



## Finzean Wood Mills

Three individually unique 19th century water-powered wood-working mills still survive in Finzean: the Sawmill and Turning Mill, which form a single integrated mill complex, and the Bucket Mill.

These mills are the only ones of their kind to survive anywhere in Scotland. Their individual importance is all the greater because they have survived as a group within a mile of each other on the Feugh, and are still within their original native pinewood setting. However, what is especially outstanding about the mills, is that they are all still operating and producing their traditional wooden products. The Sawmill and Turning Mill are worked by David Duncan, the fourth generation of his family to do so since the 1830s, while the Bucket Mill is worked by Stan Moyes, following the three generations of Browns there since the Mill was built in the 1850s.

The survival of these historic mills over recent decades has been a major achievement by David Duncan, Stan Moyes, Finzean Estate and everyone who has helped them. However, the future of each of the Mills and of the Finzean Water Mills Trust, which was originally set up in 1991 to support the Bucket Mill, has become increasingly uncertain over the last few years. Significant funding is needed to maintain both the physical condition and continued operation of the mills, as dramatically illustrated by the collapse of a major retaining wall at the Sawmill last year.



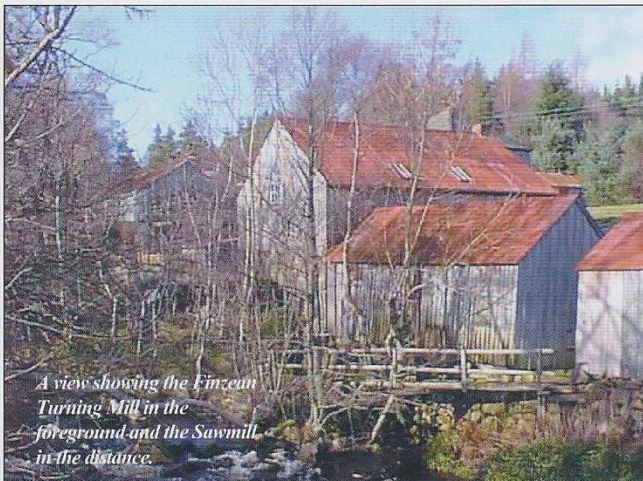
*The Finzean Bucket Mill with its 13 foot diameter water wheel.*

BCT, working with all involved, has now taken on the major long term challenge of ensuring the restoration and continued operation of the mills. BCT has become the owner of the Sawmill and the site of the Turning Mill, which were generously donated to BCT by Donald Farquharson, and of the Bucket Mill, which was made over to BCT as part of winding up the Water Mills Trust. BCT has already re-built the collapsed wall at the Sawmill and now, with David Duncan (who owns the Turning Mill buildings), Stan Moyes and others, BCT is taking forward proposals for further vital work at each of the Mills.

### Balfour Plantations

BCT's first major initiative in the northern half of Birse, has been an informal agreement with Forest Enterprise (FE) to develop a partnership between BCT and FE over their 240 ha (600 acres) Balfour Plantation.

BCT has recently started detailed discussions with FE to determine the full nature and scope of this partnership, the main objective of which will be to increase the benefits that the local community derives from the Plantation. An early priority will be improving the opportunities for local access by upgrading the number and condition of the paths in the Plantation.



*A view showing the Finzean Turning Mill in the foreground and the Sawmill in the distance.*

### Finzean Proposals

BCT is currently consulting locally on three other projects that it is starting in Finzean. These will be reported more fully in the next issue of BCT Update. The projects will involve:

*Finzean School Wood:* expanding the size of the existing School Wood and helping a new generation of pupils to plant trees there.

*Finzean Community Woods:* managing the woodlands around the main settlement in Finzean to maintain and improve the circular walk through them.

*Corsedarder:* restoring and landscaping the site of the parish War Memorial and the ancient Dardanus Standing Stone.