



Findhorn Hinterland

Developing a Vision for Action



Report Of Community Engagement Programme To Develop A Vision

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1 Introduction

1.1 Summary

This report documents a project that develops a vision for the Findhorn Hinterland, an area of pine woodland, sand dune heath, species rich grassland and gorse scrub communities situated near the village of Findhorn, Moray. The area is currently under three separate ownerships (see map in Appendix 1) but comprises similar contiguous habitat and is very popular with the local community and visitors to the area. The vision is required in order to develop an integrated approach to the management of this area, working with the community and in collaboration the neighbouring landowners.

The new Findhorn Hinterland Trust (FHT) initiated the project working in partnership with neighbouring landowner the Findhorn Dunes Trust. A key aspect of the project for both organisations was to engage the local community in developing the vision for the management of this land. The project has grown out of an aspiration for that vision to be an integrated one for the whole area and a desire to work together along with the community and in collaboration with the other neighbouring landowners, to develop shared priorities for both habitat and visitor management.

This current opportunity for co-ordinated management of the habitats is underpinned by shared conservation, recreation and education aims of the owners of the two areas under management agreements with the new charity and the Findhorn Dunes Trust

A key aim of the project to engage the local community to develop this vision for the future management of the Hinterland and covered the following areas of activity;

- Asking the local community and other stakeholders what they value about the area and what they'd like to see there. This community engagement process was also used as a way to provide an opportunity for more people in the community to get involved in conserving the area through becoming trustees of the new charity and/or taking up active membership.
- Holding a woodland festival to offer local people a chance to come out into the woods and find out more through experiential and fun activities
- Working collaboratively with the Findhorn Dunes Trust to use the ideas and thoughts from the consultation process to develop a vision for the integrated management of the whole Findhorn Hinterland area. This vision will be used by FHT to support the management objectives for the next 5 years and beyond.

The work was funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund "Start up Grant" and was delivered by Fiona Chalmers and Claire Ross of Fiona Chalmers Associates

1.2 Background

1.2.1 The Findhorn Hinterland

The Findhorn Hinterland comprises a mix of habitats and covers an area of over 161 ha (400 acres). It is situated to the north of Findhorn eco-village and to the east of the village of Findhorn. It is a key component of a coastline that is recognised to be of international importance for wildlife. Although the Hinterland area is not currently legally designated as a conservation site, the Hinterland adjoins the Findhorn Bay that is recognised to be of national and international importance for birds. The Bay is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA) and RAMSAR site

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A Biodiversity Action Plan for the Hinterland is in draft form and has identified four priority habitats: dune heath, dune scrub, species-rich grassland and planted coniferous woodland. The plan recommends the following priorities for species and habitat management over the next five years:

- Scrub and tree control on the dune heath and grassland.
- Widening and maintenance of fire breaks
- Installing some visitor interpretation, especially to reduce trampling of lichen.
- Refining the grazing plan.
- Red squirrel monitoring and limited supplementary feeding.
- Identification of veteran trees and maintenance of quiet zones in the woodland.

A survey of lichens on the site was undertaken in 2008 and described the area as “a very special place” and of “national importance for lichens” with over 145 taxa recorded. The survey showed 5 nationally rare lichen species and 18 nationally scarce species including some listed as endangered, vulnerable or near threatened. The authors of the report noted that the site was of sufficient ecological interest to be designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

1.2.2 Findhorn Hinterland group

In 2013 the Findhorn Hinterland Group Committee held several meetings discussing the need for a step change as it was becoming clear that the existing organisational structure was not the best vehicle to implement a larger vision of integrated land management on the Findhorn Hinterland. It was agreed to engage professional support to see what might be the best way forward. The result of that advice was a recommendation to set up a new charity with a more suitable legal structure and to carry out a community engagement consultation programme garnering a local mandate for a clear vision for the area. It was suggested that this would be the best way to develop a “hands on” management approach that had been endorsed by all the key stakeholders.

Initially discussions took place with the owners of two of the three areas of the Hinterland (Duneland Ltd and the Findhorn Foundation). They indicated that they would support the proposed changes and that they were willing to give greater security around the stewardship of the land by giving long-term management agreements to the new charity.

A formal proposal to lease the land was submitted to the Duneland Ltd Board on the 12th December 2013 and an in-principal agreement was given. The Findhorn Foundation likewise gave their in-principal agreement to a long-term land management agreement.

Discussions with the Findhorn Dunes Trust (FDT) took longer but as a result of a meeting on the 28th January 2014 between the Findhorn Dunes Trust Trustees and the Findhorn Hinterland Group, there was full support for applying for funding to set up a new charity which would manage the land collaboratively with the FDT as if there were no boundaries. In this case it was seen as a joint management with another charity rather than a leasing option. They were keen to benefit from the public consultation process, the economies of joint working and appreciated the merits of integrating land management.

There was also further consultation with other stakeholders including: Scottish Natural Heritage, Dr Coppins of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh who carried out the 2008 Lichen Survey on the area, the Community Woodland Association and some of the formal users of the land such as Wild Things! that offers forest school programmes and the Moravian Orienteers. All were in agreement that some way of integrating land management is needed so that the land that is such an asset to the area can be sensitively looked after and appreciated by all in perpetuity.

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In September 2014 a presentation about the work of the FHG was given to the Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council (FKCC) raising awareness of FHG's proposed change of structure from a community group to a charity and its wish to reapply for funding for the community consultation process for the dune area.

From this came a formal statement of support for the work of the group and an intention to encourage more residents of the local community to become members and participate in the management of the group so that future plans would benefit the entire community. A wide range of organisations were invited to have representation and the constitution of the new charity made provision for nominated places on the board of trustees for community organisations, specifically the FKCC and the FVCC, as well as other groups such as the New Findhorn Association.

These actions further informed and engaged the local community who were now poised for the next step which was the consultation process.

1.2.3 The Findhorn Hinterland Trust

The Findhorn Hinterland Trust was established as a new charity in July 2015 and takes forward the work of the Findhorn Hinterland Group to aid the long-term integrated management of the southern part of the Hinterland. The new charity is a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) and is regulated by OSCR, the Scottish Charity Regulator. The new charity was launched with a celebration event and a wide range of partner organisations were informed and invited.

The new FHT has negotiated long-term management agreements with the two landowners of the southern part of the Hinterland and it has a charitable remit to manage that land on their behalf and work collaboratively with other landowners.

The FHT's four charitable purposes are;

- The advancement of ***environmental protection and improvement*** with particular reference to the habitats of the Findhorn peninsula;
- The ***education*** of the local community and wider public especially related to outdoor and environmental opportunities provided by the Findhorn peninsula habitats and environs;
- The ***advancement of community development*** by encouraging community cooperation, development and resilience through activities related to land on the Findhorn peninsula and its management and;
- The ***provision of recreational facilities and activities*** with the object of improving the conditions of life for the local people in West Moray and beyond.

FHT aims to increase local people's awareness of the land they have access to through hands on activities: monthly work parties, educational talks, practical land management skills training and educational outdoor programmes for young people and the general public.

The Findhorn Hinterland Group had a volunteer committee, and the Convenor, Secretary and Treasurer became the founding trustees for the new FHT. As a part of this community engagement process the FHT has sought to encourage a wide range of membership and develop good community representation on the board of trustees. The new Trust is governed by a constitution and currently has a long term seconded volunteer to help with practical conservation tasks and promoting educational work.

The FHT continues to seek funding through grants for such things as habitat management, training and equipment. The FHT also has a revenue stream through running a green burial ground, pony

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grazing charges, selling Christmas trees and money paid for firewood from the woodland as well as donations for use of the woodland shelter and small wild camping area.

The main regular activities that the FHT organises are;

- Regular work parties (usually attended by up to 25 people)
- Conservation tasks
- Hosting of local and Moray wide health and wellbeing support groups (e.g. Mental health)
- Meetings and weekly walks to inform the general public and also to discuss management decisions,
- Educational talks (often 40 to 50 people)
- Local schools use of the area (e.g. Forest School)
- Orienteering and other sporting events
- Conservation volunteering by the Moray Steiner upper school class
- Chainsaw work parties in the winter months
- Use of the forest as an outdoor classroom by the local pre-school class

The people involved in these are a varied cross-section of the local community.

1.3 The Project “Developing a Vision”

1.3.1 Project Aims:

- To develop a shared vision for the integrated area of land known as the Findhorn Hinterland through a series of activities and consultations with the neighbouring landowners and the local community.
- To support the development and growth of the FHT and its intentions to work in collaboration with its neighbouring landowner the Findhorn Dunes Trust.

1.3.2 Project objectives:

The following objectives were agreed as the main objectives for the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund Start Up Grant and the first major activity area for the new charity in delivering its charitable aims.

Engaging the community.

- Plan and co-ordinate a community engagement programme
- Hold a ‘Drop in Day’ with audience specific sessions to inform local people about the area and to hear their ideas and concerns
- Run on site “Woodland Festival” activities for all ages to introduce them to the nature in the area and find out what they think about it

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- Gather, record and collate all the information, opinions and ideas
- Producing a report to present the results and form a clear and succinct vision that can be used to underpin future management plans

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1.3.3 Project Delivery

The successful application to the HLF Start Up Grant allowed the FHT to engage consultants to deliver a major part of the activities that were covered by the grant. Fiona Chalmers Associates were appointed on 22nd February 2016 with an agreed timescale to complete the contract by 30 June 2016.

The consultants Fiona Chalmers and Claire Ross were responsible for co-ordinating the project and delivering the following activities and outputs. Although both consultants worked on all aspects of the contract, Claire Ross led on the community engagement programme and Fiona Chalmers led on contract liaison, the Woodland Festival and all countryside management aspects of the work. The contract with the consultants was completed with delivery of the final draft vision report to the trustees of Findhorn Hinterland Trust.

1.3.4 Project Activities and Outputs

The key areas of activity for the consultants were:

1. Asking the local community and other stakeholders what they value about the area and what they'd like to see there. This community engagement process was also used as a way to provide an opportunity for more people in the community to get involved in conserving the area through becoming trustees of the new charity and/or taking up active membership.
2. Holding a woodland festival to offer local people a chance to come out into the woods and find out more through experiential and fun activities
3. Recording the ideas, feedback and thoughts that emerged from the whole consultation process.
4. Collating this information into a vision report that can then be used by FHT to work collaboratively with the Findhorn Dunes Trust to develop a vision for the integrated management of the whole Findhorn Hinterland area and to support the formulation of management objectives for the next 5 years and beyond.

The following sections of this report give detailed information on the project activities.

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2 Community Consultation

2.1 Introduction and Structure

The first component of the community engagement process was the more formal community consultation programme which comprised an online survey, a Drop in Day and a series of one-to-one stakeholder interviews and was led by Claire Ross working with the team at FHT.

In developing a vision for the Findhorn Hinterland it was key to ask people: local residents, communities of interest, public sector and other local organisations how they felt the area could be managed in an integrated way for public benefit.

The consultation used several approaches to achieve several goals:

- To ensure that as wide a range of people with an interest were engaged in giving their views on how the Findhorn Hinterland should be managed.
- To educate and inspire people about the unique qualities of the area, through displays and presentations.
- To use a variety of methods to ensure that people felt that they could engage with the process in a way that they felt comfortable.
- To create dialogue with potential partners and contributors.

2.1.1 Consultation Structure

The community consultation was structured in the following key stages:

1. One on one informal interviews with key stakeholders: local residents and agencies, special interest groups.
2. Community Drop-in Event
3. Online Survey

2.2 One on one informal interviews:

This process took place throughout the community consultation process: face-to-face, by telephone and Messenger. The style was informal and confidential. Key people who sit on key groups/organisations were selected including: The Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council, The Findhorn Dunes Trust, The Findhorn Hinterland Trust, The Findhorn Village Conservation Company, the Findhorn Foundation and the Moray Council. Most of those spoken to sit on more than one committee, and not all those contacted for contribution were available or agreed to speak to the consultant. It must also be noted that some of those interviewed were clear that their views were personal and perhaps not representative of the organisations they were part of.

The aim of the interviews was to:

- Find out the background and history in regards to the potential management of the Findhorn Hinterland.
- Find out who should be involved in the community consultation, and the best way of engaging them.
- Gauge opportunities and tensions in bringing people together.

2.2.1 Findings from the one to one informal interviews:

Several themes came out of the discussion with key stakeholders:

- There is some optimism that relationships/partnerships can be built through better communication (from all quarters) and working more collaboratively.

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- There is significant mistrust between some of the key partners interviewed and the Findhorn Hinterland Trust. Based on the perception that the Trust is insular and too aligned with the culture and aims of the Findhorn Foundation.
- It is important for the Findhorn Hinterland Trust to engage with the Findhorn Village Conservation Company and the Planning for Real process.
- Several sources felt that the Findhorn Hinterland Trust meetings lack focus, effectiveness and are “long winded”, with too few members really contributing. This could be a barrier to more people joining the Board of the Trust.
- There is a difference of approach and understanding to what “Land Management” actually means for the local area i.e. traditional approach to a more conservation style.

2.3 Community Drop in Event - Aims and Methodology

2.3.1 Drop in day aims

The interactive part of the community consultation to place in the form of a “Drop in Day” (31st of March)

The aims for this event were:

- Create an opportunity for people to meet each other
- Stimulate conversation between member of the community on potential ideas and issues.
- Record opinions on ideas and issues to help identify future activity.
- Raise awareness about the special quality of the Findhorn Hinterland and its management issues.

2.3.2 Drop in Day Promotion

It was important to ensure maximum attendance so it was decided to hold the event on a week day a session in the morning and then in the late afternoon and evening. There were refreshments throughout the day so that people could relax and enjoy the interaction.

The event was promoted through: posters, emails, the local press, word of mouth and social media networks, as well as in the local press.

2.3.3 Drop in Day Format

The Drop in Day was designed to be as welcoming and informal as possible whilst at the same time providing a more formal way of stimulating ideas and recording opinions.

The event was held at the Findhorn Village Centre and comprised the following components:

- Displays about the special qualities of the area, landownership, and ongoing educational activities.
- Membership information and application area.
- Participatory consultation area
- Refreshment area.

2.3.4 Drop in Day - Participatory Consultation Methodology

The participative consultation element of the Drop in day was designed to reflect some of the themes and issues/opportunities that had come out of meetings with the Consultation Steering Group, the one on one interviews, and previous studies and work conducted by the Findhorn Hinterland Group. It was presented in such a way as to stimulate further discussion and contribution from the community.

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The methodology used was:

1. Interactive displays of presentation material to inform, encourage conversation and gather new information.
2. Interactive displays of participatory material to stimulate discussion and record ideas and opinions that included;
 - A large interactive map of the Findhorn Hinterland area where people could locate their favourite place in the area and place post-it comments to highlight opportunities, ideas and threats.
 - Four themed suggestion sheets listing potential activities under each of the four headings: Environment, Recreation, Education and Community Involvement. These suggestions came from comments from the one to one interviews and from members of the Community Consultation steering group. People were asked for yes, no, no view responses to each suggestion using sticky dots. There were also sheets under each heading for additional ideas and opinions.
3. A 'graffiti area' for final thoughts and feedback on the event.

2.4 Community Drop in Event - Attendance and Reaction

The Drop in Day was a well-attended event with over 80 people coming through the door over the period of the day. There was a good mix of local Findhorn Village residents, residents from the Findhorn Eco Village, and local agencies.

People seemed very engaged with the displays. There were members from the Findhorn Hinterland Trust, The Findhorn Dunes Trust to answer questions and spark conversations.

The main area of interaction was the large map of the Findhorn Hinterland proving to do several things: connecting people emotionally to the area, through their own person history and memories of being on it. Sparking ideas and comments and invaluable "local knowledge". Generating debate on boundaries, title and ownership of the land and what (if anything in places) should happen where.

The "Themed Suggestion" sheet areas were also popular, people found it easy to use the dot system but were more reluctant to write down comments. However there was still a substantial amount of information collected.



Finally there was a graffiti area at the exit of the consultation area and the level of positive comment captured here as well as the anecdotal feedback was overwhelmingly positive about the event.

"The Drop in Day has been really successful I can see a very good range of people from the village, The Park and a few from Forres and Environmental agencies (SNH, The Moray Council, etc.)"

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2.5 Community Drop in Event – Findings

There was a lot of interaction with the displays at the Drop in Event below is a summary of thoughts, comments and some of the debate that took place on the day.

2.5.1 The Interactive Map

People seemed to be especially drawn to the interactive map and much of the group discussion took place around this table. A full range of comments is in Appendix 3

However several themes stood out from the interaction with the map:

- Local people feel passionately about the area, spend a lot of time there walking, nature spotting and enjoying its peace, natural beauty and wildness.
- The majority of respondents want it to stay in its “natural state” especially the Dunes area.
- There is a concern about expanding future housing development on and around the Findhorn Hinterland area.
- There is a concern about the level of dog fouling in the Dunes area and around Dunesland.
- Needs to be better working relationship between those that own the land and those taking care of the land. Common culture, language and understanding should be developed.



Drop in Day Map



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2.5.2 The Themed Suggestion and Comment Sheets.

The themed suggestion and comments sheets were structured around each of the four themes:

- Environment,
- Recreation,
- Education and
- Community Involvement.

