

Scotland's Rural College

Overview: Which trees for homes?: trees, landscapes and affordable homes

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First published: 22/04/2024

Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

McCracken, DI., Miller, D., & Halvorsen, G. (2024). *Overview: Which trees for homes?: trees, landscapes and affordable homes*. SEDA Land. Advance online publication.

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Which Trees for Homes?: Trees, Landscape & Affordable Homes

Recommendations by SEDA Land



22nd April 2024

Overview: *Which Trees for Homes: Trees, Landscapes & Affordable Homes*

Davy McCracken, David Miller & Gail Halvorsen

Which Trees for Homes?: Trees, Landscape & Affordable Homes

An event held at Crofthead Forest, Moffat and SRUC Barony Campus on 22nd March 2024

Chaired by

David Miller, SEFARI Gateway & James Hutton Institute

Forest Tour

Andrew Macqueen, Andrew Macqueen Silviculture

Andrew Heald, Forestry Consultant

Morag Paterson, Communities for Diverse Forestry

Panel Members

Isabel Conway, South of Scotland Enterprise

Andrew Barbour, Mains of Fincastle

Andrew Leslie, University of Highlands & Islands

Marlene Cramer, Edinburgh Napier University

William Clark, Scottish Forestry

Rob McKenna, James Jones

Archie McConnel, McConnel Wood Products

Peter Wilson, Mass Timber Academy

Neil Sutherland, Makar

Artistic Pieces

Iain Fraser, fiddler

Stuart Paterson, poet

The full Conversation and short film can be viewed from [here](#)

This series of Conversations was funded by the *Scottish Government Climate Change Engagement Programme* and *SEFARI Gateway*, and was organised through collaboration between SEDA Land, The James Hutton Institute and Scotland's Rural College.



THE RIGHT END OF THE TELESCOPE

*A prosepoem by **Stuart A Paterson** written to include many words, sayings & phrases
made & said by all present at Barony College that afternoon*

If you're stuck in the middle of the wood
It's no good,
We need to decarbonise our society
When looking through the wrong end
Of the telescope.

Near net-zero carbon,
Long term not short term,
Look to ongoing generations
In the future, their future,
Our future, not just now.

Good foresters know about good forestry
In 'conflicts' with farmers' diversities,
A story that often goes untold,
Substitution, value.

A chat about chicken feathers,
Cows, trees, architects,
The industry will adapt and respond
To what's available.

We need to think outside the box,
Species being specific,
International market fluctuations
Qualify quality housing
Not affordable housing.

Trees that are tough ugly bastards,
Agroforestry,
You need to keep the cows among the trees,
Making stuff you can actually build.

We are a way,
We must move away from marginal changes,
A radical set of parameters,
A different language we need to learn.

From a dictionary we have to write ourselves,
That we are already writing,
Not an A to Z so much as
Foot to hand to head.

Tomorrow's world's today,
A one-world language full of words
We'll soon all have to want to learn to say,
Words made from a world of hope,
We're all now looking at today through
The right end of the telescope.

