

CWA Survey of trading from Community Woodlands

Introduction

The Community Woodlands Association (CWA) was commissioned in 2015 by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to compile a database of community organisations in the HIE area which trade by selling goods or services from community-owned or managed woodlands.

Methodology

A survey was devised by CWA in discussion with HIE, using SurveyMonkey, with 41 categories of goods and services grouped into 6 broad headings, plus an additional “any other goods and services?” question. Respondents were also asked whether other individuals or organisations sold products or services from their woods.

A list of 80 community groups with woodland interests¹ was compiled: the majority are CWA members. Contact details were derived from CWA records, supplemented by websearching.

A covering email² containing the SurveyMonkey link was sent to contacts for each of the groups 9 November. This outline the objectives of the survey, and clarified that “trading” included the sales of wood products and other goods and services delivered under contract (including sales made by trading subsidiaries) , but excluded goods and services which are free at point of delivery (like public recreation) or paid for grants (e.g. from the SRDP or National Lottery).

Where groups did not trade then they were asked to reply by email to ensure they weren’t pursued further. Where emails bounced back alternative contacts were sought and used.

Reminders were sent in December 2015 to groups who had not responded, including the opportunity to talk to a CWA staff member to complete the survey.

Responses were entered into an Access database, which has been configured to output records for individual trading groups in pdf format.

Responses

Responses were received from 50 of the 80 groups contacted. This was a slightly disappointing result considering the considerable effort put into attempting to contact the groups, especially as we are aware that some non-responsive groups trade extensively.

Of the 50 respondents, 23 did not report any trading activity (16 sent brief emails to that effect, a further 7 completed the questionnaire but did not report any trading activity).

¹ Appendix A

² Appendix B

In a few cases clarification of responses was sought by CWA. Although there were clear instructions in the covering email and on the introductory page of the survey to report only current trading, some respondents included future plans; in such cases the responses have been amended appropriately.

Results

27 groups reported trading activity³. A breakdown of responses and respondents by broad heading is presented in the table below. Further tabulations and breakdowns of responses by individual category are presented in Appendix D.

Broad headings	Responses	Respondents
Unprocessed roundwood and fuel wood	51	22
Sawn timber and woodproducts	13	8
Foodstuffs and plants	10	9
Training, Education and Health	27	12
Events and recreation	24	13
Miscellaneous activities	9	8
Other goods and services	8	8

At least 8 groups reported trading under each of the broad headings

“Unprocessed roundwood and fuel wood” was the most commonly reported broad heading for trading activity, and our expectation is that this is by far the most significant field with respect to volume of business for the majority of groups.

Trading was reported in 33 of the 41 specific categories. The most frequently reported were “Roundwood for fuel” (16) “Split logs” (15) “Round wood for timber” (10) and “Other events (parties and fundraising events)” (10), and there were 8 categories where no trading was reported.

Collective, respondents reported trading in 134 categories: this equates to approximately 5 categories per group, although there was considerable diversity of activity: one group reported trading in 14 of the categories, and another in 13; whilst two groups trade only in one category.

A number of groups reported that other individuals or organisations sold products or delivered services from their woods. These responses are listed in Appendix D below; in some cases it is unclear whether the activities reported should be considered trading.

