

# ***Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust***

## **Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025**



**HPCLT: A company limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital**

**Company number:** SC227934

**A Registered Scottish Charity, Number:** SC032801

**Registered Office:**

**J & H Mitchell WS  
51 Atholl Road  
PITLOCHRY  
PH16 5BU**

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## Trustees' Report



*Woodland regeneration along the Allt Mor, south-west of Dùn Coilich*

## Purposes of the Trust

The Charitable Purposes of the Trust, as set out in its Articles of Association, are

1. to advance environmental protection and improvement by the restoration of native woodland and other habitats as important means of conserving and increasing biodiversity.
2. to advance education and training in ecology, land management and rural skills by facilitating opportunities for educational establishments and other organisations; and
3. to provide and organise recreational opportunities, primarily by providing access to walking and to wildlife observation.

A wide range of education, training and conservation initiatives is based at Dùn Coilich, which the Trust acquired in 2002. HPCLT acquired the Wee Birks Field in Aberfeldy in 2016.

## Legal and Administrative Information

### Constitution

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust, “the Trust”, is a company limited by Guarantee, and not having a share capital. Liability of each of its members is limited to £1. It was incorporated on 11 February 2002 as Company No SC227934.

It is recognised by HMRC as a Charity for the purposes of Part 11 of The Corporation Tax Act 2010 and is registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) with Charity Number SC032801, and tax file ref CR 53179.



The Trust was established under a Memorandum of Association which set out its Objects and Powers and is governed under its Articles of Association. These were incorporated on 11 February 2002 and amended on 11 March 2002 and 24 March 2018. Under these Articles, the direction and business of the Trust is to be managed by the Board of Trustees.

Membership of the Trust is open to any individual aged 16 or over or any organisation interested in supporting the Charitable Purposes. This can be Annual or Life membership. Each Member of the Trust has the right to attend and speak at the AGM (or any General Meeting) and has one vote, to be exercised in person or by proxy (or, if an organisation, via its Authorised Representative).

Exceptionally, Honorary Life Membership may be awarded by the Board of Trustees to an individual who has substantially contributed to the Trust or to its ethos.

### **Board of Trustees**

The Board must have at least 5 but no more than 15 Members, of whom no more than 12 shall be elected. The Board may co-opt any number of individuals as co-opted Trustees who serve until the next AGM. The total number of all Trustees must not exceed 15.

<b>Trustees during Year</b>	<b>Appointment date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Fiona Danks Keith Myers Jeremy Robinson	23 June 2022	Having completed a three-year term were re-elected for second three-year term 26 April 2025
Douglas Woodrow Richard Paul	15 April 2023	Complete their cycle 25 April 2026.
Ian Harper Ian Selmes Colin Stanfield	27 April 2024	Can continue for one more year.
Andrew Walker	15 April 2023	Resigned 25 April 2025
Jamie Grant	Co-opted 16 January 2025	Elected 25 April 2025
David Balfour	25 April 2025	Elected 25 April 2025
Kirsten Parrish	27 April 2024	Resigned 15 September 2025
Charlotte Davis	Co-opted 12 May 2025	Can be elected 25 April 2026

Honorary Chair	Ian Selmes Pickston Meadow, Glenalmond, PH1 3RX
Honorary Vice Chair	Fiona Danks, Garth Lodge, Fortingall, PH15 2NF
Honorary Treasurer	Keith Myers, The Gap House, Croftnamuick, Aberfeldy, PH15 2JE
Registered Office, Solicitors	J & H Mitchell WS 51 Atholl Road, Pitlochry, PH16 5BU
Bankers:	Royal Bank of Scotland
Independent Examiner	J M T Ambrose MA, FCA, CTA(Fellow) 8 Cleveden Road, Glasgow, G12 0NT



Woodland regeneration on the west side of Dun Coilich

## Brief History of HPCLT and founding principles

In 2001, 421 over-grazed hectares of a local deer farm adjacent to the iconic 1083 m mountain, Schiehallion were put on the open market. It comprised heather moorland with wet areas, some limestone outcrops, a small pinewood, two burns, and two hills, Dùn Coilich (572m) and Dùn Beag (403m). There was clear potential for a community buy-out for the purposes of ecological restoration, open access tracks, and wildlife conservation. The

purchase price of £205k was raised locally and the Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust, a Scottish Charity, was set up through J & H Mitchell WS, Pitlochry.

