



Social Return on Investment (SROI) for Taymount and Five Mile Woods

Analysis of potential social value of bringing the woods into community ownership



Summary

In this SROI study, WSWG have demonstrated there is real potential for significant social returns from a well managed woodland resource that places nature - our life support system - at the forefront of decision making. Our Living Forest economic nature-based initiatives will not only deliver meaningful social and financial benefits to local communities, but will also deliver wider outcomes to the Scottish economy.

The following summarised SROI forecast outlined below, although not comprehensive, or calculated in the true sense of an SROI analysis, still gives an indicative potential value of impact for the various factors highlighted within the report.

SROI forecast value viewed over a 10 year period:

- Health and wellbeing impact savings to the NHS and Scottish economy: £4,345,682 – £26,974,102
- Community food growing: £25,000
- Pollinator value: £100,000
- Air quality improvements: £125,000
- Biodiversity and Forest existence: £3,239,690 over 10 years: £13,533,286 perpetuity value.
- Job creation: £207,413
- Voluntary sector: £195,310 - £1,953,104

Total potential social value of impact = £8,238,095- £32,624,309 over 10 years.

Diagram below showing WSWG SROI over 10 years

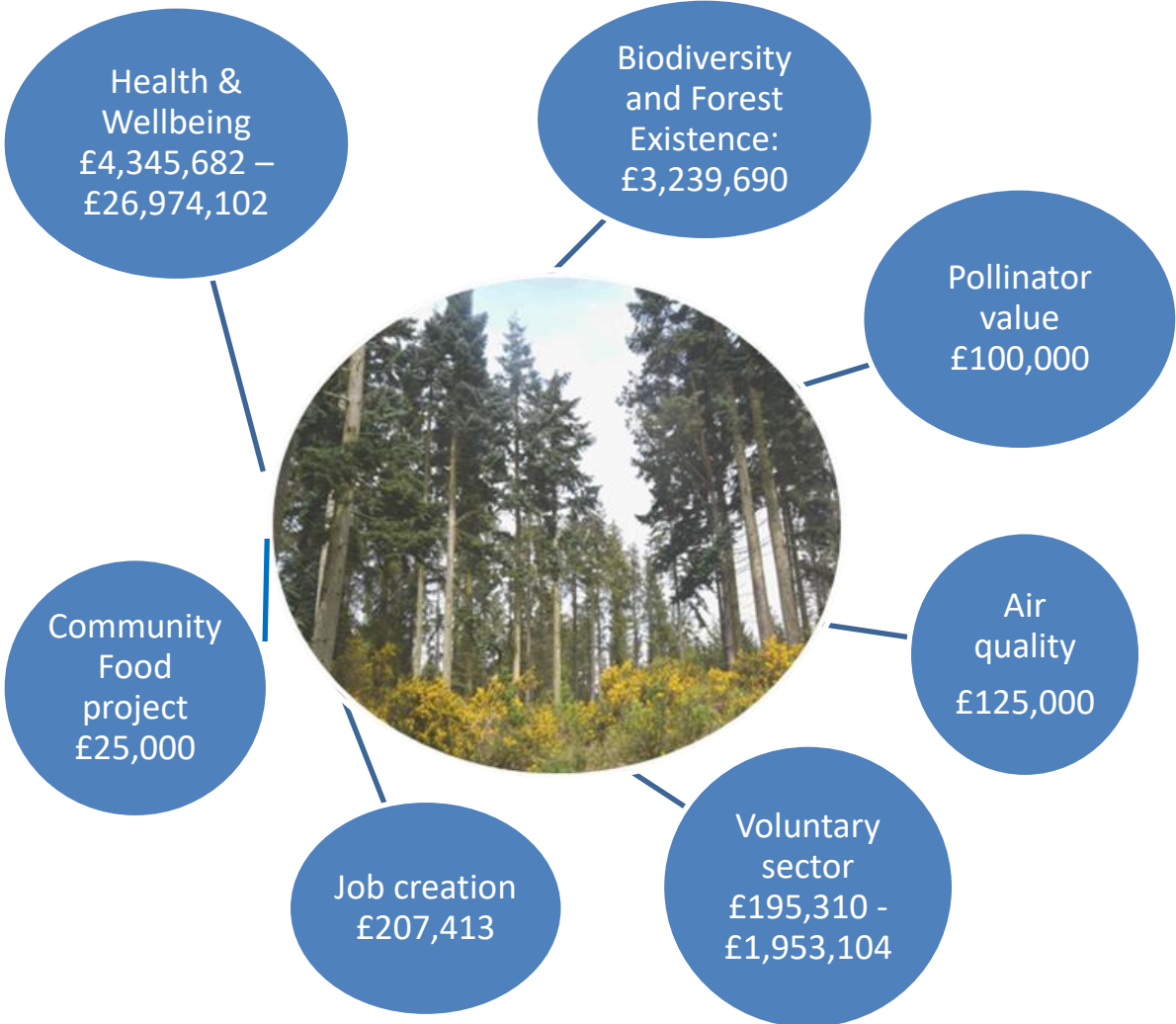


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1. Introduction

The Scottish Government has signed up to the Wellbeing Economy Governments partnership (WEGo). This collaboration of national and regional governments is aimed at advancing expertise and understanding to build wellbeing economies. WSWG has, from its formation, held this ethos as a driver for its approach to community woodland ownership. We also aim to use these woodlands to catalyse a landscape scale approach to supporting a wellbeing economy through our West Stormont Connect initiative. We have drawn inspiration from Bhutan, with its Gross National Happiness (GNH) approach to governance over GDP. Their four pillars of GNH include:

- Sustainable & Equitable socio-economic development
- Good governance
- Preservation of environmental diversity (ecological diversity and resilience)
- Preservation of cultural values & diversity (wellbeing and community vitality)

“The end result of any development activities should be the attainment of GNH”
(Constitution of Bhutan, 2008)

Their understanding that “genuine happiness” arises from amongst other things – a sense of harmony with the natural world, together with the ecosystem services it provides, has prompted them to enshrine in law a minimum conservation of 60% forest cover across the country in perpetuity.

