

SUMMARY

The Future Forests project will focus on creating a blueprint for enhancing woodland habitat connectivity, from which the beginnings of a long-term, sustainable approach to habitat enhancement and resilience will be created through activity in the Polldubh area of Glen Nevis for wildlife, public engagement and learning.

It will initially involve working with children to start to recreate a more naturally wooded glen but will also aim to open up opportunities to engage with other, local groups with specific needs, primarily those with learning disabilities and those with terminal illnesses. The blueprint will serve to create an enduring legacy, developing local involvement in a sustainable, organic way and including the capacity for development and change in response to new information about habitat response and resilience. In this way the project will eventually deliver the same outcomes as a large-scale native woodland scheme, like those funded through SRDP, but delivered at a fraction of the cost and with enormous public benefit in the much slower process of delivery.

The capacity to learn from mistakes and to adapt to new information is an important element of this slower process and will give the project much greater legacy and adaptability, which is completely absent from a one-off planting scheme.

VISION

The starting point of this project is to invite the community to consider what Glen Nevis might look like in 100 years. In doing so, the project acknowledges that there are no certainties in planning for the future and we must all be adaptive. The project will connect local children directly with the future of the Glen through planting new woodland, and establishing a legacy that will outlast them and their children. People will grow with the landscape, fostering a sense of pride and ownership of their natural heritage.

KEY THEMES

Adaptation and resilience, woodland regeneration, ecosystem services, habitat connectivity, climate change, story-line and evolving landscapes, 100 year vision, sustainable futures, local ownership, young people.

OBJECTIVES

Scheme Objectives		
Protect and enhance landscape character for future social and environmental benefit	1	√√
Encourage responsible access and mitigate visitor impacts	2	√
Strengthen ecosystem resilience and plan for future adaptation	3	√√
Connect people with the landscape through meaningful and memorable experiences	4	√√
Increase learning and appreciation of cultural heritage	5	
Support community participation in conservation and visitor management	6	√
Increase knowledge, skills and employability in conservation and eco-tourism	7	
Increase public awareness of the importance of biodiversity, ecosystem services and environmental pressures	8	√
Adopt a partnership approach to visitor/land management, which is future focused, adaptive and landscape-scale	9	√

Develop the local economy in a sustainable way	10	
Contribute to health and wellbeing by encouraging and improving access to the outdoors	11	√
Provide an example of best-practice in sustainable nature-based tourism	12	√

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To develop a blue-print for small-scale native woodland regeneration which targets priority areas.
- To improve connectivity of the woodland habitat network in Glen Nevis, making it more robust and resilient in the face of changing climate.
- To secure and enhance the biodiversity associated with the mosaic of habitats in the middle part of Glen Nevis.
- To increase public enjoyment of and engagement with the woodland and wildlife around Polldubh.
- To disseminate information regards the particular landscape value and history of the mid Glen Nevis area.
- Involve schools in growing and planting saplings to generate legacy and life-long connection with the environment

DESCRIPTION

‘The Future Forest’ is an integral element in a wider project which focuses on the future health of biodiversity and securing ecosystem services. The basic premise of ecology, that nothing is truly independent, is mirrored in the philosophy and structure of this project. An ecosystems approach has been adopted to both assess and prioritise environmental needs/threats and address them through a core cluster of interlinked projects under the theme of “wildlife and woodlands”. This overarching concern is addressed through three interlinked project elements:

1. Pinewood Ecosystems
2. Scots Pine Nursery
3. Future Forests

The Future Forests project will aim to target those areas where the greatest gains can be made from active management, to create a fully functioning, robust and resilient woodland network in Glen Nevis. This will start with the creation of a blueprint for where management activity should be focused, followed by a programme of small-scale interventions designed to enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity. This will include the management of invasive species and protection/improvement of existing habitat alongside controlled, small-scale grazing. As well as small-scale planting, there will also be strategic scrub clearance and thinning of existing woodland to improve habitats for Lepidoptera while also improving the landscape from a visual perspective. An increase in woodland connectivity, particularly for scots pine, will improve the habitat for red squirrels.

Ensuring the future of Scots Pine within the Glen is a prime objective. A central focus will be given to the area around Polldubh. This is not only an important site from a habitat perspective (mosaic of heath, shrub and woodland glades) it is also a key recreational area. The location is also significant in that it marks the transition point into a landscape of wilder character (identified in the Nevis Landscape Character Assessment as zone 3).

