidance and the kind of spaces that people would like and I do not think we have that. Even when looking at the health evidence, you can tell that some people find wilderness spaces the best kind; some people find them very stressful and scary. So, there are a lot of different user needs there.

We have done a telephone survey in Scotland and how people use green-spaces and you may have seen that on our website. But, a lot of the ways that people want to use, and do use, green-spaces in urban areas is just for things like walking through – walking dogs, I think, is the biggest use.

[17:11]

There was a lot of interest in [thinking of] them as places to see nature, but there is maybe still a question on how important urban spaces are for seeing nature and so on; or whether, [if it is] a very natural space, what extra benefits do people get – what added value would they get from that.

Have you been talking to Forestry Commission, Scotland?

Reiko Goto: No.

Eilidh Johnston: Because, if you are only looking at trees and woodlands, then they are the people you would need to speak to, I think.

[17:51]

Reiko Goto: Who should I talk to? I mean, is there an office in Aberdeen?

Eilidh Johnston: I don't know. You would have to look at their website. I'm not sure. It's a huge organisation.

Reiko Goto: Yes. And then, I have a little [prejudiced] notion about them – maybe I shouldn't. When I talked to Geoff Banks (he initiated Aberdeen Tree Trails and works with Duncan McGregor) – I think he had a hard time ... Well, I think the Forestry Commission gave him a hard time to do that and then, what I understood was that the Forestry Commission is very busy and they have lots of things to do – I mean, just maintaining their tree [ranges or] parks, and they do not want to hear anything other people would tell them what should be done.

[19:03]

Geoff's concern was, there are not many tree [ranges] in Aberdeen – very few trees you can see. So, what we are looking at are owned by private house owners, so Geoff said, identifying the tree trail is one thing, but also planting trees because otherwise it won't be a trail. Do you hear that kind of stories about Tree Commissions, Forest Commissions?

Eilidh Johnston: Nnnno. I would agree, they are unlikely to be planting lots of trees within some urban areas, but they do work in urban areas and they have an initiative called 'Woodlands In And Around Towns' that you should look at.

Reiko Goto: Ok.

[19:54]

Eilidh Johnston: I am trying to think how you would contact them. You should find ... They have regional conservancies, so you would want to find a conservancy that covers the North East of Scotland and, I suspect, it is somebody in the conservator kind of side of things that you would want to speak to, or somebody who does the community liaison side, initially. I don't know who that would be.

Reiko Goto: Ok. So asking them which communities have been interested in more trees in their areas?

Eilidh Johnston: I don't quite understand what angle you would be coming at this from, so I don't know what you could ask them.

Reiko Goto: I think I have to talk to some communities who are interested in green-spaces. So far I haven't found anybody in Aberdeen except some individuals (a person like Geoff). How about one of your research communities? I saw Number 8 as [an interesting one].

[21:46]

Eilidh Johnston: Yes, you mentioned 'Healthy Roots'. That's not an [?_____] Woodlands, I need to tell you. Also, they did not finish their report. If you read that, they did not manage to report. So, we don't have anything beyond that one sheet on them. But there is one person called [Alan Carter]. I could pass your details on to him if you want me to do that to see if he will get in touch.

Reiko Goto: Right. So what are their major concerns at Healthy Roots in Aberdeen? The trail, or ...

Eilidh Johnston: No, it is really a community park. With a kind of allotment element, I think, as well. So, no, it is not really about a trail and it is not a woodland either. It is a community space – more.

[22:43]

Reiko Goto: What was the difficulty – why couldn't they finish the report?

Eilidh Johnston: They really only had one [FSA] as member of staff. They had one volunteer left who couldn't do it by himself.

Reiko Goto: Right.

Eilidh Johnston: I'm not sure ... He is not very easy to get hold of either, so it may be difficult to do that one.

Who I would recommend you may want to get in touch with, or I can put you in touch with, is we have a network member in Aberdeen – Aberdeen Countryside Project? I am sure Geoff would have mentioned him to you.

Reiko Goto: No, no.

Eilidh Johnston: I am sure he used to be something to do with them. If you are happy, I could pass your details to ...

