

nevis

SUMMER JOURNAL • ISSUE 2



BEN

GLEN

PROJECTS

PEOPLE

VOLUNTEERING

It's all happening.



Get hands on.
nevislandscape.co.uk/events

Ràith an t-samhraidh

By Freja MacDougall

Photo by Alex Farquhar

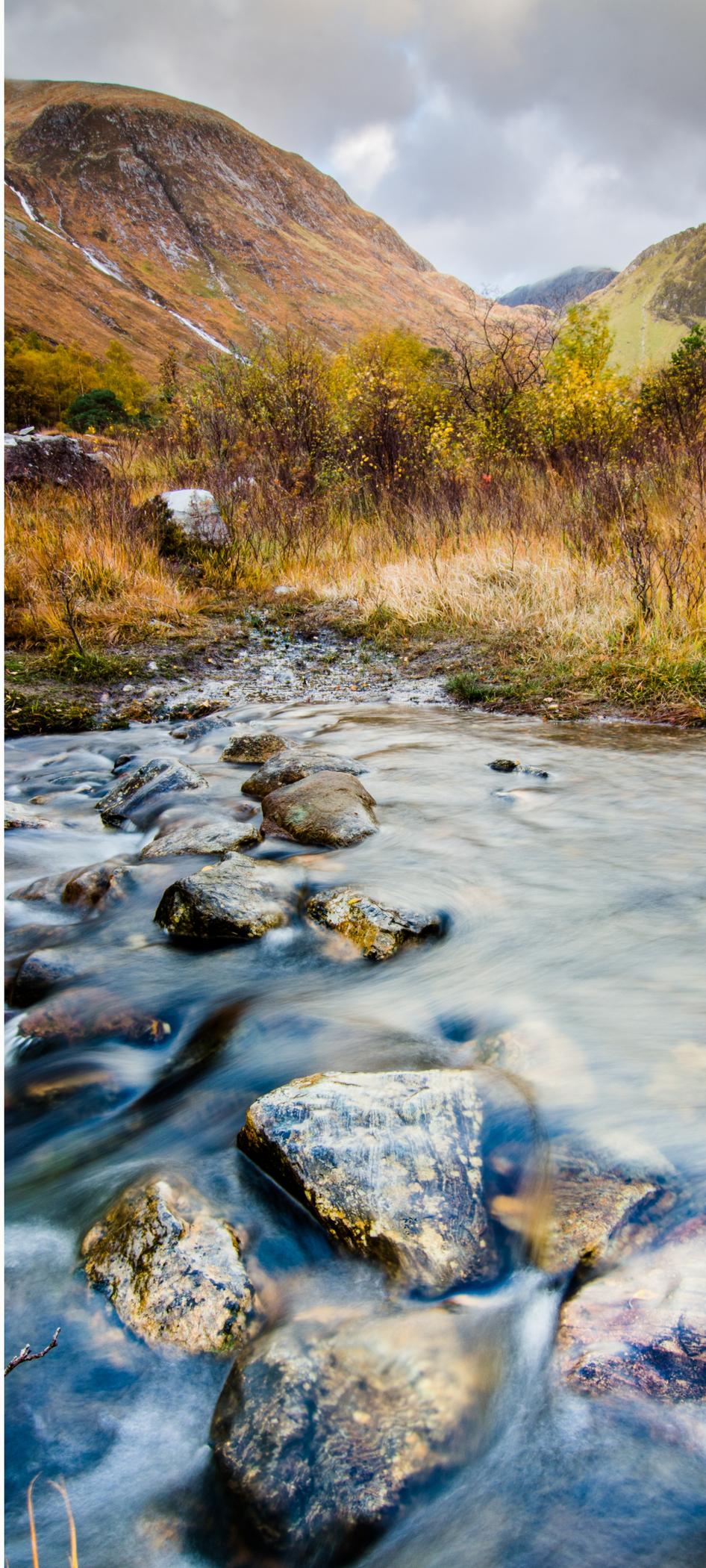
It really is all happening.

