

# New year, new name!

## Acorn Dell renamed Turretbank Wood

Following a consultation of people in Crieff, the Trustees of Crieff Community Trust (CCT) have agreed to give the community owned woodland at Acorn Dell a new name: **Turretbank Wood**.

Crieff Community Trust carried out a survey of its members and local residents during a two-and-a-half week period in October and November 2016. The survey invited local people to give their views on whether the community owned woodland on the west bank of the Turret Burn should be renamed. The survey made it clear that there was no plan to rename the **path** which runs along the river, and is known locally as part of Lady Mary’s Walk.

The survey was prompted by repeated comments over many years from some people in Crieff that they dislike the name ‘Acorn Dell’, and that ‘Acorn Dell’ doesn’t sound like a local place name.

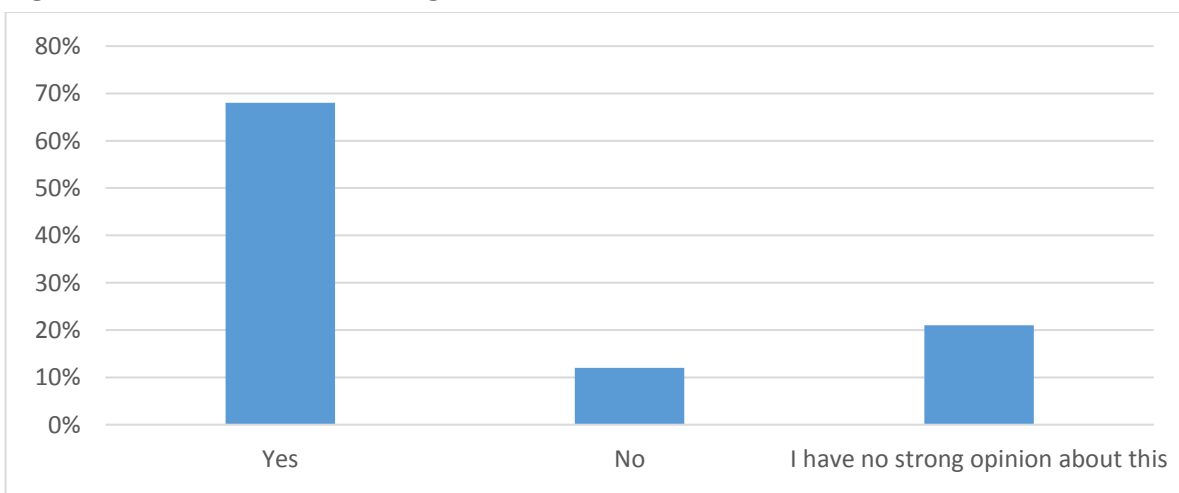
The survey had three questions asking local people: 1) if they think the name should change; 2) whether they would prefer one of three alternative names (Oakbank Wood, Turretbank Wood or Crieff Community Woodland); and 3) whether they would like the phrase ‘Community Woodland’ to be part of the official name of the land. Space was also provided for comments at the end.

The survey received 146 responses. While we recognise that this is not a large response, it is our view that if people did not participate in the survey (having been given the opportunity and a reminder), the issue is probably not one which they have strong views about. On the other hand, if people **did** take the time to participate in the survey, they probably **do** have strong views.

### Detailed findings (for those who are interested in the numbers)

Of the 146 responses received, just over two-thirds (n=99; 68%) thought the name, ‘Acorn Dell’, should be changed. Only 17 respondents (12%) thought the name should NOT change, while the remaining 30 (21%) said they had no strong opinion on the matter (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Should Acorn Dell be given a new name?**

