

Woodlands of Ireland conference

October 2024

Andy Rockall

Community Woodlands in Scotland



Community
Woodlands
Association

Community Woodlands Association

- Membership organisation, established in 2003
- What do we do?
 - support members to achieve their aspirations
 - represent and promote community woodlands
- Direct support: face-to-face, email, phone, virtual
- Training, networking and information provision, mentoring, exchanges
- Annual conference, Inverness 4th & 5th October 2024
- Consultancy
- Policy & research (consultation responses)
- Umbrella & collaborative projects (Native Woodlands Project, ASR)
- Normal staff: 1.9FTE (4 posts) + short term contracts.

Community Woodlands in Scotland

- ~200 community groups owning and/or managing woodland.
- First community woodland: Wooplaw (1987)
- CWA members own or manage around 40,000ha of land and woodland.
- Great diversity of woodlands, communities, objectives, activities.
- Common thread is that community woodland groups manage their woods to benefit their community.



Community Woodland Groups

- Woodlands formerly in either public and private sectors.
- Variety of tenure arrangements: ownership, lease, management agreements, partnerships.
- Governance model: non-profit-distributing bodies with a geographically-defined membership electing a voluntary Board.
- Larger/busier groups employ staff, but most are run by volunteers.

Benefits (motivations)

- Physical and mental health benefits,
- Environmental (protection), biodiversity & climate,
- Opportunities for volunteering,
- Education and skills projects (young people),
- Venue for community events and activities and increasingly tourism,
- Community cohesion and confidence,
- (Economic).

Activities – a sample

Social: recreation facilities (car parks, paths, shelters and seating, mtb trails), volunteering, forest school / kindergarten, skills training, (mental) health and rehabilitation, arts & culture, sport, walking groups;

Environmental: creating new woodland, restructuring conifer plantations, ponds and watercourse management, control of invasive species, deer management, meadows and non-woodland habitats, squirrel bridges;

Economic: timber, sawmill, firewood/woodchip, renewables, forest buildings, affordable housing, cafe, tree nursery, camping & tourism, green burials, allotments, woodland crofts.











HOME SWEET HOME

A good red squirrel habitat



Tall trees
to escape
from
danger

Flow
trees

Food
nearby



California
nut pine

Good hiding
places

Easy
exit path

Tree holes
for stores

Red Squirrels like to live in woods like Comanche. This is a perfect home (habitat) for them. It has everything they need to survive. What do you need to survive in your habitat?

Eaten up! Can you see and chew?
These are acorn hulls in the trees
about the size of a football. They
are made from twigs and moss. They
can last for 8 to 9 years and are
waterproof holes.

The Eco-System



A red squirrel family can have several
holes in their area. The
acorn hulls in acorn trees.

These animals share the
world with the red squirrel
but you can't see them in
Comanche wood's.



A Red Squirrel Lives
in Comanche Wood's



























VALTRA











Contacts

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Any questions?



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