Case study

Sandy Murray, Sutherland

Sandy Murray from Auchamore in northern Sutherland has been planting trees on his croft since 1992. He has combined native woodland planting with shelter belts and Christmas trees. The woodlands not only provide shelter for sheep and a sustainable source of wood fuel but they have also led to an increase in wildlife. Now that trees are well established, Sandy is managing the woods for firewood and is considering felling work to increase the amount of shelter available for livestock.

“Well-planned woodland integrated with other activities can work really well. Seeing more wildlife as the trees grow and watching sheep take refuge in rough weather has been very satisfying.”

Case study

Donald Fletcher, Islay

Donald Fletcher started planting hedgerows on his smallholding at Persabus in 2002 to provide shelter around the steading and adjacent fields. Donald soon realised that the hedgerows provided ideal fenced enclosures for his chickens, so he installed portable henhouses. Not only were the hens protected from predators and the weather, but they kept the weeds down and fertilised the establishing hedge.

“Persabus was a challenging area to establish shrubs and trees but with perseverance and a big help from our hens we now have a fantastic shelterbelt. It provides a haven for wildlife and insects and shelter for our livestock. We get a lot of positive comments from visiting tourists.”

For more information on planting trees or managing woodland in the crofting counties please contact your regional croft woodlands advisor:

Argyll & Lochaber:
Iona Hyde t. 0343 770 5460 m. 07840 699427

Highland & Northern Isles:
Donnie Chisholm t. 0343 770 5847 m. 07502 094387

Western Isles:
Viv Halcrow t. 0343 770 5856 m. 07876 217034

Email crofting@woodlandtrust.org.uk

To find out more about how we can help you plant trees, visit woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant

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Case study

Sandy Murray, Sutherland

Case study

Donald Fletcher, Islay

Trees for the crofting community

Craobhan do chroitearan

help with planting and managing

trees and woods in the crofting counties

LIVESTOCK WOODLANDS 
SUSTAINABLE WOODLANDS FOR SHOW AND PROVISION 
FORESTRY COMMISSION SCOTLAND

CASE STUDY

Donald Fletcher, Islay

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Create natural insulation around houses, polytunnels and outbuildings.

Help reduce animal health issues, such as hypothermia and liver fluke.

Protect soils from wind and water erosion and improve water quality.

Offer a sustainable source of firewood.

Provide essential shelter, improving livestock and crop performance.

Trees can:

- brought into management to deliver long term benefits.
- grazings schemes or individual apportionments. Existing woodland can be diversified enterprises.
- horticultural productivity, to support agricultural and into productive in-bye land
- smallholding.

Thig iomadh feum don chroit agus don ãranachd gu leir bhe croobaan a chur. Mar eiseimhle, bheir fann-basgaigh ãrðeas: air dhiadhain, doin an thoilige agus bidh cosgas teasaichd nas isle.