



Balfour Woods



IN JUNE 2000, BCT and Forest Enterprise (FE) signed a 25 year Management Agreement over the 240 ha (600 acres) Balfour Wood plantation, and in the autumn, a Scottish Executive Minister will visit Birse to formally launch the Agreement.

The Agreement gives BCT the chance to improve the benefits derived by the local community from the Wood, as the management of the Wood will now be decided jointly by BCT and FE

on a consensus basis and BCT will also have the option to carry out agreed work in the Wood.

BCT has been liaising closely with the Birse Area Community Association (BACA) over the Agreement and has also established a Project Advisory Group (Ken Hall, Donald Silcock, John Addy). A series of walks is continuing to help members of the local community become more familiar with the Wood, while BCT and BACA will also be organising local meetings to allow full discussion of management options for the Wood.

Community Woods

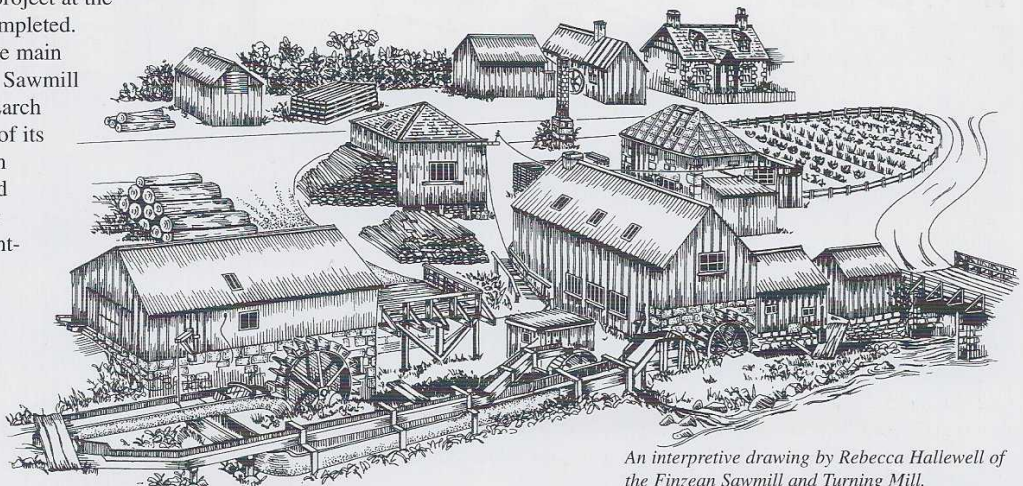
BCT CONTINUES TO WORK closely with Finzean Community Association over improvements in Finzean Community Woods - the 12 ha (30 acres) of native woodland around the main settlement in Finzean which BCT manages under a long lease.

BCT completed the construction of 900 ms. of path in the northern half of the Woods earlier in the year. Current works include safety barriers at road crossings, posts and rails beside some ditches, fencing off the last field edges and a vegetation and habitat survey, concentrating mainly on the interesting native woodland areas in the southern half of the Community Woods.

Finzean Wood Mills

BCT HAS MADE FUTURE PROGRESS WITH its work at the three remarkable 19th century water-powered wood mills in Finzean - the Bucket Mill and Sawmill, both owned by the Trust, and the Turning Mill, where the land is owned by the Trust and the buildings by the tenant, David Duncan. He is the fourth generation of his family to run the Turning Mill and also works the Sawmill, while Stan Moyes operates the Bucket Mill.

The major restoration project at the Sawmill is very largely completed. Earlier in the year, once the main repairs had been done, the Sawmill was back in production. Larch felled by the Trust as part of its native pinewood scheme in the Community were milled to produce 5000 stakes for the native broadleaves planting in the Community. Further stakes, posts, rails and other timber products have also been produced for use at other BCT sites and for sale to local members. Work has also recently



An interpretive drawing by Rebecca Hallewell of the Finzean Sawmill and Turning Mill.

Visitors to BCT...



Photo by A. Addy

The Rural Affairs Committee of the Scottish Parliament chose to visit BCT in April as part of their first ever fact finding trip away from the Parliament. The photo shows the 9 MSPs and Committee staff with BCT's Chairman outside Birse Church Hall. After the visit, Committee Convener Alex Johnstone MSP paid tribute to 'the very positive contribution the Trust is already making to the sustainable development of the area'



Prince Charles with David Duncan at Finzean Sawmill during his visit in April to see the mill following its restoration.

started with David Duncan to record some of his unique knowledge of the Sawmill and Turning Mill.

At the Bucket Mill, Stan Moyes continues to produce periodic batches of buckets as an essential part of keeping the mill in working order. The finished buckets are a unique and beautiful craft-made product that the Trust sells to help support work at the Mill.