



Map by Contours

Finzean Community Woods

BCT IS NOW MANAGING the series of woodlands around the main settlement in Finzean that have become known as Finzean Community Woods (see map). They cover 12ha (30 acres) and incorporate a path of 2km (c.1 mile) that encircles the village and connects to community sites such as the Hall, shop and playfields.

Following local consultation, BCT has started to carry out a range of improvements in the Woods. By far the largest task is converting the 900 ms. of existing path in the half of the Woods north of the public road into a formally constructed footpath. This is to overcome waterlogging along parts of the route and to make the path both suitable for pushchairs and easier for older residents.

Finzean Wood Mills

BCT IS COMMITTED to ensuring the conservation and continued operation of the three unique 19th century water-powered wood-working mills that still survive in Finzean: the Bucket Mill and the Sawmill, both owned by the Trust, and the Turning Mill, where the Trust owns the site. The Turning Mill buildings are owned by the tenant, David Duncan, the fourth generation of his family to work there. David also runs the Sawmill, while Stan Moyes operates the Bucket Mill.

The main focus in recent months has been restoration work at the Sawmill and Turning Mill complex. At the time of Update 1, the electricity lade had been re-constructed and



Photo by Derek Ironside Photography

electricity produced for the first time in over 20 years, and a substantial retaining wall had been re-built at the Sawmill. Since then, some large pine and larch on the Mill site have been felled and sawn to provide timber for a series of major repairs. Firstly, the large side platform at the Sawmill which was no longer safe, has been re-built. Secondly, the Smiddy building, which was in imminent danger of collapsing, has been restored. Thirdly, work has started on substantial repairs to the main Sawmill building.

Finzean Sawmill: David Duncan, with Tony Jamieson's help, saws a 160 year old pine to produce timber for repairing the Mill. When that tree, which grew less than 50 ms. from the Mill, first germinated as a seedling, the Mill was already operating on the site and the Duncans working there.

School Wood

ON 1ST NOVEMBER, the first trees were planted in the new Finzean School Wood by the pupils and staff of Finzean Primary School and their guests at an event to mark the occasion. The trees were all native species grown for BCT from seed collected locally, while the stakes used with each tree were all sawn at the Trust's sawmill.

The School Wood Project has been set up by BCT for the School by leasing and fencing in the 0.25 ha (0.6 acre) site across the road from Finzean Church. The Trust is also providing the School with the other materials and assistance needed to develop the educational potential of the Project fully.

The new Wood incorporates and expands by twice as much again, the original Finzean School Wood that was planted over 25 years ago as part of the national 'Plant a Tree in '73' campaign. One third of the current pupils at the School are children of the children who planted the trees in 1973.