Towards achieving the aims of wellbeing economic objectives, Social Return on Investment (SROI) has become a method for measuring a monetary value that incorporates social, environmental and economic impacts. It is a way of assessing the value created by our activities and the factors which facilitate that activity. It is also one way of recording the history and story line of a particular journey.

There are two recognised forms of SROI - **Evaluative**, which is conducted retrospectively and based on actual outcomes that have already taken place and **Forecast** which predicts how much social value will be created if the activities meet their intended outcomes.

This evaluation examines the Forecast of SROI from future WSWG owned community woodlands and associated community benefits arising from our proposed management of them. In particular, our SROI analysis draws upon an assessment of existing studies and published reports to give an indicative potential social value, together with our anticipated outcomes and vision for the woodlands.

The Theory of Change

The theory of change which we are basing our analysis on is that through innovative, meaningful and consistent community engagement via woodland activity programmes, a positive benefit within the community is promoted.

Our anticipated outcomes will be generated under the themes of increased mental and physical health and wellbeing through a positive engagement with nature. The recognised natural health service these woodlands can provide under WSWG management will be as a preventative intervention that can mitigate the need for higher social and health related costs.

Additional outcomes will include reduced economic impact from health-related days off work, increased employment opportunities and associated economic benefits to society, ecosystem services and enhanced community cohesion and resilience.

2. Health and wellbeing outcomes from woodland engagement

For many years scientific research has proven a direct measurable health benefit to people who engage with nature. For example in one study those who used the natural environment for physical activity at least once per week were reported to have around half the risk of poor mental health compared with those who did not do so (Mitchell, 2013) *Is physical activity in natural environments better for mental health than physical activity in other environments? Social Science and Medicine, 91, 130–134*

Research carried out by Forest Research in 2021 estimated savings in mental health costs alone to be around £185 million a year from woodland walks. When we factor in targeted woodland activities this number rises markedly. To understand the importance of these findings we must stand back and look at the bigger picture.

