

Native Woodlands Discussion Group



Newsletter

Spring 2017

Volume 42 (1)



Pseudocyphellaria norvegica and *Hypotrachyna taylorenis* (lichens) at Glen Creran, Argyll Photo: Andy Acton



Lichen workshop at Glen Nant, Argyll, October 2016

Photo: Sophie Younger

Front cover picture: painting by Elen Averis

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EDITORIAL

Ben Averis

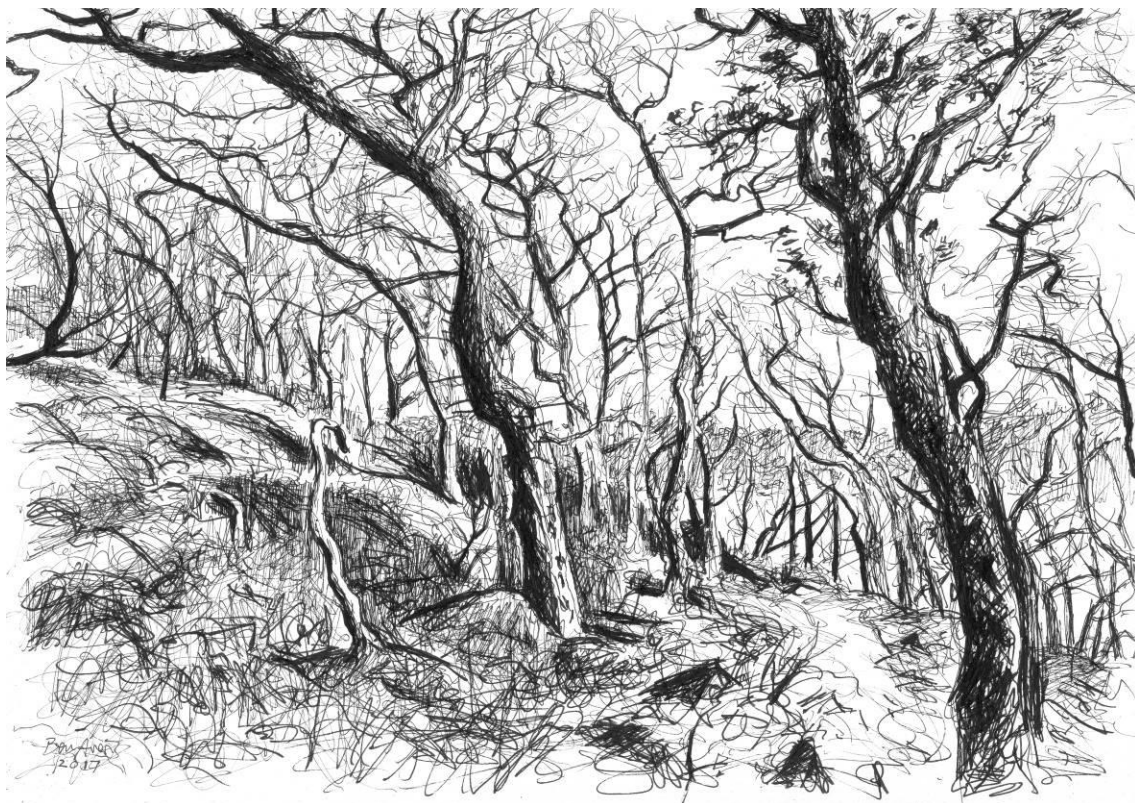


Welcome to the Spring 2017 newsletter, which contains reports of the NWDG lichen and bryophyte workshops and Woodland History Conference held in autumn 2016, some notes on mountain forest vegetation of northern Japan (from a survey I did there in September 2016), the report of the Native Pinewood Managers meeting at Glen Strathfarrar in May 2016, and two book reviews. As always, many thanks to those who contributed to this issue. Please do send me anything that you would like to see in future editions of this newsletter (see notes below on newsletter contributions).

Ben

NOTES FOR NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS. Next deadline (for autumn 2017 newsletter): **15th October 2017.** We welcome any woodland-related material, such as group/organisation reports, news items, letters, book reviews and illustrations. Please send written material (ideally <1500 words long) in Microsoft Word and include your contact details. **NEW PUBLICATIONS.** If you have written or co-written a book/booklet which would interest our members, we can enclose your fliers with our mailings. This service is free to individual members but we charge £20 (to cover postage & packing) for organisations and non-members. We can get books reviewed – just send a copy to the editor. If you would like to review a particular book, please let the editor know; we can usually get a free review copy from the publisher, and if you review it the book is yours to keep. **NEWSLETTER AS A PDF FILE.** If you want to receive future newsletters electronically as PDF files and not in printed form, please send me an email requesting this and tell me the email address you want the PDF file to be sent to. Thanks.

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Kate Holl

We may, as native woodland enthusiasts, occasionally witness events that subsequently turn out to be the beginning of a “new era” in ideas and action. The publication in November last year by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) of their much anticipated Review of Deer Management in Scotland and the announcement of the Scottish Government’s new planting targets may yet turn out to be two such events leading us into a new era.

Following in the wake of the Forestry Commission Scotland’s Native Woodland Survey’s findings in 2014 that more than a third of all Scotland’s native woodlands were in unsatisfactory condition due to herbivore impacts, the main findings of SNH’s review potentially have very significant implications for native woodlands and include confirmation that:

- Between 1961 and 2016, red deer densities in Scotland have increased by 60%. (Less is known about roe deer numbers, but their population is also believed to have significantly increased in recent years.)
- Grazing by deer and other herbivores is a major cause of the unfavourable condition of woodland in protected areas.
- Deer are a major factor in limiting woodland condition recovery.
- If deer densities were lower across Scotland, the benefits arising from deer could be largely maintained and many of the costs (such as deer-vehicle collisions and impacts on forestry productivity) reduced leading to enhanced overall delivery of public benefits.
- On the basis of the evidence reviewed, SNH could not be confident that present approaches to deer management will be effective in sustaining and improving the natural heritage in a reasonable timescale – particularly in time to contribute significantly to the specific challenges outlined in the Scottish Biodiversity Route Map to 2020.

These are indeed very significant findings, and whilst probably not news to most NWDG members, the publication of this report could represent an important step towards finding a solution to some of the more entrenched land-use conflicts in Scotland.

The Rural Affairs Committee have subsequently taken further evidence from a wide range of interested parties during January and February and are due to publish their findings shortly. Whatever their recommendations, there is no doubt that the publication of SNH’s Review marks a sea change in the debate about deer and woodlands. Only time will tell whether the outcomes will result in a better future for Scotland’s native woodlands.

Some of you may have seen Brian Shackleton’s breathtaking clip of a herd of deer moving through the hills on Creag Leacach near Glen Shee taken on December 2nd 2016:
<https://vimeo.com/196304477>

We should be asking questions about what has led to such a large gathering of deer, and how these numbers might impact on native woodland remnants in the uplands.

In the meantime, the Scottish Government has announced that tree planting targets are to be raised on a stepped basis from the current 10,000 hectares a year to 15,000 hectares a

year by 2025. Whilst on the face of it more forest area would seem like a good thing, there is pressure from some sectors of the industry for much of this target to be met by the planting of non-native conifers – principally Sitka spruce. If it feels like we have been here before, it is because we have! The drivers are different this time – principally climate change, but the consequences for the environment will be the same. Managing deer numbers at a lower level could contribute towards achieving this target through natural regeneration, whilst also delivering many other socio-economic and environmental benefits which in turn will make Scotland more climate resilient.



'Different' drivers

So all in all it looks as if there is going to be plenty for the NWDG to discuss in the year ahead!

Our planned Excursion to Highland Perthshire later this year looks set to provide plenty of opportunity to see some inspiring examples of work that is going on in the restoration, management and enhancement of native woodland remnants, so do sign up and come along to what promises to be another great event. Finally, don't forget to check out our social media pages . . . and of course, we would love to hear from you if you have any interesting native woodland thoughts you would like to share!



NWDG ADMIN REPORT

Alison Averis



We currently have 181 members. Many thanks and welcome to everyone who has joined us since the last Newsletter was published. We do hope to see you at an event this year.

On 6th April 2017 there was £16,348.13 in our bank account, compared with £16,494.92 at the same time last year. As usual at this time of year, the balance is high because we have received most of the subscriptions but not yet made any payments.

If you have not yet subscribed for 2017, please can you send me your cheque or standing order mandate as soon as possible. The subscription form is available as a downloadable Word file on the website www.nwdg.org.uk. If you no longer wish to subscribe, please let me know and I will remove your details from the data-base. Please also note that there is now no concessionary rate except for those aged under 25. Many thanks.

Finally, if you have changed your name, address or email address in the last few months, please let me know and I will amend the data-base accordingly.

REPORTS OF NWDG EVENTS IN 2016

Lichen workshop, Argyll – first day (2nd October 2016 at Ien Nant)

Sandra Hutchinson

When I attended the NWDG meeting on Mull I heard a rumour that there might be a lichen workshop in the autumn. There are so few opportunities to attend workshops devoted to lichens that when Alison emailed the dates I signed up.