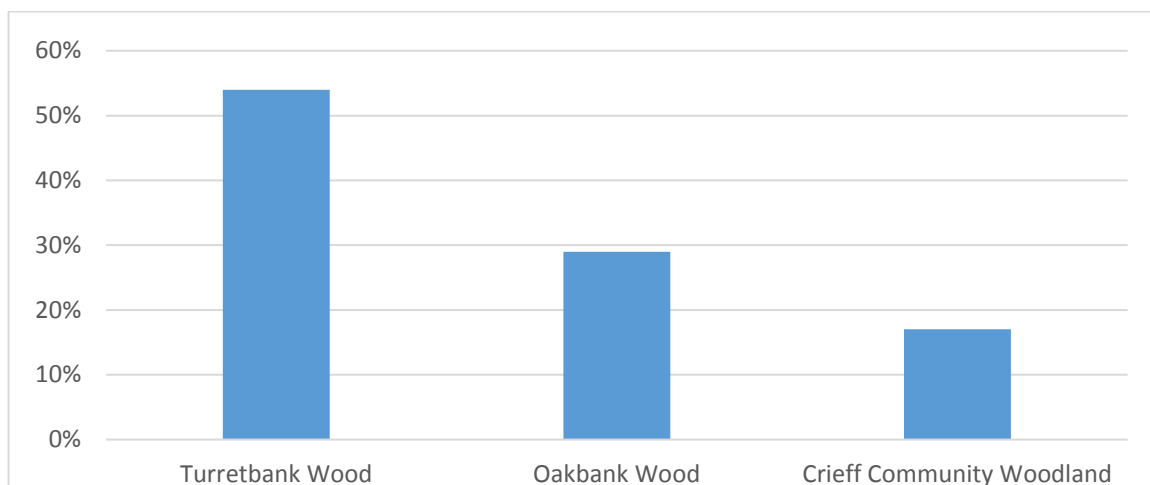


The second question asked people whether they would prefer one of three alternative names to Acorn Dell. The options offered were Oakbank Wood, Turretbank Wood and Crieff Community Woodland – the first two of which were based on historic local place names.

Even if survey respondents answered ‘No’ to the first question (above), they were shown the three alternative names and invited to give their views on whether they preferred one of these to ‘Acorn Dell’; and in fact, seven of the 17 respondents who said they did not want the name to change nevertheless selected one of the three alternatives, rather than skipping the question. In addition, among the 30 respondents who said they had ‘no strong opinion’ about whether the name, ‘Acorn Dell’ should be changed, nearly all (29 out of 30) also selected one of the alternative names at Question 2.

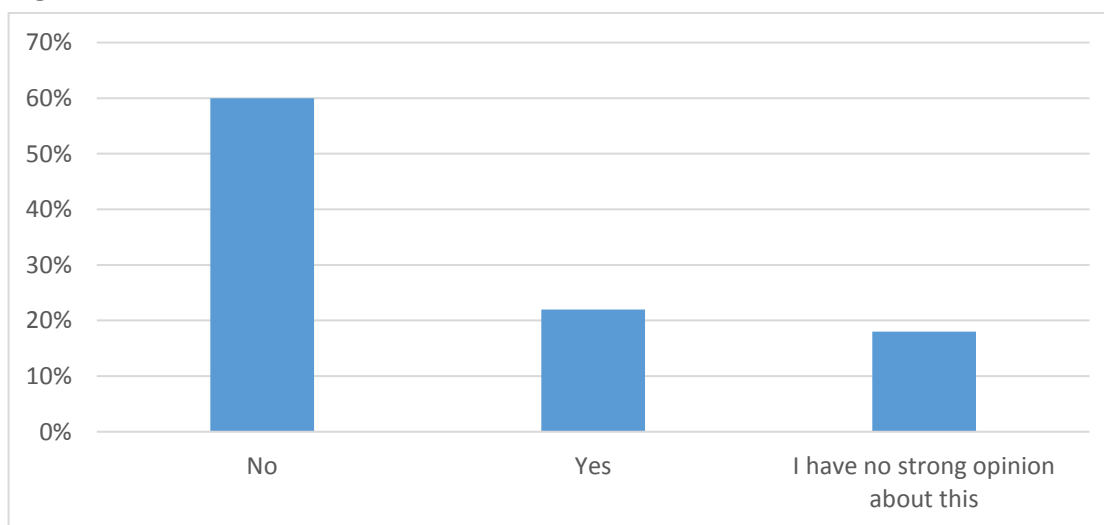
Altogether, 123 survey respondents selected one of the three options, with just over half (n=66; 54%) indicating a preference for ‘Turretbank Wood’. ‘Oakbank Wood’ was chosen by slightly less than a third and ‘Crieff Community Woodland’ was chosen by less than a fifth (Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Which of the following names would you prefer instead of Acorn Dell?**



Finally, people were asked if they would like the phrase ‘Community Woodland’ to be included in any new name for Acorn Dell (for example, Turretbank Community Woodland). Altogether, 115 survey respondents answered this question, and a clear majority thought that the official name should **not** include the phrase ‘Community Woodland’. Altogether three-fifths (n=69; 60%) of respondents answered ‘no’ to this question, with only one-fifth answering ‘yes’ (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Would you like the phrase ‘Community Woodland’ to appear in the new name?**



Other comments received from survey respondents (it's good to hear what people have to say)

Finally, further comments were made by just 33 respondents.

