



Biodiversity Training for Community Woodland Groups.

Identifying and recording moths

Wednesday 16th June 2010

Hosted by

**Gearrchoille Community Wood Ardgay - GCWA
in Ardgay, Sutherland**



Background

The Gearrchoille Wood is a semi-natural mixed woodland, predominately oak and birch, situated to the south of the village of Ardgay on the Dornoch Firth, Sutherland. An area of 30 acres was gifted by Balnagown Estate to the local community in 2003. This woodland is managed by a charitable company under the name of Gearrchoille Community Wood Ardgay. The primary aim of the group is to conserve and enhance the biodiversity, cultural and recreational values of this ancient woodland.

Course Objectives

To highlight the importance of our native woodland resource for Lepidoptera. To demonstrate equipment, resources and techniques required to survey woods for moths.

Gledfield Primary School children will attend as part of their Eco-Schools commitments and will use the information obtained from our practical demonstration to produce a moth identification leaflet.

The moth identification event can be found on the website of the Community Woodlands Association (www.communitywoods.org) thus inviting representatives from fellow member groups to take advantage of this learning experience (cf. Booking Form, numbers are limited - first come first served).

Learning and networking opportunity, aimed at:

Members of woodland community groups interested in improving their knowledge of invertebrates within their woods as an aid to informing future management, to enhance community involvement and/or for the production of interpretive materials.

The event will highlight the importance of well-managed native woods to invertebrates and inspire future generations of woodland owners to care for these less obvious inhabitants. The involvement of Gledfield Primary pupils in the illustration of a moth identification leaflet is therefore a crucial part of the exercise.

Visiting Speakers/Trainers

Christine Blanco - moth recorder based in Rosehall who has recently completed a two-year study of the moths of that parish.

Ian Paterson - countryside ranger for East Sutherland who has been leading environmental activities in the area for the last 10 years.

This event is supported by the Scottish Government Skills Development Scheme, Robertson Trust, Hugh Fraser Foundation and the HIE Community Land Unit.



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The course will cover:

- Types of moth trap and their operation.
- Correct handling and return of catch.
- Identification of moths and the available resources to use.
- Other techniques for attracting moths.
- Production and distribution of a "Moths of the Gearrhoille Wood" leaflet featuring the most charismatic species collected and identified.

Programme

Venue – Gearrhoille Woods and Ardgay Village Hall, in the centre of Ardgay Village.

9.45-10.00 Tea, coffee & registration, Ardgay Village Hall. Parking by hall opposite Alladale Stores.

10.15-11.45 Emptying moth traps and identification of moths, Gearrhoille wood

11.45-12.15 Return to hall for identification of difficult species.

12.15- 13.00 Talk on Moths, Ecology and Significance by Ian Paterson.

13.00 Refreshments and departure.

Expenses: Delegates' expenses for travel and any necessary accommodation (those travelling long distances) are refundable by CWA as set out in the booking form below.

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