Our meeting started on the morning of Saturday 2nd October 2016. Andy Acton was our leader. After tea and coffee, it was into PowerPoint. In his first presentation Andy had a few slides of some very interesting and unusual lichens. He mentioned how important these lichens are. We looked at *Pseudocyphellaria* (the specklebelly lichens); Andy mentioned their global distribution and the map illustrated that Scotland had a good representation of *Pseudocyphellaria* yet on a world scale they were very rare. What we found amazing was the comparison between the amount of money invested in reintroduction of the sea eagle (lots) and the amount of money going into lichen conservation (little). He illustrated this further by showing a world distribution map for sea eagles and followed this by the distribution for the lichens of the *Lobarion* species. Yes, you guessed it: these lichens have a very limited distribution and the sea eagle is very widespread.

After that thought-provoking session, the next via Power Point presentation started to get to grips with the identification features of lichens. Words like soredia, isidia, apothecia and thallus were banded about. However, they were nicely illustrated by many photos. Then to help us further, Andy provided us with actual specimens for us to look at, so we could become familiar with these features before venturing outside.

It was a beautiful sunny day and some of us were getting itchy feet to be outside, so we had a working lunch outside the hall and then went out to Glen Nant to do some lichen hunting. For those not familiar with this National Nature Reserve (NNR), it is renowned for both lichens and bryophytes typical of Atlantic oakwoods.

The Glen Nant car park has a massive willow nearby. This tree, on inspection, was covered with many of the specimens that Andy had talked about in the morning session. Many of the group recognised their form; however, remembering their names was different.



Andy was keen to move us further down the path to other similar well-endowed trees. His reason was that in the past he had used this tree to illustrate many of the features discussed in the morning, and therefore felt it best to leave this specimen tree untouched for this session. We did not have far to walk. We found a great variety of lichens, and most of us managed to cross reference the species growing on the trees to those illustrated in the Plantlife booklets. Some of us had fun trying to decide which features such as isidia or soredia were on our specimens. (If you too are unsure, look out for Andy's next workshop and all will be revealed.)

So what did we see? Loads of *Lobaria pulmonaria* (tree lungwort): nice big green lichens, often larger than the size of your hand, growing in profusion on the trunks and lower branches of the oak, willow and hazel trees. Intermixed with these were *L. virens* (silk lichen) and *L. scrobiculata* (Lob scrob). On our walk we came across an old bird box on a tree and we could see how the bird box had created a rain shadow on the bark, so limiting the colonisation of the area by bryophytes and lichens; the area did have some lichens but mainly a poor community of leprose lichens which are way too difficult for most of us to see, let alone identify.

Other big leafy lichens spotted and identified were *Pseudocyphellaria norvegica* (Norwegian specklebelly) and the smelly (akin to fish) lichen *Sticta sylvatica*. Other odour-producing lichens included *Parmeliella testacea* (TCP smell) and my favourite *Fuscopannaria sampaiana* (brown shingle lichen) which, when wet, has a lovely smell of that juicy fruit chewing gum from my childhood days. It was, however, unfortunate that for some of our group were unable to detect these fragrances.

We did look at some of the smaller lichens, known as crustose lichens. We saw *Ochrolechia androgyna*, one of the cudbear lichens used by Highland crofters to dye wool. It's strange how you want to remember lichens that have uses for man.

There were of course a lot more identified and recorded by Andy on the day. All in all a good day. We left the NNR and returned to the village hall where, after some refreshments, we had a lab session – a good mopping up session for going over some things we had forgotten or not quite understood. Then it was back to our respective overnight accommodation places to revise for the next day's site visit. A group of us met up for a meal at the Connel hotel.

Lichen workshop, Argyll – second day (3rd October 2016 at Glen Creran)

Simon Stuart

On the second day of the lichen course we assembled at the Forestry Commission's car park at the top of Glen Creran, in glorious sunshine. The area is designated as a Site of Scientific Interest for upland oakwood, lichens and bryophytes as well as chequered skipper and pearl bordered fritillary butterflies. At first the pace set was quite normal for a lichen workshop, taking over half an hour to leave the car park, although not a glance was directed towards any lichen. Initial interest was more on red squirrels, pine martens and the 1752 Appin murder among other things.



Photo: Simon Stuart

However, we soon got back on topic and continued at a leisurely pace to two trees where Andy split us into two groups and we spent 45 minutes hunting for lichens before

swapping trees. In all a total of 33 lichens were identified with much peering and puzzling and questions such as, “is this speckled?”, “did you pour bleach over that lichen I just tasted?” As the teams swapped trees they were asked to evaluate each other’s work, which added a little competitiveness to proceedings and perhaps just a touch of skulduggery.

The pace of the morning then changed rather abruptly as Andy started to leap across the hillside between the even-aged oak trees like a startled gazelle, hunting this way and that. Most off-putting for those of us prepared for a Sunday morning amble through the woods.



We soon learned that this frenzied activity by Andy was to find a previously identified patch of *Bunodophoron melanocarpum* which was eventually found, soon followed by a patch of *Pseudocyphellaria norvegica*, unusually found among *Hypotrachyna taylorenis*. We then moved down towards the river where Sandra found *Pseudocyphellaria intricata* on some hazel. Other notable finds were *Menegazzia subsimilis* on some young birch regeneration and the snot lichen *Gomphillus calycioides*.

I always enjoy these lower plant workshops and this one was no exception, with Andy having a real passion for the subject. My problem is my own ability to retain any sort of coherent information on the subject from one workshop to the next. Hopefully this time something will stick – perhaps the mucus-like appearance of *Gomphillus calycioides*, the ‘hairs’ of *Parmotrema crinitum*, the ‘eyes’ of *Bunodophoron melanocarpum*, the smell of a *Sticta* or the taste of *Petusaria amara*. Only time will tell.



*Enthusiastic
lichenologist
(photo:
Simon
Stuart)*

Bryophyte workshop in Wester Ross, 21-23 October 2016

Richard Thompson

We met up as usual on the Friday evening, this time at the Anancuan field centre at the foot of Loch Maree under the slopes of Beinne Eighe to the south and Slioch to the north. Ben gave us a great slide show explaining the differences between mosses and liverworts; pleurocarpous and acrocarpous mosses; leafy and thalloid liverworts. I was beginning to doubt my tree identification skills as each slide was full of unrecognisable trees and odd looking habitats. All photos, it transpired, were from a recent trip by Ben and his daughter Elen to Japan. We finished the evening with a sociable meal at the Kinlochewe Hotel.

Saturday morning started with a long drive through Gairloch to the other end of Loch Maree. Tollie Bay wood sits on a steep north-east facing slope in the cold shadows looking out to the sunlit oakwoods and bracken slopes on the northern shore of the loch. Ben and I wondered about the vitamin D status of bryologists compared to lichenologists as we wrapped up warm and headed into the wood. An oceanic treasure trove lay ahead of and above us. Big boulders coated in bryophytes and Wilson's filmy fern created a complex maze leading up to high, steep sided crags above. Ben homed in on rarer species on what to most would seem unvegetated steep sided faces of larger boulders where minute threads of *Drepanolejeunea hamatifolia*, *Harpalejeunea molleri* and *Aphanolejeunea microscopica* formed a barely detectable network on the rock surface. Subtle differences in leaf shape, arrangement and colour were pointed out and our confidence in recognising these differences grew as more examples were seen. The usual *Scapania* and *Plagiochila* species were observed and Ben talked us through the differences using a few technical descriptors but also his helpful and whimsical technique of getting us to imagine Lilliputian bryosmiths: the craftsmen of species *B* taking great pride in making design improvements on the somewhat hopeless species *A* whose leaves fall off and teeth look much less elegant (clearly manufactured on a Friday afternoon). Some of the more common Atlantic species were also helpfully described in similar ways and we were asked to look at some species in-situ to appreciate the difference in texture which was then explained by a closer look under a x10 hand lens.



At the foot of the cliffs, reached by a convoluted route through boulders carpeted in a panoply of species, Ben and Alison pointed out rare species such as the orange *Herbertus hutchinsiae* (formally *H. aduncus*) and *Plagiochila carringtonii*, a species usually associated with north facing “damp” heaths – a habitat we were to see the next day.

The afternoon was spent munching Alison's superb cake (gooseberry jam and elderflower!) followed by some very useful time in the lab where Ben talked us through a number of species and confirmed the identification of others.

Saturday concluded with another very sociable evening at the Kinlochewe hotel with amusing and bizarre anecdotes being swapped and An Tealleach beer supped.

Sunday was spent on the northern flanks of Beinne Eighe on what I thought would be a mission to search out one mysterious liverwort. *Herbertus borealis* is only found here and, thanks to a recent discovery by Stan Phillips, one small patch on Slioch. *Nowhere else in the world*. I assumed that we would be searching for a needle in a hay stack but I was quite wrong. Towards the beginning of the walk in, Ben talked us through some characteristic species of wet heath and used the general appearance and detailed features of *Sphagnum compactum* and *S. denticulatum* to make distinctions between the two. And then, without much fanfare, he popped over the path-side bank and pointed out our first of many patches of *Herbertus borealis*. This comparatively robust plant is more vivid orange than its cousin that we saw the previous day but still has the prongs characteristic of the genus. It seems remarkable that such a rare plant is, here, located in various micro-sites with differing moisture regimes, aspects and accompanying flora. Its abundance and apparently non-specific habitat requirements would suggest that this species should be encountered in many north-west Highland mountains. It would be fascinating to know how genetically diverse this plant is.