³ Appendix C

Appendix A: List of community groups with woodland interests in the HIE area

Abriachan Forest Trust	Helensburgh Community Woodlands Group
Acharacle Community Company	Helmsdale Woodlanders
Aigas Community Forest	Here We Are
Anagach Woods Trust	Highland Renewal
Applecross Community Company	Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust
Ardentinny Community Trust Ltd	Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust
Ardrishaig Community Trust	Isle of Rum Community Trust
Ardroy Outdoor Education	Kilfinan Community Forest Company
Argyll Green Woodworkers Association	Kilmallie Community Company Ltd
Argyll Small Woods Co-operative	Kingsburgh Forest Trust
Arkaig Community Forest	Kingussie Community Development Co
Assynt Crofters Trust	Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Trust
Assynt Foundation	Knoydart Forest Trust
Aultnaskiach Dell SCIO	Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland Ltd
Badluarach & Durnamuck Community Woodland	Latheron, Lybster and Clyth Community Dev' Co
Balloch Community Council	Lochalsh Woodland Park Steering Group
Blarbuie Woodland Enterprise	Lochcarron Community Development Company
Boblainy Forest Group	Milton Community Woodland Trust
Broadford and Strath Community Company	Morvern Community Woodlands
Bute Community Land Company	Mull & Iona Community Trust (Green Energy Mull)
Campbeltown Community Orchard & Garden	Newtonmore Community Woodland and Dev' Trust
Coigach-Assynt Living Landscape	North Harris Trust
Colintraive and Glendaruel Development Trust	North Sutherland Community Forestry Trust
Cormonachan Woodlands Association	North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd
Culag Community Woodland Trust Ltd	Raasay House Community Company
Dunain Community Woodland Group	Raasay Development Partnership
Dunnet Forestry Trust	Rosneath and Clynder Community Action Trust
Embo Trust (Urras Euraboil)	Ross of Mull Historical Centre
Erisort Trading (Aline)	Shetland Amenity Trust
Evanton Wood Community Company	Sleat Community Trust
Fernaig Community Trust	Sluggans Woodland Park Group
Findhorn Hinterland Trust	South Loch Awe-side Community Company
Forres Community Woodlands Trust	South West Mull and Iona Development
Friends of Duchess Wood	Stornoway Trust
Friends of Newtonhill Community Woodland	Stramash
Gearrchoille Community Wood - Ardgay	Strathnairn Community Woodlands
Glen Urquhart Land Use Partnership	The Burn O' Fochabers Woodlands Community Trust
Glenelg and Arnisdale Development Trust	The Laggan Forest Trust
Glengarry Community Woodlands	Treslaig & Achaphubuil Crofters Woodland Trust
Glenorchy & Innishail Community Orchard	Ullapool Community Trust (Lochbroom Woodfuels)

Appendix B Covering email sent 9 November 2016

Hello

The Community Woodlands Association (CWA) has been commissioned by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to compile a database of community organisations in the HIE area which trade by selling goods or services from community-owned or managed woodlands.

You are receiving this email as the representative of a community woodland group or other organisation working with woodlands, in the HIE area. If there is someone else in your organisation who would be better placed to complete this survey please forward this email to them. If you are no longer associated with such a group, or your group does not trade in any way then please send me an email to that effect, so that we know that the survey isn't relevant to you, and we don't come back and chase you up!

The survey is at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K3W72R6> and should take 5 - 10 minutes to complete.

For the purposes of this survey we are **including** current sales of wood products and other goods and services delivered under contract, but **excluding** goods and services which are free at point of delivery (like public recreation) or paid for grants (e.g. from the SRDP or National Lottery). Please also include sales made by any trading subsidiaries. The final question gives you the opportunity to record any goods or services which aren't specifically listed

The information gathered will provide a valuable resource to help HIE and CWA to understand and evidence the breadth of economic activity around community-owned and managed woodlands, and to support the on-going development of the sector.

If you have any other questions about this survey please get in touch.

Best regards

Jon

Jon Hollingdale

Chief Executive Officer, Community Woodlands Association

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Appendix C: List of groups reporting trading activity, with website where known