- Most gave their reasons for choosing one of the alternative names offered in the survey:
  - 'My 84-year-old (Crieff born) father has always referred to this area as Turretbank.'*
  - 'I like the idea of Turret being incorporated in the name as it lies alongside the Turret Burn.'*
  - 'Turretbank Wood sounds like a natural choice to me.'*
  - 'I think Crieff Community Woodland is a perfect name since it was purchased by Crieff Community Initiative.'*
- Some voiced opinions on the name 'Acorn Dell' – some people liked it, others loathed it:
  - 'Acorn Dell is perfect.'*
  - 'Anything would be better than 'Acorn Dell' – it is so generically bland and alien as to be almost offensive.'*
- A few suggested other possible names (besides the three suggested in the survey):
  - 'I suggest 'Greenden''*
  - 'I am given to understand McNeill's Paddock was its name many years ago. Would be nice to reinstate it, so it relates to a person who was once connected to it, similar to Eppie Callum's Tree, where the connection to the person has been maintained.'*
  - 'Turret Bridge Community Woodland could be a suitable alternative name.'*
  - 'Woody Mcwoodland!'*
- Some commented that, whatever the name was changed to, it was important for it to be formally identified and acknowledged as community-owned land:
  - 'Even if the result of this survey is to stick with the current name, any new signage should include some indication that the area is a community owned asset.'*
  - 'The name should reflect that it is community owned land.'*
- Inevitably, and despite our best efforts to be clear that **we are not proposing to rename the path**, there were nevertheless a few people who made comments about the name of the path, rather than the name for the land:
  - 'It's Lady Mary's Walk to the Sands!'*
  - 'Why not just leave it as Lady Mary's Walk?'*
- Finally, and also inevitably, a few people expressed the view that this survey was a waste of time and money – although those individuals did also then go on to choose alternative names for Acorn Dell. In response to these individuals, we would wish to reassure the people of Crieff that this survey was carried out entirely by volunteers at no cost to anyone.

**Thanks to those who took part in this survey!** If you REALLY want it, further details about the background to the survey and about the analysis are given in Annexes 1 and 2 below.

## Annex 1: Background to the survey

Crieff Community Trust recently carried out a survey among residents of Crieff to decide whether the community owned woodland, Acorn Dell, should be given a new name.

Prior to undertaking the survey, members of the CCT Paths Team carried out research to try to determine what, if any, historical name was given to this woodland. This research found that:

- The land which is now owned by CCT on behalf of the people of Crieff was part of the Ochertyre Estate until 1974.
- From 1974 – 2012, the land was owned by a series of property developers, changing hands in 1978 and again in 1991 until it came into community ownership in 2012. The land was named ‘Acorn Dell’ in 1991 when the (then) owners attempted to get planning consent to develop it. Before 1991, the land was unnamed on all maps of the area.
- The path along the Turret Burn is shown clearly on historic maps of the area dating back to 1863. This path is clearly a long-established public right of way, but until 1978, officially, it had no name.
- Generations of people in Crieff have long considered this path to be part of Lady Mary’s Walk (the wide tree-lined path along the River Earn created by Sir Patrick Murray of Ochertyre in 1815). However, the first time the path along the Turret was named, officially, as ‘Lady Mary’s Walk’ was in 1978 when the land was separately sold off from a larger parcel of land (which was subsequently developed for housing at Oakbank). The new title deed for the land shows the path named as ‘Lady Mary’s Walk’ – clearly a case of the Ordnance Survey adopting the local name for the path.

## Annex 2: Data collection and analysis

The survey ran for two-and-a-half weeks from 26 October to 11 November 2016, and was announced in the *Strathearn Herald* and promoted via CCT’s website and Facebook pages. People could take part in the survey online, or they could complete a hard copy of the survey at the Crieff Library at the Strathearn Community Campus.

Twenty-five hard copy responses to the survey were received. These included 17 responses which were clearly submitted by the same two or three individuals. All 17 of these responses ignored the introductory information provided with the survey, crossed out all the questions, and simply included a statement in the comment box at the bottom of the survey that the ‘old name’, Lady Mary’s Walk, should be retained. As there has been no proposal to rename the path along the Turret (it will continue to be called Lady Mary’s Walk), these 17 responses were excluded from the analysis.

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