**Project Woods**

**March 2013**

**Outline plan**

This document describes the outline plan to develop the community woodland bordering the Back Crook, in Crook of Devon.

Following local consultation, and meetings with expert advisors and potential funders, a scheme has been devised that will allow for the planting of around 1800 trees of native species.

Much discussion at the outset centred on the possible removal of overhead power lines traversing the site. Having considered at length the cost and disruption involved (and the limitations on planting that would still exist) it was decided eventually and with some reluctance to abandon this idea.

Consequently, the ground to be planted amounts to around 1.8 hectares of the total 2.5 hectares of the site.

60% of the cost of funding of the planting will be provided by the Woodland Trust through its MoreWoods scheme, but the bulk of the cost, fencing, gates, paths etc, will be borne by the charity [ ] established to carry out the determination outlined in the will of the late Duncan Penney. That this plan can be executed so quickly is due entirely to the generosity of Amanda Penney, Duncan’s sister, who has chosen to waive the interest accrued on Duncan’s estate in order to fund the development of the woodland. We are extremely grateful to her for her support.

The plan is itself is (we hope) relatively simple and straightforward.

1. Timescale.
2. It is intended to commence preparatory work almost immediately – you may have noticed the opening area opposite Drumgarland has been widened by moving the original gate pillars, to enable easier access to the site.
3. The target is to begin planting this October and complete this task by end February 2014, weather permitting.

The sequence of events within the plan is as follows:

1. Drainage. Checks are currently being carried out to assess the condition of the existing drainage, with specific regard to the diagonal section almost bordering Wester Crosslands and in the direction of [ Amanda’s House?]. It is envisaged that there may be some small remedial works required, but it is not intended to embark upon any wholesale changes to natural outflows.
2. Bridge. A bridge will be required to cross the small burn bisecting the woodland. This will be provided by a concrete duct suitably packed all round with hard-core. Dependent upon final expenditure, some cosmetic additions may be made to this structure.
3. Fencing.
4. Once the bridge is in place, the woodland ground will be entirely fenced with [ 4 wire?] . The fence will trace in its entirety the border of the existing site.
5. Gates will be erected at 3 points. Two standard pedestrian access points will be created, one opposite [ ] on the Back Crook itself, and the other at the south end of the site on the narrow footpath between Acer House and [ Moray’s place].

A larger main access gate with pedestrian gate adjacent, will be formed just back from the original gate pillars opposite Drumgarland.

1. Ground clearance. It is intended to source livestock to graze the site – at nil rental. The preference is for cattle.
2. After grazing, paths will be laid out reflecting natural contours, and connecting with each of the three entry / exit points. You may have noticed some canes in place already to describe this layout.
3. Planting will commence once all of the preparatory works have been completed, as mentioned above ideally by October 2013.
4. As also mentioned above, the intention is to plant c1800 trees all of native species and in the following proportions.

* X
* Y
* Z
* Etc

1. The trees will be individually protected using [ ].
2. Plans of both paths and intended planting areas will be available in due course.

Two other key areas of consideration:

1. Communication. All of the above will be or has been discussed with the power supply and telecoms companies, with the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and with Perth&Kinross Council, and with the Community Council. Some works will be required in any event and without consents (e.g. drainage and fencing).
2. Budget. Quotes have now been received for all of the major items above, and even allowing for generous contingency provisions it appears safe to report the plan can be delivered comfortably within budget and without further fund-raising. Financial controls will be operated by [ x and y] and the accounts will be supervised by [ z].

Ewen Cameron, Chairman

Kate Somervail, Secretary

Bronwen Wheatley, [ needs a title ]

Mandy Round, Treasurer 1st March, 2013