They were designed to identify potential priority actions, air any concerns or issues and generate new ideas and approaches. The tables below show a summary of the comments and a full list is in Appendix 3

<u>Environment/Conservation:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This theme focuses on the “stewardship” of the Findhorn Hinterland and what activities should be prioritised in order to conserve the area? ➤ What other factors need to be considered?
Activity	Comments
Removal of invasive species e.g. lodgepole pine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove lodgepole pine and other plants not naturally found in this area • Allow to evolve with minimal human interference
Prohibiting motorised vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to educate young people about their motorcycles on the Dunes and potential damage. • Remove /ban motorbikes in the Dunes –very disruptive and dangerous for walkers.
Pursuing protected status for the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a peninsula wide SSSI designation is really exciting and should be a key strand within the Findhorn Peninsula Visitor management plan.
Introduce more native trees and shrubs where appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I really like the new mixed woodland as you get out of the monoculture of pine forest.
Additional Comments on Environment	
Management of litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is so much broken glass and bottles in the Dunes-how can we promote the sensible usage. • Maybe a bottle bank and bins at the start of the Dunes Road and signage to “encourage” where to take their rubbish home or put in a bin. • Rubbish collection points to help look after the Dunes
No development on the land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don’t want any development in the Dunes area. • No more housing development. Development only in terms of enjoyment and appreciation of land

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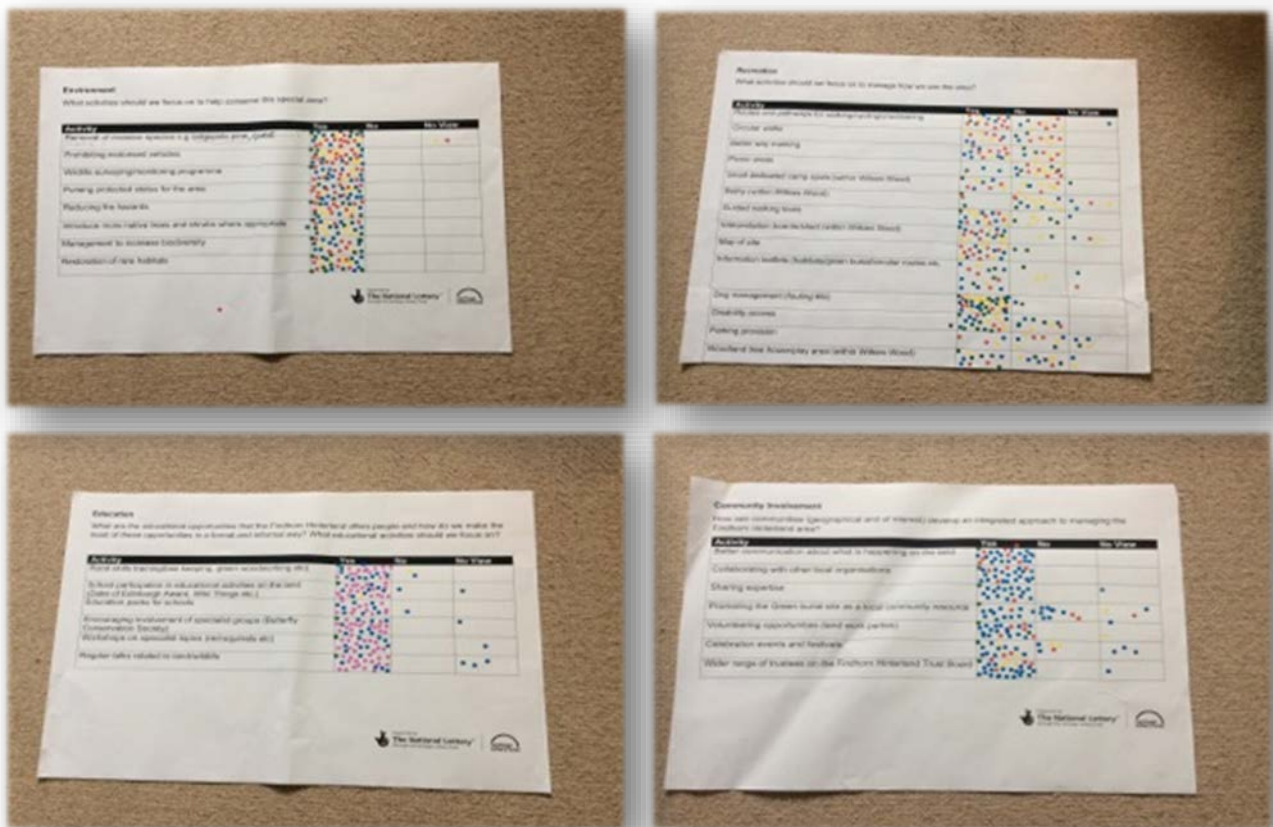
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This theme focuses on how do we use the area in a sustainable fashion? “Treading lightly” on the land developing sustainable visitor management. ➤ What activities should we focus on in managing how we use and enjoy the area?
Activity	Comments
Routes and pathways for walking/cycling/orienteering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe the more we intervene, the more the wildlife will be affected. There are already enough paths, trees, nature for people to enjoy. Anything purpose built will look false. People are already camp, encourage camping in Dunes South of the Dunes Road. • Better access signage to keep people on tracks so less disturbance to wildlife and flora • No marked pathways this is a wilderness and should stay as such. • Maintenance of paths –control of the gorse which is obscuring some paths.
Circular walks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start walks at beach car park • Introduce a series of signed circular walks from the car park and the village including an interpretation infrastructure.
Better way marking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I love the wilderness –please do not over develop and put up too many signs • Better signage on core paths particularly Moray Coastal Route. • Good opportunity to sign visitors to the beach to start their routes
Small dedicated camp spots (within Wilkies Wood)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camping must be authorised and supervised- no free camping
Interpretation boards/shed (within Wilkies Wood)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All interpretation information/boards to go on the Dunes Road. Not on the hinterland area.
Map of site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map of the site showing up different areas of ownership as well as overall boundaries and paths
Dog management (fouling etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrible dog fouling in the Dune Land Ltd area. • Dog fouling an issue. Paths should be clean, maybe more signs about this would help. • Dog fouling Signs and bags in key areas. Hopeman beach and walks have improved greatly with their new sign. (wording important)
Disability access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance disability access particularly from the car parks to the beach
Parking provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade car parks needing some attention particularly surfacing • Upgrade beach road access route full of potholes

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<u>Education</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This theme focuses on what are the educational opportunities that the area offers? ➤ How can we make the most of those opportunities?
Activity	Comments
School participation in educational activities on the land (Duke of Edinburgh Award, Wild Things etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of local schools/nurseries-exchange love of wildness, wildlife and the environment. • This area is not just an Educational resource! It just is and should be left to remain so and evolve naturally. • There should be no sign of human activity in the Dunes area it's a wild place. • Believe in young people's education (for Wilkie's wood) do not want to see and increased footfall on the Dunes. • Get the young people involved education is vital. • Kids love the wilderness and the freedom that gives. • More education for young people • Glass/rubbish education for the teenagers (Academy) End of term parties in the Dunes. Possibly provide bins at this time and encourage their use. Please visit the Academy and discuss/promote area. • Education for young people to "leave no trace of their activities"
Workshops on specialist topics (red squirrels etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education about the effects of erosion. • Education about the effects of dogs and fouling • Photography

<u>Community Involvement</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This theme focuses on how communities (geographical and of interest) develop an integrated approach to managing the Findhorn Hinterland area.
Activity	Comments
Better communication about what is happening on the land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let people know what "Hinterland" is. Lack of knowledge on this. • The phrase Hinterland is confusing! I thought that the FHT only managed land owned by the Findhorn Foundation • Communicate! Openness! • Transparency! No ulterior motives.
Collaborating with other local organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with other organisations is required in order to develop a Findhorn Visitor management plan. Only when this is done will you be able to manage the impacts of visitors on the sensitive environment of the Dunes Area. • I hope that in the future the FVCC (Community Company) works together with the FHT to develop a peninsula wide visitor management strategy.
Sharing expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe the FHT has the specialist knowledge and expertise to establish a great habitat management plan.
Wider range of trustees on the Findhorn Hinterland Trust Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skilled Trustees or those with local knowledge

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The Themed Suggestions and Comments Sheets

2.6 Drop-in Day Conclusions

The event was very successful with a wide range of people attending. There was a lot of support for most of the ideas put forward through but there were also some concerns voiced as well, mainly about keeping the area as wild and natural as possible, with minimal interference.

During the day there was a chance for some debate and discussion about closer partnerships in delivering some of the suggestions.

Main conclusions from the day were that:

People want the area to be as wild as possible, however there is a clear

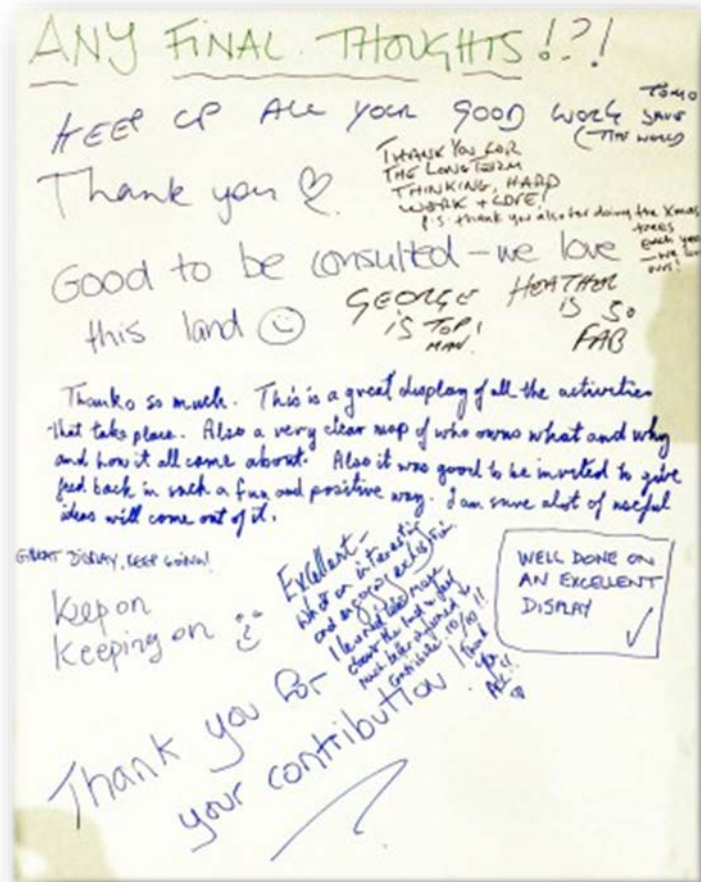


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message that there does need to be “a light touch” management plan that:

- Manages invasive species e.g. gorse and lodgepole pines. .
- Tackles dog fouling especially on the Dunes and the Duneland areas.
- Looks at the possibility of pathways and way marking but in a way that keeps the natural nature of the area.
- Support for interpretation: a site map in particular but this should be off site at the car park.
- Access and footfall need to be looked at with other local partners.
- There needs be closer working relationships with landowners and key partners such as the newly formed Findhorn Village Conservation Company.

Last word on how the Drop in Day went! Graffiti Wall...



2.7 Online survey

2.7.1 Online survey methodology and promotion

In addition to the one on one interviews and the Drop in Day an on line survey was created so that people could contribute ideas and opinions in their own time, and in a confidential manner.

The survey took the form of a questionnaire through “Survey Monkey”. The survey asked a series of questions about usage, access, personal connection and potential activity in the Findhorn Hinterland. It concentrated focus on the four themes of the consultation: Conservation, Recreation, Education and Community Involvement. Mirroring the themed suggestion sheets at the Community Drop in Day for consistency. There were also comment boxes for additional ideas, issues etc.

The introduction and link to the survey were promoted through various local websites and communication networks, through social media, and word of mouth. Hard copies of the survey were placed in key points around the Village and the The Park Eco Village.

156 people filled in the survey responses coming from all over Moray but the majority from the Findhorn Foundation, The Findhorn Village, and Forres.

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2.7.2 Summary of the Findings from the Online Survey

A large number of people responded to the survey and the amount of information it generated was considerable. Below is a summary of the comments from the online survey and a full documentation of the survey can be found in Appendix 4

Q - What do people feel is special about the Findhorn Hinterland?

“It is an ever changing hinterland. Hardy in some ways but very fragile in others. It is a real wonderland to walk on. There are many interesting plants, grasses and birds to spot. It is a unique, historical and geological piece of coastal land and should be kept that way.”

It was clear from the feedback that many people feel passionately about the Findhorn Hinterland Area. Below is feedback on what people thought is special about the place.

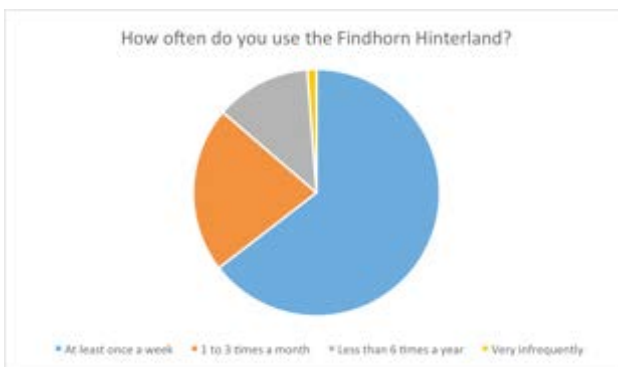
- The unspoilt nature of the Hinterland and a sense of wildness
- The varied diversity of the landscape: beach, dunes, shingle ridges forest etc.
- Rare ecosystem including: birdlife, plants and lichens.
- Lack of development, in particular housing and built structures.
- Quiet, peaceful and tranquil environment
- Sense of familiarity, stewardship and an historical relationship particularly with people living locally.

Q - How people use the Findhorn Hinterland Area

- The majority of people consulted walk through the Findhorn Hinterland with over a third that number walking their dogs.
- People are also using the area for exercise: running and orienteering. There are a significant number of people cycling in the area.
- Nature spotting is an important activity, with a clear appreciation of the wildness and tranquillity of the area. People go there to connect with nature and the land, meditate, and unwind.
- Finally there are educational activities taking place, and volunteering mainly related to the management of the land.

“Sometimes I just go there to stop, sit, and enjoy the sea.”

How often do people currently use the Findhorn Hinterland Area?



A clear majority of people (64%) use the area at least once a week (with many going there daily)

Followed by 22% going 1-3 times a month. 12% less than six times a year and a few very infrequently. In addition many people commented that the area was an important place for their children (and grandchildren to roam and play

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Would people go more frequently if they knew more about the area?

- The majority of people (approximately 75%) felt that they would not go more frequently if they knew more about the area. Many live locally, visit the area on an almost daily basis and feel they know enough about its special qualities.
- There is a concern about a higher footfall in the Hinterland particularly the Dunes area which is perceived to have a more fragile eco-system. There are issues around damage to rare plants (i.e. lichens) and erosion.
- A small minority of those consulted thought some information leaflets would be useful for visitors

How do people access the Findhorn Hinterland?



Nearly all access to the Findhorn Hinterland is evenly split between those accessing the area from the Park/Eco Village and those entering from the beach/Dunes Road area. Small numbers enter the area through other access points.

2.7.3 Themed suggestion questions

Below is the feedback from the questions asked through the online survey. The Yes, No and Split response is recorded and is also highlighted for each question in the following colours where there is a significant weighting of responses.

Yes	Yes (orange) is when the response is weighted over 50% in the yes column
No	No (green) is when the response is weighted over 50% in the no column
Split	Split (blue) is when the response is split over yes, no and no view. It will come up under the yes or no column depending on the weighting.

Feedback from the Environment theme:

What activities should we focus on to help conserve this special area?

Activity	Yes	No	No View
Removal of invasive species e.g lodgepole pine	65%	12%	23%
Prohibiting motorised vehicles	92%	3%	4%
Wildlife surveying/monitoring programme	76%	4%	20%
Pursuing protected status for the area	79%	7%	14%
Reducing fire hazards	76%	8%	16%
Introduce more native trees and shrubs where appropriate	75%	12%	13%
Management to increase biodiversity	67%	15%	18%
Restoration of rare habitats	76%	10%	15%

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From those consulted it was clear that there is support of most of the activities suggested in the survey and comments from other sources confirm this too.

However there is some additional comment that needs to be taken alongside these statistics:

- There is a clear steer to use a “lightness of touch” in managing the Findhorn Hinterland from a conservation perspective.
- Removal of invasive species: Some comment about managing “invasive species” rather than total removal.
- Strong view to prohibit motorised vehicles, especially motorbikes. Vehicles used for “managing the land” might be an exception.
- Pursuing protected status for the area has a significant support but needs to be discussed with other local groups so there is more “buy in”. Timing of when to look at extending designation might also be an issue.

Getting a good balance of managing the area is seen to be very important particularly in the removal and introduction of species.

Also a lot of comment about not building structures in the area (housing etc.)

Feedback from the Recreation theme

What activities should we focus on in managing how we use the area?

Activity	Yes	No	No View
Routes and pathways for walking/cycling/orienteering	61%	27%	12%
Circular walks	49%	26%	25%
Better way marking	46%	32%	21%
Picnic areas	19%	56%	25%
Small dedicated camp spots (within Wilkies Wood)	40%	38%	22%
Bothy (within Wilkies Wood)	22%	46%	32%
Guided walking tours	48%	27%	26%
Interpretation boards/shed (within Wilkies Wood)	59%	20%	21%
Map of site	81%	11%	8%
Information leaflets (habitats/green burial/circular routes etc.)	62%	17%	21%
Dog management (fouling etc.)	79%	11%	10%
Disability access	54%	19%	27%
Parking provision	33%	43%	23%
Woodland tree house/play area (within Wilkies Wood)	40%	34%	26%

Under the recreation there is again a steer that there should be a “lightness of touch” in the management of the Findhorn Hinterland, particularly in the Dunes area. There is a perception that promoting the area results in an increase in footfall which in turn can increase damage to the area and the nature. The idea of picnic areas, camp spots, guided walks, a bothy etc. divided opinion.

There is also a perception that developing signage, and built structures interferes with the experience of wildness.

The main findings from feedback both qualitative and quantitative are:

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- Dog fouling management is seen to be a key issue. People feel that this has got worse and is particularly bad in certain areas: the fire breaks and paths owned by Duneland, the Dunes area and the Dunes Road car park.
- There is support for a map of the site and low-key interpretation but where they should be placed is an issue (on or off site).
- Although some people like the idea of signage here is some of sensitivity about way marking particularly on site.
- There is support for routes and pathways but various perspectives on how a network of pathways should be maintained/developed.

Feedback from the Education Theme

What are the educational opportunities that the Findhorn Hinterland offers people and how do we make the most of these opportunities in a formal and informal way.

