

Ranger report for Board meeting. 12th May 2025.

		GLENAN																	
		Start date	End date																
		13/06/2024	16/06/2025																
		# sessions (target)	# people (target)	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June (to 11 th)	TOTAL		
Guided Walks attended	no target	no target	0	1	3	1	4	0	1	1				2					
Guided Walks Offered	no target	no target	2	2	4	0	4	0	1	1				2	ongoing				
Number of people at public events (not including conservation days)			95	44	87	98	227	0	0	0	0	73	104	104	(ongoing)				
Conservation work parties held.	TARGET 25	NUMBERS TO DATE 43	3	2	3	3	3	8	6	5	2	5	3	3	ongoing				
Volunteer Hours for working group model										10									
Ranger administration hours for working group model						5	5	2											
Pop-up events (INCL Special interest groups)	TARGET 25	NUMBERS TO DATE 37	4	4	8	8	6	0	0	0	0	4	13	13	(ongoing)				
Special interest groups					1		1					1							
Volunteers trained (any)				1															

Table of Contents

Ranger report for Board meeting. 12 th May 2025.....	1
Work to Date.....	1
Big canopy campout.....	1
Deer Management:.....	2
Three deer seats.....	2
Herbivore Impact Assessment.....	2
Nature Scot 6a Notice:.....	2
Risk Assessments.....	2
Corporate Volunteering.....	3
Archaeology Scotland/LIDAR.....	3
CWA mentorship scheme.....	3
Highland Coos:.....	3
February.....	4
March 2025.....	4
April 2025.....	5
May 2025.....	5
Other.....	6
Going forward:.....	6
June 2025.....	6

Work to Date

Last report was 22nd January.

With an effort to recruit, our regular volunteer day is worthy of note with a regular group now established.

Big canopy campout.

Having had both face to face and email correspondence. Rebecca from BCC now has audio and video footage for the campaign. Our local teen group has expressed an interest in attending event. I would like to commission a metal box for food preparation for the event, for use as a future

resource; BCC have indicated they would pay for this retrospectively.

Deer Management:

Three deer seats.

Do not climb signs have been procured but I have yet to determine location.

Herbivore Impact Assessment

The results show consistently 'very high' impact from deer across the whole wood. The implications of continued browsing at this level is deemed as follows:

“There will be no tree or shrub regeneration either from seed or from shoots. The ground flora will be of low species diversity, with no preferentially grazed plant species present and no, or very little, flowering or seed setting.

The woodland will be very open with no shrub layer, no climbing plant species and a very short, moss /unpalatable grass- dominated or missing, field/ground layer. Even species, such as lichens that live on the bark of mature trees in open woodland, will not flourish in the long term due to the gradual death of mature trees and a lack of replacements. Food and habitat for invertebrates, birds and small mammals will be very limited. Deadwood invertebrates will benefit from the large volumes of deadwood present as the woodland senesces but the woodland, and the deadwood, will not persist in the long term.

Overall structural and vascular plant species diversity: Very Poor.

Species that need open woodland or deadwood: Good until adult trees die and rot away, thereafter Very Poor.

Nature Scot 6a Notice:

- In recent months, NatureScot has been in contact to discuss the intention to issue a 6A request for a collaborative deer management plan in Southwest Cowal. Furthermore, the request was discussed and minuted at the last Cowal DMG meeting in January 2025. All involved are supportive of the request and welcomed a collaborative approach which aimed to establish coordinated deer management which was mutually beneficial.

Within the next week, we will receive a letter detailing the request to the charities postal address I provided to NatureScot. Once received, I will need to confirm via email we have received this letter. Once they have replies from all involved, NatureScot will work with Scottish Forestry to organise a southwest Cowal steering group meeting to discuss next steps.

The key topics of discussion will be, scale, data collection to inform deer management decisions (counts & HIA) and ways in which a plan, data collection and operational deer management can potentially be funded. A plan must be submitted to NatureScot for approval no later than 12 months from now. The 6A request area is detailed in the map attached at the end of this report.