There is potential to improve the landscape character for both ecological and social benefit. Schools will be involved in setting up nurseries to grow the seedlings and learn about woodland habitats and the trees’ life cycle. The nurseries will not only develop a sense of community stewardship and environmental responsibility they will also address the current moratorium on planting native Scots Pine grown in commercial nurseries.

Surveys of the area will identify appropriate planting locations for small stands. The regeneration will be in small, carefully selected pockets, distributed throughout the area. These will strengthen and improve the network of woodland habitat with linking corridors and natural edges. A mosaic of woodland stands and glades will benefit a wide range of species and help protect natural processes as well as providing valuable scenic benefits to the landscape character of the Glen.

The survey will identify appropriate methods of protection (fencing/tree protectors/ deer management). Once the saplings have reached sufficient stage in their growth cycle, they will be planted out. It is envisaged that school children and volunteers will contribute and learn woodland management skills at this stage. Exploration and controlled experimentation with various methods of tree protection will bring educational outputs to the project, raising public awareness of the complex issues facing land managers, communities and conservation groups.

Public engagement will be encouraged and enhanced at Polldubh, an important area for recreation and wildlife. It is of national significance as a climbing venue and also popular with visitors, being close to the roadside, river, lower falls and parking. The mosaic of crags, woodland and heath provides a range of habitats, especially beneficial for Lepidoptera. Scrub clearance and selective tree thinning will open up of woodland glades through and providing both habitat and human enjoyment of the area. The existing network of casual paths will be rationalised and some light touch work carried out to stabilise them where necessary. Providing slightly easier access for climbers will reduce the proliferation of paths across the area and should also encourage some visitors to move away from the road to experience the woodland. However, the nature of the terrain in this area is unlikely to lead to large-scale access by most visitors, who tend to head up the good path along the gorge to Steall. Roadside interpretation will improve the understanding of visitors about the landscape and biodiversity found here.

There is great opportunity to build relationships between the mountaineering/climbing community and conservation bodies. Besides the generally improved environmental quality of the area, this will directly help conserve historically important climbing routes for future generations.

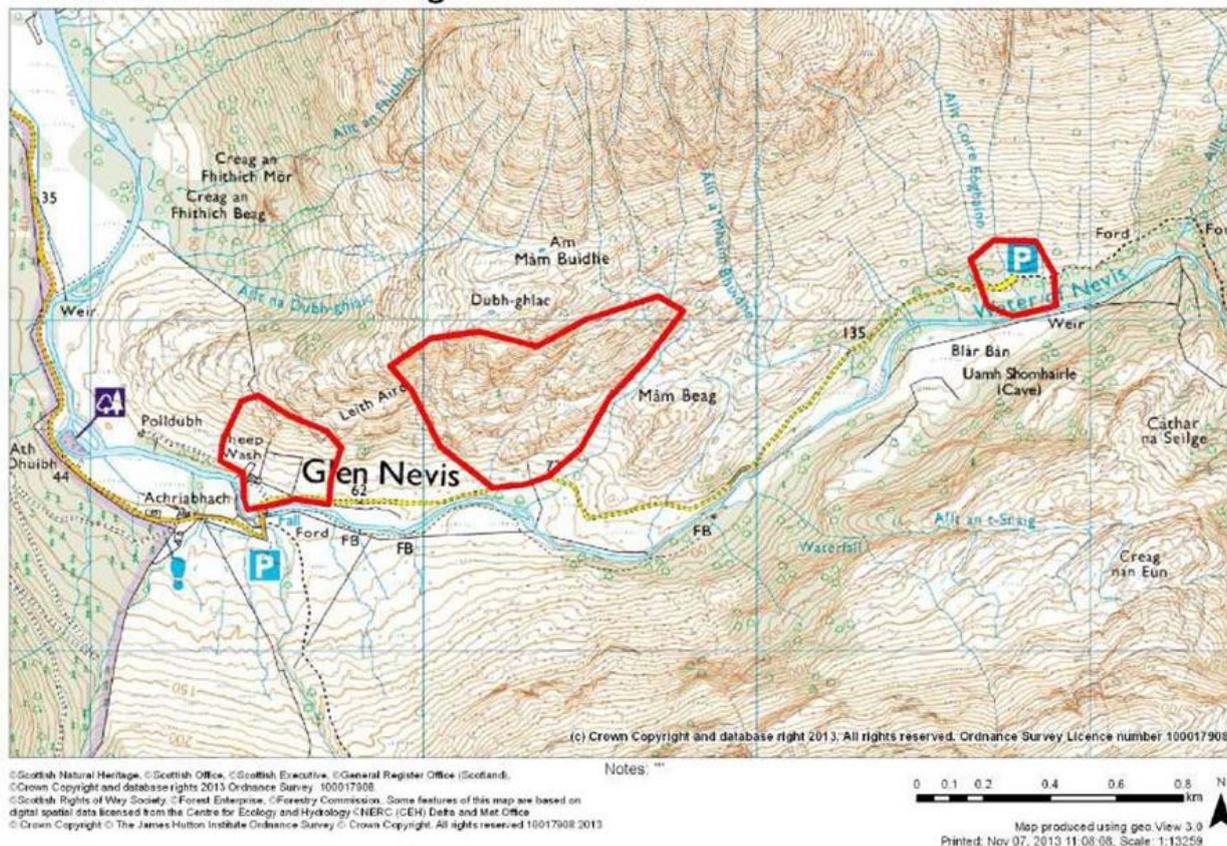
Interpretation about the woodland in Glen Nevis and the project to create a connected, resilient set of woodland habitats throughout the Glen will be located at the car park at Polldubh. It will consist of an interpretation panel showing the evolution of the woodland through time, from the past through the present and into the future. Research necessary to underpin this will be undertaken by the Native Woodland Discussion Group, an organisation that has significant knowledge and expertise in understanding woodlands historically as well as currently. They will bring together all the available information necessary to illustrate this time-line. Educational information will inform and inspire visitors about the conservation project. This may take the form of low-key and sensitive interpretation installation and/or leaflets as well as website elements.