Activity	Yes	No	No View
Rural skills training (bee keeping, green woodworking etc.)	71%	9%	21%
School participation in educational activities on the land - (Duke of Edinburgh Award, Wild Things etc.)	85%	7%	8%
Education packs for schools	63%	11%	26%
Encouraging involvement of specialist groups (Butterfly Conservation Society)	63%	11%	26%
Workshops on specialist topics (red squirrels etc.)	71%	7%	22%
Regular talks related to land/wildlife	73%	9%	18%

It is clear from those consulted that the majority of people clearly support educational activities in the Findhorn Hinterland area. In particular structured sessions such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, Wild things! and The John Muir Award.

There was comment that young people are the future stewards of the Findhorn Hinterland and should know how to look after it.

Additional opportunities for educational activities and concerns include:

- Education sessions could also focus on stewardship of the area: “Leaving no trace” i.e. litter, damage limitation to fragile ecosystems, dog management etc.
- Education promoting just experiencing nature “informal” rather than “formal”
- Concern that school groups will increase the footfall particularly in the Dunes area.
- Rural skills training has support but should take place mainly in the Wilkies Wood area.

Feedback from the Community Involvement Theme

What sort of things would encourage YOU to get involved with the Findhorn Hinterland?

Activity	Yes	No	No View
Better communication about what is happening on the land	58%	16%	26%
Collaborating with other local organisations	43%	21%	36%
Sharing expertise	45%	21%	34%
Promoting the Green burial site as a local community resource	34%	27%	39%
Volunteering opportunities (land work parties)	51%	21%	28%
Celebration events and festivals	42%	26%	32%

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Wider range of trustees on the Findhorn Hinterland Trust Board	33%	20%	47%
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Through the online survey we identified genuine support and appreciation for the work that the Findhorn Hinterland Trust and partners are carrying out in the area.

There is a lot of activity happening already in the Findhorn Village and surrounding area, and an abundance of local groups that are focussing on various projects. The split nature of the responses on most of the question can be a result of unclear communication, lack of ownership or apathy.

- There is some confusion about common language and definitions for the area of land being described as the Findhorn Hinterland.
- There is a desire for activities on the land to bring together different groups in a positive way with realistic ambitions, and mutual tolerance and respect.
- Better communication between groups of people and organisations especially the landowners and neighbours: Findhorn Dunes Trust, Findhorn Foundation, Duneland, The Findhorn Village Conservation Company etc.
- There is a strong “do nothing” voice reflected in the feedback, that human intervention of any kind is a negative thing.
- Better communication about what is happening on the land. Also about activities and promoting “good news stories” so the work of the Findhorn Hinterland Trust is more visible.
- There is an interest in volunteering particularly around conservation of the area.

2.7.4 Recommendations from the Online Survey

Environment

There is a lot of evidence to suggest that most people consulted wish to keep the area as untouched as possible, keeping the unique sense of wildness.

- A “light touch” land management plan would be beneficial for the area. Focussing on the management of invasive species, fire breaks, ensuring that fragile ecosystems are not damaged by motorised vehicles, bicycles and other activities. Any plan needs to take into consideration the difference of the areas within the “Hinterland” in landscape, flora and fauna.
- Pursuing protected status for the area has support but it is important to have wider discussions about this with potential partners: The Findhorn Dunes Trust, The Findhorn Village Conservation Company, The Findhorn Bay and Local Nature Reserve etc.

Recreation

How the activity of people impacts on the area is clearly a concern for many of those consulted.

- There is a clearly identified issue with dog fouling in the area. It would be useful to see what other communities have done to address this problem. Bins for dog waste (and a system to empty them), some signage and regular clear ups by volunteers.
- A more planned approach to visitor management needs to be considered. Not just for the Findhorn Hinterland but for the wider area, that includes, The Findhorn Village, access issues, parking and infrastructure. Needs partnership working to encourage cross boundary actions.

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- Interpretation and signage has been highlighted but to focus this off site potentially at the Dunes car park. A map of the area, some information about fragile ecosystems and responsible behaviour associated with that.
- A more structured network of pathways has support and should be considered. It is important to communicate the reasons why this would be of benefit (reducing damage to rare plants, wildlife etc.)
- There is a general concern about building any structures on the area (especially on the dunes), even those that are sympathetic with the natural environment. Similar concern with picnic areas, play parks, bothy etc. The Trust and partners should not progress with any of these suggested activities without further consultation and discussion.

Education

It is clear from the feedback that education activities have significant support from those consulted.

- Educational activities should continue to be developed in relation to the Findhorn Hinterland, with an emphasis on just experiencing nature and wildness rather than structured activities.
- Explore developing more off site information resources: educational packs, information leaflets, specialist talks and workshops that inform and enhance the Findhorn Hinterland experience.
- Look at creating some educational sessions around being respectful in nature (related to litter, dog fouling, how to behave appropriately etc.)
- Support for rural skills training but in the Willkie's Wood area of the Hinterland.

Community Involvement

There is real support for the idea of a collective approach to looking after, enjoying and knowing more about the unique Findhorn Hinterland for public benefit. This has been evidenced in the high number of people that have participated in the consultation process, and the largely positive nature of the feedback:

- Many of the actions identified in this report require involvement from the various landowners and other key local groups working towards similar goals in the area.
- Work needs to be done to improve relationships with the Boards of the land owning bodies and some of the key local partners in particular the Findhorn Village Conservation Company and the Findhorn Dunes Trust.
- A common vision of managing the area should be decided on, but needs to be signed off by a wider range of stakeholders than just the Findhorn Hinterland Trust to be effective. This report should act as a starting point to bring people together to work on larger projects.
- Communication needs to be much better from the Findhorn Hinterland Trust to the outside world to develop better relationships. The Trustees need to share work of the Trust more evenly so that individuals do not become too overloaded.
- People are keen to volunteer so improving opportunities to get involved should be well promoted, particularly through the Findhorn Hinterland Trust website and Facebook page.

This report needs to feed into the "Planning for Real" consultation being conducted by The Moray Council in the summer (2016). Actions identified (that need to be looked at more collectively) should

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be scheduled in to this wider community planning activity to avoid duplication and competition for resources.

2.8 Focus For Action From Community Consultation

From the large amount of feedback generated through the different sources within community consultation process there are some clear points of potential action for the future.

2.8.1 Environment

- Manage invasive species on the Findhorn Hinterland: Gorse, Lodgepole pines etc.
- Stop motorised vehicles on the Findhorn Hinterland (in particular the Dunes area)
- Pursue protected status with Scottish Natural heritage.

2.8.2 Recreation

- Develop a visitor management strategy with key partners to look at access, signage and interpretation.
 - Access: in relation to the work of The Findhorn Village Conservation Company and visitor management through the wider area. Address issues around disability access.
 - Signage: where should it be on site off site?
 - Interpretation: where should it be on site off site?
- Develop a strategy to address dog fouling in the Findhorn Hinterland area that involves the FHT and landowners and focusses on clean ups, discreet signage and awareness raising.

2.8.3 Education

- Develop an educational program of rural skills e.g. bee-keeping, woodwork etc. Have it take place in Wilkies Wood area.
- Continue to develop education programmes with schools ensuring there are “leave no trace” elements in the lesson plans.
- Develop education packs about the area so more of the study happens off site.
- Contact specialist groups (e.g. Butterfly Society) To host specialist workshops, conduct research etc.
- Create a program of talks about the special qualities of the Findhorn Hinterland. Host them in various local venues around the area (including Forres)

2.8.4 Community Involvement

- Develop closer more trusting working relationships with landowners and key partners such as the newly formed Findhorn Village Conservation Company and the Findhorn Dunes Trust.
- Link into other consultation processes (Planning for real) to develop appropriate time lines for various actions and strategies: visitor management, protected status, access etc. in order to work more collaboratively with key partners.
- Develop a clear communication strategy with potential partners, volunteers, communities of interest.
- Develop appropriate time lines for various actions and strategies: visitor management, protected status, access etc. in order to work more collaboratively with key partners.
- Develop the Findhorn Hinterland volunteer program to include addressing dog fouling and litter.

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3 Woodland Festival

3.1 Festival Objectives

The Woodland Festival was the second component of the community engagement programme to develop the vision for the Findhorn Hinterland and was organised by Fiona Chalmers working with the team at FHT. The Woodland Festival was intended to be an informal way for both existing supporters and new visitors to have a friendly, fun and interactive day in the Findhorn Hinterland based at Wilkies Wood.

The objectives for event were as follows

- To raise awareness of the special qualities of the Hinterland
- To provide an interactive and fun way to gather information and ideas that can feed into “Developing a Vision”
- To engender a sense of stewardship and a response of active involvement in the area
- To raise awareness of FHT and increase membership and involvement.

3.2 Festival Day

The event took place on 30th April and was a huge success. Over 400 hundred people came along and the feedback was extremely positive. A number of activities were organised for the day and these are listed below:

- Green woodworking tent with music, charcoal making and drumming
- ‘Have a go’ percussion at the outdoor wooden xylophone
- The Project Café – fresh and wholesome soup, teas, coffees and cakes
- Nature Arts activity - mask making and nature crowns
- Nature games and activities with Wild things!
- Basket making and weaving
- Fun activity to gather ideas and views
- Bushcraft
- Fire and hearth nature connection
- Wandering piper and other music
- Guided walks and tractor rides
- Pony rides
- Specialist displays and lichen walks



3.3 Festival Feedback

One of the objectives for the Woodland Festival was to use the day to gather information and ideas that could be fed into the vision. There was an interactive area where visitors were invited to have their say about the place by writing on cut-out

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leaves and then sticking these onto a large board so that other people could read them and add their views too. People were also encouraged to go on a special treasure hunt designed to get them connected with nature and the place to stimulate thoughts and ideas.

The fire and hearth was another place that views were gathered in an informal way by engaging with adults and children as they sat round the fire or had a go at the wool crafts there. All the ideas and feedback on there were extremely positive....

3.3.1 Feedback from the interactive area

- ☺ More events like this
- ☺ Mountain bike trails
- ☺ Youth scheme
- ☺ Forest renewal
- ☺ More events and live music
- ☺ More nature awareness raising things!
- ☺ Would love a woodland tree house
- ☺ Community events and festivals
- ☺ Love the relaxed, friendly creative atmosphere. Lots of lovely dogs walks around! Music and smell of wood burning
- ☺ How about a natural play area for children?
- ☺ Love more festivals please!
- ☺ More festivals!
- ☺ 'Stay and rest' seats along paths
- ☺ Natural climbing play area
- ☺ I'd like more fun (aged 5)
- ☺ Woodcraft workshops, afternoon clubs
- ☺ Woodland kids nursery
- ☺ Really nice event – thanks
- ☺ Kids adventure playground
- ☺ Inspiration for our own wildlife wood
- ☺ More nature themed events/celebrations/festivals
- ☺ More wonderful guided walks
- ☺ Foraging and nature information boards
- ☺ Lovely to see it evolving, esp birch. Smell of wood smoke



- ☺ More days like this!
- ☺ Thinking of getting involved – popped in with my daughter (6 and a half) and knew shed have fun
- ☺ Yurt, basic shower
- ☺ I'd love to see more events like this.
- Open to all!!
- ☺ More kids stuff

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- ☺ A warm welcoming yurt for young people arriving on short term stay



- ☺ More community events to bring folk together in the woodland
 - ☺ How about a learning village?
 - ☺ More events like this
 - ☺ Love the atmosphere.
 - ☺ Thanks for organising!
 - ☺ Love the openness of the areas
 - ☺ More ceremony – celebrating seasons, sacred fires,
 - ☺ Woodland crafts, outdoor classroom space – potential to be used by young people
 - ☺ Thanks for today
 - ☺ Woodland treehouse
 - ☺ Great event – we need more get togethers like this..
 - ☺ Please, please may we have this every weekend?
 - ☺ Love this, love it, thank you

- ☺ Festival great – thanks! We'll come again
- ☺ So good to be at an event where you can do so many things and not pay for them
- ☺ Lets make this an annual event!
- ☺ More days like this one – nature brings us together
- ☺ Thank you ☺ - the creator of today's event has allowed a meeting and connection of people both here and afar.



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3.3.2 Feedback from around the fire

Thirty-five people were directly engaged and talked to and the age range was 65 down to 8 years. Twenty people had a go at the spinning/wool crafts. Below is the feedback from those spoken to around the fire.

- ☺ More events like festivals
- ☺ This site is special
- ☺ Containment of space for kids to be a pack – independently exploring nature
- ☺ The treasure hunt worked well – children brought stuff back for parents
- ☺ Geo cache as an idea for the woodland
- ☺ The whole event felt open, child friendly – people were looking after kids
- ☺ Care taking and community feel – for children and well as elderly people
- ☺ People looking out for each other
- ☺ Opportunities for self-directed play
- ☺ Good catering important – sharing cake and tea – special food
- ☺ The Project Café – good food
- ☺ Music great – pipes worked well, xylophone had different waves of groups playing through the day – all different ages
- ☺ Visitors to areas really enjoyed the day
- ☺ Tender connection through spinning and wool crafts
- ☺ Fire worked well
- ☺ Social worker from inverness said how wonderful the event was. Felt that it created a sense of belonging and shared ownership.



1.4 Festival Conclusions

The woodland festival was designed to be a fun and interactive way to encourage people to visit the Hinterland and to get involved. From the attendance and the feedback on the day it can be safely said that these objectives were fully met. However in addition what was most noticeable was the enthusiasm and friendliness with which the festival goers had and how this, along with the design of the event (and the good weather!), engendered a very special atmosphere of enjoyment and community. The feedback that was recorded emphasised this and so did the informal discussions with folk that went on during the day. People of all ages had fun, met new friends and away wanted more. It is hoped that FHT will make this an annual event, as it was so successful.



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4 Themes for a vision and Priorities for Action

4.1 What do we mean by “Vision”?

A vision for an organisation such as Findhorn Hinterland Trust is an aspirational description of what they would like to achieve or accomplish in the mid-term or long-term future. It is intended to serve as a clear guide for choosing current and future courses of action. In this case an inspirational statement, something that people feel they have contributed towards and have a sense of ownership in.

4.2 Vision Statement

For the purposes of this report the consultants have suggested examples of possible vision statements, based on the existing values and work of the Findhorn Hinterland Trust. It is important that the FHT Board of Trustees agrees a vision statement that they and the Trust membership feel connected to, are inspired by and that reflects the unique nature of the Trust.

The following statements are presented below for discussion/endorsement/amendment to help FHT agree upon their vision statement for the next five years.

“The Findhorn Hinterland is a unique, special place that people feel passionately about and want to protect. Creating a balance between preserving its wild, tranquil, unspoilt beauty and allowing people to fully enjoy being in nature.”

“The Findhorn Hinterland Trust seeks to protect and preserve the special qualities of the Findhorn Hinterland, through sensitive management of this unique, and unspoilt landscape, encouraging people to enjoy, relax and connect with nature.”

“The Findhorn Hinterland is a place where nature is respected and protected by people working in harmony with a shared sense of stewardship, who also find fun, play and relaxation through connection with nature and place.”

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4.3 Priorities for Action Matrix

Below is a matrix of potential priority actions that have come out of the overarching vision statement, the community consultation and the Woodland festival feedback.

This matrix should be used as a basis for discussion with the FHT Board of Trustees and the key partners that are highlighted and can form the basis of a more detailed five-year management plan.

Vision Theme	Priorities for Action	Potential Partners
Conservation		
1) Helping to safeguard a place of great nature conservation value for biodiversity and future generations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop a five year management plan for FHT managed land b) Collaborate with and other neighbouring land owners to manage the contiguous habitat in an integrated way through joint management planning c) Restore rare habitats d) Initiate and maintain a programme of removal on non-native species e) Resist any built development on the land 	FDT, FVCC, SNH
2) Becoming as knowledgeable as possible about the wildlife and biodiversity of the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Conduct regular surveys for key species b) Produce and maintain biological records c) Organise training events, walks and workshops for members of FHT to learn about the biodiversity d) Share information about the biodiversity with visitors through talks, walks, and media 	SNH, LC, FDT
3) Championing and protecting the special qualities of the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Work towards a site designation b) Promote and communicate the special qualities of the site to the public 	SNH, LS, FDT, FVCC, FHT
Recreation		
1) Welcoming people onto the land in a way that minimises disturbance to plants and wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Identify the most sensitive areas to protect from visitor pressure b) Conduct a detailed visitor survey in conjunction with Findhorn Village Conservation Company and FDT to ascertain where 	SNH, LS, FHT, FDT, TMC

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	<p>access is most desirable and where it causes disturbance.</p> <p>c) Develop a visitor management plan with partners that seeks to promote access where the carrying capacity of the area is sufficient</p> <p>d) Implementation of visitor management techniques that help guide people away from vulnerable areas.</p>	
2) Providing a high quality experience and facilities for visitors to the area	<p>a) Produce a series of trails and self- guided walks</p> <p>b) Provide and maintaining good way-marking for trails</p> <p>c) Provide and maintaining high quality interpretive panels and leaflet to increase the enjoyment of the area</p> <p>d) Provide sensitive and appropriate car parking provision as part of a visitor management plan</p> <p>e) Provide and maintain appropriate facilities for people with disabilities</p> <p>f) Provide facilities and information to minimise the fouling of the area by dogs</p> <p>g) Provide natural play areas</p>	FVCC, FDT, DT, TMC, FHT, LC
3) Using events for active involvement	<p>a) Develop a programme of themed events</p> <p>b) Hold an annual event such as the Woodland Festival</p>	FHT, FF, LC, FDT
Education		
1) Increasing knowledge of rural skills	<p>a) Develop traditional Rural Skills training programmes</p> <p>b) Explore partnership possibilities with The University of the Highlands and Islands, Moray College.</p>	SDS, UHI, WT,FA, TMC
2) Encouraging young people to become involved in the “Stewardship” of the Findhorn Hinterland.	<p>a) Work with existing education partners to develop learning opportunities and resources (e.g. media and Apps)</p> <p>b) Develop “stewardship sessions” that can be delivered in local schools/youth groups.</p> <p>c) Directly target young people for activities</p>	FF, TMC, FHT, WT, LC, FA
3) Imparting educational information to the general public	<p>a) Develop themed workshops and training</p> <p>b) Provide areas for educational use such as outdoor classroom and workshops</p> <p>c) Encourage self directed research</p>	FHT, SNH, LC, FHT

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Community and Governance		
1) Developing closer more effective working relationships with neighbouring landowners and key partners.	a) Identify common goals and actions b) Develop time lines for actions and strategies that integrate with actions of partners c) Organise regular liaison and sharing activities	FDT, FF, FVCC, FHT TMC, TSI, SCVO, DL
2) Communicating clearly and effectively with the local community and partners	a) Creating a clear communication strategy with potential partners, local community, and communities of interest b) Audit and update existing communication methods to broaden audiences and be more inclusive. c) Create specific role for communication/PR within the FHT Board. d) Publicise “wins” and progress made by the FHT.	FDT, DL, FHT
3) Building a strong, diverse board of trustees that can take forward the new vision.	a) Broaden local community representation on the FHT Board. b) Develop skills and identify and address knowledge gaps c) Conduct clear and efficient meetings d) Rotate office bearers to ensure freshness of approach	FHT, FDT, FF, FVCC, LC, SCVO
4) Creating a first class volunteering program for a wide range of people	a) Make links to volunteering/third sector networks to broaden the existing volunteer base. b) Target young people as volunteers and link into youth volunteering initiatives.	FHT, FF, TSI, TMC, UHI, FA

Key to abbreviations:			
FDT	Findhorn Dunes Trust	WT	Wild things!
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage	TSI	Third Sector Interface
UHI	University of Highlands and Islands	TMC	The Moray Council
FA	Forres Academy	LC	Local community members
SCVO	Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations	LS	Lichen Society
FHT	Findhorn Hinterland Trust	DL	Duneland Ltd
FVCC	Findhorn Village Conservation Company	TMC	The Moray Council
SDS	Skills Development Scotland		

4.4 Additional Factors for Management Planning

Sitting alongside the identified priorities for action are several factors that need to be taken into consideration because of the divided nature of opinion on certain aspects from the consultation process. Particularly noted under the Recreation and Community Involvement headings (see section 2), they are:

- The Findhorn Hinterland is owned by several landowners and is made up of more than one “landscape”. Where it might be appropriate conduct an activity in one place it may be completely inappropriate to do the same thing somewhere else. There was a lot of feedback about keeping the Dunes area natural and wild
- There is a difference of opinion, in the communities (of interest and geographically) to what “land Management” actually means; i.e. a traditional approach versus a more holistic, conservation style.
- There is a clear necessity to work with the landowners and the newly formed Findhorn Village Conservation Company, especially around issues that affect the boundaries of the area and access. These bodies may have different timescales for similar actions that are highlighted in this report.
- Much of the success of delivering any of the proposed action that has been identified through the consultation process needs the good will of a wide range of individuals and partners. Relationships can be improved through better communication especially in early planning stages and respect.