We have a nursery full of Scots Pine, two thirds of our path improvements complete and a brand new bridge spanning the River Nevis.

We have achieved a lot since heading in to project year four of five at the beginning of April and we have much more planned for the coming year. Even more trees, even better paths and a more jam-packed event schedule than ever before; if you can't find something to get involved with we're doing it wrong.

In our Summer Journal we are looking at the allure of getting away from it all and heading to the hills with Alicia Hudelson, the importance of nature to all of us but especially little ones and last but not least, offering a warm welcome to local lad Nathan Berrie who has joined John Muir Trust's Nevis land team.

Enjoy.



“YOUR LUNGS BURSTING AND TELLING YOUR BODY TO STOP BUT YOUR LEGS NOT WANTING TO.”

ALICIA HUDELSON, ULTRARUNNER & SEMI-RETIRED CLIMBER

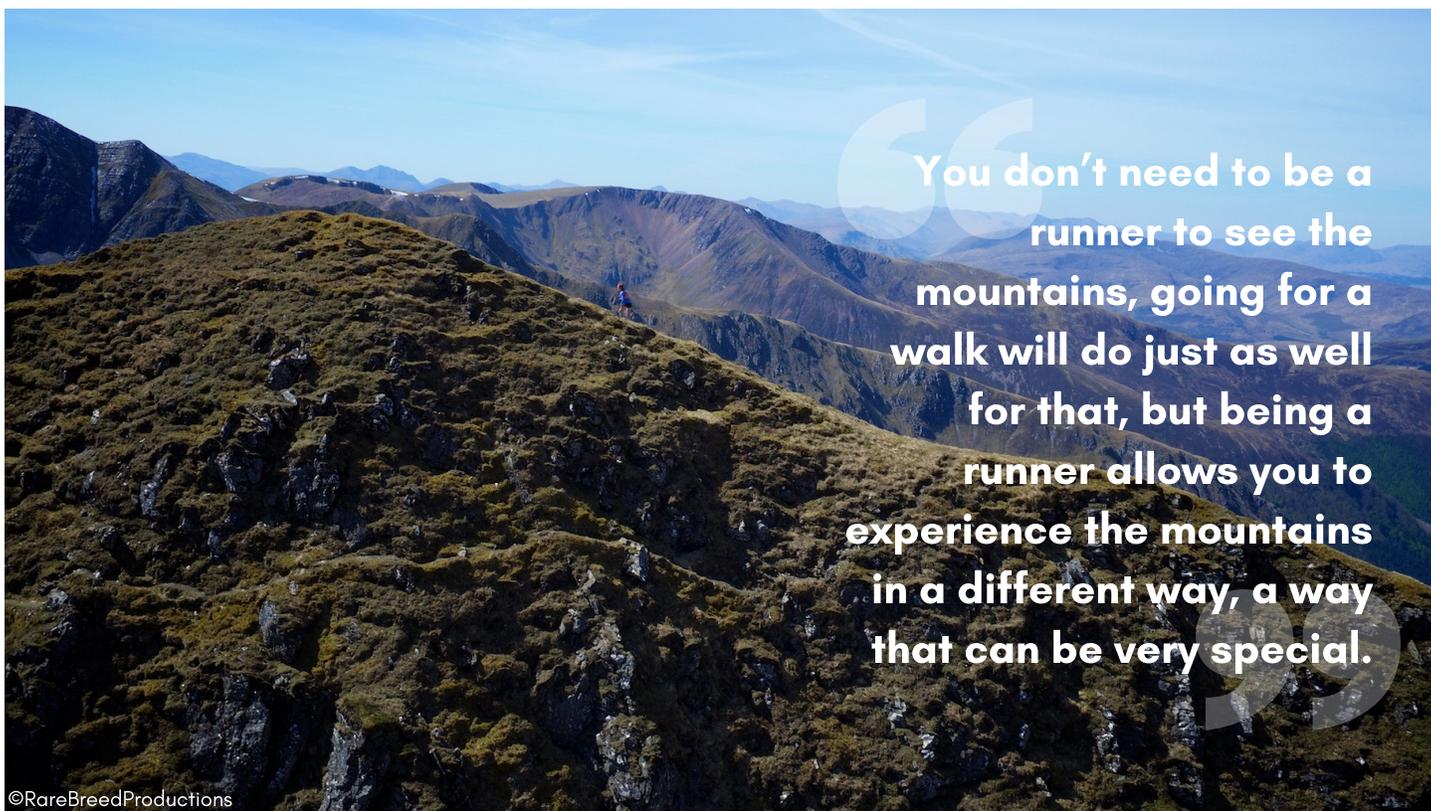
Running has been described as the world's most accessible sport and really when you think about it, what's stopping you just going for a run? If you are able-bodied you already have everything you need. It is assumed that the ancestors of mankind developed the ability to run for long distances over two-million years ago whilst competitive running grew out of religious festivals in various areas as far back as 1800BCE. Fast-forward a few thousand years to the nineteen seventies and one of the most spectacular displays of long-distance running was about to take place, right here in Lochaber. Charlie Ramsay, a Lochaber Athletic Club member, was competing with mountainous terrain and battling a time-limit of twenty four hours to climb a total of twenty-four Munros, finishing on Ben Nevis, in a single outing. By completing this impressive challenge with two minutes to spare, Charlie Ramsay created Scotland's Classic Mountain Marathon covering a distance of fifty-six miles and amassing 28,500 feet of climbing. The Ramsay Round was born.

