



Community
Woodlands
Association

"Community Woods: Learning and Earning"

CWA Annual Conference Report

**Horizon Scotland, Forres Enterprise Park,
Forres, Moray IV36 2AB**



Introduction

The 17th annual CWA Conference took place on 1st and 2nd October in a very sunny Forres, Moray and attracted 86 delegates from across Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Our theme was "Community Woods: Learning and Earning" and the aim was to explore options for developing community woodlands as centres for social enterprise, skills training and education.

The conference was a great success, and not just because of the amazing weather. Delegates, representing 42 community groups and 8 other organisations were inspired by a diverse range of speakers from across Scotland, as well as from the other Home nations, took part in a range of workshops and had a choice of three site visits hosted by Findhorn Hinterland Trust, Forres Community Woodland Trust and Moray Estates. On Saturday night delegates enjoyed a dinner at the Mosset Tavern in Forres and danced to the night away to the fantastic ceilidh band The Broch Inspectors. They also found plenty of time throughout the weekend to network, catch up with old friends and make some new ones along the way.

Quotes from the feedback received:

"To gain knowledge about small woodland ideas and how committees can be involved in this process"

"Wanted to see others in similar positions to me approach problems and challenges we all face."

"To experience the buzz of CWA Conference and to understand latest developments within the sector."

"I come every year and always learn something new and make new connections (since 2005)."

"Discover how others manage their woods. Find out about funding and making woods work for community."

"Try to put into practice at home. Tell other groups."

"Keep up the good work CWA"

"Thanks for CWA's hard work"

*CWA gratefully acknowledges the support of our funders:
Forestry Commission Scotland, Making Local Woods Work
and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.*

Contents

Conference Programme	4
Saturday presentations	5
Workshops	14
Site Visits	22
Sunday presentations	28
CWA strategy session	35
Summary	38
Appendix 1: Feedback	39
Appendix 2: Speaker biographies	43
Appendix 3: Delegate list	47

Conference Programme

SATURDAY 1st October 2016	
9.15	REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS
9.50	Chair's Welcome Jon Hollingdale
9.55	Ian Hepburn (CWA)
10.00	Jonathan Caddy (Findhorn Hinterland Trust)
10.15	Don Wright (Forres Community Woodland Trust)
10.30	Keynote speaker: Ian Ross
11.00	The Making Local Woods Work project: Mike Perry (Plunkett Foundation)
11.30	Tea & Coffee
11.50	Workshops
	Adding value to timber: Nigel Lowthrop (Hill Holt Wood)
	Establishing an environmental employability programme: Sandra Sutton (Twechar HLEC)
	Youth on board: Roni Smith & Clelland McCallum (Abriachan Forest Trust)
	The Future of Forestry in Scotland: Jon Hollingdale
13.00	Lunch
13.45	Site visits
	Site Visit 1: Findhorn: Findhorn Hinterland Trust
	Site Visit 2: Sanquhar Woods: Forres Community Woodland Trust
	Site Visit 3: Darnaway: Moray Estates
16.30	Tea & Coffee
16.30	Informal discussion and information session: woodland crofts (Jamie McIntyre), community shares (Rory Dutton), NFLS successor scheme (Rebecca Carr), transforming ourselves and our woodlands (Ninian Stuart), earth loos (Nigel Lowthrop)
16.30	Woodworking demo: Evanton Wood Community Company
19.00	EVENING MEAL & CEILIDH at Mosset Tavern, Forres

SUNDAY 2nd October 2016	
9.30	REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS
10.00	Chair's Welcome & CWA news
10.10	Adrian Clark (Evanton Wood Community Company)
10.25	Karin Eyben (Garvagh Enterprise Trust)
10.40	Gordon Gray Stephens (Argyll Small Woods Cooperative)
10.50	Adrian Farey (Elwy Working Woods)
11.05	James Ogilvie (Forestry Commission Scotland)
11.15	Tea & Coffee
11.40	Facilitated session on CWA future strategy & development: Ian Hepburn, Anna Lawrence, Diane Campbell, Amanda Calvert
13.00	LUNCH & end of conference
14.00	Community Woodlands Association Annual General Meeting

Saturday 1st October 2016

Chair's Welcome Jon Hollingdale

Jon welcomed delegates to this, the 17th CWA Conference, ran quickly through the programme and the housekeeping arrangements, and introduced the morning's speakers.

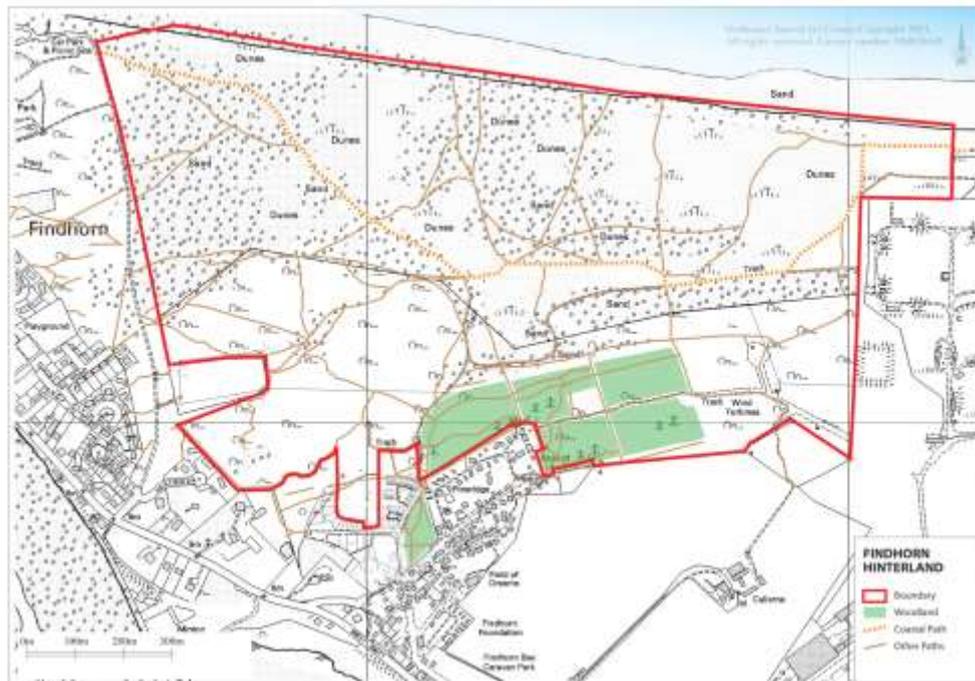


**Jonathan Caddy
Findhorn Hinterland Trust**



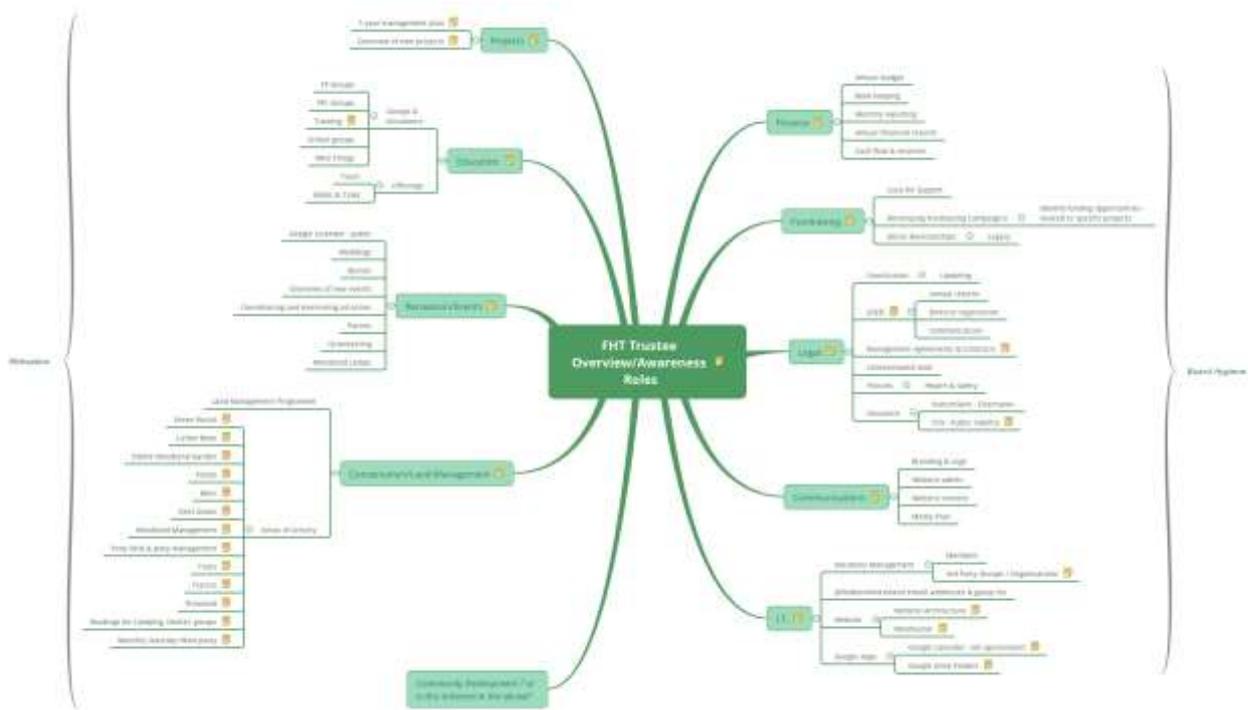
Jonathan Caddy, chair of Findhorn Hinterland Trust (FHT), gave a brief history of the Trust, their achievements to date and hopes for the future. The land they manage was originally owned by Wilkies Estate and was acquired by Duneland Ltd in 1997: the Findhorn Dunes Trust was gifted 166 acres in 2000, Findhorn Foundation bought 84 acres in May 2014, and Duneland Ltd still owns 37 acres. The land comprises shingle ridges formed by longshore drift after last glaciation, covered with blown sand from Culbin.

In January 2005, a well-attended community meeting was held in the James Milne Institute Hall to discuss the management of the land. From this meeting Findhorn Hinterland Group emerged, and in July 2015 the group finally became a charity in its own right, Findhorn Hinterland Trust (FHT).



Public consultation land

FHT have monthly working parties which have proved very popular with members. They have been managing the nationally rare lichen habitat, which has over 160 species recorded. The nutrient deficient acid habitat is not conducive to grass or flowering plant growth but is a haven for lower plants especially lichens.



New Structure Areas of Work and Trustee roles and responsibilities.



In 2007 FHT established the first community run green burial in Scotland, pioneering a way to fund good community land management. To date there have been 17 burials and 68 lairs are reserved. Planning permission was required and all income after Funeral Coordinator's expenses goes into to managing land. Burials are green as long as only biodegradable material is used. There are no gravestones but some graves have native trees planted on them so in time the area will become a diverse, native woodland.

There is a Peoples History book where family produce information about the person buried on the site – access will soon be available on line. If interested in further information see www.findhornhinterland.org/green-burial/ and if seriously interested in pursuing this option contact the funeral co-ordinator, Will Russell, on 07980 047770.

FHT have an Edible Woodland Garden: a small-scale demonstration project based on permaculture principles, and established an apiary with two hives in the spring of 2014. Extra protective equipment was acquired to allow others to explore the art. Practical tutorials are offered to those interested in knowing more about beekeeping or wish to have their own hives.

