



Photo © W. Bailey



Some members of BCT's Project Management Group, which involves BCT's Trustees and project managers. The Group is part of BCT's current Development Project and meets monthly to ensure the effective co-ordination and implementation of BCT's projects and overall management.

Associate Membership

Anyone who lives outside Birse can join BCT as an Associate Member by paying an annual subscription. Associate Membership runs for 12 months from the date of joining and includes two issues of BCT Update plus the same special discounts as Ordinary Members on BCT's publications and other local heritage products. Only one subscription is needed per address.

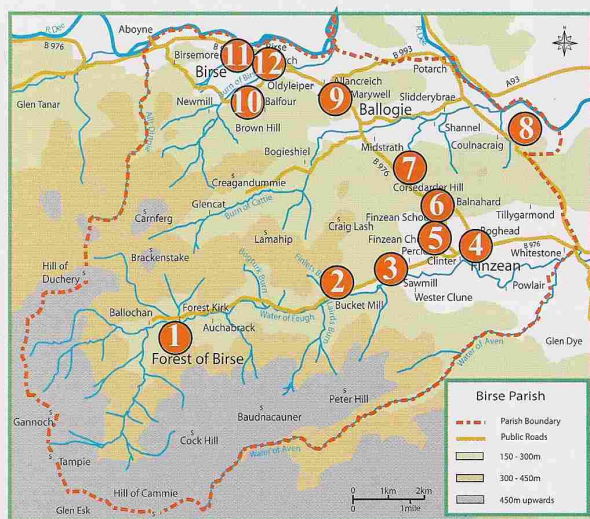
Please support BCT by becoming an Associate Member. Subscriptions (£20 UK; £25 overseas) should be sent to BCT's address on front page.

Donations

Donations are vital to the Trust to continue its work. The Trust greatly appreciates any donation large or small. Members who are UK taxpayers may sign a Gift Aid declaration and so increase the value of their contribution to the Trust by 20%. (Forms available)

Office / Studio space at Finzean Old School available at very modest rates, please contact the BCT Office

Birse Parish covers over 125 sq.km (50 sq.mls) of Mid Deeside and has a total population of nearly 750 in c.260 households. The four main parts of the parish that form the basis of BCT's logo are the communities of Finzean, Ballogie and Birse and the largely uninhabited Forest of Birse. The sites that BCT is directly involved in managing are marked on the map and listed below with the legal basis of that involvement.



1. Forest of Birse Commonly. c.3750 ha. ancient rights.
2. Bucket Mill. c.1 ha. ownership.
3. Finzean Sawmill. c.1 ha. ownership.
4. Finzean Community Wood. c.15 ha. long-term lease.
5. Finzean School Wood. c.0.3 ha. long-term lease
6. Finzean Old School. c.0.3 ha. ownership.
7. Corsedarder. c.0.3 ha. long term lease.
8. Slewdrum Forest. c.155 ha. long term agreement.
9. Ballogie Soutar's Shop. Building only, ownership.
10. Balfour Wood. c.240 ha. long term agreement.
11. Birse Community Hall. ownership.
12. Historic Birse Kirk. ownership.

Chairman's Comment

On 31st December 2004, BCT successfully completed its sixth year of operation and the Trust's Annual Report on the year is currently being produced for circulation to members before the AGM in Finzean Hall on 11th May.

That report, like this newsletter, will reflect BCT's continuing progress with the projects its undertakes on behalf of the community. Highlights in 2004 included the prominent make-over of Finzean School Wood featured on the Beechgrove TV programme and the less conspicuous, but substantial progress made in developing BCT's Local History Archive at the Old School.

BCT receives many visitors and they are always impressed by the number and variety of projects that BCT is carrying out across the parish.

I hope you also agree that the Trust is bringing worthwhile and welcome improvements locally. If you have any comments, please let us know.

I have enclosed a separate letter with the copies of this Update mailed to the Trust's members, to keep them informed of changes in the management of the Trust as it continues to grow and develop.

I do hope you will manage to come to our AGM in Finzean on 11th May for a fuller update on the work of the Trust and interesting evening.

Guy Haslam
BCT Chairman

Acknowledgements

BCT is very grateful to all those who have supported the Trust's work during the last twelve months, including the following grants or donations for funding: Aberdeenshire Council, Cairngorms Leader+ Programme, Demigryphon Trust, Forestry Commission Scotland, Forward Scotland, Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland, Hon. C.A. Pearson, MacRobert Trust, Robertson Trust, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Executive, Scottish Land Fund, Scottish Natural Heritage and Strathmartine Trust.

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