Since its inception back in the seventies, there have been just under one-hundred recorded finishers of The Ramsay Round. The majority of successful rounds belong to male runners with just five female runners completing the challenge. The current record is held by Jasmin Paris who completed her round in sixteen hours, thirteen minutes last year.

Three finishers have already been recorded this year, with a fourth to be added when Alicia Hudelson channels months of training into her shot at this prestigious challenge. Back in 2016, Alicia promised herself two presents upon successful completion of The Bob Graham Round; a celebratory bottle of red and a guide to The Charlie Ramsay Round. From one challenge to the next.

Since the beginning of May, Alicia has been staying with Claire and Dave MacLeod who are documenting her attempt at the round on our behalf. With a base in Lochaber, Alicia has carried out long preliminary runs to survey the terrain and, making the most of an extremely good weather window, actually came pretty close to completing the challenge with minimal support.

Everyone here wishes Alicia the very best of luck in her attempt. We can't wait to catch up with her and see the finished film of her incredible journey exploring the mountains and pushing herself to the limit to join the list of Ramsay Round finishers.



Alicia's journey will be the focus of a Nevis Landscape Partnership film which will be produced by Rare Breed Productions and premiere at Fort William Mountain Festival 2018. To watch our previous films, The Hidden Side, Wild Times & The Fort, please visit our Vimeo channel.

vimeo.com/nevislandscape

NEVIS
TRAINING
PROGRAMME



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LOUISE FELDWICK

WRITTEN BY FREJA MACDOUGALL

“THE KNOWLEDGE AND
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Environmental conservation is a very competitive field and an increasingly tough job-market to crack if you are fresh out of education and looking to begin your career. Being turned down for work due to lack of experience is an unsolvable logical dilemma, one which Nevis Landscape Partnership have attempted to remedy with our Nevis Training Programme. With the help of our working partners we have attempted to determine what a modern-day ranger is required to know and do and we put together a comprehensive training programme which takes places over twelve weeks here in Glen Nevis. Now in it's third year, the programme is gaining widespread attention for giving many folk their start in the environmental sector with some of our former trainees now working with our partner organisations.

Louise Feldwick is one of four Trainee Volunteer Rangers who started their training with us in April. Louise studied Zoology & Paleobiology whilst at university and has had a strong passion for the environment from a young age. However, enthusiasm and an academic background were not enough for employers when she began looking for work so she travelled the length of Great Britain to join us here in the Highlands.

