



WILDLIFE / NATURE

5000 TREES PLANTED TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

The Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust has been awarded grants from Scottish National Heritage to **plant trees in its catchments in order to keep watercourses cool.**

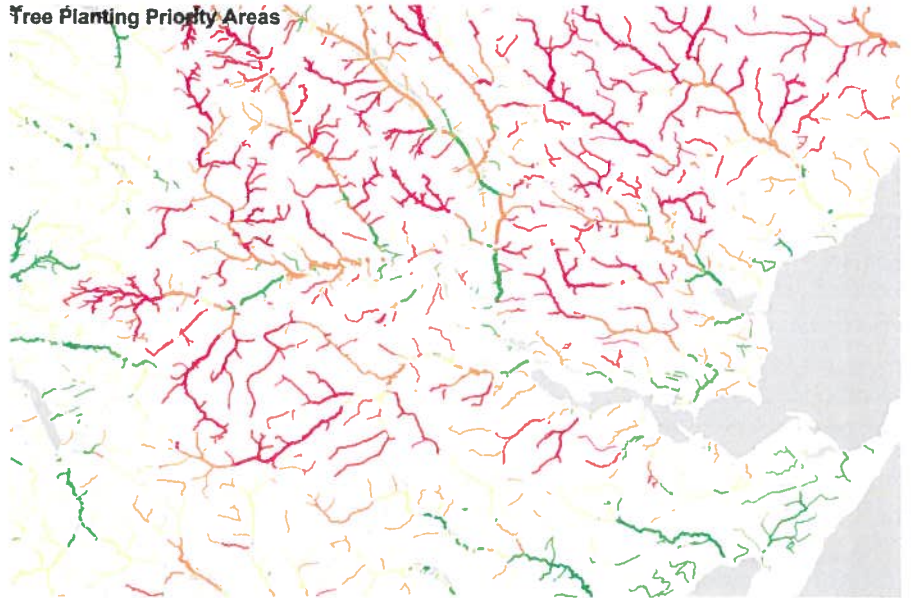
The climate emergency has received a lot of media attention recently. In December a record nighttime high temperature was recorded of 16 degrees. A warming world means that the temperatures are rising in our rivers, burns and lochs, resulting in problems for our aquatic life.

This brings us to the questions “What can we do to combat climate change?” Cutting our carbon emissions has been widely discussed and it is now a part of government policy. However, there are other actions we can take.

Peatland is a major carbon store, which has been degraded over the years by drainage. This has been done for agriculture, forestry and to a lesser extent peat extraction to use as fuel. Restoring these areas by blocking historical drainage ditches would allow them to store more carbon, and therefore to fight climate change.

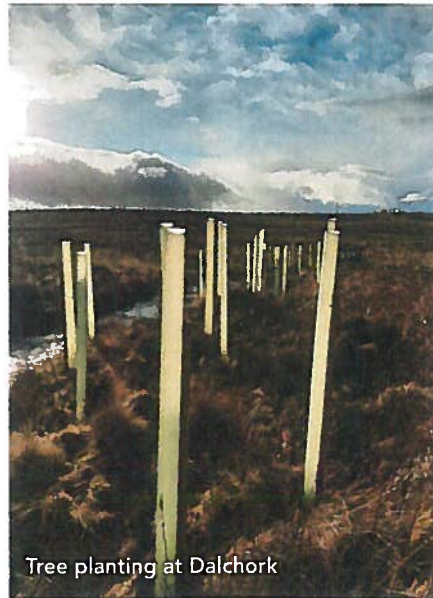
We can help combat climate change by planting trees in narrow strips right beside the rivers. When trees grow to their full size they will provide shade, which will help keep the rivers cool during a bright summer day. Scientists at Marine Scotland’s Freshwater Laboratory in Pitlochry have been using temperature loggers across Scotland to record river temperatures, and to model how these are likely to increase under climate change conditions. From this work we now have a tool that can inform us where planting trees will benefit rivers the most and provide shade to keep watercourses cool. The outputs from the Scottish River Temperature Monitoring

Tree Planting Priority Areas



Tree planting priority areas, red indicating rivers which will benefit most from tree planting. Data and tools from the Scotland River Temperature Monitoring Network.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT [HTTPS://MARINESCOTLAND.ATKINSGEOSPATIAL.COM/NMPI/](https://marinescotland.gov.uk/marine-scotland-atkins-geospatial.com/nmpi/)



Tree planting at Dalchork

Scientists have been recording river temperatures across Scotland to model how these are likely to increase under climate

Recently the Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust along with Gallo-way and Argyll Fishery Trusts have been awarded grants from Scottish National Heritage (SNH) Biodiversity Challenge Fund to plant trees in their catchments. In the Kyle we are planting 5000 trees in the River Tirry area on land owned by Forestry and Land Scotland, who have also given assistance during the process. This will benefit fish species such as salmon and trout, but also freshwater pearl mussels which are present in the area. Pearl mussels are a filter feeder, and adults can filter up to 50 liters of water a day, keeping water clear for other species. We thank SNH for the funding and hope to facilitate more projects to help the community combat climate change in the future. ■ by Sean Robertson

KYLE CHRONICLE

Independent quarterly news magazine for the communities of the Kyle of Sutherland

SPRING 2020 ■ ISSUE NO 2 ■ ISSN: 2633-0938 ■ PRICE: £2



SUTHERLAND SESSIONS

Interview with MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards
'Club of the Year 2019' winners PAGES 36-37

Birds in need of help

New Raptor Rescue Centre in Brora
PAGE 20 The Swift population is in sharp decline PAGE 22 When to look out for one of Scotland's wildlife success stories, the Osprey PAGE 27



The Airdens martyrs

Account of how the Airdens martyrs...

Invercharron Sheepdog Trials

An account of these Sheepdog Trials in times past. PAGE 32
Dog handler legend Pat Macgettigan. PAGE 33