KEY FINDINGS

- 1. There is a need to break down silos between farming and forestry to encourage greater integration and use being made of trees on farms.** Farming - covering approximately 75% of Scotland's land area - and woodland and forestry – currently covering a further 19% and projected to increase through more woodland being established on farmland – are the two dominant land uses across Scotland. There is a need to break down silos in their management to achieve a more integrated land use and multi-outcomes at farm, forest and landscape levels. Both of these different types of land use are regulated and supported differently by the Scottish Government. There is a need for Scottish Government to integrate regulation – based on both land uses having a common aim – to reduce tensions between farming and forestry.
- 2. There is a need for greater dialogue and agreement over how to achieve more diverse woodlands and forests across southern Scotland.** There is a need for greater dialogue and agreement about how more diverse woodlands and forests can be created at farm, forest and landscape-scale, and how these changes can lead to increased community benefits and wealth building. The south of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership (RLUP) identified a number of types of land-use changes that offer opportunities to sustain and grow the local economy and address climate change and nature recovery. These include increasing native woodland cover, improving planning and design of commercial forestry expansion and improving agricultural viability and sustainability. There is an urgent need for Scottish Government to work with the RLUP to signpost how public and private funding can be mobilised to ensure that landowners, land managers and community groups can actually implement such land use changes on the ground.
- 3. There is a need for a focus on developing innovative new products from more diverse woodlands and forests.** There is a need for greater out-of-the-box thinking about the wider range of higher value products that would increase business opportunities and economic growth across the region. Putting an increasing focus on the development of high-value uses of timber, byproducts and bioproducts from existing and new woodlands and forests will be essential in meeting the Convention of South of Scotland's *Natural Capital Innovation Zone* aims, and achieving an aim of the Scottish Government Climate Change Plan 2018-32 of developing thriving rural economies based around woodland creation. The Scottish Government could mandate that all public sector organisations should have a “wood first” policy when undertaking new or refurbishment construction projects. The establishment of the *Natural Capital Innovation Zone* provides an opportunity for Scottish Government to assess the level of support and investment needed to stimulate an innovative timber product industry.
- 4. There is a need to develop and support the skills required to take advantage of the economic opportunities provided by more diverse woodlands and forests across southern Scotland** Understanding the skills requirements for delivering each stage of change in land use, and equitable local access to such skills is essential to supply existing and new needs of businesses, and setting the context for the emergence of new micro-businesses and stimulation of innovation. Building momentum in developing human capital requires ongoing investment in local sites of national education and research organisations, and demonstration sites for peer-to-peer learning. This provides focal points for life-long learning, including upskilling and reskilling, to underpin individual and community imagination and a can-do attitude.

FOCUS

*“We need incentives, we need regulation,
we need imagination, we need a can-do attitude”*

The “*Which Trees For Homes?*” Conversation investigated the long-term effects of land-use decisions on climate change, and the timber supply chain particularly in relation to affordable homes. The forest tour and panel discussion were intended to help the community, public agencies, landowners and land managers understand and visualise an alternative and productive ecological landscape that serves the climate, biodiversity, and the community, while providing enough timber for local affordable housing.

Dumfries & Galloway was chosen as the venue for the Conversation. It is one of the most heavily wooded areas in the UK, with large scale forestry operations – mostly Sitka spruce, with some larch, mixed conifers and broadleaf planting. Upland land uses also include wind farm developments and sheep grazing.

The discussions explored the potential for alternative forest planting that brings carbon storage, increased biodiversity, and other co-benefits. The focus was on what needs to change to stimulate a local and sustainable timber value chain, providing resilience and housing equity. The intent was to identify obstacles and propose solutions to deliver a fair and just transition to net zero in the rural land-use sector.



Andrew Macqueen, manager of Crofthead Forest



Andrew Macqueen in the spruce plantation

DISCUSSION

Scotland's Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) indicates that southern Scotland has a housing land requirement of 935 additional housing units per year over the next ten years. This marked increase – almost double recent house build completion levels - is based on population forecasts and the economic opportunities in the region associated with increased labour demand, particularly in the forestry and sawmilling sectors.

The availability of land to build new housing is not seen as a barrier in southern Scotland. Over 90% of new homes across Scotland are currently built using wood timber-framing. Currently the majority of that high-value structural timber is imported, with standard softwood Scottish timber classed as being of lower grade and hence considered unsuitable for house-building.

The large-scale conifer plantations in southern Scotland already provide softwood timber (used for example for pallets and fencing) and associated byproducts (used for example for paper and bio-fuel). These are considered low-value products but their production and sale at scale across the UK mean that the current industry supports a growing workforce in the region.

A small number of conifer tree species have been the mainstay of softwood plantations in Scotland for decades. The varieties grown were originally selected because they grow well in Scotland's wet climate and on the marginal land which has historically been the focus of planting (because of a combination of availability and relatively low cost to purchase).

Ongoing climate change does, however, pose a severe threat to the continuation of such plantations. An increase in the regularity and length of summer droughts coupled with increasing severity of storms and rainfall events during the winter will damage trees and reduce their productivity. This will be exacerbated by an increase in imported pests and diseases, many of which have potential to spread rapidly because of the low diversity of trees dominating existing plantations.

