

# Foraging Fortnight

## C-operation Project

### Summary

Foraging Fortnight is a cooperation project involving six LAG areas along with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) as a national delivery partner.

The festival will run once a year in each of the following LAG areas:

- Forth Valley and Lomond
- West Lothian
- Fife
- Moray
- Lanarkshire
- Orkney

Foraging Fortnight aims to celebrate Scotland's natural environment and wild food through a coordinated foraging festival, involving a wide range of foraging and wild food activities across the country.

The possibilities of 'Foraging Fortnight' are broad enough to meet many of our varied LAG priorities, ranging from health and wellbeing, to sustainable tourism, access to our natural environment, activities focussed in areas of deprivation, and support for rural food and drink businesses.

Aspects of Foraging Fortnight align with the goals of our national food tourism ambition, for Scotland to become a globally recognised food tourism destination- building a name for Scotland as a hub for wild food experiences – good seasonal food with a taste of the wild to enjoy, and opportunities to connect with the natural environment. The festivals are an opportunity to celebrate taste of place.

### Project Aims:

The project aims to engage people with the many joys of foraging and of wild food, always with a focus on responsible and sustainable practices. This project will support sustainable tourism and small food and drink businesses, introduce people to foraging for health and well being, inspire collaboration between businesses, groups and communities, offer locals and visitors exciting new ways to connect with nature and experience 'taste of place', examine the place of wild plants in Scotland's history, and create a festival that can offer so many different opportunities to meet each LAG areas' priority outcomes.

### Expected outcomes include:

- Increased interest and understanding around wild food and responsible foraging throughout large areas of Scotland
- Scotland becomes known for foraging tourism experiences and wild food/'taste of place' food offerings supporting new business ventures and sustainable tourism and local food and drink sectors in rural areas

- Identification of organisation or body to continue Foraging Fortnight as a regular festival in the Scottish Calendar of Events, beyond the LEADER funded project

The overall aim of the project will vary between each of the LAG areas, but will be bound by a central theme; to encourage engagement with the Scottish natural environment and further the understanding of responsible foraging and wild foods. Participating LAGs will reflect the themes of their own Local Development Strategy in the activities included in their areas as part of the festival, resulting in a very interesting and diverse range of activities to be promoted.

The total project costs are £157,320, with an Orkney LEADER contribution of 38.6% (£60,000).