

2010 Conservation Work Parties

Members and non members join our conservation work parties. These events take place on John Muir Trust properties and on our partnership properties. Participants arrange their own food, travel and accommodation. These events are designed to enable our members and others to:



- Contribute to the practical work of the John Muir Trust on Trust and partnership properties;
- Learn about the John Muir Trust and partnership properties and how they are managed;
- Practice some of the skills of conservation management;
- Meet other members and John Muir Trust staff;
- Experience and have contact with wild places.

"Do something for wildness and make the mountains glad"
(John Muir, 1892)

Volunteers donated over 600 days during the 21 work parties run in 2010. New locations included a very productive week long work party on one of our partner's properties the Corroul estate and new experiences included declaring war on giant rhubarb on North Harris. Familiar tasks were not forgotten with over 500 bin bags of rubbish removed from ten beaches including a massive push at Camasunary on Skye that resulted in a letter of congratulations from Prince Charles to the volunteers! Fences were repaired and one very significant milestone was reached when volunteers removed around 600metres of deer fence originally erected by the JMT after purchasing Li & Corrie Dhorrcail where the trees are now tall enough to fend for themselves.

As always many thanks to those that came along and helped out during 2010.

In figures it was another successful year with over 67 days being filled with 21 work parties (compared to 22 in 2009 and 19 in 2008) involving 135 volunteers (compared to 128 in 2009 & 110 in 2008). The workparties took place on JMT estates (16) and our partners (North Harris, Galson, Knoydart & Corroul) as well as one of our neighbours Keoldale. In total 614 volunteer days of work was carried out during the work parties as well as many more by individual volunteers on various monitoring and survey tasks on our estates.

Below is a rough total of what the work achieved (as well as being highly enjoyable!)

- **Rubbish collected** (bin bags or equivalent)
Inland lochs 20 (Corroul) Summits 32 (Ben Nevis in 4 visits) Beaches 545

(Camasunary, Cable Bay, Bagh Theilinis, Huishinis, Beatersaig, Glen Scaladal, Sandwood Bay, Polin, Oldshoremore, Sheigra)

- **Invasive species control**
Rhododendron (Knoydart) extensive hand pulling of large area
Gunnera (N Harris) small forests of wild rhubarb plants cut down and half a skip of seed heads collected
non native self seeded trees removed (Strathaird around 2,500 Corrou 500)
- **Cairn Removal**
15 plus removed mostly on Ben Nevis & some on Schiehallion
- **Path repairs & maintenance**
19 Km of paths were maintained (sometimes several times, 5 times on Schiehallion & twice at Sandwood) and intensive repairs carried out on around 2 km where around 400 metres of new ditching, 15 metres of revetment, 8 cross drains and 12 water bars constructed as well as around 60 blocking stones or other features added.
- **Fences**
600 metres of deer fence removed (Li & Coire Dhorrcail)
3km stock fence repaired or constructed (Schiehallion & Keoldale)
- **Habitat work**
Coastal erosion prevention at Sheigra & corncrake habitat creation at Keoldale

You can see pictures and reports on each of the work parties by following the links in the list below of all the work parties during 2010

Dates of work	Location	Proposed activity	Notes / reports
21st March (postponed from 6th March)	Schiehallion	Path maintenance	see report
25th to 27th March	Sandwood	Beach cleaning, path work and general activity	see report
29th to 31st March	Keoldale	Corn crake cover creation	extra work party see report
2nd to 6th April	Strathaird (Skye)	Beach Cleaning	see report
6th to 13th April	Inverie (Knoydart)	Rhododendron removing, knotweed eradication and beach cleaning	see report
15th to 18th April	Li & Corrie Dhorrcail	Pathwork & fence removal	see report
19th to 24th April	Corrou	Pathwork, woodland & rubbish collection	see report
25th April	Schiehallion	Path maintenance	see report
30th April to 3rd May	Quinag	Pathwork	see report

8th to 9th May	Schiehallion	Path maintenance and repairs	cancelled
15th to 16th May	Strathaird (Skye)	General activities	cancelled
28th to 31st May	Li & Coire Dhorrcail (Knoydart)	Pathwork & fence removal	see report
29th May	Ben Nevis	Summit litter collection and removal of fresh cairns	see report
31st May to 5th June	North Harris & Galson (Lewis)	Beach cleaning, pathwork and fence removal	see report
26th June	Ben Nevis	Summit litter collection and removal of fresh cairns	see report
16th to 18th July	Glen Nevis	Pathwork & fence removal	see report
31st July to 1st August	Schiehallion	Path repairs	see report
15th August	Ben Nevis	Summit litter collection and removal of fresh cairns	see report
26th to 28th August	Sandwood	Pathwork	see report
30th Aug to 3rd Sept	North Harris	<i>Gunnera</i> eradication	see report
10th to 13th September	Strathaird (Skye)	Rhoddie Bashing, pathwork, woodland work, beach cleaning and general work	see report
25th September	Ben Nevis	Summit litter collection and removal of fresh cairns	see report
9th to 10th October	Schiehallion	Path maintenance	see report