An existing Forestry Commission Grant Scheme was amended and adopted, with the aim of establishing native woodland. 38 feral goats were transferred to the Kent Wildlife Trust. A car park for about 12 vehicles, an adjacent hut, a toilet, and a second carpark for 8 vehicles have all been built. Ponds have been created. More than 230,000 trees have been planted, by school pupils and other visiting groups as well as by professional planters, and considerable sustained efforts continue to be made to exclude sheep and deer. A footbridge was built across the Glengoulandie burn and a network of walking routes has been established, with boardwalks on the boggy areas. Since 2009, a hydro-electric scheme on the Allt Mor has provided HPCLT with a regular income.

By 2012, it was clear that a more professional approach to tree maintenance and deer control was needed. Willie McGhee came on board as Forest Manager, providing a wealth of practical know-how and advice; and, crucially, considerable experience of the workings of forestry grant schemes and charity fund-raising.

Early in 2016, the Duncan Menzies Trust offered their 1ha field in Aberfeldy for community use. Situated between the Lower Birks and Burns Brae, it consists of rough grassland and some trees. After consultation with Perth & Kinross Council, Aberfeldy Community Council and other local Trusts, HPCLT was felt to be the most appropriate body to own the land. Ownership was duly transferred to HPCLT and, following local tradition, we named the land the Wee Birks Field. It will be kept as an open space for public enjoyment, perhaps with some picnic tables/ seats and some additional native flowering trees. Other uses may be considered.

In June 2016, Heather Hamilton was appointed as a part-time Project Officer, responsible for the development and implementation of a youth training and all-age volunteering initiative, thereby fostering links with the local community. Initial funding for one year was from SSE's Sustainable Development Fund, with additional funding from the Robertson Trust, the Hugh Fraser Foundation and Keltneyburn Hydro Group, the fundraising coordinated by Willie McGhee, HPCLT's Forest Manager. The youth training courses each ran for 20 weeks, covering rural land management skills, such as dry-stone dyking, brush-cutting and chain saw work, tree planting and maintenance, all helping to prepare trainees for employment in the land-based sector. Heather also coordinated a regular programme of volunteer activities. Subsequent funding from The Gannochy Trust, SSE's Griffin and Calliachar Community Fund, the Basil Death Trust, Forestry & Land Scotland, The Enchanted Forest, and PKC secured the continuation of this post until the end of 2021.

During this period, there was a steady increase in demand for all our community outreach activities. In response to this demand, a new project, entitled 'Positive Destinations', was begun in 2022, significantly expanding the reach of the previous programme: increasing the



capacity of the training courses by 50% and the level of support we can offer our trainees; broadening the scope of our education delivery; and increasing our engagement with the local community. In order to manage this increased provision, a part-time post of Assistant Project Officer was created to support the Project Officer. The employment status of both posts was improved by making them employees of HPCLT, with National Insurance and pension benefits (previously the Project Officer was self-employed). We are grateful to the Gannochy Trust, SSE's Griffin and Calliachar Community Fund, The Robertson Trust, the Hugh Fraser Foundation, the John Muir Trust, the Nineveh Charitable Trust and the Basil Death Trust for their financial support for the Positive Destinations project.

The successor to Positive Destinations, the Community Outreach Project, began in Spring 2025. Funding was secured for an expanded rural skills training programme, together with two Modern Apprenticeships, the latter providing paid employment leading to a formal SQA qualification. Additional community outreach will continue through volunteering and our work with schools and the wider public. We are very grateful to the Gannochy Trust, SSE's Griffin and Calliachar Community Fund and Perth & Kinross Council for the funding that will allow this valuable work to go ahead.

In July 2017, The Heart of Scotland Forest Partnership (HoSFP) was launched. Its vision is to create a restored and vibrant landscape that provides opportunities for wildlife to thrive, for local employment and for people to enjoy. The partnership now comprises nine organisations: Forestry & Land Scotland, HPCLT, the John Muir Trust, Dalchosnie & Kynachan Estate, the Scottish Wildlife Trust, the Woodland Trust Scotland, Garth Wood Wilding Project and two affiliate partners, Grenich and the National Trust for Scotland Ben Lawers – working together to connect woodlands and create wildlife corridors across Highland Perthshire.

