



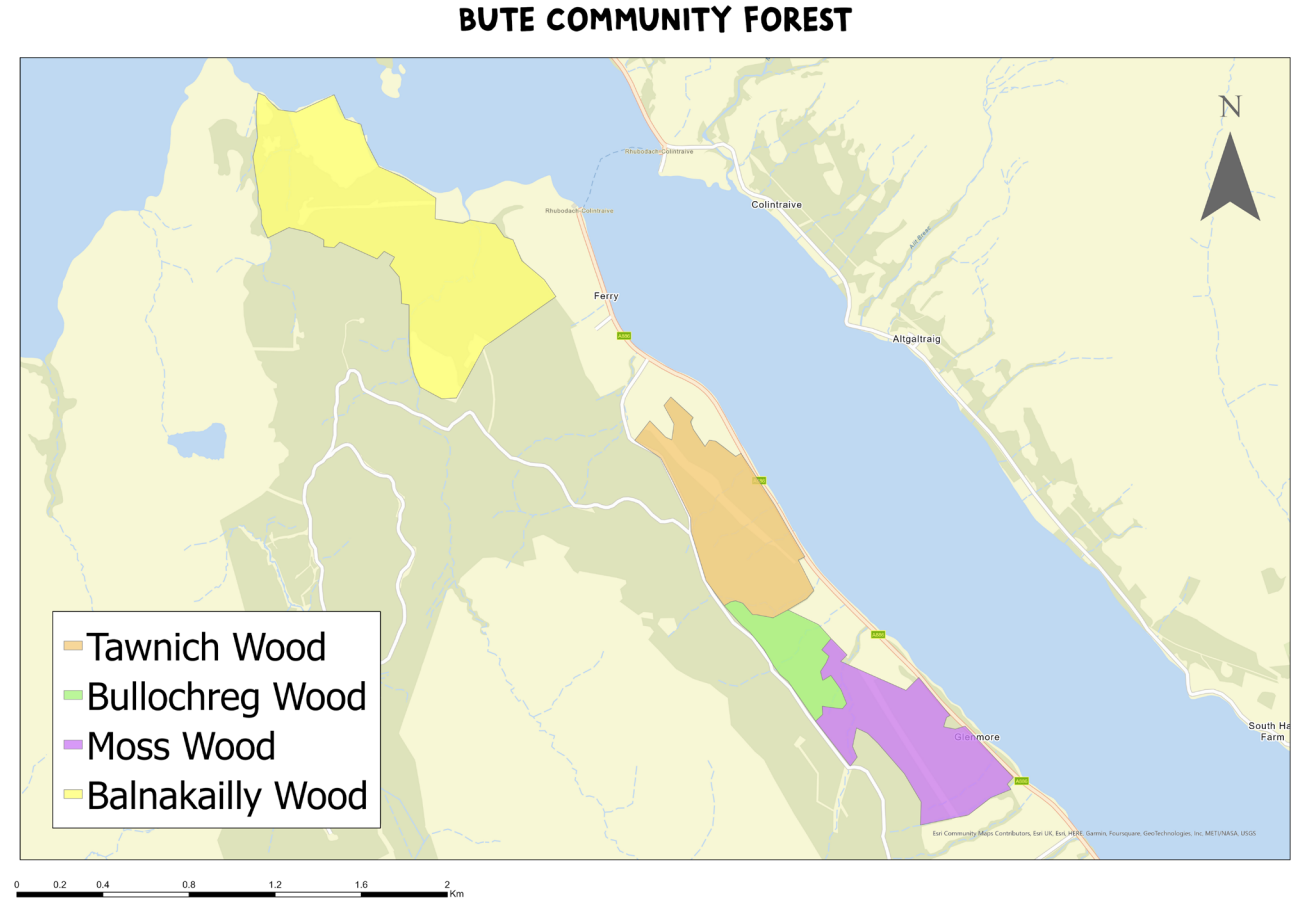
Bute Community Forest

*Community-led
Regeneration*

Our Story
Our Learning

Bute Community Forest

- Largest vote in favour of Community Buy-out back in 2009
- 160 hectares (400 acres) of mixed birch/alder, sitka spruce plantation & Atlantic Temperate Rainforest
- Twin objectives: environmental restoration & community engagement/education



What we did.....

