** HINTERLAND WOODLAND SHELTER - A USER’S GUIDE**

**Our Aim.** The Findhorn Hinterland Trust (FHT) wishes to encourage groups to use its Woodland Shelter and surrounding area particularly for activities that are thoughtful, reflective, nature-based and supportive of people’s education in sustainability and personal growth. Young people are especially encouraged to take part in these activities. The activities involved need to be carried out in such a way as to cause minimal disruption to other residents and visitors to The Park Eco-village and create as little additional work for the FHT management group or other users. This is not a regular workshop space but it is one that can offer a different experience, emphasising and deepening peoples’ connection and understanding of the natural environment.

**Pre-booking the Woodland Shelter.** The Hinterland shelter was built as an outdoor classroom and meeting place for all the people and groups that use and enjoy the land. The FHT Trustees recognises this and therefore it is important for any group, especially in school holiday times or at weekends, to check with Kajedo Wanderer (Email: landmanager@findhornhinterland.org Tel: 01309690869), the FHT shelter co-ordinator and FHT Land Manager, that your use of the area will fit in with other planned activities. Please do this in good time to avoid disappointment. The group leader will need to fill in a booking form, be responsible for the behaviour of their group members and also take on the responsibility of leaving the land tidy and in a better state than their group found it.

**Vehicle Access and Parking**. Neighbours living adjacent to Wilkies Wood gave permission to upgrade the access track on the assurance that there would be very little traffic allowed on it. To honour this vehicles are only to be used for drop off and recovery of heavy equipment; **no parked vehicles anywhere in the woods please**. Everything else needs to be wheel barrowed or backpacked in and out. The group leader will be given the padlocked number for the vehicle barrier as part of the booking procedure. A wheelbarrow is available on request.

**Toilet Facilities.** There is a compost toilet near the shelter. It needs to be looked after and cleaned when being used by a group; instructions are posted on the door. Occasionally the FHT may require a large group to dig a new pit and move the structure so that we can continue to offer this facility. This would need to be built into any programme and would be a condition of use.

**Water.** There is a tap in the woods that can be used but for large groups there are pipes and fittings available should you wish to set up and dismantle this to provide water right to the site.

**Fires and Firewood.** Please **do** make fires in the areas provided near the shelter; a campfire is central to any outdoor experience but do also make sure that it is always contained and under control. For small groups firewood can be scavenged from the surrounding area or they can bring their own but for larger ones you can ask for a supply of cut and dried wood for your fire. There is a charge for this service.

**Tent/s.** The shelter, as it is or with the temporary windbreak sides, may be all that your group needs. However some groups may need an additional large meeting tent/s which is/are permissible near the shelter; please **do not pitch tents outside the forest area or right next to the green burial graves**. Others may need small sleeping tents which can be discretely placed on the informal sites to the north of the fallen acres compartment to reduce the camps impact on other users of the woods – an additional form will need to be completed should you wish to request to pitch sleeping tents.

**Your Group’s Contribution.** We welcome some monetary donation from groups using the Woods to aid our volunteer conservation work. In addition, if it is at all possible, we would like your group to engage with the work of taking care of the land and do an appropriate physical project together. This could be caring for young trees, cutting back gorse from tracks, making nest boxes, controlling the spread of invasive species etc. This would be discussed and arranged prior to your visit. Tools and gloves can be made available.