



Improving the woods at Kippenrait Glen 2013-18

Autumn 2013

What is so special about Kippenrait Glen?

Located between Dunblane and Bridge of Allan, and easily accessed by both the Darn Walk and the Glen Road, is the ancient 'wildwood' of Kippenrait Glen. The wooded glen is home to a wide range of native trees including ash, birch, oak, elm, hazel, alder and cherry. The continuity of woodland cover, and uncultivated woodland soils, means that the site is incredibly rich in biodiversity. Fungi, mosses, flowers, trees, shrubs, beetles, red squirrels, roe deer and birds can all be found in the glen. Because the woodland is so special and has such varied biodiversity, it has been designated as a UK Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) as well as a site of European importance, known as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

More information about SSSI and SAC can be found on the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) website - see section below on SNH for more details.

Why is there a need to manage the Glen?

SNH will be working in collaboration with the local landowners of Kippenrait Glen to manage the woods. Our vision is for a woodland in which biodiversity can flourish and which is highly valued by the local community. In order to attain that, we plan to:

- control and manage invasive non-native species (INNS), including rhododendron, giant hogweed, japanese knotweed, skunk cabbage, snowberry
- retain fallen and standing deadwood (good for beetles and insects)
- maintain water quality and damp undisturbed woodland (good for biodiversity)
- maintain access for users of the glen
- provide interpretation, to users, as appropriate
- provide volunteering opportunities.
- carry out a woodland outdoor learning project with local school children.



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Who are SNH?

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is the government body responsible for working with Scotland's people to care for the natural heritage. SNH seeks to promote the care and management of the natural heritage, including designated sites, as well as its responsible enjoyment, greater understanding and appreciation and sustainable use. Please visit the SNH website for more information about the organisation. www.snh.gov.uk



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland
Nadar air fad airson Alba air fad

What is going to happen on site?

Control of invasive non-native species

- Earlier on this year we employed contractors to control the giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed along the banks of the Allan Water.
- During the autumn and winter of 2013/2014, we are planning to start removing some of the rhododendron which is spreading across the woodlands to the north of the Wharry burn (an invasive non-native species which was brought from the Iberian peninsula and introduced into Britain in 1763 for planting in gardens). Rhododendron is undesirable because it smothers native plants and reduces woodland biodiversity.
- We hope to start controlling the snowberry (which is native to western China) which has also spread in this area. The berries are poisonous to humans and like the rhododendron it smothers native plants.



How long will it take?

It is likely to take 3 or 4 years to remove the various INNS and encourage native woodland to re-colonise these areas.

Who will undertake the work?

We will use appropriately qualified contractors to undertake much of the work, but some woodland management will also be undertaken by volunteers.

Will the work affect people who use the glen for walking, cycling and running?

The woodland management works are likely to be taking place in limited parts of the woods. Where work is being undertaken which could be dangerous to people walking or cycling in the area (e.g. felling shrubs such as rhododendron and snowberry or small conifers) these areas will be temporarily taped off and signs put up to explain what is happening.

Are there opportunities for local people to get involved?

Woodland Volunteer tasks

We expect some of the woodland management tasks, such as clearing snowberry bushes and small rhododendron stands, to be undertaken by volunteers, starting during the autumn/winter of 2013/14. The volunteers will be supervised by qualified, experienced staff from The Conservation Volunteers (TCV). Anyone interested in taking part should contact Ali Lawson at TCV on 01786 479 697.

Woodland Outdoor Learning Project

We hope to start an outdoor learning project in the woods in early 2014. Our plan is for local schoolchildren to have the chance to get involved in exciting, hands on science projects by studying the woods on their doorstep and sharing their findings with others through events and publications.

Interesting facts

Did you know?

- Kippenrait Glen is home to almost 60 beetle species.
- The UK has up to half of the world's total bluebell population – bluebells are found in woods such as Kippenrait.
- The noted botanist George Don (ancestor of BBC gardener Monty Don) recorded many plants in the glen in the late 18th century whilst working as an apprentice clockmaker in Dunblane.
- The Glen Road is now part of the National Cycle Network (route 765) and is well used by cyclists (and lots of walkers and runners). In recent years local volunteers and Sustrans volunteers have worked hard to clear back overgrowth from the path, improve drainage, tackle a landslide and most recently they have installed an interpretation panel which provides information on the special nature and heritage of the glen.



Got any queries?

For general queries about the site and the planned works please get in touch with the Stirling Office on 01786 450 362 or via forth@snh.gov.uk