- Started small.... started manageable
- Concentrated on the asset....i.e., the Forest
- Started to connect people to the Forest
- Took on our first capital project – and delivered it
- Celebrated success....and repeated it

We held true to our objectives: restoring nature whilst engaging the community in the Forest (in all ways possible)

What did this look like ?

- 1) Community Events & Engagement



BOULEFEST
FUNGI FORAY

Saturday 21st September
 10:40am - 12:30pm

Meet at Rhubodach carpark
 Bus links available

Join Professor Paul Thomas to learn
 more about the Mushrooms you'll find
 along at the woods!

Tickets are free but
 must be booked

Refreshments and
 snacks provided









BUTE FOREST



WOODLAND THEATRE WORKSHOP

FRIDAY 24 MAY

10AM - 12PM @ MOSS WOODS

A morning of drama-based activities and poetry, brought to you by **Charles Hindley** of Bute Youth Theatre.



An exciting opportunity for children to create a unique piece of poetry inspired by nature that can be recorded and experienced by future forest visitors.



For young people aged 10-12,
Booking is essential so please let us know if your child is no longer available to attend

**SIGN YOUR CHILD
UP FREE HERE!**



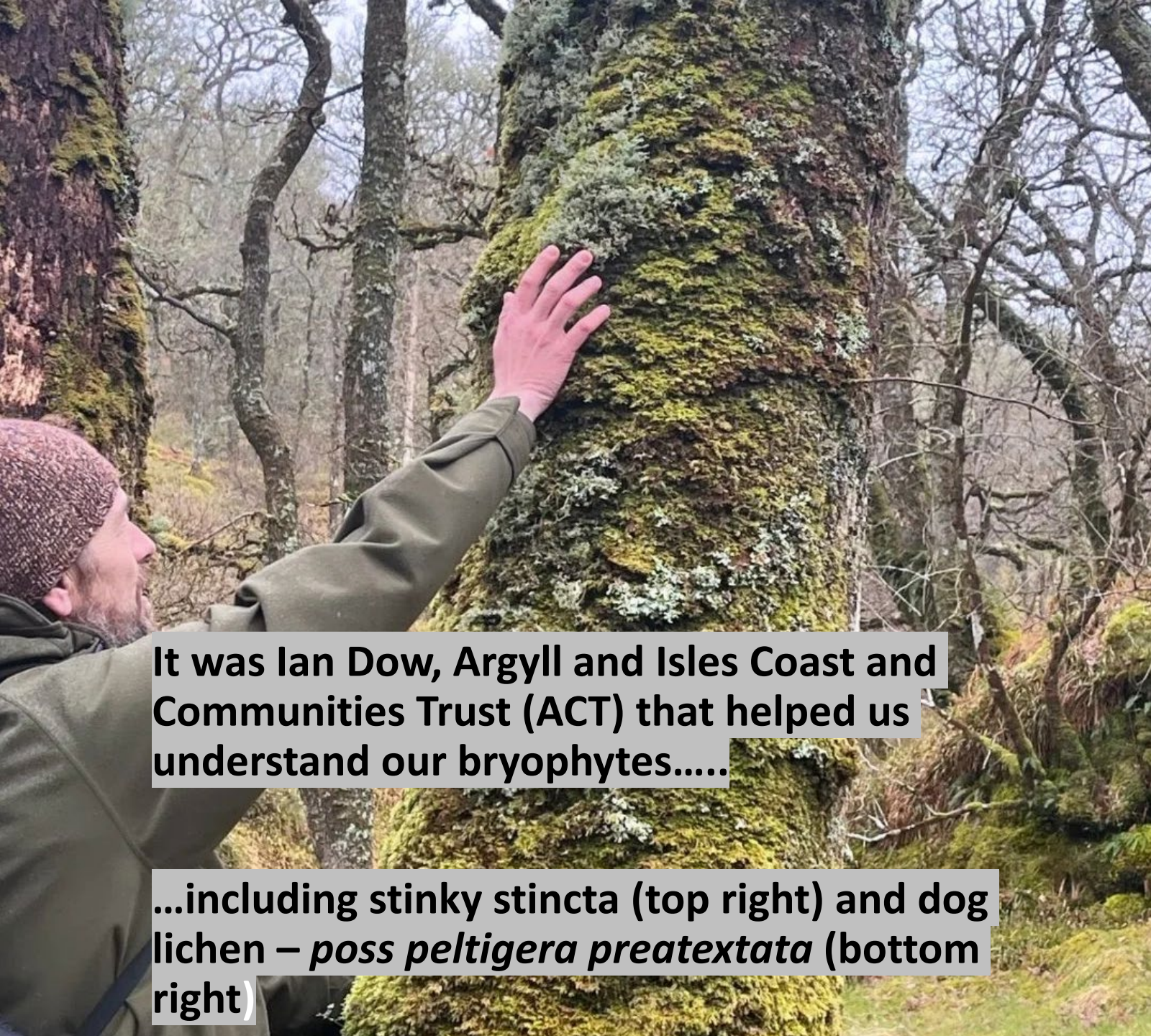
If you have any questions please contact samuel@buteforest.org