Mental health problems cost the UK economy at least £117.9 billion annually according to a recent report by the Mental Health Foundation and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), of which a staggering £8.8 billion was to the Scottish economy. Approximately 1 in 4 people in the UK will experience a mental health problem each year, with up to 20.6% of people having suicidal thoughts over their lifetime. (Mind 2017)

Climate Crisis Anxiety is increasing across the world and growing exponentially amongst the younger generation. In fact during 2019, younger people in Britain reported significantly more anxiety about the inaction on the climate crisis than they did subsequently on covid 19. Recent studies on the impact of increasing global warming

found that the rate of suicide rose between 0.7% and 2.1 % when the average temperature rose by 1C. Rates of conflict and crime were also reported to rise. The US has already predicted an additional 40,000 suicides by 2050 based upon predicted temperature increases.

The physical health related costs to the NHS and economy are also substantial and potentially unsustainable. However, as mentioned above, nature-based activities have the potential to significantly mitigate these costs, while at the same time promoting a happier, healthier society. Scientific research from Japan over the past 20 years has shown woodland walking to be a natural immunity booster. For example in one study in 2007 people who participated in short periods of forest walking exhibited a 50% increase in levels of natural killer cells—the body's disease fighting agents – including increased anti-cancer proteins which remained elevated up to 30 days afterwards. This was due to the exposure to natural airborne compounds known as phytoncides produced by the trees.

The studies also showed the forest walkers had significantly reduced stress hormones, blood pressure and cholesterol. The health benefits from the Japanese studies were also supported in the journal Environmental Research (Volume 166, October 2018,)

2.1 SROI evaluations from health benefits of woodland engagement

One relevant report is that of a Natural Health Service study with the Community Forest Trust, an environmental charity supporting community forestry in England, “*Measuring the social return from investment in the Natural Health Services*”.

The study concluded that the Social Value, viewed over a 5-year period, of the total impact from 6,000 participants engaging in woodland-based activities for limited periods was **£13,037,051**. Total investment figure in the same period to generate this value was **£1,931,500**.

This equates to a social return of **£6.75 for every £1 invested**.

The 5-year “Net Present Value” (NPV) calculation results are shown in the table below:

Year	0	1	2	3	4	5	Total
(Social) Value £	5,844,947	5,650,447	1,412,612	353,153	88,288	22,070	£13,371,519
NPV £	5,844,947	5,495,369	1,318,688	318,534	76,938	18,584	£13,037,051

It is important to note that in the SROI calculations for the above figures, the authors carefully took account of reduced value of money over time (discounted at 3.5% as advised in the UK Government Green Book for grant-aided investments). However, WSWG intends to have a continuation of regular events and activities under our Year-Round Activities and other such initiatives and, as such, we envisage a reduced level of drop-off of benefits relating to participants, as well as a continued uplift of participants. Thus ensuring a continuity of social return for investment across the subsequent years, therefore partly mitigating drop-off or reduction in social return benefits.

Relevance of this study to WSWG:

The study examined the outcomes of participants engaging in targeted activities. These included:

Forest school
Health walks
Horticulture Therapy and Green Gyms
Mindful contact with nature

WSWG intends implementing all of these activities and more as part of a comprehensive suite of themes in its "Window on the Woods" Vision. For example, in 2019 before covid lockdowns were imposed, we carried out a programme of events between May and September with funding from PKC, under the theme of "Feeling Good in the Woods". The events were:

1. Three events for the elderly and less mobile:
 - Minibus picnics (2)
 - Cycling without Age
 - Seated mindfulness
2. Four Health and Wellbeing events:
 - Woodland Walks for Peace of Mind (4)
 - Forest Sustenance - Herbal Day
 - Forest Sustenance - Sustainable Foraging Walk
 - Woodland Art - Generations Hand in Hand (2 sessions)
3. Two Forest School events (4 sessions)
4. One Bush Craft event for Brownies and Rainbows (4 sessions)

The events programme also rounded off with 10 "Woodland in a Backpack" sessions run by the brilliant Biscuit of Wee Adventures in 7 local primary schools:

Stanley Primary	Auchtergaven Primary and Nursery
Murthly Primary	Glendelvine Primary
Luncarty Primary	Logiealmond Primary
Royal School of Dunkeld Primary and Nursery	

The sessions were a really fun way of learning about responsible and caring use of woodlands and a great introduction for the children to the WSWG project.

From these 20 events we had the following outcomes:

Age group	Number benefiting	(Target number)
>65 yrs (to 96yrs)	35	(40-60)
16-65 yrs	73	(30-40)
10-16 yrs	40	(10-20)
<10yrs (from 4 months)	270	(70-80)
TOTAL	418	(150-200)

If we can benefit over 400 people simply from the limited number of events mentioned above, it is not unreasonable to envisage our year-round structured, staffed, community-led events and programmes, etc, benefiting a significantly higher number of people per year across both woodlands, similar to the above-mentioned study and, achieving similar to or greater social returns from investment. Particularly so when we factor in the research findings from Japan on immunity boost from forest engagement in a time of pandemic, as well as the savings to the Scottish economy from reduced down-time related to mental and physical illness.

Going forward, taking the above example, **it would be reasonable for WSWG to estimate a Social Value of between £2,172,841 based on 1,000 participants in WSWG events over a five year period or potentially as much as £13,037,051 should participation rise to 6,000 people.**

This indicates a potential social value of between £4,345,682 – £26,974,102 over a 10-year period.

Over 10-25 years this is a significant saving to the Scottish NHS and other related systems and the Scottish economy as a whole.

In addition to the above, our increased car parking facilities and access improvements will result in a significant increase in general users of the woods. This will in turn increase the associated savings in health costs from improved health and wellbeing.

3. Community food project

A priority of WSWG is that of educating people to become more aware and self confident, building community cohesiveness and resilience with food growing in a world where food security is being increasingly threatened by global warming, loss of biodiversity and war. Our objective includes community food forest, commercial food forest, edible forage trails and hazel orchards.

Research carried out by the Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI) in 2014 on the SROI of local food programmes which covered three separate community food growing initiatives, revealed that for every £1 invested in Local Food (including not only the grants but also the value of volunteer time and other in-kind contributions) generated just under £7 for society. This represents a 700% return on investment for Local Food.

Based on the above example, the SROI related to our forest food projects are similar to the SROI of health benefits of ongoing community engagement in the woodlands. **Our Community/Mini Food Forest project on its own should therefore give around £26,000 in social value return for the £3,800 set-up investment.** There will be a continual community benefit through subsequent years as this community-led project evolves.

4. Ecosystem services

The Taymount and Five Mile Woods provide a wide range of ecosystem services including air quality regulation, carbon sequestration, water filtration, soil formation, nature-based tourism and recreation, noise buffer, natural health service and pollinator resource for both community and commercial food growing.

4.1 Pollinator value

The woodlands are host to many pollinating species including social and solitary bees, hoverflies and other insects. Our aim is to substantially increase the essential habitat of these species throughout the woodlands, resulting in a significant increase to their numbers and diversity.

We envisage this will have meaningful benefits to society including:

- Increased pollination rates to food producing gardeners and landowners.
- Increased pollinator populations across the wider landscape as the woodland carrying capacity is exceeded, leading to increased dispersal of pollinators into the wider landscape.

- The woodlands will be resilient refugia for pollinators in times of landscape-scale biodiversity collapse, for example under increasing global warming influences.
- Educational resource where people from local or further afield locations can come and learn how to manage pollinator species and their habitats.

