

OUR PROPERTIES:

- 1 SANDWOOD
- 2 QUINAG
- 3 SCONSER, STRATHAIRD AND TORRIN ON SKYE
- 4 LI AND COIRE DHORRCAIL, KNOYDART
- 5 BEN NEVIS
- 6 EAST SCHIEHALLION
- 7 GLENLUDE

WILDLAND QUALITY INDEX



Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees.

JOHN MUIR, 1901

JOHN MUIR TRUST PROPERTIES

Protecting and enhancing our wild land for generations to come

The John Muir Trust is the leading wild land conservation charity in the UK. We love wild places and are dedicated to protecting and improving them for people and wildlife. Over 10,000 members support us in our work.

If you love wild places, please join us

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Photograph: Karen Purvis

A guide to
Glenlude

A John Muir Trust property in the Scottish Borders
www.johnmuirtrust.org

Introducing Glenlude

Glenlude is on the edge of the Southern Uplands with the Southern Upland Way passing close by.

Glenlude forest on the south and east of the hill is mostly Sitka spruce and hybrid larch. Under a 25 year plan the John Muir Trust will slowly transform this into a native woodland and improve and extend the range of woodland, grassland and riparian habitats across the estate. The Trust's management plan for Glenlude, a rewilding project, is to **"move towards natural vegetation and natural processes... while maximising engagement with volunteers and education opportunities."**

At 149 ha (369 acres) Glenlude is the smallest property owned by the Trust in Scotland. Despite its size, and the impact of agriculture and forestry, it has a wide range of habitats. These range from open grassland on the top of Glenlude Hill at 470m, down to the watershed between the Mountbenger Burn draining to the Yarrow, and the Paddock Burn draining into the Tweed alongside a strip of native woodland stretching north towards Traquair.

Black grouse are regularly seen at Glenlude as well as occasional sightings of crossbills, owls, otter, red squirrel, water vole, adder, palmate newts and a wide range of invertebrates.



Volunteers help with a variety of jobs

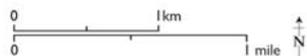
Photograph: Karen Purvis

Volunteering

Glenlude is well within two hours travel from Glasgow, Edinburgh and the north of England and lends itself well to encouraging volunteers to get involved with the day to day running of the rewilding project.

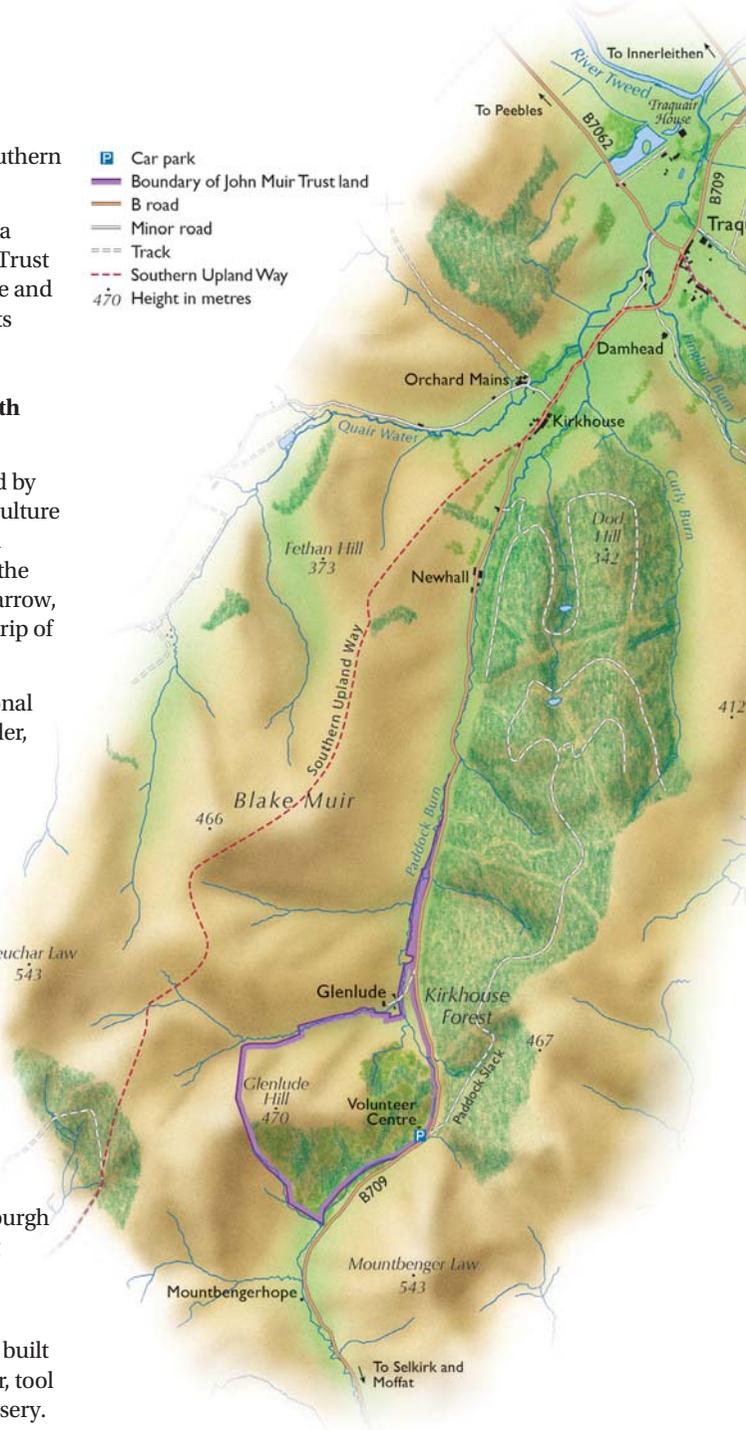
The volunteers (many but not all members of the Trust) have built the infrastructure on the estate including a volunteers' shelter, tool store, composting toilet and a polytunnel as part of a tree nursery.

Other tasks include gathering seeds and propagating, planting and tending native trees. They monitor plant and animal life as well as helping with thinning and felling conifers to build brush hedges which protect tree seedlings from roe deer browsing.



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- Car park
- Boundary of John Muir Trust land
- B road
- Minor road
- Track
- Southern Upland Way
- 470 Height in metres



Background

For several centuries Glenlude was farmed primarily for sheep. In 1995 the Forestry Commission purchased half the property to plant mainly conifers. In 2000 Sheila Bell (pictured right) purchased the plantation and the other half of Glenlude Hill with a plan to rewild the whole property.

Born in Uganda, Sheila trained as a pilot and ran her own air transport business in Africa before returning to the UK to set up a computer business. She gave Glenlude to the John Muir Trust in 2004 and continued to live and work there until her death in 2010. Since then, the Trust has carried on her work of rewilding this small part of the Scottish Borders.



Photograph: Denis Mollison

Engagement and education

The variety of habitats, central location and facilities at Glenlude supports a range of engagement and educational activity. This ranges from children's workshops in bushcraft and bird box making, to visits from professional ecologists and forestry students as part of their training. The area is also ideal for introducing corporate groups to working on wild land.

Glenlude attracts many groups and individuals participating in the Trust's environmental award scheme – the John Muir Award. These include both local and national organisations. Schools and groups from social inclusion backgrounds make great use of its potential for outdoor learning; raising their awareness; helping put something back and wild camping.

In all, a range of volunteers donate almost 300 days a year – with another 200 days of educational activity taking place at Glenlude.



Buglife experts share their knowledge

Photograph: Sandy Maxwell