5 Concluding remarks

The development of a vision that is based on shared values is crucial in order to underpin, inform and direct future action and management of this special land area. A very important aspect of this process has been to engage the local community and communities of interest to find out what they think, what they would like to see happen on a wide range of issues and how they would like to see the land managed.

This vision document records and collates all the results of the consultation, which covered the whole area of the hinterland including the part owned by FDT. As such it will also prove useful for FDT in providing them with a sense of what the community think about the area they own and manage. This gives a great opportunity for the two organisations and other organisations such as the Findhorn Village Conservation Company to work together to develop an integrated habitat and visitor management plan for the whole area that is based on the findings of an independently run community engagement process.

The report also highlights a need for the FHT to look at how it functions, its capacity, role and the responsibility of its trustees, and how it communicates with the wider community. There are clear pointers for improvement within the report and these should be noted. The Trust is however encouraging new Board members to join and is committed to an ongoing program of training and capacity building with them.

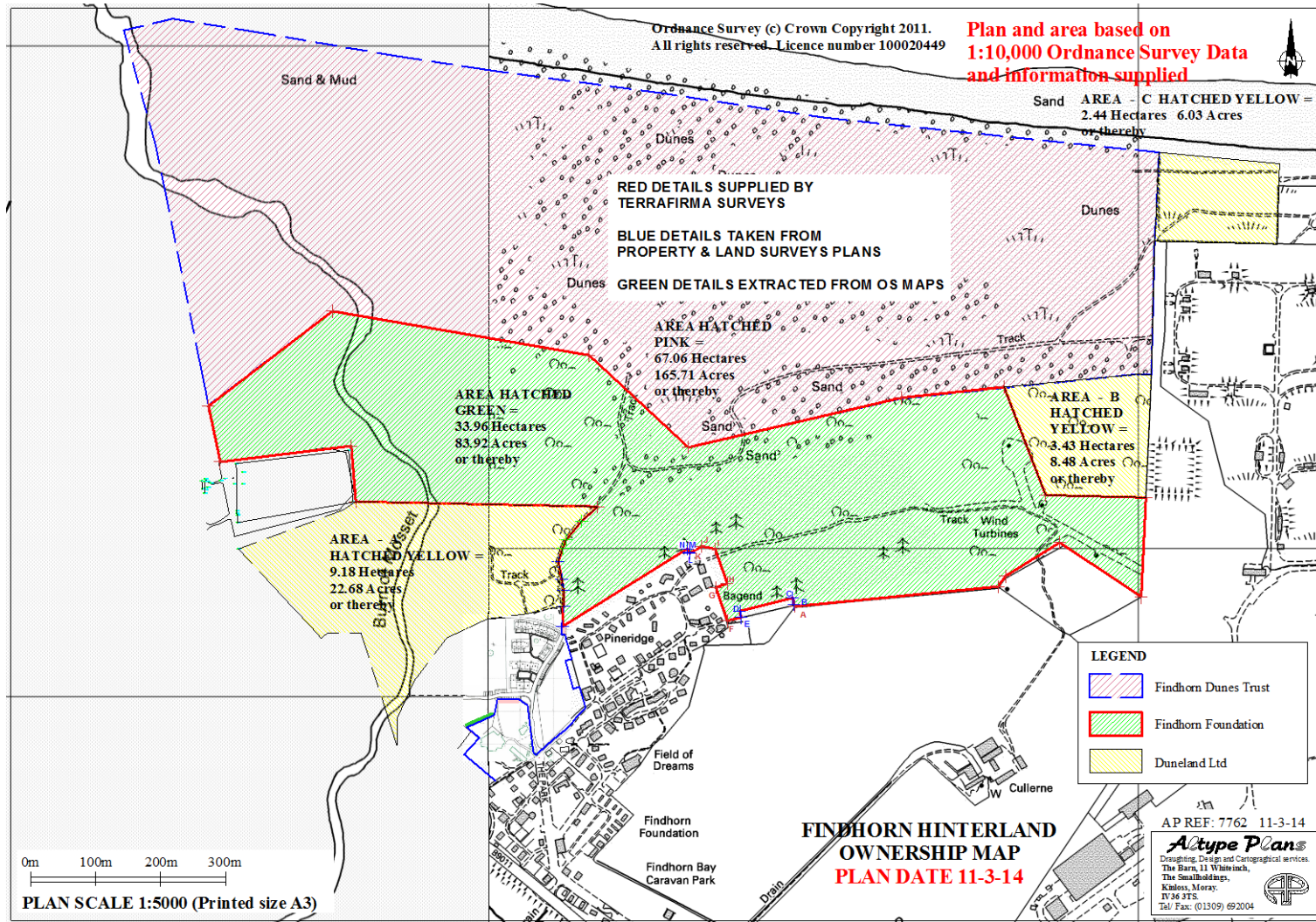
FHT have a commitment to manage the land under their stewardship in an integrated way with the contiguous area of land owned and managed by the Findhorn Dunes Trust (FDT). This process and the resulting Vision Themes and Priorities for Action will inform that collaboration too. FHT have been clear from the start that the engagement process itself would be a collaborative effort and members of FDT have been invited and involved (as far as their time resources have allowed) every step of the way.

By conducting this project FHT now has a mandate and a direction for the future management of the land that has been subject of rigorous discussion and feedback from a wide variety of local audiences.

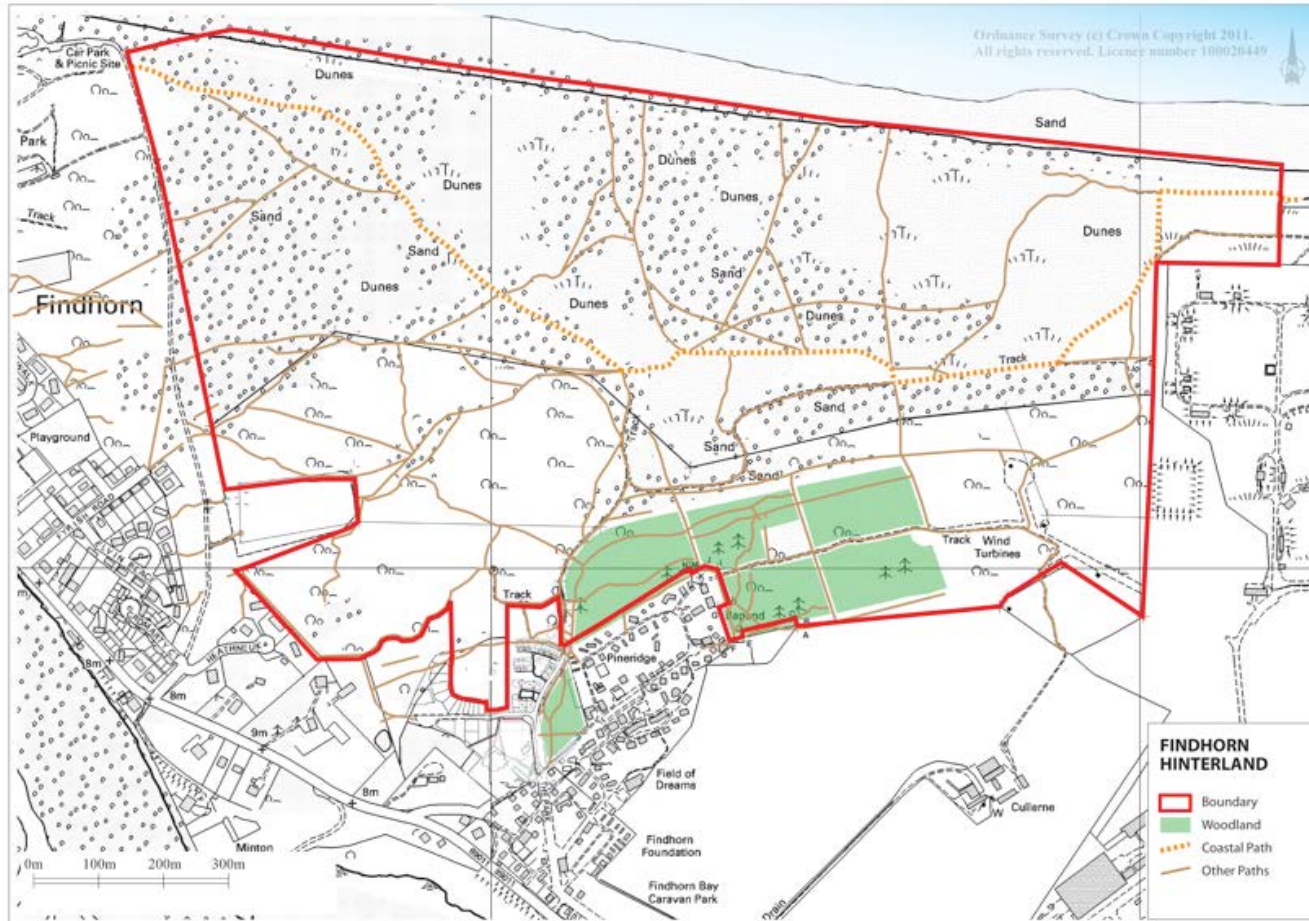
6 Appendices

Findhorn Hinterland Trust – Developing a Vision

6.1 Appendix 1 – Findhorn Hinterland Land Ownership Map



6.2 Appendix 2 - Target Consultation Area



NB Duneland Ltd as a landowner wished to note that part of the small land corridor connecting the lichen rich dell between their East and West Whins developments and the High Dune Ridge (all in the south western part of the consultation area), lies within the Moray Council Development boundary and should not have been included in this survey area. The company backs the retention and conservation of the dell but informed that some development of the connecting strip may take place in the future.

6.3 Appendix 3 – Drop in Day: Comments on Map and Themed Sheets

Environment

Motorised vehicles

- Need to educate young people about their motor cycles on the Dunes and potential damage.
- Remove /ban motor bikes in the Dunes –very disruptive and dangerous for walkers.
- Prohibit motorcycles and 4 wheel drive vehicles. Policing required.
- Less cars please reduce pot holes. Restore and protect!
- There are motorbikes and off road vehicles driving on the Dunes (issue)
- Reduce car access
- Narrow steep sided path-safety problem as motorbikes have raced through with elderly walkers almost hit.

No development on the Land

- No development
- No more development
- Fear housing development of any size.
- No development of any kind on this site
- Leave the area in its natural state, but manage people's treatment of it.
- I love the wild open nature of the dunes and would like to see it remain so.
- Don't want any development in the Dunes area.
- No development of any size or shape in the Dunes area.
- I would like that area be left to re-wild itself.
- No more housing development. Development only in terms of enjoyment and appreciation of land
- No golf courses there are enough already
- Like the Dune lands/woods in their natural state as a walker/runner. Leave nothing but a footprint!
- Keep the whole area wild why the focus for development in Wilkies wood
- Hate the Duneland Ltd development it is encroaching on the Village.
- Please don't build another Swedish Council House!

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Invasive Species

- Rather than removal of invasive species control might be better (but how?)
- Lodgepole pines require removal urgently
- Remove lodgepole pine and other plants not naturally found in this area. Allow to evolve with minimal human interference
- Dog fouling and gorse management need to be addressed!

Litter and debris

- There is so much broken glass and bottles in the Dunes-how can we promote the sensible usage.
- Maybe a bottle bank and bins at the start of the Dunes Road and signage to “encourage” where to take their rubbish home or put in a bin.
- Rubbish collection points to help look after the Dunes

Other Comments

- Sea defences to stop erosion from the Dunes Road east.
- The fire pit has lots of the rare *Peltigera Malacea* around the edges. How can we look at preserving this special habitat and its associated species?
- Suggestion that the SSI adopt the area.
- I now avoid the dune heathland because I can't bear to see how degraded it has become with unrestricted erosion. I've wept about it.
- I really like the new mixed woodland as you get out of the mono culture of pine forest.

Recreation

Dog Fouling

- Dog poo: bag it, bin it ..But bins and bags provision would help
- Dog toilet areas.
- More bins for dog poo
- Dog fouling off paths
- Dog poo!! Dunesland area.
- Terrible dog fouling in the Dunesland Ltd area.
- Dog fouling an issue paths should be clean, maybe more signs about this would help.

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- Dog fouling on Dunes and paths especially near Car parking on Dunes Road.
- Dog fouling Signs and bags in key areas. Hopeman beach and walks have improved greatly with their new sign. (Wording important)
- Dog poo bins (as long as they get emptied)
- I don't want dog management but rather education for dog owners to act responsibly "bag it and bin it"
- Liaise with Moray Council Community Warden on dog fouling. Access to poo bags sitting in front of bins.
- Dog fouling (see Aberdeenshire Bennachie Centre) Flick with stick rather than bags!
- Moray Council should provide dog poo bins not nearly enough.
- Dogs on leads
- I believe the more we intervene, the more the wildlife will be affected. There are already enough paths, trees, nature for people to enjoy. Anything purpose built will look false. People are already camp, encourage camping in Dunes South of the Dunes Road.

Paths

- Sign visitors to the beach as the start of their routes.
- Good opportunity to sign visitors to the beach to start their routes
- Channelling access
- More controlled access
- Formalise the start of the paths and reduce the options where people wander.
- Signage about no motorised vehicles in a highly sensitive area-info should all be on the Dunes Road at various points
- Start walks at beach car park
- Findhorn beach carpark-great place to start a circular walk or two (to the Foundation/to the Village)
- Beach Road edge is damaged could we have clearer access points into "hinterland" so to avoid "Dispersion damage" to area most user foot/runners use the same routes.
- Better access signage to keep people on tracks so less disturbance to wildlife and flora.
- An attractive signed path from the end of Fryish Road to the Park.
- Try and keep the existing paths i.e. gorse grows over the paths.
- Maintain the core track
- No marked pathways this is a wilderness and should stay as such.

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- Maintenance of paths –control of the gorse which is obscuring some paths.
- Somebody used the core paths sign for firewood (around Xmas 2015)
- Clearly marked paths and people will not walk all over the place!
- It's not clear that this area (Wilkie's Wood) is open to all –too "Foundation"
- The development and over management of land here (Wilkie's wood) means it is less obviously accessible.
- Add a few signposts to show which paths through gorse are clear enough to walk through.
- Keep pathways as they are!
- Sign posted paths northwards to the beach through the dunes
- I love the wilderness –please do not over develop and put up too many signs
- Better signage on core paths particularly Moray Coastal Route.
- Path through the Whisky Barrel Houses and down to the Beach to the village needs clearer sign or map (colour markers)
- Introduce a series of signed circular walks from the car park and the village including an interpretation infrastructure.
- An area for ceremonies
- A Labyrinth
- No information boards and boardwalks
- Please no information boards.
- No more tacky public information boards as nobody maintains or updates them.
- Yearly beach litter pick up
- Tree house would be wonderful. Parents have plenty of ideas....but issues safety and liability.
- Both yes
- Good foot path link to the rear of the Foundation
- Camping spots yes
- Disability access is difficult in the wilderness as rules and regulations re disability access are strict.
- No signs on the land
- Waymarked paths are useful to visitors –but we also love to roam freely!
- Map of the site showing up different areas of ownership as well as overall boundaries and paths
- Enhance disability access particularly from the car parks to the beach

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- Upgrade car parks needing some attention particularly surfacing
- Upgrade beach road access route full of potholes
- The xylophone is brilliant (but perhaps needs maintenance)
- Have beach Road adopted by Findhorn Village Conservation Company.
- All interpretation information/boards to go on the Dunes Road.
- Camping must be authorised and supervised- no free camping

Education

- If there is enough knowledgeable guidance
- Photography groups
- Involvement of local schools/nurseries-exchange love of wildness, wildlife and the environment.
- This area is not just an Educational resource! It just is and should be left to remain so and evolve naturally.
- There should be no sign of human activity in the Dunes area it's a wild place.
- Believe in young people's education (for Wilkie's wood) do not want to see an increased footfall on the Dunes.
- Get the young people involved education is vital.
- Kids love the wilderness and the freedom that gives.
- More education for young people
- Glass/rubbish education for the teenagers (Academy) End of term parties in the Dunes. Possibly provide bins at this time and encourage their use. Please visit the Academy and discuss/promote area.
- Education for young people to "leave no trace of their activities"
- Education about the effects of erosion.
- Education about the effects of dogs and fouling
- Provision and education about dog fouling.
- Too large an area for young children to be involved all day good for academy age.
- Education needed about the effects of trampling and the effects of dog bowls!

