



Fintry Development Trust
Introduction to Woodland Management Workshop
20th April 2013



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

The Fintry development Trust in co-operation with the Community Woodlands Association and Greener Aspirations Scotland held an Introduction to Woodland Management Workshop within Fintry's Community Woodland on the 20th April 2013. The workshop looked at the sustainable management of local woodlands for whatever purpose the owner required, be it wood-fuel, the preservation of habitats, community engagement etc. The workshop was a great success and well attended by a number of individuals. The variety of participants' backgrounds, experiences and all equally different aims and aspirations added to the success and value of the day.

FDT would like to thank the Community Woodlands Association and Green Aspirations Scotland for their support and advice.

Event programme

Synopsis: The Introduction to Woodland Management Workshop aimed to inform attendees on how they could manage local woodlands in a sustainable way for what they want to achieve.

Course Objectives:

- At the end of the workshops participants were able to create a woodland management plan taking in to account their own aims and aspirations for their woodland plot.
- The ability to understand the basic aspects of the woodland around them
- Conduct trees surveys
- Inspect woodland boundaries
- Choose the most appropriate place to plant saplings

Programme

9.30am - Tea & Coffee on arrival

10.00am - Indoor session (Woodland management presentation)

11.00am - Outdoor session taking place within Fintry's community woodland (asses the site)

13.00pm - Lunch

13.45pm - Return to woodland site and carryout workshops

3.30pm - Visit second woodland site and compare

16.00pm- Workshop ends



Key learning points of the day

- Why we need to manage woodlands
- The importance of understanding your site completely and if any aspects of the site will impact upon future development plans
- The importance of an effective management plan
- How an individual/organisation would create an effective management plan taking in to account objectives of the site, the individuals/organisations aims and all information that is available for the site.
- Importance of surveying your site
- Importance of mapping your woodland site. By creating a work plan which coincides with your objectives and aims you can plan what you want to deliver and also monitor progress.
- Importance of planning what you want to do and organising within the group who is taking on the responsibility to do it.
- Methods of tree surveying
- Methods of boundary surveying
- Methods of tree planting

Presentation summary

The presentation summarised how to make up an effective management plan according to your aims and aspirations, what you want to do, what your site may need or may limit you to do, how you plan to deliver your project and how to monitor progress. Participants were also informed where they could get further information about their own woodland sites, and the importance of background research.

Active woodland based workshops

- Tree surveying
- Planting of saplings within Fintry's community woodland
- Boundary inspection
- Local woodland comparisons

Resources for further reference

- Forestry Commission Scotland Map viewer (for information on forest habitat, grant scheme boundaries etc) <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-857DT5>
- Past Map (information on protected historic landscapes)
<http://jura.rcahms.gov.uk/PASTMAP/start.jsp>



- Scottish National Heritage (information on SSSI or conservation areas ect).
<http://www.snh.gov.uk/publications-data-and-research/snhi-information-service/>

List of course participants

| Name | | M/F | Age |
|---------|----------------|-----|------|
| Andree | Rees | M | >=40 |
| Angela | Smith | F | <40 |
| Dominic | Porter | M | <40 |
| Iain | Buchanan | M | >=40 |
| Colin | Cameron | M | >=40 |
| Nikki | Kenn | F | >=40 |
| Phil | Friston-Reilly | M | <40 |
| David | Smith | M | <40 |
| Chris | Drapper | M | >=40 |
| Meg | Duckworth | F | >=40 |
| Ian | Workman | M | >=40 |
| Kelly | McIntyre | F | <40 |
| Chrissy | Pollock | F | <40 |
| Kayt | Howell | F | >=40 |

Feedback from participants

How did you hear about this event?