“Wonderful experience.... many thanks for organising this, and inviting David [Atthowe] to share his knowledge with us. Brilliant and truly awe inspiring.” Jessica Herriot





It was Ian Dow, Argyll and Isles Coast and Communities Trust (ACT) that helped us understand our bryophytes.....

...including stinky stincta (top right) and dog lichen – *poss peltigera preatextata* (bottom right)



Community Event Summary 2024

February

Roundhouse opening

March

Build a Birdbox Event

April

Easter Exploration Event

Refugee BBQ – Somali, Syrian, Ukrainians

May

Writing in the Woods – the Story Wagon

Woodland Theatre Workshop –Bute Drama Studio

June

Family cycle ride

BBC Springwatch

July

Bushcraft Survival (with Achievement Bute)

Art & Wellness Workshop – Jane Hunter

September

Biofluorescence Night walk – David Atthow

Funghi Foray 2024 – Dr Paul Thomas

Remembering Together COVID memorial project - Luke Winter Art Installation

October

Pumpkin Carving

November

Community Tree Planting

December

Christmas Event

What did this look like?

2) Outdoor Learning

*We fulfilled our desire to see every child
(aged 11 and under) in education spend time in the
Community Forest – all 400 pupils*







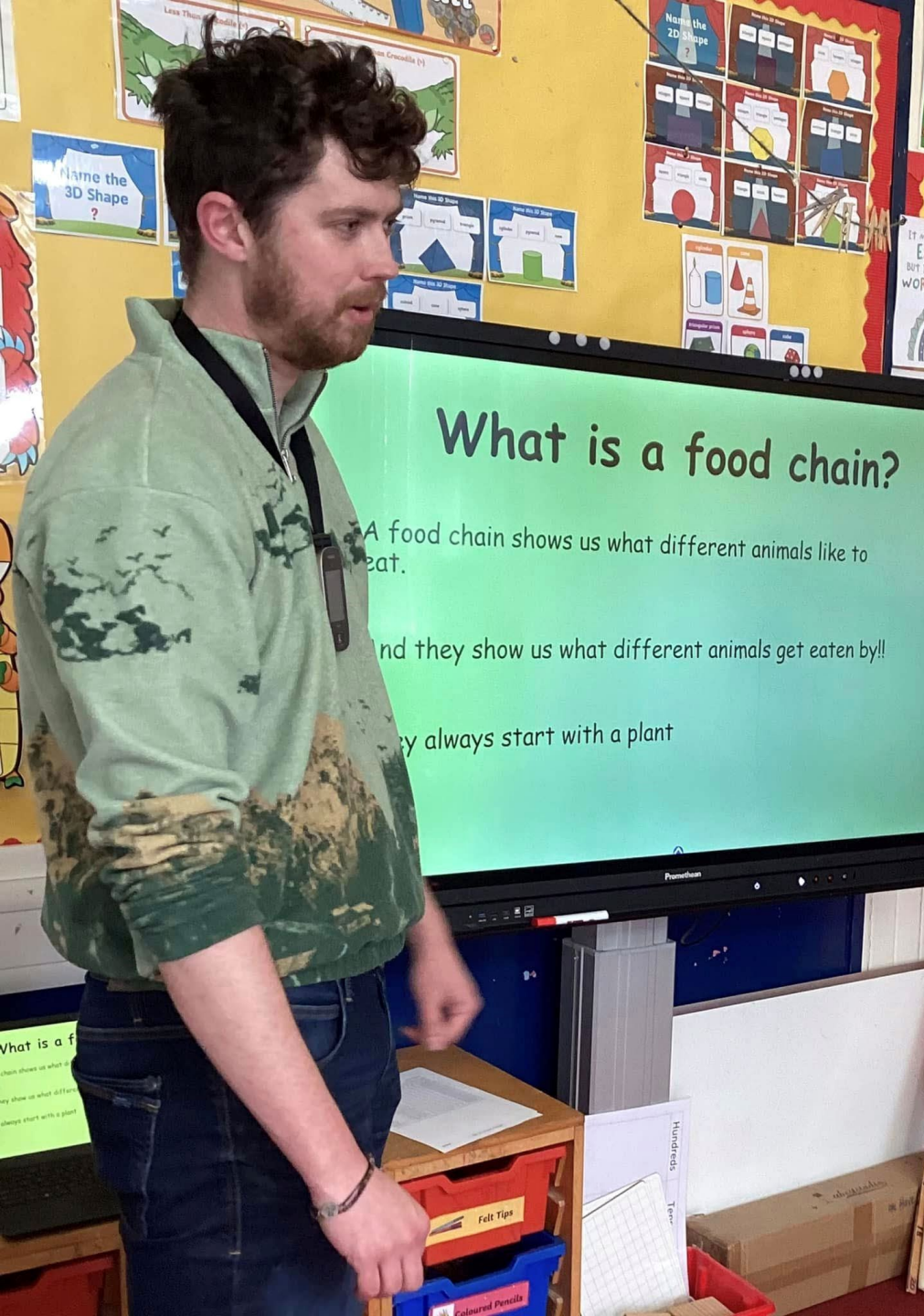
















“As a school we enjoy working with Samuel. He enjoys sharing his knowledge of nature with the children.

It is a highlight of the week for the children of Rothesay Primary to go out to Moss Woods to see him and experience nature.”

Elize Milani, Deputy Head, Rothesay Primary

“Our school benefits so much from Samuel and his forest schools plus our kids love the outdoors, long may it last!

From North Bute Parent Council xx”

Mandy McLachlan, Chair of North Bute Parent Council

What did this look like?

