



West Stormont Woodland Group

Join us today to bring Taymount Wood and Five Mile Wood into community ownership

REVISED PROPOSAL & BUSINESS PLAN



A Phased Approach: Bringing Taymount Wood into Community Ownership
Investing in our Future



Proposal prepared by WSWG SCIO Board of Trustees
for its
Revised CATS Application
September 2023

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) SC051682

WSWG Position Statement

This revised Proposal and Business Plan has been produced to reconcile the aspirations of the WSWG CATS Project as submitted in December 2022 and the concerns and recommendations of the CATS Panel and Forestry and Land Scotland in their response in March 2023.

The contextual information presented in the comprehensive suite of documents included in the original CATS Application in 2022 is still largely relevant and as such still contributes to the overall WSWG position even in now seeking only to bring Taymount Wood into community ownership initially.

Due to the scaling down in this revised proposition, much is changed from what was in the original Proposal, Business Plan and CATS Application Form documents. Apart from some minor rescheduling of felling operations and timber income in relation to the roadside compartment previously designated for (and still potentially needed for) the Taymount Hub, the Woodland Management Plan for Taymount Wood remains unchanged. A great deal has changed in respect of the portfolio of additional income generating community enterprises.

Other than where they refer to Five Mile Wood or infrastructure which has been altered in the Revised Proposal as set out below, most of the original Appendices to the Proposal 2022, Woodland Management Plan and Business Plan 2022 are still valid and may provide useful reference. Specific exceptions to this are Appendices BP5, BP8, BP9a and BP9b, updated versions of which are appended to the Revised Proposal and Business Plan.

In preparing this Revised Proposal, the WSWG Board has sought and used advice and support from:

Third Sector Interface
Evaluation Support Scotland
Social Value Lab
P&K Business Gateway
FirstPort
PKC Community Asset Transfer Officer
P&K Health and Social Care Partnership
Growbiz
Scottish Water
SSEN
COSS
Numerous professionals in our membership and local community

“In a week where our screens and front pages have shared with us the State of Nature Report 2023 and the sad betrayal of the iconic Sycamore Gap tree, we have seen the full spectrum of what Nature means to us from the highest scientific perspective to the keenest spiritual, aesthetic and cultural perspective in the visceral reaction of ordinary people on environmental degradation by the human hand.

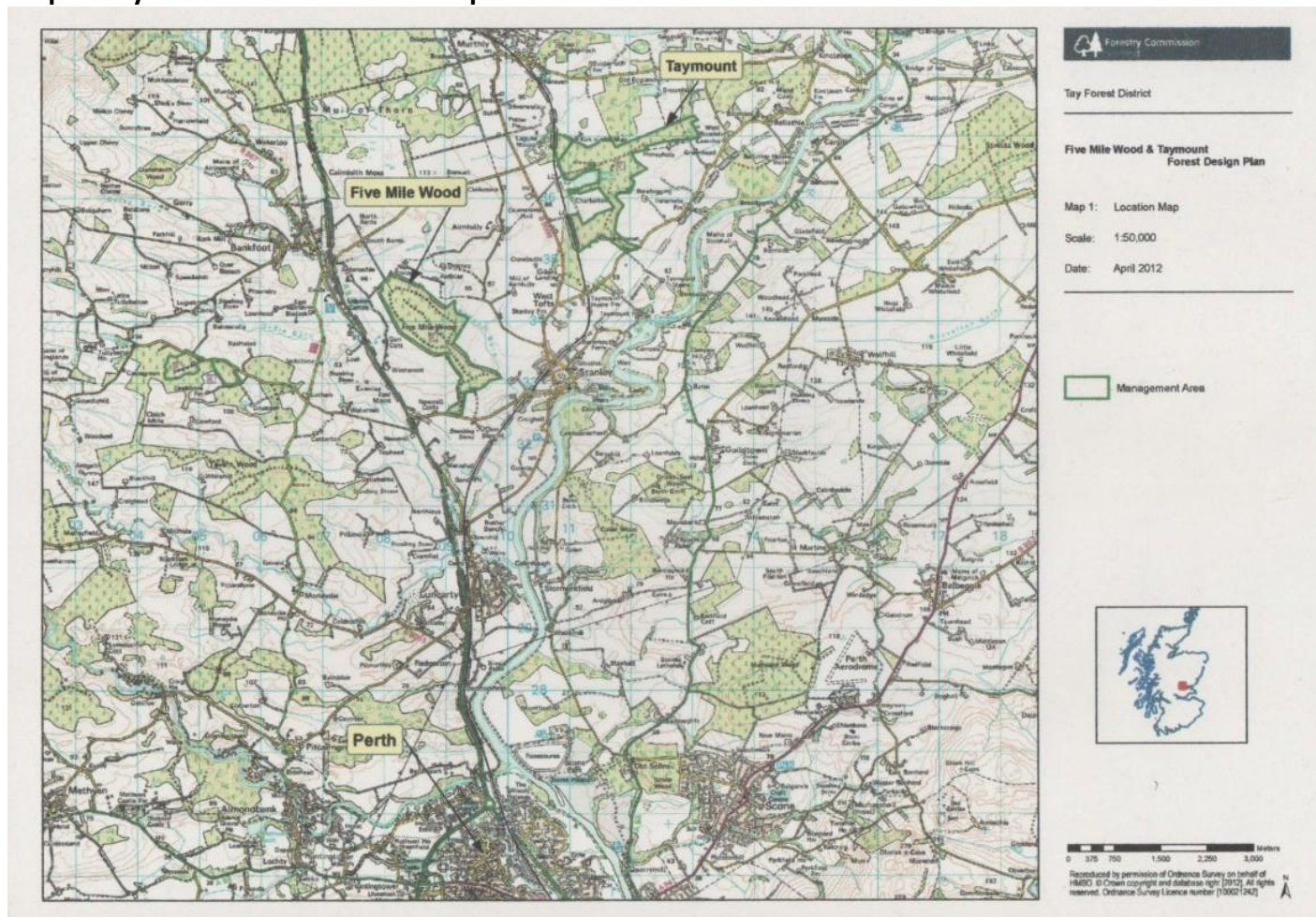
WSWG hopes that this report will ensure that the Wildwood Project will go ahead at Taymount Wood by whatever means is necessary.

Thank you.”

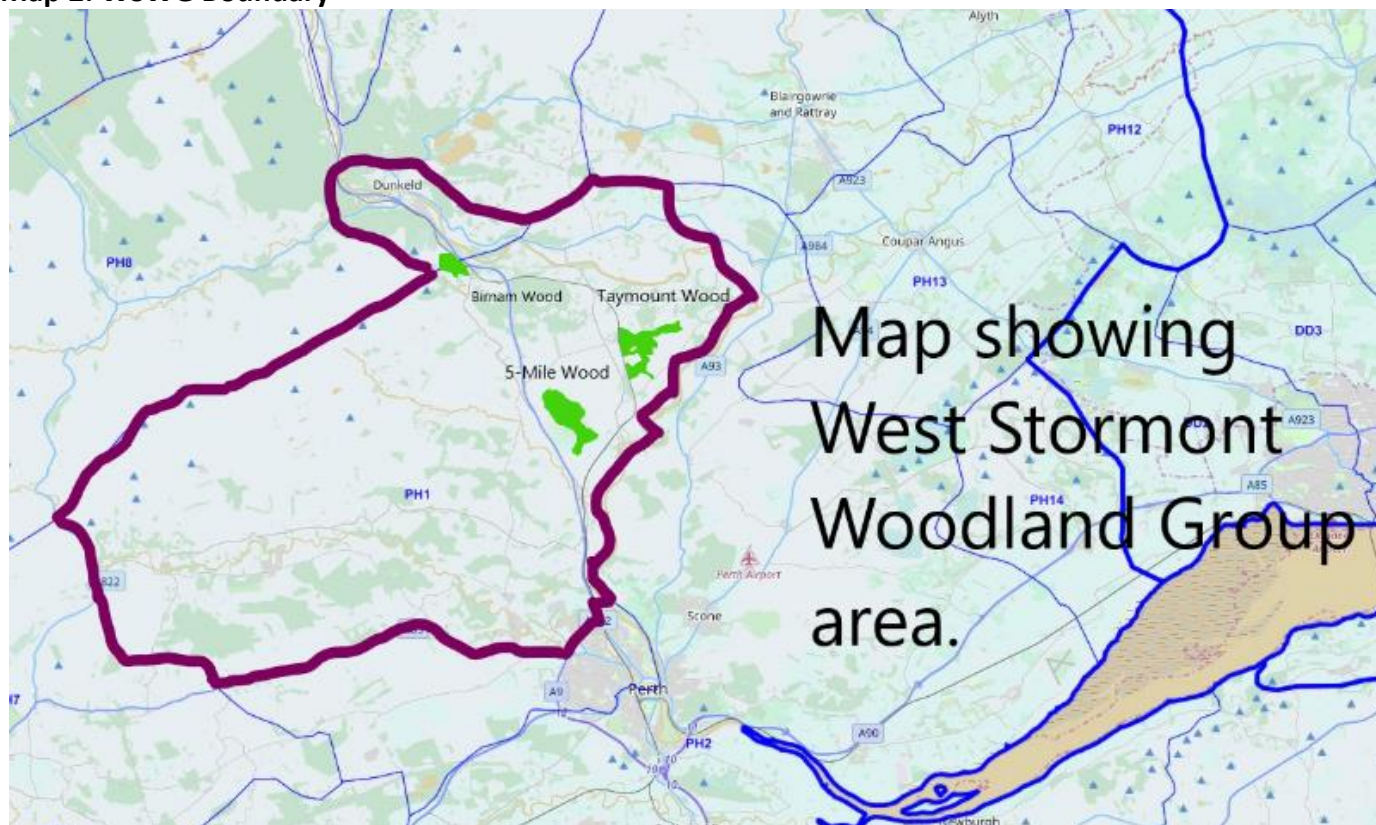
The WSWG Board of Trustees.

Maps

Map 1: Taymount Wood Location map

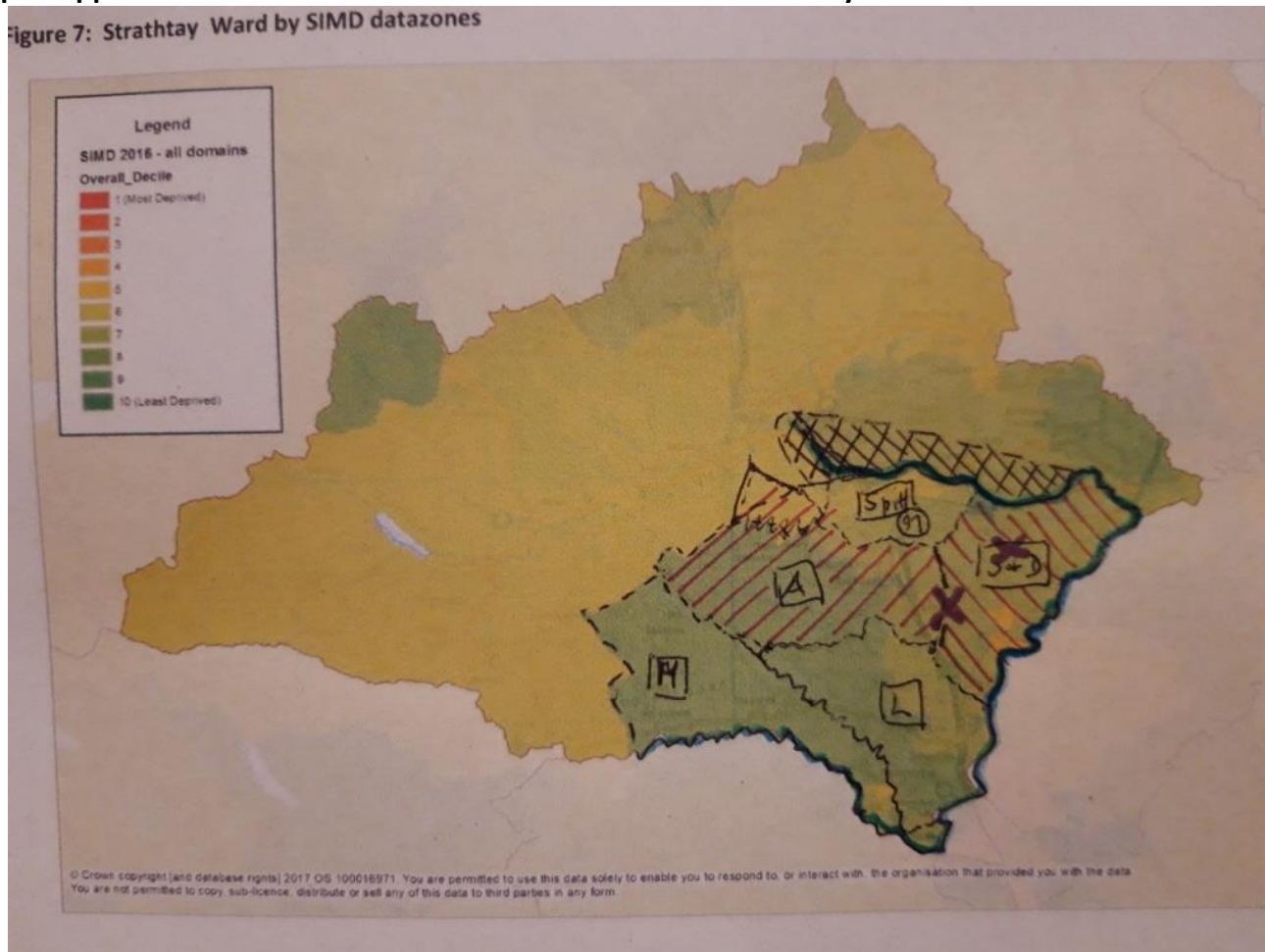


Map 2: WSWG Boundary



Map 3: Approximate location of the WSWG area within the Strathtay ward

Figure 7: Strathtay Ward by SIMD datazones



Map 4: Stanley Development Trust Paths and Places Map



Executive Summary

- The WSWG Project is founded on the principles and ethos of a Wellbeing Economy. On this basis, in this Business Plan, we present the WSWG Project as two integrated components as follows, both of which are designed to deliver community benefit:
 - a. WSWG Charitable Activities and Services
 - b. WSWG Enterprises
- Transfer of forest and land ownership to local communities can make a highly positive contribution to achieving Scotland's stated goal of a cleaner, greener and healthier future. The CATS scheme has empowered and enabled communities to take responsibility for the future, bringing multiple benefits to both the woodlands and the communities concerned.
- Taymount Wood is located north of Stanley and within the circle of settlements in the more densely populated south-eastern third of the rural Strathtay Ward in lowland Perthshire. The population of Strathtay ward is 12,841 in around 5,975 households. The City of Perth with a population of some 49,500 is about 6 miles from the woodland. WSWG estimates that from half to two thirds of the Strathtay population live in the WSWG area: 7,000 people in 3,250 households.
- Based on the current valuation, the purchase cost of Taymount Wood will be **£1.85m**. Whilst a discount may be available in principle, WSWG is proceeding on the basis of a **£0** discount at this stage, giving an anticipated cost of acquisition of **1.85m**, plus conveyancing and legal costs. This equates to **£310** investment per household in the Strathtay ward for acquisition of the woods.
- **Community support**

Two community consultations were conducted (February-March 2021) and (October 2022), the results of which showed overwhelming support for the project from those that responded. Over the two combined consultations, over 90% showed strong or very strong support for WSWG proposals for Eco-forestry, Climate and Biodiversity and Access and Accessibility.
- **Action on Climate and Biodiversity**

To address the interlocked climate and ecological emergency with the urgency it warrants and, with a community mandate from the afore-mentioned consultations, we have set nature recovery and carbon sequestration as the top priority in our social-environmental economic strategy. This is reflected in the early stage of forest restructuring for nature recovery and with the introduction of Living Forest enterprises. The intention is for a low climate and ecological footprint across all WSWG's operations and activities.
- **Financial viability**

WSWG's mission for nature recovery and climate mitigation sees a diminishing reliance on timber sales over time, more than compensated by developing a spectrum of Living Forest income streams which contribute to the woodland ecosystem and diversify community benefit from the woods. The financial projections in the revised Wildwood Project demonstrate economic viability and sustainability, predicting self-sufficiency for this baseline programme after an initial injection of start-up funding for the first two years.

➤ **Community Wellbeing and Resilience**

Diversification of how the woods are used for community benefit will improve community and individual wellbeing and resilience. Given the still deteriorating climate and biodiversity emergencies, as reiterated in the recently published IPCC Report 2023 and State of Nature Report 2023, for WSWG, managing Taymount Wood for Nature Recovery is the primary Community Benefit of its Proposal.

➤ **In conclusion**

We believe that with the proposed governance and operational structures, careful management and innovative programmes of fundraising and income generation that the long-term future of Taymount Wood as a sustainable community owned and professionally staffed enterprise can be assured.