Reiko Goto: Yes.

Eilidh Johnston: Well, they may have a website in which case you can get in touch with them, anyway.

[http://www.aberdeenccn.info/Web/Site/Networks/ACP/ACP.asp]

What might be helpful is if you give me a kind of research outline or something that I could pass to them because that way it gives you a way in with them, because they may be more aware of community-level projects.

[24:01]

Apart from that, we have been working with people in Aberdeen City Council to do the Greenspace Mapping Work that I mentioned, but I do not know if modern GIS Greenspace is what you are interested in.

Reiko Goto: I am, yes.

Eilidh Johnston: Ok. In that case – I don't know if it is finished yet. I will have to just check with them. But if you [contact] the Planning Department in Aberdeen who would have that.

[24:34]

Reiko Goto: Yes, I would like to know because they did, already, do some kind of green mapping, right?

Eilidh Johnston: David Miller did something with some of them.

Reiko Goto: Some of them. And what is the next step?

Eilidh Johnston: I can't actually work out how David Miller's stuff fits in with the new stuff that they wanted to do, but they have been working towards an audit of green-spaces.

Reiko Goto: Can I ask you another question? Green-space mapping is getting better and better because of the technology, but seems to be … It is not (you guys are using the word) – disseminating. It is disseminated through a website, but it is not hands-on.

[25:30]

Eilidh Johnston: That is probably true, which might [because its] licensing is based on Ordnance Survey products which means it is very difficult to just show that.

Reiko Goto: Yes, I think using a website is depending on too much … Well, the first thing is, people are not familiar with looking at the maps; and then, usually, it is talking about just [why the range]; and then people would like to know where they live and what are the issues, and how to understand it, you know?

Eilidh Johnston: Yes.

Reiko Goto: And just a small very simple process is totally not existing. I think that may be very important. Small things. I saw the Aberdeen Green Map and it is very good – the idea is good. But

lots of huge green-spaces and then, what I did not understand, what these areas mean? Duncan's boss, Ian (I don't remember his last name), he said there are lots of possibilities – people could use bicycles to move around, so they just kept it as a big block, right? But when you look at [?_____], you feel like, "Wow, Aberdeen is surrounded by a huge green space." But, actually, it is not. When you go there, those green-spaces are not … It is, maybe, a field or something. It is not that you can really go everywhere. *[But a field is a green-space and jam-packed with bio-diversity. Or are you only interested in parks? K]*

Eilidh Johnston: You can, legally, actually.

Reiko Goto: Because it is common *[land]* that people can go into the …

Eilidh Johnston: The access legislation means you have a right of access. It is different from England, for example.

[27:35]

Reiko Goto: Yes, right. It is much more open than England?

Eilidh Johnston: We have different access legislation, so that will change things. But also, when people are auditing their open space, it does not matter whether it is public or private. I can see why they would … They must record private and public open space as part of any mapping they do.

Reiko Goto: I see. So that is different. I think I have to understand it. I think I understand it by word, but I do not feel like that, looking at it.

Eilidh Johnston: Hmm. When you get out there it does not feel the same.

Reiko Goto: Yes, I really looked like, "Wow" – but then, going there … Yes. It is my problem.

Eilidh Johnston: I can give you some of the information on how these mapping (assuming it is the same stuff you have seen) – how this kind of mapping approach works, but that does not help with what you are flagging about the difference. You know, knowing how the classification works and how the mapping is done, is not the whole story, given what you are talking about.

[28:51]

Reiko Goto: No – I think, by just mentioning it again, and seeing your reactions, I think it needs a little settling in – my understanding. Do you know what it means? Because, at the beginning, I looked at [it] and I saw the legends, and then, "Wow, so many green-spaces are open – there are huge possibilities." But when I really … How my understanding about these green-spaces … What does green-space mean? And then, now you said, 'green-space', the quality you are looking at, is based on communities input, what they would like to see. So I am giving the definition to them.