Their new Wildlife Pond is a joint venture with Froglife, a national charity promoting the conservation of amphibians. It uses a Bentomat liner which allows for the creation of permanent ponds as it has a clay layer between outer protection that self-seals. There is a brash 'hedge' to create habitat and a quieter area for wildlife.



FHT have a Wildlife / Local Biodiversity Action Plan that was produced by Sean Reed in Dec 2012. It helps highlight priority habitats and species to manage - work in progress. It is a real possibility that the area, in the future, might become designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by incorporating it as an extension of the Culbin SSSI.



A Woodland Shelter was constructed in July 2011 with grant funding from Awards by All and design by James Chitty. It used wood from the forest milled on site by Ian Purkis using a Woodmiser portable bandsaw. The shelter is the centre for educational walks and talks and is used by many different groups of people.

FHT still have many challenges, some of which are:

- Local politics: clarifying what the vision of most people is (or isn't) and finding a way forward;
- Ensuring that the work of the trust is carried by the many rather than one or two champions. Champions are great but organisations last and take ideas and actions into the future if structured carefully;
- Skilling up everyone, especially trustees to use the technology available to run the organisation smoothly;
- Learning to work with a transient population so people can take on roles and then pass them on smoothly when they need to move on;
- Working with long time scales to line things up: grants, public consultation, grants, management document, grants, before major projects happen on the ground!
- Involving the next generation: they are the people who are going to carry on the dream into the future!

Future plans for FHT include:

- Developing their first integrated management plan;

- Building a new tractor shed, tool shed, small office space as community build school event using timber from woodland;
- Developing an inspiring land based educational programme;
- Secure income for trust including purchasing land green burial enterprise land;
- Finding regular ways to celebrate and involve people on the land such as an annual woodland festival event;
- Mapping lichen rich areas and devising a long term, sustainable management programme
- Publicising more widely in order to get as broad a section of the community involved in the land based events and activities.

For more information on Findhorn Hinterland Trust please visit their webpage:
www.findhornhinterland.org/



Don Wright **Forres Community Woodland Trust**

Making Woodlands Relevant to the People of Forres

Don Wright, Chair of Forres Community Woodland Trust (FCWT) welcomed delegates to Forres. FCWT was established in December 1999 to purchase woodlands that were under threat of being developed for housing. They have an elected Board of Directors from the local community and membership is open to local residents. FCWT own 3 woodlands totalling 66ha: Muiry, Newforres and Sanquhar Woods.

Muiry & Newforres;

- 16ha south-east of Forres acquired in 2000;
- Two adjacent areas of 10.8ha & 5.2ha;
- Clear-felled in 1991;
- Naturally regenerated Scots pine and birch, planted hardwoods;
- Car parks and surfaced paths.

Sanquhar Woodlands;

- 47ha south of Forres acquired in 2002;
- Mountain bike trail opened in 2008;
- Coffin Field 2.9ha acquired in 2012;
- Predominantly Scots pine, other conifers & mixed broad leaves;
- Several pond areas;
- Large housing estate to north, Dava Way to west;
- Mosset Burn on eastern boundary, wetlands and open fields to south;
- Car park, roads, woodland tracks and surfaced paths.

Don gave an overview of some of their recent projects, on-going tasks and future projects:

- Car park height barriers and improvements – 2013;
- Major path improvements – 2014;
- Clearance and replanting adjacent to housing – 2015/2016;
- Gorse and heather clearance – 2016;
- New website launched – 2016;

- Rhododendron eradication – 5 year programme ongoing;
- Wildflower meadow underway;
- New 5 year plan under preparation;
- Additional bird boxes – planned;
- Hibernacula – planned;
- Thinning – planned.

Work parties at Sanquhar Woods are ongoing and continue the task of clearance and re-planting trees. The small clear area in the middle of Sanquhar Woodlands known locally as ‘The Coffin Field’ was originally purchased from Altyre Estate with the aim of making it a Natural Burial Site. However, investigation of the soil composition showed that the area could not meet the planning requirements of Moray Council and SEPA for such use. Therefore, the FCWT Board have decided to develop it as a ‘Wildflower Meadow’ and encourage biodiversity in this area. Bracken has grown around some parts of the coffin field and to reduce its impact and hopefully prevent it spreading, Nick Molnar and his Clydesdale horse Tommy ‘bashed back’ the bracken in an eco-friendly manner, they must now wait to see what impact this has on future growth.

Sanquhar Woods also has an extremely popular mountain bike trail which has been used on many occasions for the Junior Mountain Bike Trials. Work parties are currently clearing gorse and heather at Muiry Woods. All woods have also been host to local orienteering events organised by Moravian Orienteers.

This year Forres Community Woodlands Trust was awarded a commendation in the Healthy Lifestyle Competition of The Scottish Finest Woods Awards 2016. The judges visited Sanquhar, Muiry and Newforres Woodlands in early summer and interviewed members of FCWT Board before delivering their verdict.

Constant challenges like so many community groups are:

- Funding;
- Membership;
- Volunteers;
- Community relations;
- Vandalism;
- Fly tipping.

FCWT’s vision is; “To maintain and enhance the Trust’s woodlands as biodiverse habitats that provide recreational and educational opportunities” and they will keep working hard to make sure their vision continues for generations to come.

If you would like to know more about FCWT please their website:

www.forrescommunitywoodlands.org

Ian Ross OBE, FICFor, FRSA



Personal Reflections on Community Forestry

Ian Ross has been involved in Community Forestry in a range of guises for 20 years plus. At present he is the chair of the Scottish National Heritage and until recently was the chair of the NFLS Assessment panel. He shared his personal story of experience of and involvements with community forestry.

Ian began with a brief history of the Forestry Commission (FC) on the Black Isle: *The FC first acquired land there in 1926 and there was a significant FC presence on the Black Isle until the late 70's: forest worker holdings; housing and communities created for workers and foresters; even resettlement of people from St. Kilda (school with children); new planting, management of existing woodlands, production, nurseries and even a sawmill. In 1965 there were 200+ employees; 10 foresters; 4 sub unit offices; the last nursery closed in 1983 and now there are no FCS employees on Black Isle.*

Ian decided he wanted a career in forestry and was fortunate to study forestry at Aberdeen University in the 1970s – rich in lecturing reputation and ability, depth of expertise. He gained a traditional forestry degree with a strong science base – covering silviculture, ecology, forest botany, policy and forest resource management. In his Honours year he selected a Land Use option which encouraged him to do some wider thinking over the place of forestry and how it interacted with other land use interests; he also had the option of arboriculture, which promoted some thinking around social impacts. This encouraged an awareness of the wider issues around forestry – some of this was emerging in forest policy, but often the fundamental driver was more about how you could make forestry acceptable.

Ian was also influenced by a number of events – such as the experience of the Flow Country – demonstrating issues of change and impact and how this should be considered in advance, rather than through historical experience and hindsight. He noted that forestry does not operate in isolation from other interests, and there is a public interest, even in a privately owned asset.

Ian did some work for FC – in large production units in Aberdeenshire and also on a large establishment unit in Argyll. He enjoyed this opportunity and certainly did his fair share of Sitka farming and ploughing of peatland. Ian also worked at the Scottish School of Forestry which provided the opportunity to develop his thinking as part of the preparation of teaching materials. For 30 years plus years he has delivered the teaching input on policy, land use and ultimately social forestry. He led the development of the first SSF degree course in 1995 and as part of a later revalidation of the degree he developed a dedicated social forestry unit. The combination of this and the input from other resident and visiting lecturers has contributed to a course which gives students a good grounding in operational management based on applied sciences, but also a much wider awareness and understanding of how forestry can deliver against a much wider canvas of interest and benefits.

Ian served for 13 years as a Highland Councillor chairing first the Sustainable Development Committee and then the Planning and Development Committee. He raised the profile of forestry and pushed for more within the context of community engagement. Highland Council at that time was seen as a prominent body in the promotion of land reform.

Ian was involved with the North Highland Forest Trust for a number of years as Director and Chair. The Trust did much in demonstrating the contribution forestry could make to sustainability, it supported rural development and made the link across a range of interests. An example of a nature based solution and ecosystem services in action.

Ian was a Member and then chair of the Forestry for People Panel - a very talented group of members. The Panel made a number of recommendations around policy – some fairly radical by past standards, but in general they were accepted and taken forward and very much influenced the change in attitude and approach to communities by the FCS in particular. One area Ian highlighted is what was called the “legal project” – this was about the transfer of land and forest assets to communities - which led to the NFLS. The original Panel recommendation included transfer at below market value where a net community gain could result from the sale, however this was not accepted by the Minister at the time.

He was invited onto the Steering group for SFS in 2006 – this strategy had community issues embedded within it - a fascinating and worthwhile piece of work. Ian has been fortunate in his career, he was in the right place at the right time and was able to participate and contribute to a number of key developments and initiatives. His summary conclusions and messages – and emphasising they reflect personal views - were:

- Forestry as a sector gains wider acceptance and approval because it can deliver wider benefits – this must be promoted and also accepted by the main stream forest industry. Put simply timber production and the delivery of other interests and benefits can be fully compatible;
- Community engagement (in its widest sense) is an example of a wider public benefit;
- Community engagement is about ownership, control and much more;
- On balance the FCS and FES have been very good for community engagement;
- Private sector has made progress, but much more is required (accepting there are some fine examples);
- Community considerations in forestry are moving more to the centre ground, but not entirely there yet;
- An organisation like the CWA is crucial, there needs to be an active and informed voice and a body to support the diverse community forestry family;
- At present there a degree of a return to the “Sitka Spruce for all” approach. Scotland does require more productive forest, but this must be done with a balanced approach. Watch for an over-emphasis on investment forestry with production as the sole aim.

Finally, Ian urged all delegates to read the Future of Forestry in Scotland consultation closely and respond.



Mike Perry (Plunkett Foundation) ***The Making Local Woods Work Project***



Mike Perry, Head of Development and Policy, Plunkett Foundation chairs the Steering Group for the Making Local Woods Work Project. The Plunkett Foundation helps communities, predominantly in rural areas, to set up and run community co-operatives: enterprises that are owned and run democratically by large numbers of people in their community. These help people to tackle a range of issues, and come in many forms including shops, cafes, pubs and land-based initiatives.

Their core values stem from the great Irish co-operative pioneer, Sir Horace Plunkett, who founded Plunkett Foundation (PF) in 1919. He believed that rural communities didn't have to wait for someone else to make life better for them; they had the potential to do it themselves – with a little help.

Plunkett Foundation is really pleased to be working with CWA on the Making Local Woods Work Project, and acknowledge the great support they have received from the Big Lottery Fund. The Project all began at Hill Holt Woods in Lincolnshire. Nigel Lowthrop approached Mike about a public consultation that was taking place in England. Their experience with other organisations helped them put a group of people together who were interested in pulling together local community ownership and community-run woodlands - massively inspired by CWA, and its networking and sharing of ideas.

After a meeting which included FC England, Hill Holt Wood and Plunkett Foundation a framework was put together: 2½ years later the Project came about. The partnership is between Plunkett Foundation, Forestry Commission, Shared Assets, Woodland Trust, National Association for AONB, Grown in Britain, Forest Research, Llais y Goedwig, Hill Holt Wood, CWA and Locality.



