**The Soil Beneath Our Feet: Collected Music & Tales of Coigach & Assynt**

**Oral History Researcher Brief**

***Background***

Coigach Community Development Company (CCDC), as a partner in the Coigach-Assynt Living Landscape Partnership (CALLP) Scheme, is seeking an Oral History Researcher, on a consultancy basis, to oversee the delivery of work on the Acheninver Path. The project is being led by CCDC as part of the CALLP Scheme with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). This element of the The Soil Beneath Our Feet project aims to provide context and depth to the wider project vision to:

***Generate greater awareness and knowledge of Coigach and Assynt’s rich cultural heritage and how people can engage more actively with it.***

***To produce a song and music book enabling musicians and others to bring old tunes back to life and ensuring future generations can access and use them.***

This project aims to explore more intangible elements of the interaction between people and place. Music and song has always played a central role in the lives of the people of Coigach and Assynt and this project will bring together these strands to both protect and preserve this cultural heritage. This project supports the wider project aims to create a new piece of music, concert and song book by collecting and exploring the existing archive material and providing a context from which the new music will be created. The Gaelic heritage of the area is recognised as a particularly important element to be explored.

***Activity Aims***

* 10 interviews, or however many as deemed necessary in the time available, to document relevant knowledge and experience of Coigach & Assynt song and music heritage
* Document historical photographs or photograph related paraphernalia that may be shared during the interview
* To review available relevant interviews previously recorded
* Summarise the interviews, highlighting relevant information with regards music and tales of Coigach and Assynt
* Review and document original music available from the area taking account of any copyright accreditations/restrictions

***Oral history project activities/ Scope of the work***

***Community Interviews*:**

Oral history will be collected through interviews with an agreed selection of people relevant to the area. Some of these will be older local residents who have been involved in the music in schools, feis, local bands and ceilidhs; some of these have been identified, others will be suggested by the oral historian in agreement with CCDC Project Manager; further interviews will be referenced from previously recorded interviews. Intergenerational interviewing could be used to further include the wider community.

***Supporting Documents****:*

Research will be undertaken to identify and document existing archival material related to Music and Tales of Coigach & Assynt that interviewees may wish to highlight to the interviewer. Also local and regional heritage agencies including Coigach Heritage, Assynt Archive, Ullapool Museum, Highland Archive Centre and other relevant organisations.

***Presentation:***

The oral history material collected will be preserved in document and MP3 format and be made accessible within Coigach Heritage, Ullapool Museum’s oral history archive, and the Assynt Community Digital Archive.

***Budget and Timescales***

The Soil Beneath Our Feet project has allocated a budget of £7,650 (inclusive of VAT) for completion of this work, which will include all travel and production of materials. It is envisaged that the project will be undertaken within the following timescales:

* By 9th April 2019: Contractor appointed
* By early August: Interviews/summaries relating to Music and Tales completed
* By end September: Full project completed

***Key documents and Information Sources***

There are various sources of information available, including project briefs, and budgets. The project team will also be available to provide information. There is a large amount of material available in the public realm, including but not limited to those listed below. These should be referenced and drawn upon by the contractor: Coigach Heritage, Ullapool Museum, Assynt Archive and other relevant organisations.

***Contract Management***

The Oral History Researcher will be responsible to the Project Management Group, but with day to day supervision of the project witll be by Local Development Officer of CCDC. All contracted obligations and payments for this contract will be documented and agreed with The Scottish Wildlife Trust, Lead Partner for the wider CALLP Scheme.

***How to apply***

Interested parties should send an expression of interest and CV to Donald Macleod info@coigachcommunity.org.uk

**The closing date for applications is 12 noon 1st April 2019.**

 