PROJECT SUMMARY

Wildwood Project

- Woodland Management Plan for Nature Recovery:
 - *Living Forest - 80% of woodland area*
 - *Sustainable timber under LISS - 20% of woodland area*
- Year-Round Activities Programmes and budgets
 - themed around 6 categories of the WSWG Window on the Woods Vision
 - developed through staff-supported Community Working Groups, rising from one or two groups (Paths and Nature Group and Community Wellbeing Group) to potentially a group for each theme.
- Access and information improvements
- Employment: 3 paid roles
 - Forestry, Ecology and Site Manager (3 days per week)
 - Living Forest Enterprise Developer (1 day per week)
 - Office Manager/Fundraiser (1 day per week)
- Income generation:
 - Woodland Enterprises
 - Living Forest enterprises
 - Sustainable timber enterprise
 - Community Enterprises
 - CWG Pop-up enterprises
 - Ecotourism enterprise: Burmieston in the Trees

Wildwood Project Benefits

Benefits Programme

- Woodland Management Programme

Environmental Wellbeing and Resilience benefits

Ecosystem benefits from Ecoforestry for the Planet:

- rapid Nature Recovery *incorporated with*
- increasing Carbon storage and sequestration

- Community Wellbeing Programme

Human Wellbeing and Resilience benefits

Community Benefits through wide-ranging Forest Diversification for People:

- staff-supported, Year-Round Activities programmes
- improving access and information
- ecotourism – tree tents (local business investor)
- 1 full time job equivalent (WSWG)
- additional employment in ecotourism business
- project income /self-sufficient baseline programme

Community benefits in 100 and 200 years' time:

- a thriving woodland of veteran trees, rich wildlife and a much appreciated, deep rooted sense of place and wellbeing.

Acknowledgements

WSWG would like to thank all those who have contributed funding to the development of the WSWG Project to date.

Public funding:

Scottish Land Fund	Stage 1 Development Funding
Perth and Kinross Council	Community Investment Fund (two awards)
Community Learning Exchange	Exchange visits to Aigas Community Woodland and Borders Forest Trust Community Woodlands at Carrifran and Eshiels

Private funding:

Highland Community Energy Society (Littleton Burn Hydro Scheme) via Energy4All (2021, 2022 and 2023)
WSWG Website donations
Stanley Store Plastic Bag Fund
WSWG Volunteers and other Donors

WSWG would also like to thank, individually and collectively, all core and other WSWG Volunteers, Members, Associates and the many other people who have invested so much time, individually and collectively, in the development of the WSWG Project so far.

WSWG also thanks the many agencies and other organisations which have supported and advised on the revision of the WSWG Proposal during 2023.

www.weststormontwoodlandgroup.scot
www.facebook.com/West-Stormont-Woodland-Group-250205992353688/

	PAGE
WSWG Position Statement	2
Maps	3
Executive Summary	5
Project Summary	7
Acknowledgements	8
Community Benefit and the Ecological Emergencies	10
189 th in the World and Summer 2023 the hottest on record – No better Motivation for Action	
Background to presenting this revised CATS Proposal	13
Addressing CATS recommendations	13
i. A phased approach to acquisition	13
ii. A simplified core budget	13
iii. Forest management options for timber	14

PART A: WILDWOOD PROJECT	
Immediate Priorities	
1. WILDWOOD PROJECT - Taymount Wood Baseline Programme	16 & 17
1.1 WSWG Charitable Activities and Services for Community Benefit	17
1.2 WSWG Enterprises for Income Generation and Community Benefit	22
2. WSWG Governance and Operations	26
3. Marketing	29
4. Finance and Funding	31
5. Community Benefit Evaluation	40
6. Risk Analysis	44
7. Reporting and Monitoring	46
8. Outcomes for Government	47

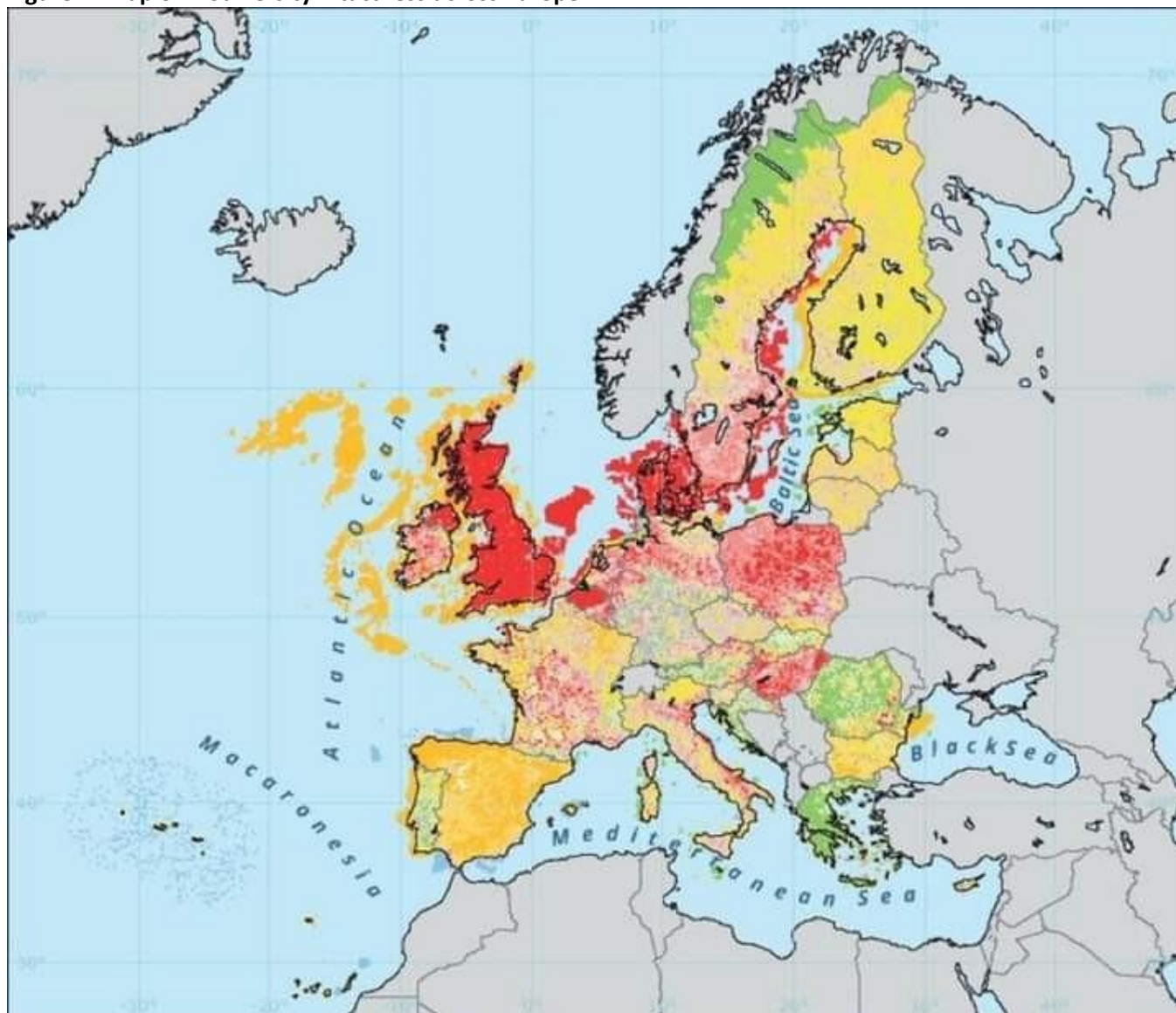
PART B: FUNDABLE PROJECTS ON THE HORIZON	
Longer term Priorities	
a. Fundable Projects - Medium term Priorities	50
Horizon 1 Projects -enhanced	
Horizon 2 Projects - advanced	
b. Fundable Projects - Long term Priorities	51
Horizon 3 Projects – Flagship Project (Options for Taymount Hub)	
Addendum	
Appendices	
Abbreviations	



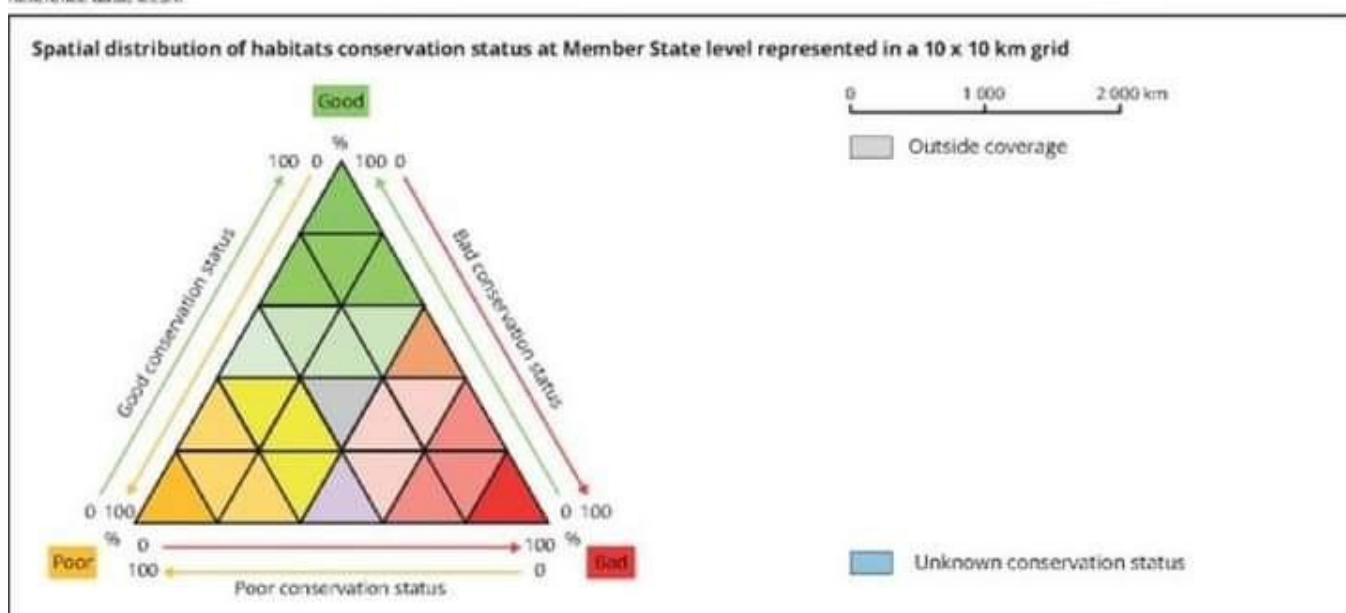
Community Benefit and the Ecological Emergencies:

189th in the World and Summer 2023 the hottest on record – No better Motivation for Action

Figure 1: Map of Biodiversity Intactness across Europe



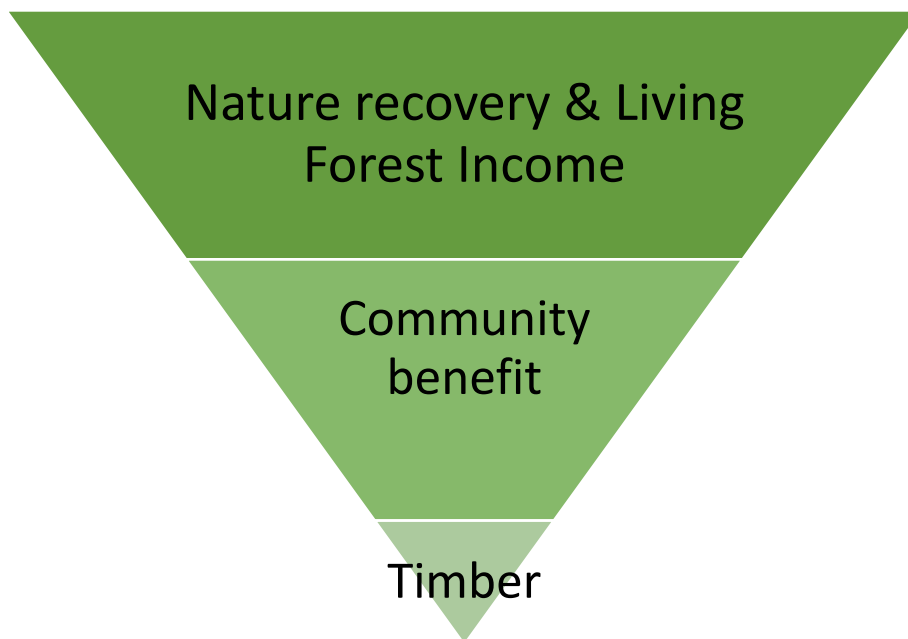
Reference data: ICRS/R



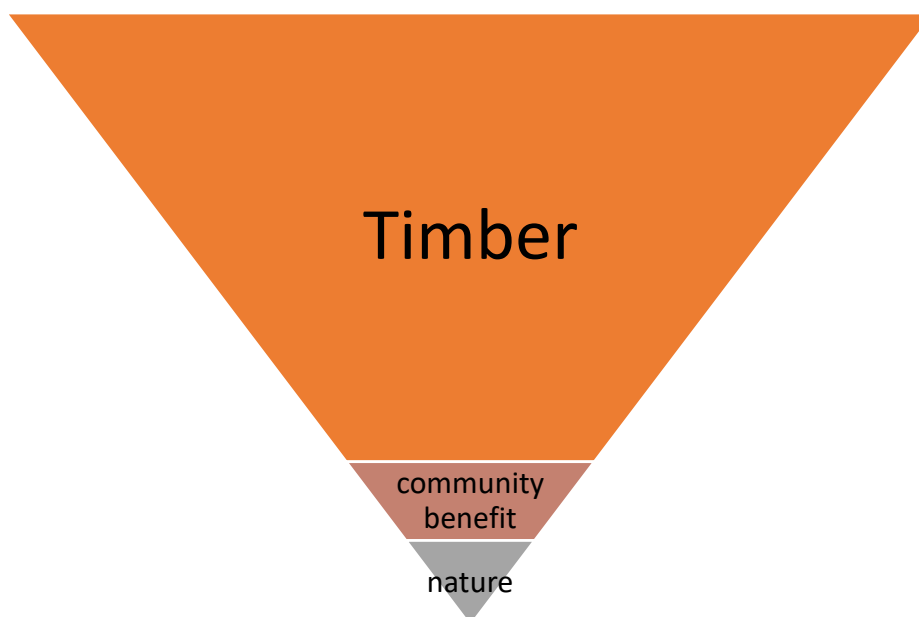
So urgent is the need for massive collective action on the dual climate and biodiversity emergencies that we just have to take our perspectives out of their comfort zones and grasp the need to break free of the conventions and norms that have held back meaningful action on these crises for literally decades. That urgency is eloquently summed up by the UN secretary general, António Guterres, speaking on the IPCC report 2023: **“This report is a clarion call to massively fast-track climate efforts by every country and every sector and on every timeframe. Our world needs climate action on all fronts: everything, everywhere, all at once.”** WSWG since its inception in 2018 has been putting these words into practice as evidenced by its actions and writings to date in relation to this asset transfer from FLS. WSWG aims for Taymount Wood to be an exemplar in what can be done to help stem and turn around the biodiversity emergency in woodlands.

Figure 2:

a. WSWG vision and plans for forest outputs:



b. Management priorities under commercial investment forestry interests



For WSWG, managing Taymount Wood for Nature Recovery is the primary Community Benefit of its Proposal.

Climate and Ecological Statement

The dual Ecological and Climate Emergency is an existential threat to humanity. An emergency of such gravity demands an emergency response. The WSWG business plan addresses this at every level. We will harness the environmental and socio-economic potential of these woodlands to help drive the systemic change required to herald in a regenerative and sustainable, nature rich wellbeing economy that protects- not destroys our life support systems.

Community Benefit Statement

The WSWG Project is designed to bring community benefit through both its charitable activities and services and its enterprises, bringing direct gains to all who participate in the project. Through its wider purpose of action for the ecological and climate emergencies, the WSWG Project will bring benefit for all in our local community and beyond.

Wellbeing Economy Statement

A Wellbeing Economy is a top priority for the Scottish Government and WSWG is committed to contributing to this transition through its many themed activities, services and enterprises. The SROI Forecast presented in this Business Plan illustrates the values-system by which the community benefit delivered through the WSWG project can be measured in a Wellbeing Economy.

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

Aldo Leopold (1887-1948), renowned scientist, scholar, exceptional teacher, philosopher, and gifted writer.

"A lightly greenwashed version of the status quo will never save us from the catastrophic consequences of climate change.

There has to be a boldness and a recapturing of the utopian imagination"

Naomi Klein, renowned author and Canadian activist

Background to presenting a revised CATS Proposal

Addressing specific CATS recommendations

Following a meeting with Forestry and Land Scotland and Scottish Forestry on 30 May 2023, WSWG submitted its full written response to the CATS feedback of 10 March 2023 in June 2023. The following reflects issues which were left to be additionally addressed during the agreed extension period for submission of a Revised Proposal.

i. A phased approach to acquisition

CATS Recommendation 1

“The Panel recognises that raising the capital funding to acquire both woodlands is very challenging. The Panel recognises that FLS has stated its intention to dispose of both woodlands but believes that FLS should engage in further discussion on the options and timescales. This could allow WSWG to take a phased approach.”

The goal WSWG shares with its members and local community is to bring both Taymount Wood and Five Mile Wood into community ownership, a big challenge to which WSWG is thoroughly committed.

Shortly after the CATS Application for both woods was submitted in December 2022, a revaluation of the woods saw an increase of £800,000 (33%), raising the combined value from £2.4 million to £3.2 million.