Northern oceanic liverwort community on Beinn Eighe

Photo: Ben Averis

Then onto the Northern Hepatic mat (H21b in National Vegetation Classification parlance we were told). I've been privileged to see this habitat a few times in the past (e.g. on a previous NWDG bryophyte workshop in Glen Coe's Lost Valley) but nowhere else have I appreciated the extraordinary richness of species as we did here. This is Alison's paradise and the subject of her PhD. Hopping ecstatically from patch to patch, she described one exquisite rarity after another. The two that made the biggest impression on me were *Mastigophora woodsii* (a golden branched liverwort with leaves that look like minute grasping hands) and *Scapania nimbosea* - the Fabergé egg of bryophytes with opposing translucent leaf lobes tinted pink with a red margin and long sharp teeth around the edges. I discussed the impact of tree colonisation on such habitats with Ben and learned that a scatter of trees may be okay (as was happening here) but dense shade and lots of litter input could be bad news for these extremely rare species. I'm a big enthusiast for tree-line woods and montane scrub but it was useful to hear this caution against "trees everywhere". As we saw in Norway, reducing deer impacts doesn't necessarily lead to development of dense woodland – complex mosaics of scrub and open habitats can co-exist. This balance will hopefully be achieved at Beinne Eighe where occasional rowan and frequent prostrate juniper were seen on our route.

The most striking aspect of these habitats was the colour. Vivid oranges, reds and lime greens that few cameras could do justice to.



Thanks to Ben and Alison for making this such an excellent weekend – and to my fellow students Stuart, Jo, Jeanette and Simon. We shared some remarkable stories (not least the unfortunate adventures of a stained T shirt) and learned much about the rich bryophyte flora of Wester Ross.

Beginners' bryophyte workshop in Perthshire on 29th October 2016

Jill Aitken

Six participants enjoyed the Beginners' bryophyte workshop with Ben Averis and able assistant Alison, in woodland near Garry Bridge car park, near Pitlochry. Ben started off with a poem:

Learning mosses

*You've come to this forest to learn something new
That mosses are boring, and difficult too
Hundreds of species, of which most of you
Will probably never have much of a clue*

*You thought it was easy? Get real – it's tough
Putting names to such fiddly, green-coloured fluff
Technical textbook and microscope stuff
Just using a hand lens is tricky enough*

*So that's why I'm here, going out of my way
To help you just try to make progress today
To help you to focus, to look, and to say
"What a dull little world of despair and dismay!"*



Photo: Jill Aitken

We then had a look at the world of mosses and liverworts – such amazing diversity! Once we'd been shown how to properly use a hand lens (I know it sounds obvious but what a difference when you use it right), we discovered the pertinent points to look out for to help with identification, and differences to similar species. Thankfully the absolute beginners were not expected to remember lots of Latin names, but just to appreciate the differences and beauty. The day was sunny but cold, and despite this, there were still a few midges about. Lunch at a picnic bench next to the busy car park was spiced up with the screams of people bungee jumping of Garry Bridge. (Simon – don't do it!!).

Woodland History Conference at Battleby, Perth, on 18th November 2016: woodland policies and products through the ages: the influence of state and private interests

Brief notes by Alison Averis, based on information from Coralie Mills

The sessions were ably chaired by Coralie Mills and Noel Fojut and included the usual vigorous and productive discussions. Many thanks to Scottish Natural Heritage staff at Battleby for their excellent conference facilities, and to all delegates for supporting this event.

Public policy and private practice: protection, management and development of Scotland's woodland resources from the 12th to 17th centuries (Richard Oram)

Richard, a mediaeval historian, spoke about the laws and policies put in place by successive kings of Scotland to control the management and use of woodlands, and how these also

influenced the way that ordinary people were able to use and benefit from their local woods.

Buildings & boats; the tree-ring evidence for woodland products (Anne Crone)

Anne discussed the dendrochronological (tree-ring) evidence for the tree species used in Scottish buildings and other timber constructions such as ships. Native, home-grown oak and pine were used until the 15th century, but by about 1450 there was increasing evidence of imported timber in Scottish buildings, initially from England and France but later from the Baltic countries, Scandinavia, and finally North America.

"Most Spirited Cultivators": New Merchant Landowners and the influence of the Enlightenment (Jackie Lee)

Jackie, who has a background in teaching, gave a talk suggesting that much of the large-scale tree-planting in Enlightenment Scotland was done as a sort of silvicultural one-upmanship, by landowners anxious to be seen by their peers as exemplary gentlemen. This was augmented by the new merchant classes, who needed to be landowners in order to have voting rights and other privileges: their tree planting seems have been part of an attempt to join the country gentry and have their offspring marry into the aristocracy.

Answering the call of duty: military and naval requirements as an influence on Scottish forestry (Scott Wilson)

Scott discussed the military use of timber through history, from fortified buildings to ships and railways, and from simple fuel to the establishment of alder plantations for producing charcoal to make gunpowder.

The impact of WWI on Scotland's forests and forestry (Syd House)

Syd described the use of timber in WWI, when a vast supply was needed to create the infrastructure for trench warfare, at a time when the existing UK supplies were inadequate and the presence of German U-boats restricted the amount that could be imported. He explained how the Forestry Commission was established after WWI in order to ensure a better supply of home-grown timber, and described the changes in forestry policy and landscape over the 20th century.

The influence of policy on estate forestry in the 20th century (Andrew Barbour)

Andrew discussed the changes in his family estate from the middle of the 20th century, including the effects of forestry policy, hill farming legislation, forestry and woodland grants schemes, conservation legislation and the perennial problem of making ends meet.



FORTHCOMING NWDG EVENTS

Workshops – developing a program of events

Alan Crawford

For many years, the group have delivered weekend workshops, most commonly looking at bryophytes and lichens. These are often meaningful and memorable events for those who attend, and speaking from personal experience, they can profoundly affect your understanding and appreciation of woodlands. More recently we have also delivered workshops on 'PAWS (Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites) Restoration', 'Herbivore Impact Assessment', and a one day beginners bryophyte course. On 1st July this year we will facilitate a discussion on 'The place for non-native trees in native woods, in light of the threats from pests and diseases', asking if sycamore is the future for base-rich woods, given the threats to ash and elm, and then extending the conversation to encompass other non-native trees in a range of different habitat types and asking how we feel about those various scenarios. In autumn 2017 we hope to deliver two bryophyte courses (one lasting one day and the other over a weekend), a weekend lichen course, and possibly a woodland fungi course, and in spring 2018 deliver a second workshop on 'Herbivore Impact Assessment'

We have considered woodland art workshops, and spoken about the possibility of workshops looking at woodlands as inspiration for other forms of creativity too. As the program of workshops evolves, I can envisage a wide range of subject matter; both day workshops, and weekend workshops. Some could be delivered every year, such as those aimed at improving identification skills, and understanding of our flora and fauna, (assuming our talented tutors Ben Averis, Andy Acton and others remain willing to run them). Others may run each year for a number of years, and then intermittently thereafter (perhaps the training on a method for 'Herbivore impact assessment', could fall into that category); some may be one-offs (such as our discussion mentioned earlier scheduled for 1st July); and some may be delivered once every few years (say a day looking at ancient and veteran trees). Some could be annual events, but with each year being a variation on a theme. Perhaps we could have a one day workshop each year, but focusing in on a different species of tree, each year. One year aspen, next year hazel, next year juniper, etc, and/or we could have one day workshops on different habitat types (wet woodland one year; base-rich woods another; upland birchwoods another year, etc. Does anyone fancy kicking this off . . . leading a day, looking at a given species of tree and/or habitat? Could we gather a few interested folk together to develop this as a concept?

If we could evolve such a program of events it would both have some continuity year upon year and be fresh and distinct each year.

There is both breadth and depth of knowledge within this group, as well as abundant enthusiasm and appreciation for trees and woodlands, and when we share that knowledge and enthusiasm, we all grow.

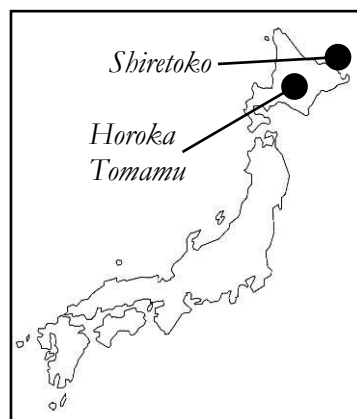
I would welcome ideas from members for potential workshops; even better if you have a tutor and/or a venue in mind, and better still if you would like to deliver a workshop on a relevant theme that is close to your heart.

I look forward to hearing any ideas folk may have. You can email me at alancrawford07@hotmail.co.uk or grab a word with me at the excursion if you are there.