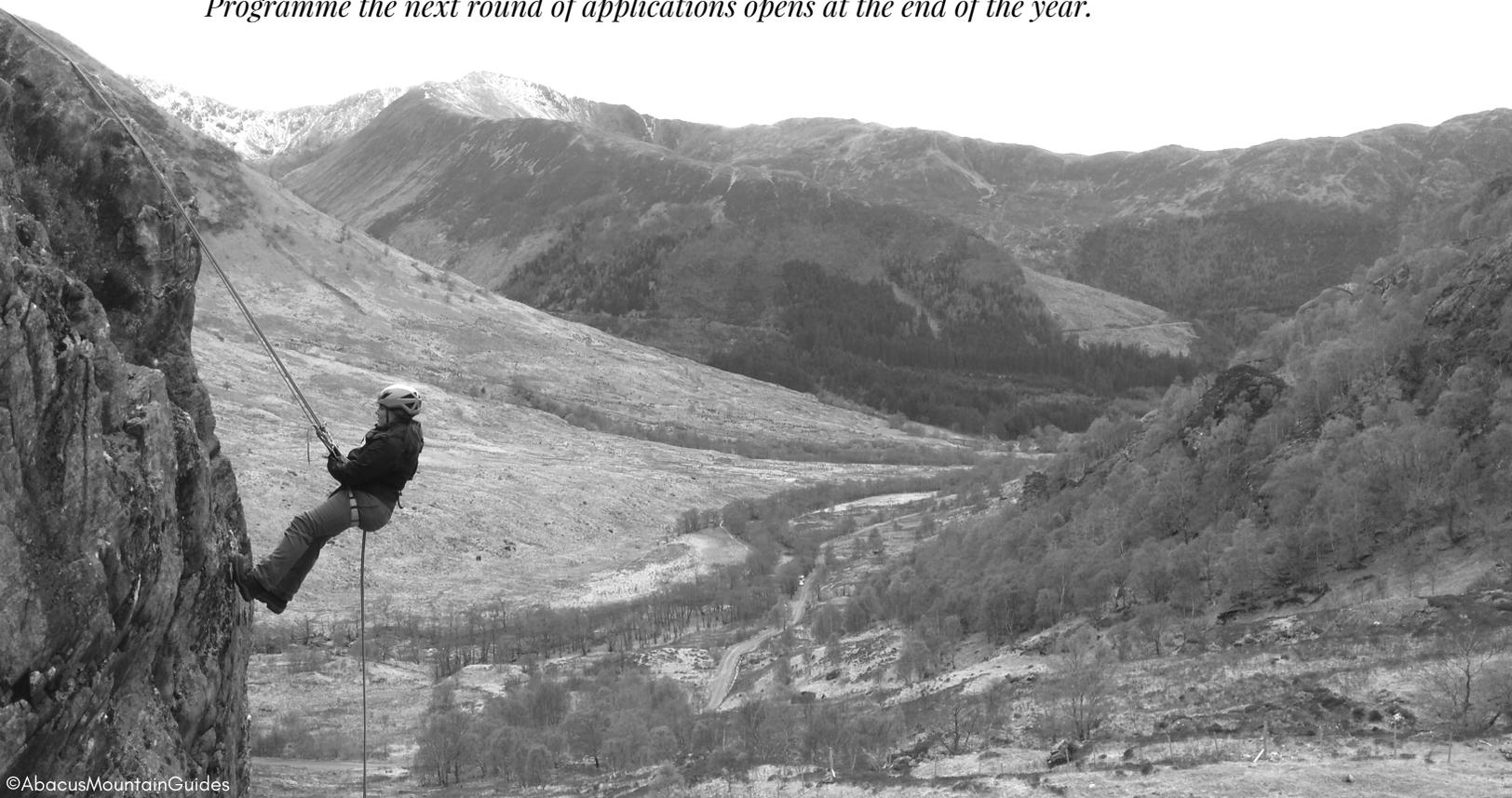
Susan Nicol, Volunteer Coordinator for Friends of Nevis and Nevis Landscape Partnership has managed the Nevis Training Programme since its beginnings and knows first hand the challenges of changing career. Susan studied Environmental Science at Stirling University and pursued a career in the outdoors shortly after completion, the same journey the majority of our trainees are currently on.