Relationships between nature and specific interest groups will also be enhanced through their active participation in growing and planting of scots pine, a species that is an important component of the woodland but is not regenerating at a sustainable rate. This model is a pilot for much wider participation in the future, involving many more local groups and across a much larger (landscape) scale. In this way it is hoped that natural woodland will develop in a measured, sustainable way across its former natural range but with a huge level of public participation in that process and with an in-built resilience deflecting changing conditions and knowledge during the time-span of delivery (which will be much greater than the NLP HLF 5-year delivery phase).

The sense of time-scale and change integral to this project will enable a greater understanding of changing environments and in particular the anthropogenic elements – climate change, pollution, consumption of resources – which will lead to a better understanding of the need for more ecologically sustainable living. Having a sense of ownership in a woodland because you helped to create it is a powerful catalyst for the change in social attitudes that will be necessary to deliver real sustainability in the future.

Location of woodland management areas in Glen Nevis:

Polldubh woodland management areas



FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

A number of other groups that this project will hope to involve at a future stage include the Claggan Greenhouse Project, which helps disadvantaged people gain a sense of involvement and self-worth, and the Macmillan Trust, working with the terminally ill who may gain an enormous sense of personal satisfaction by leaving a lasting legacy in the form of new woodland. How much development is achievable in the lifetime of the current Landscape Partnership is unsure, but the publicity that the school nursery project gives will be a stepping stone to rolling this out across a wider area, both in terms of geographical area and in terms of the people involved.

CONSTRAINTS

The area where management action will be focused is partly in and partly out of the Ben Nevis SSSI/SAC. Elements of the Native Pinewood/Caledonian Forest feature are present here and the work is specifically designed to improve the condition of this feature (which is in unfavourable-recovering condition). Consents will be required for scrub clearance and thinning within the SSSI; this has been agreed with Scottish Natural Heritage.

The area where management is to be focused is owned by one of the NLP partners, Rio Tinto Alcan, who will derive no direct benefit from the project other than to their CSR. However, a previous potential native woodland scheme drawn up by RTA's agents for an SRDP contract was unable to progress. This project, in the longer term, hopes to deliver much of that endeavour but over a greater time-scale and with direct public engagement. This has PR

value for RTA. There will be potentially be some work on ground owned by the John Muir Trust, in and around the upper car park at Polldubh. They have a specific desire to enhance conservation across the whole of their property here and are one of the key partners.

