



**Our vision is for Aigas Community Forest to be a productive and sustainable forest which provides social, economic, and environmental benefits for our local community and visitors alike**

Aigas Forest was originally planted by Forestry Commission Scotland in the 1960s. It was densely planted commercial forestry and was not actively managed for many years. After a sustained effort of planning and fundraising, the hard work of a small group of locals paid off with a successful bid to buy the forest as a community enterprise. Aigas Community Forest (ACF) came into being in 2015.

ACF is being transformed from a dark, densely planted commercial forest to a more ecologically diverse and accessible long term asset for the community. Selective felling is opening up the forest enabling a programme of replanting with a much broader variety of trees. Improvements to the forest infrastructure have started to establish tracks and footpaths and create easier access for people to enjoy the forest.



The forest is largely self-funded, and the managed felling programme provides a key source of funds to reinvest in the future of ACF to continue to deliver our vision.

We continue to be committed to the original vision for ACF and build on the progress made by focusing on the following areas:



***Social benefits - providing recreational and cultural opportunities for users of the forest:***

- Improving access for visitors.
- Increasing recreational opportunities.
- Encouraging a broad range of user groups.
- Developing clear and engaging communication about the forest.

***Economic benefits - providing tangible economic benefits for our local community:***

- Harvesting timber to produce working capital for ongoing reinvestment to deliver our vision.
- Developing a firewood business for the benefit of our local community.
- Creating opportunities for members of our local community to learn new skills associated with the Forest.
- Supporting local community organisations.

***Environmental benefits - creating a diverse and sustainable forest for future generations:***

- Encouraging native regeneration whilst maintaining a productive forest.
- Actively managing the forest to restore biodiversity and protect existing species.
- Preserving the cultural heritage of the forest.

