

# Improving the woods at Kippenrait Glen 2013 - 18

Summer 2015

## What has been happening this year?

SNH has been working in collaboration with local landowners to continue the control of Rhododendron and other invasive non-native species (INNS) this spring with the experienced habitat restoration contractors, AMW, carrying out the control measures on the ground. And all the hard work is paying off. Much of the rhododendron treated with chemicals by the stem injection technique has now died back. The control of Giant Hogweed beside the Allan Water has been so successful that the rare Alternate-leaved Golden-Saxifrage was seen flowering in May after many years of absence.

The work in Kippenrait Glen is contributing to a much bigger project organised by the River Forth Fisheries Trust to rid the Allan Water of Giant Hogweed and other INNS this spring. Local volunteers led by Bill Jack and Roy Sexton of Bridge of Allan, and Terence O'Bryne of Dunblane, have made a phenomenal effort to spray colonies up and down the river. If you would like to volunteer to help next spring contact Lawrence Belleni: [l.belleni@fishforth.co.uk](mailto:l.belleni@fishforth.co.uk)

## Caught on Camera!

A variety of mammals live in and around Kippenrait Glen, but many are elusive and rarely seen, particularly during the day. In order to find out a bit more about what lives in the woods, a number of remote wildlife monitoring cameras were placed in suitable locations in Kippenrait Glen during early May. Several species triggered the cameras and left photos which could be downloaded, including this red squirrel (see photo). Grey squirrels were also recorded on the site.

A curious roe deer was also captured (see photo). Small mammals such as woodmice were frequently photographed at night taking bait from beside the cameras.

It is hoped that further remote monitoring can take place in future. Pine martens are known to be present in the area and it would be exciting to get photographic evidence of these visiting the woods.

Photos & text courtesy of Caroline Crawford



Giant Hogweed



Alternate-leaved Golden-Saxifrage



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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](http://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



### **Outdoor Learning Opportunities**

Following on from the successful project with local schools last year, SNH is again funding Environmental Educator Kate Walters to work with teachers and school children to explore the learning opportunities offered by Kippenrait Glen. The project aims to increase awareness of teaching in natural environments through a series of training sessions and visits to the Glen to explore the natural heritage using the 'Teaching in Nature' approach.



### **Woodland Management**

Kippenrait Glen is cloaked in ancient deciduous woodland, rich in biodiversity. For this reason the glen has been designated as a national Site of Special Scientific Interest and a European Special Area of Conservation. The variety of native trees is of particular value with ash, birch, oak, elm, hazel, alder, rowan and gean (wild cherry) all common. There is also a considerable amount of beech which is not native this far north in the British Isles. If unchecked the beech threatens to dominate large areas of the ancient woodland out-competing the native trees and shading out the rich plant communities on the ground below. This autumn a small pilot project to control beech in part of the Glen will get underway. SNH will be liaising with the landowners, local communities and users of the Glen throughout the work to ensure disruption to paths and tracks is minimal.



### **Got any queries?**

For general queries about the site and the work management please get in touch with the SNH Stirling Office on 01786 450 362 or via [forth@snh.gov.uk](mailto:forth@snh.gov.uk)

### **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, snowberry and beech
- 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
- support a woodland outdoor learning project with local school children.

### **Out & About – are you responsible?**

Wherever you go within the glen, remember to take care of the environment and respect the needs of other people whether they are working on the land, walking, cycling, bird watching or sitting quietly by the river. Please remember to always take your litter home so as everyone can enjoy their visit. Rather than lighting a camp fire take a stove if you want to have a brew with your picnic. Remember, fires can easily get out of control and cause serious damage to the woodland and to properties. For more information on responsible access visit [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)