

Flow and Return Protocol

A public grammar for how resources, knowledge, attention and responsibility move through living relationships — and how consequence returns to memory, learning and the next decision.

Candidate v0.1.1 · September 2026 · Cross-domain process protocol
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Application status: desk-tested architecture · first situated applications forming
Activation belongs to a named application held by legitimate human authority in its actual context.

[← Spiralweb Papers](#) [Protocol Habitat](#) [Current public application ↗](#)

MATERIAL HOME Protocol	STRUCTURE Process	SCOPE Cross-domain	MATURITY Candidate v0.1.1
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LIVING FUNCTION

Capacity remains in contact with consequence.

Spiralweb carries several kinds of movement at once. Money may support a steward or a place. An observation may become a decision. A relationship may open an agreement. Field experience may correct a public protocol. Each movement has its own conditions, authority, memory and return path.

This protocol offers a shared way to make those passages understandable. It begins with the relationship that exists, locates who may decide, keeps different flows separately readable, and connects action with the consequences that follow.

A flow becomes part of a living architecture when the people and places carrying its consequences can shape its passage, read its effects, receive a useful return and correct what happens next.

WHAT MOVES

Different flows retain their different meanings.

Flow names movement across a relationship. Money, knowledge, attention and responsibility retain distinct meanings, rights, burdens and possibilities.

RESOURCES

**Money, materials,
time and practical
capacity**

A resource flow carries a stated purpose, lawful route, decision, period and accounting trace.

KNOWLEDGE AND EVIDENCE

**Observation,
interpretation,
hypothesis and
learning**

A knowledge flow carries provenance, uncertainty, consent, claim boundaries and a route for correction.

ATTENTION AND RELATIONSHIP

**Contact, visibility,
care and continuity**

An attention flow carries tempo, hosting work, privacy, language and the capacity to receive further contact.

RESPONSIBILITY AND DECISION

**Mandate,
commitment, release
and answerability**

A responsibility flow names who holds the next decision, who carries the consequence and when a Return is due.

THE RECURRING MOVEMENT

Seven movements connect input with Return.

The sequence is a public orientation. A real process may pause, revisit an earlier movement or discover that the original question has changed.

01

Receive

Name what has arrived and acknowledge who now holds it.

02

Locate

Place it in the actual relationship, context and standing.

03

Qualify

Clarify purpose, authority, capacity, evidence and visibility.

04

Decide

A named human or legitimate body makes the bounded judgement.

05

Move

Act, release, support, wait or pause through the agreed route.

06

Remember

Keep the proportionate financial, relational and situated trace.

07

Return

Bring consequence back and correct what comes next.

THE MEMBRANE

Passage becomes legitimate through relationship and boundary.

Spiralweb uses the membrane as a practical grammar for passage. A membrane allows movement where the relationship can carry it and preserves the distinctions that keep authority, privacy, knowledge and resources properly placed.

01	Relationship Who is actually in relationship with whom?
02	Purpose and standing Why is this moving, and who may observe, propose, decide, receive, share or refuse?
03	Capacity and burden Can the field, steward and institutional holder receive the movement within their actual carrying capacity?
04	Evidence and uncertainty What was observed, interpreted, inferred, decided and later experienced? Evidence standing follows the Grounding Protocol , keeping observation, inference, claim, proposal and uncertainty distinguishable and open to correction.
05	Custody and visibility Where does memory belong, and what may travel into another access layer?
06	Return, pause and exit What comes back, and how can the movement slow, change, close or be corrected?

The protocol uses three related grammars to hold different dimensions of the same passage.

PROCESS IN TIME Seven movements What happens, pauses, returns or changes.	PASSAGE AT A BOUNDARY Six membrane questions Whether movement can legitimately cross, and under whose care.	PUBLIC MEMORY Nine record fields The minimum trace kept for responsibility, learning and Return.
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WHY SPIRALWEB

The spiral returns. The web relates. The membrane holds passage.

SPIRAL	WEB	MEMBRANE	LEDGER	RETURN
Experience returns with changed understanding.	Distinct people and places remain in differentiated relationship.	Purpose, authority and capacity shape legitimate passage.	Memory preserves what moved, why and what followed.	Consequence becomes available to the next decision.

Flow is therefore more than circulation. It is movement with provenance, responsibility, memory and the possibility of correction.

DIVISION OF FUNCTION

Each part of the architecture carries one primary responsibility.

Living field	Holds situated consequence and the rhythms of land, people and relationship.
AnchorPoint	Holds continuity with real people, places and the next conversation.
Association	Holds the lawful agreements, governance and financial flows it opens.
Formal accounts	Hold bank movements, contracts, invoices, receipts and statutory reporting.
PG Ledger	Holds place-bound memory of observation, interpretation, decision, action, resources and consequence.
Penguin Dashboard	Supports shared human reading across Land / Life, Steward Viability and Governance / Commons.
Spiralweb Papers	Holds public inquiry, versions, protocols and the memory of correction.
Named humans and legitimate bodies	Hold judgement, consent, mandate, pause and final responsibility.

The field lives. The Ledger remembers. The Dashboard helps people read.
Named humans decide. Return changes what comes next.

RESOURCE FLOW

Three streams remain separately readable.