Pollinators contribute to around £400 million to the UK economy annually, not including the millions of pounds saved by householders growing their own food and health care cost savings to the NHS from those eating home grown healthy foods. Therefore our nature recovery strategy that will benefit pollinators and their value to the wider communities must be valued in economic terms.

In the absence of raw data for appropriate calculations, we have attributed a nominal ecosystem value for both woods combined at £50 per woodland hectare at 200 hectares = £10,000 per year.

This gives a value of £100,000 over 10 years / £250,000 over 25 years.

Our estimated social return value is likely to be a substantial under-estimate when considering the following context:

- The average economic benefit for apple orchards from bee pollination was estimated to be up to £14,000 per hectare. *Garratt et al. (2014)*.
- Flying insect biomass is declining at 2.5% a year and with an astonishing 80% loss of biomass in the past 30 years.
- The woodlands have become biodiversity “mainland islands” which are surrounded by an ecologically impoverished landscape, both in agricultural terms and urban environment. WSWG has already received recent concerns from alarmed locals that ancient hedgerows have been torn out even recently, that once fostered pollinators. The woodland’s pollinator resource will only become more important as communities struggle with food resilience in coming years.

4.2 Air purification

Five Mile Wood is directly west of Stanley and is likely to absorb and purify substantial amounts of air pollution from the A9 as well as agricultural spray drift. Our woodland management plan ensures that the retention of the mature woodland sections under proforestation will continue to afford this service. However as we do not have established raw data for appropriate social value calculations, we have attributed a nominal air pollution amelioration value over 60 ha at £100/ha / year, resulting in £6,000 per year or £60,000 over 10 years.

To put this value in perspective, the 2017 Woodland Trust report (Economic Benefit of Woodland) the authors state “a well-located hectare of urban woodland can improve health to a value of nearly £150,000 a year” based upon early death prevention and reduction of hospital visits due to air pollution.

Taymount wood is more rural in location and, as such we have attributed a reduced nominal value at £50/ha over 130 ha / year resulting in £6,500 per year or £65,000 over 10 years.

This is a combined value of £125,000 over the first 10 years and rising thereafter as the Rewilding and Nature Recovery zones mature.

4.3 Climate change mitigation

The Woodland Trust report 2017 (The Economic Benefit of Woodland) states that climate change mitigation has an average annual value of £16,000 per hectare. At a combined 289 hectares for both woodlands this equates to around £4,624,000 per annum. Clearly this value cannot be attributed to WSWG as the woodlands already exist and would still be contributing under other ownership. However, the way in which a woodland is managed has a direct impact on the potential climate change mitigation potential.

For example, our objective of retaining a substantial area of maturing mixed woodland as biological reserves is in keeping with the principle outlined in the process of “proforestation” – a term used to describe allowing trees to reach their biological potential, thus maximising their carbon sequestration potential. Put simply - large dimension trees store many times the carbon above and below ground than many smaller trees. In addition, when trees are cleared there is a net carbon emission from the exposed soils and early growing phases which can last up to 20 years or more. This is exacerbated when fungi communities are destroyed in the harvesting process.

Proforestation therefore provides the most practical and effective solution to the dual climate and biodiversity emergency in the context of woodland management.

Although WSWG’s management objectives are designed to result in substantial climate mitigation, under climate mitigation, we have yet to calculate the socio-economic value of this pending further analysis of the complex but incomplete data we have to hand for Taymount and Five Mile Woods. However we would stress that this potential value should be considered in the overall assessment.

5. Biodiversity and Forest Existence

Although the current forest valuation system used by the forestry industry and government economists usually focus on the market value of forest products – such as timber and land, it is clear this thinking has significantly restricted other values, such as the non-timber use benefits and specifically the existence values. However, awareness that forest existence values are real and growing in society, with many people showing their willingness to pay to conserve the forests and their associated wildlife. Our objective of proforestation, nature recovery and naturalisation of substantial areas of both woodlands ensures this value is increasingly realised, more so than the usual system of rotational felling and restocking across a biologically impoverished woodland.