Whilst Plunkett Foundation is not a woodland organisation they do have extensive experience in community ownership, rural development and bringing partnerships together. The Making Woods Work Project aims to support 50 project groups through the UK (they have 43 at present and are still recruiting); these are very diverse with business ideas and activities that include timber harvesting, coppicing, woodfuel, education, health, well-being and ecotherapy. The Project started in September 2015 and will run for 3 years until August 2018. The objectives of the project are to:

- Grow confidence and capacity in the sector;
- Support 50 UK communities to begin woodland social enterprises;
- Help with varied legal forms

The Project will provide advisory support to groups - up to 16 days per group, and deliver training, events and wider networking on a range of topics including woodland management, education provision and business administration (e.g. HR; financial planning). MLWW will commission research to support groups and to monitor and evaluate the project, carry out promotion, awareness-raising and advocacy and produce tools and resources.

Although the primary focus is on the Making Local Wood Work project groups, training and networking events will be open to everyone. Next year's Making Local Woods Work conference will be held in conjunction with the CWA annual conference in October 2017 at Cumbernauld – more details to follow soon.

Why woodland social enterprise (WSEs)?

- **Scale:** WSEs can operate effectively at smaller scales than traditional 'forestry';
- **Non-economic goods:** WSEs can effectively mobilise the non-economic values of woods;

- **Community empowerment:** WSEs can empower community actors through enterprise / business;
- **Inclusive:** WSEs can reach beyond 'customers' to a greater diversity of people.

Pilot groups in Scotland:

- Aigas Community Forest;
- Argyll Small Woods Co-operative;
- Arkaig Community Forest;
- Beechbrae;
- Dunbar Community Woodland Group;
- Glengarry Community Woodlands;
- Green Aspirations Scotland CIC;
- Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust;
- Knoydart Forest Trust;
- South West Mull and Iona Development.



South West Mull and Iona Development



South West Mull and Iona Development



Vert Woods Community Woodlands,
Sussex



Wild Rumpus CIC, Cheshire, England



Down to Earth Community Benefit
Society, Northern Ireland

Beyond 2018: Over the next few years they will be testing ideas, looking how partnerships work and hope to grow and extend the project. They also want to know if there is any particular training or tools that are needed and are happy for you to get in touch with your ideas.

Get in touch

mike.perry@plunkett.co.uk

Project Manager: norman.dandy@plunkett.co.uk

Sign-up to the project newsletter at: <https://www.plunkett.co.uk/woodlands>

www.makinglocalwoodwork.org

Follow the project @localwoodwork or #woodsw

Workshops:

Adding value to timber Nigel Lowthrop (Hill Holt Wood)



CWA's Chris Marsh introduced the workshop and explained to the 14 delegates present that Hill Holt Wood's (HHW) value added timber is at the base of their social enterprise. Chris asked the audience for their experience of value added timber (VAT):

- 5 people dipping toes for the first time
- 4 have done some practical timber work
- 3 who see VAT as something they want to take further in what they do.

Value added timber tends to be either smaller scale craft wood (furniture, tools, handles/hinges, domestic objects/ornaments) or larger (often structural) milled products: beams, cladding, flooring, roofing etc. HHW has developed experience in most of these fields. Although they don't own a large timber resource themselves they manage woodlands for others, getting perceived low value timber in return and turning it into high value products.

In terms of their ability/capacity to process and utilise timber HHW followed a fairly typical development path. Key to operations is timber handling, the central workhorse at HHW is an alpine tractor coupled with a small timber trailer with integral crane/log grab. This can not only access and extract logs from standing woodland but moves timber around the yard between log stacks, milling and seasoning/storage areas. Milling began with chainsaw mills – simple, demountable, manoeuvrable with adequate capability to produce beams and cladding for the first rudimentary timber buildings (covered and indoor workspaces, tool and drying stores).



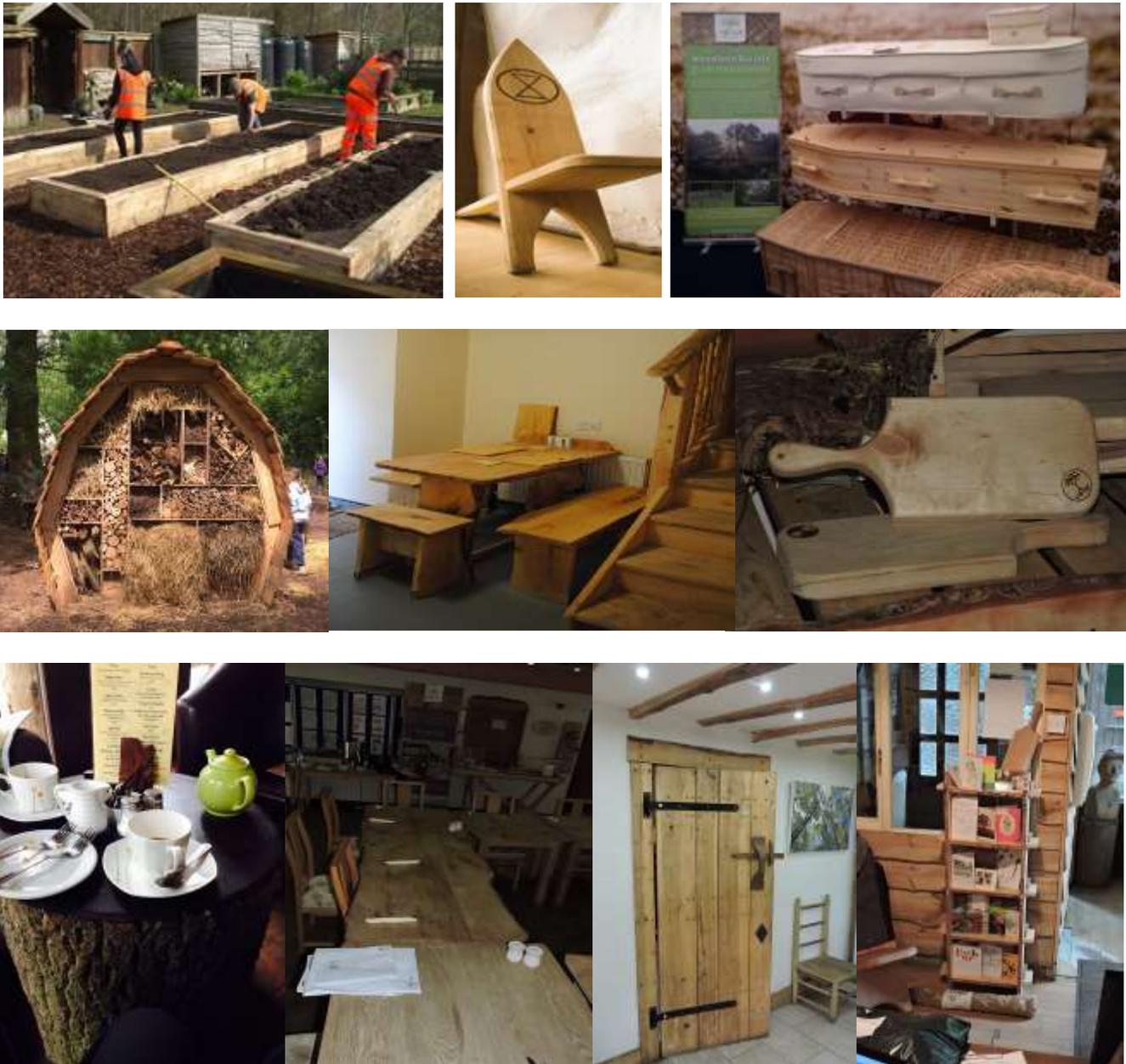
Many of these early buildings were perceived at the time to be short term 'stop gap' structures but are still in existence today, often repurposed for other uses as the enterprise has evolved. They progressed to more accurate/efficient-cutting bandsaws: a semi-mobile Bamsesagen and now a Woodmizer LT40 bandsaw installed on a permanent concrete floor under a customised shelter/structure. These now provide the large range of furniture/craftwood raw material as well as structural, cladding and finishing materials for use by their in-house architectural design & build business.

On the whole HHW does not use oak and other hardwoods for structural timbers but makes good use of Sitka spruce and larch. Larch works very well, with no rot or insect damage. They've even had success cutting larch shingles on the sawmill, not traditional but effective. Often they use logs in the round for load-bearing in large structures – interestingly, planners tend to accept it for strength where they might not if it had been milled. HHW also support self-builders with advice and bespoke timber. The establishment of an integral Design Team – complete with college course links and subsidised graduate placement scheme – means structures are consciously designed to utilise the timber available from the yard (species, dimension etc). Nigel was keen to stress the importance to HHW of the Design Team: the ability to overcome the perception that a lot of British timber is low value and no good for construction; the ability to design to the properties of the timber that is available. In his experience there is an increasing interest in using local materials supported by both universities and students (e.g. he has over 80 trainee architect applicants from all over the world for a single Design Team vacancy next year). He also sees great potential for groups to increase competency and capacity by developing mutually beneficial relationships with academia and sustainable designers.



Hill Holt produce a range of furniture and other products, from shelves to coffins, and they are developing products such as cheeseboards to sell through the Woodland Trust website; these must be FSC certified. With a growing reputation as an exemplar social enterprise, HHW have been able to diversify into event hosting and corporate hospitality (a venue for conferences, workshops, weddings, events) which allows them to showcase their products (café & restaurant furniture, shelving, picture frames etc) which supports sales.

Nigel emphasised that groups shouldn't be ashamed of making profit: if you earn more money, you can do more good things with it. It is important to know your market and price accordingly. Another recommendation was to stamp your product (or burn in your logo) to ensure the name is out there and identifiable. Having a good-looking brand that relates to a good 'backstory' is important in achieving healthy sales at justifiably higher prices.



Discussion

Observation: Some delegates felt bewildered/intimidated by the equipment out there: often requiring significant investment, often with considerable price range and often with slightly different specifications/application. Nigel: agreed there are *many* options out there but this was a good thing – there is a lot of choice already and more innovative 'appropriately-scaled' kit coming out all the time (just for e.g. he's learned of a under £1k Logosol 'steam-kiln-cabinet' for drying small quantities of timber to 'furniture dry' from green in a week). The point is to do some research to allow an informed (probably imperfect) choice and Get Started. It may be you will outgrow your machinery or immediately realise another one/type is better but there is a good second (third- and fourth-) hand market for most conventional kit and it doesn't lose much value if

only owned and used sparingly so it's relatively easy to sell on, or up/down-size once producing and learning on the job.

Question: Some of the product examples are incredible, but is this possible without full time employees as many community groups only part time volunteers? Nigel believes it is definitely still possible, though it is more challenging only with volunteers (training, quality and throughput/productivity issues) and obviously not to the scale and breadth of activities shown here – but any specific element is possible.

Question: Perhaps CWA could consider providing some overarching role for things that individual groups find difficult i.e. links to design teams at universities, machinery hire etc. Chris Marsh stated that with the advent of the Making Local Woods Work project there are already a number of groups interested and signed up to developing their timber utilisation (craft and structural scale) and this will inevitably lead to broader networking and knowledge sharing opportunities amongst CWA members which in turn means exploring ways and means of collaborating and co-ordinating. In the meantime, please suggest training topics that might develop your own capability and capacity in this area and CWA will try and respond by arranging provision.