NOTES ON MOUNTAIN FOREST VEGETATION IN NORTHERN JAPAN

Ben Averis

In September 2016 my daughter Elen and I spent two weeks on Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido, surveying the vegetation of a Horoka Tomamu Montane Forest reserve (www.horoka.org) in the central part of the island and visiting other places including Shiretoko National Park in the far east of the island. Here are some notes – mainly about Horoka Tomamu but also including Shiretoko – in the hope this will be of interest to NWDG members.



Horoka Tomamu Montane Forest

This is a 50.5 hectare wooded mountain in central-southern Hokkaido at latitude 43.1 ° N and longitude 142.5° E. It has an altitudinal range of 500-662 metres above sea level, and is mostly moderately to steeply sloping with well-drained soils. Rock exposures are scarce. The climate is continental by British standards, with warm to hot summers and, despite the southerly latitude, very cold winters with snow 1-2 m deep lying on the ground for at least 4 months. The site is

owned by Simon and Masumi Holledge (our very kind and hospitable hosts during our stay in Japan) and is designated as a forest reserve. It lies within a much larger mountain forest landscape. People once lived locally, but the reserve and adjacent area have been uninhabited for several decades. The vegetation survey here included defining, describing and mapping plant communities,



Dense dwarf bamboo *Sasa senanensis* beneath species-rich mixed broadleaved tree canopy

recording quadrat data and making a list of all plant species seen during the fieldwork. The classification system I came up with recognized eight canopy types and seven ground vegetation types, so the vegetation could be classified using the appropriate combination of canopy type and ground vegetation type.

Tree/shrub canopy

Most of the site has a species-rich mixed broadleaved canopy in which the commonest species are *Acer pictum*, *Quercus mongolica*, *Tilia japonica*, *Ulmus davidiana*, *U. laciniata*, *Betula ermanii*, *Fraxinus manshurica*, *Phellodendron amurense* (= *P. sachalinense*) and *Alnus birsuta*. There are also smaller amounts of *Acer japonicum*, *A. caudatum*, *Sorbus commixta*, *Betula platyphylla*, *B. maximowicziana*, *Kalopanax septemlobus*, *Magnolia obovata*, *Prunus maximowiczii*, *P. ssiiori* and *Salix caprea*, and the shrubs *Hydrangea paniculata* and *Viburnum furcatum*. There is also a sparse

scatter of the conifers *Abies sachalinensis* and *Picea yezoensis*, these being locally commoner on northerly aspects where there is also some *Taxus cuspidata*. *Betula ermanii* is locally dominant, possibly as a result of fire many years ago. Small wetter areas have canopies of mainly *Alnus hirsuta*, *Betula ermanii*, *B. platyphylla*, *Salix udensis* and *S. viminalis*, with some *Acer pictum*, *Fraxinus mandshurica* and *Ulmus davidiana*. The site also includes a small area of *Abies sachalinensis* plantation, and nearby there are plantations of *Picea glehnii*.

Ground vegetation

Through most of the site the ground vegetation consists almost entirely of tall (120-160 cm), dense growths of dwarf bamboo *Sasa senanensis*. This species is also dominant in the many small glades scattered among the forest.

Locally, however, especially on steep banks and on wetter ground, the *Sasa* thins out to leave enough space for other plant species.



Species-rich flora on riverside banks

On the most species-rich banks, where *Sasa* is only sparse, these other species include the creeper/climber *Hydrangea petiolaris*, the herbs *Achlys japonica*, *Pachysandra terminalis*, *Aconitum sachalinense* ssp. *yezoense*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Galium kamtschaticum*, *G. trifloriforme*, *Maianthemum dilatatum*, *Aruncus dioicus*, *Rubus pseudojaponicus*, *Sanicula chinensis*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Thalictrum sachalinense*, *Viola selkirkii*, *Cirsium kamtschaticum*, *Circaea alpina* and *Epilobium amurense*, the grass *Calamagrostis hakonensis*, sedges *Carex* spp., the ferns *Phegopteris connectilis*, *Dennstaedtia hirsuta*, *Dryopteris crassirhizoma*, *D. expansa*, *Gymnocarpium robertianum*, *Polystichum braunii*, *P. tripterum* and *Hymenophyllum wrightii*, the clubmoss *Huperzia serrata*, the mosses *Atrichum undulatum*, *Aulacomnium heterostichum*, *Thuidium delicatulum*, *T. tamariscinum*, *Fissidens dubius*, *Bryhnia novae-angliae*, *Brachythecium* sp., *Rhynchostegium pallidifolium*, *Plagiothecium neckeroideum*, *P. nemorale*, *Loeskeobryum cavifolium*, *Bartramia pomiformis*, *Pogonatum spinulosum*, *Saetania glaucescens*,



Galium kamtschaticum

Anoetangium aestivum, *Amphidium* sp. and *Homalia trichomanoides*, the liverworts *Conocephalum japonicum*, *C. salebrosum*, *Metzgeria conjugata* and *Pellia* sp.. Seedlings of *Abies sachalinensis*, *Acer japonicum*, *A. pictum*, *Fraxinus mandshurica*, *Ulmus davidiana* and *U. laciniata* are also common. The non-*Sasa* vegetation is mostly between 15 and 35 cm tall. Unvegetated soil and leaf litter occupies 15-70% of the ground surface. Fallen



Myuroclada maximowiczii

decaying wood supports abundant bryophyte growth including the mosses *Rhynchostegium pallidifolium*, *Brachythecium* sp., *Dicranum japonicum/scoparium*, *Calliclidium baldanianum* and *Rhizomnium striatulum*, and the liverworts *Calypogeia japonica*, *C. neesiana*, *Bazzania denudata*, *Lophocolea bidentata*, *Lepidozia reptans* and *Riccardia palmata*.

Locally there are other types of ground vegetation such as *Brachypodium sylvaticum* – *Muhlenbergia huegelii* grass swards (seen near a river) and, on wetter ground, *Phragmites australis* reedbeds and richer wet woodland assemblages including *Carex dispalata*, *C. mollicula*, *Scutellaria pekinensis*, *Chrysosplenium kamtschaticum*, *Filipendula camschatica* (= *F. kamtschatica*), *Laportea bulbifera*, *Peracarpa carnosus*, *Pachysandra terminalis*, *Galium trifloriforme*, *Angelica sachalinensis*, *Cardamine scutata*, *Circaea alpina*, *Cirsium kamtschaticum*, *Impatiens nolitangere*, *Jacobaea cannabifolia*, *Mimulus tenellus*, *Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*, *Cardiocrinum cordatum*, *Parasenecio hastatus*, *Petasites japonicas*, *Dryopteris crassirhizoma*, *D. expansa*, *Hydrangea petiolaris* and the moss *Thuidium delicatulum*.

Climbers

Woody climbers are very common here, with three species seen: *Hydrangea petiolaris*, *Actinidia arguta* and *Vitis coignetiae*. Their abundance, combined with the luxuriant leafy swards of dwarf bamboo, gives the forest something of a ‘jungle’ appearance commonly associated with warmer parts of the world.

Epiphytes

Bryophytes and lichens are very common on trees at this site. Epiphytic bryophytes are quite diverse, especially in the more sheltered, humid, shaded places. As I’m not an expert lichenologist I couldn’t record lichens in any detail here, but the more shaded, sheltered areas appear to be quite rich and include *Lobaria pulmonaria*, *L. quercizans* and *Menegazzia terebrata*, and smaller crustose species are widespread and able to occupy bark surfaces that appear too dry and exposed to support bryophyte growth. The occurrence of *Lobaria* species and the generally good diversity of epiphytic bryophytes and lichens suggests that atmospheric pollution is at a low level here.

Species-richness

In this survey I found a total of 148 vascular plant species and 87 bryophyte species (61 mosses and 26 liverworts). With the addition of previous plant records the total number of vascular species recorded is 168 (4 coniferous trees, 22 broadleaf trees, 6 broadleaf shrubs, 4 broadleaf sub-shrubs, 3 climbers, 2 clubmosses, 1 horsetail, 15 ferns, 1 dwarf bamboo, 14 other grasses, 6 sedges, 3 rushes and 87 herbs). No bryophytes had been recorded here before. The tree/shrub layer is species-rich, with more native tree and shrub species than we would get in a similar sized area in Britain, and up to 17 native tree/shrub species recorded in a 400 m² quadrat sample – a figure surely unmatched in Britain. On the other hand, the ground vegetation was mostly very species-poor because of the dominance of dwarf bamboo, but on steep banks with less *Sasa* I recorded up to 35 species in a 4m² ground vegetation quadrat, which is quite good for woodland vegetation.

Other notes

All but seven of the vascular plant species at Horoka Tomamu are native to this part of Japan, and all 87 bryophyte species are assumed to be native here too. The flora of this area has more in common with that of eastern North America and eastern Europe (two areas with climatic similarities to N Japan) than to Britain. However, 25 (16%) of the native vascular plant species here also occur as natives in Britain and Ireland, and the equivalent figures for bryophytes are much higher at 49 species and 56%.

Grazing is very light (mainly by Sika deer, which are at a low density): this evidently contributes to the generally tall and species-poor nature of the ground vegetation. The flora suggests that the soils are mostly more or less neutral.

