



Cree Valley Community Woodlands Trust

Progress Report for April 2011-Mar 2012

1. CVCWT Project Outputs *(days)*

	Woodland management (inc. volunteer events)	Education	Promotion	Reports	Advisory	Grants	Training
2011/12	260	8.5	20.5	91	5	87.5	9
2010/11	278	13.5	12.5	113	7.5	34	4
2009 ¹	346	4	6	30	4	20	18
2008	247	3	11	21.5	3.5	49.5	3.5
2007	288.5	11	17	51	6	67.5	6
2006	297	4.5	18	45.5	13.5	50.5	12.5
2005	235	21	51	34	41	45	7.5
2004	177	18	28	51	37.5	107	10

1.1 General trends

As expected, woodland management took up the largest proportion of our time and thanks must go once again to our volunteer group who braved some rather long periods of wet weather to assist with woodland management work, such as: weeding conifers, put up nest/bat boxes, monitor boxes, planting trees & assisting with survey work. Total volunteer time in the project during the reporting period was 2,667 hours which equates to £23,860 added value.

1.2 Woodland Management

- **Upper Cree:** Planting of the remaining 30% of broadleaves completed this year. A total of 154,000 broadleaves have been planted over 3 years. Over 200ha of conifer regrowth in total throughout the project have been removed along the watercourses and in other areas to create planting opportunities.
- **Doonhill Wood:** conifer thinning, thinning of broadleaves (sycamore/beechn), creation of habitat piles, felling of dangerous trees, path clearance, red squirrel survey, litter picking, dyke repairs, chemical weed control, ivy control on trees, update of Management Plan.
- **Blairmount Park:** path upgrades (314m), fence repair, conifer thinning, thinning of broadleaves (sycamore/beechn), creation of habitat piles, felling of dangerous trees, red squirrel survey, litter picking, dyke repairs, ivy control on trees, update of Management Plan.

¹ Includes 15 month period Jan 1/09 to end Mar/10

- **Duncree Wood:** Selective thinning of broadleaves, creation of habitat piles, litter picking, removal of scrap car/domestic waste, chemical weed control, update of Management plan.
- **Nursery:** Seed collection, production/care of seedlings, including *S.lapponum*, maintenance of polytunnel, weeding of raised beds, etc.
- **Garlies Wood:** Wildlife surveys
- **Low Camer:** birch thinning, path strimming, path upgrade, siting of new nature signs, felling of conifer regrowth, siting nest/bat boxes.
- **High Camer:** maintenance of nature/partnership signs, wildlife surveys, path & picnic site strimming, siting nest/bat boxes.
- **Water of Trool:** Wildlife surveys.
- **Holm Wood:** Water vole habitat improvements, planting, siting bat/bird boxes.
- **Caldons:** Rhododendron control
- **Buchan:** Maintenance of deer fence, rhododendron control, holly management, chemical treatment of bracken
- **Glenhead:** Monitoring nest boxes, collecting acorns.
- **Knockman Wood:** Putting up nest/bat boxes, sowing bank-side wild flower seed, rhododendron clearance, weeding around planted trees in deer exclosures, bracken control.
- **Montane Scrub project:** Maintenance of Demo garden
- Volunteer programme - ARC, Volunteer Action Scotland, Supported Employment Service, Turning Point, Aberlour Child Care Trust, CVCWT volunteers.
- Maintenance of raised seed bed at Daltamie for oak and birch seedlings.
- Health and safety - risk assessments prepared for woodland projects.
- Monitoring ASNW sites for UKBAP species.
- Attendance at Green Shoots Forum, LBAP forum, deer management discussions with FCS.

1.3 Guided Walks

May: Walking Festival event - Wood of Cree to Newton Stewart via Knockman Wood - 11

May: Bluebells & Birds at Camer - 2

June: Flowers of Glentroll Oakwoods - 7

July: Butterflies, Dragonflies & Birds, Knockman - 11

August: Waterside Wildlife, Caldons - 5

Sept: Archaeology at Knockman - 10

Oct: Lichens & Fungi at Caldons - 12



Hazel seedlings grown by ARC



Penninghame P5 children with their cache of acorns, Caldons

1.4 Training

- Great Crested Newts - PR
- First Aid - LSM

1.5 Promotion of social inclusion

Organisations involved - Turning Point, Activity & Resource Centre, Newton Stewart, Aberlour Child Care Trust, Supported Employment Service, Cree Valley Community Council plus volunteers.

1.6 Promote training opportunities for students and work groups

- e-mail communication with students in the UK & abroad
- Visiting students & groups.

1.7 Education projects

- Seed to Tree Project
- Provide display boards
- Provide training opportunities for primary schools - Curriculum for Excellence

1.8 Dissemination

- Article in D&G Life Magazine
- New CVCWT Leaflet distributed through volunteers to various outlets in D&G, also in leaflet box outside office at Daltamie.
- Interpretation leaflets for woodland sites - in leaflet box outside office at Daltamie.

- Maintain interpretation boards.
- New interpretation board at Holm Wood.
- New Nature boards at Low Camer.
- Promotion of CVCWT project on Association of Dumfries & Galloway Accommodation Providers (ADGAP) website and publication.
- Ferry News (Creetown).
- Monthly articles in Free Press.
- Produce updates on website, produce newsletters, provide leader-led walks, write articles for national and local organisations on Cree Valley project, talks and guided walks to local groups and visitors.



Planting at The Holm



Siting Nature signs at Low Camer



Guided Walk - High Camer



Rubbish collection - Dunree

2. Project Funding

LEADER, The Robertson Trust, Hugh Fraser Foundation, Tubney Charitable Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland.

Core Funding has been received from Forestry Commission Scotland (plus in kind), Freshfield Foundation, Scottish Natural Heritage, Tubney Charitable Trust, The Robertson Trust.

3. Looking Ahead

(In addition to general on-going woodland maintenance)

- Promote greater involvement of local community groups in the CVCW project.
- Develop the Tree Nursery project.
- Develop volunteer input into the project.
- Develop archaeological interpretation of the Cree Valley woodlands.
- Provide volunteers with archaeological interpretation training.
- Monitoring of LBAP species and woodland indicators within the Cree valley woodlands.
- Continue the development of projects with the ARC.
- Identify opportunities for work placements with ARC members.
- Develop opportunities for partnership with The National Autistic Society.
- Continue to add woodland specialist lists to the website.
- Preparation of educational material for exhibitions.
- Revision of Management Plans.
- Promotion of CVCWT project.
- Continued participation in the successor to the Merrick Montane Scrub Restoration project - partnership project led by FCS.