Community Involvement

- Team work and cooperative working key to the future.
- Skilled Trustees or those with local knowledge

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- Ensure no conflict of interest between trustees, or different Boards.
- Let people know what “Hinterland” is. Lack of knowledge on this.
- The phrase Hinterland is confusing! I thought that the FHT only managed land owned by the Findhorn Foundation
- Communicate! Openness! Transparency! No ulterior motives.
- I believe the FHT has the specialist knowledge and expertise to establish a great habitat management plan.
- Let’s treat visitors like deer! ??
- Can you also publish where your respondents to this survey have come from as it will determine if you have achieved a broad community response e.g. Visitors, Forres, The Park and so forth.
- Don’t put everything on the computer. So communicate by other means: i.e. posters! And proud of you! Volunteering is important..
- Communication is poor-last minute notice about events/opportunities.
- The creation of a peninsula wide SSSI designation is really exciting and should be a key strand within the Findhorn Peninsula Visitor management plan.
- Collaboration with other organisations is required in order to develop a Findhorn Visitor management plan. Only when this is done will you be able to manage the impacts of visitors on the sensitive environment of the Dunes Area.
- HLF website not very current
- Use local shops-cafes, pubs. Where people already look for local info. Spotlight magazine also.
- The Drop in Day has been really successful I can see a very good range of people from the village, The Park and a few from Forres and Environmental agencies (SNH, The Moray Council, etc)
- I hope that in the future the FVCC (Community Company) works together with the FHT to develop a peninsula wide visitor management strategy.
- Invest in good quality educational materials –videos on you tube-slide shows on website-interviews with locals. Get public committed to conservation.
- Findhorn is NOT a Peninsula!!
- Work party meeting directions are currently expressed in terms only known to a few people.

Final thoughts ..Graffiti sheet..

- Keep up all the good work!
- Thank you!

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- Good to be consulted we love this land
- Thank you for the long-term thinking, hard work and love! PS Thank you also for doing the Xmas tree each year we love ours!
- Thanks so much. This is a great display of all activities that take place. Also a very clear map of who owns what and why and how it all came about. Also it was good to be invited to give feedback in such a fun and positive way. I am sure that a lot of useful ideas will come out of it.
- Great display keep going!
- Keep on keeping on..
- Excellent –What an interesting and engaging exhibition. I learned lots more about the land and feel much better informed as a contributor! 10/10!! Thank you all.
- Well done on an excellent display.
- Thank you for your contribution.

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6.4 Appendix 4 – Online Survey: Analysis

Collated data from the online survey:

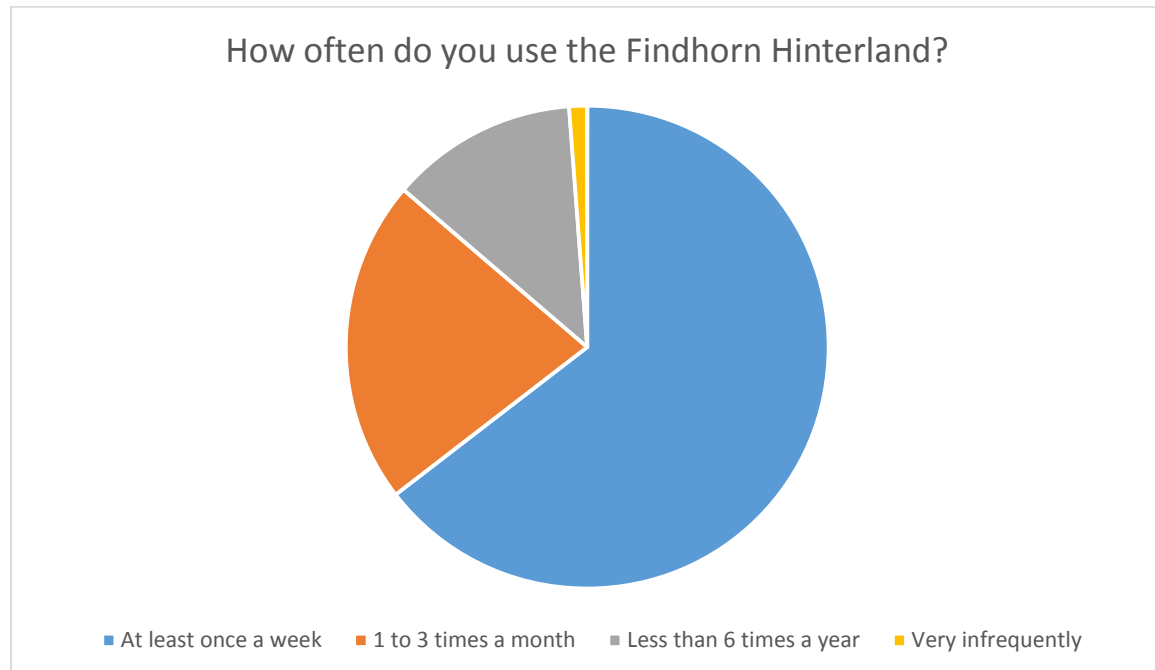
Below is the collated quantitative data from the online survey.

Question 1. Where do you live?

Totals	
The Park (Eco Village) Findhorn Foundation	58
Findhorn Village	40
Forres	34
Kinloss	6
Kintessock	3
Lossiemouth	2
Elgin	2
Edinburgh	2
Keith	1
Inverness	1
Brodie	1
Ballindalloch	1
Glasgow	1
Blackpool	1
Amsterdam	1
Germany	1
Spain	1

Question 3.

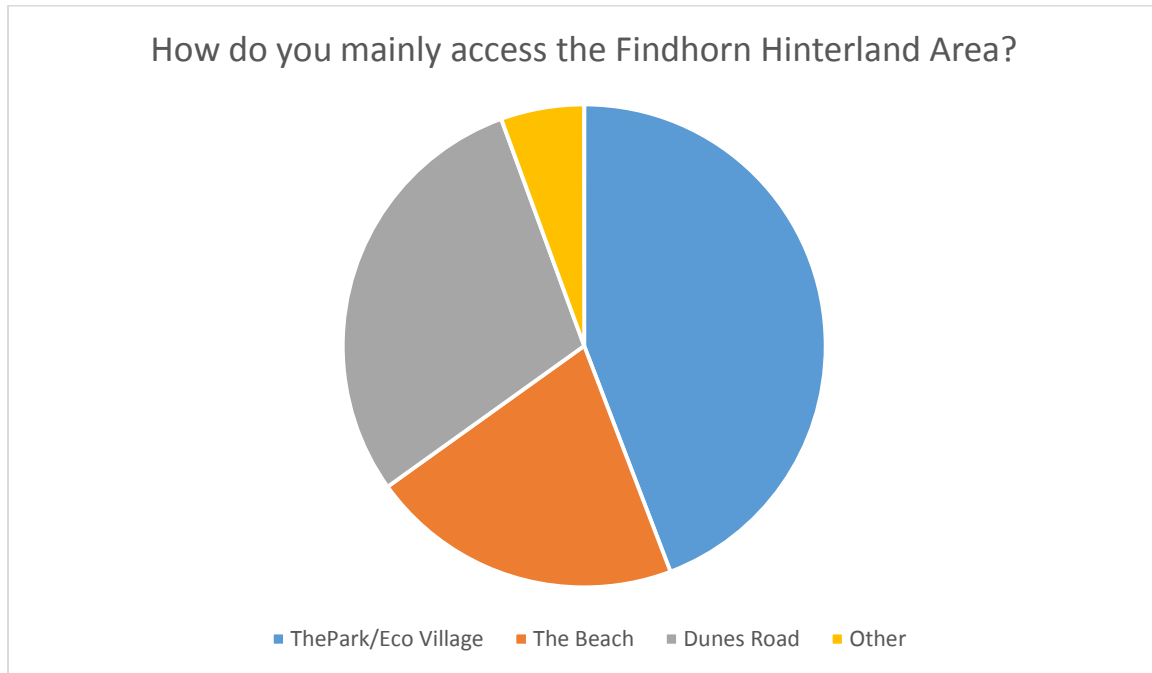
How often do you use the Findhorn Hinterland ?



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Question 4.

From where do you mainly access the Findhorn Hinterland



Question 6.

Conservation:

What activities should we focus on to help conserve this special area?

	Yes	No	No View	Total
Removal of invasive species e.g. lodgepole pine	65.13% 99	11.84% 18	23.03% 35	152
– Prohibiting motorised vehicles	92.31% 144	3.21% 5	4.49% 7	156
– Wildlife surveying/monitoring programmes	76.47% 117	3.92% 6	19.61% 30	153
– Pursuing protected status for the area	79.08% 121	7.19% 11	13.73% 21	153
– Reducing fire hazards	75.66% 115	7.89% 12	16.45% 25	152
– Introduce more native trees and shrubs where appropriate	74.83% 113	11.92% 18	13.25% 20	151
– Management to increase biodiversity	66.88% 103	14.94% 23	18.18% 28	154
–	75.50%	9.93%	14.57%	

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Restoration of rare habitats	114	15	22	151
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Question 7.

Recreation

What activities should we focus on in managing how we use the area?

	Yes	No	No View	Total
Routes and pathways for walking/cycle	61.04% 94	26.62% 41	12.34% 19	154
– Circular walks	48.61% 70	26.39% 38	25.00% 36	144
– Better way marking	46.21% 67	32.41% 47	21.38% 31	145
– Picnic areas	19.01% 27	55.63% 79	25.35% 36	142
– Small dedicated camp spots (within the Wilkies Wood area)	39.60% 59	38.26% 57	22.15% 33	149
– Bothy (within the Wilkies Wood area)	22.07% 32	46.21% 67	31.72% 46	145
– Guided walking tours	47.62% 70	26.53% 39	25.85% 38	147
– Interpretation boards/shed	63.33% 95	22.00% 33	14.67% 22	150
– Map of site	81.21% 121	10.74% 16	8.05% 12	149
– Information leaflets (habitats/green burial/circular routes etc)	62.33% 91	17.12% 25	20.55% 30	146
– Dog management (fouling etc)	79.19% 118	10.74% 16	10.07% 15	149
– Disability access	54.17% 78	18.75% 27	27.08% 39	144
– Parking provision	33.10% 48	43.45% 63	23.45% 34	145
– Woodland tree house/play area (within the Wilkies Wood area)	39.86% 59	33.78% 50	26.35% 39	148

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Question 8.

Education

What are the educational opportunities that the Findhorn Hinterland offers people and how do we make the most of these opportunities in a formal and informal way?

	Yes	No	No View	Total
Rural skills training (bee keeping, green woodworking etc)	70.86% 107	8.61% 13	20.53% 31	151
– School participation in educational activities (Duke of Edinburgh Award, Wild Things! etc)	84.67% 127	7.33% 11	8.00% 12	150
– Education packs for schools	62.50% 90	11.11% 16	26.39% 38	144
– Encouraging the involvement of specialist groups (Butterfly Conservation Society)	71.23% 104	6.85% 10	21.92% 32	146
– Workshops on specialist topics (red squirrels, lichen etc)	72.79% 107	8.84% 13	18.37% 27	147
– Regular talks related to land/wildlife	70.55% 103	4.79% 7	24.66% 36	146

Question 9.

Community Involvement

How are you currently involved in the area?

156 responses some people have more than one role in relation to the area.

As a volunteer	22.08% 34
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– Trust member (Findhorn Hinterland Trust/Dunes Trust)	12.8% 20
– Use the area for recreational purposes	73.38% 113
– Are a member of a local charity/voluntary organisation	31.17% 48
– Local resident	83.12% 128
– Interest in nature and conservation of the area	70.78% 109

Question 10.

Community involvement

What sort of things would encourage you to be more involved with the project?

	Yes	No	No View	Total
– Better communication with what is happening on the land	58.14% 75	16.28% 21	25.58% 33	129
– Collaborating with other local organisations	43.20% 54	20.80% 26	36.00% 45	125
– Sharing expertise	44.92% 53	21.19% 25	33.90% 40	118
– Promoting the Green Burial site as a local community resource	33.88% 41	27.27% 33	38.84% 47	121
– Volunteering opportunities (land work parties)	51.16% 66	20.93% 27	27.91% 36	129
– Celebration events and festivals	42.19% 54	25.78% 33	32.03% 41	128
– Wider range of trustees on the Findhorn Hinterland Trust Board	30.43% 35	20.87% 24	48.70% 56	115

6.5 Appendix 5 – Online Survey: Full Comments

Findhorn Hinterland Vision (online survey)

Below are the full range of comments from the online survey (156 responses)

Question 3

Would you use the area more often if you knew more about it?

No 32

Yes 7

Possibly 11

- It's my backyard, I know it well. It is not so much a question of how often I use it, but how reliable and constant my relationship with it can be.
- Depends on visits to the area
- Actually, I walk there every day.
- I go nearly every day
- I do not often have the good fortune to get to Findhorn but when I do I always spend some time in the Hinterland
- I have just arrived at Findhorn and on previous visits would walk through the hinterland at least every second day often more
- No; though I would like to know more about the area.
- I work pretty much full time- this helps to define my access more.
- I don't think so; I appreciate the land already.
- We are very lucky to live on the edge of this area of outstanding natural beauty. We visit the hinterland area most days already.
- No but i am confident others would.
- I already walk my dog in the Findhorn Hinterland area every day, sometimes twice a day.
- I go every day when I can.
- Have a property on the boundary, but don't currently live full-time in Findhorn, but have a relative living there.
- Every time I am staying in the Park I will walk the land and connect in - and then I connect from Amsterdam where I live but I am not sure if you are referring to that activity in the question above
- Use it several times a day
- No, as it depends on my free time...
- Feel I know it quite well
- No, but I would appreciate the area more if I knew more about it.
- I would like to go more often if I have more time
- Would like to help with working on site
- Would use more if I lived locally
- I already go daily
- I already walk or cycle within the area 3-4 times per week.
- I use the area for orienteering events, but also for personal walking. I could possibly go there as much as 1/month for walking
- Every day
- Usually 3 times a day
- Yes would good to have leaflets to give our guests

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How do you commonly use the Hinterland area?

- Very shortly our grandchildren will be playing there -as our children did
- Conservation
- Logging
- Primarily the Dune area for these activities
- resource harvest
- Finding peace in Nature
- DREAMING
- To spend time in nature for my wellbeing. Observing the natural rhythms and changes in seasons. The increasing wild at all levels of the forest and dune areas.
- Recording wildlife especially lichens. Photographing the landscape, flora and fauna.
- Walking meditation and mindfulness practices. Scavenging for brash and waste wood for firepit fires, art works, creative installations for ceremonies and events.
- I celebrated EMBRACING THE UNKNOWN AND ALMOST 10 YEARS IN FINDHORN last summer in the Hinterland Woods at the shelter with a bonfire. I have also sung at a funeral. I have volunteered at Bush craft Camps there.
- Experiencing the peace of a natural, self-organised area - despite the increasing incursion of people.
- It is the wider environment I live in - my home
- Accessing the beach
- Kite flying, sea swimming, picnics in the dunes, and fires on the beach.
- Sitting and relaxing, meeting up with friends around the fire at the Woodland Shelter, sometimes having a picnic, helping with the beekeeping and the Edible Woodland Garden. Using a chainsaw and gathering wood for my house.
- All of the above choices are about movement. Sometimes I just go there to stop, sit, and enjoy the sea.
- Access to beach for swim, 'chilling', BBQ etc.
- Fishing
- Making contact with our unseen allies there and using the contact with them as a portal to connect with angels, deva's and nature spirits worldwide - we do this with a small group in a monthly call - have been doing so since Jan 2013
- Meditation and for sanity
- Swimming from the beaches Shelter belt of the Hinterland improves local weather conditions for farming/gardening
- working
- Just sitting.
- Sunbathing, relaxing, picnic
- Environmental movement groups occasionally
- Litter and rubbish clearing along edge of Dunes (plastic human waste etc.)
- I am currently the Wilkies Wood funeral Co-ordinator and I arrange and co-ordinate Green Burials in Wilkes Wood Green Burial Ground
- Mediation Social at the fallen acre
- We run a B&B so we often take visitors to the beach and the Dunes (in particular)

Question 4.

How do you mainly access the Findhorn Hinterland area?

On foot (walking running)	Cycle	Car	Bus
95	33	49	5

Findhorn Hinterland Trust – Developing a Vision

Question 5.

Conservation:

What qualities do you think are special about the Findhorn Hinterland?