Given the enormity of the funding challenge and FLS concerns about the community taking on two woods in one go, WSWG agreed to adopt a phased approach to acquisition. WSWG will therefore be seeking to purchase Taymount Wood first, with an option to buy Five Mile Wood within the following five years during which time FLS have agreed to withhold Five Mile Wood from sale on the open market.

ii. A simplified core budget

CATS Recommendation 2

“That WSWG reviews the income generation and costs in the business plan to come up with a simplified core budget, which does not rely so heavily on substantial public funding on an ongoing basis.”

(Note: FLS has acknowledged that the term “public funding” should have read “external and third party funding”.)

For its Revised Proposal, WSWG has presented its core commitment at a reduced scale with only essential costs more aligned with the aims of a wildwood with minimal activity in the woodland, which will provide a more robust business model and lower risk operational baseline for the WSWG Project to deliver and hopefully grow from. This Wildwood Project is self-funding beyond external fundraising for 2-year start-up investment.

The Staffing Plan has been tailored accordingly to fit the phased approach and reduced core budget, as has the baseline Community Benefit Programme. This could expand depending on the level of core and other volunteer engagement which develops from this smaller operational scale. The focus will be strongly on Taymount Wood but with the prospect of bringing Five Mile Wood into community ownership, WSWG still intends to run community activities in Five Mile Wood on a similar basis as now.

WSWG would hope very much for the programme at Taymount Wood to expand once the Wildwood Project is established, up and running. As such, it presents its provisional medium and long term priorities in this Revised Proposal as a portfolio of “Fundable Projects on the Horizon” which will be progressed according to community circumstances at the time and the availability of funding and other necessary

resources. Additional staff time, either expanding the part time baseline working hours of core staff or additional posts will be addressed through Fundable Projects. With less staff time in the core budget available for fundraising, it can be expected that there will be markedly more dependence on volunteers for this activity.

iii. Forest management options for timber

CATS Recommendation 3

“That WSWG reviews the forest management options for timber production within a low impact silvicultural system. This would improve the financial viability of the project, is likely to increase the overall carbon benefits and achieve greater social value from the woodland from woodworking and timber products, which will complement and retain WSWG’s key goal of enhancing biodiversity within the woodland.”

The Revised Proposal is based on the Woodland Management Plan for Taymount Wood as included in the original WSWG CATS Proposal. WSWG disagrees that increasing timber products would increase overall carbon benefits. Apart from timber extraction ahead of restocking with native species for nature recovery or amenity, WSWG has designated a specific but consciously reduced proportion of the current timber crop area for continuing sustainable timber production within a low impact silvicultural system. There will be additional timber from thinnings in the other areas managed under Proforestation to which will apply a hierarchy of end-use from on-site community and nature benefit uses for habitat, construction, education, woodworking, etc, to off-site sale of any surplus to on-site requirements, as described in the original Proposal. The preferred income generation development route will be a) Living Forest Enterprises and b) WSWG Community Enterprises of which the originally proposed Craft Hamlet is a key element where woodworking would be a commercial component in WSWG’s mission to stimulate the local green economy both directly and indirectly. In shifting the balance away from wholly or mainly extractive enterprise, it is WSWG’s goal to demonstrate that more can be made from a living forest through replacing a significant proportion of timber extraction with ultimately higher earning compatible woodland and community enterprises.

The revised budget has introduced indicative income from sales lines which were hitherto included with a £0 value to acknowledge intent but allow for community development of those enterprise elements. In the Wildwood Project, the absence of the Taymount Hub has removed significant community enterprise income potential, in certain of which WSWG has been advised by the Business Gateway it was overcautious in its gross margin projections, specifically the café and creative arts space rental. In the hope that the Taymount Hub could potentially be realised at some stage as a community facility and income generating asset, WSWG has included “Taymount Hub Options” in Fundable Projects. The absence of the Taymount Hub and the scaling down of the project generally to the Wildwood Project baseline has also had ramifications for the feasibility (management practicality, scale and therefore income projection) of other previously proposed early enterprises including the Loggers’ Shieling and the Artists’ Bothy, as well as the later-scheduled Craft Hamlet enterprise. These have therefore also been positioned instead in the Fundable Projects portfolio. A highly successful local ecotourism business has come forward with a business investment proposition sited in Taymount Wood which is an excellent fit with the Wildwood Project and a significant income generator for WSWG. Additional small scale income generating activities which would be viable in a reduced operation have also been included in the Wildwood Project.

Nonetheless, WSWG is delighted to present the Wildwood baseline programme as a stronger and fully achievable foundation with greater business rigour for its revised CATS Application.

PART A

IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

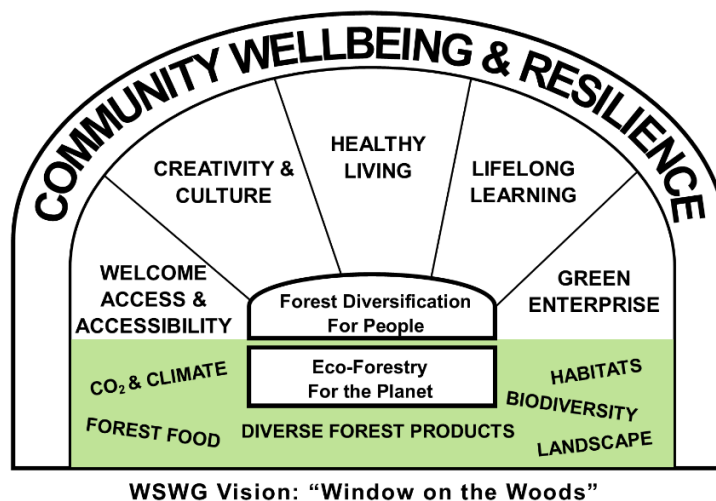
WILDWOOD PROJECT – Taymount Wood baseline programme

WILDWOOD PROJECT – Taymount Wood baseline programme

In taking forward the WSWG Project through a phased approach to acquisition, WSWG takes forward the ethos and vision of the original Proposal as the foundation of this Revised Proposal. The sources of inspiration remain the tenets and the Window on the Woods the framework on which all aspects are hung, with the two headline themes for Community Wellbeing and Resilience being:

- Eco-forestry for the Planet, and
- Forest Diversification for People.

Figure 3: WSWG Window on the Wood Vision



The WSWG Project will continue to present its operations under each of these headline themes, all of which are designed for community benefit, either as:

- WSWG Charitable Activities and Services, or
- WSWG Enterprises.

WSWG will set up appropriate trading arms to deliver additional enterprise activity where not part of its core charitable purpose with proceeds going to WSWG Charitable Activities and Services. These will depend on the enterprise, with CIC being a likely key model as advised by P&K Business Gateway.

The role of the WotW-themed Community Working Groups is set out in the rest of this document in the original Proposal format with a Community Working Group for each theme. However, as a developmental methodology and because of reduced staffing levels in the Wildwood baseline programme, initially and possibly on an ongoing basis, it is more likely that there will be two amalgamated CWGs, one for Ecoforestry for the Planet and one for Forest Diversification for People. In this instance, the two groups envisaged would embrace the WotW themes, YRA budgets and programmes as follows:

Ecoforestry for the Planet CWG (Paths and Nature) - Forestry, Biodiversity and Climate
- Welcome, Access and Accessibility

Forest Diversification for People CWG
- Culture and Creativity
- Healthy Living
- Life-Long Learning
- Community Green Enterprise

Whilst WSWG's belief is that the goal should be green jobs to avoid overburdening community volunteers, the board and Wildwood Steering Group members will work collaboratively with staff to support the community engagement programme at each stage of its development and growth.

1. Wildwood Project

1.1. WSWG Charitable Activities and Services for Community Benefit

Ecoforestry for the Planet:

WSWG Woodland Management Plan for Nature Recovery

Taymount Wood is a centuries-old, 155 hectare (394 acre) mostly native woodland which was managed intensively for timber during the 20th century but with valuable fragments of its once rich biodiversity still persisting against the odds in a world which is still nowhere near adequately addressing the biodiversity emergency in any way commensurate with the scale of the challenge. WSWG's proposed woodland restructuring is focused predominantly on nature recovery with immediate effect, with insect habitats given the priority as the foundation of rebuilding the woodland and wider ecosystem, including deadwood habitat, new wildflower meadows, native woodland restoration and so on, together with Proforestation across most of the site to allow natural processes to develop over time and space.

The likely alternative to this outcome through WSWG ownership on behalf of the local and wider community is that the woodland faces the imminent threat of cyclical ecosystem degradation due to conventional rotational commercial forestry interests if WSWG is unsuccessful in acquiring the wood.

Initial survey of the wood has discovered around 40 invertebrate species, mostly solitary bee, spider, moth and beetle, which are unrecorded elsewhere in Tayside region, with 10 species classed as Nationally Scarce. Several other species were found to be recorded in less than 5 locations in Scotland. Whilst this is against a known backdrop of impending insect apocalypse as part of the 6th mass extinction which is underway across the globe, WSWG appreciates that under-recording could be at play too. A Breeding Bird Survey carried out in 2022 identified 36 breeding bird species including 3 listed on schedule 1.

Figures can nonetheless be deceiving and give a false sense of reality. In truth, this woodland refugia is highly vulnerable to exploitation and ecological collapse under typical forestry management practices. WSWG has produced a woodland management plan that ensures ecological continuity and enhancement across future decades, starting with forest restructuring to initiate rapid nature recovery at forest scale, as well as protecting thousands of maturing trees for future old-growth habitat and carbon sinks under Proforestation.

As expressed by the international movement Nature Needs Half, set up to protect 50% of the planet by 2030 (www.natureneedshalf.org), we need a paradigm shift in land management at scale if we are to revive our life support system before it is too late. WSWG believes it can be done, but only by halting the war on nature and restoring the Earth's soil carbon sponge via nature recovery. It is simply not worth further risk to the prospects for stopping biodiversity decline by foregoing the opportunity of enabling the next phase of this woodland's history to pursue an optimally supportive rather than extractive one, focussed on nature recovery above all. Renowned entomologist, Professor Dave Goulson, has provided a letter of support for the WSWG Project to this end (Appendix RP1). (Dave Goulson is a Professor of Biology at the University of Sussex. He has published more than 300 scientific articles on the ecology of insects and is a bestseller author and Ambassador of the Wildlife Trusts.) This adds to the letter of support from Buglife which was submitted with the original Proposal 2022 (see Appendix BP10).

What happens in Taymount Wood in future will have direct ramifications, positive or negative for nature in the surrounding landscape. With the WSWG Woodland Management Plan for Nature, the current fragile reservoir of species will become a vigorous source for repopulating the regenerating landscape-scale recovery to be pursued through the associated local West Stormont Connect initiative. With sale into the conventional forestry market, the chances of this are slim to none.

So convinced is WSWG of this that it predicts the normally unseen value to society from the enhancement of pollinator habitat through the WSWG Woodland Management Plan in an otherwise surrounding degraded agricultural landscape at a nominal £50 per hectare per year where open mature pine, birch/broadleaved, thorny scrub, open ground, extensive road verges etc prevail instead of clear fell and restocked sitka spruce.

The rationale in this valuation of meaningful benefits to society include:

- Increased pollinator populations across the wider landscape as the woodland carrying capacity is exceeded, leading to increased dispersal of pollinators into the wider landscape. Our landscape scale connectivity of nature rich corridors linking up other woods will help facilitate this under our West Stormont Connect initiative.
- Increased pollination rates to local food-producing gardeners and landowners.
- The woodlands will be resilient refugia for pollinators in times of landscape-scale biodiversity collapse, for example under increasing global warming influences, biocide accumulation in the landscape, EMF proliferation and so on.
- Educational resource where people from local or further afield can come and learn how to manage pollinator species and their habitats.

In addition to the widespread community benefit of looking after our life-support system, nature, and the creation of a part time staff position of Forestry, Ecology and Site Manager (the FES Manager, also taking on the staff role of overall Project Co-ordinator), the WSWG Ecoforestry Programme will deliver community benefit to groups and individuals through directly engaging with the woodland environment through its management. The Forestry, Biodiversity and Climate themed Community Working Group (FBC CWG) will be supported by the FES Manager in a programme of Year-Round Activities associated with the Woodland Management Plan programmes of work. The FES Manager will work closely with forestry contractors to deliver large scale forest operations.

Wildwood Project – Taymount Wood Baseline Operations

Ecoforestry for the Planet – Charitable Activities and Services

25 year Woodland Management Plan: (see original Proposal December 2022)

Woodland Management Plan for Nature Recovery with felling phases and prescriptions:

- 6 Nature Recovery Zones
- forest-wide Proforestation Management
- Forest Food areas and features, some commercial, some free community foraging
- Sustainable timber production under LISS

Supporting documentation:

- Deadwood Management Plan
- Forest Food Development Plan
- Birch Management Plan
- Wildlife Management Plan

Habitat Programme – baseline

Forestry, Biodiversity and Climate Community Working Group

- Year-Round Activities Programme – baseline budget

Evaluation of Community Benefit from WSWG's Ecoforestry for the Planet Programme is alluded to in Appendix RP2 SROI Report Revised 2023.

Forest Diversification for People:

Welcome, Access and Accessibility Programme (WAA)

This baseline programme has been substantially reduced in the Wildwood Project to essential information and infrastructure. The programme will be initiated through start-up funding and ongoing through modest self-funding and/or fundraising, with contributory and/or additional provision likely through the Community Working Group and its Year-Round Activities Programme and budget.

Further provision and improvements will be addressed through Fundable Projects as and when funding and/or other relevant resources (including additional staff) are available.

The Welcome, Access and Accessibility themed Community Working Group (WAA CWG) will be supported by the FES Manager in a programme of Year-Round Activities associated with the Welcome, Access and Accessibility Programme.

Wildwood Project – Taymount Wood Baseline Operations **Forest Diversification for People – Charitable Activities and Services**

Welcome, Access and Accessibility Programme - baseline

Baseline Projects:	Budget share
Name boards 2	£1,000
Noticeboards 2	£1,000
Waymarkers 5	£200
Seats 2	£1,200
Picnic benches 2	£1,600
Compost toilet 1	£5,000 + £250pa
Safety fencing 1	£500
MiDAS Community Transport Project Phase 1	£10,750 (Yr 1-10)
WAA Community Working Group	
- Year-Round Activities programme – baseline budget	£1,000 pa

Creativity and Culture Programme (CC)

- (i) Creativity and the Arts;
- (ii) Heritage and History

This element will be conducted through the Year-Round Activities Programme through the staff-supported Creativity and Culture Community Working Group (CC CWG). The programme will be initiated through the Year-Round Activities budget allowed for in the start-up costings. This same nominal annual sum has been used indicatively in WSWG's financial projections as a level which in-house income generation could sustain.

Whilst the original WSWG Proposal 2022 *Going Forward* indicated the type of cultural and creative activities which research with the local community has indicated imaginative enthusiasm for, it is not possible to predict accurately the specifics or scale of creative and cultural activities which the CC CWG will wish to pursue. Anything surplus to this baseline budget will be addressed under Fundable Projects, as will additional staff provision to support any more ambitious community programme.

If WSWG is successful in securing a Community Benefit Manager, they will support the CC CWG. Otherwise, the theme will be included in the remit of the Forest Diversification CWG and supported by the Forestry, Ecology and Site Manager/Project Co-ordinator or, the less preferred option, by volunteers through the board and Wildwood Steering Group.

Healthy Living Programme (HL)

- i) Active people, active places;
- ii) Healthy Eating;
- iii) Social Wellbeing

This element will be conducted through the Year-Round Activities Programme through the staff-supported Healthy Living Community Working Group (HL CWG).

The programme will be initiated through the Year-Round Activities budget allowed for in the start-up costings. This same nominal annual sum has been used indicatively in WSWG's financial projections as a level which in-house income generation could sustain.

Whilst the original WSWG Proposal 2022 *Going Forward* indicated the type of healthy living activities which research with the local community has indicated imaginative enthusiasm for, it is not possible to predict accurately the type or scale of healthy living activities which the HL CWG will wish to pursue. Anything surplus to this baseline budget will be addressed under Fundable Projects, as will additional staff provision to support a more ambitious community programme.

If WSWG is successful in securing a Community Benefit Manager, they will support the HL CWG. Otherwise, the theme will be included in the remit of the Forest Diversification CWG and supported by the Forestry, Ecology and Site Manager/Project Co-ordinator or, the less preferred option, by volunteers through the board and Wildwood Steering Group.

Life-long Learning Programme (LLL)

This programme has been substantially reduced in the TW Wildwood Project to that achievable through Year-Round Activities programming and budgeting, as it has not been possible to include the cost of a Life-Long Learning Manager post. Likewise, the phased approach to acquisition has meant that the Five Mile Wood Flagship Woodland Observatory Project as a lead part of WSWG's development of its Life-Long Learning theme does not feature in the Revised Proposal. It is hoped very much this will rectify when Five Mile Wood is purchased.

The baseline LLL Programme will be conducted through the Year-Round Activities Programme through the staff-supported Life-Long Learning Community Working Group (LLL CWG).

