

	<p>Community Woodlands Association Skills Development Scheme</p> <p>Kingussie Community Development Company</p>	 <p>Community Woodlands Association</p>
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Coppice Event Report 21st November 2012

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.

Introduction

In 2012 Davall Developments gifted Kingussie Community Development Company (KCDC) a strip of riparian woodland along the banks of the Gynack reaching from just below the Golf Course to the bridge at The Cross Restaurant. The area covers approximately 2.5ha and contains a mix of broadleaves with a substantial proportion old Hazel coppice.

Management objectives include both recreation and increasing biodiversity. A network of paths has been created, and several large Sycamore removed. The next step is to open up the canopy to allow more light and encourage a greater diversity of ground flora and fauna, and to restructure to broaden the age, height and diversity of trees and shrubs within the woodland.

Reinstatement of the neglected hazel coppice is one of the management regimes that KCDC wishes to employ to achieve these objectives.

The event was offered to KCDC members and the wider community, its aims being to:

- Provide understanding with respect to the need for management of the woodland
- Give the community an understanding of the history and cultural aspects of traditional coppicing
- Provide practical instruction in coppice techniques
- Encourage more of the community to become involved in the woodland

Attendees

Donnie Grant (KCDC Director)
 Sulheka Millar (KCDC Director)
 Amanda Calvert (KCDC Director)
 Iain Dyce (KCDC Director)
 Ian Moffat (KCDC director)
 Jim Ballantyne (KCDC director)
 Lois Ballantyne (KCDC member)
 Andy Dunn (KCDC member)

Toni Clark (Muir of Ord, CWA member)
Keir Murdo (Urban Roots, CWA member)
Dick Webster (KCDC member)
Ernest Emmet (KCDC member)
Bill MacCarthy (KCDC member)

Event Programme

Led by Donald McPhillimy, the day was split into two sessions. The morning session consisted of a presentation. This covered the history of coppice, its relevance -why coppicing is carried out, when it shouldn't be, and the basic methods. Following lunch the group walked up to the woodland where theory was put into practise.

Afternoon Session

Prior to the start of the event the Hazel present on the site had been checked to ensure that no priority species associated with the trees.

Full instruction with respect to health and safety and the types and safe use of tools was given.



Donald illustrated the techniques used; the participants then cut trees within the designated area. The newly created stumps were protected by encircling them with the brush, and the participants were shown how to stack the cut material to store within the woodland until required. Donald explained what different diameters of hazel coppice could be used for.



The group was shown how to increase the number of trees in the stand by layering:



By the end of the day an area of the woodland had been coppiced, the stumps protected and material stacked ready for future use. The participants had full understanding with respect to why the coppicing was carried out, how and when to cut, and how to manage the coppiced woodland in the future.