Community Woodland Case Studies
Guide to metadata

Year
Year that case study was prepared – for reference but not expected to be used as a search term

  2012 (3)
  2013 (16)
  2014 (14)

Country
The country in which the community group is situated

  Wales (2)
  England (12)
  Scotland (19)

Woodland Location
Using the WIAT criteria (within 1km of settlement of >2000 people).

  Urban (16)
  Rural (17)

Tenure
The tenurial situation from the point of view of the community group: this can be ownership, lease, formal or informal agreement, and for each of the latter three options the owner can be a public or private sector body. Some communities have more than one arrangement so n>33
Formal agreement implies that the agreement is documented and signed, if this isn't the case then it's recorded as an informal agreement.
Where the land is community owned by a parent of the community woodland group (e.g. Dunbar) then this is recorded as Ownership.
Blaen Bran is held under Leasehold so has been recorded as Ownership (Lease)

  Ownership (10)
  Ownership (leasehold) (1)
  Lease (public) (1)
  Lease (private) (1)
  Formal agreement (public) (5)
  Formal agreement (private) (4)
  Informal agreement (public) (9)
  Informal agreement (private) (6)

Woodland Type
The terminology used in the case studies isn't always consistent, I have tried to simplify it but not sure how successfully or whether this is a necessary search item

  Mixed mainly Conifer (9)

Mixed (1)
Mixed mainly Broadleaved (8)
Mixed mainly Broadleaved (young trees) (2)
Mixed mainly Broadleaved with coppice (1)
Broadleaved (5)
Broadleaf (young trees) (3)
Broadleaf with Coppice (3)

Legal Form

Legal form of the community body and whether they have a trading subsidiary.
Other legal forms are possible (SCIO, Company Limited by Shares, Trust) but were not represented in this cohort of groups.

Company Limited by Guarantee (1)
Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee (11)
Company Limited by Guarantee - Community Interest Company (2)
Unincorporated Association (15)
Charitable Unincorporated Association (2)
Industrial and Provident Society (2)
+ Trading Subsidiary (3)

Business Focus

Site-focussed: where the management of a specific woodland (or woodlands) is the primary objective of the community organisation. Income from trading may supplement grants and donations but essentially such operations are carried out at the level required to support desired management of the woodland(s), sometimes at a subsistence level.
Asset-based development: the community management of the woodland delivers better woodland management but is primarily a vehicle for delivering broader rural development objectives and aspirations.
Activity-focussed: is where a community organisation or social enterprise is using woodland(s) for their business, which could be directly related to woodland management (e.g. woodfuel) or as a venue for service delivery (e.g. training), again it results in active management of the woodland in question, but this is not the primary objective.

Site-focussed (24)
Asset-based development (6)
Activity-focussed (3)

Employment

Employees: where groups employ staff (not necessarily full time) in posts directly related to woodland management or operations.
No staff: groups do not directly employ staff (although they may use external contractors for specific tasks) and are reliant on volunteers,

Employees (8)
No staff (25)

Activities

Three key principles have been applied in recording activities:

1) It has to be a specific and deliberate activity, rather than an indirect consequence. So for example creating a path network may have health benefits for users but it isn't a specific health project so doesn't tick the health box. Likewise, all woodlands have biodiversity benefits, but that box is only ticked here if the group undertakes work or projects specifically to enhance it.
2) The activity has to be connected with the woodland, not something the group does elsewhere (so ColGlen's polytunnels don't tick the Horticulture box)
3) The activity has to be at least started, not just aspirational, so groups that have carried out feasibility for "renewables" get that tick, but not those who say "we are thinking about it"

Woodland management *(thinning, felling, coppicing, planting)* (31)
Timber & woodfuel *(round & milled wood, firewood, coppice products, charcoal, xmas trees)* (10)
NTFP *(fruit, herbs, nuts, forage, game)*
Wood crafts *(basket making, willow weaving, hedge laying, woodworking, dry stone walling)* (1)
Horticulture *(allotments, gardening, beekeeping, orchards)* (5)
Biodiversity & conservation *(bird boxes, log piles, meadows, ponds, wetlands & bogs, control of rhododendron / other invasives)* (25)
Education *(Forest School, bushcraft, training and skills development)* (12)
Recreation & access *(paths & waymarking, interpretation, parking, other facilities)* (29)
Health & inclusion *(green gym, health walks, patient rehabilitation, ASB projects)* (5)
Heritage *(archaeology, cultural history)* (3)
Renewables *(wind, hydro, solar)* (4)
Additional projects *(other significant projects)* (4)
General maintenance *(litter picking, general repairs and tidying)* (29)