The programme will be initiated through the Year-Round Activities budget allowed for in the start-up costings. This same nominal annual sum has been used indicatively in WSWG's financial projections as a level which in-house income generation could sustain.

Whilst the original WSWG Proposal 2022 *Going Forward* indicated the type of life-long learning activities which research with the local community has indicated imaginative enthusiasm for, it is not possible to predict accurately the type or scale of healthy living activities which the LLL CWG will wish to pursue. Anything surplus to this baseline budget will be addressed under Fundable Projects, as will additional staff provision to support a more ambitious community programme.

During 2023, increasing interest has been shown in the WSWG Project by the tertiary education sector, specifically land, forest and environmental course developers. WSWG has hosted a student field visit for SRUC and discussed opportunities with a retired lecturer from the James Hutton Institute. Both contacts immediately saw clear scope for undergraduate projects and PhD research as well as WSWG’s potential ongoing involvement in university research programmes, such as the WrEN Project. The potential for WSWG to tap into human, funding and other resources is significant. WSWG has not developed or included this thread in the Wildwood Project or its financial projections, but the principle features under Fundable Projects where a dedicated Life-Long Learning post would be a distinct possibility.

If WSWG is successful in securing a Community Engagement Manager or Life-Long Learning Programme Manager, they will support the LLL CWG. Until then, the theme will be included in the remit of the Forest Diversification CWG and supported by the Forestry, Ecology and Site Manager/Project Co-ordinator or, the less preferred option, by volunteers through the board and Wildwood Steering Group.

WSWG Pilot Programme 2024: Wellbeing and Resilience Programme 2024

As indicated in the WSWG SROI Report Revised 2023 (Appendix RP2), the social value of engaging in nature for health and wellbeing is enormous. All elements of WSWG’s Proposal, original and revised, have been designed with community wellbeing and resilience as their driving purpose.

With input from P&K HSCP, WSWG has put together a Wellbeing and Resilience Programme 2024. Although WSWG staff will not be in post by then, WSWG proposes to undertake as much as it can as a pilot demonstrating how all the themes of the WotW Vision will pull together through WSWG’s Year-Round Activities Programmes on an ongoing basis. It will also enable WSWG to establish and test a system of measuring and monitoring its community benefit across its portfolio of charitable activities and services going forward. To help in this regard, WSWG Trustees will be attending a 6 session training course run by Just Enterprise on “Measuring Social Impact”.

This Pilot programme is presented in Appendix RP3.

Wildwood Project – Taymount Wood Baseline Operations	
<u>Forest Diversification for People – Charitable Activities and Services</u>	
<u>Year-Round Activities programmes – baseline</u>	<i>Budget share</i>
<u>Creativity and Culture Programme (CC)</u>	
(i) Creativity and the Arts;	
(ii) Heritage and History	
<u>Healthy Living Programme (HL)</u>	
i) Active people, active places;	
ii) Healthy Eating;	
iii) Social Wellbeing	
<u>Life-Long Learning Programme (LLL)</u>	
WAA Community Working Group	
- Year-Round Activities programmes – baseline budget	£2,000 pa

1.2 WSWG Enterprises for Income Generation with Community Benefit

Income through Ecoforestry for the Planet

Woodland Enterprises

The main two categories of income from woodland enterprises for Taymount Wood remains the same as it was in the original WSWG Proposal:

- Living Forest Enterprises comprising:
 - Commercial Forest Food Project
 - Novel Forest Income (tree and deadwood sponsorship, memorial trees, pot-grown Christmas trees, etc)
 - Climate & Ecology Funding
- Sustainable Harvested Timber Enterprise comprising:
 - Timber
 - Novel Processed Timber Products (rustic horse jumps, garden poles and woven panels, log hives, art etc)
 - Cut Christmas Trees
 - SF Grants

The income projections in the Wildwood Project are as they were in the original Proposal bar the following minor adjustments:

- a) Rescheduling of timber income within Phase 1 period (Years 1-5)
- b) Postponement to Phase 2 period (Years 6-10) of timber income from felling of compartment designated provisionally for Taymount Hub
- c) Income of £19,125 projected for Novel Processed Timber Products over Years 2-10 through Year-Round Activities of Ecoforestry, Creativity and Culture and Community Green Enterprises CWGs.

The FES Manager will work closely with forestry contractors to deliver large scale forest operations. For the 25 year Woodland Management Plan, see original Proposal December 2022.

Table 1: Projected felling volumes and timber income from Taymount Wood over 25 Years

5-year phases	Taymount Wood Timber volumes m ³	Taymount Wood Timber income £
Phase 1	6,306.4	£367,712
Phase 2	1,638	£96,372
Phase 3	1563	£91,881
Phase 4	795	£44,503
Phase 5	2,360	£145,211
Total	12,662.4	£745,679

Note: The financial projections presented in Section 4 Finance and Funding in this Revised Proposal are limited to Years 1-10 as all baseline activities in the Wildwood Project have plateaued by Year 10. Any variation or augmentation from that level would be dependent on the introduction of Fundable Projects.

As such, the financial projections include only Phase 1 and Phase 2 timber incomes from the above table.

Income through Forest Diversification for People

Community Green Enterprise

The scaling-down of the original Proposal has had major impacts on the practicability of the portfolio of community enterprises originally included. A new suite of Community Green Enterprises has replaced these in the Wildwood Project, as follows:

- a) Community Pop-up Enterprises (YRA Income Stream via Community Green Enterprise CWG) – projected income of £24,300 over Years 2-10
- b) Tree Tents - Phase 1 (Local Business Investor – ‘Burmieston in the trees’ (BITT) – projected income of £92,256 Years 1-10

The Community Pop-up Enterprises are based on very simple ideas including soup/coffee/juice stalls in the woods, car boot sales and coffee mornings and sales tables eg in Stanley Village Hall.

The business case for BITT, an exciting and compatible ecotourism facility, is set out below.

The Loggers’ Shieling, Artists’ Bothy, Taymount Hub Enterprises (Camp 53 Café, Shop, Meeting Room and Exhibition Space) and Craft Hamlet are excluded from the Wildwood Project and feature instead under Fundable Projects as prospective projects with 10 year gross margin potential for progressing subject to business testing against a sufficiently established WSWG Wildwood baseline programme, necessary staffing levels and required infrastructure.

Wildwood Programme – Taymount Wood Baseline Project

Forest Diversification for People – WSWG Enterprises

'Burmieston in the trees' – the business case for Tree tents in Taymount Wood by Keesje Crawford Avis

“As locals and members of WSWG we have watched with appreciation and awe in the efforts of the organising team to collate a community vision and look to make it a reality. The values of WSWG speak very much to our personal and business values as owners of Burmieston Farm and Steading and we would love to work in collaboration with WSWG for 'Burmieston in the trees' (BITT). Over the 10 years we have been creating and running Burmieston as an environmentally conscious self-catering and retreat space, we have gathered a huge amount of experience of visitors - predominantly the domestic market - as people come to us to gather and explore the magic of the Perthshire countryside. Our guests are interested in the luxuries of quiet, of opportunity to share space with nature without a marked impact, of clean water and air and great nights' sleep. They enjoy talking about birds, bugs and bats, both adult and younger, and often have a passion for great sustainable food. We see BITT as a continuation of our values and customer base with a focus on smaller groups of people - from 2 to 6, and in even more direct contact with the natural world.

Our medium term vision of BITT sees the integration of 6 tree tents on two sites within the forest canopy. Each tree tent sleeps up to two adults and one child in a sphere suspended from the trees with either stairs or stairs and a platform depending on the final placement. Two tents will be spaced close to each other, with a third a small distance away. Each tree tent will be available to rent individually but groups hiring two or three will also be encouraged.

Practicalities

There will be a two night minimum stay with one night turnover between stays.

The first tree tent camp will share composting loo and other facilities with the small compound serving as the WSWG Project base to be located by the Food Forest.

Cooking facilities will be under cover with a gas stove. There may be electricity depending on the core WSWG plans. In addition, we will provide fully charged lamps.

We will create further loo facilities with a sheltered cooking area for Camp B.

Burmieston Farm will provide water for cooking, basic washing and drinking as it is currently unlikely there will piped water to the site.

The camps will be open year-round with the tree tents fitted out with sufficient insulation, subject to local wind conditions and availability of staff (i.e probably closed over Christmas)

Finances

In the spirit of collaboration, we would like to offer WSWG a share of our earnings per stay rather than a flat rate ground rent. This means WSWG will benefit at the same rate as the business flourishes. At current market rates each 2 night stay will pay WSWG £24.

In year 1 (per tent rather than enterprise) we conservatively estimate 45% occupancy (55 stays) rising to 75% (91 stays) by year 3.

This rising plane as the business establishes itself to target occupancy will lead to an annual income for WSWG of around £13,000.

We will also provide one 2 night stay per tent per season to WSWG.

'Burmieston in the trees' (cont)

Timings

Camp A

We will seek to establish Camp A with two tree tents in year 1 of WSWG being operational. Tree tent 3 will be established in year 3 at a small distance from the initial two tents to allow some privacy.

Camp B

We will seek to establish three tree tents at Camp B in year 5 responding to demand as well as customer, WSWG and community feedback on Camp A.

Integration with WSWG

Burmieston currently offers a variety of experiences and opportunities for our guests - from catering to courses to games. We see the success of BITT integrated with the success of WSWG. As such the range of experiences available to our guests in BITT will be indicative of the surroundings and WSWG's expertise. We see the following as a starter list of potential offerings providing direct and indirect income to WSWG:

- WSWG ranger guided walks exploring the fauna and flora of the site. We envisage a menu of different themes with different time commitments appealing to different interests from the very general eg. an hour long walk (£10/person) with a general guide to species specific eg. Birdwatching or tree identification for 4 hours (£40/person).

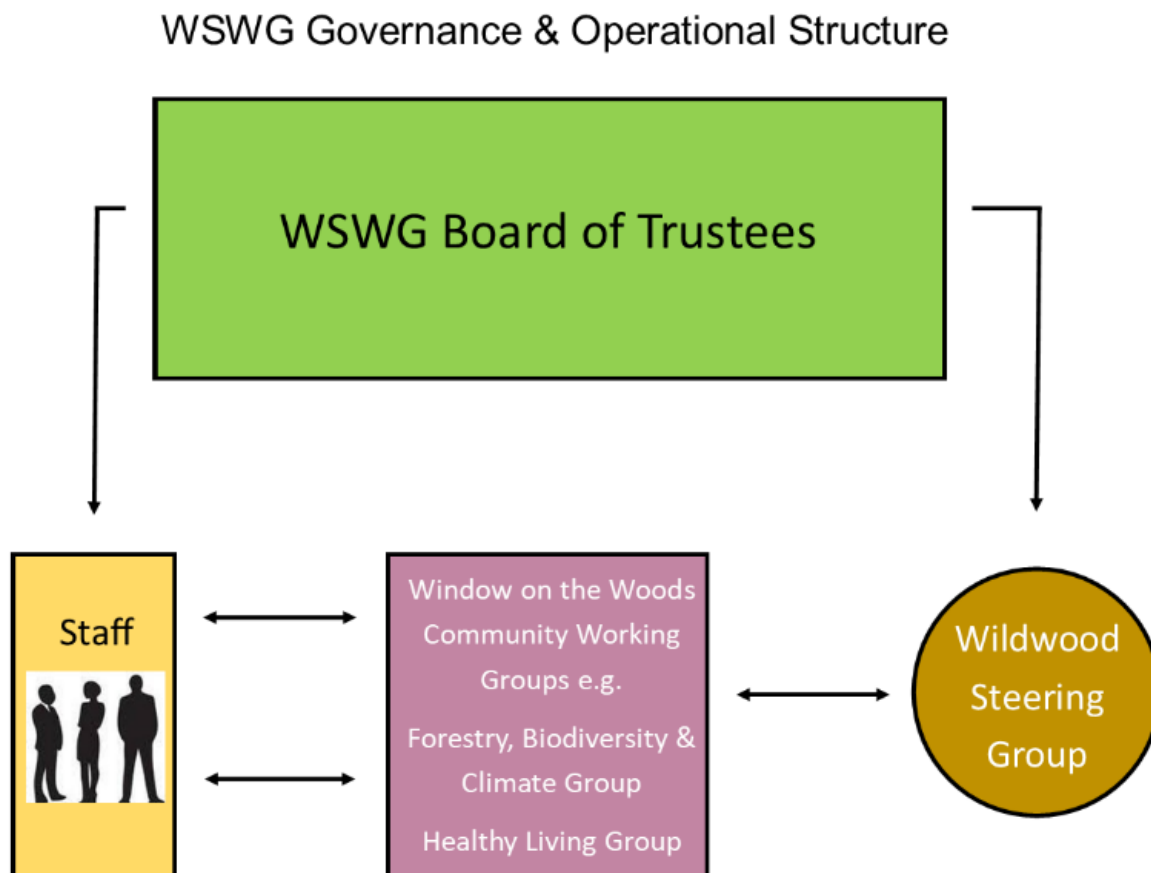
Other experiences that we see local businesses with a financial contribution to WSWG (or directly provided by WSWG staff or volunteers) providing include:

- guided foraging walks
- guided tree climbing for children and adults
- bushcraft skills courses
- forest bathing
- outdoor yoga
- walking mindfulness sessions
- fire pit story telling
- wood carving
- picnics set up at various locations in the forest
- campfire cooking courses
- campfire catering
- 'ready meals' for guests to heat themselves

Burmieston Farm is not far from WSWG but at a much higher altitude so our tree cover is very sparse and wind exposure can be extreme limiting the opportunity to install tree tents on site. We have been interested in tree tents for many years now and see collaboration with WSWG as our perfect next step in developing our ecologically and economically sustainable business."

2. WSWG Governance and Operations

Figure 4:



As illustrated in the above diagram, the governance of the WSWG charity by the board of Trustees and operational structures have been assiduously designed to dovetail with community engagement in the staffed day to day operations. Designed for the scale and make-up of the original full Proposal involving both Taymount and Five Mile Woods and some full-time staff from the outset, it nonetheless applies to the reduced Wildwood baseline programme at Taymount Wood with fewer and part-time staff initially.

The Board

The Board of Trustees will be the authoritative body in all matters, but as a two-tier SCIO, the Trustees are elected to run the charity on behalf of the community. As such their authority will be on the basis of having engaged in a routine and meaningful process with the membership, supported by skilled staff and well informed and guided by relevant advisers and supporters.

Members of the board have attended training on Roles and Responsibilities of Charity Trustees run by SCVO and Turcan Connell law firm. WSWG will ensure an ongoing training programme for future trustees.

The Board of Trustees, whilst highly skilled across a range of relevant areas, is keen to ensure that we continue to govern the SCIO to the highest standard as it grows and develops in complexity. We have made contact with a number of third sector support agencies already, and plan to continue to engage with the free support and training available through organisations such as DTAS, Community Enterprise, Just Enterprise, Volunteer Scotland, Evaluation Scotland and our regional TSI.

The Community Working Groups

The Community Working Groups (CWG) are based on using the diverse themes in the WSWG Window on the Woods Vision as a means of engaging the community at grassroots level in topics they are interested in. Developing and servicing these groups for creative collaboration within the overall remit of the WSWG SCIO will be a key role of WSWG's relevant staff members. These groups are inherently likely to vary in size and indeed function at any point, and over time, depending on fluctuations in community interest in a particular theme. In the scaled down Wildwood baseline programme, there may only be one part time field staff member for this role in which case it is more likely fewer groups would operate, for example one Eco-forestry CWG and one Forest Diversification CWG. They would develop Year-Round Activities Programmes to deliver outcomes across the WotW themes. In Year 1, there will be a nominal start-up budget for each theme to inspire and support initial community involvement. With staff support, these groups will then develop future Year-Round Activities Programmes which will inform WSWG's ongoing fundraising activity thereafter, either through staff, Trustees or member volunteers. There will clearly be scope for joint funding applications amongst groups. Funding applications will be sanctioned by the board before submission. Groups will then have access to a level of funding for their Year Round Activities programme depending on the success of their applications.

The Wildwood Steering Group

The Wildwood Steering Group will be the forum in which the Trustees engage with representatives of the Community Working Groups and a range of individuals volunteering their support in an advisory or skills capacity relevant to the SCIO's activities and obligations. Staff will also participate. The Wildwood Steering Group will have creative and technical influence but no ultimate governing or specific fiscal responsibilities beyond any level allocated through relevant standing orders issued by the board through staff for practical reasons.

The staff-supported CWGs and the Wildwood Steering Group are a logical and cohesive part of operations through which the community can be heard and meaningfully involved. It is an interactive process in which the charity Trustees must have the final word to accord with their legal and other duties and responsibilities whilst they hold the position. WSWG Members, however, have an ultimate authority in who they elect as their Trustees.

The current board of trustees have extensive experience in this type of governance and operational structure over many years and have found it to be a highly successful way of running a community organisation. The biographies of the current Trustees and Wildwood Steering Group members are presented in Appendix RP4.

Growbiz is providing WSWG with access to its own Cloudroom. This is an online organisational tool which provides a range of communications options including noticeboard, chat room, document/image sharing, 2 way face-to-face meetings, etc. Growbiz has very kindly offered this service to WSWG at no cost and to provide WSWG with some basic training on how to use the system. As an easy, safe, secure, private on-line space, accessible on any device, we think this will be an ideal means of convening the Wildwood Steering Group.