There is currently a moratorium on planting seedlings of scots pine in a core pinewood area unless the seed has been grown “on-site”, to reduce the likelihood that the area will be infected with Dothestroma needle blight. This has put a significant number of important pinewood restoration schemes on hold. The nearest infected trees are in Leanachan Forest so seed cannot be grown in or around the FCS office at Torlundy. However, the specific locations in Fort William which have been identified as tree nurseries – initially the school grounds of all the primary schools and the high school – are considered to be sufficiently remote from existing plantation where this pathogen may be present to permit them to be used (advice from SNH woodland advisers).

DELIVERABLE OUTPUTS

Year 1 Outputs	No.	Vol. Days	Audience
Analysis of woodland blueprint mapping	1		
Site visit with Polldubh Climbing Club for thinning around crags (in kind)	1		
Selective tree and scrub thinning to improve habitat mosaics		20	
Site visit to identify other volunteer work – INNS and scrub clearance (in kind)	1		
Survey of Polldubh area and identification of planting	1		
History of Glen Nevis Woodland – NWDG report (50% in kind)	1		
Seed collection days in Glen Nevis with 10 classes from local schools (FCS) (in kind)	10		300
Set up nursery facilities in schools – equipment and advice	10		300
Year 2 Outputs	No.	Vol. Days	Audience
Volunteer activity to improve landscape & monitor habitat (mix of skilled and unskilled)		30	
Production and installation of interpretation panel	1		1000+
Seed collection days in Glen Nevis with 10 classes from local schools (FCS) (in kind)	10		300
Survey of area and action plan for habitat improvement work for Lepidoptera (BCS)	1		
Production of woodland educational material/pack to carry out activities in school and in Glen Nevis (developed by Project Officer)	1 pack for 30 classes		300
website element	1		300+
Educational talks/ activity supervision for classes from local schools (in-kind: FCS, Rangers, SNH and Project Officer)	10		300
Year 3 Outputs	No.	Vol. Days	Audience
Volunteer activity to improve landscape & monitor habitat (mix of skilled and unskilled)		30	
Seed collection days in Glen Nevis with 10 classes from local schools (FCS) (in kind)	10		300
Annual Lepidoptera Report (BCS)	1		National
Educational talks/ activity supervision for classes from local (in-kind: FCS, Rangers, SNH and Project Officer)	10		300
Targeted Tree planting (75 ha of habitat improved), number of classes	10		300
Year 4 Outputs	No.	Vol. Days	Audience

Volunteer activity to improve landscape & monitor habitat (mix of skilled and unskilled)		30	
Annual Lepidoptera Report (BCS)	1		National
Educational talks/ activity supervision for classes from local schools (in-kind: FCS, Rangers, SNH and Project Officer)	10		300
Targeted Tree planting (75 ha of habitat improved), number of classes	10		300
Year 5 Outputs	No.	Vol. Days	Audience
Volunteer activity to improve landscape & monitor habitat (mix of skilled and unskilled)		30	
Annual Lepidoptera Report (BCS)	1		National
Educational talks/ activity supervision for classes from local schools (in-kind: FCS, Rangers, SNH and Project Officer)	10		300
Targeted Tree planting (75 ha of habitat improved), number of classes	10		300
Development of legacy strategy - stakeholder meeting and action plan	1		

OUTPUT INDICATORS AND TARGETS

- Numbers of trees planted (3,000)
- Numbers of children involved (10 classes per year)
- Interpretation panel
- Area of habitat with improved connectivity
- Numbers of volunteer days in habitat management
- Man-days of woodland thinning work
- Areas of scrub and invasive species cleared

OUTCOMES

- Woodland habitats improved/strengthened
- Unfavourable-recovering condition underpinned by active management
- People engaged in outdoor activity and in touch with nature
- Landscape quality improved
- Stronger connection between conservation and recreation
- Community involved in landscape management
- Better partnership approaches to land management
- Better appreciation of the need for living ecologically sustainable lives
- Sense of legacy