For more information on Hill Holt Wood please visit: www.hillholtwood.co.uk/



Establishing an environmental employability programme **Sandra Sutton (Twechar HLE)**



This was an inspiring and motivating session that generated a lot of detailed questions on the operations of the Twechar Project and was attended by 10 delegates. The Project is based on a community centre that the local authority were wanting to close but that the community valued as the centre of community life in the ex-pit village. The local authority handed over to local management which now delivers:

- Training in Catering and Hospitality using the onsite café to SVQ level;
- A part-time Pharmacy that delivers to the area;
- One Doctor's surgery each week
- Physio;
- CAB;
- Youth Service Charity;
- Sports Hall and outdoor pitches;
- Community garden and orchard;
- First Aid Training;
- Jobs pathway via SCVO;
- Adult Literacy Training;

- Children’s Holiday Club and many other activities.

There was much discussion and admiration for the achievements of the Twechar Project which clearly demonstrated how communities can deliver key services if the local authority adopts an engagement policy and is not driven solely by the financial value of “surplus” sites.

For more details on the Twechar Project please visit: twecharhlec.org.uk/



Youth on board Roni Smith & Clelland McCallum (Abriachan Forest Trust)



Roni Smith and Clelland McCallum from Abriachan Forest Trust provided a very useful workshop attended by 20 delegates on how important it is to engage and invest in young people. Clelland began by reminding us that adults forget what it is like to be a young person!

There are 3 main stages in young people’s life:

Early years. This is the key area of learning and developing: a young person is increasing brain mass and building foundations for the rest of their lives. At this age they are very selfish in the way they learn, the world revolves around them; they learn by exploring the world around them; they learn more by siblings and family bonds.

Main childhood. From 4 or 5 years old onwards. Studies have shown if you engage young people outdoors that hard-wires their brains for a more scientific life. Children living / experiencing the outdoors move towards a career in science / medicine - outdoors is a huge laboratory.

Adolescence. Teenagers are exceptionally emotional, again they are laying down a huge amount of brain mass. It takes longer them to come to a decision and they then make snap decisions based on emotions, hence the moody behaviour. They are becoming more ethical and start to see the world in a much more holistic way. If you engage with them in their environment they become environmentally aware which will take them through the rest of their lives.

If one of the pathways has been turned off through neglect or damage, it is far more difficult for that young person’s brain to compensate or redevelop that pathway; it’s not impossible but does take time and effort. Clelland gave an example of how a young girl visited AFT over many years and has progressed though the Young Ranger’s Scheme and is now a teacher and giving back to them. Another youngster was so disengaged eventually he got extended work experience – he had no real academic qualifications but through a joint working activity agreement he found unknown talents and now has an apprenticeship with FCS.

Rather than trying to parachute young people into your group, invest in the skills of young people. If you have a training course, make space for a young person. They are efficient learners and young people will get something out of it. Young people have fantastic ideas.

If accessing young people through school make sure you go through the curriculum for excellence - make it relevant. Outdoor learning is a key part of the curriculum for learning and community woodlands are the best place to do this. What you invest in young people might come back in later years. Forest schools – they take with them what they have made, it gives them a huge sense of achievement.

Target your events specifically – if targeting early years you are engaging with parents too! They are usually very committed to their children. Make it fun and pleasurable. Use any piece of equipment in a safe way – use saws as long as it is in a safe environment. When children are under stress their brains will shut down and they no longer learn. By making it fun you take the stress out of the situation. The key message is invest in young people and they will invest in you.

After a short presentation delegates were taken outside to continue with the learning by taking part in some activities used to engage young people at AFT. Laughter was heard as delegates were asked a question, and with each correctly answered they threw a piece of wood; the aim was to knock down as many skittles as they could. It was easy to see how this activity would break down any barriers and create enthusiasm to join in. It was fun and achievable.



Collin Morrison North West Mull Community Woodland Co Ltd taking part in a youth engagement game



Mike Perry, Plunket Foundation preparing to throw

For more information about Abriachan Forest Trust please visit: www.abriachan.org.uk/



The Future of Forestry in Scotland Jon Hollingdale (CWA)

The Scottish Government is consulting on proposals for the future of forestry in Scotland <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/forestry/future-of-forestry/> - the workshop aimed to inform the CWA response and encourage responses from members.

The proposals for consultation have three main objectives:

- To introduce new organisational arrangements for the management of forestry in Scotland;
- To ensure effective cross-border arrangements;

- To replace the Forestry Act 1967 with new legislation providing an updated statutory framework for the regulation of forestry in Scotland.

The workshop discussed these 3 objectives in turn, commenting on the specific consultation questions for each. It was noted that the consultation is rather back to front – it should be starting with “what do we want to achieve?”, and then decide how best to deliver.



1 Organisational arrangements

The Scottish Government is proposing that the functions (regulations, policy, grants, etc.) currently performed by FCS will come into the Scottish Government as a dedicated Forestry Division within the Environment & Forestry Directorate. Forest Enterprise Scotland, the manager of the National Forest Estate, will be replaced by a new forestry and land management body called Forestry and Land Scotland. This would focus initially on the National Forest Estate, but would have the potential to take on management of other landholdings of Scottish Ministers.

Discussion points

- The community sector values FCS as an accessible, somewhat autonomous and responsive organisation, which is largely populated by foresters.
- There are concerns about the consequences if forest policy is run by non-foresters (Natural Resources Wales is seen as a clear example of the danger here)
- The Scottish Government is tending to centralise and amalgamate, and there will need to be a strong response to avoid this happening to FCS/FE.
- A continued unified Forestry Service is the preferred solution for a sector that is generational in its time scale.
- In terms of maintaining professional skills and knowledge of forestry, it is important that foresters have experience in different geographical and skill areas.

2 Cross border arrangements

There was general agreement with the three priorities for future cross-border working identified by the consultation: forestry science and research, tree health and common codes. It was noted that taxation arrangements are cross border arrangements that could be altered at the UK level, (or SG could take action to mitigate).

3 New legislation

The Forestry Act 1967 (and related forestry enactments) will be repealed and replaced with a new and updated statutory framework for the regulation of forestry in Scotland.

Discussion

There was agreement that Scottish Ministers should be placed under a duty to promote forestry, but less consensus or clarity about the nature of such a duty. It was noted that the new bill is a once in a generation opportunity, and we should be as specific as possible as early in the process as possible. Suggestions for duties included:

- to promote localism and community control,
- to promote other government policies, such as action on climate change
- to promote more diverse land ownership, and asset transfer at below market value
- to recognise that there is a hierarchy of public benefits, and that e.g. employment on grouse moors should be ranked appropriately
- to hold onto the national committee and the regional forestry fora and ensure appropriate external scrutiny of Land Scotland
- to expand and enhance the role of forestry, and not allow it to be diluted by absorption into a larger body.
- to use available fiscal measures to deliver diverse local ownership
- to promote the scope for forests to improve well being

The much longer term view for forestry compared with that of most politicians was commented on, this legislation needs to be fit for purpose for forestry for at least the next 20-30 years and not simply reflect immediate political issues. It was noted that the proposals have been in development for the past year – well before the EU referendum result – but Brexit will certainly have an impact on the outcome.

It was commented that a shortcoming of the Forestry Act 1967 was that it focused on trees, rather than wider land use issues. It was felt that there is a need to have a high level land use strategy for Scotland as currently land use is not optimised – rather agriculture and forestry are often considered in opposition.

It was stressed that it was important to align strategies that involve forestry and to establish the content of these now and lobby MSPs to put forward amendments to the draft legislation if necessary. Although there appear to be centralising tendencies in the SNP government, they are not a majority government and amendments to the draft legislation will be possible.

The focus of the consultation is the National Forest Estate, however the new Forestry Act will have an impact on privately-owned as well as public forests – for example by updating the regulations around felling licences and restocking – but it could have wider impacts on private forest management.

Forestry Commission Scotland has external oversight via a National Committee for Scotland; if FCS is absorbed into SG then this body would disappear, however, the new Executive Agency Forestry and Land Scotland would be expected to have external, non-executive oversight.

Site Visits

Site Visit 1: Findhorn: Findhorn Hinterland Trust



The 28 delegates who attended this site visit were met at Findhorn Foundation by Kajedo Wanderer, George and Heather Paul. They split into 2 groups and were given an interesting tour of this very diverse woodland. Each group was given a brief history of the land. One group began at the edge of the woods, where a large gorse fire and wind storm devastated a large part of the woods in 2005 and the other at the edible garden, a small-scale demonstration project based on permaculture principles to capture water and nutrients and to mimic the productive layers in a mature woodland.



Both groups were taken to the Memorial Tree Area which was initiated in January 2007 with the internment of Eileen Caddy's ashes and the planting of a memorial oak.



Delegates enjoyed the new wildlife pond, created as a joint venture with Froglife, a national charity promoting the conservation of amphibians. The pond was installed in June 2015 to add to biodiversity of land - another long term project. From the pond delegates moved east to view the grassland which is currently home to two native ponies: they do a good job keeping rank grass down to allow greater diversity of flora on the grassland areas. They also supply a welcome amount of manure for some of the local gardens!



At this point delegates were able to see all 4 wind turbines close up. Moya the small turbine was one of the first turbines in the area and produced electricity from the wind for over 25 years. She is now being decommissioned and dismantled. The three remaining turbines produce electricity that goes into the National Grid making the Park a net exporter of electricity. There has been a major study called the Origin Project that has been carried out by Heriot Watt and Glasgow Universities of three communities, one in Portugal, one in Italy as well as the Park community at Findhorn, to look at how renewable energy can be used more effectively by society in

general. This is now coming to an end. The Findhorn Foundation receives about £3500/yr for the land rental for the turbines. The FHT maintains the track and keeps the gorse down around the turbines for which it receives about £400/yr.

Heather, a lichen enthusiast, gave an insight into the variety of lichen they have on their site. As bracken is removed it has allowed the lichen to flourish. Findhorn Dunes Trust carried out a lichen survey in June 2008 and called the area a 'Cinderella site'. More species have been found and there are now over 160 species that have been recorded from the site.

Their first green burial was in 2007 and although there have been 17 burials to date it was not obvious that we had actually arrived at the burial ground. It was a peaceful place and the graves were only indicated by the placement of young trees.



By the green burial stood the woodland shelter which is well used by different groups of people. They are also very keen in getting local people involved and have many members who help out on monthly working parties, become a tour guides and spread the word about all the good work FHT is doing. The woods around Findhorn are truly a remarkable place with such a varied sustainable use and it is all thanks to a very dedicated team at FHT.



Site Visit 2: Sanquhar Woods: Forres Community Woodland Trust Report by Jean Barnett



Delegates arrived at the public car park by Sanquhar Loch, although this is not part of FCWT is a beautiful area and a much loved local amenity; on a warm autumn afternoon swans and ducks were swimming, relaxed in the sun. Dan Puplett and Steve Hull, Trustees from FCWT met and guided the delegates up the path past the loch on its northern side and over the Mosset Burn Bridge before entering Sanquhar Wood. The woodlands had been part of an old estate and consisted of both conifer and hardwood trees and as the woodland was suitable for red squirrels these had been introduced as part of a repopulation programme, pine martins also co-exist and live alongside the red squirrels, luckily there are no grey squirrels.

