



Welcome *Failte*



to Evanton Community Wood *gu Coille Bhaile Eoghainn*

What is special about it?

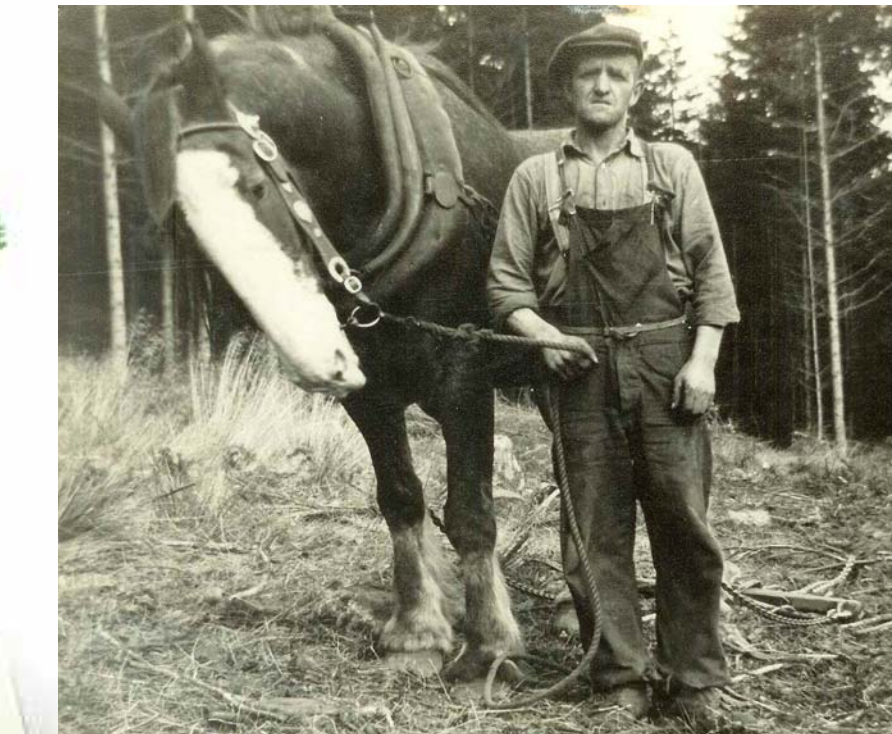
A mixed, mainly coniferous wood with:

- Towering Scots pines - the wood is a registered seed source
- Soft, pine-needle covered, ridge pathways - the semi-circular ridge *Cnoc Ruadh*, an *esker*, was formed by the glaciers some 10,000 years ago
- Magnificent Douglas firs lining the stream *Allt cùl na greine*; large diameter larch and mature sitka spruce with its flaky bark
- Stands of mature beech bringing russet splendour in autumn; a mix of birch *beithe*, rowan *caorann*, willow *suil* – especially in Mag's Wood; & large oaks *darach* along the western perimeter.
- The Pinetum just across the River Glass *Allt Graad* with selection of grand old conifers
- Also shade-tolerant western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) – rather too much of it! – though Queen Victoria liked it so much she renamed it '*Tsuga albertiana*' after her husband Prince Albert.



Woodland story

Following devastating storms in the 1890s Novar Estate created a plan for mixed replanting alongside some natural regeneration – influenced by Prof Schlich, a father figure in British forestry. Since the 1950s the trees have been allowed to renew themselves naturally. The award-winning wood is recognised as a fine example of continuous cover forestry and low impact silvicultural systems. Now with community ownership (August 2012) native tree planting - to enhance biodiversity - is a new priority.



Look up to the canopy

- feel the bark
- pick up a pine cone
- focus in on the mosses *còinneach* and lichens *crotal*
- smell a fungus *ballag-bhuachair*
- investigate life in the 'dead wood'
- check the micro-habitat that helps the trees to flourish
- listen out for more than 20 species of birds.

John Muir

'Walk softly and hurt the landscape hardly more than the birds and squirrels'

What else to look for?

- The Mag's Wood glade (named after the last resident Margaret MacDonald)
 - activity areas by the bend in the river and in the Dell
 - the ponds and flooded areas
 - & the extraordinary Black Rock Gorge
- all served by 10 kms (6 miles) of paths. The Wood is used by walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, school groups and more. Marker posts for an Orienteering Course are in place.



TIMELINE

10,000ya
10,000ya – Ice cap melts: Beginnings of Black Rock Gorge

1750s – Roy's Map shows wooded area by the gorge

1750
1780s – Novar Estate plantings

1805-10 – Evanton village formed

1800
c.1820s – Planting of Evanton Wood, previously mainly common grazing

1899 – New Working Plan, shelter belts introduced

1893-94 – Storms
1900
1913 – Major replanting completed

1950s – Natural regeneration management

2000
2003 – Scotland's Finest Woodlands Award - Hunter Blair Trophy for Silvicultural Excellence

2012 – Community ownership

Bob Dunsmore, OBE (ex- Conservator, Forestry Commission)

Please observe the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

