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Drumbrae Annual Community Meeting

21 November 2025

Yvonne Edwards – Forest and Peatland Development Manager
Lewis O'Dea – Forest Site Manager
Julie Wilson – Community Ranger



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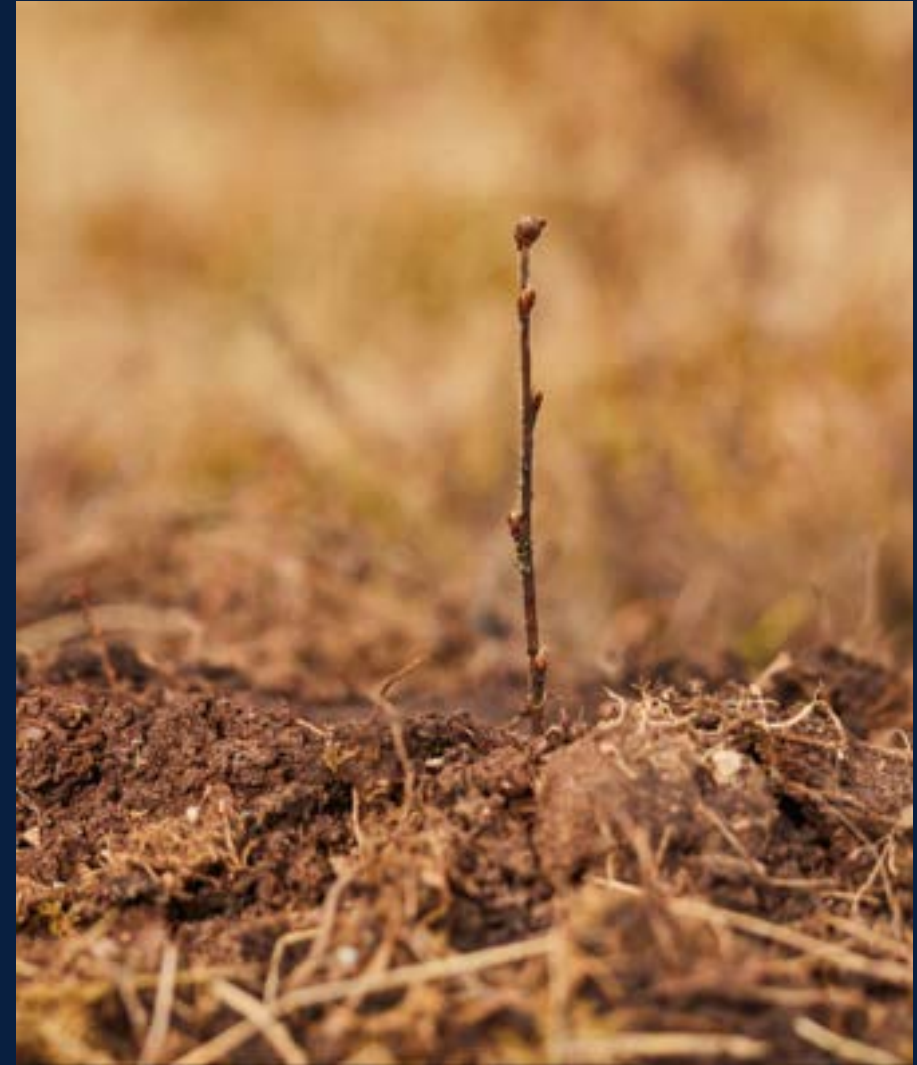
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Overview

- Overview of the Forest and Peatland Programme
- Progress at Drumbrae and next steps
- Volunteering and activities
- Learning, teaching and research
- Cocksburn wood development
- Q&A



Why the University needs the Forest & Peatland Programme



Travel is essential for teaching & research

Sequestering over 1 million tonnes of CO₂



Only offsetting unavoidable aviation emissions

Student assurance - your travel emissions are mitigated



Actions we're taking now: leveraging Scotland's natural Capital



Forest and Peatland Programme

Three project strands:



Land acquisition of 891ha

Woodland creation at three sites



Woodland creation partnerships

Native or mixed, 50-year partnerships



Peatland restoration partnerships

50-year partnerships



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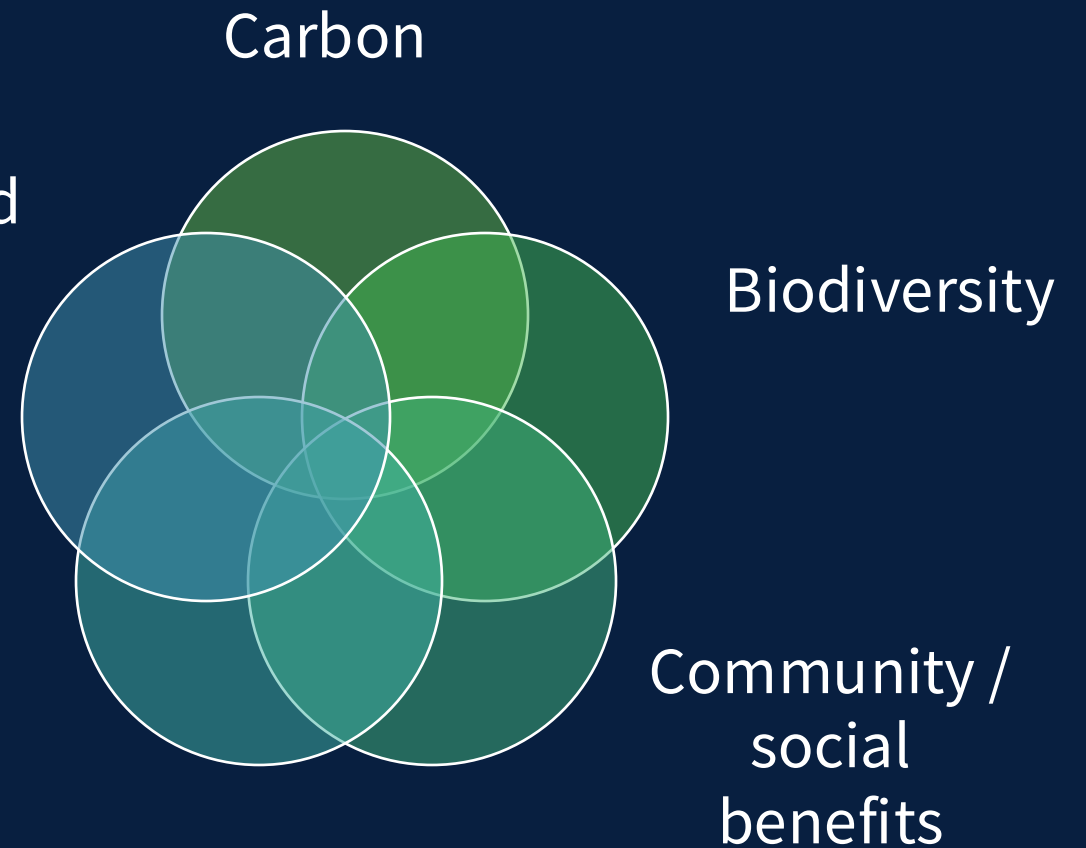
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Multi-benefit programme



Learning
Teaching and
Research

Economic



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Site Operations in 2025

- Deer fencing completed and self-closing gates installed
- Ground preparation completed
- Over half a million trees planted
- Signage at gates installed
- Follow up survey to look at the success rate of trees
- Vegetation control to protect trees from competing plants



Next steps

- Replanting trees that died
- Management of meadow area at Sheriffmuir
- Scrapes and ponds
- Continued monitoring of deer population
- Bracken & vegetation management



Volunteering at Drumbrae

Volunteers have given 887 hours in 2025 so far.

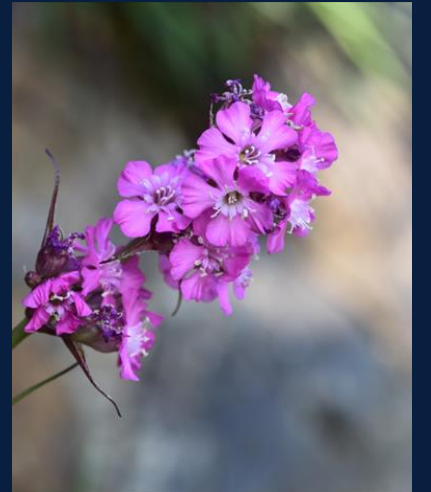
Volunteers have included local residents, university staff and students, local groups.

"It was a great day! There was a nice mix of skill levels in the group and I enjoyed learning from others."

learning from my fellow volunteers.



Sticky catchfly and common rock-rose planting and monitoring



Meadow survey at Sheriffmuir



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Path maintenance



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Archaeology dig at Logie Homestead



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Planting and monitoring trees



Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh



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Want to get involved?

- Visit our website for all volunteering opportunities. **edin.ac/fpp-volunteer**
- Sign up to our mailing list to be notified of upcoming events and activities via email.
- Working with FLS and Scottish Water Rangers to provide a range of volunteering activities in the area.



School Visits



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Interpretation and photo posts



Learning, teaching and research opportunities



Learning & Teaching

- Field trips for staff and students e.g., recent visits with Edinburgh College of Art students
- Dissertation projects for MSc and Undergraduate students e.g. MSc dissertation: classification method for footpath degradation using spatial data
- 3 PhD students looking at carbon, biodiversity and community benefits



Research

- Using our baseline data for monitoring e.g. Remote sensing data; soil sampling
- Citizen science e.g., Drumbrae meadow plant survey - 66 different species recorded
- Developing a digital tool to measure wildfire risk, School of Engineering