Horoka Tomamu appears to be a good example of montane forest of this part of Japan, showing the characteristic high richness in tree species and also having an good number of ground flora species (despite species-richness being low through most of the site) and at least a moderate diversity of epiphytes. The dominance of dwarf bamboo on the ground is very characteristic of forests in Hokkaido generally, and is one of the main floristic differences between these east Asian temperate forests and their counterparts in eastern North America where the climate is broadly similar.



Forest makes up more than 70% of the Hokkaido's area and are considered to be mainly secondary in nature, following a previous period (up to about the mid 20th century) when there was more human land use and more open land from which the original forest had been cleared. The Hokkaido forests experience a lot of snowfall; snow cover through the winter probably helps to protect ground-dwelling plants from extreme low temperatures. It was an odd feeling to look at various ground flora assemblages, including some quite delicate-looking plants, and to think that all this vegetation is covered in deep snow for at least four months every winter. Even the low ground in Hokkaido, despite being at the latitude of S France and N Spain, has really cold winters and long-lying snow.



Shiretoko

We spent a day here looking at an area about 700-800 metres above sea level. The altitudinal forest zonation is generally lower here than at Horoka Tomamu because the climate is colder, so here we were mostly in the zone of *Betula ermanii* forest. This birch commonly dominates in a high montane zone in Hokkaido. (The *B. ermanii*-dominated areas at Horoka Tomamu were lower than this zone and appear to be related to previous fire rather than to climate.) On this high ground at Shiretoko the *B. ermanii* trees are of a more twisted shape than at Horoka Tomamu, many of them leaning sideways as a result of snow cover in winter and, to a lesser extent, wind.



Dwarf bamboo *Sasa* is again very common here, among the birches and also in the next zone up – the *Pinus pumila* zone. This is the highest forest zone in Hokkaido and is dominated by *P. pumila* which forms extensive dense, scrubby canopies about 3-5 m tall. It

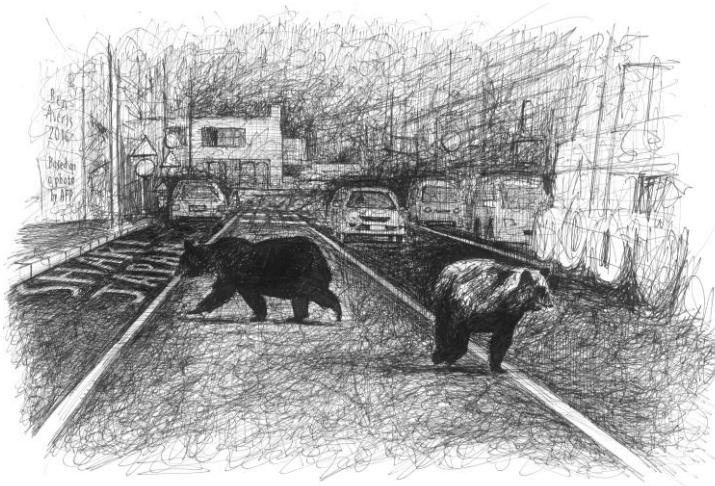
is absent from Horoka Tomamu but does occur on higher mountains in that general area. We didn't have time to study the ground vegetation in detail at Shiretoko, but while it shared an abundance of *Sasa* with Horoka Tomamu we saw differences – for example species of *Vaccinium* and *Cornus* that were not seen at Horoka Tomamu.



Pinus pumila scrub at Shiretoko

We also saw some open areas at Shiretoko; some were of *Sasa* but one had boggy vegetation with *Sphagnum*, sedges and herbs. We couldn't examine it in detail because we had to obey the National Park rules and stay on the path (especially as we were accompanied by a National Park staff member!)

One reason for keeping to the paths here, and for walking in groups, is the threat of attack by bears. The bear density here is high. There are bears at Horoka Tomamu, but we didn't see any at either site. In both places we had to carry small bells (attached to coats, bags or walking poles) so that bears would be aware of our presence and more likely to keep their distance from us.



Bears on the street in daytime in Hokkaido (based on a photo by AFP)

Other places and things

We saw other things including volcanic sulphur springs and the big city of Sapporo. The Japanese people were very welcoming, and very polite, and there's a stronger sense of tradition there than here. Favourite foods – onigiri (very happily eaten in place of sandwiches for fieldwork) and soup curry. (I do wish we had soup curry in Britain!) They drive on the left, like us, but their cars are mostly automatics. Their housing estates are a bit like their species-rich broadleaf forests: here in Britain we see lots of houses all looking the same and in our woods any random tree is quite likely to be of the same species as its nearest neighbours, but in Hokkaido a house or a tree in a mixed broadleaved forest is likely to be of a very different design or species to those next to it. Japan is so different . . .



Skyscrapers among mountains at Tomamu

NEWS FROM OTHER WOODLAND ORGANISATIONS

Report of the Native Pinewood Managers visit to Glen Strathfarrar on 5th May 2016

Text and photos by Charlie Taylor

This year's excursion (5th May 2016) was to Glen Strathfarrar (see photograph on back cover of this newsletter), one of the largest pinewood remnants, which stretches for over 20 km across three different estates – Braulen, Culligran and Struy. The group last visited the site in 1997 and it proved a fascinating return to see how the woodland has developed over that time. However, the regular turnover of pinewood managers means that only three members of the group had attended that meeting – so it was a first visit for most.

History

For many centuries the whole of Glen Strathfarrar was part of the lands of the Frasers. After the Jacobite rebellion of 1745, which Clan Fraser supported, the area came under Government control (the Forfeited Estates) for a period before later being returned to Lord Lovat (Chief of Clan Fraser). In the first half of the last century the glen was sold by the Lovat Estate in two parts – Braulen (the western end) and Struy (the eastern end).

Braulen was developed as a sporting estate in the middle of the 19th Century by Lord Derby, the shooting tenant at that time. This followed a relatively unsuccessful introduction of sheep farming following the Clearances. It is currently owned by Andras Ltd.

Struy was originally purchased by Colonel Cooper who carried out felling operations before it was sold to the Spencer-Nairn family in 1936. Although still owned by the family, the estate was divided into two parts in 1960 - Culligran and Struy Estates, presently owned by Frank and Angus Spencer-Nairn respectively.

The glen was subject to construction of hydro-electric dams (see Figure 1) and associated infrastructure. This caused localized disruption, including an accidental fire, to the woodland but regeneration also developed on some of the disturbed ground.

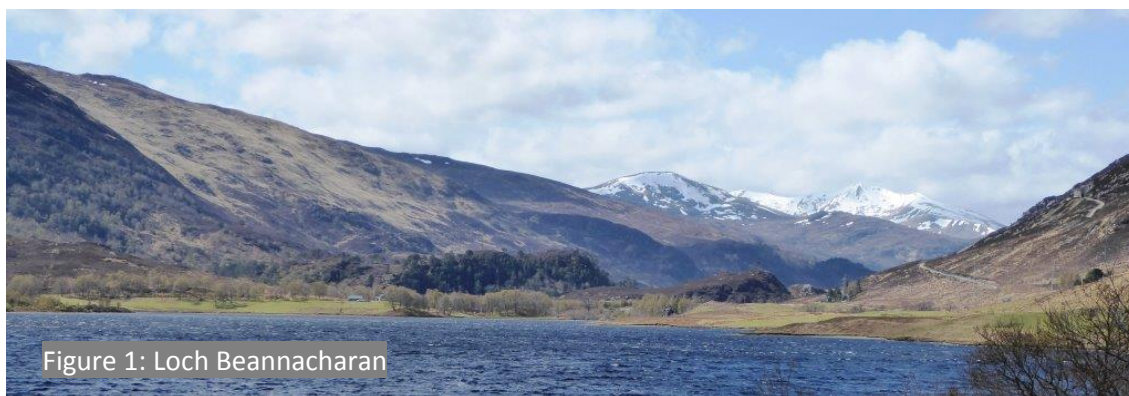


Figure 1: Loch Beannacharan

Steven and Carlisle noted in 1959 that there was some further felling after the Second World War but much woodland remained – pine predominating on the north-facing slopes

(see Figure 2) and birch on the south-facing slopes (see Figure 3). They also commented on the presence of aspen, oak, juniper and holly.



Carlisle’s field observations also recorded scattered regeneration but noted “on all sites, most of the seedlings are grazed before they reach two feet in height”. He observed an irregular structure with pine up to 300 years old in Coille Garbh (the main pinewood area in the glen – see Figure 4) with most of the trees being between 140 and 200 years old, some groups between 60 and 140 years but very few young trees.



Figure 4: Coille Garbh

The area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the lower part of the glen (just over 2000 ha) was established as a National Nature Reserve (NNR) in 1976 under a 99 year agreement between what was then the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) and Culligran and Struy Estates. The agreement was to allow for up to twelve 50 acre (20 ha) exclosures at any one time, with an annual compensation for loss of grazing. The plan was to have a cycle of exclosures across the area over time.

