

# Potential pilot projects: 2010

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The Touchwood Project

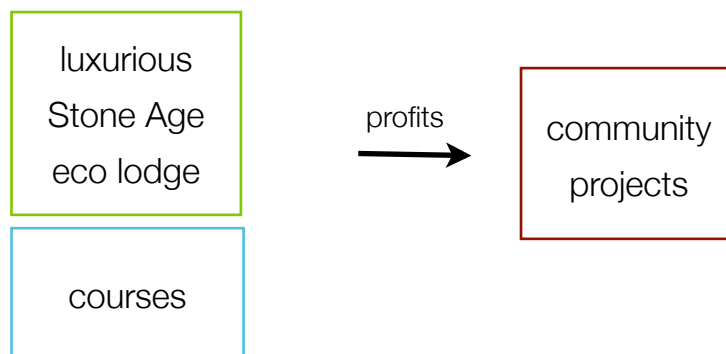
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## About the Touchwood Project

The Touchwood Project will offer holidays and courses that **give people the practical skills to live a more sustainable lifestyle**. We plan to build an eco lodge which will offer totally unique accommodation at a **luxurious, modern version of Skara Brae**, Orkney's Stone Age village and World Heritage site.

Local craftspeople, renewable energy experts, and outdoors instructors will be some of the teachers leading classes that range from recycling clothes into hip new garments and toys to navigating by the stars.

The profits from the eco-centre and its courses will go towards our second goal: helping **Orkney become a more self-sufficient, resilient community**. We will provide funding to local sustainability projects like community gardens, renewable technology in houses and community buildings. We will work extensively with other organisations and the community.



While we're based in Orkney, if successful, we plan to open a number of centres throughout Britain and potentially worldwide, each offering courses with a local flavour, employing local people, and giving its profits to support the community.

## Overview of Pilots

For 2010, we plan to apply for funding to run several pilot projects in order to:

1. Work out logistics and get courses right for future rollout at Centre
2. Secure training to deliver courses to highest standard
3. Be doing activities concurrently with planning and developing the Centre
4. Build ties to existing organisations and businesses on Orkney to co-offer courses
5. Build awareness of Touchwood Project within larger community

We already have funding from Awards for All for deliver the 3 planned pilots for 2010 and may apply for funding for 2011 to deliver additional pilots and programmes such as the successful “Power Off Weekend” campaign.

## Key Components to Courses

Every course we offer should be like this:

- fun
- teach a practical skill people can take home and use right away
- be eco-friendly
- feature some aspect of Orkney (landscape, techniques, or material) so that you couldn't do this exact course anywhere else

## Touchwood Pilot Projects

The pilot projects include:

### Kids Bushcraft

**Description:** Hands-on sessions for kids in building shelters from heather, making fire safely, and navigating and walking outdoors via Treasure Hunts. The session teaches them to rethink what a weed is and appreciate traditional skills and the natural environment.

**Delivered by:** Malcolm Handoll

### 'Upcycle' an item of clothing

**Description:** 2-hour or half-day session repurposing an item of clothing in your wardrobe. 12 sewing sessions planned with 3 separate courses: Make Your Own Creature for parents and young children;

Junkie Style for teens and young adults; and Knockout Knickers for women to make their own sexy knickers!

**Delivered by:** Kirsteen Stewart

**Other possible partners:** Hume Sweet Hume, Tait & Style

### **Bit Better Project**

**Description:** To foster the ethos 'Leave it a little better than you find it' and increase walking on Orkney where barbed wire fences and farmland are often seen as barriers. Going beyond Leave No Trace, we will work with farmers and local walkers to make the countryside through which they are travelling a 'bit better.' Includes going out into the countryside with tools to make improvements to fences, waterlogged land, and other problem areas.

**Delivered by:** Malcolm Handoll