Group	Website
Abriachan Forest Trust	http://www.abriachan.org.uk/
Ardentinny Community Trust Ltd	ardentinny.org
Argyll Green Woodworkers Association	http://www.argyllwood.co.uk/AGWA/agwahome.htm
Assynt Foundation	www.assyntfoundation.org
Aultnaskiach Dell SCIO	http://aultnaskiachdell.blogspot.co.uk/
Blarbuie Woodland Enterprise	www.blarbuiewoodlands.org
Culag Community Woodland Trust Ltd	www.culagwoods.org
Dunnet Forestry Trust	www.dunnetforest.org
Evanton Wood Community Company	www.evantonwood.com
Findhorn Hinterland Trust	findhornhinterland.org
Friends of Duchess Wood	www.duchesswood.org.uk
Friends of Newtonhill Community Woodland	http://www.tannachanddistrict.org/joomla30/index.php/friends-of-newtonhill-community-woodland
Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust	www.gigha.org.uk
Isle of Rum Community Trust	isleofrum.com
Kilfinan Community Forest Company	www.kilfinancommunityforest.com
Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Trust	kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk
Knoydart Forest Trust	www.knoydartforesttrust.org
Lochcarron Community Development Company	lochcarroncommunity.wprdress.com
Milton Community Woodland Trust	http://www.miltoncommunitywoodland.org/
North Sutherland Community Forestry Trust	
North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd	www.nwmullwoodland.co.uk
Raasay House Community Company	
Sleat Community Trust	www.sleat.org.uk
Strathnairn Community Woodlands	http://www.strathnairn.org.uk/strathnairncommunitywoodlands.asp
The Laggan Forest Trust	www.lagganforest.com
Treslaig & Achaphubuil Crofters Woodland Trust	
Ullapool Community Trust (Lochbroom Woodfuels)	www.lochbroomwoodfuels.com

Appendix D: Responses to survey questions by category

Trading Category	Responses
Roundwood for timber	10
Roundwood for fuel	16
Split logs	15
Woodchip	4
Wood pellets	0
Bark, sawdust	3
Charcoal, biochar	3
Machined or sawn timber (e.g. fence posts, planks)	8
Sawn wood products (e.g. planters, sheds)	2
Turned or carved wood products (e.g. bowls, ornaments)	2
Hazel coppice products	0
Willow coppice products	0
Furniture, signs	1
Mushrooms, nuts, fruits & berries	0
Other foodstuffs (e.g. from polytunnels)	3
Venison or other game	3
Woodland plants, mosses	0
Nursery plants, trees	4
Training courses / events: woodland skills (green woodworking, bushcraft)	7
Training courses / events: other skills (MTB)	5
Delivery of education (school / pre-school)	5
Delivery of education (adult)	4
Delivery of health initiatives (green gym etc)	3
Delivery of mental health / rehabilitation initiatives	3
Camping / hutting	2
Shooting	1
Wildlife watching / camera stalking	0
Sporting events	2
Filming, advertising	1
Theatrical performance or other arts events	4
Woodland weddings / other celebrations	3
Woodland burials	1
Other activities (parties, fundraising events)	10
Renewables: hydro	2
Renewables: wind	1
Renewables: other	0
Carbon sequestration	0
Other rentals (e.g. mobile phone mast)	2
Grazing (cattle, ponies)	2
Woodland crofts	1
Car parking	1

Responses by category grouped by broad heading

Unprocessed roundwood and fuel wood	Responses
Roundwood for timber	10
Roundwood for fuel	16
Split logs	15
Woodchip	4
Wood pellets	0
Bark, sawdust	3
Charcoal, biochar	3
Total Responses	51
Total Respondents	22

Sawn timber and woodproducts	Responses
Machined or sawn timber (e.g. fence posts, planks)	8
Sawn wood products (e.g planters, sheds)	2
Turned or carved wood products (e.g. bowls, ornaments)	2
Hazel coppice products	0
Willow coppice products	0
Furniture, signs	1
Total Responses	13
Total Respondents	8

Do any other local individuals or organisations sell these products sourced from your woods?

- *Some small activity such as wooden key rings or picture frames etc sold by local crafters*
- *Yes. Some machined/sawn timber sold on from our woods by third party who has been clearing windblow and previously felled timber / waste wood in exchange for timber. But they have mainly been selling the wood as firewood / logs.*
- *A couple of local wood workers source timber from us*
- *a very small amount is sold, i.e. bird boxes, candle holders*
- *Yes (no details given)*

Foodstuffs and plants	Responses
Mushrooms, nuts, fruits & berries	0
Other foodstuffs (e.g. from polytunnels)	3
Venison or other game	3
Woodland plants, mosses	0
Nursery plants, trees	4
Total Responses	10
Total Respondents	9

Do any other local individuals or organisations sell these products sourced from your woods?