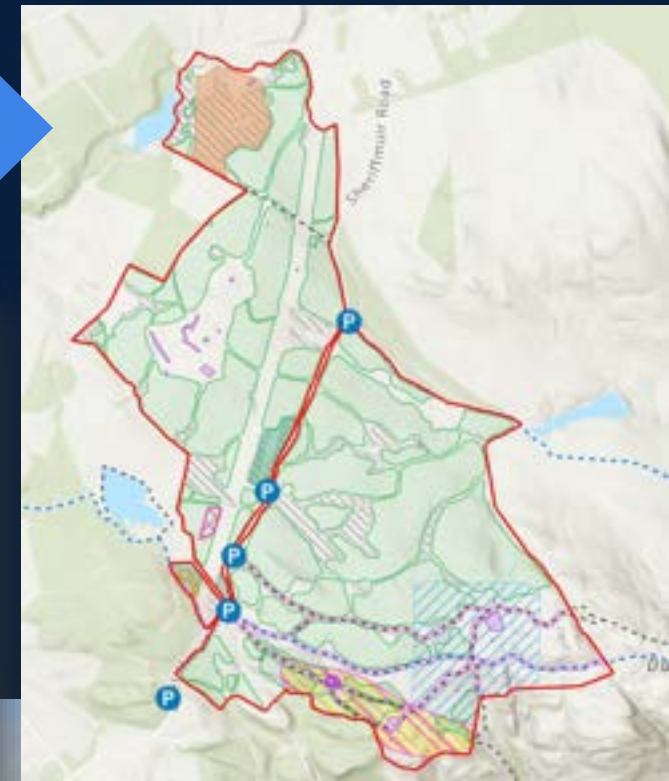


Mountain pansy,



Online Data Resource

Sites and
features maps



Forest and Peatland Data Portal

Search...

Learning, teaching and research opportunities

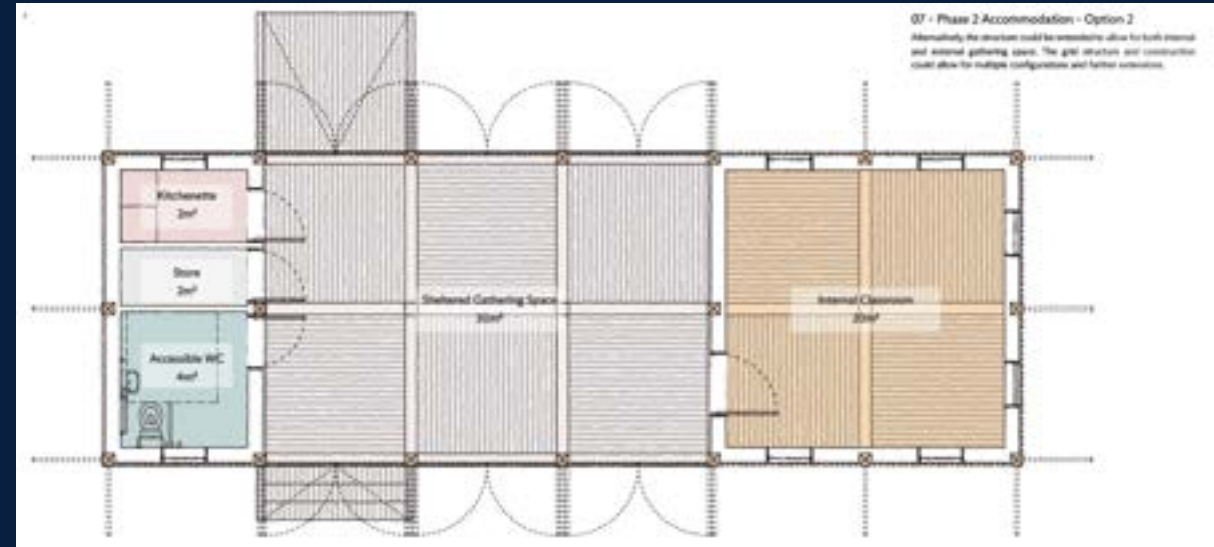
Your ideas; What questions would you like to see studied at Drumbrae ?



Development at Cocksburn Woods



Learning facility



Phase 1

Building includes:

- Classroom and shelter area
- Composting toilet
- Small storage area
- Low impact footprint
- Off grid with solar panels

Landscaping includes:

- Gravel path
- Additional planting
- Drainage soakaway



Phase 2

- Circular bound gravel path with boardwalk
- Additional planting of trees, shrubs, plants to increase biodiversity
- Foraging corridor shrub planting mix
- Playful sculptural seating
- Spaces for sensory experiences

Funds not in place for this phase.



Phase 3

- Extending the path to create larger circular routes
- Additional trees, shrubs, plants for biodiversity
- Additional spots for sensory experiences, e.g. viewing platform

Funds not in place for this phase.



Timeline

- Spring / Summer 2025 – Initial project design and conversations with key local groups
- Summer 2025 – Pre app to Stirling Council Planning Dept
- Winter 2025 – Submit full planning application for phase 1 and 2
- Spring / Summer 2026 – Start construction of learning facility - phase 1
- Ongoing – Secure funding for phases 2 and 3





FEEDBACK



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Questions?

Community.Ranger@ed.ac.uk



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