The Trust runs a volunteer group which meet up once a month. Volunteers have been carrying out rhododendron and laurel eradication programmes using several different techniques as well as removing unwanted regenerated Sitka and western hemlock saplings around the woodland. The route led on past the Chapelton Dam, a new flood defence scheme that has created an excellent wetlands area. On re-entering the forest the delegates were taken past the 'coffin field'- this isn't used for burials but is a wide open grassland area in the centre of the wood that is being managed by the Trust to encourage the return of wild flowers.

The path headed west past the start of the mountain bike trails. Many enthusiastic cyclists use the woodlands and the Trust has provided three graded mountain bike routes. Blue, a gentle track for beginners, red for the more experienced bike rider and orange a difficult track that includes drop off and air space jumps, these tracks are often used for competitions. The path and delegates then changed direction and walked back though 'coffin field' and headed in a northerly direction; the path slowly dropped away through the last stretch of woodland and the group finished the tour by once more walking past the beautiful Sanquhar loch to the public car park.





MORAY ESTATES

Site Visit 3 - Darnaway: Moray Estates Report by Gordon Gray Stephens



We arrived at Darnaway Estate's forestry yard, piling off the bus and out of cars, casting an eye heavenwards at a sky blue enough to persuade even dour west coast types to leave their waterproofs behind. This was to be a visit with a difference for CWA: dropping in on a private estate to hear how they go about the business of managing woodlands. Twenty two delegates attended this site visit.

We were met by our hosts for the afternoon, the Earl of Moray and his woodlands manager, Ben Clinch (ably assisted by his daughters Kitty and Connie). First, we were given a short history of the role of woodlands on Moray Estates (Moray Estates comprises Darnaway Estate, Castle Stuart Estate and Doune Estate, and is run by Moray Estates Development Company). The first recorded role of Darnaway Forest was as a Royal Hunting Forest, and in the 15th century 1,400 acres was walled off for this purpose. Subsequently, the woodland extent declined, and is reckoned to have reached a minimum in the early 18th century. Thereafter they have increased to a current area of 2,000ha at Darnaway, with management focus from the late 1970s moving away from conifer towards hardwoods.

At present Scots pine (of largely German origin) remains the main timber tree at Darnaway, with 25% Douglas fir. Sitka spruce, larch, and beech are also significant components of the forest. Sitka spruce remains the easiest timber to sell, and attracts a premium of 15% over Douglas logs. Darnaway is also planting other species with timber in mind (including improved birch at 4,500 stems/ha).

The woodlands include SSSIs and a Special Area of Conservation, and the Estate is working with SNH to manage these areas. At present there is a riparian restoration project under way on the Findhorn, where shade-casting beech is being removed for the benefit of bryophytes and lichens. A capercaillie Special Protection Area also influences management at Darnaway.

The Estate places considerable emphasis on rural development. They employ a 3 strong forestry squad at Darnaway, with other forestry staff based at Doune. In addition to direct employment Darnaway really values good local contractors, and encourages them by providing stable work (one contractor recently bought a thinning processor on the basis of a 3 year contract from the estate). Moray Estates closed their mill in the 1980s (the rise in Health and Safety requirements and the need for efficiencies are blamed for the closure of a large number of similar mills in

Scotland). However they have recently bought a second-hand Lucas mill, and this is providing them with timber for in-house use for items such as bridges and sheds. Almost all the timber produced at Darnaway is sold to local mills or biomass plants.



So, after this interesting introduction to the business of wood at Darnaway, we were led into a small part of the diverse Forest of Darnaway. Our first stop was a 25 year old block of Douglas fir which is being managed under a continuous cover system. We saw a stack of thinnings at roadside, and heard of Ben's difficulties in trying to market the produce. Biomass plants which had been keen, and appeared willing to accept random lengths to 7cms top diameter (a specification which would allow contractors to bring forward the maximum amount of material, helping both their revenue stream and Darnaway's), however when it came to the point, random lengths are not good for lorries nor for mills. Another sale had been frustrated because a mill was switching to spruce for "laplarch" fencing!

We then moved along to admire some fine larch trees, which formed the canopy over a varied hardwood understorey. Markets dominated our discussion, with Ben obviously frustrated that he was struggling to sell the material which was being produced from the appropriate management of a diverse forest. We heard of the difficulty of shifting material, including larch, beech and Douglas fir, when Darnaway was remote from the main markets. The increase in demand for and price of firewood since the oil price bubble had been a good thing for a while, but this market was now being taken away by cut-price Latvian firewood, which is arriving by the boatload in Inverness. Our Welsh visitors walked on whilst plotting ways of getting this fine timber to Wales, where quality timber is now in short supply.



This was the furthest point in our exploration of Darnaway, and we headed back to base via a stand dominated by beech, stopping by one fine specimen which had been selected by Ben as a "plus" tree. The quality of the timber grown at Darnaway is reflected in the number of registered seed stands that are found there: western hemlock, western red cedar, Grand fir, beech, Douglas fir, Scots pine and sessile oak. The beech stand had featured in the orienteering world

championships which had been held at Darnaway in 2015. The Estate is happy to encourage recreation in the woods, something which has increased over recent years (especially now that Forest Enterprise is charging for car parking), and part of Ben's job is to act as a ranger. Husky teams and endurance riders also organise events in the forest, and there is a lot of informal recreation as well. This can lead to conflicts with management for capercaillie.



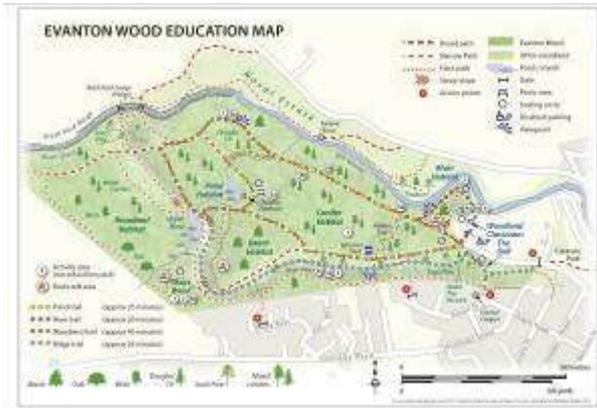
We then moved on to a restock area, and our discussion moved to the herbivore. Roe are the main deer present. As capercaillie management really rules out fences, a full time keeper is employed to manage numbers, with a target of 5 deer per km². Red deer are increasing in number, going from a situation where 1 or 2 were culled each year to the point where it was not uncommon to see 30 in a field. Darnaway is working with two neighbouring estates to develop a joint approach to deer management.

At this point our tour leaders noticed the time, and the rest of our visit consisted of a walk back to the transport, with the opportunity to thank our hosts before we headed back to the main conference venue for tea and more discussion sessions.



Sunday 2nd October 2016

**Adrian Clark
Evanton Wood Community Company**



Adrian Clark, [Evanton Wood Community Company \(EWCC\)](#) started his presentation by giving the delegates a fantastic rendition of his Botswana work song which he learnt 35 years ago whilst doing some voluntary work in Botswana. The words “we will overcome hungry and thirst if we work together” are quite apt. Although EWCC have not actually had to overcome hunger and thirst, they have indeed worked together to achieve their objectives by helping others to achieve theirs. Following the expressed intention of Novar Estates to sell the 64 ha wood, EWCC was formed in 2007 for this purpose. A Feasibility Study, Business Plan and a Management Plan was completed - all of which point to the viability of community ownership and management. They have since put together a detailed 5 Year Activity Plan.

Through hard work by the likes of Simon Harry and plenty of good will from their community they have recently seen a group, who have partial mental and literacy issues, come back after attending an education programme, and successfully arrange their own event. ECWW is a real community group and have a very healthy group of local volunteers who are loyal and provide the much needed skills required.

They have regular monthly volunteer days and their heritage is of great tradition. The woods were originally planted by a slave owner in the 1830s and although they don't want to change to woods they do want to involve more people and continue to improve it for the community. Although they say they are amateurs their determination to succeed has overcome any gaps.



They have been busy developing their natural play area. With the help of their trusty volunteers and expertise from their local engineer they have installed an all wooden see-saw in the play area. In addition to this, they have also added some den building frames (thanks to Tain Royal Academy) for families to build their own dens around.



Some community paybacks worked on the installation of the toilets and cut up logs for the community. It's amazing what you can do with a small team if you have the right techniques.



Schools can come into the woods and use education packs which have been designed in support of programmes run at Evanton Wood. They are packed with ideas for use in and out of the classroom and have ongoing support and training to help staff with outdoor learning programmes and activities.

As a result of their education projects they received the 2015 Crown Estate Schools Trophy for school-based projects with Dingwall Academy and this year won the Scotland's Finest Wood Award in the Healthy Lifestyles category.

They have also partnered up with the local orienteering club, x-country club and the Scottish Cycling Federation. They have worked with NHS Dementia Care as well as taking part in the wildlife survey as a part of the Highland biological recording group.

For more details on EWCC please visit: www.evantonwood.com



Karin Eyben Garvagh Enterprise Trust



Karin Eyben, Programme Development Worker at Corrymeela, explained how the Garvagh Enterprise Trust began and described Garvagh itself. Garvagh Enterprise Trust is an umbrella organisation established in February 2016 from what was formerly the Garvagh High School Project Team. This was a group of interested parties of ‘champions’ who emerged in October 2014 as project advocates for shaping and realising the potential for the former High School site for the benefit of the whole community. Garvagh Enterprise Trust is one of the groups participating in the Making Local Woods Work Project.

Garvagh means rough place/rough field in Irish, it has about 1300 population and is located approximately ten miles from Limavady, Coleraine and Ballymoney. It is on the main coastal route from Mid Ulster to the iconic North Coast giving it a key position with regards local and wider regional development. Garvagh Forest is accessible from the village. Historically it was part of the estate of the Canning family who developed the town in the 17th Century as a private plantation town. However, the land has been settled and shaped by people since 3000 BC.



The school finally closed in 2013 and after a lot of anger residents got together and the conversation soon shifted to looking at the asset of the site and then the adjacent forest. During the 1st year it was community conversations, they wanted to make connections, develop the sight. In the 2nd year they gained confidence, they got over the voices that said this wouldn't work, finally establishing Garvagh Enterprise Trust. By the 3rd year they tried to make the figures balance.

- Aug 2013 - School Closed;
- 2014 to 2015 - Community conversations & deliberations. Investment of £15,000 by Community Foundation for Northern Ireland;
- October 2015 - Successful application to HLF (DTNI now supporting);
- Application to Plunkett Foundation – MLWW;
- Dec 2015 - Expression of Interest Submitted by Shadow Council;
- Feb 2016 - Garvagh Enterprise Trust formed;
- Oct 2016 - Phased Master Plan for site;
- Nov 2016 - Strategic business plan finalized;
- Dec 2016 - Proposal submitted to DE.

The woodland is 200 ha of conifers and mixed broadleaf and although a very popular place there was no sense of “it’s our forest” so they have considered how to make it “our forest”: a shared space to grow connections and generate & support ideas that bring worth to people and place.



