

A Study into the Provision of Sustainable Toilets in Remote Rural Locations

Submitted to

Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER Local Action Group
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Section 12.6

CASE STUDY

Barnluasgan Compost Toilet



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12.6 CASE STUDY - BARNLUASGAN COMPOST TOILET

Argyll Green Woodworkers Association
Nr. Lochgilphead,
Argyll

OS reference: NR785915

The study team have not visited Barnluasgan. The information has been sourced from the document cited below and we are grateful to Gordon Gray-Stephens for helpful discussions.

www.communitywoods.org/upld/The_Log_Loo.pdf



Background

Argyll Green Woodworkers Association (AGWA) was established in 1994 by a group of enthusiasts: woodworkers, woodland owners & managers, arborists, craft workers and architects.

At Barnluasgan, in the middle of an Atlantic Oak Wood Special Area of Conservation, which is being restored by the Forestry Commission, AGWA has developed a Woodland Centre around an old small-holding. The Barnluasgan Centre is reached by an 800 metre track, is isolated, has no mains services and includes:

- an old stone cottage converted into a meeting area, complete with wood-burning stove and basic cooking facilities.
- an oak Cruck Frame barn, with open sides, which provides cover without removing a sense of the outdoors.
- a Norwegian style Log Loo, Argyll's first composting toilet.

The Barnluasgan Centre was designed for educational use, and the 'log loo' is a demonstration of the benefits of using local timber and of sustainable practices. Building a compost toilet from round logs fitted well with a number of AGWA's objectives: some members were very keen to build a round log building, and a toilet was needed to cater for public and educational events.

The building is open year round and caters for events of up to 50 people and occasional passers-by. The location is not on a public walking route.

Toilet installation

The building is on two levels, allowing public access on the upper and maintenance access on the lower. The basement is built from block with stone facing, providing three chambers, each 5ft x 4ft x 4ft. The upper structure is a hand scribed round log building under a turf roof.

The toilet pedestal and urinal discharge into the chambers, which are concrete lined. Urine is directed to a chamber filled with straw and then discharged to a soakaway.

Solid waste and sawdust soak empty into a second chamber, and a third chamber can be used in alternation.

Access is via an outer door, then dismountable slats. Ducting for a solar fan was put in place but the fan has not been found necessary.

There is the usual problem of accumulating rubbish. The use is low and there is no expectation of having to remove the solids in the near future.

Cost

The building was erected in 1999-2000. The total cost for materials and (paid) labour came to £21,000 plus much volunteer effort.

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