

Woodland Management Course
Saturday 16th May, The Stables Workshop, Falkland

Final Report

Introduction

This is the final report produced by Falkland Centre for Stewardship for the Woodland Management Course held at The Stables workshop on Saturday 16th of May. The course was well received with 16 people attending. The course was hosted by The Community Woodlands Association in association with Falkland Centre for Stewardship and Falkland Conservation Group. The course was led by Donald McPhillimy Associates Ltd.

Key learning points

- Need for an accurate map
- Prioritise your objectives
- General description is office based, combined with an on-site survey
- Define compartments in the woods and describe them according to the template
- Make a 5 year plan

Short summary of each presentation

Four steps to good woodland management.

Step 1- an accurate map: Should be current and have references

Step 2- clear objectives: Have a list of products and services the woods can provide and note these down in order of priority.

Step 3- survey and description. General description should include the ownership, with name, contact details, land unit and total woodland and location should have grid references and location details. Climate, soils, topography, access, historical details should also be considered

Step 4- proposals. Consider a 'vision' for the future of whole woodland. Look at 5 year plan taking into account urgency, costs and incomes and timetable.

Event programme

Synopsis This course gives an introduction to aspects of good woodland management including establishment, silviculture and regeneration.

Course Objectives By the end of this course, trainees will:

- Be able to walk into any woodland anywhere and begin to understand what makes it tick
- Be able to put together a simple management plan
- Understand how to move a woodland forward, through management, to a better condition, more able to provide multiple benefits

Programme

9.00 Introductions, tea & coffee
 9.30 Reasons for and structure of Management Plans (classroom session)
 11.30 Visit a simple conifer stand, then a simple hardwood stand and use checklists to gather essential information
 1.00 Lunch
 1.30 Visit a more complex mixed stand, trainees working in teams, gather the information
 2.30 Work on Management Plans in annotated map form
 4.00 Present Management Plans and review
 4.30 Surgery on individual woods (if time available)
 5.00 Evaluation & depart

List of delegates

Forename	Surname	Organisation
Elaine	Mackay	Craigmarloch Wood
Rosslyn	Mills	CWA Woodland Advisor
Lucy	Zawadzki	Fornally Garvald community Woodland
Diana	O'Neil	Fornally Garvald community Woodland
Allen	Armstorng	CLEAR Buckhaven
David	Jardine	Aberlady Comm. Woodland Ass.
Julia	Knowles	N/A
Tony	Carter	CLEAR Buckhaven
Robert	Arnott	Crossgates Comm. Woodland
James	Chapman	Monimail Tower Project
Geoff	Wilkinson	Echline Comm. Woodland
Ninian	Stuart	Falkland Conservation Group
Tess	Darwin	Falkland Conservation Group
Allan	Colverson	Falkland Conservation Group
Iain	Hermiston	N/A
Alistair	Ballantine	N/A
Morag	Ballantine	

Attendees Information

male	female	16-25	26-40	40-60
9	3		1	9
61+	White	British	Scottish	American
2	6	3	2	1

Summary of feedback

	CWA	Web	My group	FCS	RFS	Friend	TTN	TPIF
How did you hear about this event	4	1	1	1	1	2	1	1

	V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	V Good			
Location				2	10			
Organisation				3	9			
Catering				3	9			
Facilities				2	10			

	Yes	Partly	No
Did the event deliver your expectations	11	1	

Explained NO's / Partly

Advertised as an introduction as to what makes a woodland tick, did not feel this was fulfilled in the day.

Perhaps slightly shorter first session. Introduction to planning prior to doing the actual plan (afternoon).

More time to discuss the plan

Why did you take part?

First course objective

Keen to improve myself and add real value to our woodland group, the course really helped

To learn to put together a woodland management plan

Recently established community woodland

Gain ideas for the management of the woodland

To be able to "read" a woodland

Starting to write a management plan

Network with others

What benefits were gained?

Good Knowledge "food for thought"

How to spot useful detail within the woodland

Practical Knowledge

being given a starting point

Technical Knowledge

Meeting other woodlanders

Good Knowledge

Improved understanding

Guided knowledge

Planning skills

Learned to be systematic in planning

Many

Learned to dig a soil pit

How to identify hornbeam

What will you do with the experience?

Show and tell other group members

Take the information to other woodland groups

Put skills to practical use

Develop a plan for the woodland

Draw up a plan and make a start

Discuss at community meeting

Encourage support of local people

Use whenever possible

Recommend a course to others	yes	no	(depends on interest)
	11		1

YES: Why do you think it would be beneficial?

The pace was good

Provides a step by step plan

The course gave useful and practical advice

To give the group a vision

To expand basic knowledge

Brings together & directs many skills

Brings together & directs many skills

Important source of knowledge

What would you like to see the CWA do next in relation to these issues?

Advice on grants / funding would be a great help Coppicing workshop

Tips on how to gain grants and funding

Further events in Fife

How to action plan

Continue providing these workshops

More detailed training on this subject

Detailed planning

Tree nursery / tree planting workshop

Course on planting (urban planting & fruit tree management)

Visits to other groups to see what has been done and what could be done in future

Other comments

Can I get an email of the PowerPoint slides

fee ideas (funding?)

"upgrade your knowledge in a positive way" - advertise in future

Practical side of the day was more beneficial than the classroom

Photographs



Attendees watch as Donald digs soil pit for examination



Surveying in the rain, sensible male attendees shelter under a tree



The Falkland Centre for Stewardship was a super location for the event

Any other information relevant to the topic

- Quite a large group but worked well by using small groups for field exercise
- All female group kept working in the rain when the men all sheltered under a big beech tree
- Falkland woods were suitable for the exercise
- Room & facilities including lunch, were very good