ACTIVITIES AND TIMETABLE

Activity	Timing
Final woodland blueprint	June 2014
Analysis of blueprint	July - Aug 2014
Site visit with Polldubh Climbing Club for thinning around crags	Aug - 2014
Crag thinning	Sept 2014 onwards
Site visit to identify other volunteer work – INNS and scrub clearance	Aug 2014
Volunteer activity to clear scrub and INNS	Sept 2014 onwards
Survey of Polldubh area and identification of planting locations - detail	Sept – Oct 2014
History of Glen Nevis – NWDG report and mapping of charcoal burner platforms	Jan 2014 – Mar 2015
Development of interpretation panel for upper Polldubh car park	Apr - Jun 2015
Installation of interpretation panel	July 2015

Collection of seed from trees (FCS)	Oct 2014 – Mar 2015
Set up nursery facilities in schools	1) Oct – Dec 2014 2) Oct – Dec 2015 3) Oct – Dec 2016
Start germinating and growing seeds in schools	1) Jan - Mar 2015 2) Jan - Mar 2016 3) Jan - Mar 2017
Start planting out seedlings with children	1) Autumn 2016 2) Autumn 2017 3) Autumn 2018
Engagement with other groups with potential to start nurseries	Aug 2016 onwards

EVIDENCE, REVIEW AND REPORTING

The NLP Environmental Project Officer and Communications Officer will coordinate the project, engaging the community, disseminating information, recording inputs and measuring outputs. Ongoing monitoring of saplings and habitat will be carried out each year by the Conservation Volunteers in consultation with SNH.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

The unfavourable-recovering condition (2013) of the pinewood/Caledonian Forest feature on the Ben Nevis SSSI/SAC will be given support by the planting of young pine trees within the designated site.

All seed will be collected locally and grown in school grounds, where the risk of infection by *Dothistroma Needle Blight* (DNB) is minimised; this pathogen is currently responsible for a moratorium on the planting of scots pine in any native pinewood area with seedlings from commercial nurseries. Only in places where seed can be grown “on site” is it possible to plant with young scots pine. This augmentation is important on this site where natural pine regeneration is slow, partly due to browsing by herbivores but also partly due to the combination of other natural factors – slope, aspect, soil type etc.

The planting areas will be protected from herbivores by fences or grow-tubes around individual trees. They will be strategically placed to fill pockets in the woodland habitat network identified in the mapping exercise undertaken by SNH as part of the suite of natural heritage projects for the NLP. This map is based on existing woodland and potential woodland expansion, aimed at creating a robust woodland habitat network that supports ecosystem services, opportunities for adaptation to climate change and suitable habitat for red squirrels to live or feed in.

While the area around Polldubh has been identified for careful tree removal and pruning to enhance the visibility of the crags in this important part of the Ben Nevis and Glencoe NSA, the pine planting would be placed in such a way that it did not counteract these efforts for landscape improvement.

The need to assist in the woodland restoration is an accepted part of this whole partnership. It is being driven partly by SNH and partly by FCS. Within the area covered by the project there is no conflict with other land uses although there is the potential for a need to justify the development of woodland on other Natura habitats. This is an issue for SNH to tackle and is not anticipated to emerge until after the end of this current Landscape Partnership.

However, if the project does make sufficient progress for this to be necessary, there is a willingness to undertake that assessment and make a case for woodland to develop in areas where naturally it would be present, even if those areas are now other qualifying habitats.

The numbers of visitors at this site is constrained more by the availability of parking and other forms of transportation. It is unlikely that there will be any concern with managing visitor

impacts. However, should this develop, there is a willingness on the part of all the partners to look at innovative ways of delivering that management, given the experience and knowledge gained from the management of far greater numbers elsewhere in Glen Nevis.

BENEFICIARIES AND COMMUNICATION

There is an obvious natural heritage benefit to the Ben Nevis SSSI/SAC site feature native pinewood/Caledonian Forest. There is also the potential expansion of habitat suitable for red squirrels to live or feed in. Red squirrels are known to be present just across the Waters of Nevis, at the edge of the Forestry Commission ground near Achriabhach.

There are significant benefits accruing to the children and their teachers taking part in the programme. Outdoor learning forms an important part of the Curriculum for Excellence, as does learning about sustainability. Combining these two elements in an outdoor project with direct benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services offers learning opportunities about the importance of natural environments. Local children may have very few opportunities to go out and enjoy nature so close to their school and home; this aims to foster a life-long interest in and identity with an iconic landscape which some children will never have had the chance to develop.