[29:36]

Eilidh Johnston: It kind of is, but I need to be careful there because you need to take a wider strategic view – if you are a local authority as well – because, just meeting the needs of every community is not the whole story. Across [user] [?_____] region is the whole or whatever. You have to have a bigger vision of how your spaces are going to fit together and deliver for a big range of

needs. So, it is more complex than just knowing what everyone wants from their wee bit down the road. You maybe have to have spaces that are important to the whole city, or spaces that act as routes; spaces that contribute to the economic image of your area – so it is not always just about community needs – but – yes.

[30:18]

Reiko Goto: [Also, that condition [?_____] day-to-day. Do they have their own agenda to area – is that true?]

Eilidh Johnston: Their own ...?

Reiko Goto: They have their own goal how they would like to see the green-space would be kept or developed or ...

Eilidh Johnston: I don't know if they do, no. I can't point you to a policy that says ... They have – if you look at their vision on settlements, that would probably give you some ... Yes, that would set out their ideal; what they want to see. Yes, their Settlements Vision. Because that tells you what they think urban areas would be like.

Reiko Goto: Ok – Settlement Visions – and then, how can I find out about this?

[31:10]

Eilidh Johnston: That would be on their website. I can try and send you a link to that one.

Reiko Goto: You know, what I don't understand in Aberdeen – what is going on. I guess this is one thing – just look at it and read carefully about what they are thinking about.

Eilidh Johnston: Yes – their local plan and their development plan would, maybe, be good points to start.

Reiko Goto: That's right.

Eilidh Johnston: They will be looking at their open space strategy in the future and you can maybe see what they are thinking with that. As I say, if you are looking at woodlands, you *must* talk to the Forestry Commission.

I think Aberdeen Countryside Project would be of interest to you from a community point of view.

But, I mean, RGU should be able to advise you more on this.

[32:41]

Reiko Goto: I met [Ian Kay] who does Open Space Management. I think his background is the Forestry Commission. So, the way he manages it, he has a very specific method – you know, cutting the dying trees and then manage it for safety issues; and then protect the trees the same way so that when any building*[-work]* happens, he looks at the [activity lines] and then try not to harm the root system and then, if the construction needs to cut the trees, he *[manages it]* very carefully so that *[there is]* no waste – he tries not to make them neglect the trees they have. Yes, it is amazing to talk to him how he determines *[this]*.

[33:42]

They also have [school] on board. There is a piece of land on the other side of the river and it has a lot of plantation for future *[use]*. They could use those trees to transplant to this side of the campus, but also there is a fear about what would happen because they [?_____] the land; it is not because they would like to keep it for ever as it is now. So, in the future, as development will happen, then – I don't know what the plan would be, but those are probably what Duncan would be very worried about.

[34:27]

Yes, it is an interesting site, according to [Ian]. The river … The wildness is going through the campus. Now, this is the main campus, but they have it around here and then the buffer is [?_____] is not really screwed on – so keep it for public, but also wild life. That is very different as a management *[goal]*. So far, he is just keeping to the wild life.

[35:20]

Is there anything else I should know about Aberdeen nature?

Eilidh Johnston: No – I think it is important that you know that Aberdeen has a very strong history of parks (but we've mentioned this already).

Reiko Goto: Is there any change happening?

Eilidh Johnston: Change in Aberdeen? No, as I say, they will be thinking more strategically about open spaces in the near future. I think they are … You would have to speak to them about their priorities at local authority level for that. No – not that I can think of.

You may want to … I don't know if you are still looking at stream restoration and all that kind of thing? It has a lot of canalised water grid that is going under the city. I know they did a wee bit of restoration on those in the past through SEPA's River Habitat Enhancement Initiative.

[http://www.sepa.org.uk/guidance/HEI/guidance.htm]

[36:34]

No – I think you need to talk to people locally. You need to build up a list of contacts that way.

What I would suggest is, I can send you things like some guidance on the Green-space Mapping work; I could link you up with our partner, Aberdeen Countryside Project.

[http://www.aberdeenccn.info/Web/Site/Networks/ACP/ACP.asp]

The document we've mentioned, like the SNH Settlements Works. I will have a quick dig just to see if I know anyone in the Forestry Commission that you should contact – but I'm not too sure I do – so …

[37:13]

Reiko Goto: Yes. It would be very helpful if you can mention *[me to them as it might be interesting for me to talk to them about this puzzle.]* [This puzzle might be interesting to talk to.] It might not

be directly related, but just talking to them gives me ideas about what's going on.