Large scale plantations will continue to have an important role to play but will need to be structured differently – especially in terms of introducing a greater diversity of tree species and tree ages. This will help to manage risks of disease and pests, and thereby contribute to building the resilience of the forests and forest businesses to the changing environmental conditions.

To increase diversity of woodland species, with associated diversity in growth rates and spatial distribution at landscape and regional scales, requires a systems approach which provides land managers access to cash flow. Sitka spruce, with its fast growing characteristics, adaptability to Scottish conditions, and well developed supply chains, provides a valuable component of such management systems. As an element of the land system they also contribute to landscape and woodland diversity.

Achieving more diverse woodland/forests and associated businesses in value chains can be triggered and accelerated by greater diversity of owners (e.g. more farmers, local councils, smaller owners, communities), each of whom could bring more diverse objectives and uses for their woodlands/forests. That would help support existing businesses and stimulate new employment opportunities, including the production of a wider range of bio-products from wood.

Trees and timber can help achieve Scotland's ambitions for Net Zero by 2045, and have the potential to deliver co-benefits, if barriers to uptake can be overcome.

BARRIERS

Sawmills in the local area range in size from small-scale – focused on local and niche markets – through to high-capacity enterprises selling their products throughout the UK. The smaller-scale sawmills can process a variety of sizes and types of trees, thereby extending the market for more specialised timber products. Conversely, the high-capacity sawmills rely on a consistent supply of standard-sized trees that can be economically converted into the products desired by their customers.

Sitka spruce

There are three interconnected barriers which drive and explain the current dominance of Sitka spruce when restocking harvested softwood plantations or creating new ones:

- There is limited availability of seed of alternative conifers (especially of material well adapted to Scottish/UK conditions) and technical difficulties in raising planting stock of such conifers. That, coupled with a lack of market demand, means that currently nurseries do not produce planting stock of alternative conifers.
- High-capacity sawmills are designed to process Sitka spruce of certain dimensions and so it can be costly to use alternative conifer tree species. The good understanding of timber properties of Sitka spruce compared to that of alternative species means that there is currently little market acceptability for UK grown timber from alternative conifers.
- Sitka spruce has fewer limitations (e.g. it is less browsed) than alternative conifers, and yields and returns can be better predicted for stands of Sitka spruce. This, together with limits of knowledge of how best to grow alternative tree species in UK, conditions means that Sitka spruce remains the softwood conifer of choice.

Timber grading

Softwood timber is graded for its use in construction based on its strength, resilience and quality – the higher the number the higher the quality. Timber from the same type of tree will, however, vary in its grading depending on where it has been grown and how it has been managed. Very little, if any, grading of UK grown hardwood – from deciduous trees – has occurred to date. Only the ‘big four’ softwoods grown in the UK – spruce, Douglas-fir, larch and pine – have been graded with any robustness. Increasing the species diversity in Scottish plantations – whether of softwoods or hardwoods - will be dependent on more testing being conducted.

Currently the known gradings for UK grown softwood – and associated durability against fungi scores – are lower than is generally accepted for use in housing construction in the UK. There is recognition that some of the alternative tree species are likely to produce similarly low grades. It is possible to increase the use of such softwoods in construction by using them to create cross-laminated timber, non-glued mass timber or laminated veneer lumber. However, although such techniques are being used as a matter of course in other countries, to date there has been a lack of investment by industry to develop and facilitate the use of these technologies at scale in Scotland.

Tensions between farming and forestry

Approximately 8% of Scotland’s land area is capable to growing arable and horticultural crops (Land Capability for Agriculture classes 1 to 3.1), and approximately 18% is capable of supporting improved grassland (Land Capability for Agriculture classes 5.1 to 5.3). As a result, new woodlands and conifer plantations have historically been planted on parts of the remaining marginal agricultural land, partly to avoid competition with - and loss of - the limited amount of better agricultural land.

However, if new woodlands and forestry plantations remain restricted to poorer soils at higher altitudes then choice of tree species and silviculture practices will remain limited. Such land is also likely to comprise carbon-rich soils and thus management practices may lead to the loss of soil carbon. Hence, the need to have more diverse woodlands and forests in the future will mean making more use of the better soils across Scotland to establish and grow those woodlands.