The Modern Apprenticeship initiative, referred to above, involves the employment of two young people per year, who spend time working with some of the partner organisations – in the first year with HPCLT, Forestry & Land Scotland, Dalchosnie & Kynachan Estate and the National Trust for Scotland at Ben Lawers. In addition, the HoSFP continues to provide opportunities for trainees and volunteers to contribute to work beyond Dùn Coilich and to benefit from the greater variety of experiences.

## **Governance**

HPCLT has become a progressively more complex organisation over the years, particularly since taking on employees; at the same time, the amount of funding, for a number of different projects, has increased. This section outlines our organisational structures that enable effective management.



### **Strategic Governance Framework**

HPCLT's Strategic Governance Framework provides a structure to how the Trustees operate that ensures transparency and guides timing of strategic planning through an annual cycle, so that all are aware of what needs to be done, by when or at which meeting and by whom. It also contains details of the sub-committees that manage the Trust's work. This should assist new Trustees in understanding how the charity runs, how the responsibilities of all Trustees are strategically managed and will help individual Trustees in taking specific responsibilities within a cycle. It should also ensure that cultural knowledge of the charity is maintained as personnel change and that there is a flow of timely strategic decision making. It was drafted and discussed by Trustees in July 2024, edited and then agreed at the Board Meeting in September 2024. It is updated as required.

This Framework should be read alongside the Annual Action Spreadsheet with its dates for actions in the annual cycle, including timing of appropriate topics for consideration at meetings through a year. The spreadsheet tabs cover each trustee's tenure to help awareness in succession planning; the annual cycle of actions to consider, as an agenda guide for Board meetings; AGM critical dates and events, to assist in AGM planning; the Trustees skills audit, to help ensure the Board includes a range of skills important for HPCLT; and grant information so Trustees are aware of funding.

### **Strategic Risk Assessment**

As part of HPCLT's long-standing Health & Safety Policy, there have been operation risk assessments covering staff and volunteers working on the hill and in-by, and for fire risk, fencing, path and tree work, as well as for operating brush cutters and chainsaws. In addition, a Strategic Risk Assessment for HPCLT was researched, constructed and adopted from July 2024. It helps Trustees understand how the charity is doing, potential sources of risk, its significance, how we are to manage or mitigate the risk and who is responsible. It is reviewed at least twice a year by Trustees.

### **Declaration of Interests Policy**

The Declaration of Interests Policy applies to all HPCLT Trustees and staff and was adopted from the September 2024 Board meeting.

HPCLT starts from the position of trusting the integrity and professionalism of all its Trustees, who, in accordance with charity law, are required to act in the best interests of HPCLT, within the terms of the governing document and in accordance with relevant legislation at all times. Most Trustees will however have a multiplicity of interests (personal, domestic, professional), any of which may, on occasion, compete with those of HPCLT. Because it is almost impossible to avoid conflicts altogether, they need to be identified openly, managed effectively, and records kept accordingly.

This policy aims to help individual Trustees in a position of potential conflict, and the other Trustees on the Board, to know what they need to do to address these circumstances. The Policy defines what are and are not conflicts of interest, as defined by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). Disclosure opportunities occur twice: annually by each trustee completing a Register of Interests Form which is returned to the Chair, and at the start of any Board meeting where an agenda item is to declare any potential conflict of interest with an item on the agenda.

## **Weather Station at Dun Coillich**

The weather station at Dùn Coillich records temperature, rainfall, wind speed and direction, solar radiation, atmospheric pressure and relative humidity. The station is connected to the Weather Underground network of personal weather stations and can be accessed via the following link - [www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/IPITLO9](http://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/IPITLO9). Note the station is solar powered and connection can be unreliable in the winter months.

