**GROUP CAMPING ON THE HINTERLAND - A USER’S GUIDE**

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

**Pre-booking Your Camp.** The Hinterland shelter was built as an outdoor classroom and meeting place for all the people and groups that use and enjoy the land. The FHT Trustees recognises this and therefore it is important for any residential group, especially in school holiday times or at weekends, to check with Kajedo Wanderer (Tel: 07464890866), the FHT Land Manager and shelter co-ordinator, that the camp will fit in with other planned activities. Please do this in good time to avoid disappointment. The group leader will need to fill in a booking form, be responsible for the behaviour of their group members and also take on the responsibility of leaving the land tidy and in a better state than their group found it.

**Tent Location.** Small tents discretely placed in the informal sites to the north of the fallen acres compartment will reduce the camps impact on other users of the woods. A few larger tents situated towards the shelter are also permissible. Please do not camp outside the forest area or right next to the green burial graves. In case of any emergency, the sleeping location of group leaders needs to be known by group members and Kajedo.

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

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

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

**Fires and Firewood.** Please **do** make fires in the areas provided near the shelter; a campfire is central to any outdoor experience but do also make sure that it is always contained and under control. For small groups firewood can be scavenged from the surrounding area but for larger ones you can ask for access to a load of dry log lengths to be delivered by tractor and cut up by your group on site. There is a charge for this service.

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