This is creating tensions between the forestry and farming sectors, with the latter feeling under pressure to 'give up' good agricultural. However, farmland across Scotland is not immune to the effects of climate change, and integrating more trees and woodlands onto farms will have an important role to play in making regenerative farms of all types more resilient to extreme weather events. The challenge is to how to facilitate integration when currently farming and forestry are regulated and financially supported differently.

Local community involvement

Southern Scotland is already heavily afforested. As existing plantations are harvested and restocked, and more new plantations are created, local communities report being increasingly beleaguered with little or no say in how the landscapes within and around them are changing. Currently, community engagement is perceived as taking place too late in the process, and focuses primarily on what is planned and happening, rather than on how what is happening could lead to community benefits and wealth building. Creating more diverse woodlands and forests provides opportunities for the creation of more local and diverse year-round jobs within communities, accompanied by housing which is affordable. There is a need to change the narrative away from community versus commercial forestry, and broadleaf trees versus conifers. In an ideal world, all woodland and forestry, whether commercial or not, would be delivering benefits such as tackling climate change, reversing the loss of biodiversity and amenities for local communities and at national levels.



Iain Fraser playing Buchanan Birch

SOLUTIONS

1) There is a need to break down current silos between farming and forestry to encourage greater integration and use of trees on farms

Farming - covering approximately 75% of Scotland's land area - and woodland and forestry – currently covering a further 19% and projected to increase in line with the Scottish Forestry Strategy 2019-29, and through more woodland being established on farmland – are the two dominant land uses across Scotland. There is a need to break down existing silos of the management of land to achieve more integrated land use and multi-outcomes from any one farm, forest or landscape. However, both of these dominant different land uses are currently regulated or supported differently by the Scottish Government. There is a need for Scottish Government to integrate regulation – based on both land uses having a common aim – with an aim of reducing tensions between farming and forestry, and thereby facilitate greater integration and delivery of multiple benefits from land use in Scotland.

2) There is a need for greater dialogue and agreement over how to achieve more diverse woodlands and forests across southern Scotland

An understanding of timber supply chains, and issues faced by each link in those chains, is required for realising an aim of diversity of woodlands and forests. Constraints on the supply needs of larger sawmills – based on market demands for their existing products – together with an unwillingness in the farming sector for land use change towards forestry – especially integrating trees onto their farms - is hampering the creation, at scale, of the more diverse woodlands and forests across southern Scotland. There is a need for greater dialogue and agreement over how farm, forest and landscape-scale changes can be achieved, and how such changes can deliver increased community benefits and wealth building.

Such dialogue should include sharing understanding of Sitka spruce in land systems that can facilitate ecological and aesthetic diversity in landscapes. They are important in maintaining existing supply chains, and providing income to land managers who are diversifying tree species. Work into alternative provenances of Sitka spruce should ensure its continued contribution to forestry systems as environmental characteristics of marginal land evolve due to changes in climate.

Under Scotland's Third national Land Use Strategy, *Regional Land Use Partnerships* (RLUPs) are being piloted to help develop Scotland's approach to land use in support of a green recovery and transition to net-zero. These pilots are intended to help national and local government, communities, land owners and stakeholders work together to find ways to optimise land use in a fair and inclusive way – meeting local and national objectives and supporting the journey to net zero.

The primary aim of all of the RLUPs is to test how governance and partnership working could work on a regional scale, in the different contexts of the five pilots. The south of Scotland RLUP is being delivered through a partnership of South of Scotland Enterprise, Dumfries & Galloway Council and Scottish Borders Council.

Consultation across southern Scotland to-date has identified a number of land-use changes that offer opportunities to sustain and grow the local economy and address climate change and nature recovery. These include increasing native woodland cover, improving planning and design of commercial forestry expansion and improving agricultural viability and sustainability. All of these are directly subject to the barriers identified in this Conversation.

The work of the south of Scotland RLUP can contribute to greater discussion over where, how and why such land use changes could occur. There is, however, an associated urgent need for Scottish Government to work with the RLUP to clearly signpost how public and private funding can be mobilised to ensure that landowners, land managers and community groups can actually implement such land use changes on the ground.

