

# Evanton Community Wood

## Core Principles

Generally, the wood will continue to be managed without felling large areas of trees. This will ensure that trees of all ages from the same species will be found together in the wood. This is an important part of the look and feel of Evanton wood. Periodic thinning of the trees has been carried out over the past century and this will continue.

It is intended that the wood will be managed to ensure that it continues to have many large mature trees, which are attractive features of the wood.

Evanton Wood has a patchwork feel and walking through it is like passing through several different woods. This will be maintained to prevent the wood from becoming dominated by a few highly competitive species.

Since non-native trees provide much of the wood's character, there is no intention to remove them from the whole wood. Beech in particular will have areas managed to showcase it as the main species.

The ridge overlooking the village is the backdrop to Evanton. When planted, it was composed of Scots Pine, Larch and Douglas Fir. There are very few young trees ready to occupy areas of storm damage. Young trees grow in the areas where old trees have fallen and there, these three species will be given preference. Some Sitka Spruce and Beech saplings will be removed, but since there is significant opposition to the removal of mature Beech from the ridge, existing Beech trees will not be felled. The lower slopes of the ridge, next to the village, will continue to have a rich mixture of species.

The wood has an extensive drainage system, much of which has fallen into disrepair. The drainage system will be restored and then maintained. Some wet areas will be retained for wildlife and for

their own sake.

Core paths will be maintained. Many smaller paths come and go over the years and a flexible approach will be taken towards these.

The wood will be managed to encourage plant and wildlife diversity, maintaining a range of habitats and encouraging edges where different habitats meet, which are wildlife rich.

The area on either side of the Allt Cul na Greine stream, linking the ponds, will be managed as an open native woodland corridor to encourage invertebrates by allowing them free movement.

The Mag's Wood area will be retained as a meadow and used for outdoor education, events and functions. (A timber shelter is planned for 2018). The meadow will also provide the wood with an open area for wildlife.

Facilities and features which draw people to the wood will continue to be improved. This development will be kept to the area of the wood from the village to the Allt Cul na Greine stream and the Allt Graad. Beyond this, the woodland will be managed, paths and drainage maintained, but otherwise the intent is to keep the wood 'wild' without picnic benches, seats or any but essential signs.

Community education projects will enrich our connections with the wood and provide skills, including forest skills. A range of products, made by members of the community will be trialled, to generate revenue and to practice woodworking skills.

Projects, events and activities which relate to health, sport or exercise will be encouraged.