



Kilmallie Community Company

The Sales and Corpach Woods

The good news is that the extreme winds of the gale that came just before Christmas did not do a great deal of damage to our woods. Other woods in the area such as the big trees at Locheil Outward Bound centre or around Achnacarry suffered a great deal but we were lucky. Perhaps it isn't luck but an indication that the trees have a sound footing and plenty of life left in them yet.

In the pine wood above Guisach Terrace only one large pine tree blew down. Sadly it was one of our largest trees. Apart from this one tree the wind blew down only a few large branches and of course a lot of twigs.

In the Cnoc nam Faobh Oak wood all the oak trees survived, but a few birch and alder trees on the wetter ground were blown down. But there were, however, a lot of branches broken off the trees.

Shortly after the gale, the directors had a quick look round to see if there were any serious hazards and cleared branches blocking the Oakwood path. After that we had another work party pulling down the most obvious branches that were likely to fall down.

After some discussion amongst the directors we decided that any blown trees or branches should be left lying in the wood. It would be good for bugs and beasties that live on fallen timber and would improve biodiversity. We felt that the woods do not need to be tidied like a garden. We have a practical problem in that our insurance does not cover the use of chainsaws in the wood. So as long as fallen timber is not blocking the main paths the policy will be to leave it lying.