3) There is a need for a focus on developing innovative new products from the more diverse woodlands and forests expected to be established across southern Scotland

The Conversation highlighted the need for greater out-of-the-box thinking about the wider range of higher value products that would increase business opportunities and economic growth across the region, and help to stimulate and justify a move to more diverse woodlands and forests in southern Scotland.

More effective use of low grade timber

The existing low-grade Scottish grown timber is not as efficiently and economically as it could be. Most of the solid lumber used for standard house building in Scotland is imported. Low grade timber can be processed into higher value mass timber products (a form of off-site prefabricated construction) such as cross laminated timber (CLT) and laminated veneer lumber, the latter maximising 95% yield of the tree by using timber that would otherwise go into pulp or biofuel.

The use of these lightweight panels has the added benefit of using lighter foundations and less gross tonnage of transportation. The prefabricated panels can be assembled quickly on site, resulting in lower costs and less waste than traditional construction, often better suited to the Scottish climate and more remote rural locations.

However, these processes require investment in manufacturing facilities near the forests supplying the timber. At present Scotland imports nearly all mass timber products. Investment in processing plants will turn low grade Scottish timber into a high value product, reduce transportation costs and provide local skilled employment. There is also a need for investment in smaller mobile facilities that can be used in smaller and less accessible woodland and forests.

Innovative uses of wood fibres

A greater emphasis on developing a bio-economy is needed in Scotland to encourage more being made of sustainable sources of materials across all sectors of the Scottish economy. The scale of the forest sector in Scotland means that it is in a particularly good position to help drive innovative uses of wood fibres within industrial biotechnologies, thereby reducing dependency on fossil fuels and contributing to both mitigation and adaptation of greenhouse gases, and environmental protection. This would point to opportunities which would be consistent with a topic of the Scottish National Adaptation Plan of farming, fishing and forestry businesses being supported to adapt to climate change. To-date there has been a lack of foresight and investment to help support and stimulate new businesses to capitalise on this potential.

Natural Capital Innovation Zone

As part of the *Borderlands Economic Growth Deal*, the Convention of South of Scotland has agreed to position the region as the *Natural Capital Innovation Zone* to encourage and accelerate responsible investment across the region. It is intended that the region will pioneer innovative methods of land - and marine - management built on partnerships and develop a pipeline of natural capital investment opportunities that identify nature-based solutions (e.g. peatland restoration, natural flood management, woodland expansion) to deliver a wellbeing economy.

Such solutions need to work complementarily, within emerging new land systems, with understanding of their long term resilience (e.g. carrying capacity on restored peatlands). The combination of natural resources, developed human capital, and collaborative approaches positions the region to the fore of achieving an aim of the Scottish Government Climate Change Plan 2018-32 of developing thriving rural economies based around woodland creation.

Putting a focus on the development of high-value uses of timber, byproducts and bioproducts from existing and new woodlands and forests across southern Scotland will be essential in meeting the aims of the *Innovation Zone*. By the same token, creating an environment for new wood product markets to establish will also help stimulate more diverse woodlands and forests and more active woodland and forest management.

“Wood first” policy

The Scottish Government could mandate that all public sector organisations should have a “wood first” policy – with an associated requirement to prioritise sourcing products from Scottish woodlands and forests - when undertaking any new or refurbishment construction projects. This could help speed up the assessment of timber characteristics of alternative tree species and stimulate the industry to invest more in the technologies and techniques to ensure the best use of such timber in construction within Scotland.

The establishment of the *Natural Capital Innovation Zone* therefore provides a timely opportunity for Scottish Government, with collaborators in the private, public and third sectors across the region, to consider what level of support and investment would be required to enable existing businesses to establish new markets and to create opportunities for new businesses to establish and grow. This would be based on the premise of creating and selling innovative products from more diverse woodlands and forests, prospectively undertaken by newly emerging social innovations.

