The Open-air Lab at Catterline Bay

We established an OAL in Scotland to build and investigate NBS on a site subject to landslides & erosion.

Working with the local community

We worked with Catterline’s community to co-create NBS, which are already helping build capacity and resilience to climate change hazards such as landslides & erosion.

Local natural materials

Earth + Timber + Plants

Built manually, blended into the landscape

The NBS follow civil and ecological engineering principles, they can be built by hand, and they promote landscape restoration as the vegetation cover develops in the intervention.

Live structures against landslides & erosion

The NBS that we built are “alive” and they act as:
- gravity walls to stabilise slopes – i.e., live cribwall
- slope skins to control surface erosion – i.e., live slope grating
- drainages to reduce surface water – i.e., live pole drain

Vegetation is the live component of the NBS, which improves the ecological, mechanical, and hydrological properties of the soil, it creates habitats to flora & fauna, and it enhances the aesthetic value of the local landscape

Lessons & Exploitation

- Identify the problem
- Understand the environment
- Map the stakeholders
- Listen and engage
- Look out for existing solutions
- Follow established principles
- Be creative
- Use local resources
- Work along with Nature