

Rewilding plan and Memorandum of Understanding for Anagach Woods Trust

Area committed to rewilding:

Core Rewilding Principle	Rewilding Actions Year 1-5
MORE NATIVE WOODLAND: Establishing new native woodland and enriching existing woodland	Removal of non-native species Increasing the quantity of deadwood present and improving the diversity and structure of the woodland. Selective thinning of Scots Pine to provide improved habitat for insects such as the northern damselfly.
MORE SPACE FOR WATER: Creating or restoring peatlands, ponds and wetlands	Build dams along man-made drainage ditches to raise the water table in areas of wet woodland and bog woodland thereby improving wildlife habitat and reducing fire risk. Create/expand ponds to benefit wildlife.
WILDER RIVERS: Restoring natural processes across watercourses and floodplains	
JOINED UP HABITATS: Removing wildlife migration barriers and establishing ecological corridors	Removal of unnecessary fencing and other barriers
RETURN MISSING SPECIES: Reintroducing native species and expand the range of existing species	Continued support for the projects to reintroduce Pine Hoverfly and Twinflower
LET NATURE LEAD: Encouraging processes such as vegetative succession and predator-prey interactions	Actions from "More Native Woodland" above will allow for the natural expansion (without planting) of broadleaf species to parts of the woodland where they are missing or present in low numbers.
REINSTATE NATURAL GRAZING: Using appropriate grazers such as cattle to replicate the impact of missing herbivores.	
CONNECT WITH COMMUNITIES: Exploring opportunities for recreation, education and employment with local communities.	Improving core paths Improving signage Continued community engagement through social media and in person events such as the Greentown Show
CREATE REWILDING BUSINESS: Developing nature-based enterprise models that work in tandem with nature recovery	Christmas Tree Sale Sale of benches and tables made from fallen or thinned timber

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Between

- 1) SCOTLAND: The Big Picture (**SBP**); and
- 2) Anagach Woods Trust (**Northwoods Partner**)

1. *About this MOU*

The Northwoods Rewilding Network (**NRN**) brings together a diverse group of individual landowners and communities under a shared brand, ideology and agreed set of rewilding principles. This MoU sets out how the network operates and what it means to be an NRN partner.

2. *What is the NRN?*

NRN partners share a vision for an ecologically restored landscape, where habitats are better connected and species can recover, expand, and disperse.

The NRN is underpinned by an agreed set of core principles (listed in the attached Rewilding Plan). The NRN seeks to demonstrate how these rewilding principles can be applied across different scales and settings, and bring benefits for nature, climate, and people. The NRN is committed to contributing to the key national priorities of nature recovery, climate resilience and public health.

3. *NRN governance and decision-making*

NRN is operated by SCOTLAND: The Big Picture (**SBP**), a charity that works to drive the recovery of nature across Scotland through rewilding, in response to the growing climate and biodiversity crises.

The NRN is a core project for SBP, and its operation will be overseen by a Project Lead who reports to the Executive Director and the SBP board.

4. *Aims of NRN*

The aims of NRN are:

- to provide a platform to demonstrate a new land use model that marries the economic and social needs of rural communities to the benefits provided by rewilded landscapes.
- to disseminate knowledge of the principles behind rewilding and the benefits rewilding delivers.
- to create an amplifier effect which leads to more rewilding actions at different scales across both urban and rural environments.

5. *The NRN approach*

The NRN brand stands for innovative, ambitious, and demonstrable rewilding practices.

The NRN embraces working in partnership with landowners, managers, and communities to add ecological, economic, and social value to their landholding and to the wider landscape. To achieve this, the NRN approach has three core elements:

- **Nature recovery:** Each NRN partner will commit to an agreed set of rewilding actions in the Rewilding Plan that improve ecological health, function, and completeness.
- **Communications:** SBP will showcase the positive work of NRN partners to help make the case for rewilding as a legitimate and economically viable land use benefiting nature, climate, and people.
- **Nature-based enterprise:** SBP can assist NRN partners in developing a diverse range of nature-based enterprises that integrate the economic and social needs of partners with the long-term restoration of species and habitats.

6. *Benefits for NRN partners*

Joining NRN has the following benefits for partners:

- A strong and recognisable brand that unites partners committed to progressive rewilding principles.
- Access to communications and marketing resources to assist business development, signposting, and the wider benefits of rewilding.
- The opportunity to collectively reframe the rewilding narrative to enable each partner to communicate with clarity and consistency.
- The sharing of resources and expertise required to put rewilding into practice.
- The potential to apply jointly for funding to allow our resources to go further and be more effective.
- Greater potential to attract policy support through a united, collaborative approach.
- Collaboration on development and marketing of nature-based enterprise such as rewilding carbon, forest products, wild food, and nature tourism.
- Potential for flexible joint management through land leasing or shared equity ownership.

7. *NRN partner undertakings*

In addition to the rewilding commitments outlined on the first page of this document, NRN partner agrees:

- to uphold the principal aims of the NRN and to co-operate and support SBP and other partners in their delivery.
- to share learnings, expertise and experience and seek opportunities to assist other members of the NRN.
- to commit to respectful dialogue within the NRN and in all external rewilding communications.
- to observe confidentiality in relation to shared information about the work of the NRN which is not in the public domain.
- to help promote the NRN brand (where possible and practical).
- To work collaboratively on press releases or social media posts whenever key media moments are identified in relation to specific rewilding actions.
- to participate in any survey designed by SBP to measure rewilding impact across the NRN.
- to keep the Northwoods Project Lead informed of any significant rewilding actions that are planned in order to optimise communications potential.
- to SBP processing the NRN partner's data for the purposes of managing and administering NRN communications and activities.

If at any future date, due to a change in circumstances, any partner is not able to abide by these undertakings, they will leave the NRN, and their use of NRN-related publicity material should cease.

8. *Shared Principles*

NRN partners will commit a minimum of 50 acres to rewilding for a period of five years and in relation to the designated area, aspire to the following nine “Core Rewilding Principles”:

1. Establishing new native woodland and enriching existing woodland
2. Creating or restoring peatlands, ponds, and wetlands
3. Restoring natural processes across watercourses and floodplains
4. Removing wildlife migration barriers and establishing ecological corridors
5. Reintroducing native species and expand the range of existing species.
6. Encouraging processes such as vegetative succession and predator-prey interactions
7. Using appropriate grazers such as cattle to replicate the impact of missing herbivores.
8. Exploring opportunities for recreation, education, and employment with local communities
9. Developing nature-based enterprise models that work in tandem with nature recovery.

In addition, the partner undertakes in the designated rewilding areas to

- avoid pollution of soils or waterways by using pesticides, herbicides, anthelmintics or fertilisers
- refrain from snaring, predator control or commercial game bird release.

9. *NRN communications*

It is important that NRN external communications push new boundaries. SBP will use a variety of platforms to showcase its work and to promote the wider benefits of rewilding. It is recognised however, that sensitivities can arise around certain topics and where possible, a consensus approach to agreeing external communications will be adopted within the NRN, with processes in place to enable timely decision-making and sign-off of communications. To facilitate knowledge sharing within the NRN, the partner consents to their personal data being retained and processed, and their e-mail being shared with other NRN partners.

10. *Term of the MoU*

The MoU will start on the date of signature and run for a period of 5 years. It will be reviewed annually. It is not intended to create any legal obligation between SBP and the NRN partner.

Signed (on behalf of NRN partner):



Date: 18 June 2024

Signed (on behalf of SCOTLAND: The Big Picture):



Date: 18 June 2024