Outwith Year-Round Activities, staff will deliver a range of other core management and infrastructure projects as part of their work which may or may not need additional expertise and fundraising and in which effort they will be supported by the Trustees or potentially relevant volunteers on the Wildwood Group.

Financial oversight

Regarding financial management going forward, WSWG has recently appointed Alyth-based KWG Accountancy to provide a financial system and oversight for the WSWG Project.

Employment opportunities

A fundamental part of the WSWG ethos is that the WSWG Project runs as a staffed organisation. Not only does this provide valuable green jobs for a sustainable future but also improves the participation experience for volunteers. The phased approach to acquisition and the reduced scale of the Wildwood Project has impacted significantly on staffing levels in the Wildwood Project, which will have ramifications for the support available for WSWG volunteers and participants.

The Wildwood Project will operate with three part-time staff as presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Wildwood Project Staffing Plan with working days per week and indicative time allocation

Year 1	Years 2-5	Years 6-10	>Year 10
Basic Staffing of WSWG Wildwood Project – Taymount Wood baseline programme			
Forestry, Ecology and Site Manager and Project Co-ordinator: (Senior post) WSWG Project: 1 d Forestry, Biodiversity and Access - 1 d Forest Food – 1 d 3	Forestry, Ecology and Site Manager and Project Co-ordinator: (Senior post) WSWG Project: 1 d Forestry, Biodiversity and Access - 1 d Forest Food – 1 d 3	Forestry, Ecology and Site Manager and Project Co-ordinator: (Senior post) WSWG Project: 1 d Forestry, Biodiversity and Access - 1 d Forest Food – 1 d 3	Forestry, Ecology and Site Manager and Project Co-ordinator: (Senior post) WSWG Project: 1 d Forestry, Biodiversity and Access - 1 d Forest Food – 1 d 3
Office Manager /Fundraiser: Admin – 0.5 d Fundraising – 0.5 d 1	Office Manager /Fundraiser: Admin – 0.5 d Fundraising – 0.5 d 1	Office Manager /Fundraiser: Admin – 0.5 d Fundraising – 0.5 d 1	Office Manager /Fundraiser: Admin – 0.5 d Fundraising – 0.5 d 1
Living Forest Enterprise Developer: 1	Living Forest Enterprise Developer: 1	Living Forest Enterprise Developer: 1	Living Forest Enterprise Developer: 1

Work base and transportation

With the Taymount Hub excluded from the Wildwood Project baseline programme and a less constant presence in the woods, it has been decided to relocate the project base to the Food Forest. It will comprise a small compound of portacabins, sheds and metal storage units. In the first instance the compound is unlikely to have water and power services. The Wildwood budget allows for room hire for meetings off site.

With no EV charging facility planned on-site in the Wildwood Project, WSWG has budgeted for a second hand pick-up initially for transportation for staff and materials on and off site. WSWG will use and encourage low carbon transport and travel solutions as much as possible, and transition to electric vehicles at the earliest possible stage. Sponsorship is something WSWG intends to investigate closely for this.

Timescale

With the CATS/FLS decision due by the end of October 2023, fundraising activity is being geared up to meet the needs and timescale of the acquisition and operational start-up costs. WSWG must make its formal offer for Taymount Wood within six months of a positive decision. WSWG envisages the legal process of asset transfer to community ownership will be concluded before the end of the 2024.

3. Marketing

3.1 Marketing Strategy

Introduction – Community Wellbeing and Resilience

To restate our marketing strategy, it has been, and will remain.....

That everything we do is for the Community, for its wellbeing, its resilience, and its future.

Features of this marketing strategy have been as follows:

- With the help of a local artist, we developed a WSWG logo, and were able, using wood from the two woods and help from a local sawmill and a volunteer, to create distinctive WSWG badges and fridge magnets.
- Seeking to create maximum awareness of our campaign and its existence and identity using all the means of communication at our disposal including on-line as well as involvement in local, regional, and national community organisations and structures.
- As well as a developed WSWG website and Facebook page with regular and informative and monthly updates we have maintained a regular monthly emailing and poster campaign across the whole community area.
- When circumstances allowed, prior to Covid, we organised a series of successful public participation events in the woods to both test community interest, and to market WSWG to varied sample groups of potential woodland users.
- Following Covid and due to a changing focus and dynamic on developing the WSWG Proposal, the events programme was lower key, but communications have been maintained and improved, including two major Community Consultations on the Draft Proposal in 2021 and the final Proposal in October 2022, as described in Section 5 Community Engagement and Volunteering above.
- During 2023, event activity has increased very pleasingly, with 10 volunteering gorse mulch raking sessions as part of the Wildflower and Mining Bee Rescue Mission, further tree planting and tubing of natural regeneration, wildflower plug planting, a student visit from SRUC, WSWG stalls at local community events, a community picnic with Taymount Woodland Partnerships, wildflower identification walk, a talk and guided walk on the history of Five Mile Wood and Taymount Wood with Christopher Dingwall, and a corporate volunteering day with staff from Aviva in Perth.
- In 2023, WSWG has also participated in the Stanley Community Action Plan led by Stanley Development Trust. WSWG participated in the Rural Focus Group. Bringing Taymount Wood and Five Mile Wood into community ownership was in the top ten priorities voted for by the people of Stanley. WSWG also participated in the PKC Big Place Conversation during 2023.
- WSWG and P&K HSCP are working on a pilot Wellbeing and Resilience Programme for 2024 using Taymount Wood and possibly Five Mile Wood as venues.

Community Benefit – Forest Diversification for People

Following acquisition of Taymount Wood we will increase the emphasis in our marketing strategy on increasing Forest Diversification to directly increase the personal wellbeing of people who visit and use the woodlands for recreation and improved mental as well as physical health. The value of the woods to the community as estimated through the lens of SROI, indicates that this aspect certainly equals and most probably exceeds the costs of acquisition and ongoing operation.

Woodland Management for Nature Recovery - Eco-forestry for the planet

A key feature of our marketing strategy post acquisition will be the emphasis on the benefits of managing Taymount Wood to enable nature recovery and achieve significantly enhanced levels of biodiversity within the framework of our Eco-forestry programme.

3.2 Marketing Plan

To avoid dependence upon unsustainable timber resources and to meet objectives for people and planet, WSWG will embrace a holistic approach to forest management with multiple and diverse income streams.

Promoting the Products and Services

Each of the different products / services requires different marketing plans. These are summarised below.

Table 3: Marketing Plans

Product / service	Markets	Promotion
Woodland Management for Nature Recovery - Eco-forestry for the planet		
Timber	Local and regional sawmills	Forestry agent will deal with timber selling. We can also promote on our website and sell niche products such as horse jump poles, log bee-hives etc.
Birch sap	Birch water and xylitol markets, national and international	Contact relevant companies working in the industry, website, advertising
Hazel nuts / food forest	Local retailers, lease to individuals and groups	Website, social media, articles
Nature based income for ecosystem services	General public and corporate	Website, direct contact, media articles, social media, advertising.
Community Benefit – Forest Diversification for People		
Access and recreation	Members, visitors – local and transient	Website and social media. Leaflets in local tourist outlets. Community monthly updates and notices.
Educational activities	Members, schools, visitors, groups	Direct contact, website and outlet promotion, partnership working with PKC and other stakeholders
Volunteering opportunities, structured events, activities and other community benefits	Members, schools, visitors, groups	Direct contact, web site, partnership working, notice boards in woods, media articles, social media.
Community Enterprises	General public	As above

4. Finance and Funding – Investing in our Future

4.1. WSWG Development Phase – Development Funding update

Funding

Financial donations since 2018 have risen to £52,522,63. The key financial contributors are listed below.

Public funding:

Scottish Land Fund Stage 1 Development Funding	£18,453.00
Perth and Kinross Council Community Investment Fund (two awards)	£ 5,932.50
Community Learning Exchange	£ 740.00
	Total £25,125.50

Private funding:

Highland Community Energy Society (Littleton Burn Hydro Scheme) via Energy4All	£ 9,551.55
WSWG Website donations	£ 597.21
Stanley Store Plastic Bag Fund	£ 200.00
WSWG Core and other Volunteers	£ 390.96
	Total £10,739.82

Private funding update at 30 September 2023:

Highland Community Energy Society (Littleton Burn Hydro Scheme) via Energy4All	£16,593.04
Event donations	£ 64.27
	Total £16,657.31

Contributions-in-kind and Volunteer time

There have been numerous and continuous contributions-in-kind gifted to WSWG during its development phase by core and other volunteers. WSWG kept detailed records of these for the first year of operations between July 2018 and August 2019, from the Steering Group members alone, including equipment, materials (stationery, printer ink, displays, etc), facilities, IT, services, software and travel, totalling £3,351. This does not include gifts and interest-free loans from other members and supporters, small donations from other miscellaneous sources which amounted to several hundred pounds in the same time-period. Timesheets for this period for the main contributors to the WSWG process amounted to almost 6000 volunteer hours, which at minimum wage of £8.75 totalled £51,754. (Note: Updating this to current average wage in Tayside increases this figure to £94,560.)

This gave a combined figure of £55,105 for the first year. Estimates for the next six months to the end of 2019 elevated this figure to around £80,000. During 2020, volunteer input was majorly impacted by the covid pandemic, which would have resulted in a much lower value for the subsequent 6-12 months. However, since early 2021, the rate of volunteer time input has at the very least been maintained at first year levels, and very probably increased quite substantially, although the formal timekeeping system was not sustained. However, with simple extrapolation, it is still reasonable to assume the following:

2018-2019:	18 months - calculated	£80,000	
2020:	12 months - indicative	£20,000	
2021:	12 months – estimated	£50,000	
2022:	12 months – estimated	£50,000	all above valued at minimum wage (£8.75)
2023:	9 months – estimated	£83,250	valued at £15.76/hour av. wage in Tayside
Total value of time input by core volunteers:		£283,250	

Considering the degree of skilled and professional input, evaluating at the 2018 minimum wage can only be seen to be a considerable underestimate of the true value of the time core volunteers have given to the development of the WSWG project, hence the reason for including the 2023 update at the average Tayside wage.

4.2 Financial Projections for the Wildwood Project Years 1-10

WSWG has produced detailed plans and costings for Years 1-10 (income and expenditure with P&L) and set up a framework for fundraising over that period. See Appendices RP5a and RP5b. As summarised in Table 4, apart from 2 year start-up funding, the Wildwood Project Taymount Wood baseline programme is self sustaining and requires no external funding. As all baseline activities in the Wildwood Project (other than timber sales which are scheduled to reduce) have plateaued by Year 10, and any variation or augmentation from that level after Year 10 would be dependent on the introduction of Fundable Projects, which are not part of the Wildwood baseline programme, there was no value in projecting to 25 years before specific Fundable Projects are selected for implementation once the Wildwood Project is up and running effectively.

Table 4

Financial Projections Years 1-10: WSWG WILDWOOD PROJECT – Taymount Wood Baseline Programme		
	SUMMARY £	NOTES
Enterprise Income		
Sales:		
<i>Living Forest</i>	<i>£414,705</i>	
<i>Harvested timber</i>	<i>£488,327</i>	
<i>Community Enterprises</i>	<i>£116,556</i>	<i>Net or Gross Margins</i>
Sub-total Income	£1,019,588	
Enterprise Expenditure		
Variable Costs:		
<i>Living Forest</i>	<i>£85,368</i>	
<i>Harvested timber</i>	<i>£12,145</i>	
<i>Community Enterprises</i>	<i>£0</i>	
Sub-total Enterprise Expenditure	£97,513	
Total Enterprise Gross Margin	£922,075	
Charitable Activities & Services Expenditure	£328,120	
Summary:		
Enterprise Gross Margin	£922,075	
Charitable Expenditure	£328,120	Includes Field staff costs 1 x 3 d/wk
Overheads	£400,175	Includes Support staff costs 2 x 1 d/wk
Separated additional capital costs	£0	
Target Reserve	£115,259	
Net Surplus/Deficit after reserve	£61,020	
ORDER OF FUNDRAISING REQUIREMENT	£0	Apart from 2 year start-up costs
Additional Priority Fundable Project		
Community Engagement Manager (3d/wk)	£276,000	Salary, overheads & operational budget
ORDER OF FUNDRAISING REQUIREMENT	£215,000	Breakeven minimum
2-year Start-up funding needs		
Excluding Community Engagement Manager	£220,000	Slightly rounded up
Including Community Engagement Manager	£280,000	Slightly rounded up

Wildwood Project Financial Summary Years 1-10

The tables below set out the overall picture of the expected income and expenditure involved in bringing Taymount Wood into community ownership and delivering the WSWG Revised Proposal 2023 for managing the woodland through **WSWG Charitable Activities and Services** with supporting income generation through **WSWG Enterprises** (Woodland and Community). It also indicates the level of start-up funding from external sources which will be required to support the WSWG Project as a whole.

The financial plans have been prepared by WSWG Trustees with business start-up and strategic consultancy, land management, project development and management and other relevant skills and experience. WSWG has also obtained advice from sector professionals and P&K Business Gateway on various aspects of the enterprise costings and responding to CATS feedback to strengthen the Business Plan going forward. WSWG has costed all the envisaged inputs empirically, both capital and revenue, and outputs for both WSWG Charitable Activities and Services and WSWG Enterprises for Years 1-10. The figures make allowance for VAT where appropriate but not inflation.

Financial costings for the first ten years of the WSWG Proposal are presented in summary form in the tables below, shown separately for WSWG Charitable Activities and Services and WSWG Enterprises, in three phases: Years 1-2; Years 3-5; and Years 6-10, with more detailed corresponding annual data presented in spreadsheet form in Appendix RP5a: [Financial Projections to Years 10](#).

Table 5 shows the projected WSWG Charitable Activities and Services core and programme costs.

Table 6 shows the projected Capital investment, Income, Expenditure and Gross Margins for the proposed Woodland Enterprises and Community Enterprises.

WSWG Financial Projections Summary Years 1-10

Table 5: Financial Summary of WSWG Core and Programme Costs post-Acquisition

Summary costings for WSWG Charitable Activities and Services				
WILDWOOD PROJECT - TAYMOUNT WOOD BASELINE PROGRAMME				
PROJECT EXPENDITURE	Years 1-2	Years 3-5	Years 6-10	10-year Totals
Field Staff	£48,000	£72,000	£120,000	£240,000
Year-Round Activities	£8,000	£12,000	£20,000	£40,000
Welcome, Access, Accessibility	£23,150	£4,750	£8,400	£36,300
Habitat Restoration	£7,970	£1,700	£2,150	£11,820
Field sub total	£87,120	£90,450	£150,550	£328,120
Operational overheads				
<i>Revenue (including Support Staff)</i>	£69,110	£103,665	£172,775	£345,550
<i>Capital</i>	£39,670	£6,150	£26,305	£72,125
Overheads sub total	£108,780	£109,815	£199,080	£417,675
TOTALS	£195,900	£200,265	£349,630	£745,795

Table 6: Summary Financial Table for the WSWG Proposal: Forestry and Community Enterprises

Summary costings for WSWG Enterprises				
	Years 1-2	Years 3-5	Years 6-10	10-year Totals
WILDWOOD PROJECT - TAYMOUNT WOOD BASELINE PROGRAMME				
CAPITAL INVESTMENT				
Forestry Enterprises BL1:				
Timber	£0	£0	£0	£0
Living Forest	£0	£0	£0	£0
TOTAL FOREST ENT CAP £	£0	£0	£0	£0
Community Enterprises:				
Pop-up activities	£0	£0	£0	£0
Tree tents (BITT)	£0	£0	£0	£0
TOTAL COMM ENT CAP	£0	£0	£0	£0
TOTAL ENTS CAP	£0	£0	£0	£0
INCOME:				
Woodland Enterprises:				
Timber	£248,578	£123,602	£116,147	£488,327
Living Forest	£27,200	£83,200	£304,305	£414,705
TOTAL FOREST ENT INC	£275,778	£206,802	£420,452	£903,032
Community Enterprises:				
Pop-up activities (Net)	£2,700	£8,100	£13,500	£24,300
Tree tents (BITT)	£6,000	£22,248	£64,008	£92,256
TOTAL COMM ENT	£8,700	£30,348	£77,508	£116,556
TOTAL ENT INC	£284,478	£237,150	£497,960	£1,019,588
EXPENDITURE:				
VARIABLE COSTS				
Woodland Enterprises:				
Timber	£200	£10,320	£1,625	£12,145
Living Forest	£18,165	£17,740	£49,463	£85,368
TOTAL WOODLAND ENT VC	£18,365	£28,060	£51,088	£97,513
Community Enterprises:				
Pop-up activities	£0	£0	£0	£0
Tree tents (BITT)	£0	£0	£0	£0
TOTAL COMM ENT VC	£0	£0	£0	£0
TOTAL ENT V. COSTS	£18,365	£28,060	£51,088	£97,513
GROSS MARGINS:				
Woodland Enterprises:				
Timber	£248,378	£113,282	£114,522	£476,182
Living Forest	£9,035	£65,460	£254,842	£329,337
TOTAL Woodland ENT GM	£257,413	£178,742	£369,364	£805,519
Community Enterprises:				
Pop-up activities	£2,700	£8,100	£13,500	£24,300
Tree tents (BITT)	£6,000	£22,248	£64,008	£92,256
TOTAL COMM ENT GM	£8,700	£30,348	£77,508	£116,556
TOTAL ENT GM < CAP	£266,113	£209,090	£446,872	£922,075
TOTAL ENT SURPLUS >CAP	£266,113	£209,090	£446,872	£922,075

4.3 Funding the Wildwood Project at Taymount Wood

Present Funding position – Acquisition and Taymount Wood baseline programme

The following tables set out how WSWG proposes to approach funding the purchase of Taymount Wood and 2 year start-up costs for the Wildwood Project.