- *Culag leases an area of Little Assynt estate to Scottish Wildlife Trust who run a tree nursery on the site.*
- *Venison sourced from our woodland sold by Highland Game Ltd*
- *Some mushrooms sourced from our woods sold by other local individuals locally; tree seeds sourced from our woods germinated, grown and sold locally as tree seedlings/small trees.*

Training, Education and Health	Responses
Training courses / events: woodland skills (green woodworking, bushcraft)	7
Training courses / events: other skills (MTB)	5
Delivery of education (school / pre-school)	5
Delivery of education (adult)	4
Delivery of health initiatives (green gym etc)	3
Delivery of mental health / rehabilitation initiatives	3
Total Responses	27
Total Respondents	12

Do any other local individuals or organisations deliver these services in your woods?

- *Not sure if this tick box is what you want as it's provided by ranger who we joint fund with SNH. She charges participants for 'education' walks and presentations.*
- *So far we have only run one workshop in den building but it is something we plan to develop*
- *We deliver school and Pre school sessions but don't earn an income from this. The HC Ranger Service also use Culag Woods for school sessions.*
- *Mountain bike leaders use the trails, other training providers use the facilities including the classroom, workshops and seminars organised by others have used the facilities also.*
- *Wild Things! deliver forest school courses to many schools in the area using our woods and the Findhorn Foundation runs courses including Building Bridges events for socially and physically challenged local individuals. The Foundation also uses the land as a venue for some of its other courses.*
- *We have had several secondary school classes in the woods undertaking class work such as biodiversity surveys. We hope to have green gym sessions. At moment we don't have plans to earn income from these activities, although some may give us 'in kind' support eg green gym undertaking pruning work/lifting wood etc.*
- *(Income from the above mainly through venue hire for courses/events.) Other individuals/organisations also delivering training courses/events in our woods and often woodland themed, eg Reforesting Scotland gathering.*
- *H Council Rangers, mental health visits, school and nursery groups, DFT does not receive any income from these visits. DFT runs a Green Gym, no income involved just benefits to the forest.*
- *We do not own a woodland. The training we provide is for young people in the woodfuel business Lochbroom Woodfuels. This gives them skills that they can then use for future employment and keeps young people in the area. We earn income through funding from government employability schemes*

Events and recreation	Responses
Camping / hutting	2
Shooting	1
Wildlife watching / camera stalking	0
Sporting events	2
Filming, advertising	1
Theatrical performance or other arts events	4
Woodland weddings / other celebrations	3
Woodland burials	1
Other activities (parties, fundraising events)	10
Total Responses	24
Total Respondents	13

Miscellaneous activities	Responses
Renewables: hydro	2
Renewables: wind	1
Renewables: other	0
Carbon sequestration	0
Other rentals (e.g. mobile phone mast)	2
Grazing (cattle, ponies)	2
Woodland crofts	1
Car parking	1
Total Responses	9
Total Respondents	8

Do you sell any other woodland products, or goods or services?

- *Woodland management and creation services to private landowners, other contract work such as track maintenance, line clearance and other works for Knoydart Renewables and landscape work and timber construction . Sell Swedish log candles, wooden animal pencil holders, bench sponsorship, wood cookies and other craft related items at local craft fairs and events.*
- *We receive donations for weekly tours that we offer for people wanting to know more about the land and how it is managed.*
- *Christmas trees annually for group funds.*
- *We have a visitor fee for the gardens/woodlands at Achamore.*
- *Teepee poles*
- *Cafe serving forest users and visitors*
- *Xmas trees, poles, woodchip.*
- *Waxlings which are wood shavings and wax firelighters.*