The Nevis Training Programme has proved itself to be the stepping stone folk need to get started. Our former trainees are now in gainful employment with Lochaber Geopark, John Muir Trust, Highland Council Countryside Rangers and the New Zealand Department of Conservation to name a few, with others furthering their studies in specialised areas.

“I enjoyed getting out of my comfort zone and exploring areas of work I never would of had the chance to before this programme. If you have the chance, apply and never look back.”

Hannah Bathgate, Former Trainee & Lochaber Geopark Project Assistant

If you are interested in becoming a Trainee Volunteer Ranger on the Nevis Training Programme the next round of applications opens at the end of the year.



Born under the Ben.

NATHAN BERRIE; WORKING TIRELESSLY TO PROTECT THE MOUNTAINS



Nathan Berrie loves mountains. Not only exploring them on foot, ski and bike but also studying the montane environment avidly and trying to get an insight to the mindset of the modern-day adventurer. Combine his curiosity and enthusiasm with his local roots and you have everything John Muir Trust were looking for when they recently advertised for a Nevis Ranger.

Joining the team at John Muir Trust tops off a year of working towards a career in conservation that began when Nathan enrolled on to a MSc in Environmental Tourism. His studies have allowed him to research, at length, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and the Land Reform Act. Two subjects which are at the heart of his dissertation.

Making the most of Nevis Landscape Partnership's training events, Nathan gained knowledge in everything from the geology of Ben Nevis to the construction and features of the Nevis path network. It was as a Friends of Nevis volunteer at a Citizen Science event that Nathan first met Alison Austin, Nevis Property Manager and is something he believes helped him land his new post.

"Without the opportunity to learn about what was happening through the Nevis Landscape projects and actually lend a hand I wouldn't have the experience I need for my current role. Meeting Ali, and everyone involved across all projects, was a total bonus and really gave me a chance to get to know the key players in conservation for the Nevis area."

Nathan's role will see him support Alison Austin with the management of John Muir Trust's Nevis property which includes the summit of Ben Nevis and the Steall area. Like all at John Muir Trust, Nathan and Alison are an essential force in protecting and enhancing the wild land in their care.

"I'm thoroughly looking forward to embracing everything my role as Seasonal Nevis Ranger will explore this summer. This area is hugely important to me and the opportunity to actively protect it is something I'm extremely proud to do."

To get involved with the protection of the places you love, join John Muir Trust this summer in Glen Nevis. Do good work for the great outdoors, make new friends and help care for wild places.

johnmuirtrust.org/support-us/volunteer



“EVERYONE SHOULD
CARE BUT THEY
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TOGETHER.”

Wild &

“If children lose contact with nature they won't fight for it.”

George Monbiot

Spend time outdoors and be happy.

It sounds simple but when was the last time you swapped desks and screens for hills and glens? A recent study asked a cross-section of folk from all over the country to draw what they thought of when they heard the word **nature**. Not one drawing contained human beings. Are we that far removed from our wild roots that we no longer consider ourselves a part of the natural world?

Fear not, an army of little adventurers have recently taken to the hills to get their boots muddy and their eyes opened to the wonder waiting for them in Glen Nevis. Perhaps we could do with taking a leaf out of their book.



©AliBeradelli



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& Free



The past three years have given Nevis Landscape Partnership the opportunity to explore the wild with Lochaber's little ones and find out what they think about nature.

We've been climbing, mountain biking, making dens and toasting the odd marshmallow here and there and we are delighted to see such an enthusiasm for the outdoors in the next generation.

"The children were constantly engaged with and very enthusiastic about everything they did. It really helped them develop a greater understanding of the opportunities to be active in the outdoors."