Key messages will concentrate on the importance of woodland habitats, their associated biodiversity, such as red squirrels, the threats these habitats and species face and why they are so important to humans. These will be delivered primarily through school activities but will include news and blogs on the NLP website as well as the chance to share the experience via the Highland Council educational intranet, Glow.

All relevant data on species will be given to the Highland Biological Recording Centre for uploading to the NBN Gateway; SNH will also retain information on planted pine for future assessments of feature condition.

This project will benefit the natural habitats, and in particular the woodland habitats, in the upper part of Glen Nevis (at least initially). The blueprint gives a vision that covers a much larger area which it is anticipated the partners will want to work towards beyond the lifespan of this Landscape Partnership. In addition to the trees themselves, a number of specific species will benefit, including red squirrel, woodland birds (possibly including black grouse), pine marten, chequered skipper as well as a whole range of woodland-dependent lower plants (mosses, liverworts, lichens and fungi).

Interpretation for the public will be installed at the upper Polldubh car park. More direct involvement with the children in building their nurseries and in the process of planting their trees will give them an holistic understanding of the value of their work.

WIDER CONTEXT

This project has direct links with the woodland habitat mapping project and the efforts to expand suitable habitat for red squirrels. It also links well with the wider schools programme, which operates at a national level. The project also links with the Polldubh Paths project.

PROJECT BUY-IN

Project buy-in includes SNH, FCS, local primary schools and Lochaber High School

PROJECT LEAD

NLP will be the project lead, in consultation with SNH and supported by FCS.

PARTNERS / CONTRACTORS ETC.

Lochaber High School Fort William PS
Fort William RC School Inverlochy PS
Upper Achintore PS Caol PS
Banavie PS

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The first stage application consisted many separate projects and budgets focusing on specific species, habitats and locations. During the development phase the Partnership has established a broader, landscape-scale perspective to conservation and future proofing the biodiversity of the Glen. Consent will be required for planting inside the Ben Nevis SSSI/SAC from SNH and permission from Rio Tinto Alcan/Bidwells. Both have been agreed in principle.

The rationale behind this is manifold. Firstly, Heritage Lottery Funded Landscape Partnerships are driven by an underlying philosophy, which encourages holistic approaches, reflecting the interconnectedness of landscapes, ecosystems and communities. Similarly, landscapes are viewed as being multi-layered, encompassing biodiversity, habitat, natural processes, land use, history, human experiences, culture, and physical features. This is reinforced by HLF's focus on four key outcomes: conservation, community participation, access and learning, training and skills. These outcomes however are not seen as occurring in isolation, but rather, as reinforced by each other.

Secondly, the interdependence of species and habitats is best reflected in a wider, ecosystem focused project which builds in habitat resilience and species adaption. Focused intervention in key areas to strengthen and establish habitat networks is deemed the most efficient use of public resource to protect biodiversity.

Thirdly, this approach encourages and provides greater opportunities for partnership involvement. By contributing to a wider project as members of a project steering group, the partners form a community with a common focus and a new platform for sharing ideas, concerns and best practice. Each individual is thus an integral and valued part of something larger yet tangible and clearly identifiable. Furthermore, this ensures that no expert knowledge is deployed in isolation or kept to a narrow focus, but rather informs a broader, landscape scale perspective.

Fourthly, by having one core project cluster rather than a raft of separate projects, the public and other organisations can more easily grasp what the partnership is doing. Many of the outcomes of the landscape partnership hinge on public engagement, and for this to be successful, it is vital that we have clear and easily understood messages. Promotion of events, activities, training and volunteer opportunities will all benefit from a more coherent project image which the public can easily comprehend and identify with.

BUDGETS

Item	Unit cost	No.	Vol.	In-kind	Cash
Analysis of woodland blueprint mapping (in kind)	£300	2		£600	
Site visit with Polldubh Climbing Club for thinning around crags (in kind)	£300	1		£300	

