



**A community woodland project run in partnership with  
Forest Enterprise Scotland**

## Gallowhill Community Woodland Project

Gallowhill Community Woodland consists of around 100 hectares of woodlands, open spaces and a network of paths. On the western edge of Stranraer, the woodland overlooks Lochryan and the Ailsa Craig to the north and Luce Bay and the Isle of Man to the south. The land was purchased by Forest Enterprise Scotland in 2009 but much of the management is carried out by Gallowhill Community Woodland committee under an agreement which sets out objectives and each party's roles and responsibilities.



How effective early planning can lead to slower initial progress, but prove crucial to the longer-term success of the project.

## Background

Forest Enterprise Scotland engaged with the local community through an open discussion forum. This was advertised in the local newspaper when Forest Enterprise Scotland purchased the site. The forum was well attended by local people, who were asked what should happen at the site. Ideas varied from the activities currently being pursued to development of cafes and shops. Interested parties ranging from dog walkers to neighbours and horse riders formed Gallowhill Community Woodland committee to help run the site in partnership with Forest Enterprise Scotland. Since then, a network of paths, a wildlife pond and over 75,000 trees have been established.

## How does it work?

A **minute of agreement** is in place between Forest Enterprise Scotland and Gallowhill Community Woodland. This sets out the responsibilities of both Forest Enterprise Scotland and the community group. It covers key areas such as insurance, health and safety, the duration or review period of the agreement and each party's responsibilities if the project comes to an end. The agreement is designed to cover the ambitions for the site, including construction of paths and ponds; all of which are managed and developed by the group.

## Reflecting on the project so far and lessons learnt

A range of smaller projects can encourage more people to get involved with woodland management.

It is important that both Forest Enterprise Scotland and the community group reach a clear understanding on the long term responsibilities of a project. Future maintenance is an example, this allows the responsible party to plan and resource this work. Keeping stakeholders, such as volunteers, informed of progress and timescales is important—the planning phase can take time but is crucial to the long term success of the project.

## Looking ahead

Plans for the future include better engagement with the local community. Gallowhill Community Woodland is in the process of securing funding for a project officer and volunteer co-ordinator to encourage more people to get involved and become volunteers.

The group is keen to improve access for horses, improve car park provision and explore ways of minimising problems such as wildlife crime, dog mess and litter.

Managing the woodland for amenity will be one of the main objectives and the group are exploring the possibility of establishing an orchard. Over time the group are keen to build capacity and hope to take on greater woodland management responsibilities.

For more information about the Gallowhill project visit [www.facebook.com/gcwstranraer](https://www.facebook.com/gcwstranraer)



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