

PE1812/D

Jonathon Porritt submission of 11 November 2020

I don't live in Scotland, and I don't personally know this native bluebell wood. But I've studied the photos, and read the information, and as someone who has spent many days (albeit many years ago!) walking in Scotland, with a daughter who feels the same way about such precious places, I wanted to add a simple reflection from that generational point of view.

In a world increasingly at risk from accelerating climate change, we already know that we're going to see more and more special places, incapable of adapting to such disruptive shifts, disappear in front of our eyes. This will further impoverish the world we pass on to our children, and further diminish our standing in their eyes as the generation that allowed such things to happen on our watch.

Should we not, therefore, do everything we can to minimise that sense of loss that we'll feel? To protect, when we can, those special places which may still afford them the same kind of joyful, uplifting access to the natural world that so many of us have had the privilege of?

There's a variation of the ancient wisdom embodied in the Golden Rule that seems most apposite here: 'Do unto future generations as you would have past generations do unto you.'