Risk Assessments.

This task, set for April has been largely deferred. This is due to the events programme being signed off later than anticipated and annual leave. However,

- Wildfire risk assessment & Fire plan. A meeting has been sought with local fire service to

review my current drafts. I have also commissioned a wildfire sign and am seeking materials for firebeaters to place at other key areas throughout wood.

- Insurance: I have spoken to NFU mutual about a quote for wildfire, this is due to learning helicopter assistance is only available via insurers. NFU have compiled a list of questions for us to answer before giving a quote.

Corporate Volunteering

I met Alan Fraser from JP Morgan in an online meet in April.

He proposes sending a group of 8-10 once a month with a packed lunch. Most realistic option for budget is for us to essentially charge them for the volunteer event and he would go get this cleared prior to the event. He is happy to be guided by us in terms of how much this would cost, preliminary discussion looked at around £250 for the (half) day. I would like board discussion and subsequent sign off before responding.

We were also joined by a volunteer as part of her works Environmental & Social Responsibility programme. This is an area for volunteer recruitment we could develop further if desired.

Archaeology Scotland/LIDAR.

- Briefing. A comprehensive programme has been developed and public events are now advertised for year one. However, for year two there is some undetermined fundraising commitment that the board needs to consider planning time for. Needs board level engagement.
- Having met with a representative from Portavadie distillers. LiDAR survey has been agreed to be undertaken on our behalf. I have supplied requisite maps. I will need a sizeable external hard drive to take receipt of the data. This will have a deeply impactful and positive effect on our archaeology programme.
- Dendrochronology: I have also asked Archaeology Scotland to make contact with the following organisation. I advise board that we back the commissioning of a study illustrated by the following undertaken at Ardura Community Forest:
<https://scarf.scot/thematic/dendrochronology/dendrochronology-case-studies/case-study-dendrochronology-and-woodland-history-at-ardura-community-forest-mull/>

CWA mentorship scheme.

- As I mentioned in last report, I have an interest in working up a project to fell the western hemlock at the far end of the site. In addition, i'm scoping the possibility for milling the wood onsite; and establishing markets for timber.
- I have been matched with professional forester Andrew Maqueen, and I will meet him later this month for our first meeting.

Highland Coos:

I would like to raise the idea of bovine ruminants at Glenan to help us with our long term management plan. There are some solid contacts and case studies via Scotland The Big Picture that could help us with a feasibility study as well as some existing scientific studies we could join. I am interest in determining all the variables, costs and implications of reintroducing highland cattle within the boundary of the wood; using the no fence collar method. Clearly, this will likely involve

the employment of a herdsman; and I would like us to have all the facts clearly presented for the board and surrounding community to consider.

February

- Send draft copy of programme and online calendar to for board comment. COMPLETED
- Rangers 2025 digital diary link sent to board for days on/off/activities etc COMPETED
- Agree/Amend schedule and programme with line manager COMPLETED
- Print events schedule COMPLETED

- Plan for consultation events in March. COMPLETED
- Call all members on email bounce-back DEFERRED
- Finalise Programme following board approval. Scribus Digital copy. DEFERRED

- Meet school to discuss events for year COMPLETED
- Send out info for visioning day. COMPLETED

- **Weekly thursday working group partnership with local people**

Risk assessment for event.	COMPLETED
Draft itinerary	COMPETED
Text for invite.	COMPLETED
Invitations, advertisings and signing up.	COMPLETED
Compile list of who gets a specific invite.	COMPETED
Facebook, advertise locally with shops. Village halls and via minister and parishes.	COMPLETED
Booking slots on website	COMPLETED

IN PROGRESS

- Weekly conservation work Focus:
 - Debris from windblow from path network COMPLETED
 - Digging/drainage to subsoil at container. ONGOING
 - Cutting toe-boards for decking. ONGOING
 - Transfer of gravel into builders bags. ONGOING

Attended 2 x onlie training events on negotiation provided by community land scotland.