2025 was the warmest year in Highland Perthshire with average 24-hour temperatures over 9°C, the highest in the last 10-years of recorded data. The Spring and Summer months were unusually dry with only 39cm of rain over six months. The total rainfall for the year was 119cm, around 14cm below average, with the low rainfall reducing electricity output and rental income from the hydro scheme. The hottest day of the year was the 12<sup>th</sup> of July when the temperature of over 31°C was recorded (hottest day was 24.8°C in 2024).

## **The Hydro-electric Scheme**

As discussed in the Financial Review, rental income from Keltneyburn Hydro in 2025 was £13,351 (2024: £17,129) with generation related rental income down in 2025 due to the unusually dry Spring and Summer weather and a outage at the plant in September.

## **Natural History at Dùn Coillich**

The staff of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, headed by Dr Aline Finger (Conservation Geneticist) and Rebecca Drew (Conservation Horticulturalist), both working for the Scottish Plant Recovery team, have planted three species of rare plant in suitable habitats at Dùn Coillich. These are - Alpine Blue Sowthistle (*Cicerbita alpina*), Whorled Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum verticillatum*) and Small Cow Wheat (*Melampyrum sylvaticum*). These plants are all rare in Scotland although not necessarily in other parts of Europe. The RBGE team

have propagated the plants in their plant nursery in Edinburgh from specimens of carefully chosen genetics.

Small Cow Wheat is a hemi-parasite whose roots take nutrients from the roots of grasses, and it has seeds, which have structures called elaiosomes that are attractive to ants. As a result, the ants play a role in the dispersal of the seeds. This behaviour is being studied by Breadalbane pupil, Henry McIntyre, at the suggestion of Dr Finger.

Both Henry McIntyre and Sarah O'flynn (also a Breadalbane pupil) have accompanied staff from the Cairngorms National Park Authority in the search for rare ants (*Formica exsecta*) in Rannoch and Dùn Coillich Trustee, Jamie Grant, in Glen Lyon. They are both heading for biological courses at university and have expressed a wish to be 'Young Conservationists' at Dùn Coillich.

Dùn Coillich has four species of ants, *Lasius flavus* (a small yellow ant), *Lasius Niger* (a small black ant), *Myrmica rubra* (a small red ant with a formidable sting) and *Formica lugubris* (a larger wood ant). There is just one *Formica lugubris* ants' nest, which is indicative of a more forested history for Dùn Coillich. As with many ant species they have a symbiotic relationship with aphids and in their case an aphid called *Dysaphis sorbi* that lives on the leaves of the Rowan trees, causing the leaves to curl into a gall. The ants enter the gall and take sweet honeydew from the aphids. In return they protect the aphids from predators and parasites.

A large part of the reason for the rarity of Alpine Blue Sowthistle, Whorled Solomon's Seal and Small Cow Wheat is that they have suffered excessive grazing by sheep and deer. At Dùn Coillich they are protected from this by the perimeter fence and in addition, where appropriate, the plants have been protected with vole guards.

Bird and plant surveys have continued to be undertaken using the Dùn Coillich network of paths and the Goulandie burn as transects. These studies continue to suggest that Whitethroats and Whinchats are benefiting from the conservation measures being taken. Climate change is also having an effect with Nuthatches becoming common where once they were absent.

Hen Harriers are a Dùn Coillich speciality and a pair successfully raised chicks this year. It is always a great spectacle to see the 'Sky Dancer' displaying in spring and to witness the skilled food passes as the male passes prey to the female in a graceful midair manoeuvre.

An unexpected event in spring of 2025 was the appearance of a pair of beavers, which built a series of small dams and a lodge along the burn that runs along the boundary between Dùn Coillich and the John Muir Trust East Schiehallion reserve. These beavers may have been a pair translocated by Forest and Land Scotland to Loch Kinardochy. By the end of the summer



the beavers had moved on, but they have left behind welcome pools, which will be a great habitat for dragonflies and other aquatic creatures such as water voles.

In March 2025 Albert Bonet of Aberdeen University surveyed Dùn Coillich for water voles and he also trained apprentice Tony Marshall in surveying techniques. Albert found two active water vole colonies, one at Whitebridge and one on the western side of the hill bordering John Muir Trust land. At the other previously identified area (near the hydro water intake) no recent sign was found, only historic signs of water vole presence. Further surveying by Tony of other potential areas for water vole found no further colonies, but we can repeat this ourselves in future years.

