



Improving the woods at Kippenrait Glen 2013 - 18

Spring 2014

“If You Go Down to the Woods Today”

This exciting project for local teachers kicks off soon, and aims to increase awareness of the learning potential in Kippenrait Glen, as well as providing skills which will be transferable to other natural outdoor environments. Kate Walters, Freelance Environmental Educator with Magenpie, who has many years of experience providing inspirational, hands-on outdoor learning opportunities, will deliver the programme on behalf of SNH and in collaboration with Helen Winton, Education Development Officer for Stirling Council.

There will be training sessions and visits to Kippenrait Glen using a successful model – which promotes opportunities for getting children and young people out and about in, and caring for, their local natural environments. We can report more about the school projects once local teachers have had the opportunity to get together with Kate and Helen and be inspired by going down to the woods.



Rhododendron Demonstration Event

A rhododendron demonstration event was held on site in March 2014 to share good practice on how best to get rid of rhododendron (an invasive non-natives species) from natural sites. The event was attended by over 40 people and was organised by John Parrot of Coille Alba and supported by Forestry Commission Scotland. John demonstrated new techniques including the injection of herbicide directly into plant stems, which has been shown

to have close to a 100% success rate. By spreading the word about these new techniques the aim is to ensure that future control is cheaper, quicker, more environmentally friendly and ultimately more successful.



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**

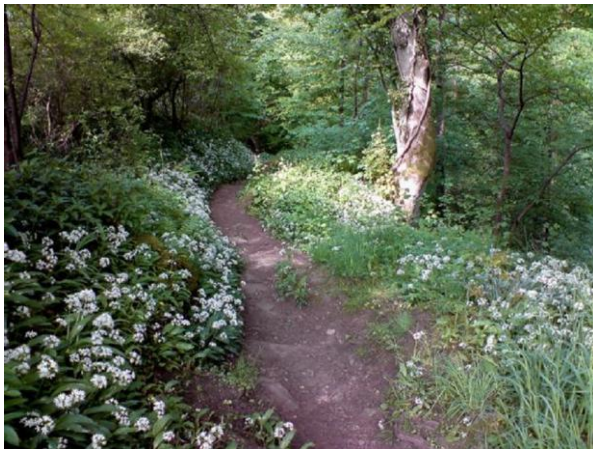
All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad



Why is there a need to manage the Glen?

SNH is 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 and snowberry,
- retain fallen and standing deadwood (good for beetles and other 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.



Controlling Invasive Non-Native Species

In November 2013 The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) spent 3 days clearing some of the snowberry and rhododendron in the glen. Both the snowberry and the rhododendron are INNS and smother native plants so it is important to get rid of them. Following on from successful control works carried out in 2013 further control of hogweed and japanese knotweed beside the Allan Water will continue in 2014, as well as in the next few years, thereby allowing native woodland species to recolonize these areas.

Interesting Facts

- Bluebells are found in ancient woodlands such as Kippenrait Glen. Did you know the Victorians used the starch from crushed bluebells to stiffen the ruffs of their collars and sleeves?
- Kippenrait Glen is home to some rare craneflies, including one called the scottish yellow splinter. Craneflies are commonly known as daddy longlegs.
- Red squirrels can sometimes be seen in Kippenrait Glen. Did you know they shed their coat twice a year, switching between a thinner coat in summer and a darker, thicker coat in winter?
- The alder is a common tree found in the damp wooded areas of Kippenrait Glen. The alder's wood, rather than rotting in wet conditions, becomes very hard and was thus the favoured building material for crannogs (wooden strongholds on Scottish lochs). Much of Venice is also built on piles made of alder trunks.
- Wild garlic is found in Kippenrait Glen. It is one of the early flowering woodland species. It can be identified by its bright green leaves, carpet of white flowers and its pungent smell of garlic



Got any queries?

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