The Woodland Trust report 2017 (The Economic Benefits of Woodlands) estimated the Value of Existence and Bequest - safeguarding woods and their associated biodiversity for future generations - at £1,848 per hectare/year for new broadleaved woodland. Both Taymount and Five Mile are ancient/centuries old woodlands with predominantly mature Scots pine/broadleaved mixed with exceptional biodiversity, that far exceeds most new broadleaved plantings.

WSWG have produced a woodland management plan that will ensure the ecological and aesthetic values of these woodlands are protected for future generations, thus maintaining this value. The same cannot be said if a private buyer were to acquire the woodlands and exploit them for short term timber profits, while at the same time restocking with exotic conifer plantation monoculture, resulting in a catastrophic loss of biodiversity, woodland aesthetic and amenity values.

While it is impossible to put an accurate value to the comparisons of impact from different future management objectives, we have used the Woodland Trust estimate of £726/hectare/year for lowland conifer woodland as deadweight (ie. - what would happen without WSWG intervention). Deducting this deadweight figure from £1,848/ha above gives a reduced Existence and Bequest value of £1,122 per hectare /per year or £324,258 per year for the combined woodlands.

According to the same Woodland Trust report total perpetuity value at 3% discount rate was £77,770 per hectare as at 2013. Deducting a deadweight perpetuity value of £30,550 per hectare for lowland conifers gives £47,174 per hectare. At a combined 289 hectares for both woodlands, this gives a perpetuity value of £13,633,286.

Biodiversity and Forest Existence social value for the combined woodlands is therefore estimated at:

£324,258 per year

£3,242,580 over 10 years

£13,633,286 for total perpetuity

6. Job creation

The WSWG project will result in several full time and part time jobs as follows:

Year 1: 3 Full time + 1 day/week = 3.2 jobs

Year 3: addition 1 full time job = 1 job

Year 6: addition 1 Full time job + 1.5 with the hub café/shop staff = 2.5 jobs

We have based our forecast of social benefits and value analysis on the following report- *Street Elite, Social Return on Investment Analysis Report 2019, Bean Research, Berkeley Foundation and the Change Foundation.*

From the above study, we estimate the social value and impacts of job creation per person are assumed over a 3-year period for full time jobs only and are identified and valued as:

- 1) Avoiding social security benefits payments and increased tax payments on earnings from working = £2,127.37
- 2) The economic contribution made by each person moving into employment = £3,407.61.
- 3) Reduced health costs & increased well-being and associated benefits = £8,939.29

This gives us a total social value of £14,474 per job created taken over a 3-year period. When this is extrapolated over the five core, full time WSWG job creation projections of several years we anticipate a social return value as follows:

Job creation over 10 years as follows:

Yr 1 = 3 full time

Yr 3 = 1 full time

Yr 6 = 1 full time

Calculation below as follows:

Yr 1 = 3 full time x £14,474 = £43,422 for 3yrs or £144,595 over 10yrs

Yr 3 = 1full time = £38,646 in 8yrs

Yr 6 = 1full time = £24,172 in 5 yrs

Total for first 10 years of WSWG Project = £207,413

10-20 yrs = £240,992

plus 5 yrs = £120,496

total 25yrs = £568,901

Total social value return for 5 full time posts is approximately £207,413 over 10 years, or £568,901 over 25 years, not including the additional part time jobs from years one and six.

7. Voluntary sector and volunteering

The involvement of volunteers will play a crucial role in our comprehensive themes under the “Window on the Woods” vision. Volunteers will be involved in activities such as events planning and roll out, conservation work, survey and monitoring and soon.

We have based our forecast valuation partly on the SROI Analysis of the Greenlink, a partnership project managed by the Central Scotland Forest Trust (CSFT) Green space 2009. The report found that from 185 volunteers participating over one year, the Net Present Value was £976,552 over a five year period.