James Ross, Lundavra Primary

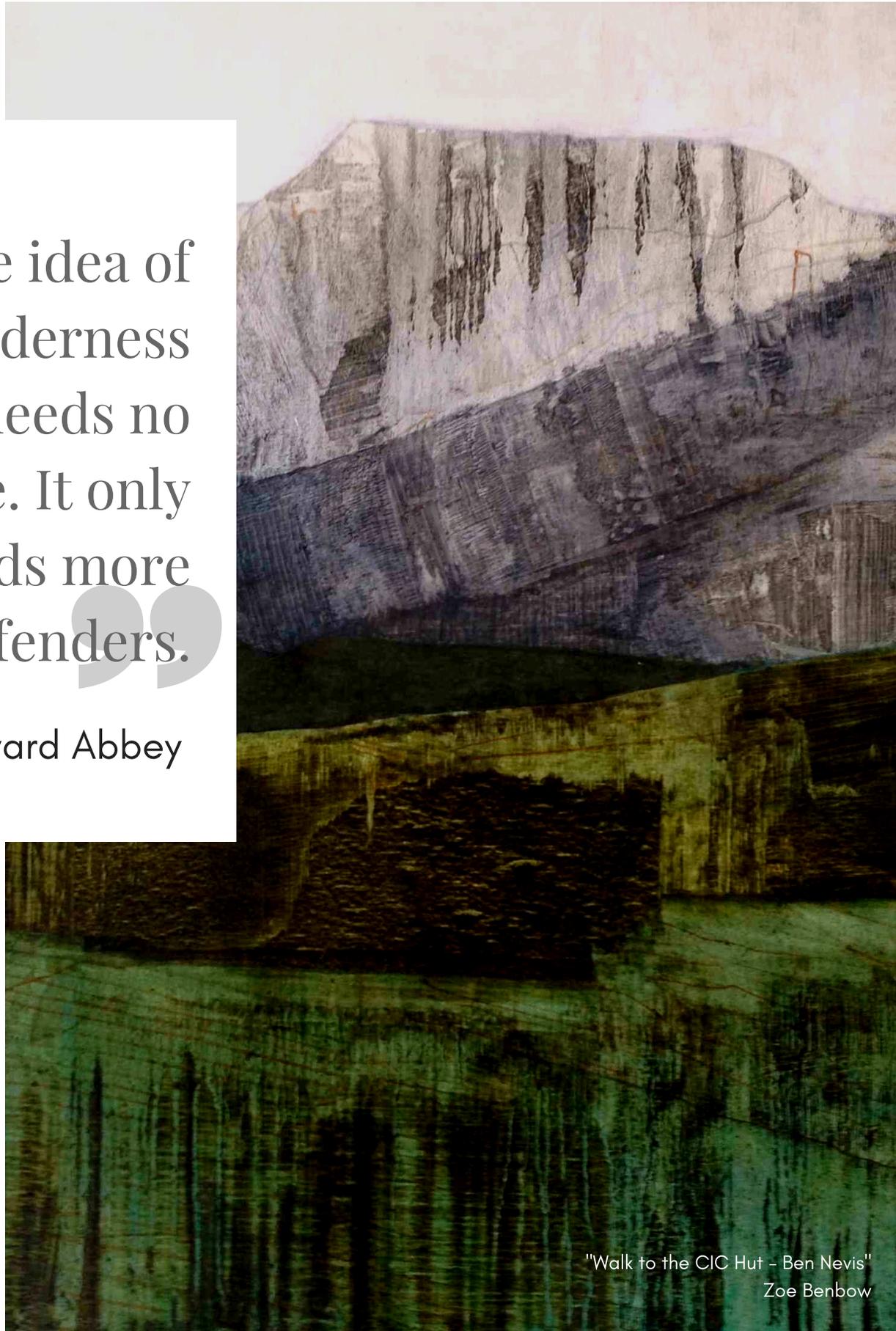
We think that if being outdoors is fun, sociable and exciting then children will make a connection to the environment, and in doing so value it, care for it and want to learn through it.

We have such a varied landscape and the freedom to explore it. What are we waiting for?

Our education pack "Wild & Free" was recently circulated to all Lochaber primary schools. If you would like a copy you can download a pack directly from our website.

“The idea of wilderness needs no defence. It only needs more defenders.”

Edward Abbey



"Walk to the CIC Hut - Ben Nevis"
Zoe Benbow

nevislandscape.co.uk/support/give