4) There is a need to develop and support the skills required to take advantage of the economic opportunities provided by more diverse woodlands and forests across southern Scotland

Understanding the skills requirements for delivering each stage of change in land use, and equitable local access to such skills is essential to supply existing and new needs of businesses, and setting the context for the emergence of new micro-businesses and stimulation of innovation. Building momentum in developing human capital requires ongoing investment in local sites of national education and research organisations (e.g. SRUC Barony, Crichton Campus Dumfries), and demonstration sites for peer-to-peer learning (e.g. Crofthead forest). This provides focal points for life-long learning, including upskilling and reskilling, to underpin individual and community imagination and a can-do attitude.



A Makar home
Neil Sutherland

CASE STUDY: CROFTHED FOREST

Crofthead forest is owned by Richard Davidson and the woodland – planted in 2018 – is managed by Andrew Macqueen. It consists of 4.5% productive broadleaf, 31.5% Sitka spruce (some in mixture), 9.5% pure mixed conifer, 17.5% semi-productive broadleaf, 20% mixed conifer/broadleaf and 17% open space. The diversity and speed of woodland creation at Crofthead is thanks to four human interventions.

First, species choice. Oak, cherry and hornbeam in a productive mix. Norway spruce to encourage Douglas fir to root firmly. Amphibious red alder giving a hand to spruce in the wet clay. Mimicking Pacific Northwest forests, aspen mingled with conifers to bind soil and fix nitrogen like a farm ‘cover crop’ between harvests.

Second, quality stock. Cherry bred for timber, quite distinct from branchy, fragile fruiting varieties. Oak and Douglas from three provenances – Scotland, England and France mingled across the site for climate resilience, and marked in sample plots so that the most successful can be monitored. Improved Scottish birch from *Future Trees Trust* already competing with improved birch of Scandinavia.

Third, a strong management regime. Professional wildlife management, including for grey squirrels. Short tubes on semi-productive broadleaves being pushed up as trees grow, to encourage wind resistance. Pruning and subsequently thinning to ensure the productive broadleaves produce quality timber.

Fourth, a clear business plan. The faster growing conifers, notably Sitka spruce, will yield regular income to fund management of the Oak and slower growing species into the next generation. While unmanaged broadleaf becomes a liability, a well-managed one begins to grow in value, so that although some timber may not come to market for over a century, the land itself will have a growing timber, carbon and amenity asset value which can be bought and sold.

The real secret to Crofthead forest is the partnership between Richard Davidson and Andrew Macqueen, who pooled their business knowledge and experience, and passion for trees, to create a hobby woodland, a timber plantation, a biodiversity habitat, and a carbon sink, all from the same trees.

Newsworthy heroic tree planting feats are often either epic solo efforts, or mighty national collaborations. But perhaps in the UK, while there is ample scope for new forestry investment models, the ‘bread-and-butter’ of the modern, multi-purpose forest will be the creative, efficient, and human owner-manager double-act.

Adapted from [Pressing the button on multi-purpose forestry](#), Forestry & Timber News, December 2019