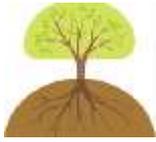
They didn’t want to make plans without first looking at where the energy was and once they found that energy they discover what plan to go with. They looked at how to connect the museum with the woods. They looked at how to transform education – there is still a huge education divide in Northern Ireland.

There is a very complex relationship between the NI Forestry Service and the council and adding a community group has added complexities. The forest is now a shared space to grow connections and have it for generations to come together as equals and they are constantly looking at how to incubate new ideas and grow them. There is a constant challenge to try and get citizens involved in their plans and the diagram to the right is something that helps Karin work through it:



Their next community event is on 10th December, they are identifying 4 core stories that represent folk lore of Garvagh and how they are connected to a local trader. People will start at the trader then go on a mission to find the rest of the story which will lead them to the forest. Then go back to the trader with the full story and the trader will then become the guardian of the story for the next few months.

For more details on Garvagh Enterprise Trust please visit:
www.facebook.com/garvaghenterprisetrust/



Gordon Gray Stephens **Argyll Small Woods Cooperative**



Gordon Gray Stephens is a CWA director and a member of the Native Woods Coop. His presentation focussed on the Argyll Small Woods Cooperative (ASWC), their future plans and what they hope to gain from being a part of the Making Local Woods Work project.

ASWC is a new membership organisation and a great structure for joint working, but certainly not a new idea: Gordon's grandparents had a £1 share in the Cooperative Forestry Society Scotland Ltd which turned into Scottish Woodlands.

ASWC is a community of interest rather than place: a group of people that have an interest in woodland and working in woodlands. They are trying to reach out to a group of people who have small woodlands as a business or hobby that have been neglected in Scotland. This sector hasn't been catered for: ASWC is an attempt to bring management advice, draw them into woodland management, and reflects government policy to encourage woodfuel use in rural areas.

To date they have completed quite a lot of training. They have put 60 people through chainsaw training. They are actively putting young people through training so that we as a society don't end up with a declining industry. It is also a great opportunity to keep people living and working in rural areas in Scotland.

They have helped members purchase dedicated forestry machinery with funding applications through the Forestry Grant scheme. There has been quite a lot of walking and talking. There is a great divide between agriculture and forestry in Scotland, and they have been attempting to bring these together, to produce true multi-purpose land management in Scotland.



They have been trying to get a 'group buying' of boilers. They looked at ways of processing wood more effectively and now bundle wood in large parcels. If you are going to use wood on a large scale you need to minimise wood handling. They are looking at hardwood marketing, as there are lots of hardwood in Argyll - they now have a collection of wood from various estate & woodland owners which are put to roadside. This is a more effective way to entice wood merchants to Argyll and has proved to be successful with sales both in and out of Argyll.



They are working with [My Forest](#), an English system, which is essentially a low tech way of doing an inventory and management plan of woodlands that meets the FCS management guidelines for woodlands under 100 hectares. Once the inventory is completed the system populates the management plan and maps. They are trying to make it work in Argyll so they can look at how much wood the Coop members have available to allow them to coordinate bundles of wood to make sure they get a better value for money.

Future plans are around shared forestry resources. They are working with CWA to create a joint forester in Argyll. After a CWA survey members have said that they would benefit from forestry advice that was available at a better rate. The plan is to put a package together to employ a Forester and they hope to move that plan forward with the Making Local Woods Work Project.

To find out more about the Argyll Small Woods Cooperative please visit their webpage: www.argyllsmallwoods.coop/



**Adrian Farey Elwy Working Woods
&
Jon Burke Moelychi Woodland Group**

Adrian represents Elwy Working Woods, a forestry co-operative in rural North Wales bringing neglected woodlands back into productive management with the help of a loan from The Co-operative Loan Fund. Elwy Working Woods has negotiated with local landowners to manage and harvest eight woods located around the Elwy valley near Abergele. The multi-stakeholder co-operative has 12 members who are involved in forestry, woodland management or wood working in various ways.

Adrian believes that community woodland groups need to focus on management of woods with the aim of timber production which allows the making quality products. He feels that if you want to see a change in woodlands you need to focus on longer rotations and is hoping that organisation, such as CWA and Llais y Goedwig, have members who are intent on doing just that and move away from the monoculture of Sitka plantation.

They have seen a huge increase in demand for timber framed houses and was amazed to see that Moray Estates has a huge amount of larch that no one wants! We need to look at how we use the wood and if we don't it will eventually have a huge impact on our future woodlands; we need to look at adding value to our woodlands. Adrian feels that organisations like Llais y Goedwig and CWA need a voice / argument for these types of wood. Adrian would like to see working woodlands

and to have that you need to have a better balance. He showed the audience a short film which is available here: www.facebook.com/elwyworkingwoods/



*Timber frame construction in Thurso.
Wood taken by road and built in a day*



A community woodland office



*A studio office with burnt
cladding*



New workshop built in 2 months



*Communal activity, building took a day to
build*



For more details on Elwy Working Woods please visit their webpage:
www.facebook.com/elwyworkingwoods/



Jon Burke represents Moelychi Woodland Group. One of the UK's first community owned farms Ffarm Moelyci has, since 2003, pioneered the idea that community ownership can play a part in how farming both grows good food and nurtures strong communities.

The farm, owned by 600 community members consists of 330 acres of welsh hill farming which is not very productive and never has been! It was opened up 10 years ago as an environment centre, which sadly didn't work well. A couple of years ago a charity land trust came in to manage the farm and cut down cost, the trust now runs the farm on behalf of the community.

They have 3 areas of woodland: coppice which was layered last year - a productive area; semi natural ancient woodland and ancient oaks that line a rail track which links the old slate quarry to Port Penrhyn.

They have 2 projects on the go:

- An event space that came from applying for a fund, although at the time didn't really know what they wanted;
- A EU-funded project to develop a biomass plant which will provide fuel and employment within the community.

Jon's overall message was that in their woodlands they may only 6 people working in 300 acres and it might look impossible to achieve anything but in the end you do get there. Think big as

community woodlands; use your networks and organisations like CWA as they give you the connections you need, so use them! For more information on Moelychi Woodland Group please visit their webpage: www.moelychi.org/



James Ogilvie
Forestry Commission Scotland



James, Social Policy Adviser for Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), introduced a new FCS publication “Community Woodlands and Private Sector Forest Companies – A guide to working with the private sector”, which has been produced as a collaboration between FCS, Confor, CWA and HIE. It is a guide for community woodland groups who are considering using private sector forestry skills and expertise to develop and /or deliver their forestry related plans, describes the range of relationships between community organisations and the private forestry sector and contains several case studies.

The guide is available for download at

<http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/corporate/pdf/fcs-community-and-private-sector.pdf>



Facilitated session on CWA future strategy & development:
Ian Hepburn, Anna Lawrence and Amanda Calvert



CWA Strategy Review

Ian Hepburn, CWA Chair, introduced the final session of the conference, which focussed on the CWA Strategy Review. The Board feel that CWA needs to consider its commitments and look at diversifying its income away from grants: this may mean refocussing efforts and restructuring the way it works. Delegates had previously been given a questionnaire to try and tease out what they valued in CWA.

CWA Outline:

- In 2003 CWA had 50 members, now have 150 plus;
- Staff peaked at 4 full time but CWA now only has 2 full time staff, after bringing in the Community Woodland Officer;
- CWA needs to secure a more stable base - umbrella body core funding is very scarce;
- Funding generally gets tighter (Brexit?) and if FCS becomes a department of the Scottish Government, will the valuable support that we've enjoyed over the years continue?

CWA income diversification:

Memberships:

- CWA membership fees are essentially unchanged since 2003. Rates are low, recognising the limited income of many groups, but don't reflect the value of CWA membership;
- Directors believe fees should be increased, whilst remaining affordable, but understand that the fee income will never be a major part of total income.

Donations

- Directors believe donations are a largely untapped source of income. We have investigated, but as yet have not actively pursued this route.

Contracts:

- CWA earns some income from short-term contract work: sector surveys, policy reviews and delivery of training and networking events for FCS, HIE etc., and management plans and feasibility studies for community woodland groups, but staff capacity is a limiting factor;
- There is potential to develop longer term relationships with some community woodland groups on a retainer basis;

Trading income

- CWA have considered for a number of years that managing land and/or other assets would allow diversification of income, and support delivery of skills, training and the promotion of best practice in community engagement and woodland management;
- This could affect the nature of CWA: it is important therefore to ensure any such project adds to the delivery of CWA’s mission. The CWA Board are currently investigating a very significant land management option which could involve acquisition.

CWA internal restructuring

CWA has adopted a portfolio approach under which small groups of directors take on responsibility for key areas.

Finance - Focussing on future finances, business development and long term sustainability;

Forest policy - Engaged with changes at the strategic level in Scotland and the UK, and participating in political representation and policy and legislative consultations;

Resources and HR - Focused on CWA resources, staff and director skills requirements and internal policy on employment-related issues;

Projects - Oversight of existing projects and investigation and development of new ideas;

Communication - Raising the CWA profile through consistent and regular communications to members and the wider world, especially through social media.



Anna Lawrence, CWA Director, presented a brief overview of the questionnaire results (tabulated below), based on a very quick analysis by Anna and Amanda Calvert. Anna highlighted the very positive nature of the feedback, and the emphasis on CWA’s more traditional activities. However participants were generally very positive about all activities (e.g. training, and policy input) even if they were not directly involved. There is scope to encourage members to share information more widely, and to make more use of social media.

Rate the ways CWA communicates (1 = not important 5 = extremely important)

Type	1	2	3	4	5	Unaware
Monthly E-bulletin	0	3	6	10	13	4
Quarterly E-newsletter	0	4	6	8	14	5
CWA Website	0	4	9	11	11	2
Members E-group	0	3	6	3	11	13
Facebook and Twitter	7	5	3	5	3	12
Woodland Voices - Magazine	1	2	8	9	1	16
Woodland Voices – New Blog	4	2	2	4	1	24

Do you forward and share our communications?

With	Yes	No	Occasionally
Your group board members	18	9	6
Your wider membership	6	14	12
Other relevant stakeholders	5	12	14

Provision of subsidised places at CWA annual conference & training events

Event	used often?	Useful?	Valued?
Conference	21 Yes (0-11)	31 Yes	31 Yes
	13 No	1 No	1 No
Training Events	13 Yes	6 Always	
	20 No	6 Mostly	

Access to funding to visit and learn from other community groups carrying out similar projects.

	do you know	is it of value	have your group used
Funding for visits	23 Yes	26 Yes	8 Yes
	12 No	3 No	21 No
Other interesting events	25 Yes	26 Yes	20 Yes
	9 No	3 No	10 No

CWA free forestry advice service

	Yes	No
Know about?	27	9
Have used?	11	23
Valued?	28	2

CWA's role in influencing policy

	Yes	No
Know about?	26	7
Would like to know more?	26	3
Valued?	31	1

Delegates then split into 5 groups for a facilitated session. Each group was asked to consider the following discussion points and to deliver one key idea for each.

- Communication;
- Training and Networking;
- Flagship Site;
- Other Ideas.

The thoughts of the groups were recorded on flipcharts, and reported back in a brief plenary session.



