



Community  
Woodlands  
Association

**Winter Tree Identification & Survey**

**Alva Glen Heritage Trust**

**4<sup>th</sup> December 2011**



*This event is part of the CWA Knowledge and Skill Development Training Programme, funded by the Scottish Government Skills Development Scheme and the Robertson Trust.*



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This report focuses on the A Walk in the Glen – Winter Tree Identification event delivered as part of the CWA Knowledge and Skills Development Scheme 2011/12. This event took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2011, training a total of 18 people. This report summarises the event and gives feedback on the success of the project.

**Why did we do this?**

The purpose of the events was to provide members of Alva Glen Heritage Trust, and interested persons from the surrounding area to give participants the knowledge and techniques required to identify and record a wide variety of tree species in a given location. The walk will have particular focus on the non-native Conifers and specimen trees that have survived in the glen since its use as a formal garden in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Course Content**

***The aim of the course is:***

On successful completion of the training participants will be able to use the skills gained to assess any woodland in the winter months (and summer) by identifying species with or without foliage. Gain an understanding of the importance of knowing what is going on in your woodland, and how best to manage this.

***The objectives of the course are*** - participants will be able to:

1. Identify a variety of species without foliage
2. Understand the principles behind woodland management and the importance of survey
3. Survey non-native formal plantings

**Event trainer: Donald McPhillimy**

Donald has been a member of RS since its beginnings and was the fourth ever RS director. He is a self-employed forestry consultant working in all those interesting areas where forestry now overlaps with communities, farming, ecology, footpaths and rural development. He runs training courses for the likes of BTCV on woodland management.

Donald is a Director of Action for Change, a trustee of Borders Forest Trust, a member of Greener Melrose Transition Town and a member of the Forestry Commission's South of Scotland Regional Forum. Until recently he was a member of the National Forest Land



Scheme's Evaluation Panel. He contributes occasionally to the Forest Policy Group and occasionally gets some paid work done.

### **List of course participants**

Name	Group Name
Claire Templeton	Alva Glen Heritage Trust
Ros Mills	CWA Staff & Cambusbarron Community Wood
Stephen Kelvin	Alva Glen Heritage Trust
Dick Clark	Alva Glen Heritage Trust
Ann McGreggor	Alva Glen Heritage Trust
Sonia Grant	Alva Glen Heritage Trust
Mike Hawkins	Callander Woodland Group
Lesley Hawkins	Callander Woodland Group
Libby Hughes	Holmehill Community Buyout
Mike Snell	Alva Glen Heritage Trust
Mrs Snell	Alva Glen Heritage Trust
John Snodin	Callander Woodland Group
Gordon MacLeod	Alva Glen Heritage Trust
Phil Reilly	Individual member / environ student
Roddy Wallwork	Cambusbarron Community Wood
Niam Hoddson	Alva Glen Heritage Trust
Graeme Hoddson	Alva Glen Heritage Trust

### **Course content**

- 10.30am – Welcome coffees / tea at the No5 Inn, Alva\*
- 10.45am – Introduction to identification & survey
- 11.00am – Walk short distance to the entrance of the glen / formal gardens and take in various areas of the glen to identify the species within
- 1.00pm – Return to No5 for coffee / tea and identification of unrecognisable species
- 1.30pm – Finish

### **Feedback from participants**

*Total number of participants returning feedback was 10 out of 18*

### ***How did you hear about this event?***

- Word of mouth
- Alva Glen notice board
- CWA newsletter
- Email
- Email from Alva Glen Heritage Trust



*Please rate the event against the following criteria, circling the appropriate statements:*

	V. Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	V. Good
<b>Location</b>				3	7
<b>Organisation</b>				2	8
<b>Catering</b>				3	7
<b>Facilities</b>				1	9

*Do you feel that the event delivered your expectations?*

<b>Yes</b>	8	<b>No</b>		<b>Partly</b>	2
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*If your answer was 'No' or 'Partly' please tell us why, and how we might improve things.*

We were hoping to learn more about the biodiversity in the woodland – and how to manage woodland to encourage new bird species.

*Please tell us why you wanted to take part in this event?*

To learn new skills

To gain a better understanding as to what is living in Alva Glen

To gain new skills

To learn more about the place I walk every day

Sounded interesting

Thought it would provide a new skill and better understanding of my surroundings

General interest in the Glen and the non-native formal plantings

*What benefits do you feel you gained from attending the event?*

New identification skills

Not afraid to ask if I don't know what something is... there are so many conifers that are very similar, it is ok if I get it wrong

A renewed interest in my surroundings

A better understanding of what to look for in certain tree species – black buds on Ash etc.

A wealth of knowledge available in books and using new gadgets, it is always worth while looking something up when it catches your eye.. you never know what you might have found.

*What will you do with the experience / skills / ideas you have gained from attendance?*

Identify trees

Contribute towards future literature and interpretation in the glen

Pass on knowledge to my kids – go out with a book and share knowledge with them and others who are willing to listen

Appreciate how hard a tree works and how beautiful they can be, even without leaves



Practice my winter tree id – all year round! ☺

***Would you recommend others to take part in such an event?***

Yes	No
10	

***Please explain why / why not:***

Interesting topic

Excellent to get outdoors in the winter months (and snow!) and learn a new skill

Donald was a fascinating man, with a wealth of knowledge – I could have listened, read and watched all day!

Great that these events are free to attend, I always gain new skills and meet nice people

Interesting topic with lots of nice, enthusiastic people

***What would you like to see Community Woodlands Association do next?***

***Are there other training / seminar opportunities would you like to see organised?***

More identification walks – perhaps wildlife / birds

Woodlands for conservation and biodiversity

Greenwood Working

Chainsaw training

***Do you have any other comments on any aspect of the event?***

Great afternoon, thank you

Really interesting, leaving me with lots to think about.

Keep the training events coming!