Cross laminated timber
Peter Wilson

ARTISTIC PIECES

Regrowth

By Stuart A Paterson

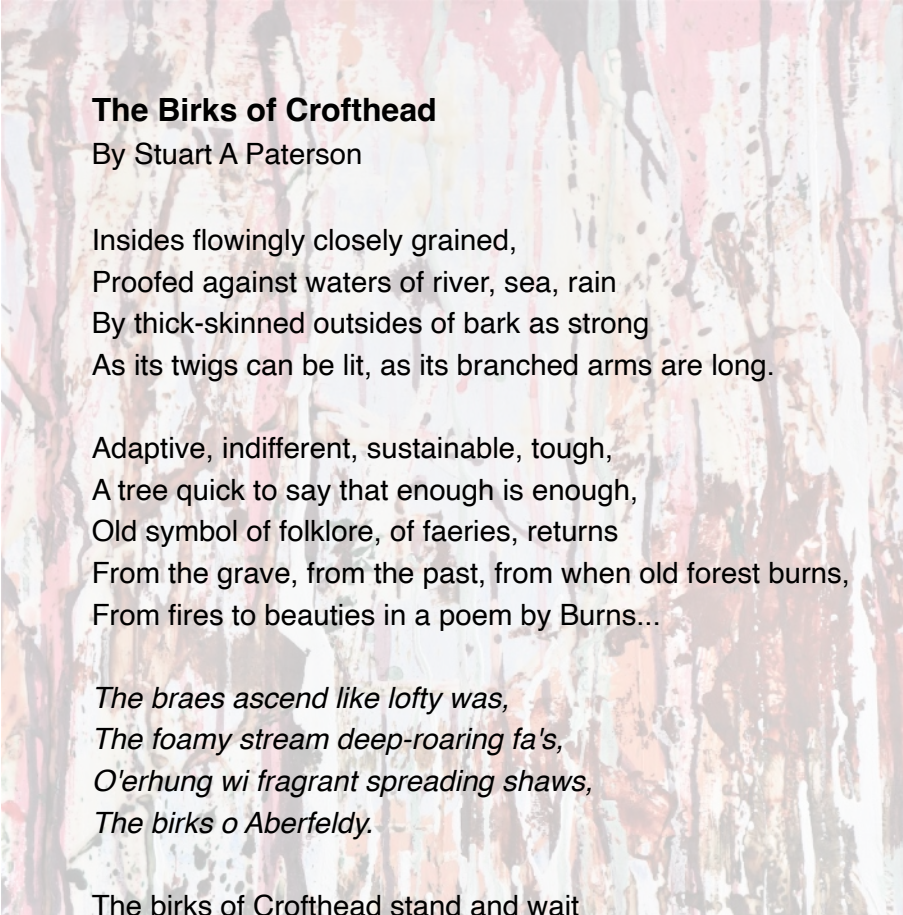
Places outgrow names
As off, away and outgo roads & lanes,
Abodes and frames round windows
Shuttered then unshuttered,
Boarded up, unglassed, removed
From views onto these places
People gave true names to, old & new.

Places named for woulds and woods,
For heres and ears and trees,
For oak, pine, hazel, larch,
Ways to look at, see and understand
Through eyes which saw and mapped what
Long grew round and in and on
These older scapes of land not yet long gone.

No matter the language,
Gaelic, Scots or English
Sauchtrees, Aikrig, Birk Craigs
Name these places start to endless finish,
Willow, oak and birch still rooted
Old and soonly new in places
Named for that and those regrown

Woodside Woodhead
Woodfoot Woodend
Kinnelhall Hazelbank
Aikrig Braefoot
Edwardsrig Beldcraig
Oldshields Knockstack
Marchbankwood Oakriggside
Lochwood Shortwoodend
Craigieburn Craiks Crofthead.

Manmade womanmade
Landmade humanmade,
Maps and names and places
Need again to be handmade
After we'd self-servedly let go
Our little grips on what
We cannot ever take for granted,
Cannot ever miss our chance
To fully give these lands
An open hand to put down roots
Which cannot should not ever be unplanted.



The Birks of Crofthead

By Stuart A Paterson

Insides flowingly closely grained,
Proofed against waters of river, sea, rain
By thick-skinned outsides of bark as strong
As its twigs can be lit, as its branched arms are long.

Adaptive, indifferent, sustainable, tough,
A tree quick to say that enough is enough,
Old symbol of folklore, of faeries, returns
From the grave, from the past, from when old forest burns,
From fires to beauties in a poem by Burns...

*The braes ascend like lofty was,
The foamy stream deep-roaring fa's,
O'erhung wi fragrant spreading shaws,
The birks o Aberfeldy.*

The birks of Crofthead stand and wait
For times to come, to grow more great,
More closely, often, tall and straight,
The birks of our Crofthead.



Oak

By Stuart A Paterson

Stop for a moment, listen, wheesht,
Hold your ear to the air around, not ground,
Not we people or each other,
Listen to what just quietly, risingly,
Delightfully unsurprisingly just spoke
Its name in almost but not specifically
The same tone as birk, beech, rowan, pine.

Tone finding its way to say hello, don't go,
Stay here to hear and watch me grow,
Regrow whole years, decades, centuries
Of where we both have grown, have been,
Been heard and seen, can grow again together.

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