

Stephen Palmer Award Report - Rachel McBrinn & Alison Scott

300 words

The award allowed us to conduct archival research in the NLS Moving Image Archive in Glasgow, to identify films which resonated with the themes of our film *Congenial Soils and Favourable Situations*, and offered a contrast in language and attitudes towards forestry and conservation. We selected 'A Tree is Planted' (1957), to screen alongside ours in Oban, and identified several other films which may feed into future research projects.

We built a relationship with independent curator Naoko Mabon, Oban Phoenix Cinema, and Mika Schröder, a doctoral researcher at the Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance.

We travelled to Oban by train for 16-18th September. Our screening formed part of Oban Phoenix Cinema's FotO (Festival of the Outdoors) programme, and tied in with woodland activities planned for the weekend run by Naoko and Mika at Dunollie Woods.

We had a strong turnout for the screening of 50 people, drawing engaged audiences including local Oban residents, visitors, specialists in biology and forestry, as well as members of local community groups (including a beach cleaning group and those involved in custodianship of Dunollie Woods). A lively Q&A was chaired by Naoko and Mika, with questions surrounding the designation of Atlantic Rainforests, the role of art within activism, and about our ongoing work together. We gained valuable feedback and insight into local resonances with the film. Also in attendance was Jamie Joyce, ACT Now Project Officer for Argyll & the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust, allowing us to cultivate this ongoing relationship and discuss possibilities for potential future partnerships.

We also had time, with Naoko's generous hosting, for a walk led by local biologist Laura Corbe around Dunollie woods to situate ourselves and visited Green Shoots/ Hope Kitchen's community garden, as well as joining their fundraising event at Corran Halls.