Notice in sports country club & by email

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

| | V. Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | V. Good |
|--------------|---------|------|------|------|---------|
| Location | 6 | 1 | | | |
| Organisation | 6 | 1 | | | |
| Catering | 6 | 1 | | | |
| Facilities | 5 | 2 | | | |

Do you feel that the event delivered your expectations?

| | | | | | |
|-----|---|----|--|--------|--|
| Yes | 7 | No | | Partly | |
|-----|---|----|--|--------|--|

If your answer was 'Yes', 'No' or 'Partly' please tell us why, and how we might improve things.

'Yes, it covered a broad background, and also provided practical demonstrations which were very useful'.



'The event was informative and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I have been on another course recently and this was better.'

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

'To find out a little more information that would help in woodland management and working with communities'

'To learn about woodland management'

'To understand better the management of my woodland area.'

'I have a wood'

'To further knowledge on woodland management and share experience'

'In the view to maybe buy and manage woodland in the future.'

'To ensure I was managing woodland properly'

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

'Gained good background information to add to existing knowledge, and practical workshops benefitted too.'

'I have knowledge of PASTMAP and other such websites as sources of information'

'I got a good overview of the reasons for good woodland management, and some specific understandings of care of trees and habitat. I will use this to restock areas of my woodland'

'Mapping Understanding many of the issues pertaining to woods'

'I will pass on experience to other community members'

'How to write a management plan.'

'I learnt a lot and look forward to planning for the future'

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

'I will use the experience in my business and when I buy some land.'

'Now will look on a 5-year plan to ensure the wood continues to grow and flourish'

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

| | | | |
|-----|---|----|--|
| Yes | 7 | No | |
|-----|---|----|--|

Please explain why / why not:

'I think management options could have been considered - such as how/why the wood is being managed but apart from that the course was pretty comprehensive.'

'Yes. Good event, good organisation and strong sense of the community ethos of Fintry.'

'Yes, very informative and expands network'

'I found the information very useful and a great team delivering the course and attendees'



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

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

'To continue with other training events in a similar vein'

'Vegetation Identification courses/workshops'

'Help with producing plans. Help claiming for grants'

'More courses'

'Perhaps another meeting in the autumn to talk about what we have done and talk through problems and successes'

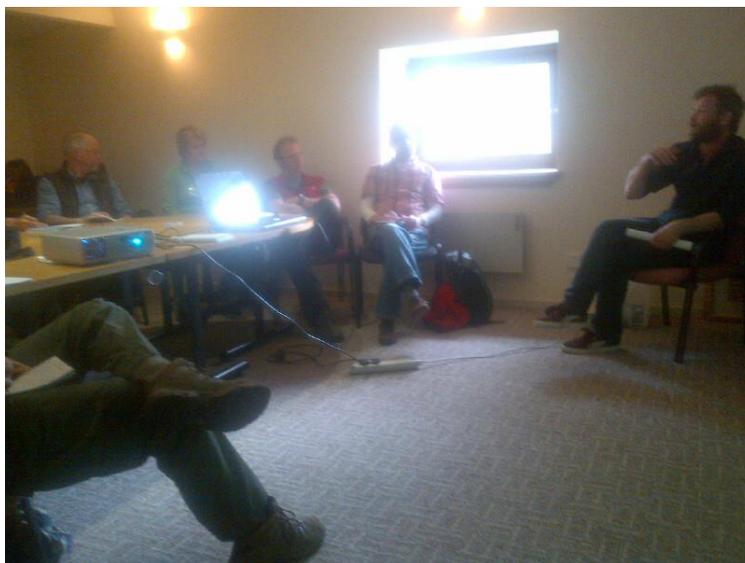
Do you have any other comments on any aspect of the event?

'Nicely organised.'

'It would have been nicer to go to a woodland with a larger variety of habitats within it - the one in Fintry was so small'

'It was interesting, informative and very enjoyable'

Photographs



Paul Cook from Green Aspirations Scotland completing his presentation.



Out in Fintry's community woodland Paul explains the importance of understanding your woodland.

FDT would like to thank the Community Woodlands Association and Green Aspirations Scotland for their help and assistance in organising this workshop.