Current objectives

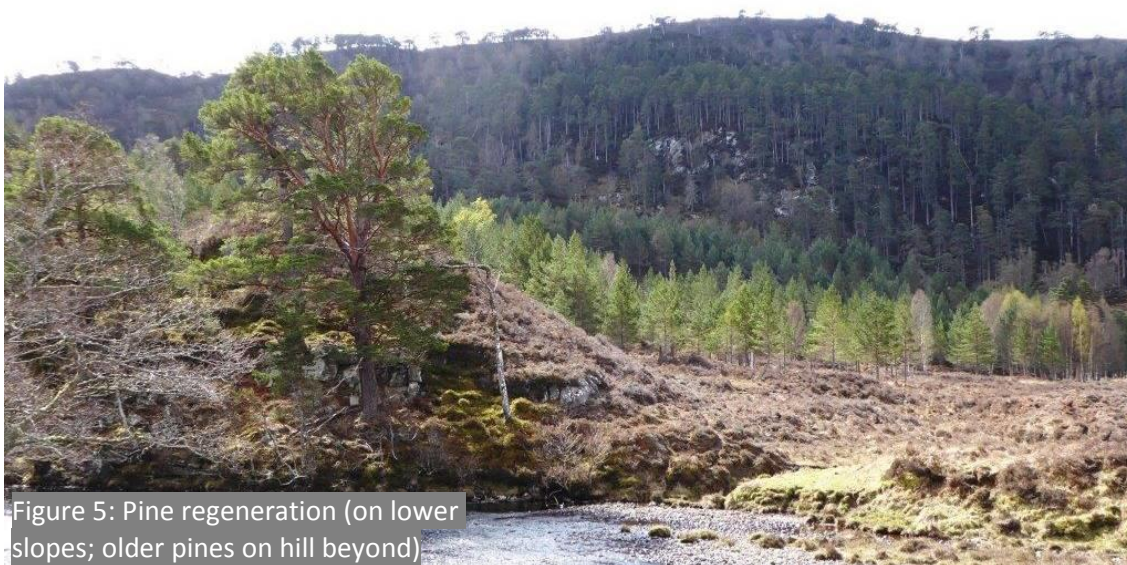
1. Braulen Estate aims to maintain a sporting estate producing 100-120 stags per annum, an overall population ratio of 50% stags and 50% hinds and to meet statutory targets for the pinewood habitat.
2. Culligran and Struy have a similar objective across both estates of sustaining and extending the native woodland habitat in balance with the resident red deer population – preferably without fencing.

Current management issues

Woodland expansion

At the eastern end ten exclosures were established (six still remain) under the NNR agreement and NCC deployed wardens (Ewan Cameron and, later, Hugh Brown) to work with Culligran and Struy Estates on the ground. These have been successful in securing regeneration (see Figure 5) and included some use of fire to improve ground conditions.

However, as part of a national review the NNR was de-declared but the estates have now entered into an agreement with Trees for Life to support the ongoing regeneration programme. This has included the erection of two new exclosures on Culligran with support from Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) funding.



These exclosures were originally planned for development of natural regeneration but, due to slow recruitment, they have now been planted. Current restriction on planting of Scots pine due to *Dothistroma* Needle Blight (DNB) meant that native broadleaves were planted – locally sourced oak, hazel, aspen, bird cherry and wych elm. Some heather swiping has been carried out around the older pines to encourage further regeneration. This begs the question – is grant support still driving too early an intervention in the regeneration of these woodlands?

On Struy Estate there has been a focus on monitoring regeneration and there is evidence of reasonable levels now being found outside the exclosures, mostly of less palatable species - mainly pine but also alder and juniper. There is no formal monitoring of deer numbers other than the count across the whole of the Deer Management Group (DMG) area. However, there was a suggestion that diversionary feeding in other woodlands on the estate may have reduced grazing pressure in the pinewood.

There are 855 ha of pinewood on Braulen Estate (see Figure 6). Approximately 400 ha have been protected by deer fencing and 170 ha of natural regeneration has been achieved out of an original target of 230 ha, so good progress is being made. However, in some areas the pine is quite sporadic (see Figure 7) – reflecting the increased rainfall and poorer ground conditions as you progress further west up the glen. The general feeling was that planting of pine (see Figure 8) was not necessary at this stage and more time should be allowed for natural processes to continue.



Figure 6: on Braulen Estate



Figure 7: Pine more sporadic in west where the climate is wetter and the soils poorer



Figure 8: Pine planting considered unnecessary here

A Forest Plan is being developed on Braulen for taking things forward and to achieve a status of “unfavourable – recovering” for the western end of the pinewood. The life of the current exclosures will be extended by replacing the fences – there is ongoing regeneration and many of the trees are too small to survive the removal of the fence at this stage. Evidence from previous research in Glen Derry (Mar Lodge) by Irvine Ross suggests that any trees with a stem diameter of less than 8 cm are vulnerable to being killed by bark stripping by red deer. Some exclosures will also be extended onto the most favourable areas for regeneration and there were suggestions to extend up the hill to create areas of montane woodland. These extensions will have to be carefully sited to minimise the risk of trampling damage to the habitat on their margins. Smaller exclosures will also be erected to protect and expand aspen stands on the estate – the same approach is also being considered for areas of dwarf birch.

As in many pinewoods, there was discussion on what to do about the “minor” species which are often more palatable to browsing. If deer densities are reduced to a level to encourage these species to regenerate, then there is also likely to be a massive increase in birch and pine regeneration which risks too rapid a change and potential for negative impact on many of the important habitats and species present. It seems likely that small-scale exclosures and some planting may be the best way to ensure these species remain present and provide a seed source as the pinewood begins to develop a more diverse structure over time.

All the existing Braulen exclosures are focused on the south side of the glen where the main native woodlands are present. However, there are plans to create new areas (2-3 exclosures, each 50 ha in size) of native woodland on the north side by planting with a view to expanding habitat and providing more shelter to try to reduce the impact of grazing on the south side before the next generation of fences come to the end of their life. The estate have also carried out diversionary feeding for the deer but, to date, this has not been as successful as at Struy.

Grazing

Although there is seasonal grazing by sheep in the lower part of the glen, the main impact on woodland regeneration is grazing by red deer. There are some feral goats and, in recent years, roe deer have established a population – mainly in the exclosures.

In recent years the local DMG have increased co-operation in managing the overall deer population. However, the recent deer population count across South Ross (comprising five DMGs) suggests deer numbers are substantially up. This has been disappointing as cull targets have been achieved, causing questions to be raised over the assumptions being used in the population model. This may be due to higher fertility rates compared with the past – although there have been some hard winters (particularly before the previous count), the conditions in recent years have generally been more benign.

The next herbivore impact monitoring of the wider Strathglass Special Area of Conservation which includes Glen Strathfarrar is due in summer 2016. It will be interesting to compare these results with the outcome from the deer count.

The current overall condition assessment of the pinewood in the glen is “unfavourable” – mainly influenced by the heavier grazing pressure and less prolific regeneration in the western half of the glen on Braulen.

Pine Lappet Moth

This moth has been found in the glen and the local population is being monitored. There is some doubt whether it is an introduction or a previously undiscovered indigenous species. However, regular monitoring of moths in the area over the years has not picked it up. The jury is still out on whether it is native or non-native.

Woodland structure

The current management approach is leading to patch regeneration, primarily within enclosures of varying sizes. For light-demanding species such as birch and pine, this will work and could be argued as a reasonable analogue to what might happen in a semi-natural woodland environment.

However, outside these fences the current grazing levels limit the growth of tree regeneration, shrub layer and ground vegetation (see Figure 9). Even if a change in management priorities means a much greater scale of regeneration can be achieved across the whole glen, it is arguable that “holding” areas back for future regeneration cohorts can lead to a better long term structure.