Key points included:

- Cautious support for a flagship site. There was recognition of the potential for both income generation and raising the public profile of CWA and community woodlands, however there were also concerns about reputational risk and the potential to distract from CWA's core purpose.
- Agreement that CWA could do more to sell services, especially training and consultancy. CWA would be seen as a quality and non-profiteering provider. Potential customers for training provision include lifestyle owners, woodland pioneers, young people, crofters. CWA could deliver consultancy for English groups and further afield.
- CWA needs to work to improve communication and address some (mis-)perceptions: other ideas included rolling out the "A Wood of Our Own" networking model from Argyll to other areas of Scotland, and more detailed group profiles on our website

Ian and Anna thanked everyone for their contributions – the Directors will be working on developing CWA future strategy and will keep the membership informed.

Conference Summary **Jon Hollingdale CWA CEO**

Jon gave a brief summary of the conference, thanking delegates for their enthusiasm and input. Next year's conference will be in October, at the Westerwood Hotel near Cumbernauld, and will be a larger affair than usual, as it will also function as the national (UK) conference for the Making Local Woods Work project, and will be an opportunity to showcase all that's best about Scottish community woods and Scottish community woodland groups.

Jon thanked all the speakers, workshop and site visit hosts, the CWA Directors and their partners who helped out over the weekend, Chris Marsh and in particular Caroline, who had put in an enormous amount of work to organise the conference and ensure that everything ran smoothly. He also thanked the conference funders, Forestry Commission Scotland, Highland and Islands Enterprise and The Big Lottery via the Making Local Woods Work Project, and all the staff at the Horizon Scotland who had looked after delegates so well.

Appendix I Event Feedback

1 = V good 2 = Good 3 = Fair 4 = Poor 5 = V poor

27 delegates returned feedback forms

	V.Good	Good	Fair	Poor	V.Poor
Location	22	5	0	0	0
Organisation	23	4	0	0	0
Catering	13	13	1	0	0
Facilities	20	7	0	0	0

	Content					Relevance				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Saturday Presentations										
Jonathan Caddy	15	9	3	0	0	15	9	1	0	0
Don Wright	13	8	6	0	0	14	8	3	0	0
Ian Ross	14	9	4	0	0	13	8	4	0	0
Mike Perry	15	11	1	0	0	18	7	0	0	0
Workshops										
Adding value to timber	2	3	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0
Establishing an environmental employability programme	3	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Youth on board	4	4	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	0
The Future of Forestry in Scotland	6	3	0	0	0	7	1	1	0	0
Site Visits										
Findhorn: Findhorn Hinterland Trust	7	3	0	0	0	7	3	0	0	0
Sanquhar Woods: Forres CWT	2	4	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	0
Darnaway: Moray Estates	6	2	1	0	0	6	2	0	0	0

Informal Sessions

Woodland Crofts: x1 –

Very useful

Woodworking: x5

Loved it completely (I am incompetent but still enjoyed it)

Very good /needed more tools

Informative but would be better with more tools

Sunday Presentations	Content					Relevance				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Adrian Clark	12	10	2	0	0	14	10	0	0	0
Karin Eyben	13	10	1	0	0	11	9	4	0	0
Gordon Gray Stephens	12	10	1	0	0	11	9	3	0	0
Adrian Farey	9	9	6	0	0	9	8	7	0	0
James Ogilvie	11	8	1	0	0	14	5	1	0	0

Do you feel this event delivered your expectations?

Yes	25
No	0
Partly	2

If answer was no / partly:

Some speakers were not relevant to our association

Why did you want to take part in the event?

Information about funding opportunities and networking, sharing solutions to problems

Meet like-minded people and exchange ideas

To gain knowledge about small woodland ideas and how committees can be involved in this process

Networking, supporting a good organisation

Learn more about adding value to timber

Networking

Networking and learning

To meet like-minded people. Make new contacts and old friends. Learn from others

Wanted to see others in similar positions to me approach problems and challenges we all face.

To experience the buzz of CWA Conference and to understand latest developments within the sector

I come every year and always learn something new and make new connections (since 2005)

At first stages of considering woodland management and as a timber producer, albeit artisanal, loads of relevant information

Have been before - excellent, networking, putting faces to names, great crack

Mainly for the networking opportunities

Networking and new ideas and share own stories

It is an important networking event where you always learn one of two important points or pitfalls to avoid.

Find out about current issues. Feed these back to our group. Networking.

Networking, information, inspiration

Need information

To reconnect with other CWA members and see what is currently happening in the outdoor learning sector in community woodlands

To gain information and network

Because I have been working in various aspects of forestry and now also studying at the Scottish School of Forestry and wanted to increase my all round knowledge. I am also particularly interested in community ownership of resources.

What benefits did you feel you gain from attending the event?

Ideas for future development

New experience

Knowledge of more diverse woodlands. Ideas from the Youth on Board workshop were particularly useful

Conversation with good people

Good presentations re above, Inspiration and networking

A few new ideas, met lots of cool people

Discover how others manage their woods. Find out about funding and making woods work for community

Contact with others and increased awareness of support available

Inspiration, Information and education

Advising future of my own CW and the future of CWA

So many like-minded individuals with such a breath of knowledge - Inspiring (not to mention the ceilidh!)

Re- energised regarding my own work

I find events like these help to give me a better perspective on the wider community sector. It can be easy to get stuck in your own bubble when you're only working with one group and these events can help to freshen things up again. They are also very handy for networking.

Good buzz, motivating

Expand my knowledge of certain aspects of the industry

All reasons successfully met

Inspired, Ideas

Knowledge

Meeting others involved in outdoor learning

Good networking

Networking, info on breadth of community woodlands in UK

Gained some new information and good networking

Greater knowledge of the people, organisations and procedures involved in forestry and woodland management.

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

Apply for funding

Pass on to others

I would like to integrate them into my role which I believe will be improved with some of the knowledge I have gained here.

Apply where possible

Talk with folk locally about how we can progress ideas

New ideas will improve my work - some new approaches

Try to put into practice at home. Tell other groups.

Attempt to implement relevant ones

Mull over and share with local trust

Use them to take things forward in our woods

Certainly network and develop a woodland strategy within my organisation

Workshop with your people. Promoting our woodland.

I had discussions with some of the people that I went to the event to catch up with that directly affect things I am working on at the moment. I also picked up a few new ideas that I think we should look into as a group.

Take back and pass on my knowledge to board and workers.

Email our committee with summary of issues. Encourage completing forestry future consultation. Discuss issues at next committee meeting.

Bring in fresh ideas

Talk with group members

Use ideas and refresh skills. Hopefully make visits to some of the community woodlands.

Try to apply them

ideas for own organisation

Put into practice!

Hopefully it will help me become more interested in practical woodland management, alongside other experience I am getting, alongside studying for a forestry qualification.

Would you recommend this event to a friend?	
Yes	26
No	0

Please explain why / why not:

Informative, well presented, nice site visits

To extend contact network and help available

Because the event is inspirational

Networking, learning from like-minded people

The more the merrier. Sector needs more development inc land reform

Great networking, great social, no stress

Most would have eyes opened to what is going on in Scotland / UK wide

Great ceilidh, thank you all

Good experience

**What would you like to see Community Woodlands Association do next?
Are there other training / seminar opportunities you would like to see organised?**

Gain more interest south of the border

Setting up of woodland communities - Legal aspect plus funding and communication

Continue to offer advice and guidance

Very interested in making woods work. How can we help small scale timber buyers and producers

Training events centring on resolution of access issues and provision planting and business planning in the community sector I think would be useful

Lobby MSPs on safeguarding future of FCS expertise

Continue and build on focus with MLWW

More training and funding

Funding opportunities and applications

Any other comments on any aspect of the event?

Keep up the good work

Good all round weekend

Thanks

Thanks for CWA's hard work

Thanks for this excellent event

Thanks to all involved in organising the event

I will certainly share your info and contacts in my network

Maybe too much on Saturday leading to a ton of movement later in the day
 Consistency of grading on both forms asked to fill in. Great weather! Same again next year.

Demographic of those who returned feedback sheet

Sex	
Male	16
Female	10
Age Group	
16-25	0
26-40	1
40-60	14
60+	11

Appendix 2: Speaker Biographies

Saturday Speakers



Chair Ian Hepburn – CWA Director/Chair

Ian Hepburn, North West Mull Community Woodland Company. Born in 1948 and brought up in the West Riding of Yorkshire, he trained as an accountant and worked in a variety of industries from Heavy Engineering to Logistics. Ian retired from a post with DHL/Exel in 2008 2 years after fulfilling a long held ambition of moving to Mull. Whilst employed by DHL/Exel he was responsible for managing the onsite roll out of information systems in many European countries. He has a significant project management experience and was Development Manager for NWMCWC between September 2008 and May 2015. Ian is now a Director of NWMCWC, Community Land Scotland and a Trustee and Chair of Argyll and Isles Coast and Countryside Trust.



Jonathan Caddy, Findhorn Hinterland Trust

Jonathan currently lives in the Findhorn Ecological Village and community at The Park, Findhorn, Moray. He has had a very varied and interesting life and is the middle son of the founders of the 52 year old Findhorn Community in Moray. He is an Ecological Science graduate of the University of Edinburgh; one of the four pioneers of the island based rural community on the Isle of Erraid established 36 years ago and was General Manager for two years; set up and ran a wood supply business for three years working in a mature oak/beechn forest on the Moray Estates; Manager of the Buchan Countryside Group where he was involved in woodland management and running a native tree nursery; involved in the establishment and later was Managing Director of Lothian Tree Services processing and supplying native timber using a portable saw and fixed sawmill as well as woodland management and tree surgery. He worked for a large landscaping company developing a native plant nursery for three years in Ontario, Canada; has over twenty years of teaching experience with children and young adults, was a Director for a couple of years of Trees for Life charity involved in the long-term work of restoring the Caledonian Forest. He built his own ecological house at Findhorn twenty years ago. He has helped establish and run the Findhorn Hinterland Group a community group involved in conservation, environmental education and land management on the Findhorn Peninsula and is presently the Convenor of the group and six years

ago instigated and establish the Wilkies Wood Green Burial site, one of the two green burial sites in Moray. Jonathan is also the father of two children, a keen beekeeper, hill walker, scuba diver, gardener and sailor and has just taken early retirement from teaching so that he can take a little more time to reflect on things after a life, so far, of continually doing and making things happen!

Don Wright – Chair Forres Community Woodland Trust

Don Wright is the Chair of Forres Community Woodlands Trust. The woodlands in and around Forres are highly valued community assets. Forres Community Woodlands Trust is keen to realise the potential of these woodlands by not only managing them but to also providing a wide range of community benefits.



W. J (Ian) Ross OBE, FICFor, FRSA - Forestry Commission Scotland's National Forest Land Scheme Assessment Panellan is the chairman of Scottish Natural Heritage and also chairs Forestry Commission Scotland's National Forest Land Scheme Assessment Panel. He was a Highland Councillor for 13 years and is a past chair of the Highland Council Planning, Environment and Development Committee and its Sustainable Development Committee. He has been active on sustainability, renewable energy and community engagement issues within both the Highland Council and forestry. He has been involved in community forestry in the Highlands and across Scotland for some 20 years and chaired the Forestry Commission's Forestry for People Advisory Panel and recently chaired the Forest Enterprise Scotland's Community Engagement "health check". Ian is a graduate in Forestry from Aberdeen University and was the senior lecturer at the Scottish School of Forestry, where he led on the development of its first degree course. Until the summer of 2014 he was a part-time lecturer at the University of the Highlands and Islands on forest policy, social forestry and sustainability. He is also currently a Board member of the Scottish Police Authority.