Table 7a: Funding proposal for acquisition of Taymount Wood

Estimated costs of acquisition	
Taymount Wood agreed purchase price with FLS	£1,850,000
Discount agreed with FLS	£0
Legal expenses (estimated)	£10,000
Total Cost of acquisition	£1,860,000
Proposed financing of acquisition	
Scottish Land Fund – 50% of market value	£925,000
Scottish Land Fund – 90% of legal costs	£9,000
Total SLF Stage 2 Funding request - capital	£934,000
Balance for WSWG to source	£926,000

Table 7b: Funding proposal for 2-year start-up costs for the Wildwood Project at Taymount Wood

Projected 2 year start-up costs	
2 year start-up costs	£195,900
Total 2 year start-up costs	£195,900
Proposed financing of 2-year start-up costs	
Scottish Land Fund	£40,000
Total SLF Stage 2 Funding request - revenue	£40,000
Balance for WSWG to source	£155,900

Table 7c: Overall summary of costings and financing of woodland acquisition and 2 year start-up costs for the WSWG Wildwood Project at Taymount Wood

Combined cost of acquisition and 2-year start up	
Total acquisition costs	£1,860,000
Total 2-year start-up costs	£195,900
Combined total of acquisition and 2-year start-up	£2,055,900
WSWG Request for SLF Stage 2 Funding	
Capital	£934,000
Revenue	£40,000
Total SLF Stage 2 Funding requested	£974,000
Balance for WSWG to source	£1,081,900

Note: WSWG was awarded £18,453 from SLF Stage 1 Funding in May 2019.

WSWG has a wide-ranging portfolio of funding sources being developed at present, with a dedicated funding drive awaiting the FLS decision in October. There are several dedicated on-line free resources to aid charities identifying funding sources. From one such platform the numbers of these funding sources offering donations and grants to:

- Small charities & community groups = 697
- Core funding for health and welfare = 233
- Environment = 252
- Disability = 973
- Funding finder list = 408

An overview of our priority fundraising sources and options are outlined below.

Funding approaches for Acquisition

Provisional donations:

- WSWG has received a solicitor's letter acting on behalf of a client who wishes to remain anonymous intimating an offer in principle of £85,000.

Supportive feedback received:

- Scottish Land Fund Stage 2: WSWG will be requesting funding for acquisition to the amount of £925,000.
- WSWG has identified appropriate crowdfunding platforms and spoken with professional consultants who specialise in crowdfunding including Stockcrowd. We have also started a crowdfunding media presentation which should be available for use by the end of October.

General responses for further action:

Funding sources we have made contact with and will be following up after a decision by FLS.

- Volant Trust: acquisition and project funding.
- Local wealthy individuals and philanthropic individuals throughout the UK. WSWG has already made contact with several of these and are presently awaiting responses.

Funding approaches for WSWG Charitable Activities and Services/Taymount Wood baseline programme

Supportive feedback received:

Start-up funding

- Scottish Land Fund Stage 2: £40,000
- Gannochy Trust: WSWG has been invited by the Trustees to submit a funding application towards our 2 year start-up funding.

Project funding

- Mushroom Trust: WSWG has been encouraged by a Project Assessor to submit applications for a range of practical community and woodland projects.
- Lankelly Chase: We have had promising liaison with this organisation, which is currently in a period of transformation in how it will redistribute wealth in future, and will be following this up.

Other funders to be approached:

Acquisition	Scottish Land Fund	Supporting urban and rural communities to become more resilient and sustainable through the ownership and management of land and land assets with grants up to £1 million
	Heritage Lottery Fund	We fund projects that connect people and communities to the national, regional and local heritage of the UK.
		We strive to preserve animal habitats, oceans, and natural resources. We aim to promote eco-awareness and sustainable living practices.
Garfield Weston Foundation	From small community groups to large national institutions, the Foundation's aim is to support organisations that have effective solutions to helping those most in need.	
Education	The Nineveh Charitable Trust RCN 256025	Supports a broad range of UK-based projects and activities of benefit to the General Public, with an emphasis on promoting better understanding of the countryside.
	Ernest Cook Trust	As fund-giving educational charity, we give grants, fund Outdoor Learning and find innovative ways to work with funding partners.
Volunteering activities	Lottery	Various lottery source funding including Awards for All – up to £10,000 and Community led – funding up to £150,000 helping organisations deliver activity to improve local places and wellbeing of people that live there.
		Volunteering Futures Fund £7m fund to help organisations improve access to volunteering
	Perth and Kinross Council	Local council run grant system supporting communities and environmental related actions
Infrastructure	The Fore Trust	The Fore offers development funding and strategic support to early-stage charities and social enterprises. It makes unrestricted grants which have the potential to have a transformational impact on an organisation.
	Foundation Scotland	Provides early stage financial support for community enterprise projects that contribute to local regeneration and sustainable development and, ultimately, help create great places to live, work and visit.
Access	Paths For All	Our funding programmes support projects to increase participation in walking, active travel, and improve community paths for travel and recreation
	Rural Payments and Services	Improving public access grants
Biodiversity	Scottish Action Fund	The FCC Scottish Action Fund offers funding to projects through the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (SLCF) The conservation or promotion of biological diversity through the provision, conservation, restoration or enhancement of a natural habitat or the maintenance or recovery of a species in its natural habitat. -
	NatureScot	The Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) is a competitive fund launched in July 2021, which specifically encourages applicants with projects that restore wildlife and habitats on land and sea and address the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change.

Table 8 shows the relationship between project expenditure and the potential proportion of in-house funding through WSWG Enterprises or from external sources through fundraising. See Notes to Table 8 at foot. It illustrates the basis on which WSWG can foresee fundraising needs.

Table 8: First 10 years of Proposal Delivery under Community Ownership

	Project costs (including Enterprise capital outlay)	Enterprise activity surplus for Charitable Activities and Services (Gross Margins)	Indicative external funding level required
WILDWOOD PROJECT - TAYMOUNT WOOD BASELINE PROGRAMME			
WSWG CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES			
Staff	£240,000		
Year-Round Activities	£40,000		
Welcome, Access and Accessibility	£36,300		
Nature Recovery	£11,820		
Overheads			
<i>Revenue (inc supp staff)</i>	£345,550		
<i>Capital</i>	£72,125		
WSWG ENTERPRISES			
Forestry Enterprise			
Timber	£0	£476,182	
Living Forest	£0	£329,337	
Forestry Sub total	£0	£805,519	
Community Enterprises			
Pop-up activities	£0	£24,300	
Tree tents (BITT)	£0	£92,256	
Community Sub total	£0	£116,556	
WSWG Reserve			
Allocation from WSWG Enterprises	£115,260		
TOTALS	£861,055	£922,075	£0
2 Year Start-up funding required			£235,000

Notes to Table 8 above:

1. The sums shown for Year-Round Activities are nominal, but will evolve with community-based programme development and fundraising success.
2. Ecological surveying and recording carried out by amateur surveyors and volunteers until resources made available for professional surveys through Fundable Projects.
3. Living Forest payments as a foundation for income generation is still novel but expected to increase markedly in the coming years in response to the global ecological emergency. For this reason, WSWG proposes to engage a Living Forest Enterprise Developer 1 day per week to build WSWG's diverse Living Forest income streams, with a particular emphasis on securing Biodiversity Net Gains.

Funding Plan Years 1-10

There are many different types of funding sources for the diverse aspects of the WSWG project, as well as several funding facilitating organisations whose help WSWG will be calling on, including Foundation Scotland, Charities Excellence Framework and Funding Scotland amongst others. WSWG has retained an Office Manager/Fundraiser staff post the Wildwood Project budget but at 1 day per week for the combined functions, this is only 20% of the fundraising capacity allocation in the original two woods Proposal, and 40% or less of the share Taymount Wood would have received. WSWG may follow the route of engaging fundraisers on a commission basis, but this is likely to be a more expensive approach.

The following Tables 9 and 10 indicate where WSWG expects to source funding for different parts of its activities, as illustrated in the statements above regarding the current funding position.

Table 9: Indicative Principal Types of Funding Source for Acquisition of Taymount Wood

Acquisition of Taymount Wood									
	Public	Lottery	Corporate	Charitable	Crowd-funding	Benefactors	Other	Loans	WSWG Enterprises Surplus
Purchase of Taymount Wood	xxx		x	x	x	xx			N/A

Table 10: Indicative Principal Sources for the Wildwood Project for 2 Year Start-up Funding

Taymount Wood baseline programme Years 1-10									
Fundable Elements Years 1 & 2	Public	Lottery	Corporate	Charitable	Crowd-funding	Benefactors	Other	Loans	WSWG Enterprises Surplus
WSWG Charitable Activities and Services									
Fieldwork Staff time £48,000	x			x					
Support Staff £26,000	x			x					
YRA £8,000			x	xx					
WAA £23,150			x	x					
Nature £7,970			x	xx					
Overheads (- supp. staff) £82,780	x		x	x					
WSWG Enterprises									
Forest Food Project £13,000			x	xx	x				
2 Yr start-up: £235,000	£40,000 17%		£50,000 21.3%	£115,000 49%	£25,000 10.6%	£5,000 2.1%	£0 0%	£0 0%	£0 0%
10 Yr project: £861,055	4.6%		5.8%	13.4%	2.9%	0.6%	0%	0%	72.7%

5. Community Benefit Evaluation

For WSWG, managing Taymount Wood for Nature Recovery is the primary Community Benefit of its Proposal.

WSWG SCIO Community Engagement

WSWG intends to take forward the WSWG Wildwood Project by building on the five years of community engagement and volunteering to date and to widen and strengthen this through the grassroots foundation of the governance and operational structures described in Section 2. Governance and Operations above.

It is one of WSWG's main aims and a fundamental part of its ethos to provide a wide-ranging, inclusive and rewarding portfolio of staff-supported volunteering opportunities for as many people as possible. Volunteering must be a pleasure, not a burden or obligation to those who offer their time, energies and skills to the WSWG Project.

We will work in a variety of ways with a range of stakeholders within and outwith WSWG as follows:

- Members and Volunteers
- Landowners and Neighbours
- Staff
- Community organisations
- Schools and other educational establishments
- PKC
- Local Businesses
- Service providers/session workers
- Funders

For more information, see Appendix BP2 WSWG Stakeholder Report submitted with the previous Business Plan in 2022.

Community Benefit Evaluation

WSWG has demonstrated there is a comprehensive suite of benefits both to the local community and to the Scottish economy from community ownership under the WSWG vision for people and planet. These include direct tangible benefits including job creation, volunteer opportunities, education, improved health & wellbeing from the many themed WSWG programmes, many of which target vulnerable and less privileged groups and individuals, as well as less tangible benefits such as ecosystem services including nature recovery, climate mitigation, food resilience and air purification.

The community benefit outcomes align directly with many of the Scottish Government National Outcomes:

Children

Communities

Culture

Economy

Education

Environment

Fair Work and Business

Health

WSWG has also produced a revised forecast on the Social Return on Investment (SROI), which shows a potential 6:1 ratio, indicating a £6 return social value for every £1 invested in the WSWG project. See Appendix RP2 WSWG SROI Report Revised 2023 for detailed information.

The revision of WSWG's investigation into the SROI of action for the planet has continued to show reputable research sources indicating the unseen massive scale of financial return when ecosystem services are integrated into government policy.

However, for the purpose of evaluating the SROI benefits within the WSWG Wildwood Project, WSWG has restricted the scope of the assessment/forecast to the most tangible benefits for our directly engaged participants. The wider benefits, although significant and varied, are included elsewhere in the SROI Report to give a more comprehensive picture of benefits in the context of the climate and biodiversity emergency we are currently failing to deal with due to economic and apathetic impediments.

5.1 Wellbeing and Resilience

WSWG wishes to address here what appear to be CATS concerns as to the level of demand for WSWG's health and wellbeing services and how much of the benefits are additional and not simply displacement.

As indicated in our SROI report 2022, WSWG is filling a genuine need in society with our Window on the Woods community activities. This will have measurable health benefits to people in need and associated savings to the NHS and Scottish economy.

Mental health statistics for Scotland

£8.8 billion = the cost of mental illness to the Scottish economy

Reference: Mental Health Foundation and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE),

94% = ratio of people who visited the outdoors and stated it "helps them de-stress relax and unwind"

References: Nature Scot *Scotland's outdoors, Our Natural Health Service*

Forest walking = better for health than urban walking

References: (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*)

1 in 4 = number of people that will suffer mental health problems per year.

References: (MIND 2017)

20.6% = percentage of people having suicidal thoughts over their lifetime.

References: (MIND 2017)

Green Health Prescriptions

Case study: Social Prescribing in Angus and Dundee have incorporated "green health prescriptions" under the Dundee Green Health Partnership (DGHP) in a collaboration between Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside. This is a referral process for health care professionals including selected GP surgeries to sign-post patients to nature-based interventions. So successful has this initiative been with patients that it was recently extended with a £21,000 grant to fund a green health development officer post.

A 2020 report published by **NatureScot** entitled "**Scotland's Outdoors, Our Natural Health Service**" (Appendix RP6) stated that a 30 minute walk 5 days a week was found to reduce the risk of various health conditions as follows:

Heart attack and stroke	20-30%
Diabetes	30-49%
Hip fractures	36-68%
Bowel cancer	20%
Breast cancer	20%
Depression	39%

Sources of evidence in the NatureScot publication:

The health benefits of the great outdoors: A systematic review and meta-analysis of greenspace exposure and health outcomes, 2019 C Twohig-Bennet, A Jones – University of East Anglia

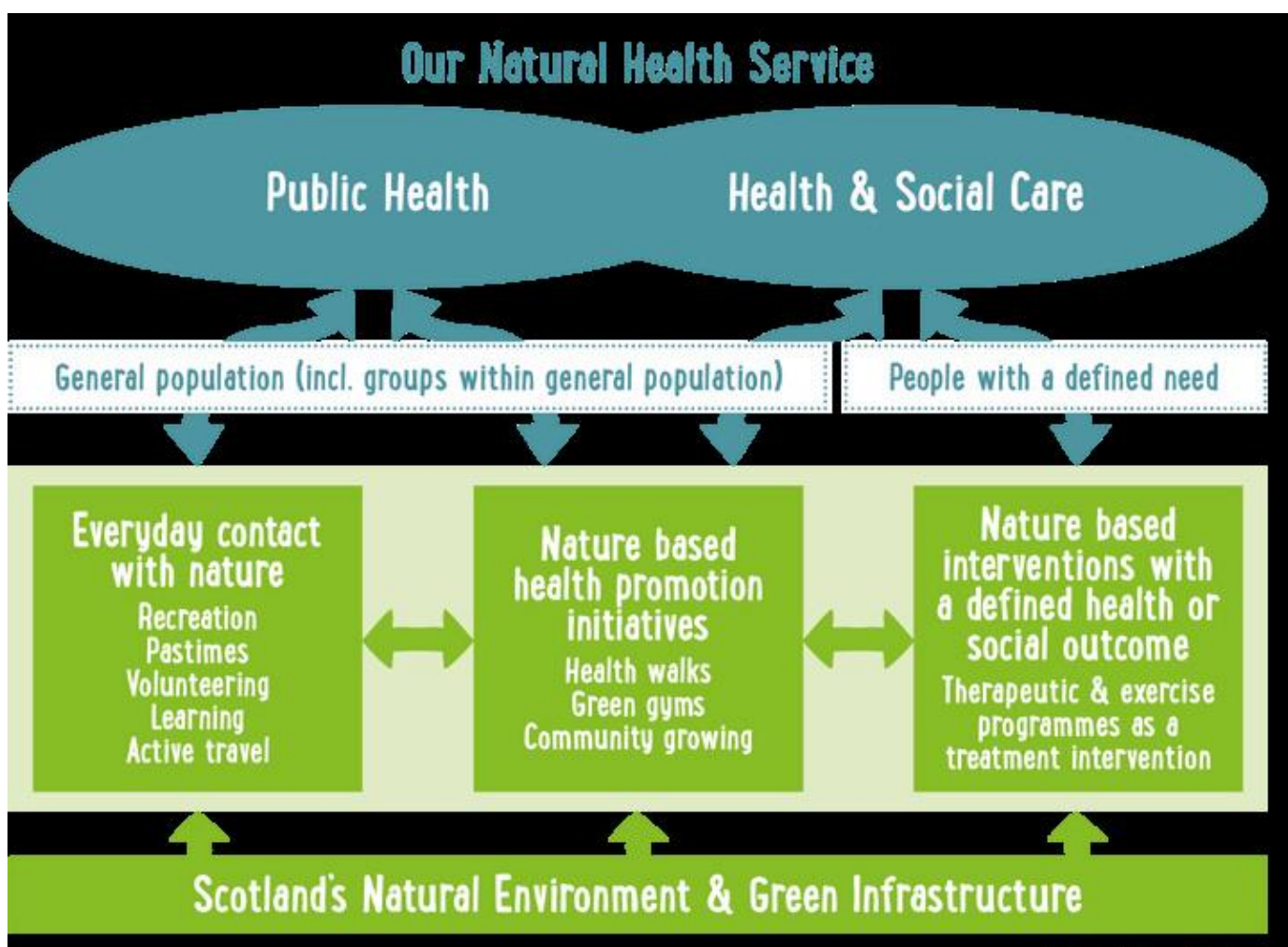
Spending at least 120 minutes a week in nature is associated with good health and wellbeing, 2019 M P White et al – University of Exeter

Health and the natural environment: a review of evidence, policy, practice and opportunities for the future, 2018 DEFRA and University of Exeter

“There is compelling evidence that green exercise improves not only our physical health, but also our emotional and mental health as well. I welcome the joined-up approach encompassed in the Our Natural Health Service initiative, the impact of which is entirely consistent with Realistic Medicine.”