This winter there have been plenty of Fieldfares and Redwings visiting, but as yet, no waxwings.

Dùn Coillich has benefited from compensatory planting of native trees by SSE on the slopes north of the mature plantation and it is also intended that montane scrub will be planted in the higher areas.

The guided walks program has continued this year with the following walks -  
Ecosystem restoration, regeneration and rewilding at Dùn Coillich - is it working? - led by Forest Manager Willie McGhee.

The Struggle for Existence, led by Richard Paul - Trustee and Volunteer.

Meet the Badgers Act II - led by Fred Cochrane, Assistant Project Officer.

Black Grouse at the Lek! Part Two - Led by Fred Cochrane, Assistant Project Officer.

Unfortunately, 'Where there is Rock there are Lichens' - led by Petra Vergunst had to be cancelled twice, firstly because of illness and secondly because of the weather.

We have been conscious that when the Trust was first established no base-line biodiversity study was done and so in an effort to rectify this we are undertaking an 'over-the-fence' study to compare land on the John Muir Trust East Schiehallion Reserve, which is not protected from herbivores with land on Dùn Coillich, which is protected from herbivores. We are grateful to the John Muir Trust for their permission to establish a transect on their land. A similar transect, with the same aspect and approximately the same altitude, is being used on Dùn Coillich for comparison. So far, the birds and plants have been studied, but we are discussing which other taxa might also form part of the research.

At Tomphubil, which is just outside of the boundary of Dùn Coillich, there are two limestone quarries. One is likely to be a very suitable habitat for the introduction of *Oblong Woodsia* (a rare fern) by RBGE. The other quarry has been investigated by Anthony McCluskey of Butterfly Conservation, and he has been able to show us Northern Brown Argus butterfly eggs on the leaves of Rock Rose. He also observed a Hummingbird Hawkmoth at the site.

The rare butterfly, the Pearl Bordered Fritillary, continues to thrive on Dùn Coillich where it makes use of violets for the caterpillars to feed on, dead bracken for sheltering the adults in spring and bugle for the adults to find nectar.

## Research collaborations

- **Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE)**

Our collaboration with RBGE is noted in the *Natural History* section above. Suitable habitats at Dùn Coillich for five plant species that are rare in Scotland have been identified.

Specimens of Wych Elm, selected for possible resistance to Dutch elm disease, have been planted and their health will be monitored over the years.

- **Butterfly Conservation**

We supported a project by Butterfly Conservation aimed at fostering community interest in butterflies and moths as part of the goal to conserve some of the rarest species, including Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Northern Brown Argus, which are found at Dùn Coillich.

Further details are in the *Natural History* section above.

- **UHI**

In March 2025 we partnered with the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) Centre for Living Sustainably to independently evaluate the wider impact of our Rural Skills Training and write a protocol to help us to better evaluate outcomes moving forward. Further details are shown in the *Project Officer's Report* section below.

## Visiting groups/ Wider community engagement

Visits organised as part of the Positive Destinations and then Community Engagement

Projects are noted in the *Project Officer's Report* below. Other visits to Dun Coillich were made to seek HPCLT's views and/or to learn more about our activities.

Throughout 2025 we hosted 10 other groups at Dùn Coillich. We led guided walks and talks on site for walking holiday groups from Wilderness Scotland, the U3A group from Pitlochry, a team of NatureScot staff members who were keen to see what is achievable in terms of community led ecological restoration and Forestry and Land Scotland's Trees and Timber Apprentices. We continued to offer experience days to survivors from the RASAC Rape Crisis Centre in Perth as part of the Cairngorms National Park Visitor Experience Programme.

We also went out and about in the local area spreading the word of what we do more widely through a number of networking opportunities, this included presenting at a gathering of the Nature Connections Partnership run by Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust, also presenting at the Wilderness Film Festival at the Birks Cinema, Aberfeldy, back in the Spring. Fred also

gave talks to local Women's Institute and Probus groups further spreading the word of what we do.

Some trustees also visited Denmarkfield near Luncarty, a community conservation project, to share ideas and experiences.