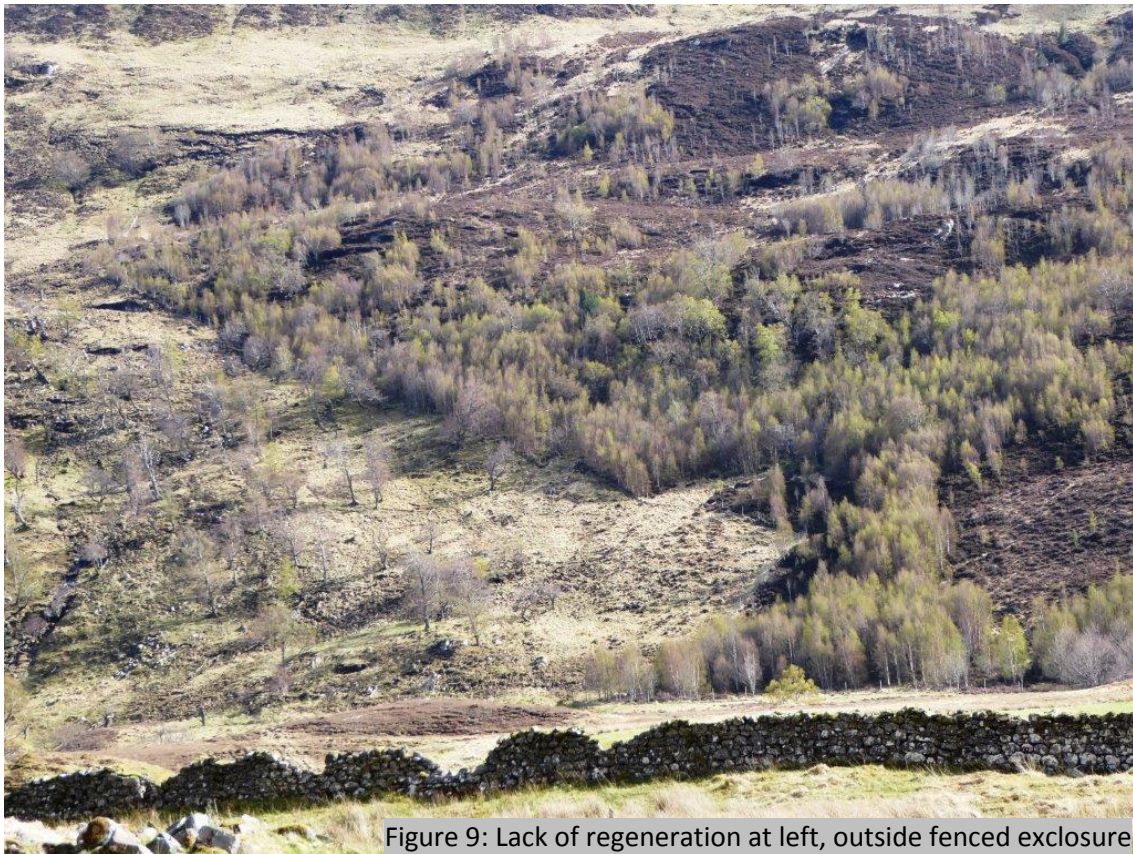


Figure 9: Lack of regeneration at left, outside fenced enclosure

A challenge, which applies to many pinewoods, is the significant age gap between the younger trees recruited in recent years and the older cohorts, and the potential impact on many of the specialist species that depend on older trees.

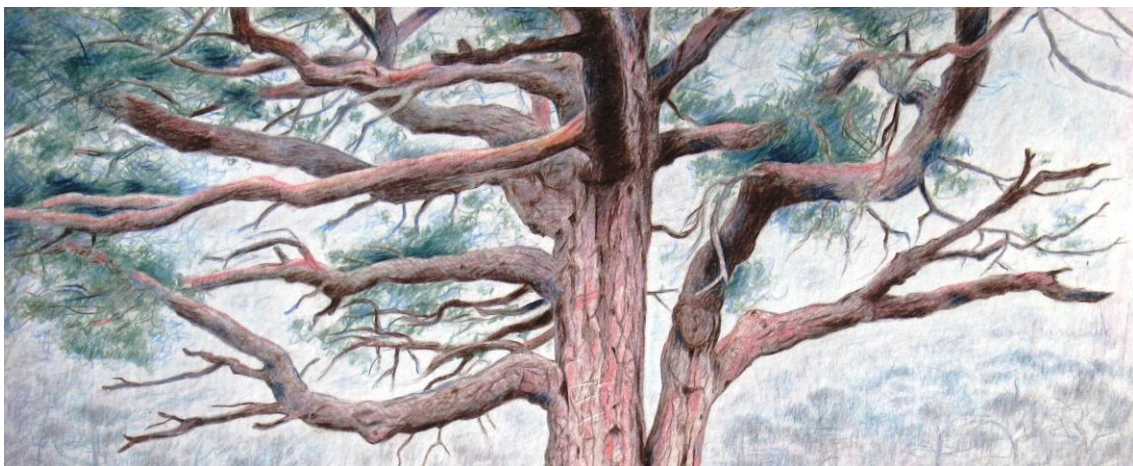
The future

Since our last visit in 1997 there has been a noticeable increase in both the height and scale of the regeneration in Glen Strathfarrar. It is heartening to also see the ongoing recruitment of a new generation of trees (see Figure 10) which will ensure that this pinewood will be perpetuated.



Future meetings

Kinveachy, which the group have never visited before, will be the venue for 2017, hosted by Will Anderson (Seafield Estates).



BOOK REVIEWS

Wildwood Legacy by Martyn Baguley.
Friends of the Pentlands; 2017. ISBN 978-0-9934160-1-9 Paperback, 83 pages; £10

Review by Gavin Johnston

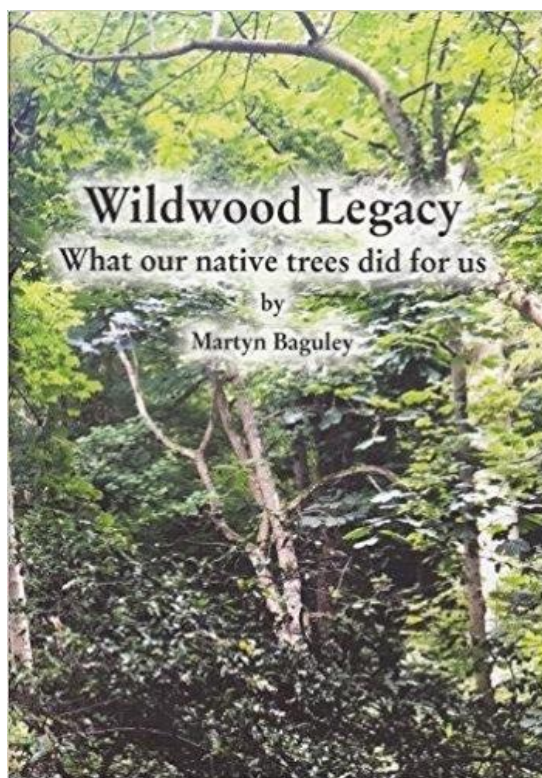
This is a beautiful book printed on high quality gloss paper with first class illustrations. It has the subtitle “What our native trees did for us”. Each of the eighteen chapters following the “wildwood” introduction is devoted to one of Britain's native trees. Printed on the back cover is the statement “A book that will change forever the way you see our native trees”.

The pages are packed full of well-researched and interesting facts as well as folklore. The writer starts each chapter by explaining the relative timing of the arrival of each species after the ice melt, and then provides information on the origin of each tree name. Essentially the theme of the book is the use, past and present, of the trees native to our islands. For an example on the topic of willow (page 65) Baguley writes, along with supporting detail, that it's most important legacy is the influence it has had on relieving pain. This follows a section commenting at length how for centuries willows were associated with sorrow. In Shakespeare's Hamlet, Ophelia dies near a willow tree. The association with grief is said to originate from the words in Psalm 137:

*By the rivers of Babylon we sat down and wept
When we remembered Zion
There on the willow -trees
We hung our harps -----*

All this because of a mistaken identity. Writers on Biblical plants say that the “willow-trees” mentioned in the psalm were the Euphrates poplar (*Populus euphratica*). Willows were frequently depicted on gravestones and mourning cards in the nineteenth century.

Wildwood Legacy is published by Friends of the Pentlands and all the sale proceeds will be used for charitable purposes by that environmental organisation. Mr Baguley, a retired professional forestry consultant, has written a large number of articles for magazines and periodicals. The chapters throughout this book were originally commissioned as articles for the monthly “Derbyshire, Life and Countryside”. It is thus written in an easy-to-read style. It is, however, also the quality of the coloured photographs of leaves provided by Forestry Commission Scotland and the Indian ink drawings of the trees in winter by John Surtees that are quite superb and which add considerably to the book's charm. I cannot recommend this book more highly for an economical gift, perhaps to yourself.



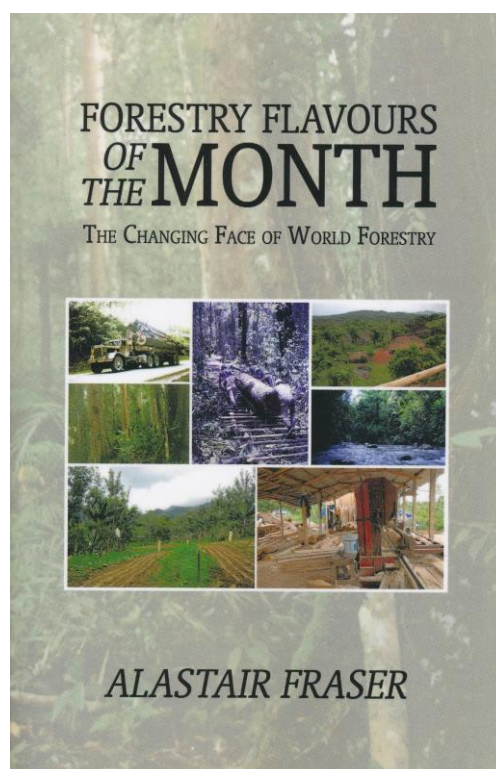
Forestry Flavours of the Month – The Changing Face of World Forestry by Alastair Fraser.

Published by AuthorHouseUK; 2016. ISBN: 9781524628925; 228 pages; £11.95 (paperback) or £19.99 (hardcover)

A personal journey through 50 years of world forestry – trends and paradigm shifts

Review by Simon Stuart

In this book, Alastair takes a very personal and knowledgeable trip through the last 50 years, addressing issues such as the destruction of the world's natural forests, the rise of tropical forestry plantations, sustainable forest management, economic development, social impacts, stakeholder participation and climate change. These have all played a part in driving national government policies and international aid and development programmes. Often these drivers have been contradictory and, in many cases, ill-advised, and Alastair is not slow to point this out. The main point of the book is that these issues are subject to change, usually due to economic or political factors, and these can shift quite quickly, as we can see from what is happening in the USA currently.