- The term Hinterland is not very helpful. I see 4 areas: There is an area of sand/dunes where minimal interaction and no man-made structures should be normal. This is North of a line running East/West on the North side of the wood (Wilkie's Wood) Area 2/3 There is then an area of wood and also the area surrounding the turbines, where "anthropocentric" activity happens (burials, shelters, sheds) which is a buffer before the housing area of the Park. Area 4 Lastly there is a gorse covered area of Dunes to the West of the wood, which is a buffer for the development at East/West Whins.
- I would like the Dunes Trust land to be left alone and managed where necessary by them. The Findhorn Hinterland is misnamed and unhelpful. It is an artificial concept local people do not refer to the areas of land lumped together under this title by this title. The Findhorn Hinterland Trust apparently already manages the Duneland Ltd. land and the Findhorn Foundation land with these organisations consent. The Dune Trust has already said that they might choose to cooperate with the FHT The Dunes trust manage their land with a very light touch with common consent because the general consensus is the least management of their land the better. These three areas of land should not be lumped together. Therefore what is the purpose of the management survey and what is the project? Most of the documentation that I have seen concerning this never uses one word if ten will do and so whilst wading through the verbage I think people wonder what the hidden agenda really is?
- Diversity, beach, dunes, shingle ridges, forest, accessibility, facilities (shelter etc.)
- Freedom to roam
- Lack of soil
- Quiet, no housing/building, few people, nature.
- Dunes area-Lichens, squirrels in the wood? Varied habitat: meadows, ponds, woods
- Clean, Peaceful, birds unspoiled
- Lichens, Wild Plants, Native Trees, Squirrels peace and quiet.
- Not developed and crossed only by popular foot paths in the Dunes area. The Wilkie's wood is a managed area and therefore suitable for education and low key development.
- Un-spoilt natural appearance
- Hard to say
- The whole set-up, and all the facilities are just superb!
- Wilderness. Ancient land.
- Wilkie's Wood, bird life, tranquillity, lichens and heather.
- It's a resource in its wildness. The key lies in managing it so that humans can access it without imposing their presence on it. It provides an incredible opportunity to relate humanness to wildness and explore that interaction between human life and wildlife - how can we live together? It can teach us a lot about what being human actually entails. It is also an unintentional shelterbelt for the Foundation to grow in - creates a microclimate and a key factor in nurturing and sheltering the ecovillage.
- Peace of Nature
- It's undeveloped
- Space variations in topography (sand hills etc.) green plants, some trees, lichen
- A chance to walk in nature and enjoy my surroundings.
- Beauty, variety of dunes and woodland. Wide open spaces, excellent access to the beach.
- The sense of wildness
- Spacious, familiar, peaceful.
- Gorse and heathers in bloom, lichen beds, trees flourishing beyond the woodland.. spaciousness, open sky - diverse and beautiful beach access points
- The fact that it just is - with no human intervention

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- its emptiness, wildness,
- It's my backyard. The lichens are both lovely and rare.
- Wild
- Diversity, lichens
- Silence, scents sounds, colours, a place for young people to experience the outdoors and for gatherings.
- Variety of terrain and vegetation; peacefulness;
- Largely unspoilt dune area
- Unspoiled nature
- Natural area showing different stages of colonisation of old raised beaches.
- Natural and still relatively unspoilt
- expanse of nature
- The peaceful, natural energy of the land
- It is diverse (woodland, open spaces, dunes, ponds, and has a wealth of rare species), some friends of mine are buried in the green burial, I love living right next to it It is a relatively safe space in nature
- That it is kept as a nature space - the trees - other plants
- Diversity and lichen
- As it is or I would like it to be - an undeveloped space left to nature to do it's wo
- Not Sure.
- The many different lichens and other flora and fauna the landscape. I always feel at peace here
- Evolving heathland. Native pine, heartland plant species, lichens. Bird life
- Natural coastal woodland which needs protecting as a habitat for Scottish flora and fauna- greenbelt which buffers the impact of the residential areas of the Park and provides shelter for animals when disturbed by humans- particular quality of quietness where the song of the trees as well as the birds is audible- shelters mosses, lichens and other important ground shielding plants, which also anchor the sand and allow natural soil build-up.
- Wild life
- Lichens; I LOVE the Gorse in bloom. The land is very diverse on such a relatively small area. Red Squirrels. You can hear the sea. It is very peaceful. Magnificent view across the firth. For me the Pine Tree I first learnt trapeze in is very special and I visit her regularly.
- A wild natural area!
- Still untouched/unspoiled to be home to animals and birds.
- The dunes, forest, the re-growing areas of new trees, the regeneration of trees on the dunes, the edges and diversity between the sea, forest and dunes
- The wild dunes, the buffer zone to human habitation both in the Findhorn Village and in The Park
- It is undeveloped and natural the way it should be
- Lack of development
- The lichen beds are outstanding, the sand dunes are beautiful, the whole environment is so unusual it is vitally important that it is conserved for a nature reserve. I value the openness and the wilderness feeling of space and freedom, and the lack of people, especially in the winter.
- Site, situation, level of care and attention - working with nature
- Most local dunelands are forested
- The sense of open space. The feeling that the dune area is wild land and is protected from development. The diversity of different habitats is such a relatively small area ranging from protected woodland to open heath and shingle, large sand dunes and a beautiful stretch of beach. Knowing that there are some special plants and animals that live there.]
- Relative wilderness; yellow gorse buds is lovely; not too manicured
- The dunes are left alone without human interference.

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- The space, the heather, the gorse, the air, the lunar looking landscape
- Unusual area probably unique within any reasonable distance. A great asset to the area. Very enjoyable for orienteering.
- 'Other' in look and feel/surprisingly 'wild', quiet, informal, wildlife
- Untouchedness, apart from beautiful paths. Especially love the one along the northern rim of the felled square in the woods, and from there to the sea.
- lichen
- Rare ecosystem, including birdlife, plants and lichens.
- Unique sand dune landscape. Mix of habitats.
- It is an ever changing hinterland. Hardy in some ways but very fragile in others. It is a real wonderland to walk on there are many interesting plants, grasses and birds to spot. It is a unique, historical and geological piece of coastal land and should be kept that way.
- The fact that it is not cultivated or "managed" to any great degree by humans. It's wildness and the beauty of certain small areas comprising sand hills, Scots Pines and other greenery.
- Biodiversity peace wilderness
- Clean, well-managed.
- It's natural! Quiet. Empty. Peaceful. Beautiful
- Encouraging bio-diversity & forest gardening, having bees, a burial ground, a sweat lodge, fire areas, pond, pathways for (dog) walking.
- Peaceful and unspoilt
- Flora & fauna
- Varied, open wild land that's very easy to access.
- Its beauty and tranquillity.
- The dunes are fragile. It's remained as it is for all the decades my family has lived there.
- Consecration
- Peaceful, untouched, open, empty, wildlife, ever changing landscape.
- It's a natural empty space, untouched and filled with wildlife and wonderful plants. Ever changing landscape. Beautiful dunes.
- The dunes
- Natural and unspoilt beauty
- the natural value - not developed and freedom for children to roam/play unhindered/no traffic issues
- The mix of dunes and woods
- Stillness, space, gorse, trees, lichens
- It's unspoiled!
- Dunes
- That it is an area of co-creation with nature where humans are at the service of the nature beings instead of the other way around
- dunes, heath, lichens, birds
- The simplicity of it, it just 'is'. Simple signage, crazy dunes, the lichen, the trees - stop it looking like a barren land (even if they are not indigenous!!)
- A quiet place that one can just be in nature with few other people around. A chance to see unusual plants, lichens, birds etc.
- The diversity, relative seclusion and the amazing beauty. From several spits I can see 360degrees of our planet.
- Peacefulness, space, functioning managed Eco system (maritime transition to forest)
- Diverse woodland and beach land.
- Unique mix of Dune /Forest
- Flora, Fauna, Geology
- Untouched wilderness, care and respect for the land as it is.
- Quiet, wild and de-stressing!

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- Lichens and protected dunelands. Reduced tree cover, open sky and view of the northern lights, stars and mountains and sun or cloud.
- Unspoilt area with natural pathways.
- It's diversity - the beach/sea, dunes, shingle ridges, open areas, stands of trees, the woods with ponds, shelter, Green Burial, proximity to The Park and Findhorn village
- Protection of the dunes
- The lichen Butterflies and moths
- Dunes system Good diversity of lichens Nice wild beach
- volunteering and community building
- unique environment unlike anywhere else
- Diverse, wild natural beauty
- All of it is special the land the sea the views. The people you meet
- Area of quiet-prevent vehicular access at all costs
- Diversity of land fauna and flora
- Wildness, space, lack of controls
- Tranquillity Views Access to rest of the coast
- It's next door.
- The combination of wild open dunes and shingle and the more managed areas of woodland which create biodiversity.
- Flora. The way the contours of the land undulate gently - could they have remained the same since the last ice age?
- Rare lichens, unspoiled beauty in nature.
- Unspoilt natural wild area
- Biodiversity
- Lovely natural area that is accessible yet not manicured but left to its natural state. Quiet and peaceful. Very few people, solitude, no motorised vehicles
- Interesting insect, plant, mammal and birdlife. Also a special open aspect type of scenery.
- It's untouched, serene, beautiful, wild and yet close to human settlement
- -Unusual/ rare mosses and lichens and marine plants -Bird and butterfly life -Area ripe for more and already used for nature education
- Gorse
- Large variety of natural 'qualities' and freedom to roam.
- unspoiled nature
- Dune shingle, dune heath, lichen beds. Unimproved grassland-scrub mosaic around turbines
- Rare habitat. Site of special interest for sand dunes; lichens; etc. A very small area - so very vulnerable
- The wildness
- Its unspoiled natural landscape
- combination of dunes / tree cover with bird wildlife
- A truly wild coast
- Open unspoilt dunes
- Mix of different environments in small area
- beauty, quite, nature
- It's a special undeveloped space.
- dune landscape and specific plants
- Big skies, seascapes, fantastic sand dunes, gorse and broom, lichen beds
- Pine trees that act as a wind break for The Park
- the variety of ecosystems - woods, dunes, beach, lichen beds, ponds the lack of human intrusion (including both sound intrusion as well as physical intrusion) the land itself feels very powerful, and is healing me from my current episode of depression
- It seems to be very natural and unspoiled.
- The relative untouched wildness

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- Burial ground, shelter there, location between Park & dunes/beach, peacefulness
- The lichens, the dunes
- Having clear paths and other side tracks blocked so people stick to designated paths to protect nature.
- Really beautiful landscape with the woods dunes and of course the wonderful beach..I like the fact that it is not developed. Would not like to see too much development there (OK in the woods)

Conservation

Question 6 comments

What activities should we focus on to help conserve this special area?

What other things can we do to conserve this area and are there any issues to be taken into consideration?

- Some/all of the lodgepole pine should/could be removed from the Dunes (area 1) No firebreaks apart from those to protect housing and the removal of glass litter. What native species would be introduced (give an example) and where? Probably worth trying to keep a part of area 1 clear for lichen
- Maybe an area dedicated to lichen Removal of invasive species: Be careful what you wish for. The perception is that the FF planted the lodgepole pines-possibly with the aid of a grant -and now wish to have a grant to remove them. Is this all "managing" or muddling. Reducing fire hazards: This encouraged new growth of straggly plants opened up the overgrown pathways and also provided fire breaks. Selective "slash and burn" worked well. Nothing should be done without consultation with the Findhorn Conservation Company and the Findhorn Residents Association.
- Controlled management of invasive species_ gorse, lodgepole pine etc.
- Carry on selling lodgepole pine Christmas trees such a good idea.
- Improve the back shore road and direct cars to the car park adjacent to the sea defence line (e.g. Some form of physical blocking perhaps)
- My view is to leave it as it is and let nature find its own way.
- the most important thing on yearly basis it to keep the paths open so you don't get bushes on you with possible ticks, have costed and maintained the path out to the dunes in front of my house every year ,by cutting down branches that grow out ,my aim has been to make it tick free to come out on this path and further on to the dunes
- Prevent motorised mobiles from entering the area from the Beach / Dunes Road.
- Many of these seem interdependent and it is a matter of balance. Restoration of rare habitats probably requires the removal of invasive species, but is it possible to keep the gorse in check? Fire is one of nature's ways of increasing biodiversity, however it would seem important to avoid the uncontrolled spread of a fire. Whilst the area should generally be free of motorised vehicles there must be exceptions, such as the tractor, burial ground and wind farm access.
- I wish to express concern that the area is becoming over managed, to the extent that natural wild habitats are being disturbed to the detriment of biodiversity. For example, the population of both roe deer and squirrels seem to have decreased in recent years. There needs to be more space for wild areas, where natural ecosystem processes are mimicked as far as possible. In practice that could mean leaving fallen/thinned out trees where they are instead of making large piles of them in central locations. It could also mean approaching the planting of the area in a more holistic sense, not only focusing on large species, but also providing for an understory consisting of local broadleaf, e.g. elder, rowan, and cherry. In the management there needs to be a recognition and honouring of the changing nature of the woodland and sand dunes. A lot can be learnt from observing how nature develops and

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it would be a shame to lose this. As trees plant themselves they perhaps do not need to be eliminated. There will always need to be a selective thinning process, but “unplanned” trees can also be seen as beautiful and proof of nature's amazing adaptability. Letting the landscape have its life cycle is important and should not be too disturbed by human intervention and attempts at managing it to stay in one particular state. This area is prone to huge changes and it gives us a valuable opportunity to reflect on how we can adapt to it, rather than control it in some preconceived state that we think suits it best. In that approach there is a useful embodiment of how we humans all across the globe interact with nature.

- Living with what there is rather than too hard chasing only native.
- Although I've already ticked introducing more native trees and shrubs, this is definitely a project which I'd love to see happen. I love the areas where we've already started this and feel that animal and bird life would also increase if it could expand. But I don't know how this can be started in the more open, exposed areas? Some expert experience needed there I suppose. If reducing fire hazards means a more manicured look, I'm against it except where it absolutely HAS to happen
- Just respect Nature's ability to cope.
- I would suggest that there is no a blanket removal of invasive species but more a management of - this allows the gradual development of the area would be based on a management plan
- Carry out the above conservation methods in a way that doesn't detract from the quietness and emptiness.
- Reducing fire hazards: if fire is a natural 'by-product' of such an area and a natural way for it to regenerate etc. then specifically reducing fire hazards is not a priority unless it is to reduce the hazard from human activity. Management to increase biodiversity: only as far as increasing naturally, which should happen through other actions (lodgepole pine removal; increase natives, no motorised vehicles)
- Very important to work in harmony with Nature. Any changes to be undertaken slowly, with care.
- LEAVE it ALONE! It doesn't need us.
- Allow nature to prevail - don't interfere.
- Leave well alone
- No motorised vehicles other than utility, maintenance, forest work.
- Leave it alone as much as possible
- Re introducing more shrubs etc. I am concerned that we are careful what is introduced as some things may spread. The non-native lodge pole pines need to be taken out as they will eventually lead to a dense wood in which the current flora and fauna will not survive, with little light getting through to the ground. They also are not stable and prone to fall in this sandy soil. Session status for the lichens and the rare UK coastal habitat is very important
- As an evolving biodynamic area I think it should be managed as such. It is an exposed area and coastal but you are seeing the development of sheltered areas which hopefully in time will allow other species types to come in. The gorse and broom need to be cut back regularly so pathways remain open. I do not see much of a problem with the lodge pole pine as it looks like a lot of the trees are reaching maturity and once they die or are blown over the areas will be naturally recolonised by other species so it won't look so much like a monoculture.
- Cycles and other wheeled transport take their toll on earthen paths- why do we need to allow cycles through the woodland- why is it not enough to walk?
- Although the right to roam is a legal right I believe we need wild life sanctuaries within our wild spaces, so that species which will be disturbed by dog walkers and recreational activities in general can re-establish themselves. Some sort of zoning might achieve this; voluntary perhaps, but maybe with some sort of fencing/stile system. Zoning can preserve the availability of the area for people to enjoy, while also creating habitat for more sensitive species to flourish.

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- The existing Dunes Road (in the ownership of the FVCC) is a mess. It should be made up to an adoptable standard or removed in its entirety. The Coastal Path through the area should be clearly marked and maintained appropriately
- This is not a large area, and it is still wild and the home of wild creatures. Therefore, as little interference by humans as possible is best. The urge to 'improve' a wild area must be nearly impossible to resist, but please do! Human beings don't create wild areas. Wild animals and the daily evolution over time that's brought by weather and peace, are the best things humans can do on this land.
- Generate a culture of respectful access to this land - as nature regenerates to a more wild state
- Let nature be
- Pay particular attention to the impact of creeping development
- Clearer educational signing, to help people to appreciate it more
- Keep areas for motorised vehicles clearly signed and, more importantly, where they shouldn't go, clearly signed.
- Trying to get further legal protection through SSSI status would be very important in the long run. Educating people to see what is important in the area and why it should be conserved is a priority. Introducing more native trees and shrubs I would see mostly applying to the southern woodland areas. Restoration of rare habitats may involve taking more than lodgepole pine out; it could mean taking out all trees and gorse. It would be important to find out which are the most important areas for biodiversity so that there was a mapping of priority areas for conservation work; it may be too time consuming, use too much manpower and be prohibitively costly to try to manage the whole area. Mapping of the area would be important. Use and development of the pre-set local Biodiversity Action Plan plus information from further SNH survey work would be a good start to guiding the conservation management of the area.
- Maintain accessibility.
- Light touch please! Prohibit vehicles exactly where? (I imagine this makes sense). I don't really have the expertise to say what might be removed/reintroduced, but please do allow for some 'serendipity'
- Planting more individual Scots Pines loosely, and any other native species, in the more desolate areas would be wonderful!
- Education is key to ensure conservation and access are maintained. Interpretation boards and guided access will be invaluable.
- People should be encouraged to remove their rubbish, barbeques and dogs mess when they leave this hinterland. Maybe if there were notice boards up telling of the history and plant species the public may take more care?
- NB - I said No to "Reducing fire hazards" because it appears to me that this work has already been done, so from my perspective it is fine to maintain the "fire breaks" that have already been created, but ideally not to extend them unless absolutely necessary, as they are rather unsightly. Make available a few more dog poo bins, and signs encouraging people to "pick up their dog's poo". Also, ensure that people know that there is now an £80 fine for leaving dog poo. FYI, I regularly bring home 3 times as much dog poo as my dog produces by picking up other dog's poo as well, in an effort to keep the pathways and dunes free of dog poo!
- SSI status would be very important
- Vehicles can get access and use the area for off-road driving sports. Can signs be put up with heavy fines if caught etc.? Not sure if that would help.
- I want this area to be left alone. Untouched by interfering people
- Have a feedback box for suggestions in the shed area
- No building of any kind. No more windmills. Try to keep it the way it is without damaging the fragile ecosystems.
- Build a small wall next to the south pier and tidy the area up

