

The Finzean Water-Powered Wood Mills

A wide range of tasks continue to be tackled as part of BCT's major restoration project, now in its seventh year, covering the Bucket Mill, Finzean Sawmill and Turning Mill.

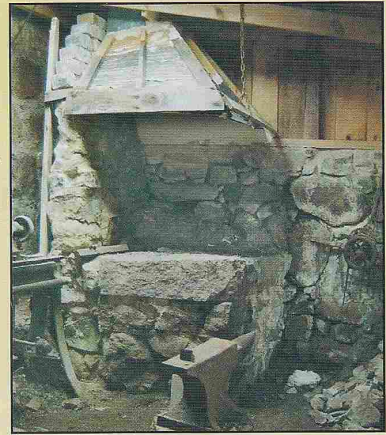


The Chief Executive of Historic Scotland, John Graham, with David Duncan in the Turning Mill during his visit to BCT in April. Photo © John Addy

At the Bucket Mill, following the repairs to the wheel and production of a batch of buckets, the lade has been drained and cleaned out. The relief sluice half way down the lade has also been re-constructed using special puddling clay in the stonework.

At the Sawmill, the main floor joist ends are being repaired before the timber loading ramp is re-instated using European larch specially selected and felled in the Forest of Birse Commonty and cut to size at the mill. The parking and timber stacking area across the road from the Sawmill has been given new drainage and re-surfaced, while the walls of the old stable there have been creosoted. Painting the stable's corrugated iron roof was halted when a bat roost was discovered and will only be resumed later in the year when the bats are hibernating.

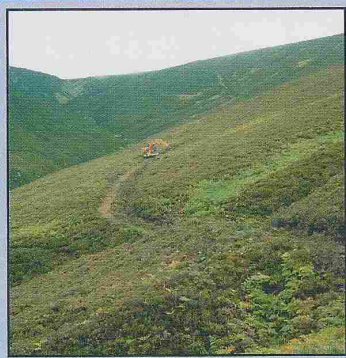
The main recent achievement at the Turning Mill has been completing the restoration of the forge in the smiddy there, including its lath and plaster hanging lum.



The re-constructed hanging lum over the Turning Mill forge. Photo © John Addy



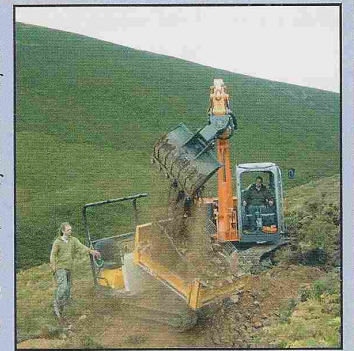
Dave Bulloch and Ian Hector repairing the relief sluice at the Bucket Mill. Photo © John Addy



The re-constructed path on route to the watershed. Photo © John Addy

The Fungle

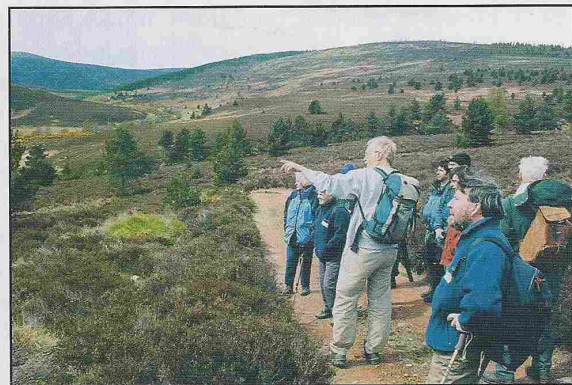
The Fungle is the historic route between Deeside and the Angus Glens through the west end of the parish. Substantial progress has been made by BCT with its major project to repair and restore the 4.5 kms of the route in the Forest of Birse Commonty south of Ballochlan. The work is now taking place on the steepest and most difficult section of the route where it climbs up to the watershed with Glen Esk and has become most washed out and obscure.



Work in progress during September. Photo © John Addy

Commonty Pinewoods

After completing its local consultations, BCT has now applied to the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme with its proposals over the next five years for the conservation and enhancement of the 525 ha (1300 acres) of native pinewoods that BCT manages in the Forest of Birse Commonty. Key features of the proposals included continued deer control to help the natural regeneration of the pinewood, planting local native broadleaves to restore the riparian woodland along the Feugh and its tributaries, habitat improvements for capercaillie, work to complete the network of tracks and paths on the site and a programme of community involvement and training related to the management of the pinewoods.



A visiting group from the John Muir Trust on the Finlets track. Photo © John Muir Trust.