Eilidh Johnston: The thing is – as I say – we don't work that much at a local level.

Reiko Goto: Right, right, right.

Eilidh Johnston: Your way into Aberdeen, I would hope would be through RGU, to be honest – so …

Reiko Goto: Ok.

Eilidh Johnston: I don't know. I am assuming your supervisor must have some contacts and ideas.

Reiko Goto: Some contacts. But just like you said, you know, is this really helpful; is this really related to my research. Until I meet a person it is really hard to tell, you know. I am very sorry – I am very ambiguous, but if I just said I am interested in trees, the story doesn't go too far.

Eilidh Johnston: No. I'm just not clear who it is you want to meet with, so it is hard to suggest names.

Reiko Goto: Ok, alright.

Eilidh Johnston: What organisations … You must have a kind of consultee list or something? Or, when you do, I can possibly help with that.

Reiko Goto: I think it would be really helpful if I can meet somebody who is developing new ideas [in ecological engagement].

[38:56]

Eilidh Johnston: I don't know of anyone.

Reiko Goto: For example, in Wolverhampton, I met some scientists. So there is some academic interest about the places. They would like to see new woodlands – open canopy, or new grassland, or new creation. That is very different, right? Even my measurement would be different because, right now, everything is kind of treated like a parkland, and safety issues becomes a priority. But once you put yourself into different positions, maybe nature is the first things. But in an urban setting – not in pristine areas. That is changing the priorities.

But once communities start getting into it, then it is kind of interesting – when people start changing their behaviours.

[39:56]

Eilidh Johnston: The people I would point you to in Aberdeen Countryside Project who are our local partner – so maybe they have more ideas.

Reiko Goto: Maybe, yes. Have you ever heard a person's name – her name is [Doric Wood] … No, maybe I can send you her name and you might know.

Eilidh Johnston: I have to be honest – I have lived in Aberdeen. That's the only reason I know it at all. I don't … I haven't done much work in Aberdeen beyond that.

Reiko Goto: Ok – that's fine. I'm sorry.

Eilidh Johnston: No, no. I'm just saying, we're not probably the best contact to know about what is happening on the ground *in Aberdeen* for you.

Reiko Goto: You are helping me a lot.

Eilidh Johnston: I can put you in touch with our network partners there who would know more about what was happening on the ground.

Reiko Goto: Ok, that's good.

Eilidh Johnston: But – well – I don't know I will know this person.

But – apart from that – have you tried the Forestry … I know, you probably can't go to Aberdeen University. Do they still have a forestry department?

Reiko Goto: Maybe. Because people say lots of things about The University of Aberdeen. In the Geology Department also – they have their own mapping system. So, that is one place I need to really get in and find out who is doing what.

[41:38]

Eilidh Johnston: Geology are very … They're focused on oils, so – no – they will not …

Reiko Goto: They're focusing on oil – ok.

Eilidh Johnston: Well, geology is anyway, but it is a petro-chemical department.

Reiko Goto: Ok.

Eilidh Johnston: I don't know if there is still a forestry department at Aberdeen, but there used to be. And the anthropology department may also have something on nature if …

Reiko Goto: Right – Tim Ingold whom I've met – yes.

Eilidh Johnston: Yes – you've met him. That's good.

Reiko Goto: He is trying to create an inter-disciplinary course right now.

Eilidh Johnston: Yes. No – it is good that you have met him because I thought you might have similar interests.

No. What I would do is if I can give you the details of someone in Aberdeen Countryside Project – they may help you with local community groups or local projects – that kind of thing which might be a good start for you.

Reiko Goto: Right, great. I will go back to some of the documents that you mentioned – the council ones – that's an easy one.

Eilidh Johnston: Yes. I don't really have those, but those will be a good start. I'll find the SNH one for you just in case it is hard to find on their website.

Reiko Goto: Thank you. Thank you very much.