



## **Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd**

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Registered Office, Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre, Lochgoilhead, PA24 8AE  
Registered in Scotland SC405625. Registered Charity Number SC042592.

### **Ardroy OEC - Woodlands Programme**

*The programmes that Ardroy run in the Cormonachan Woodlands are as follows:*

**Bushcraft Skills** - This looks to provide children and young people with the basic physiological necessities for human life; food through foraging, water sourcing, shelter-building, and fire craft. These are supplemented with expertise in wood-carving, camp craft and natural navigation.

**Environmental Awareness** - This looks to provide children and young people with an understanding of the importance of the woodlands in respect of climate change and how we need to protect the native trees from invasive non native species e.g. Rhododendron ponticum and Bracken.

**Flora and fauna** - This looks to provide children and young people with an understanding of the ecosystem which is a complex, interconnected network comprising biotic and abiotic elements. Biotic elements include all living organisms such as plants, animals and microorganisms. Abiotic components, on the other hand, include non-living entities that are vital for the survival of life and these include soil, water, climate, etc. Among all biotic elements, we concentrate on Flora and Fauna which are the most fascinating ones.

We would love to add a heritage component to our programme once the new Heritage Paths have opened up access to the Medieval Settlement and Cormonachan Falls.

The groups who visit comprise mainly of:

- P6/P7 children, many from areas of deprivation with little access to green spaces
- Youth groups, mainly teenagers from various communities
- Families from the Children 1st charity, many of whom are experiencing being in the outdoors for the first time

## Operation for 2021 to 2023

Ardroy operate all year round and Cormonachan Woodlands features in all of our programmes. We do have a forward three year programme but the numbers will vary as youth groups tend to be more on an ad hoc basis as they are dependent on securing funding. School groups are more planned. Currently our programme looks like this (based upon an academic year) with numbers of actual people attending:

		Schools	Youth groups	Children 1st
2021	August	45	30	
	September	427	20	16
	October	147	30	20
	November	267		20
	December	134		
2022	January	145		
	February	228	30	
	March	426	35	
	April	147	25	20
	May	420	40	
	June	268	30	
	July	0	50	
2022	August	93	30	
	September	338	20	20
	October	146	40	20
	November	252		20
	December	130		
2023	January	196		
	February	281	40	20

		Schools	Youth groups	Children 1st
2023	March	350	40	20
	April	142	35	20
	May	300	40	20
	June	167	30	
	July	0	60	

For a year 3 figure (August 2023 to July 2024), Ardroy is always booked up 2 years in advance and maintains very constant numbers year to year. We are bringing in around 3000 children and young people a year.

### **John Muir Award**

The [John Muir Award](#) is the education/outreach arm of the [John Muir Trust](#), who campaign on behalf of wild places in the UK.

There are [four elements](#) to the Award - Discover, Explore, Conserve and Share a wild place. Ardroy was one of the pilot centres 20+ years ago when it was launched, and it is now taken up across the UK and Ireland, with Scotland being its 'heartland'.

We are a big provider of the Award. 20% of all JMA's awarded in a residential environment in Scotland come from Ardroy every year, and Fife is the third largest Local Authority when it comes to overall output (Glasgow and Edinburgh are 1st and 2nd)

Click the links above to find out more. Obviously Cormonachan Woodlands is a key part of our delivery of the JMA, we insist that all groups completing the Award spend a full day there. There is more about how we deliver the JMA [here](#) on our website.

### **Types of Groups from Ardroy OEC**

The types of groups that Ardroy work with, in Cormonachan Woodlands:

- P6/P7 school children many (probably 40% of the 1,000 number) from areas of deprivation where the children get free school meals.
- National Citizen Service - a programme for teenagers from inner cities such as Birmingham, Bradford, Wolverhampton which is preparing them to go to college/university/work
- Various Youth Groups, for example, a programme for young people carers to have respite from their caring duties, inner city groups from Glasgow & Dumbarton getting them out of the city into the outdoors

- National Deaf Children Society who bring disabled young people from across Scotland
- Children 1st, Scotland's national charity working across Scotland with very vulnerable families and children and young people who have suffered serious trauma

Ardroy are also in discussion with Sense Scotland charity a disability and awareness charity who work with severely disabled children and young people but this would be dependent on suitable disabled access.

Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre have a Memorandum of Understanding agreed with Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd. and are Corporate Members .