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- Leave it alone.
- To leave the area alone and as it is.
- The area must be accessible to everyone
- Some informative signage, but not OTT - make use of the likes of Henry's green (if that's part of the land) and get people using that again, but don't introduce huge amounts of traffic.
- educational/environmental interpretation short nature trail
- Anything in the way of conservation that is also going with the evolution of these kinds of land areas - how does the Hinterland want to evolve - does it want to be restored or stay the same or does it want to evolve and if so, how can we help? What is its next natural step?
- Important to OPTIMISE biodiversity, not maximise. It may be more appropriate to have a lesser number of important species than a greater number of all species.
- Lots of scope for protection and development, but not compromising accessibility for current users - i.e. you can't go in this bit or that bit
- Forbid fires to be lit in all but designated areas. Have a clear policy of which areas are going to be maintained for which habitats; and have a consistent and achievable management plan to ensure that this is done. Without this I fear there will be a large waste of energy half starting projects, and still finding the ground overrun by invasive species like, gorse and lodgepole pine.
- Woodland management and contain the gorse. I appreciate the gorse free "corridors"
- "Rare habitats" - this needs to be considered very carefully. Are these rare habitats original to the area, or are they a result of how the land has been used / modified in the past? Is the "rare habitat" in fact an invasive species?
- Education, community engagement activities
- Native species not already present should not be introduced. If there is a reason e.g. unsuitable habitat. Human activity (walking, cycling, and horses) should be monitored. The area is fragile and easily damaged.
- Just to clean garbage left by disrespectful people who take it as a bin and ask for following the natural paths already created by animals and walkers. May be some information panels?
- Control invasive species perhaps rather than remove them. Keep the area as natural as possibly
- I suggest that we encourage people to keep to certain paths, also to limit the spread of some path areas, which are tending to create mini-deserts. A few discreet (artistic sign posts at low-level to encourage lichen protection. A few bicycle tracks marked and others for walkers. The bike tracks tend to get wider and wider.
- CONTROL/management of 'invasive species' - the gorse being the main one. Spread of lodgepole pine to be controlled, but the complete 'removal' of it seems too extreme (and the other 'invasive species' threatening the land is the human species, of course. Increasing numbers of human activity needs to be better managed (clear walking routes, no motorised vehicles) signage of sensitive areas...)
- It would be appropriate to show the connection with the other designated areas nearby, Findhorn Bay nature reserve for example. The management of these different areas should be coordinated.. Develop a deer control policy, by fencing and/or culling.
- Encourage ownership opportunities to contribute to development and stewardship.
- Do beach clean ups when possible. Please not too many signs if possible and use the paths that are there now.
- Leave it as it is as much as possible, but control/guide people's behaviour
- The land is increasingly being used by dog walkers which is fine but unfortunately dog fouling is becoming a real problem and on some paths parents would not be able to let small children run freely along them.
- It'd be great to have somewhere dog poop bags can be deposited when filled. I appreciate this presents an issue of who then empties the containers, but just dreaming away hopefully

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- I'm rather concerned about a row of young Sitka spruce that someone has planted at the Findhorn village end of the Hinterland near the end of Fyrish Road as I know how invasive they can be and don't really believe what I've been told that the conditions are not likely to encourage them as they look rather healthy to me.
- My concern would be - who decided what's appropriate re introducing more native trees etc. Motorised access along Dunes Road is fine.
- I live on the edge of Hinterland and am concerned about the human use which is destroying Maram grass (very difficult to regenerate and essential to dune conservation) Would like active recommendation about using marked paths and information boards in situ about Maram and dunes and how to protect them and why they are important
- Clear and visually arresting notices at frequent intervals among the lichens and the dunes. Many people innocently walk over the lichens and mosses and even cycle over them. Notices need beautiful pics of lichens, e.g. and clear explanations as to why one should avoid them. Requests to please walk on the sandy paths - not on vegetation, however scrubby and uninteresting looking!!
- Leave it alone, reduce littering and gorse invasion.
- From an orienteering perspective, it is good to keep the area wild, with tree cover in places, and limit the number of paths and other man-made feature
- Education for everyone. Nature walks. Sketching.
- Gorse clearance Appropriate path maintenance
- Is it a natural space or managed? Could it be improved or reinstated in any way? Who decides which animals it is managed for? Is it as it is if humans never were, or is it a result of previous management? I would favour positive active management to favour native species and a mix of animals and plants. Some types of protected status might hinder this. So if the site is already owned by a protective trust it may be worth not doing.
- I do notice our ability to keep creating new paths, and wonder if that is healthy for the land.
- I refer to the above.....Keep out the idiots who drive their SUVs over the sand dunes
- I would like to see the place being used for recreational pursuits that do not impact upon: a) the delicate ecosystem b) the enjoyment of the location by others I would like to see the fallen acre being used for more recreational activities so that people can be encouraged to enjoy nature recreationally, in a way that does not negatively impact upon the whole hinterland area.
- At the moment any plant whether native or not is holding the place together and stopping erosion so it is not the time to focus on non-native removal until more native plants and trees are established and can take over that important job. Clear paths and signs to the beach would stop people roaming and getting lost. Also signs describing specific plants.
- Motorise vehicles (need tractors to manage the woodland) the gorse in the dunes is very thick at times and has gotten thicker over the last years need to cut it back now and then. Need to manage the land as an entire eco system everything is linked.

Question 7.

Recreation

What activities should we focus on to manage how we use the area?

Are there any things that we can do to manage recreational activities in the area and are there any issues that may need to be taken into consideration?

- No picnic areas in the Dunes area Removal of dog excrement should be normal for dog owners and those observed failing to do it should be advised politely. There is scope for disability access in a the woods and area around the turbines especially on the old aircraft dispersal roads
- Yes, anyone who sees people with motorised vehicles on the Dunes or removing pebbles etc. in large quantities should be reported to the police. Dog fouling should be reported

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to David Haytack the Moray Council's Community warden. Any grant monies obtained by the Hinterland Trust should be used to fund a dog warden as long as the money lasts. Otherwise recreational activities need a minimum of management.

- I would prefer the whole area to be as natural as possible, with the minimum of human interference.
- Continue low key development of Wilkies Wood and leave the remainder as much as possible to itself.
- Keep it as natural as possible. Encouraging lots of visitors will discourage the wildlife!
- sorry maybe to many things
- I have enjoyed the dunes area (Hinterland) for the past 60+ years, as have my children and now grandchildren. Can you just please leave it alone as a place of natural beauty. There are so few places in the world now that are natural. I don't want to see paths and routes, guided tours, camp spots, play areas etc. To enable disabled access there would have to be dedicated paths and I think it would spoil the natural beauty. We seem to want to interfere with every special place in the world nowadays and it makes me very sad. Please, please leave our special area as natural as possible.
- Some seating, occasionally within a shelter that could also incorporate interpretation boards.
- Most important is that recreational areas are created with minimal intervention! It is good to have experiential spaces for adults and children, but they will serve their purpose better if they are simple and basic, fitting in to the natural environment rather than imposing themselves on it. No barbeque stalls or big complexes
- I think the more you promote an area as green/eco/wildlife it brings people to it and the invasive species becomes the human beings. I like that it's not known, that you can walk off the beaten track. That it's not so obviously managed. I would prefer not to have dog shit around. I don't want camp sites - if people want to wild camp let them find their own spots. If you make a dedicated site it encourages camping and more people is more damage. I think leaving it alone is managing it. Making sure it's not managed (apart from taking out non-native species and planting more indigenous plants and trees) is key to keeping it as a wilderness. The problems of the New Forest area in southern England should be studied and seen before any plan to "manage" this land and organize activities in the area are put into play.
- To me, Wilkies Wood is too small an area to have play areas, though maybe a small bothy could keep the numbers of people to a reasonable size. There are lots of lovely mossy areas in the woods which I'd be sorry to see disappear under many feet. It's a quiet area to walk and is close to East Whins which would make increasing visitors to the Wood potentially very disturbing (also use of the parking area, already well used, also by dog walkers from elsewhere, would increase). The beauty of Wilkies Wood is its lovely quiet atmosphere and the feeling that it's being well-managed now, losing the horrible factory-farmed look it had; it's attracting more birds (and in future more squirrels?), with play areas etc. it would all be ruined. Children also need to know the sacredness of quiet areas... play areas should be kept to populated places, parks etc.
- There is already car parking, I don't think we need more. Although disabled access is a good idea, in some parts of Duneland, it isn't feasible to expect access for wheelchairs to EVERY part. (I was once wheelchair bound, so can speak from a personal perspective)
- Clarity on your website about how the area, especially how to make a reservation for the fire place.
- wish to emphasis Dog fouling management including - perhaps composting areas for dog poo to go (and give to trees later ?) and in any case easy access to waste bins for poo bags to go (as they are often left along the path ??
- If somehow people could be encouraged to be more responsible towards natural habitats they would not need to have places "adequate" for activities, they would just discover for themselves the true joy of being in Nature. As soon as paths, signs, maps,

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workshops, designated areas etc. are installed it becomes more of a theme park than a natural area and Nature disappears. A respectful, responsible person does not need guidelines as they are innate.

- Regarding Parking provision there is plenty of parking near the Findhorn village beach area and which allows people to easily access the hinterland area and just a specific disability access would be beneficial Having more interpretation boards and way marking would hopefully encourage a greater awareness and respect for what the hinterland contains- building an informative knowledge base for the area for locals and non-locals Not sure about a bothy as if there is already a camping area that may be enough- a bothy would come under health and safety regulations
- Why not just leave it as it is?? As soon as you manage it with the above ideas, it is no longer wild. I hate the idea of it being 'managed'
- Success is not measured by the number of people visiting or the support and information they receive. Rather it is through the conservation of a diverse environment
- I only use the Dunes Rd if taking Mum to park in disabled spot at end as it is so badly potholed etc. to use regularly. However, there is adequate parking via Dunes Rd to access Hinterland. [Physically] disabled access: the environmental impact of making any part wheelchair accessible would be too high in my view. Dog fouling - always worse near the parking/start of any route. That area generally is not too bad for fouling due in part to the 'wilderness'. As soon as any formal routes, picnic area, play area etc. is 'provided' that attracts a more diverse range of people, the dog fouling/strewing of poo bags will increase hugely. Some dog owners seem to expect bins to be provided every few metres. For recreation KEEP IT HOW IT IS
- I have seen how cycles damage the delicate surface leading to increased erosion, so I think it would be unwise to encourage cycling in the area.
- No why do you think everything needs managing?
- Care should be taken not to overextend human footfall.
- I find myself a bit unsure how to answer the questions. Better way marking takes away a bit from the area being wild/relatively unspoilt, but helps avoid disturbance in all areas by too many visitors maybe.
- Many of the above suggestions, if pursued, would fundamentally change the current landscape and make it feel and look managed so spoiling it.
- Discreet marking of routes although obvious enough to be seen! People are always getting lost. I am often asked the way to the beach/Findhorn Dog fouling is an issue/ leaving dog poo bags on trees etc. Need to highlight the fragile nature of the area the sand dunes/ lichens. How can people become aware of the importance and fragility of the area and still use it? Importance of keeping to paths. Trampling on lichens would be destructive.
- Obviously more provision of dog waste bins. Parking lay-by off dune road and parking charges or donations for area upkeep.
- Encouraging camping increases potential for miss-use of environment- structured camping sites will need maintenance and supervision and may lead to demand for more services which will interfere with the unstructured wilderness. Recreation immediately suggests formalised exercise and structured activity- why would we want this?
- I think rather than a grown up built tree house/ play area building dens by the kids themselves is far more creative and Nature involving.
- Stand firm against as many kinds of intervention as possible because everyone will make the area less wild, less of a habitat for wild things, and more open to further interventions. We humans are relentless 'fixers' of natural areas but this one isn't big enough to absorb the problems created by over-use. Much of what is suggested above comes out of the wish to somehow put a stamp on this area, rather than letting it be, in peace, and protecting that creative peace. This cannot be seen as an area waiting for projects to happen without ruining it as a habitat for those living in it - which have

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already begun to retreat and desert what has been their home for longer than we know. NOTHING we can do with this land will replace what nature has created there. The perceived need to 'do things' with this area is not justified because it's too small: There are not good enough controls over those coming to the area to ensure right uses of it. Best thing would be to create a clear oversight and presence requesting respectful limited use.

- Support the creation of a respectful culture that allows human presence in the area without 'using' it - the utilitarian approach to nature can be very destructive. Strong persuasive educational input (inspiring rather than restrictive/punitive) as to why it is a valuable contribution to the conservation work to stay on paths, use 'honey pot areas' for activities rather than spread human activities throughout the whole landscape
- Leave it natural. You don't need signs and guided walks. Let people enjoy as they have for 100 of years
- Light touch management of the wilder areas Concentrate on ways to limit/manage the impact of usage as it occurs rather than developing facilities to encourage usage.
- My concern about Interpretation boards and sheds is they need to be kept smart and up to date. This can be quite a burden on the team looking after them.
- Some of these suggestions are only appropriate in the treed southern section such as camp spots, picnic area, and disability access to the woodland shelter, tree house and bothy. Parking provision would need to look at the way people do not use the beach carpark so much but tend to park along the side of the Dunes Road and whether parking at the Park is adequate. A detailed map of the site pinpointing some of its features would be an excellent resource to have.
- Please don't make too many signposts and one-way walkways, and neat pathways and try to tame the Hinterland.
- The above may seem negative, and in truth I could be persuaded to support some of these proposals, at least occasionally or where there is a specific identified need. But for me the emphasis should be on retaining the relative naturalness. Less can be more! Must we always have to follow a path, eat at a picnic area, have an area interpreted, etc.? I want invisible management that improves while keeping the feel, the opportunity to wander and explore in an undirected and unstructured way. Disability access is an issue, but in the above context. How would you control camping, etc.? Use existing parking
- Keeping certain connecting paths open through the gorse would be great. Would be happy to volunteer bit by bit.
- The area seems to manage itself quite adequately. The need for trails, parking and information boards has not been demonstrated.
- Some of the parking bays on the beach front get exploited by overnight stays. These people need to realise it's not allowed. Also to take their rubbish away. Many of the original fence work and walk ways are broken and don't create a good impression of the area. Maybe these should be dealt with before creating more upkeep in the Hinterland area.
- Any paths/signposts should be discreet Good to see children playing in the area- but let them make their own dens in the woods- keep a sense of adventure How do we manage dog fouling? Bins are a problem - who would empty them?
- Stop trying to change the essence of Findhorn. People go there because it is quiet and empty, leave it that way.
- U c'd have holes in the earth @ 'intersections' for dog poo
- I'm not sure what an "interpretation board" is, but signs throughout the area (or at least at main entrances) explaining the area, showing map etc. would be both helpful, and informative.
- Leave it alone.
- Leave it alone.

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- consideration to be given to routes and traffic to not increase where there's little footfall if possible - i.e. the likes of North Shore Road is a private road, so not desirable to use a route that increases this. Leave some of the freedom for folk to walk and explore organically, not totally scripted. Ensure there is toilet provision when increasing anything.
- Parking is already problematic in the Park. How not to increase the amount of car usage it is the question.
- Let's not make it into a human playground as we humans tend to do with all the land we lay our hands on, but let's keep it a playground for the nature beings where we can visit
- Concern over "recreation activities" creating litter.
- Signs if needed should be on the Dunes Road not of the wild land
- Parking could be on the roadside only. Maps and notices MUST be artistic, discreet and not 'official' format, as this detracts from the whole mood of the adventure. Please no "health and safety" jargon. We are invited to enter a Wilderness ... here there is no safety except in keeping your eyes open... the health is in the wonderful sense of freedom from regulation !
- Dog fouling is increasingly a challenge - clear information, bins with dog-poo-bags and deposit bins at the main access points could make a difference - car park at beach road, top of runway at The Park etc....
- Play area (only if it is keeping with the site/look Fix pot holes enough parking as it is. bothy would be fab Camping yes but think you should put a small fee on this but keep it to say a very small tent one man/2 man only (max stay 2 weeks Fee £1.00 per day.
- No board walks/controlled access keep it wild
- No to cycling paths
- Where's Wilkie's wood?
- There is already a lot going on which requires care and attention to maintain the area and this is dependent mostly on the commitment of a small voluntary group managing the land. It is important that this group does not over commit itself in its enthusiasm to deliver new and exciting ideas which may result from the consultation! Hopefully more local community volunteering involvement will result from the Drop in Day and upcoming Woodland festival.
- I know parking is a growing issue, but it doesn't feel like the area we're responsible for has spare for parking. Can that not be at the dune road beach end where there's already parking. I also feel slightly ungenerous about disabled access (despite being un-PC) as again, there's so much space that affects the integrity of the area.
- I prefer to leave it as it is and discourage too much use of tourism. Findhorn village is getting busier and busier with tourists flooding in from outside and I would hate to see it develop into a managed park-like recreational area. There is plenty of that elsewhere.
- I think some sensitive areas such as those of botanical, entomological or ornithological conservation value could be kept clear of paths to avoid human and canine disturbance.
- Awareness and sensitivity to wildlife in Wilkie's wood area nesting birds in season for e.g.
- I am not in favour of making wildlife areas into theme parks. We need to resist more buildings/sheds, artistic endeavours, etc. Notice boards are necessary (see comments above) Nature is beautiful and arresting enough in itself. The exception for me is the woodland tree house within Wilkie's Wood - just for small children so adults or large teenagers cannot enter it.
- I'm sure that my orienteering club could assist with the provision of a permanent orienteering course, with permanent markers of some description if that would be considered beneficial by the hinterland trust.
- Web Cams Get BBC Springwatch to locate here for a few days.
- It is a wonderful wild area & should be kept as such, natural & ungrazed.

