



**BROADFORD & STRATH
COMMUNITY COMPANY**

**CREATING A STRONG, SELF-SUFFICIENT,
INCLUSIVE AND ECO-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY**

BROADFORD COMMUNITY WOODLAND WOODLAND MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS

**PRESENTED BY KILFINAN WOODLAND
CONSULTANTS**

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INTRO

- **About us**
- **About the project/ process**
- **Thanks to funder**

Project Focus:

- **Woodland management**
- **Additional woodland - potential acquisition**
- **Development opportunities**





THE WOODLAND

23 hectares, purchased by BSCC on behalf of the community in 2011

Projects on the site so far include:
Growers Hub, outdoor learning,
woodland path, Camping Skye, event
space

**2ha mature sitka plantation
remaining - what to do with it?**

Constraints:

- Low timber quality/availability
- Unsuitable ground conditions
- Poor access

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OPPORTUNITIES?

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

IMPROVED ACCESS

WOODLAND RESTRUCTURING

SOCIAL

LIVING, WORKING FOREST

BIODIVERSITY

NEW SERVICES

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

SUSTAINABILITY

VOLUNTEERING

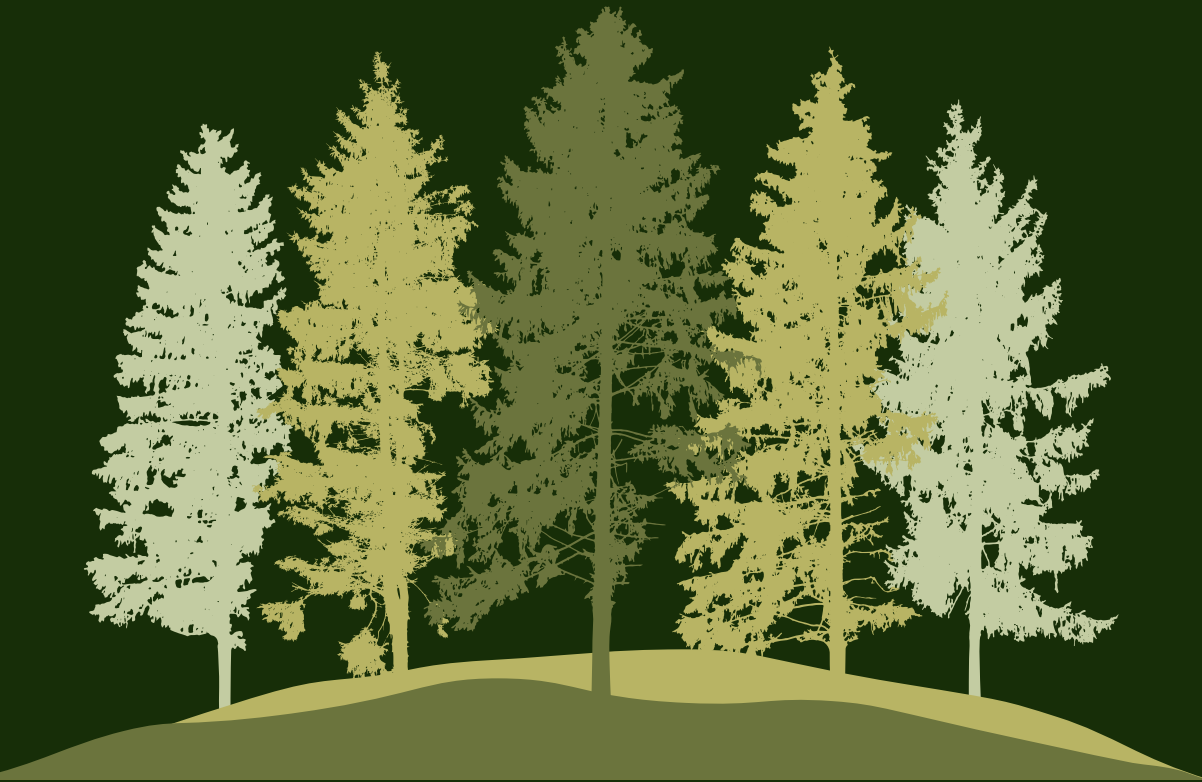
INTERPRETATION/ WILDLIFE GUIDES

TIMBER PRODUCTS



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WOODLAND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS



Option 1 - Low input, basic maintenance

Option 2 - cut to 'waste'/mulch

Option 3 - cut to extract



OPTION 1- LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE

- Site would appear to be able to regenerate largely by itself
- On previously cleared areas pioneer birch wood has taken hold one of the drier areas
- The wetter areas appear to be reverting to peat
- With minimal intervention site might regenerate further by itself
- Protect paths, control invasive species, remove unsafe trees, H&S management
- Low input, low cost, involves volunteers

OPTION 2 - MANAGED REGENERATION



- In addition the unfelled areas could be felled, restructured and/ or 'cut to waste'
- Active replanting of native species
- Hydrological surveys to ascertain what additional works might be required to allow peatland regeneration
- The extent that this can be done depends on available funds - very little revenue generated

OPTION 3 - ADDITIONAL ACQUISITION

- Acquire neighbouring HIE owned plantation
- Harvesting of that timber would allow economic extraction of existing BSCC conifers
- Enabling complete clearance of upper part of site, initially leading to a fairly radical change in the appearance of the site
- A 'blank canvass' approach could then be applied for replanting/ peatland regen
- Budgets would be less restricted
- Opportunity to expand path network/ access



NEW WOODLAND ACQUISITION

The Opportunity

- 10ha woodland, adjacent to BSCC boundary, owned by Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE)
- Mature trees need felling
- HIE open to Asset Transfer Request negotiation
- Would open up enterprise opportunities on BSCC woodland
- Enhanced forest access/ amenity - new paths, benches, interpretation

Asset Transfer Process

Two routes available:

1. Negotiated purchase: An off-market purchase at market value.
2. Asset Transfer Request (ATR): Apply to HIE to purchase via Asset Transfer legislation.

Capacity to Deliver

- Would require development work, e.g. business case for acquisition (showing community benefits), community consultation, valuation, fundraising (e.g. Scottish Land Fund).
- Woodland action plan will investigate further, and make key recommendations to address capacity.

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HIE WOODLAND ACQUISITION

Enterprise Ideas

Purchase of a Sawmill & Timber Processing Yard to develop the following:

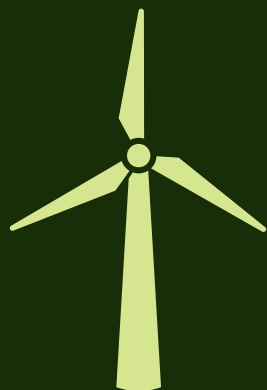
- **Glamping Pods** - sustainable build using local timber & skills
- **Timber Products** - micro business, new income stream
- **Improvements to existing infrastructure** - e.g. timber for The Growers Hub, Corry Capers
- **Wood fuel** - addressing fuel poverty
- **Forest playpark** - safe place for children to play
- **Skills development** - land-based courses, woodworking

Woodland crofts - vision for a living, working forest

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OTHER ENTERPRISE IDEAS

POSSIBLE WITHOUT HIE ACQUISITION, TO DELIVER EMPLOYMENT,
NEW SERVICES, SUSTAINABILITY



- **Christmas Trees** - could be developed within proposed tree nursery. Could be run alongside native tree planting efforts. 'Rent a tree' model, reduce waste
- **Woodland Ashes Burials** - option to develop environmentally sensitive ashes site within native woodland, factoring in commemorative trees/ plaques/ benches
- **Wind Turbine to power campsite** - potential for a 10kW turbine to offset electricity bills to the campsite



THE WAY FORWARD & NEXT STEPS

- Feedback from you!
- Volunteer woodland management group?
- Presentation of the feasibility study to BSCC
- Decision on acquiring new woodland
- Decision on woodland management/enterprise areas
- Development of action plan

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THANK YOU

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