3) Improving Our Asset

Our Forest Infrastructure

Our Off-Grid Huts



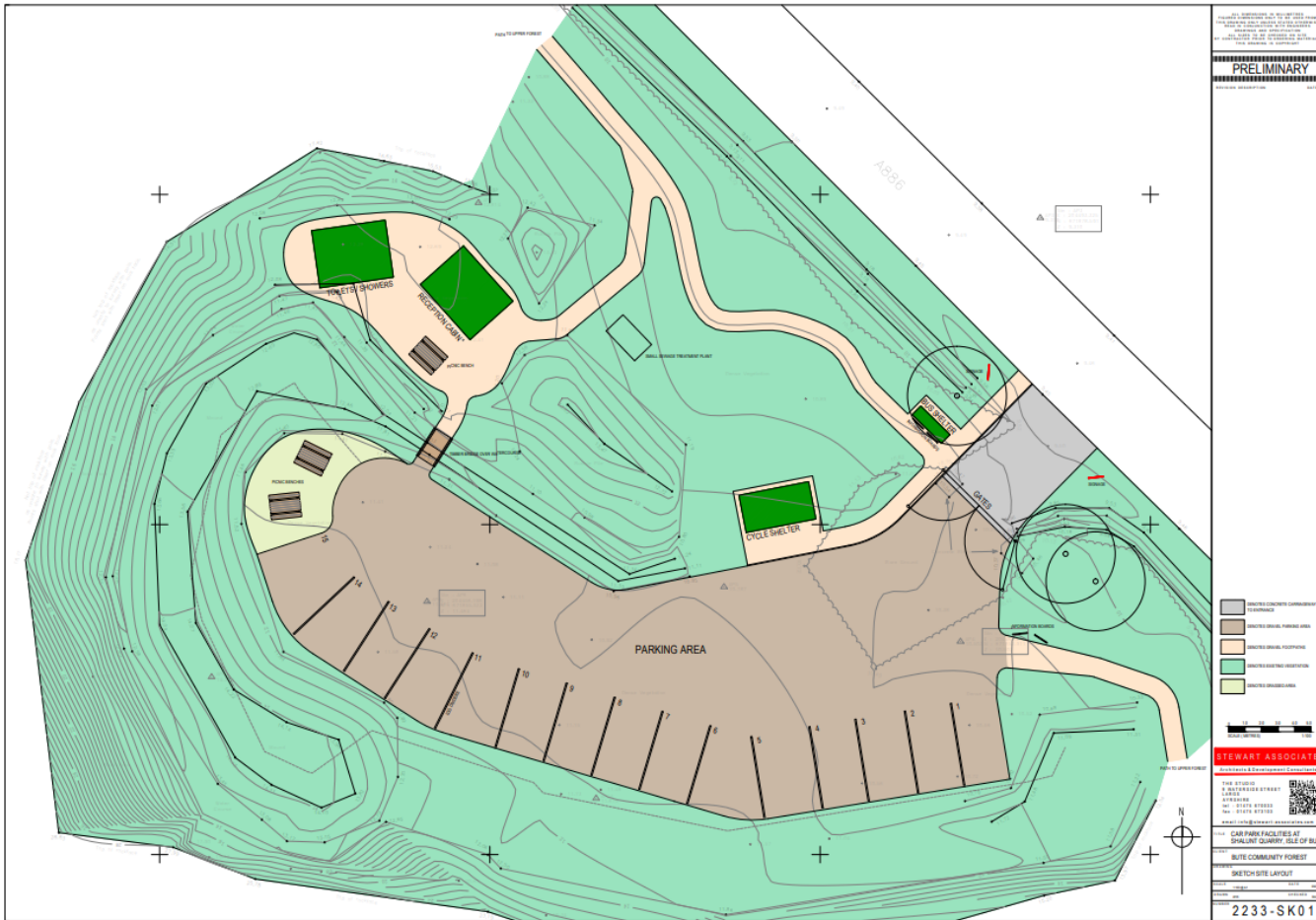
- Opened late May 2023
- Net profit in first year = £6,100, rising to £10,000 in 2024
- Covers all charity (non-staff running costs)



Our Roundhouse – and path upgrades



And the latest key project - Welcome Hub



- Quarry site purchased – 95% contribution from Scottish Land Fund
- NHLF & HIE funding approval - £314,000
- Key features:
 - Dedicated off-road car parking for 10-15 cars
 - Welcome hut with information boards
 - Toilets and shower block (to support the huts)

What did this look like?

4) Improving Our Asset

The BioDiversity of our Forest

Bullochreg – Creating a New Woodland





Scots Pine Woodland

Scots pine forest at Loch Morlich, Aviemore

Our Learning (1)

1. The community comes first – it is their Forest, their asset
2. That community means ALL communities – refugees, those with mental health difficulties, families from deprived areas, retirees, young adults etc. etc.
3. Be clear in the overall vision/aim – but be flexible on the how you get there.....
4. Engage and communicate – tell the community what you are doing and why.... engage with detractors
5. Celebrate successes – share good news and things that work well

Our Learning (2)

6. Deliver and demonstrate – small, tangible and delivered projects and activities are better than speculative plans
7. Be entrepreneurial but work with the grain of what is happening – be realistic, have the money, be deliverable
8. Partnership working is critical – it is a cliché, but it works
9. Show leadership, drive and commitment – believe in your cause
10. Be excellent AND be humble.....