It would not be unreasonable to assume WSWG volunteering social value across a 5 year period to be somewhere between:

- £97,655 based upon 18.5 volunteers (10% of the above 185 volunteer example)
- £325,517 based upon 61 volunteers (1/3 of the above 185 volunteer example)
- £976,552 based upon 185 volunteers (100% of the above 185 volunteer example)

If we extrapolate this across a 10 year period this gives a potential social value return of between:

- £195,310 based upon 18.5 volunteers
- £651,034 based upon 61 volunteers
- £1,953,104 based upon 185 volunteers

Over a 25 year period we have a potential social value impact of between £488,275 and £4,882,760 depending on volunteer rates.

8. SROI outputs and impact predictions

Activity	Output	Outcome	Impact
“Window on the Woods”- themed Year-Round Activities Programmes: Many various woodland structured related activities	Group activities, individual activities, social interaction.	As a result, people were fitter, healthier, happier. Self-confidence improved, able to function better in workplace and personal life. New abilities and awareness gained. Greater environmental awareness.	Less reliance on NHS. Fewer days off work. Reduced costs to economy and NHS. Family units more cohesive and happy. Happier and self confident individuals. More cohesive society. Individuals, groups and wider community taking action to mitigate climate emergency and raise further awareness. Increased personal and community resilience.
Volunteers learning environmental skills via activities and training sessions	Group activities, individual activities, social interaction, skills learning, confidence building, employability and communication skills.	As a result they were able to find work, try new volunteering activities, moved into higher education and continued learning. Skills and ideas utilised and shared far and wide as people move around.	Increased wellbeing from employment, contributed to economy, reduction in NHS costs, reduction in alcohol and drug addiction leading to savings to society and happier family life. People inspired to start new initiatives, pilot projects in other areas.
Activities for older, less mobile or socially isolated people	Group activities, social interaction	As a result, people felt less isolated, happier, fitter & healthier. Renewed vigour for life.	Less reliance on NHS and social care. Happier individuals and more cohesive society.
Activities for people with learning disabilities	Group activities, individual activities, social interaction.	As a result people felt less isolated, better self confidence, sense of achievement, doing activities	Increased self worth leading to greater social interaction and employability. Happier people and less stress in family unit.

Activity	Output	Outcome	Impact
Activities for young people	Group activities, social interaction	As a result new skills learned, confidence building, self awareness and value. Appreciation of mixed generations.	Happier individuals, fewer drug, alcohol and crime incidents leading to reduced costs on social and HNS services. Greater employment potential.
Activities for children	Outdoor learning, social interaction, physical activity	Healthier children, imagination stimulated, physically fitter, greater self-confidence, increased communication skills	Children reconnected with nature leading to greater awareness of the importance of the natural environment. Happier and more motivated children leading to healthier, more resilient young people
Access Improvements, new foot paths and increased parking facilities	As a result people are able to better explore the woodlands and find connectivity across the wider landscape	People are fitter, healthier and more active. Increased Active travel.	Reduced impact upon NHS, happier people and reduced stress leading to more cohesive family units
Flagship FMW: Woodland Observatory Project with focus on education	Environmental education, confidence building, reduced isolation of vulnerable individuals	As a result people are happier, healthier. Increased skills learning, self awareness and employability. Greater knowledge about local environment.	More likely to enter volunteering, higher education, continue CPD. Interaction between WSWG and research bodies may facilitate new learning and/or employment opportunities for people.
Flagship TW: Taymount Hub - community facility - community enterprises	Community meeting place. Facilitator of community-led projects and events.	As a result, jobs created, volunteer base expanded, exchange of ideas and experience.	Increased community cohesion and resilience. Job and volunteer creation leading to reduced reliance on social services. Catalyst for wider aims and ambitions with moving towards a wellbeing,

			regenerative & sustainable economy.
Woodland: - Forest Food Project - Nature recovery	Education of groups and individuals on food security. Food supply Actions on nature recovery, with groups and individuals	As a result people are better able to grow food. Skills and awareness needed for self reliance. Nature activities, leading to reduced anxiety about the declines of nature. Greater sense of doing something positive in a crisis.	People and communities more food resilient in forthcoming times of crisis. Ideas and outcomes taken up by other sites across country, promoting greater resilience and social cohesion. Individuals less despondent about ecological emergency and related stresses on life.

