



# Millbuies Woodland Management Plan Summary

## Vision

The rich nature at Millbuies is enjoyed and valued by the community.

The woodland is managed for biodiversity and is resilient to the impacts of climate change. There is an increasing diversity of native species across the various woodland, water and grassland habitats, with natural regeneration of native species encouraged. Opportunities are taken to improve connectivity with surrounding habitats so that wildlife can travel freely.

Millbuies is respectfully used by the community, with a good path network and recreational facilities. Visitors of all ages and abilities feel connected to nature and have opportunities for learning about Millbuies' diverse range of habitats and species.



## Short term actions

Focus repairs on damaged handrails and boards on the bridges, and damaged steps.

Install nest boxes to encourage key bird species to breed on site.

Continued *Rhododendron ponticum* removal over a period of several years to enable soil and vegetation to recover, enabling an increase in biodiversity.

Planting to increase biodiversity could include wildflowers, shrubs, and wetland plants. Planting in areas where rhododendron has recently been removed may be delayed to enable the soil to recover.

Work with Scottish Forestry to develop an approved, long term plan to increase the mix of native tree species.

Explore of opportunities for community involvement in caring for Millbuies, including any interest in diverse uses of the site.



## Medium term

Begin restructuring the woodland involves felling of mature commercial conifers and restocking with a mix of native species, as per an approved plan. This will increase biodiversity and resilience to the impacts of climate change and the spread of disease, but will take several decades to achieve.

Leave some standing and fallen deadwood as important habitats for invertebrates, fungi, birds and other wildlife.

Repair or replace benches and rest points in poor condition, as well as rubbish and dog waste bins.



## Long term

Major improvements to the car park and picnic area could create a more attractive entrance with updated interpretation and provision of cycle parking. Informal play equipment could provide additional attraction for families and children to explore nature.

Improved access and information at the A941 layby as a stop off link for short walks.

New signage and interpretation panels for education and engagement.

Continue felling and restocking according to approved plan until continuous cover forest achieved.

Continue management of the woodland using a Low Impact Silvicultural System.



Wildflowers provide food for pollinators which in turn are essential for our own food systems



A healthy woodland floor allows a diversity of plant life to thrive



New ecosystems emerge when fallen deadwood is allowed to remain



Standing deadwood makes great homes for all kinds of birds, bees, and other creatures



The wet habitats are a safe home for amphibians, dragonflies, even water voles and otters!



People have enjoyed trout fishing here for a hundred years, what other ways might our community enjoy this space?



Allowing trees to grow old like this granny pine increases the abundance of life they can support



Please contact  
[climatechange@moray.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@moray.gov.uk)  
with any questions or suggestions