Dr Gregor Smith
Deputy Chief Medical Officer

The diagram below is sourced from the same NatureScot publication and shows exactly why the WSWG Proposal should be seen as an investment by the Scottish Government in line with worldwide accepted practice.



If we factor in research from other countries such as Japan it becomes clear that the UK governments are grossly underestimating the health benefits and associated financial savings afforded by forest based activities. WSWG has previously highlight such research in its SROI calculations which show for example that people who participated in short periods of structured forest bathing/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.

References:

Li Q1, Morimoto K, Kobayashi M, Inagaki H, Katsumata M, Hirata Y, Hirata K, Suzuki H, Li YJ, Wakayama Y, Kawada T, Park BJ, Ohira T, Matsui N, Kagawa T, Miyazaki Y, Krensky AM. Visiting a forest, but not a city, increases human natural killer activity and expression of anti-cancer proteins. *Int J Immunopathol Pharmacol*. 2008 Jan-Mar;21(1):117-27.

Li Q, Kobayashi M, Inagaki H, Hirata Y, Li YJ, Hirata K, Shimizu T, Suzuki H, Katsumata M, Wakayama Y, Kawada T, Ohira T, Matsui N, Kagawa T. A day trip to a forest park increases human natural killer activity and the expression of anti-cancer proteins in male subjects. *J Biol Regul Homeost Agents*. 2010 Apr-Jun;24(2):157-65.

Li Q, Kobayashi M, Wakayama Y, Inagaki H, Katsumata M, Hirata Y, Hirata K, Shimizu T, Kawada T, Park BJ, Ohira T, Kagawa T, Miyazaki Y. Effect of phytoncide from trees on human natural killer cell function. *Int J Immunopathol Pharmacol*. 2009 Oct-Dec;22(4):951-9.

Green Health Programme for North Perthshire

WSWG has established that there is a desperate need across North Perthshire for WSWG's Wellbeing and Resilience Programme as a resource for the local community.

Through the Highland and Strathclyde Stronger Communities Network, WSWG has found that local health professionals are very keen to establish a Green Health Programme (GHP) in North Perthshire as have been developed in the four pilot areas around Scotland, including Dundee, as detailed in the NatureScot Green Health Leaflet 2019 (Appendix RP6). Such is the drive for outdoor health benefits, it is now policy in NHS Tayside that staff conduct some walking work meetings outdoors to benefit from the health effects over seated indoor meetings.

WSWG is currently liaising with Perth and Kinross Health and Social Care Partnership (PKC + NHS Tayside) to help catalyse a service whereby health professionals can refer patients to our health and wellbeing nature based activities under our Window on the Woods Vision for Community Wellbeing and Resilience. There is currently nothing in Perthshire like this available to health care professionals, patients or vulnerable groups and individuals.

Wellbeing & Resilience Programme 2024 – A Pilot Project for Taymount Wood

As mentioned in Section 1 above, along with P&K HSCP, WSWG has further developed the detail and means of evaluating the potential community benefit impact of WSWG's Wellbeing & Resilience Programme in future. As a pilot project demonstrating the type of activity which will become regular once the woods are in community ownership and to assess the associated community benefit which will accrue, we are collaborating on a programme of events throughout 2024 involving a diverse range of local wellbeing organisations. A stage on from the wonderful programme of taster events WSWG ran for our local community in Taymount and Five Mile Wood pre Covid, called "Feeling Good in the Woods", the 2024 programme will focus on actively including more people living with significant challenges or disadvantage. (Appendix RP7.)

6. Risk Analysis

There are risks, but they can be mitigated or avoided.

6.1 Acquisition risks

- Excessively high valuation
- Discount conditions from FLS
- Difficulty obtaining funds for acquisition.

Mitigation

- Agree FLS purchase price at 0% discount
- Funding to be sought from Scottish Land Fund below £1million cap per asset
- Seek funding from a wide variety of sources, public, private, corporate, crowd funding etc. Hire professional fundraiser

6.2 Management and organisational risks

- Lack of full spectrum of skills and expertise to run the organisation
- Reduced enthusiasm from trustees, staff and volunteers leading to organisational atrophy
- Insufficient funds to implement scale and type of projects, year-round activities, etc in the Proposal
- Poor cohesion and interaction of management teams leading to ineffective discharge of tasks

Mitigation

- There will be strong interaction between the Trustees, staff and representatives in the Wildwood Steering Group as well as other volunteers to ensure skills, enthusiasm and learning is maintained.
- The WSWG Trustees are acutely aware of the need to maintain a high degree of relevant skills and competent leadership and will endeavour to ensure this is maintained. We have sought and will continue to seek advice and mentoring from relevant sources, as well as maintaining a skills base commensurate with Project needs.
- Sound recruitment processes to ensure high quality staff
- Fixed terms of office allow the Board to be refreshed and new members of the community to be invited to contribute
- Trustees will normally spend some time as part of the Wildwood Steering Group to immerse them in the workings and any complexities of the WSWG Project
- Site Management Plan to complement Woodland Management Plan
- Funding volumes and availability is likely to be dynamic from year to year and WSWG will be fluid in its management approach. The Office Manager/Fundraiser will commit a minimum of 0.5 days per week to fundraising
- Our projections include early income from timber sales, as well as living forest income streams and community enterprises being developed year by year
- Ensure volunteering activities are fun and rewarding. Spread the activity loads by having lots of volunteers thus avoiding overload stress and fatigue
- Ensure that appropriate financial systems are in place
- Ensure compliance with GDPR
- Ensure robust operational policies and protocols are in place, including safeguarding policies for vulnerable groups and individuals
- Trustee training
- Regular team meetings and assessment of functionality

6.3 Financial and market risks

- Debt
- Poor accounting
- Fraud
- Scale of operations
- Fluctuations in markets

Mitigation

- Ensure a robust financial system is in place to prevent potential fraud, debt and poor accounting
- Ensure there is a contingency resource fund available at all times sufficient to meet unexpected costs and emergencies
- Diversity of enterprise activities provides flexibility and resilience in the face of changing markets
- Enterprises and activities will be developed through continuous community engagement

6.4 Planning and regulatory risks

- Non-approval of long-term woodland plan and associated felling license by Scottish Forestry
- Planning permissions for building and infrastructure

Mitigation

- Adhere to UK forestry standard and work towards UKWAS designation
- Liaise with PKC in early phase and ensure related legal and planning requirements are in place in good time

6.5 Physical risks

Health & safety of staff and visitors

- Injury from overhanging trees on roads and paths, timber operations etc
- Accidents during work and recreation activities

Mitigation

- H&S protocols established to identify and eliminate risks and unsafe practices
- Staff and volunteers to be trained in first aid and be aware of protocols
- Ensure legal compliance with relevant H&S regulations

Climate breakdown:

- Increased disease and fire risk to forest resources
- Loss of Ecosystem services – water & air filtration, food resources and biodiversity collapse
- Reduced social returns from woodland users (foragers, bird watchers, children’s education, health and wellbeing activities)
- Reduction in variability of financial returns from living forest and timber products from biodiversity loss

Mitigation

- Increase species diversity and structural heterogeneity to maximise resilience
- Increase carbon sequestration potential of woodland via innovative and visionary approach
- Assess future impact of global warming on tree species and provenance, to inform long term management plans
- Implement a programme of robust survey and monitoring to better understand how to prevent biodiversity collapse
- Take action to prevent biodiversity loss at all levels:

- 1) Genetic biodiversity loss – Ensure connectivity of habitats is a priority and that the carrying capacity of the woodland’s species-specific habitats are not eroded and limited due to inappropriate management
- 2) Species diversity loss: work with others to ensure habitat connectivity and free movement of species across the landscape and ensure habitat carrying capacity of vulnerable species is not eroded from destructive management practices
- 3) Ecosystem diversity loss: Seek to protect, enhance and increase the variety of ecosystems and niche habitats within the woodland

6.6 Community engagement risks

- Lack of community engagement leading to reduced wellbeing and social benefits, as well as project deliveries

Mitigation

- Continue to develop and expand opportunities for community involvement in the woodland via the Wildwood Steering Group, Window on the Woods Community Working Groups and associated stakeholder network
- Increase the recreational and educational infrastructure potential, working with relevant stakeholders and user groups
- Engage staff with exceptional community engagement skills

7. Reporting and Monitoring

7.1 Reporting

It is essential that we have a robust monitoring and reporting protocol in place to enable us to gauge the effectiveness of our management and activities in delivering meaningful benefits for people and nature.

7.2 Monitoring

Table 11 shows examples of activities and evaluation procedures.

Table 11: WSWG Project Monitoring

Objective	Monitoring
Education	Feedback from participants, schools, groups, individuals. Numbers & profile of those involved, skills & expertise obtained
Nature recovery	Monitoring and assessment of species and habitat change. Comparing various management techniques and inputs. Soil carbon, growth rates, population dynamics. Climate
Community engagement	Feedback from user groups, stakeholders, visitors. Numbers and profile of those participating. Story-telling. Reminiscence work.
Health and wellbeing	Feedback from participants, user groups. Dedicated surveys tailored to specific outcomes. Talking therapies
Volunteer hours	Board, Wildwood Steering Group, WotW themed Community Working Group, ad hoc volunteering.
SROI Evaluation	Collate sufficient structured feedback to be able to evaluate SROI in addition to conventional financial data for the WSWG Project as a whole.

The Wellbeing and Resilience Programme 2024 will provide an opportunity for WSWG to establish and test its approach to monitoring and evaluation of community benefit.

8. Outcomes for Government: Connecting with Local, National and Global Priorities

8.1 Connecting with Local Priorities

Bringing Taymount Wood and Five Mile Wood into community ownership is in the top ten priorities voted for by the people of Stanley in the Stanley Community Action Plan 2023-2028.

Action Partnerships have been established between WSWG and other stakeholders across Perth and Kinross in order to bring services and communities together to tackle local issues and inequalities.

The Strathtay Local Action Plan is the key document for the Strathtay ward in which Taymount is located, in which the priorities for action are:

- Key Priority 1: Poverty (Child, Food and Fuel Poverty)
- Key Priority 2: Physical and Mental Wellbeing
- Key Priority 3: Skills, Learning and Development
- Key Priority 4: Employability
- Key Priority 5: Digital Participation

WSWG has been included in the Strathtay Local Action Plan as a working partner in several Outcomes and Actions relating to Key Priority 2 around providing outdoor access and Year-Round Activities Programmes with benefits for physical and mental health and wellbeing.

8.2 Connecting with Regional Priorities

WSWG has developed links with several organisations at Perthshire and Tayside level, whose priorities overlap with WSWG's. In particular, WSWG will continue to develop its relationship with Perthshire Nature Connections Partnership (PNCP) and Tayside Biodiversity Partnership (TBP). WSWG is part of the TBP Joint Farming, Upland and Woodland Working Group and contributed to a PNCP workshop at the Biodiversity Conference in January 2022 run by Perth City Leadership Forum under its Perth Most Sustainable Small City in Europe by 2050 programme. WSWG would like very much to be part of the rural input to that initiative.

8.3 Integration with National and Global Priorities

Sustainable Development Goals and Scottish Government Outcomes

The following section is an extract from our Feasibility Study 2021:

The Scottish Government in recent years has based its National Performance Framework

(<https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/>) partly on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It intends to achieve all of the goals by 2030. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are below.

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well Being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Production and Consumption
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
17. Partnership for the goals

The Scottish Government has taken the 17 SDGs to inform the National Performance Framework which has 11 National Outcomes. These describe the kind of Scotland the Scottish Government wishes to see, aligned with an international sustainable development context. <https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/national-outcomes> The relevance of the West Stormont project to the 11 National Outcomes is now discussed:

- 1. Children and Young People** – the project is for the benefit of all ages and young people are a crucial group. There will be recreational and educational activities targeted at this group. They will be consulted on the future of the woodlands.
- 2. Communities** – this is a community project and its core driver is the well-being of the local community.
- 3. Culture** – the project will be enjoyed by everyone in the local community, seeking to be inclusive of all cultures to be found there. Cultural values will be expressed creatively.
- 4. Economy** – green enterprise will add value to primary products such as timber and wild harvest, through processing in the forest. Land-based, artistic, therapeutic and educational skills will be rewarded financially where possible. Rents from huts and other forest buildings will contribute to the forest economy.
- 5. Education** – life-long learning is another pane of the Window On The Woods. All ages will have the opportunity to learn from the project and share skills. All will be informed of the Scottish Right to Responsible Access.
- 6. Environment** – the protection and enhancement of the forest environment lies at the heart of the project.
- 7. Fair Work and Business** – enterprise and innovation will be encouraged and the workplace will be safe, fair and inclusive for all, as far as is possible.
- 8. Health** – the active enjoyment of the woodlands will be encouraged. Activities, paid and unpaid, will take place in a positive, supportive environment. Everyone will be respected, leading to good mental health for all.
- 9. Human Rights** – the human rights of all will be respected.
- 10. International** – the project will be a beacon regionally, nationally and internationally.
- 11. Poverty** – the project will play its part in combating poverty in the local area.

“In conclusion, the WSWG aims and objectives are closely aligned with the Scottish National Performance Framework and contributes to all of the National Outcomes” *Donald McPhillimy – Taymount and Five Mile Wood Feasibility report 2021*

Global challenge for Climate and Ecological Emergency

If we place value on the future – one in which the next generations will inherit – then we must adopt the morally best decision options available to us. Bequeathing an uninhabitable planet is not a morally viable option. Therefore the Climate and Ecological Emergency is our greatest local, national and global priority. We are rapidly losing ground in the race to address this existential threat to humanity. WSWG has therefore placed this as a top priority.

Community Resilience

Food resilience: The recent Special Report on Climate Change and Land (IPCC) states “there is a need to produce about 50% more food by 2050 in order to feed the increasing world population. This would engender significant increases in GHG emissions.” Yet the area required to produce food is rapidly diminishing due to global warming and biodiversity collapse.

PART B

LONGER TERM PRIORITIES

FUNDABLE PROJECTS ON THE HORIZON

Longer term Priorities

a. Fundable Projects - medium term Priorities

Whilst the core commitment of this Revised Proposal is the Wildwood Project – Taymount Wood baseline programme, the scope and aspirations for the evolution and expansion of the WSWG Project goes way beyond that both for WSWG Charitable Activities and Services and WSWG Enterprises, as explored in the original CATS Proposal 2022.

As its medium-term priority to progress once the Wildwood Project is securely underway, WSWG has selected the most plausible of these potential additional projects and grouped them below as:

- Horizon 1 Fundable Projects – enhanced operations
- Horizon 2 Fundable Projects – advanced operations

Fundable Projects: Horizon 1 – enhanced operations	
	Funding requirement
Staff:	
- Community Engagement Manager	£30,000 per year
Habitat:	
- professional Habitat and Species Survey and Equipment	Contracts from £250 to £7,500 Annual insect survey; others periodic.
Premises:	
- improved Project portacabin base and utilities (if Taymount Hub not proceeding)	Up to £100,000
Enhanced WAA Programme:	
- all abilities path (with associated disabled vehicle access)	£37,500
- seats 4	£2,400
- picnic benches 3	£2,400
- open rain shelter 1	£2,500
- refurbish old gates 2	£1,000
- 18 bike toaster rack 1	£1,000
- bird hide 1	£10,000
- open up Muirside loop path	£1,000
- create new Kingsmyre loop path	£500
- MiDAS Phase 2	£22,250
Income Generating Enterprises:	
- Loggers’ Shieling	£20-25,000 (10 year GM £56,000)
- Woodworking Gouges for log hive making 5	£1,000 (10 year GM £7,500)

Whilst there is no great urgency to pursue Horizon 1 Fundable projects in the short term, WSWG sees its reduced staff complement in the Wildwood Project as a limiting factor in delivering the amount and diversity of community benefit it knows the WSWG Project can and wishes to achieve.