9. Assessment of impacts on community from acquisition success or failure

Subject	WSWG are successful in acquisition	WSWG are unsuccessful in acquisition because: 1) FLS deny the community transfer of one or both woods. 2) Discount is too low 3) SLF contribution too low 4) WSWG are unable to raise the balance of funding
Social value created from WSWG management of woodlands	Social value to society estimated at £8,229,370 - £32,590,584 over the first 10 years	Scottish NHS and economy burdened with potential additional costs of between £4,595,710 - £27,224,102 over a 10-year period, with costs rising over the 25 year projection.
Access improvements	More cohesive access networks, all abilities access provision, welcoming woodland environment	Minimum access provision (core paths) and lack of provision for all-abilities.

Isolated and vulnerable people	Reduced isolation for vulnerable people. New opportunities for individuals and groups to engage with others & with nature	Isolated and vulnerable individuals and groups denied opportunities to engage with others & with nature. Perpetuates the isolation and vulnerability of disadvantaged groups and individuals in our local community
Climate anxiety and mental health related impacts	People, especially the young given opportunity to personally contribute to the emergency and reduce helplessness, increased social cohesion, like-minded groups & individuals linked, learning & CPD opportunity, visualising and working towards a positive future. Improved mental and physical health, especially of young people. Savings to NHS and economy. Unique resource and one-off opportunity to improve health and wellbeing within locality. Reduction in severity and frequency of mental health impacts on individuals and society	Reduced opportunity to tackle climate crisis. Increased severity and occurrence of mental health in individuals and society, especially young people. Increased rates of physical health issues. Increased financial burden on NHS and economy, increasing with each year as climate crisis worsens and impacts society and individuals.
	Catalyst for social cohesion, interaction on promoting circular wellbeing economy at local, regional and national level via outputs from woodland working groups. Facilitator for West Stormont Connect wider aspirations on nature recovery and regenerative, nature based, wellbeing economy.	Depriving the local communities of a woodland-based Hub with positive outcomes of working and educational groups. Severely limiting the potential of the communities to develop green initiatives both economic and personal.
Employment	Several full time and part time jobs created, with good potential for indirect employment related to structured events, woodland activities and ecotourism.	Community deprived of employment opportunities.

Local economy	Local outlets, businesses benefiting from woodland related activities and visitor spending.	Local outlets, businesses deprived of regular income from woodland related revenue and visitor spending.
Biodiversity	<p>Preservation of ancient woodland ecosystem.</p> <p>Partnership working to promote Nature recovery on a landscape scale, with potential networking at regional level.</p> <p>Conservation of many species rare or unique to Tayside and some that are rare in Scotland, some of which are Nationally Notable.</p>	<p>Perpetuation of catastrophic loss of vulnerable species at local, regional and national level.</p> <p>Depriving future generations of the opportunity of an intimate engagement with nature within the local area.</p>

10. Conclusion

We conclude that the true value of these woodlands is the intrinsic nature of the woodlands themselves. They are also a biodiversity refuge unlike anything in the region. This is made more important when put into the context of accessibility to local communities due to the near proximity and planned access improvements by WSWG.

However to fully take advantage of their true value to the local communities requires innovative thinking and proactive actions.

In this SROI study WSWG have demonstrated there is real potential for significant social returns from a well managed woodland resource that places nature - our life support system - at the forefront of decision making. In this UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration we must adopt a paradigm change in land management thinking. WSWG aims to help catalyse this change through its many themed activities.