This case study tells us why Crofters Lynn and Sandra value wildlife and how they incorporate nature into the running of the farm business.

Lynn and Sandra purchased the croft in 2016 at which point it was semi-derelict with no working croft infrastructure. Their interest in improving soil health, natural land management and good agricultural practice is apparent when listening to their future hopes and plans...

Grant funding from the Woodland Trust has been secured to create a further 14 hectares (17,500 trees) of new native woodland and promote natural regeneration. To do this the pair are fencing out and actively culling both deer and rabbit populations, Lynn recently completed her deer stalking ticket. Three Oxford Sandy and Black pigs are moved around in paddocks, preparing the ground for the planting of a new shelterbelt.

Six Highland cattle are to graze the grassland, followed by chickens that will scatter the cow pats spreading the natural fertiliser. Low intensity practices will promote establishment of a more species-rich habitat. The introduction of several hives of Black Bees, which have been brought in to further enrich ‘Team Lynbreck’ should encourage pollination and further enhance biodiversity.

In the longer term, the diverse mix of native broadleaf woodland will be used for grazing the herd of highland cattle in a silvopastoral system. The new growth will provide shelter, improved soil health and fodder for the livestock.

Development of eco-tourism is planned for future years with the diversification of the croft: they plan to renovate the original stone built croft house into a holiday home with views out over Abernethy forest, for short-term rental, and use by visitors – appealing for those who want to reconnect with the Scottish Highlands.

A traditional byre nearby has been re-developed into a storage space for feed, produce and equipment.

If you would like to find out more, please contact us.
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Young Farmers and New Entrants identify opportunities for development and diversification on the croft

New opportunities include woodland expansion, hedgerow planting, species rich grassland regeneration, sales of produce and diversification into tourism

Agricultural and forestry grants have been invaluable sources of funding

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