Attended community engagement training with Scotland the Big Picture.

March 2025

- Print & distribute programme. COMPLETED APRIL
- Produce quarterly newsletter to members number 1. COMPLETED
- Advertise ABCAN visioning sessions for month end. COMPLETED
- Planning ABCAN visioning sessions. completed
- Meet Operations team at portavadie to discuss events COMPLETED
- **Sketch out path network and associated visuals for router. INCOMPLETED**
- **Send spec for glenan community woodland sign for robin. DEFERRED**
- Initiate social prescription- Jennifer Dryden frm NHS scotland will be introducing me to new community link worker when the come into role. DEFERRED

Herbivore Impact Assessment course (event) w/NatureScot. 4 th March.	COMPLETED
Reveal Nature 2 bio walk events 14 th March.	COMPLETED (28 people)

ABCAN grant delivery – Adult group 29th March. COMPLETED (43 People)

Weekly Work Party focus: Marquee and kitchen up in time for vision day. COMPLETED

- **Weekly thursday working group partnership with local people**
Working on ABCAN sessions prep.

Attended Working with schools on rewilding projects training event with Scotland Big Picture.

April 2025

- Review Health & Safety documents. ONGOING
- Renew &/or write risk assessments. DEFFERED
- CPD Plan with Peter. DEFFERED
- Courses and Events for year onto Ticketsource / WhatsOn page. COMPLETED

ABCAN grant delivery – School workshop. DEFFERED

One day teen group Easter holidays in collaboration with ML. COMPLETED (10 People)

Weekly Work Party focus: Spread Hardcore at Carpark/Container. COMPLETED

Herbivore Impact Assessment at Glenan.(10 sites) (3 day events/volunteer incl write up.)

COMPLETED

Lichen photogrammetry and monitoring. (10 sites)

COMPLETED

- **Weekly Thursday working group partnership with local people**
-Identify where going to go and water point and place on map.

DEFFERED

Work along west Glenan burn by contractor for SBP grant

COMPLETED

May 2025

- Sloped path section costings and submit funds to board. ONGOING
- Deer enclosure costings and submit funds to board. ONGOING
- End of year grant report draft to CLF (Submission June) ONGOING
- **Draft working group documents for CLF** **ONGING**

Weekly Work Party focus: Build decking.

ONGOING

Ceilidh House and Scottish Histories for Resistance youth discussion. COMPLETED (16 people)

Saturday 17th May Butterfly Ball

Archaeology Scotland event.

Spring Day Conservation/Food festival: Orchard 'ENGAGEMENT DAY'

Loch Riddon class (P6/7) to link with their Global Goals work. COMPLETED (25 people)

- **Weekly thursday working group partnership with local people**
-Identify where going to go and water point and place on map.
-Produce package for board meeting with 2 options by end may

ONGOING

COMPLETED

Other

- In memoriam- warm and positive response which has been circulated to board.
- A weekly working group is being held at my home office every thursday afternoon. Need to work out paperwork/code of conduct to invite non board member volunteers.
- Container area: I suggest, for security; we identify funds to install gateposts and a gate here.
- Capital spend response to CLF. This is still outstanding. See attached proposal for costed compost toilets proposal. Board to decide option by end June 2025.
- Member and councillor John McColl has visited again recently to discuss memorial locations for community members in wood. I suggest a working group forms around this idea to work out best way forward and iron out any identified issues.

Going forward:

June 2025

- Prepare and print summer programme printed materials for families
- Prepare quarterly newsletter number 2.
- Chase funds
- Request funds and plan signage for august (incl routed path map)

Weekly Work Party focus: **Strim Paths. Strip paint and Paint container.**

Loch Striven (P1 to P3) Visit to Wood (Provisional)

- **Weekly thursday working group partnership with local people**
-Agree Design AT JUNE BOARD MEET and follow up work.
-Research if need building warrant. DATE TBD

Best wishes for the Summer ahead.

Rhyddian Knight [for FOGW].

Southwest Cowal 6A area

