



Pulp Fiction

The Newsletter

Issue 2 – 4th Quarter 2003

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Don't miss the chance to work off your Christmas dinner by getting stuck into Achnaha rhodies on Monday 29 December! (We will be targetting the ones under the Norway Spruce as they are in the way of the planned felling.)



Followed by Mince pies & mulled wine at Fiunary (at Jake and Isabel's place)

Achnaha Community Woodland

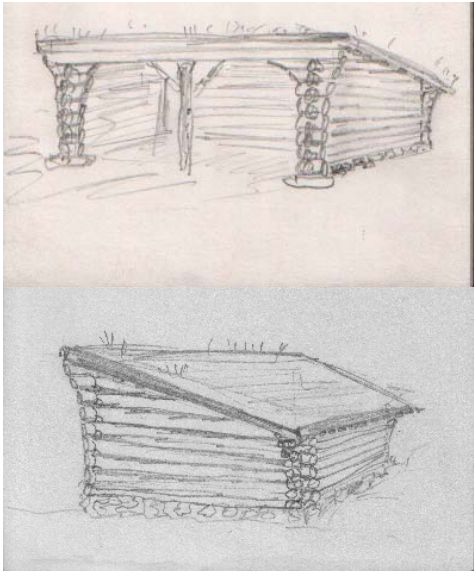
The Community Woodland car park is now finished! It has space for roughly 6 cars and the limestone quarry material used for the surface should make it extremely durable.

Forestry Commission Scotland has temporarily granted us the use of a trailer at the car park where we can keep tools and have a cuppa if the day is wet.

A number of jobs will follow on now that we have the car park in place. Firstly, an All Abilities path (to be built by a contractor) will run 300 m into the wood starting at the car park and ending at a shelter (we will have to build this!) in an open area. The agreement that we reached

during the woodland walk on 23rd November was to build the path to this point and then to build our own paths, to suit different abilities, onwards from there. Thanks to all those who gave input to this process.

The shelter is being envisaged as a place to hold events, take school groups, have a barbecue and keep out of the rain. The construction will tie in well with felling the adjacent Norway Spruce. A felling licence has been granted and this job will go ahead in the New Year.



A possible round log shelter design

Last but not least, the Management Agreement covering the woodland is in its second draft and Forestry Estates have recently provided constructive feedback to help us towards a final draft. When this is agreed and signed, we can start thinking about a management plan that will guide all works/activities in Achnaha over the next 5 years.

Upcoming events

29 December 2003 - Christmas rhododendron clearance at Achnaha - Anytime from 10 am onwards. Bring your friends, kids, handsaws, barrows... We'll get a bonfire up in no time. We need to clear these rhodies for the felling contractor to start work in January.

12-13 January 2004 - Logosol chainsaw mill training at the Scottish School of Forestry, Inverness. There are up to 6 places on this course, with *only 3 participants signed up so far*. Accommodation (1 night) and transport will not be covered. Anyone interested in taking advantage of this opportunity to get certified and proficient with the Logosol should contact Jake or any other member of the committee asap. Please bear in mind that if you join the course, you will be expected to put some time into consolidation, which may be either through paid contract work or through volunteering at community events (e.g. building the shelter).

Oakwood harvesting in Morvern?

The Forest Research branch of Forestry Commission Scotland have been working with Ardtornish in the Uladail oakwood to look at ways of improving the diversity of the wood. The proposal on the table is to thin a small proportion of the oak to increase light levels and encourage holly and other species to regenerate. A small number of oak trees have already been marked for this purpose.



Forest Research's Richard Thompson in Uladail selecting plots for thinning

So, what does this have to do with us? Well, some of the oak that will be felled is going to be left as lying deadwood but some of it is going to need to come out if we can find an end use for it. Forest Research would greatly appreciate our input on this.

The options for extracting the oak are (1) to cut/plank the timber on site or (2) to take it out in the round and convert it outside the wood.

The extraction methods discussed (these apply both to planks and roundwood) include: horses, quadbike, cattle, skyline, winch, and – wait for it - some kind of locally improvised forwarder/cart/low-slung bogey with floatation tyres that can be attached to a quad or can be handled on its own...

The cart idea is quite interesting as the skills certainly exist within our community to develop an appropriate forwarding device that we can hope to use not only at Uladail but also in Achnaha and other woods in which we may in due course become involved. It would be great if the group could come up with a concept, build it and test it.

The extraction will be combined with a demo day in the summer of 2004 so this may be our chance to show off our indigenous knowledge... In any case, we may be invited to use our Logosol on the day as an example of reduced-impact logging.

Forest Research would also like to know whether anyone wants to use the wood locally to add value, for craft work or other purposes. Some preliminary suggestions for local use include: a community project such as a woodlands/heritage information shelter/board at the pier/shop (anyone seen the Knoydart Forest Trust example at Inverie?); decorative uses in the new surgery; knees for boats; oak flooring; etc.

Let's get working on this so we can wow folk who come to the demo day.