The beauty of this book is that although it is extremely informative, it is also extremely readable due to the personal anecdotes used to illustrate and contextualise the points being made. On a couple of occasions it was difficult to immediately see the connection between the topic and the anecdote. However, the stories were always worth the telling, ranging from blowing up forests in Canada in the name of research, being caught up in bank raids in Thailand and riots in Indonesia, through to shipping beech from Scotland to Hong Kong and finding Suriname bananas on a beach in Macedonia.

To pack so much information and entertainment into 200 pages makes this book a joy to read, for the general reader as well as professional foresters.

The book does end on the very important note, that forestry and forestry influence is being fragmented worldwide. The environmental, social and economic facets of the industry too readily become separated between policy-making government departments. At the same time, many foresters are themselves specialising in ever narrower aspects of the industry. The fact is that the forestry industry has an extremely important part to play in the land management of this planet. In light of this, forestry must go forward as an integrated land use sector, informed by an understanding of the interdependence of all aspects of the industry. Only this will help us deal with whatever the flavour of forestry is next month.

Some copies of the book are available with an author's discount (£10 for softcover and £15 for hardcover plus £2 p&p), and Alastair would be happy to sign copies for any member that would like a signed copy. He can be contacted by email at alastairfraser@btinternet.com

NWDG MERCHANDISE

Bryophytes of Native Woods

A Field Guide to Common Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland's Woodlands by Carol Crawford is available direct from Carol. The cost is £7.50 (including p&p). Cheques should be made payable to Carol Crawford and sent to Carol Crawford, 4d New Bridge Street, Ayr, KA7 1JX. There are discounts for orders for three or more copies: contact Carol at carol@carolcrawford.plus.com for more information.



NATIVE WOODLANDS DISCUSSION GROUP CONSTITUTION

Name: The organisation shall be the Native Woodlands Discussion Group.

Aims and objectives: The purpose of the group is to encourage interest in native woodlands, their ecology, management and history.

Membership: Membership of the group will be: (a) Individual, (b) Family (1.5 x full rate) or (c) Concessionary (0.6 x full rate). Membership of the group will cease 18 months after the payment of an annual subscription. Committee will advise the Meetings Organiser for the year of the fee for attendance of non-members.

Officers and committee:

- a. The group elects a committee. The committee shall co-opt or appoint such officers as are considered necessary. Officers will be eligible to vote at committee meetings.
- b. Committee members shall serve for three years, but shall be eligible for re-election.
- c. The chairperson shall be nominated by the committee and endorsed by the Annual General Meeting.
- d. All members are free to attend committee meetings.

Accounts:

- a. The financial year shall be the calendar year
- b. The committee will set the annual membership fee before the end of October.
- c. The treasurer will keep accounts and present a financial report by 15th March each year. The accounts shall be independently audited by a competent person before presentation.

Annual General Meeting: An AGM shall be held at such a date as is determined by the committee. Notification of that meeting shall appear in the newsletter at least one month prior to the AGM. Business at the AGM shall be determined by a simple majority except changes to the constitution which shall require a two-thirds majority of those members present. Family membership entitles up to two votes if both are present. The chairperson and the treasurer will each submit a report at the AGM.

Meetings: The committee shall organise or authorise any member to organise such meetings as considered desirable.

Publications: The committee shall approve such publications as are considered desirable, and which carry the group's endorsement.

NWDG OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives: The purpose of the Group is to encourage interest in native woods, their ecology, management and history, with a particular emphasis on Northern Britain.

Activities:

- Organise at least one Field Meeting with related discussion each year.
- Organise Workshops on subjects suggested by members (initially two per year).
- Issue Newsletters (currently two per year) with an emphasis on members' contributions.
- Maintain contact with like-minded organisations through the membership.

Membership: This is open to any interested individual. (There is no corporate membership.)

Subscription: According to the following categories -

Ordinary individual	£20 per year (£18 if paid by Standing Order)
Family	£30 per year (£28 if paid by Standing Order)
Concessions (under-25s only)	£12 per year (£10 if paid by Standing Order)

Subscriptions should be sent to the Membership Secretary (Alison Averis, 6A Castle Moffat Cottages, Garvald, Haddington, East Lothian, EH41 4LW; tel: 01620 830 670 / 07767 058 318; email: alisonaveris@gmail.com). There is a £2 annual discount for those paying by Standing Order (shown in the above figures): please ask for a form.

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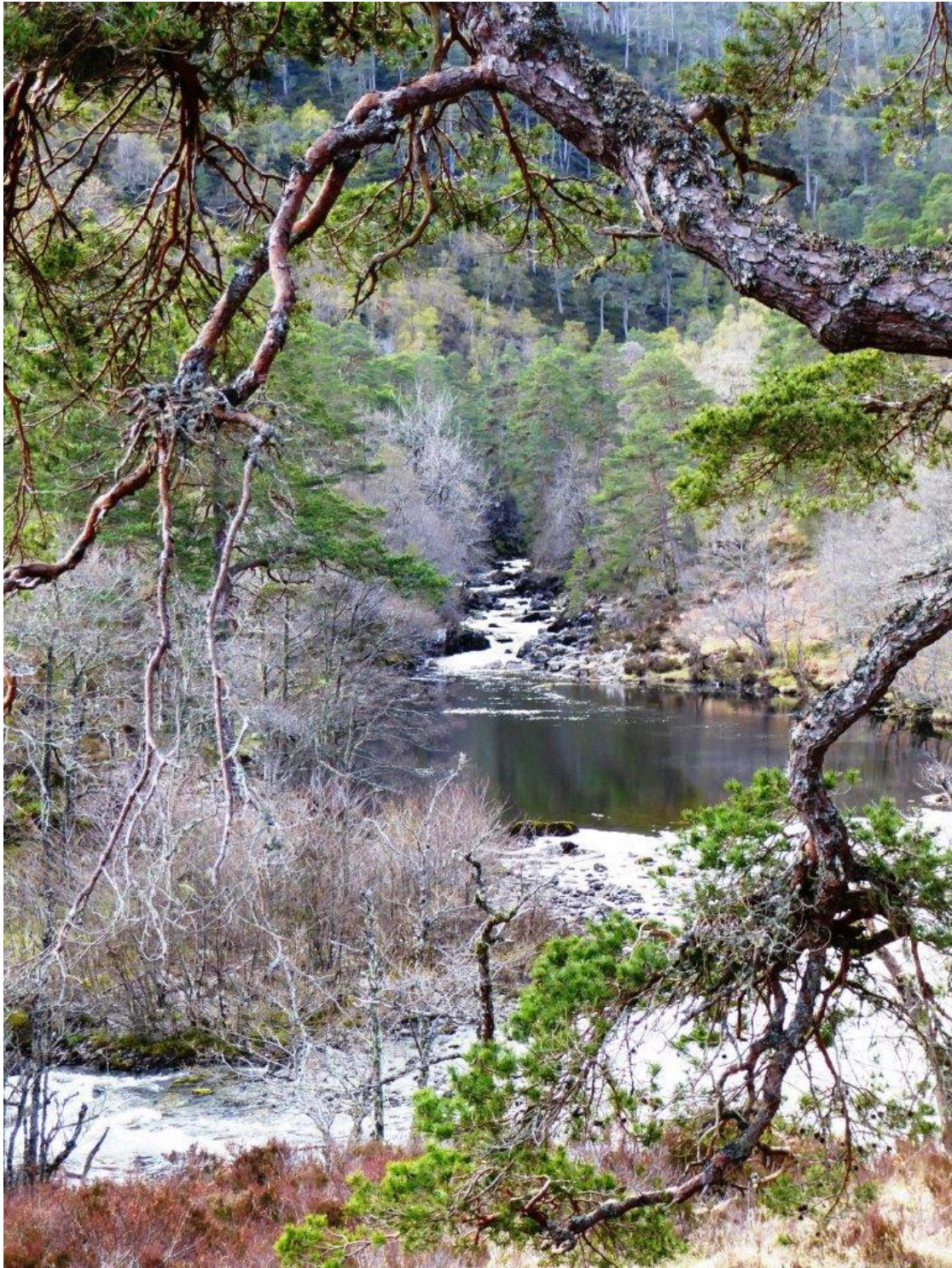


Shiretoko National Park, Hokkaido, Japan

Photos: Ben Averis



*Plants at Horoka Tomamu Montane Forest reserve, Hokkaido, Japan – clockwise from top-left: dwarf bamboo *Sasa senanensis* and the fern *Polystichum tripterum*; the lichen *Lobaria quercizans* (looks just like our *L. virens*); the moss *Bryonoguchia molkenboeri* (looks like *Thuidium* ‘gone wrong’); the shrub *Viburnum furcatum*. (Photos: Ben Averis)*



Glen Strathfarrar (photo: Charlie Taylor)

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