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- It's a choice between managed development as-is or visitor development, and am torn by this one.
- I would not like to see signs and notices all over the place. Could it be kept at entrance only?
- Keep recreational activities educational Routes and pathways for walking/cycling - there are already plenty of paths to walk/cycle - I would not want to see more of them. The fact that there are not many through the dunes may discourage people from wandering in that area too much. But equally perhaps pathways would encourage walking only in certain places, thus protecting the rest of the dunes! - Small dedicated camp spot - I can imagine this situated in the part of Wilkie's Woods between the fallen acre and the windmills. This would allow for a more immersive experience for the campers (more deeply in nature), as the rest of Wilkie's Woods is used a lot by dog walkers and community residents, and it would be difficult to find a place where people will not walk past. It would also have the least impact upon Pineridge residents. Please also be aware that we have several homeless people who camp in the dunes, and they may be tempted to use the campsite and especially a bothy. - no to a bothy for the reason above, and also not particularly wanting a built structure in this currently unspoilt environment (unless it was sympathetically built from wood as with the compost loo).
- Very simple outdoor stage / performance area?
- Educate that dog poo is better than poo left in plastic bags as it will degrade naturally if moved off the path. Clearer paths so that whole areas don't get walked over and all the heather broken down. Direct signs to the beach - many people are guests of FF walking there for the first time and have no-idea which way to walk. No bicycles allowed. Support to stop dunes eroding
- Would like the Findhorn Hinterland Trust to concentrate on keeping the area "structure" free there are already some structures in the woodland. Rather interpretation boards/site map/way marker (when necessary) than a shed (another building) even if it is sensitivity built it's still more building. The area needs a light touch.

Question 8.

Education

What are the educational opportunities that the Findhorn Hinterland offers people and how do we make the most of these opportunities in a formal and informal way?

Are there any other educational activities that could be offered? Are there any issues that need to be taken into consideration in using the land for education purposes?

- No rural skills training on the Dunes Education to remove litter as a public service should be encouraged.
- Rural skills not on the Dunes Trust Land It is though rightly or wrongly that the disappearance of red squirrels in the wooded areas nearest the FF is due to domestic cats owned by the FF. I hope all the above are already taking place because they are done as and when and there is no noticeable impact or interference with the area. (excellent)
- As long as the talks and workshops don't all happen in the woods themselves I would support them.
- a) The specialist groups involved there tends to be a perceived need for greater control and management. b) An information board at a few key entrance points would be useful.
- Parking and access routes. Will there be a need for a classroom facility and/or toilets? Man's role in shaping the landscape including military history, wind farm, Wilkie's Wood.... Coastal erosion. Aurora borealis.
- There is great educational value in seeing its function in a wider context i.e. in relation to the ecovillage. What functions does it play in the wider system of a human settlement, what shelter does it provide, what resources, what challenges? How is the relationship

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sustained? Exploring this relationship between the woodland and the humans would be important in terms of sustainability awareness and education. The wilderness is an important educational asset. There are few local areas where we as humans can get lost and not be sure of how to find our way back, nor observe a changing landscape and adapt our mobility patterns to it. Not being sure of whether one is following a deer path or a human path is a great experience and leads to increased understanding and experiencing of natural systems. Having such accessible wilderness is of course an important aspect of any outdoor course, but can also be used in personal development work. Good inspiration often comes from untouched nature, not perfectly managed straight paths and picnic areas.

- I think its fine to allow groups to come into the area and use it (and leave no trace) but I don't like it when pathways, development, educational posters, maps, all human touches start to take over what is just simply land left alone.
- What has already been mentioned in previous comments about quiet areas etc.? Numbers of children introduced at one time should be handled sensitively with respect to the environment being stressed.
- The regular talks related to wildlife should be focussed on respect for all land/wildlife and the interconnectedness of the actions of all beings, human and non-human.
- Within the rural skills would be hopefully woodland management- creating a renewable resource
- Again I say, can't you just leave it as it is? It is educational in its own right just by being there.
- Although it seems I have a downer on schools, I don't! It's the potential volume of people and activity that would have a more detrimental impact than smaller, specialist groups contributing to protecting and enhancing the environment
- Leave this to local schools they can decide, don't interfere in areas outside your knowledge.
- Focus on natural untouched aspects
- wildlife, nature skills; survival skills
- Overuse/ trampling. This awareness needs to be part of the education
- Who is going to supervise and monitor all these education activities as they are taking place to ensure that they don't impact on the residential sites bordering the woods? Who is taking responsibility for mediating access throughout this area? At the moment we have difficulty keeping dogs on leads in the Park- most dogs run free across the Hinterland area, how do we create boundaries and understandings that respect what already exists? I would not want to see an increase of public access or activity with more and more vehicles left in and around the Park-we do not have this capacity
- Practicing respect for nature: how to walk through land and woods without disturbing them. Regular litter pick-ups on existing paths. Patrols to ensure people don't camp or use motorised 'rec vehicles' on the dunes and beach.
- Let people discover the beauty themselves
- Displays of the habitats, special creatures and things of interest could be incorporated into the Findhorn Heritage Centre display or in a display hut or on boards elsewhere.
- By mainly off site activity
- Remember that sports like orienteering are very educational and have minimal impact on the area.
- Much of this is already available elsewhere. Specialist workshops particularly appropriate to the site a good idea. Keener generally on informal learning
- School trips ... buses parking, noise litter, toilets. AS a user of that end of Findhorn I would not like more of this. The thing that draws people back to Findhorn is its natural, unspoilt open views and walks. Any commercialisation surrounding g that end of the Beach road would be a HUGE no-no for many.
- Overusing a fragile area trampling lichens

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- There is already a board there, disability access at the top. Leave it be.
- e.g.: monthly Sweat Lodge / Earth Fire camp events.....
- Guided nature walks? It's always fascinating to walk the land with someone who knows the ecology, can point out different species and point out things that I would otherwise miss.
- Leave it alone.
- Leave it alone.
- All good ideas and please do not make the place a busy spot! So much beauty in stillness and quite of being in Nature. It really serves the Community and visitors that way too. The woods are relatively small.
- Education on co-creation with nature, on our unseen allies and friends who hold the blueprint of all of nature, getting in touch with the spirit of the place, the Angel of the Hinterland, the beings of the lichen and gorse ... feel the energy of different plants, shrubs and trees - know more about the way they live
- Bird watching talks?
- Concerned about increase footfall with school parties.
- Silent sitting and bird-watching. Northern lights. Star observation. Tracking the dune erosion on the beach. Recording birds observed in the area. Perhaps this could be noted on a "tree-notice board", something like a clootie-well, with little flags denoting birds in the area!
- courses of a more 'spiritual nature' related to the land - as it's also the 'backyard' of a 'spiritual community'
- Kids from school on a couple of days of the week so people can have kid free days. Local talks in Forres and Findhorn (Milnes Institute, Community Centre, c.c. and Kinloss Church.
- Don't sell (education) courses!
- All the above great ideas, do a 'Ting' to prioritise, or allow the universe to send the priorities on the wind, as it surely will once feelers are out there.
- Trampling and disturbance always likely to be a problem as population increases.
- My concern is that the area might become too used and too 'managed' - no longer so wild. I quite like that it's not so developed and is just there to be itself.
- art of mentoring nature connection - Dan Puplett Same awareness as above
- We need to be wary of over-use. It is a very small area and cannot be all things to all people. If we get advice from specialist groups (e.g. to avoid building in a certain area because rare butterflies breed there) we do need to listen to them and act on what they say!
- Orienteering
- map reading and navigation skills, including orienteering
- Birds
- Extra foot fall in an already busy area during holiday season. More people less wildlife.
- we could also offer nature immersion - exploring the landscape and identifying animal tracks, scats, spores, etc. Being an animal. Practicing communicating with the animals and birds - noticing bird calls and behaviour. (This is not rural
- Workshops on connecting with nature / subtle realms and co-creation with nature? Art / dance / theatre workshops and events in nature? Events that encourage simply being in nature? Mindfulness walks?
- Getting more working groups involved in supporting the land. Schools conservation
- All good ideas...link in with the curriculum for excellence to develop activities that mean young folk can learn all sorts of things outside: maths, science, English skills...

Questions 9&10

Community Involvement

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In what other ways can people who are or have a special interest be involved in looking after the Findhorn Hinterland?

What sort of things would encourage YOU to get more involved with the project?

What other things need to happen to improve how people/organisations get involved in looking after the Findhorn Hinterland? Are there any issues that need to be taken into consideration in regards to getting people involved?

- Picking up their dog poo and taking away their poo bags. Keeping large dogs/all dogs on leads. Not dropping litter. Picking up litter. Regular litter sweeps. Report any car number plates of people seen to let their dogs foul in the area to David Haytack. Report any quad biker's motor biker etc. on the Dunes to the police.
- a) Is this SCIO for survey and research purposes only? b) Or is it intended to become a management organisation for the Findhorn Hinterland as given in the description of the enlarged area at the beginning of this survey? How are you analysing the spectrums of respondents to this survey? In that have you answers from across the community and local area.
- Pick up litter/dog mess when they see it
- help to keep the paths up and clear as now many on many of the paths you have to dive through branches as I had to do on this Sunday coming into paths that was overgrown and I had to change all my clothes and have a shower to make sure I would not get tick bites as I have had mildly limes disease twice before this important to me
- Just please leave it alone for us to enjoy as we have done for the most of our lives.
- Allow the land to look after itself, leave it to roam free, do not turn it into a PARK.
- Maintaining diversity of use of all generations is important. Providing opportunities for people to connect with nature and wilderness.
- Be a volunteer in the monthly work parties also the woodland gym!
- 'Work' days - I'd be interested in volunteering if there were days organised to do certain tasks (e.g. clearing, cutting gorse, surveying)
- The outdoor access code for Scotland already covers this so you don't need to involve anyone.
- Forres resident. Need to share info, communicate with neighbours. Wildlife don't know borders so we all need to be part of looking after this land.
- Continue with current programme of open-access and supervised activities for the nature and conservation of the area.
- Respectful limited walking and dog-walking, with stronger attention to clean-up/disposal of dog faeces.
- Make sure there is no development
- Having more special events on the land open to all. Encouraging specialist groups to come and use the area to discover things and include local people such as Butterfly Conservation groups etc
- I could be persuaded to volunteer in some way, although not necessarily in land work parties. I don't know what being a member of the Trust involves, how it helps.
- Talk about the area to others- give a positive message. Local resident? - does Forres count?
- You could have a 'Networking' daily dairy of events happening & ways for messages.....
- Keep people like you off it.
- Trustee of the Findhorn Foundation, visiting in that capacity
- Community led volunteering, social events, forest education workshops.
- Live in Kinloss
- Hinterland work-parties - litter collection - passing on knowledge to others
- Litter picks, planting collecting the firewood up to sell (small fee to go back on the land) Pic Nic days etc.
- Brought up locally
- I also use it during FF programmes sometimes

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- Wilkies Wood Funeral Co-ordinator
- obviously volunteering - but see below
- Collect glass & rubbish that is left every holiday season. Report motorbikes/vehicles seen driving on the land within this rare & precious habitat.
- Clear up after their dogs....
- Open days in the fallen acre that include demonstrating skills, talks about the landscape, playing instruments, etc.
- Boost marketing of natural Xmas tree. People love to come and pick their own and if it is non-native then does the land a favour and builds connection with local community. More mixed species particularly tree planting.
- Regular newsletter is a good way to spread the word about what the Trust and other people involved with the area are up to. Posters around the village to promote achievements.
- Question 10 what project this is a consultation and raises suspicions. Already involved as much as I wish to be.
- There is no project yet. The result of this survey may be that the majority do not want a project. If the majority do want a project there would have to be discussions on priorities. I am not involved with the other 2 areas of land at all and it is up to the landowners -Duneland Ltd and the FF what they do. Thank you for this opportunity to say on the whole "masterly inactivity" is required.
- Representation on the FHT Board from all the Village committees and conservation area.
- due to back problems I cannot take part in the physical work
- There could be more interaction between the board and the users of the area - Having inclusive, interesting, and inspiring events where decisions about the Hinterland are made. Not everybody may feel moved to come along to a formal meeting to express their views and ideas.
- We might arrange visits to other "similarly managed" sites (if there are any?) with talks by dedicated people. I think the communication about Hinterland has been quite good anyway. Maybe it could be extended to local newspapers and so attract interested people out with the Foundation and the village?
- Is there anything for teenagers? Besides volunteering, or maybe a special teenage day.
- A few years ago on a damp, windy day I was sitting on a log in Wilkies Wood feeling a bit introspective and alone and I looked up into the waving branches of the trees and said "How do you manage to survive in this place?" To my surprise I received an answer: "We are only a forest because we grow together". I suddenly understood the communication between roots intermingling, branches intermingling and the trunks standing beside each other. Whatever happens in the Hinterland every person who goes there must be respectful and aware of all the other beings who also live there or visit.
- Why do we need to involve people, those that want to will get involved, the only issue is stopping busybodies messing with nature in the mistaken belief that it needs managing.
- I think your communication has improved, certainly for local community although I can't comment for people living further afield.
- Meeting point could be waymarked perhaps?
- I am already involved so the above do not apply to my involvement but I think they are important. How do we encourage people attending festivals /events to want to be involved in the land too? I am concerned that all ages get involved .there is a bias towards older people in some work parties. If the management does not happen the land will degrade, trees will fall, paths people love will block. It is not a wild area untouched by humans although it can feel wild and that is something I love. I feel it is important that some areas are not just seen as for the Findhorn Foundation. There are areas that some people locally may not know or may not realise are part of the Hinterland and open to all
- People who have lived in the Findhorn Community for decades can't afford to be buried in the Green Burial site- maybe this can be rectified before we begin offering this site to the local area. There are celebration events and festivals taking place within the bounds of the

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Findhorn Community fire pit and dancing green- both of which are now completely surrounded by houses. Screening of these 'sacred' Community spaces as was promised and support for what already exists would impress me more than large public events for celebrations. At the expense of being ethereal, nature beings are driven away by human activity and noise- subtle interactions happen all the time beyond our sight and senses- the Findhorn Community's principle of co-creation with nature, includes this level of awareness that needs to be continuously supported in covert and gentle ways.

- Confused: this land is owned by yourselves: how much public input is genuinely wanted and how much is only sought to justify and fund your own uses and activities? This is delicate land that can't be sustained if used for much of anything: it needs supported as a natural habitat. I see no need for it to be 'used' - just protected and left alone.
- I am already as involved as I can be given my other commitments and work in and around the community
- Trying to work more together as different groups in the area so more resources can be shared and used well. It will be important that the Findhorn Village Conservation Company engage with land management as they also have similar land next to this area
- An awareness of local sensitivities and perspectives.
- The current wildfowling stushie demonstrates all too well what can happen in Findhorn; wouldn't it be great if this project really brought together and involved all 'lifestyles' in and around the village, and in large numbers not just the usual suspects? Key is excellent communication, realistic ambition, tolerance/mutual respect. Too often in this area I have experienced decent people doing well-intentioned things (if to widely ranging levels of quality!) but just not sharing widely enough especially in the early stages Lacking is information on money, particularly how will ongoing revenue requirements be met? I sense some of the activities proposed involve a commercial element e.g. direct charging, while others are in there as potential business/employment providing initiatives. This is not meant as a criticism, it's just that I feel it is important that everyone involved is open and transparent about their motivations and ambitions from the beginning. Which takes me finally to user numbers. Do we know current usage, likely organic growth as things are now, estimated impact of increased recreation and education provision? The watchword must be balance
- Very grateful that this is happening, that there is more communication, and for all your work. Thank you! Sibylle
- Education about what the hinterland is and what it contains.
- I am already involved/ committed to this land so the above would not make much difference to me - but communication in general is important/shared work/shared idea
- Keep out of the dunes
- e.g.: monthly Sweat Lodge / Earth Fire camp events linked into the pond area & Paradise garden walk & Burial ground
- Re. above answer - I'm not against any of the above things, but don't think they would get me more involved. Signs at main entrance and significant points within the area to show map, educate, encourage people might be helpful.
- An organisation to keep people from touching it.
- An organisation to prevent people from ruining the area. Leave it alone.
- As not fully resident in Findhorn just now, can't commit at this time, but would be willing in future.
- So much happening already that people are involved in. I think there is a need to be realistic with what can happen, not be too ambitious and see organic growth of ideas.
- This is all about love - how can more people fall in love with the Hinterland and its unique role in being a playground for nature beings and a place for nature to host people and for people to co-create with the nature and nature beings ...

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- There seems to be some suspicion about the Findhorn Hinterland Trust. I think most people including this group want what is best for the area. Need to find common goals and work together lots to be gained from this approach!
- More collaboration between the land-owners, a common management plan....
- Please, please don't just put communications on FB or email. Lots of people don't use them. So please posters, paper, Rainbow Bridge, Green Burial site 50/50% Local and Foundation use these sources I think.
- Better and transparent governance of all organisations involved Trustees with local knowledge and/or specialist skills ensure that trustees don't have any conflicts of interest if on more than one Board. Dunes Trust is about ensuring dunes are there for the benefit of people not biodiversity
- Age. Plenty of over-60s eager and willing, so it'd be great to focus on attracting children and youth. Wild Things already setting an example. Great stuff.
- Can't think of anything off hand. My recent lack of involvement is due to lack of time and energy and as I'm involved in similar project with Forres Community Woodland Trust a lot which is more local for me and keeps travel costs down.
- Being told about events at least 2 weeks in advance
- I have ticked NO because I am fully committed to other volunteering within the area. However, although I have a keen interest in wildlife, conservation and plants, I do not possess the physical skills to get involved in land work parties, for example. I also lack physical strength.
- You obviously have local residents and groups like the one I represent that bring people from across Moray for an event. My club's interests are slightly different in that while we have members local to the area, who may wish to become more involved as individuals, most of our members have many such opportunities to become involved in volunteering for projects more local to where they stay across Moray. While we might easily assist in providing something relating to our sport - e.g. orienteering in the local school, or permanent course - it is unlikely that we would become more involved as a group in more general activities
- Keep a strong relationship with immediate neighbours especially the Findhorn Foundation...
- Lots of notice (i.e. advance notification) of Hinterland events and opportunities to get involved. Everyone is very busy these days and last-minute notifications are hard to accommodate.
- There are some issues about ownership and a lack of understanding of the good work that goes on in this area. Local groups (including the Findhorn Hinterland trust) need to be speaking the same language, finding more common ground to work with each other, and respecting differences of opinion, and ways of living. The Trust needs to make sure that it is working in a focused way that includes more people and keeps them on board