As such, WSWG intends to fundraise for the top priority Horizon 1 Project alongside the Wildwood start-up budget for the appointment of a Community Engagement Manager to raise the field staff complement to the share projected for Taymount Wood in the original two woods Proposal. This would increase the capacity of WSWG to service to greater effect the community engagement and Year-Round Activities within the WSWG Charitable Activities and Services programme and help deliver associated income generating activities. Ideally a 3-year Project and appointment, the following table shows the fundraising level required during the 2-year start-up period to secure this additional post for the WSWG Project.

Table 12**2 year start-up costings for part time additional Field Staff post - Community Engagement Manager**

<i>Horizon 1 Project - enhanced</i>	1st Year	2nd Year
<i>Community Benefit Programme:</i>		
Community Engagement Manager 3 d/wk	£21,000	£21,000
Overheads	£3,500	£2,500
Enhanced YRA Programme budget - 4 CWG	£4,000	£4,000
Sub total Projects	£28,500	£27,500

Fundable Projects: Horizon 2 – advanced operations

	Funding requirement
Advanced Year-Round Activities Programmes	£15,000 pa
Advanced WAA Programme:	
Board walk – 2 boggy sections core path	£4,500
Ditch bridges 8	£1,600
Steps core path at King’s Myre Cottage	£950
Interpretation boards	£1,000 each
Additional name boards 2 (east entrances)	£500 each
Finger posts	£225 each
Additional waymarkers	£40 each
Seats 2	£1,200
Picnic benches 4	£3,200
Children’s active play area - 20m x 10m	£35,000
Income Generating Enterprises:	
- Artists’ Bothy	£30-35,000 (10 year GM £94,500)

b. Fundable Projects – Long-term Priorities

The long-term priority for the WSWG Project at Taymount Wood is premised upon whether or not the Flagship Project at the south entrance goes ahead or not in one or other form at some point in the future.

- Horizon 3 – Taymount Hub Flagship Project

As before, the intention is to determine the style, scale and purpose of a Hub facility through a community-led design process. It is envisaged this could lead down one of three routes.

Option 1: Mini Taymount Hub

Option 2: Full Taymount Hub

Option 3: No Taymount Hub

Fundable Projects

Horizon 3 – Taymount Hub Flagship Project

Indicative costs & Gross Margins

Option 1:	Mini Taymount Hub: A simple, single space outer shell partitioned to provide: - staff base/project office (basic) - social venue (basic) - kitchenette and toilet (basic) - micro renewables and batteries - fees	£100,000
	Services (water and power)	£50,000
	Hub safety fencing	£3,500
	Income generation: Mini Hub rental	£100,000 10 year GM
Option 1:	Full Taymount Hub: Purpose-built complex with multiple spaces: - staff base/project office - multipurpose community facility - kitchen and toilets - micro renewables and batteries - architects fees - endowment	£385,000
	Services (water and power)	£50,000
	Additional staff: <i>Hub and Green Enterprise Manager (F/T position)</i> <i>Camp 53 service staff (1.5 job equivalents)</i>	<i>£32,500 pa</i> <i>£31,500 pa</i>
	Hub safety fencing	£3,500
	New car park creation standard + disabled – 50m x16m Out of hours vehicle gate	£36,500 £500
	Income generation:	10 Year GM
	Camp 53 Café	£400,000
	Camp 53 Shop	£110,000
	Camp 53 Exhibition Space	£35,000
	Camp 53 Meeting Room	£85,000
	Camp 53 enterprise fit out £30,000	£630,000 total GM
	Craft Hamlet £62,500	£85,000

Addendum

Addressing Key CATS concerns:

Evidential response to other suggestions and concerns in CATS feedback March 2023

Financial Sustainability

Opportunities suggested by CATS to increase long-term income:

- **Woodfuel**

The reason why WSWG decided in early 2022 to drop woodfuel from its Proposal for Taymount Wood and why it stands by that position in this Revised Proposal is eloquently and fully explained in the letter to the EU Parliament signed by 784 scientists from across the globe, which WSWG submits as Appendix RP8.

- **Points that have not been adequately considered in the business case including:**

- **Discussions with PKC Planning/Highways to explore feasibility of larger car park and Taymount Hub**

WSWG has been in lengthy conversation with the PKC Planning department during 2023 to seek an indication of likelihood of these proposals at Taymount Wood receiving planning permission. In phone conversation, the planning officer did not see any fundamental problem with our proposals, especially given the charitable nature of the WSWG organisation and the limited car parking provision currently available on site or nearby. At this stage, there is no possibility of a meaningful written response for an agreement in principle within the timescale required without more detailed drawings and a significant fee.

- **Market research into Displacement due to proposed WSWG activities.**

See below.

- **Strengthening partnerships with:**

- **The Woodland Trust who own a nearby site with an established car parking infrastructure**
- **Stanley Development Trust**

One Wood with a Gap in the Middle?

WSWG's Vision for the two neighbouring woods, Taymount and Five Mile, a mile apart, as a catalyst for collaborative community action at local landscape scale remains steadfast as a platform for taking meaningful action for the climate and biodiversity emergencies, some of which is already underway.

Tayside Biodiversity Action Partnership has included Taymount and Five Mile Woods in the envelope map drawn up for Stanley as a prospective Biodiversity Village, the process for which is underway with an on-line Mini Bioblitz and to continue with the community mapping exercise during autumn 2023.

The Woodland Trust which owns and manages Kinclaven Bluebell Wood a field away to the east of Taymount Wood is supportive of the WSWG Project and the West Stormont Connect initiative, as well as intimating their willingness to work with WSWG through their Outreach Group going forward. Perhaps a more appropriate descriptive motto would be One Wood with Two Gaps in the Middle. (Appendix RP10.)

Stanley Development Trust (SDT) is also very supportive of the WSWG Project whose letter expressing that support was included with the original CATS Proposal in December 2022. During 2023, SDT has led the Stanley Community Action Plan process, with WSWG on the Steering Group and a participant in the Rural Focus Group. In the community voting, out of 21 Priorities for Action, community ownership of Taymount and Five Mile Woods was 9th equal. A letter of support from Stanley Development Trust was submitted with the original CATS Proposal in December 2022 (Appendix BP10).

WSWG is part of the process to set up a Perth and Kinross Climate Action Hub.

Governance

The Panel noted that there has been a consistent core of trustees since the initial interest in the two woods in 2018, which includes people with land management skills, ecological skills and third sector experience.

Key CATS concerns about WSWG governance

- *A gap in financial oversight and fund-raising capacity for such a high value project*

Fundraising capacity

One of the current board members was MD of a business start-up training company in the 1990s. Another has past experience in the agriculture sector providing technical, business and financial management advice and support to farm businesses.

The majority of the current board members have fundraising experience stretching back up to 40 years including agricultural and forestry grant schemes, SRDP, SITA, a successful £250k application to the Climate Challenge Fund in 2014, the PKC Community Investment Fund in 2019-20 and the Investing in Communities Fund Round 2. One board member has recently sat on the Strathtay Local Action Plan panel for judging funding applications from local community groups.

At the Community Woodlands Association Conference in 2022, a WSWG board representative attended the workshop on Fundraising & Grant Applications: How to make a good application & keep funders on board. Raising funds from Trusts and Foundations in a highly competitive arena. How to make your application stand out against the rest. Good stewardship and how to keep your funders happy. WSWG has had to reduce the fundraising post in the Wildwood baseline programme, but there is potential to expand on this under Fundable Projects. In the event of insufficient in-house time and skills, WSWG will contract professional fundraisers to assist in larger or more complex applications. We have already liaised with three independent funding professionals who would provide this service.

WSWG has progressed its fundraising strategy during 2023 and has compiled a tailored database of prospective funders, both local and other, which WSWG is currently working through to identify willing donors. A programme of letters and emails is underway to initiate contact. A link has been made with a Crowdfunding company with a view to setting up a complementary fundraising campaign in the coming months.

Following attendance at a funding roadshow organised through PKC in May 2023, a funding application was submitted to the Gannochy Trust for a capital contribution towards acquisition of Taymount Wood. Whilst it was not successful, the Trust extended an invitation to WSWG to instead submit an application for start-up costs in due course.

Financial oversight

Regarding financial management going forward, WSWG has recently appointed Alyth-based KWG Accountancy to provide a financial system and oversight for the WSWG Project.

Community/Social Benefits

Displacement

The concerns regarding displacement of commerce from any potential WSWG enterprise activity (café, Hub, food outlet, creative arts) and job displacement and deadweight associated with our SROI valuation of WSWG job creation were raised against us in our original submission. We have previously addressed these at great length in our reply to FLS in June 2023. We have also since met with various advisors including

Third Sector Interface, P&K Business Gateway/Elevator, Evaluation Support Scotland, Social Value Lab and the Community Ownership Support Service.

WSWG was advised by P&K Business Gateway that, *“Strictly speaking displacement is an economic concern so your charitable/communal activities that are free shouldn't be considered at risk of displacing local business.”*

The issue of displacement around WSWG enterprise activity and employment is examined here using the Tayside Cities Regional Economic Strategy 2019-2039 as an evidential source.

1) Restaurant, Café and Coffee Shop market

“Food and Drink is one of six growth sectors identified within Scotland’s Economic Strategy”

This shows there is plenty of scope for additional services should WSWG wish to deliver any of them at some stage in the future. Most people that would visit our food outlet (café, food forest, etc) would be there for the woodland experience anyway, rather than visiting a sit-down café to meet with friends. The Stanley Community Action Plan consultation in 2023 has identified a need for a wider range of sit-down places to meet up with friends. Passing trade from tourists and trades people would equally be opportunistic by road location and not destination-based.

2. Creative Industries

The Tay Cities Regional Economic Strategy also identifies creative industries as being growing markets in full swing at the moment. This supports and validates the portfolio of enterprises WSWG included in its original Proposal, including The Artist’s Bothy, the exhibition space in the Taymount Hub and the Craft Hamlet. It also validates the Culture and Creativity theme on the Window on the Woods Vision and the scope for collaboration between that Community Working Group and the Community Green Enterprise CGW to develop potential income streams through the membership and local community.

3) Job displacement

The Tay Cities Regional Economic Strategy states that *“Up to 230,000 Scottish jobs could be at risk from automation.”* Therefore, WSWG does not consider its staff posts are simply deadweight or even displacement under its SROI evaluations. This is especially the case when considering the specialised nature of the posts and severe lack of alternative opportunities for such jobs in the region.

Whilst we intend to seek public funding towards staff posts as 2-year start-up costs, the expectation is that thereafter WSWG staff posts would be funded independently of the public purse.

“WSWG’s proposals would enhance education benefits through the proposed forest school activities and the forest food activities. Again, however, the baseline for assessing these benefits would need to take into account existing provision and the potential for displacement from existing forest school and similar activities locally.”

WSWG’s mission and ethos is to work with rather than compete with compatible local businesses. Its financial projections do not currently include income from forest school activities, although that could well evolve. To date, WSWG has paid a local Forest School provider and a local outdoor adventure company to run free taster sessions for local people. In the past year, the same Forest School provider has advertised for more staff to meet increasing demand locally. It is a distinct possibility that in future, with Taymount Wood as an ideal venue, WSWG would enter into a business arrangement with existing or new forest school providers looking to serve this increasing demand. PKC are also recognising this increase in demand and benefit and as such are providing training in outdoor kindergarten and related educational services. In the first instance, WSWG’s forest school and outdoor adventure events are likely to be charitable services and activities and therefore not subject to displacement concerns.

Transport and connectivity

WSWG wishes to address here CATS concerns as to the level of demand for community transport services as offered through the WSWG MiDAS Community Transport Project and how much of the benefits for key target groups are additional and not simply displacement. WSWG has already encountered a lack of trained MiDAS drivers to meet its community benefit activities to date.

The Tay Cities Regional Economic Strategy states under Transport:

- “Key issues and challenges include:
 - *issues around poor rural transport*
 - *rural transport connectivity and public transport services*
 - *poor public transport connections in rural area*”

The WSWG MiDAS Community Transport Project will therefore be a valuable resource for the community. However, in order to avoid reliance on external and third party funding, in this Revised Proposal, it has been necessary to scale down the MiDAS Project within the Wildwood baseline budget. The remainder of the original MiDAS Project has been included in Horizon 1 Fundable Projects.

To further address a risk of over-dependence on car travel to access the woods, WSWG includes in its Revised Proposal a Travel Plan (Appendix RP9) which builds on and strengthens WSWG’s original MiDAS Community Transport Project and postpones consideration of additional car parking at Taymount Wood. This also fits well with the West Stormont Connect Active Travel theme.

The Wildwood baseline will not include a new car park but will include upgrading and maintaining the current parking area and marking it out for optimum and safe parking use. Some existing hard standings within the woodland itself have the capacity to absorb a certain amount of parking overspill associated with organised community activities. These can easily be expanded if required at low cost. The default position will be that WSWG will only consider a new car park if associated with one of the Taymount Hub Options proposed in Horizon 3 Fundable Projects. However, it may be that public demand or indeed a need for safer parking brings forward that debate, whether or not associated with a welcoming Hub facility at the south entrance.

WSWG nonetheless has a different view to the CATS claim that *“the inability to access the woodlands easily on foot or by bike on the narrow and busy road to Taymount limits access to car-owning households”*. Indeed the C406 is busy and twisty, but it is not narrow. Moreover, access to Taymount Wood is well served off-road by the core path network as shown in the maps below, which show much used circular routes as well as gaps and opportunities for improvement in future. The local community is working with PKC (specifically, but not only, their Road Safety and Active Travel Officer) to address traffic issues on the C406, which is also expected to significantly reduce once the Cross Tay Link Road is opened in 2024. Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust is also working on a long-distance walking and cycling route, the River Tay Way, which will incorporate and improve the path network in this area.

Taymount Wood as a community woodland will empower the local community and give huge leverage to the local active travel momentum for improved path maintenance, additional short loops, community bus, reinstatement of a public bus service with a bus stop at the main entrance, safe crossing point, speed limit and more. Far from being a reason for not having a community woodland here, it is a missed opportunity not to have a community woodland as a star feature in the local Paths and Places provision.

WSWG and the WSWG project need to be seen in the context of what else is going on in the community and local area to improve all the things highlighted as barriers or impediments in this CATS process. It is about playing a part in collective networking, integratedness, hybrid vigour, opportunism and gradual and occasionally thrilling progress. WSWG is not an isolated project.



How can the WSWG Living Forest vision be multiplied to best effect?

Taymount Wood represents about 0.03% of current forested land in the national forest estate. There are bound to be many more woods in both the national forest estate and privately owned which are ideally positioned for similar treatment as WSWG proposes for Taymount Wood.

WSWG's dream is that private and public forest owners and managers across Scotland would examine their forest portfolios for woodlands which could be candidates for Nature Recovery and Living Forest systems through their own in-house management.

Five Mile Wood could be an ideal opportunity for this in the coming five years.



appendices

List of Appendices

Appendix RP1	Letter of Support from Professor Dave Goulson, University of Sussex
Appendix RP2	WSWG SROI Forecast (Revised 2023)
Appendix RP3	Wellbeing and Resilience Programme 2024
Appendix RP4	WSWG Trustee and Wildwood Steering Group Biographies
Appendix RP5a	WSWG Wildwood Project Financial Projections Years 1-10
Appendix RP5b	WSWG Wildwood Project Financial Summary with P&L Years 1-10
Appendix RP6	Our Natural Health Service (NatureScot April 2020)
Appendix RP7	WSWG Feeling Good in the Woods Monitoring Report 2019
Appendix RP8	World Scientists' letter to the European Parliament 2023 – Biofuel and Climate
Appendix RP9	WSWG Travel Plan
Appendix RP10	Letter of Support from the Woodland Trust Scotland

Abbreviations used

WSWG (pronounced Wizzywig!)

SCIO

SROI

CATS

FLS

SLF

PKC

P&K HSCP

TSI

COSS

SSEN

WotW

CWG

MiDAS

LISS

ha

BITT

UN

GNH

GDP

AGM

GM

P/T

YRA

WAA

EV

BNG

SRW

NGO

NHS

VAT

CAS

Ents

GDPR

H&S

TBP

SDG

SNH

West Stormont Woodland Group

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Social Return on Investment

Community Asset Transfer Scheme

Forestry and Land Scotland

Scottish Land Fund

Perth and Kinross Council

Perth and Kinross Health and Social Care Partnership

Third Sector Interface

Community Ownership Support Service

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks

Window on the Woods (Vision)

Community Working Group

Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme

Low Impact Silvicultural System

hectare

Burmieston in the Trees

United Nations

Gross National Happiness

Gross Domestic Product

Annual General Meeting

General Meeting

Part time

Year-Round Activities (Programme)

Welcome, Access and Accessibility (Programme)

Electric vehicle

Biodiversity Net Gains

Small round wood

Non-Governmental Organisation

National Health Service

Value added tax

(WSWG) Charitable Activities and Services

Enterprises

General Data Protection Regulations

Health and Safety

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership

UN Sustainable Development Goals

Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot)

Appendix BP

Appendix P

Appendix TW

Appendix RP

Indicating an Appendix to the Business Plan

Indicating an Appendix to the Proposal

Indicating an Appendix to the Woodland Management Plans

Indicating an Appendix in this Revised Proposal