Project Management & Scheme of works for thinning, SOP's, Health & Safety	£1,500	1			£1,500
Selective tree and scrub thinning (professional chainsaw work)	£300	12			£3,600
Volunteer supervision (felling/thinning)	£300	12			£3,600
Crag thinning (skilled volunteers – climbers & chainsaw ticket holders)	£150	10	£1,500		
Crag thinning (unskilled volunteers)	£50	10	£500		
Site visit to identify other volunteer work – INNS and scrub clearance (in kind)	£200	2		£400	
Volunteer activity to maintain and improve landscape (Conservation Volunteers – 6 Vols x 3 days p/year for 4 years)	£50	72	£3,600		
Volunteer activity to monitor species and habitat (Skilled Conservation Volunteers – 6 Vols x 2 days p/year for 4 years)	£150	48	£7,200		
Survey of Polldubh area and identification of planting locations – detail	£200	2		£400	
History of Glen Nevis – NWDG report (50% in kind)	£300	4		£600	£600
Development of interpretation panel for upper Polldubh car park (40% in kind)	£300	5		£600	£900
Production and installation of interpretation panel	£5,000	1			£5,000
Collection of seed from trees (FCS) (in kind)	£300	3		£1,500	
Set up nursery facilities in schools – equipment and advice	£1,000	10			£10,000
Tree planting - based on 100 trees per class; 10 classes per year for 3 years: Supply, plant tree + 1.2m tube + treated softwood stake & labour	£3	3000			£9,000

Contingency for Deer Fencing/management if necessary.					£7,000
Survey of area and action plan for habitat improvement work for Lepidoptera (BCS)	£1,500	1			£1,500
Annual Lepidoptera report	£600	3			£1,800
Educational talks/walks and activity supervision (in-kind: FCS, Rangers, SNH @ £30p/hr and Project Officer at no cost)	£30	30		£900	
Production of woodland educational material/pack to carry out activities in school and in Glen Nevis (developed by Project Officer)	£10	300			£3,000
Total Budgets			£12,800	£5,300	£47,500

Cash value	£47,500
In-kind contributions	£5,300
Volunteer outputs	£12,800
VAT	£9,500
Additional 10 year maintenance	£7,500 (150 vol. Days)
Total Project Value	£82,600

PERMISSIONS AND COMPLIANCE

- Prior to the commencement of any landscape works, detailed proposals containing risk assessments, a method statement and site management plan (demonstrating compliance with Site Designations, Access Legislation, Health and Safety Regulations) will be sent to and be approved by the landowner, planning authority and other agencies (SNH, FCS, SEPA) as required.
- All parties contracted to carry out landscape works will be required to provide satisfactory, documentary evidence of appropriate competence, certification, insurance and standard operating procedures which adhere to HSE guidance and regulatory requirements.
- All parties contracted to carry out landscape works will hold full public liability insurance.
- All parties contracted to carry out landscape works will hold full responsibility for Health and Safety management within the area designated as a site of work during operations.
- Liability for workers, volunteers and work affecting visitors will not fall to the landowner. During operations, liability for works within the site area will reside with either an appointed Project Manager or the party contracted to manage the works.
- School risk assessments and appropriate H&S arrangements (training, supervision, PPE, PCB checks, etc.) will be completed prior to any field trips.

The Landowner (Rio Tinto Alcan) have provided 'consent in principle', pending satisfactory evidence of compliance with the above requirements.

Consent from SNH will be required for the planting. SNH are a lead partner, who have contributed significantly to the design of this project and will continue to do so to ensure compliance with all relevant environmental guidelines/legislation.

LEGACY AND MAINTENANCE

Legacy from this project is significant:

- Woodland will have been created with an expected lifespan of hundreds of years.
- These new clusters of pine will support feeding and potentially nesting habitat for red squirrels for as long as the species is able to survive in the face of likely spread of grey squirrels.
- Habitat will have been improved for Chequered Skipper and other key lepidoptera, with supporting base-line data informing future monitoring.
- Children who participate in the scheme will have a life-long affiliation with Glen Nevis and will remember where they planted trees. They may bring their own children there as a result.
- Schools that participate are likely to want to continue with this project if it delivers the kind of learning and environment anticipated. This will spread the legacy to new generations of children.
- Interpretation material will continue to educate the local and visiting public about the importance of woodland regeneration, community involvement, ecosystem resilience and adaptation.
- The blue-print will serve to create an enduring legacy, developing local involvement in a sustainable, organic way and including the capacity for development and change in response to new information about habitat response and resilience.

RISKS AND RISK MITIGATION

Risk that the seedlings will develop Dothestroma or other tree pathogen – mitigate with regular inspection.

Risk from chainsaw and sharp tool injury – mitigate with authorised certificate holders, training, operating procedures, PPE.



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