Mike Perry - Plunkett Foundation

Mike leads on Plunkett's development, policy and communications work. Mike joined the Plunkett Foundation in May 2006. He is a graduate in BA (Hons) Business Administration and grew up in a family run farm in Worcestershire. Mike is a member of multiple community-owned and other co-operatives and is also a committee member of his local transition group.

Workshop Hosts



Nigel Lowthrop (Hill Holt Wood) - Adding value to timber

A biologist with a varied career including the 1973 Caledonian Pine Forest Survey and British Antarctic Survey. Established an agricultural fencing business with contracts including the Clan Donald Centre. In 1993 established ECONSON or Economic Conservation to demonstrate that environmental land management could be as viable as intensive agriculture or forestry using an added value business model. This led to the purchase of 34 acre Hill Holt Wood in Lincolnshire, an ancient oak woodland. Hill Holt now is a community social enterprise and registered charity employing 34 staff and turning over in excess of a million pounds.



Sandra Sutton (Twechar Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre) - Establishing an environmental employability programme

Sandra is the manager at the Twechar Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre. Community Action, a company limited by guarantee with a charitable status was formed in 2001 as a response to the closure of the recreation centre in Twechar owned and operated by East Dunbartonshire Council. Twechar Community Action transformed the old recreation Centre into Twechar Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre, a community hub that now houses a full time pharmacy, a satellite GP surgery, café, sports hall and meeting rooms and a vast range of activities and services. The company therefore has its origins in the action of local people to retain and improve one of the few facilities and amenities in the village.



Clelland McCallum (Abriachan Forest Trust) - Youth on board

Clelland McCallum, is the newest member of the Abriachan Forest trust Team but has worked in the countryside for the past 20 years or so most recently for the Highland Council as a countryside ranger on the Great Glen Way. He started out working with the National Trust mainly on the Isle of Arran delivering a diverse range of volunteer experience for a wide range of groups and individuals as well as the providing environmental education. During his time with the Highland Council he has delivered maintenance programmes, environmental education, additional need volunteer programme and developing a range of opportunities for young people with low employment prospects.

Roni Smith (Abriachan Forest Trust) - Youth on board

Roni Smith has worked in the countryside most of her working life providing quality countryside experience for young people as a form of rehabilitation in the Edinburgh area. She moved to the Highlands and applied this wealth of experience to a role working with young people in deprived areas of Inverness. She has been working freelance for the past five years providing environmental education and quality countryside experiences as well as volunteering opportunities as a form of therapy. Her natural ability to engage with people alienated in society, especially young people or those who struggle with the day to day aspects of living has made her an invaluable member of the team at Abriachan.

Informal Sessions:

Evanton Woods CC – *Have a go at green woodworking*

Nigel Lowthrop – *Earth Toilets*

Jamie McIntyre – *Woodland Crofts*

Rebecca Carr - *NFLS successor scheme*

Ninian Stuart - *How might we transform ourselves and our woodlands to: support the life of our communities; create great places for learning; and generate healthy local economies?*

Rory Dutton – *Community Shares Scotland*

Sunday Speakers



Adrian Clark - Evanton Woods Community Company

Following the expressed intention of Novar Estates to sell the 64 ha wood, EWCC (company limited by guarantee no. 332678) was formed in 2007. A Feasibility Study, Business Plan and a Management Plan were completed - all of which point to the viability of community ownership and management. They have since put together a detailed 5 Year Activity Plan. The company has successfully attracted major funding from the Heritage Lottery towards the purchase and a 5 Year programme of activities. The main match funding has been provided by HIE and Kiltarn Community Council.



Karin Eyben - Garvagh Enterprise Trust

Garvagh Enterprise Trust is the umbrella organisation that is trying to save the site of the former High School for the use of the community. Karin has been a Programme Development Worker at Corrymeela since November 2014. Prior to this Karin worked within the wider community relations & community development for over 15 years, for organisations such as the Future Ways Programme, Rural Community Network, NICIE and the Foundation for NI.



Gordon Gray Stephens - Argyll Small Woods Cooperative

Argyll Small Woods Cooperative was set up in 2014 to support and encourage small scale woodland management in Argyll. Membership is open to woodland owners and workers whose primary purpose is to generate sustainable income from small woodlands. Gordon, a Director for the Community Woodlands Association, is a Director of Scottish Native Woods, a conservation charity that aims to restore native woodlands as well as the links between people and woodlands. He is also one of the founding members and the Company Secretary of the Argyll Green Woodworkers Association (AGWA).

Adrian Farey - Elwy Working Woods

Elwy Working Woods was set up in 2009. Now it is expanding and creating two new jobs with the aid of a grant from Conwy Rural Partnership and the loan from The Co-operative Loan Fund. EWW has negotiated with local landowners to manage and harvest eight woods located around the Elwy valley near Abergele. The multi-stakeholder co-operative has 12 members who are involved in forestry, woodland management or wood working in various ways. One of them owns the sawmill at Moelfre where the co-operative has its office. The main income comes from the sale of firewood direct to the public. EWW also gets some income from landowners for woodland management and forestry contracts. It has plans for developing charcoal production in the next two years.



James Ogilvie - Forestry Commission Scotland

A Chartered Forester, James has worked for the Forestry Commission in a variety of roles including managing England's largest upland and lowland forests and overseeing grants and regulations in Scotland. He spent two years on secondment in Lesotho, southern Africa, as harvesting and marketing officer for the Lesotho Woodlot Project. Currently Head of Social & Planning Policy with FC Scotland, he manages a team of advisors dealing with planning, community forestry, access, recreation & health and learning and skills development. His published books include Heritage Trees of Scotland.



Anna Lawrence – CWA Director

Anna Lawrence is a social forestry researcher based in Peebles. Having worked with community forestry groups around the world, she is hugely enthusiastic about developments in Scotland, and the need to share experiences to communicate the value of community forestry here. Until 2015 she led the social research team in the Forestry Commission; before that she was based at Oxford University, and at Kew Botanic Gardens, and collaborated on social forestry projects in Bolivia, India, Philippines, Romania, among others. Returning home to Scotland, she helped to establish the Tweeddale Woodfuel Group, and contributes voluntary time to Carrifran Wildwood and Peebles Community Trust. She is self-employed and an honorary professor of forestry at Inverness College, University of Highlands and Islands.

Appendix 3: Delegate List

NAME	SURNAME	ORGANISATION
Natasha	Lloyd	Abergeldie Community Organisation
William	Boggia	Abergeldie Community Organisation
Megan	Potter	Abergeldie Community Organisation
Clelland	McCallum	Abriachan Forest Trust
Roni	Smith	Abriachan Forest Trust
Donnie	Chisholm	Aigas Community Forest
Piers	Voysey	Anagach Woods
Alison	Macleod	Applecross Community Company
Gordon	Gray Stephens	Argyll Green Woodworkers Association / Argyll Small Wood Cooperative / CWA Director
Dr Jane	Rosegrant	Borders Forest Trust / CWA Director
Gavin	Mitchell	Bushcraft-Scotland
Elaine	MacAskill	Coigach-Assynt Living Landscape
Fiona	Saywell	Coigach-Assynt Living Landscape
Linsay	Chalmers	Community Land Scotland
Elizabeth	Evans	Cormonachan Woodland Association
Douglas	Locke	Cormonachan Woodland Association
Grace	Cragie	Crossgates Community Woodland
Caroline	Derbyshire	CWA Administrator
Jon	Hollingdale	CWA CEO
Chris	Marsh	CWA Community Woodland Officer
Rory	Dutton	DTAS / Community Shares Scotland
Isobel	Knox	Dunbar Community Woodland Group
Ute	Penny	Dunbar Community Woodland Group
Jean	Barnett	Dunnet Forestry Trust / CWA Director
Michael	Barnett	Dunnet Forestry Trust
Andrew	Wands	Dunnet Forestry Trust
Alasdair	Taylor	Earth for Life
Adrian	Farey	Elwy Working Woods
Adrian	Clark	Evanton Wood Community Company
David	Smith	Evanton Wood Community Company
Ninian	Stuart	Falkland Centre for Stewardship
Patrick	Haston	Farigaig Community Steering Group
Judith	Berry	Findhorn Hinterland Trust
Jonathan	Caddy	Findhorn Hinterland Trust
Kajedo	Wanderer	Findhorn Hinterland Trust
Craig	Millar	Forest Enterprise Scotland
Iain	Anderson	Forestry Commission Scotland
Rebecca	Carr	Forestry Commission Scotland
James	Ogilvie	Forestry Commission Scotland
Steve	Hull	Forres Community Woodland Trust
George	Paul	Forres Community Woodland Trust

Don	Wright	Forres Community Woodland Trust
Mick	Drury	Forres Community Woodland Trust & Trees for Life
Heather	Paul	Forres Community Woodland Trust
Dan	Puplett	Forres Community Woodland Trust
William	Bruce	Friends of Newtonhill Woodland
Fran	Barr	Friends of Plean
Alasdair	Watson	GalGael Trust
Karin	Eyben	Garvagh Enterprise Trust
Tom	Cooper	Glengarry Community Woodlands
Fabio	Villani	Guest
Heather	Hamilton	Highland Perthshire Community Land Trust
Tom	Ironmonger	Hill Holt Wood
Nigel	Webster	Hill Holt Wood
Nigel	Lowthrop	Hill Holt Wood
Karen	Lowthrop	Hill Holt Wood
Mary	Scott	Huntly Community Development Trust
Pam	Noble	Individual Member
Eleanor	Shields	Individual member
Ian	Ross	Individual Member / Keynote Speaker
Frank	Corcoran	Isle of Cumbrae Initiative Community Company
Amanda	Bryan	Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust
Steve	Robertson	Isle of Rum Community Trust
Mark	Bambury	Kilfinan Community Forest Company
Rob	Borruso	Kilfinan Community Forest Company
Mick	Eyre	Kilfinan Community Forest Company
Amanda	Calvert	Kingussie Community Development Co / CWA Director
Alan	Mackintosh	Kirkhill and Bunchrew
Renate	Jephcott	Kirkhill and Bunchrew
Lorna	Schofield	Knoydart Forest Trust
Jon	Burke	Moelychi Woodland Group
Malcolm	Ward	North West Mull Community Woodland Co Ltd
Colin	Morrison	North West Mull Community Woodland Co Ltd
Ian	Hepburn	North West Mull Community Woodland Co Ltd / CWA Director
Joan	Hepburn	North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd
Anna	Lawrence	Peebles Community Woodfuel / CWA Director
Mike	Perry	Plunkett Foundation
Mark	Walton	Shared Assets
Katharina	Lenz	Sleat Renewables Ltd
Stewart	MacDougall	South West Mull & Iona Development
Sandra	MacDougall	South West Mull & Iona Development
Alyne	Jones	South-West Community Woodlands Trust
Eleanor	Garty	The Woodland Trust Scotland
Steve	Morris	The Woodland Trust Scotland
Sandra	Sutton	Twechar Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre
Jamie	McIntyre	Woodland Croft Partnership