Resource flows communicate and affect one another. Each protects a different condition of the shared work, and movement between them becomes visible through explicit human governance.

STREAM A

Land and Ecology

Soil, water, plants, habitat, food, tools and locally relevant ecological work.

STREAM B

Steward Viability

Livelihood, time, rest, travel, learning and the capacity of people carrying continuity.

STREAM C

Coordination and Governance

Agreements, finance, translation, documentation, governance, learning and responsible institutional holding.

Here, Land and Ecology, Steward Viability and Coordination and Governance name resource destinations. This vocabulary follows **Capacity, Contact, and the Emerging Stewardship Economy**. The Penguin Dashboard separately reads the related conditions of Land / Life, Steward Viability and Governance / Commons.

Public movement vocabulary

01 . CAPACITY
HORIZON

02 . RECEIVED

03 . ALLOCATED

04 . COMMITTED /
AGREED

05 . RELEASED

06 . ACCOUNTED

07 . RETURN

08 . NEXT DECISION

Formal accounting, relationship memory and the public Flow view remain connected while carrying different levels of detail. Current amounts and reconciled movements are held on **the public PG Ledger ↗**.

ASSOCIATION APPLICATION · INTERNAL WORKING PRACTICE

Flow Desk: One Card · One Envelope · One Return

This public protocol makes the Association’s governing movement inspectable while Flow Desk remains its internal working architecture. Spiralweb Stewardship Association applies the protocol through a light relational practice that gives every active responsibility a current position, a legitimate memory location and a named Return.

One Card	One Envelope	One Return
The Association’s current orientation to the relationship, its standing, holders and next bounded movement.	A map of where legitimate memory lives across local, relational, contractual, financial and protected access layers.	The acknowledgement, decision, support, correction or learning that returns to the relationship.

Each active responsibility names a primary human holder, a backup and an honest response horizon.

FIRST PUBLIC APPLICATION

First Field Flow connects capacity with a first learning spiral.

First Field Flow is the Association's first shared public collection and the first public financial application of this protocol. Its capacity horizon creates room across place-rooted processes and the Association functions that hold agreements, PG Ledger, finance, learning and Return.

Funds move through the permitted shared purpose. Agreements, readiness, lawful recipient routes, Board decisions and situated capacity shape each release. Reconciled movement becomes visible through the public vocabulary above.

[Open First Field Flow ↗](#) · [Follow the public reconciliation ↗](#)

FIELD APPLICATION

A bounded place and relationship

Local authority, agreed purpose, ecological conditions, steward viability and a useful Return shape the movement.

INSTITUTIONAL APPLICATION

The Association as accountable holder

Contracts, finance, governance, privacy, documentation and public reporting remain held through named responsibility.

LEARNING RETURN

The public shelf fills when practice has something ready to carry.

A Field Return is bounded learning that has come back from a real place, relationship or institutional practice. It may preserve an observation, uncertainty, disagreement, changed decision, pause, unintended consequence or correction to the public architecture.

Before learning travels, the responsible people ask:

- What can travel with consent and useful context?
- What remains locally held or protected?
- What is an observation here and a hypothesis elsewhere?
- Which public paper, protocol or tool may need correction?

The Field Returns shelf on Spiralweb Papers is presently open and waiting. Its emptiness is a truthful stage of the work.

HUMAN JUDGEMENT AND AI

Assistance can expand while responsibility remains situated.

AI may help organise, compare, retrieve, translate, transcribe and draft.

Consequential movement returns to a named human or legitimate body with standing to judge, decide, release, pause and repair.

The **Sophia Lumen Protocol** holds the co-inquiry practice. **The Correction Loop** holds accountability where AI-assisted work becomes consequential. The Last Impulse remains human.

MINIMUM PUBLIC GRAMMAR

Enough memory for responsibility and correction.

A proportionate record keeps nine things separately readable. The form, language and rhythm can change with context.

ORIGIN Where and from whom did the movement arise?	PURPOSE What living function or agreed question does it serve?	STANDING Who may know, propose, decide, receive or share?
DECISION Who made the bounded judgement, and when?	MOVEMENT What actually moved, through which route?	MEMORY Where does the financial, relational or situated trace belong?
CONSEQUENCE What became visible after the movement?	RETURN What came back to the relationship?	NEXT DECISION What continues, changes, waits, pauses or closes?

CANDIDATE TESTS

The first cycles will correct the protocol.

The protocol will be read through practical questions:

- Can each active responsibility reach a named human?
- Can the people concerned see and correct what is being held?
- Can the three resource streams remain visible alongside formal accounts?
- Can field memory support learning without creating a second reporting burden?
- Can quiet, uncertainty, pause and waiting retain their distinct meanings?
- Can consequence change a release, agreement, public statement, tool or protocol?
- Does the Return deepen contact and make the next movement more truthful?

Field experience may produce a revised candidate. Repeated situated use may later establish validation for a defined purpose and context.

CLOSING PROPOSITION

Let capacity move toward life — and let life answer back.

Flow is held through relationship. Movement becomes legible through responsibility. Memory preserves consequence. Return keeps the architecture capable of learning.

One place. One living question. One bounded movement. One useful Return.

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