## **Heart of Scotland Forest Partnership (HoSFP) Review**

The main element of the HoSFP work in 2025, involved HPCLT, working in partnership to share two apprentices, with the National Trust for Scotland (NTS), Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) and Dalchosnie and Kynanchan Estate.

The apprenticeships are for 1 year in Rural Skills SCQF (Scottish Credit & Qualifications Framework) Level 5. Our two Modern Apprentices (Tony & Jamie) worked through 2025, doing forest work on FLS land, working on montane scrub restoration at Ben Lawers with NTS, and learning about stock handling with staff at Dalchosnie and Kynanchan. They did extremely well and we wish them every success in their next life ventures.

On a more downbeat note. We lost Tom Corke, John Muir Trust (JMT) Mountain Woodland Project Manager at Schiehallion, and Cathleen Thomas, Tom's JMT Regional Manager. We wish Tom and Cathleen well in their next endeavours. JMT volunteering at Schiehallion has been led by Cumbria based staff – sponsored by United Utilities.

Tom's departure has left no JMT staff on the ground at Schiehallion and some uncertainty over the potential staffing structure at JMT into the future. With this uncertainty, HPCLT has taken on the temporary role of convening HoSFP meetings in 2025 and during 2026 we will hand the HoSFP baton on to FLS in the new annual rolling of HoSFP 'chair'.

National Trust for Scotland has also experienced some staffing 'churn' at Lawers, however they are in the process of recruiting new site-based staff and have been busy planting montane scrub and providing volunteering opportunities for a host of groups. Forestry and Land Scotland have been surveying their large-scale natural regeneration at Frennich (180ha) and tree planting at Lassintullich.

## **Forestry at Dùn Coilich**

In 2025 our annual thermal drone survey, done by Ben Harrower Wildlife on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April, recorded 12 deer; 10 Roe deer (mostly bucks) and 2 Red deer (a hind with calf). This was one more than in 2024 and the deer were mostly clustered on the eastern, Schiehallion border, in denser areas of planted and regenerated trees and scrub. This is likely because this is the least disturbed area providing good cover.



Ian Muir and Mike Morhulec, our deer stalkers have been out regularly through the 2025 stalking season and culled 4 Roe deer and 1 Red deer. A huge thanks to them for their efforts.

Piers Voysey of the Community Woodland Association has been helping us with forestry mapping (using QGIS) and forest management (survey methodologies), in the expectation that we will submit three grant applications in 2026 for Access (funds to help Heather & Fred and the teams to maintain our path network), Natural regeneration (funds on the back of the small and not so small self-seeded trees appearing around the site), and Sustainable Forest Management (grant which will pay for keeping tabs on our deer population and will fund habitat monitoring). The latter will help us to gauge whether deer are having an impact on our shrubs and trees and whether we need to keep trees off some of our valuable open spaces such as mires, bogs and base rich grassland.

As in previous years, there is no significant obvious tree damage - some fraying by Roe bucks and leader buds nipped off - despite our resident population of Roe. This could be because there is so much higher quality (relatively speaking) vegetation for them on DC, in comparison to neighbouring land, and possibly due to prolific tree and shrub regeneration.

We finally signed our Errochty Biodiversity Net Gain agreement with SSEN and received funds to build a new boundary deer fence between us and Forestry and Land Scotland, this going from Whitebridge to Braes of Foss. The work was completed in October by Matthew Boag of MGB Shepherding. Matthew did a good job, and we have now got a pretty secure perimeter fence around all of Dùn Coilich.

A large thank you to SSEN for equipping us with another deer secure boundary.

The next step for our Errochty Biodiversity Net Gain project will be planting of 5.5 ha of new mountain woodland in the first part of 2026, along the higher elevation crags below Dùn Coilich – with a mix of montane plants will include mountain willows, juniper, dwarf birch and including scrubby scots pine.

## **Communications**

Since April 2024 HPCLT and Dùn Coilich have been promoted much more effectively and consequently are more in the public eye, thanks largely to the inspirational input of trustee and PR consultant Kirsten Parrish. During her year and a half as a trustee of HPCLT, Kirsten threw herself into making sure that our work in landscape regeneration and community involvement is better understood and appreciated. She led on the development of our inspiring new website, producing a quarterly newsletter, ensuring better and more consistent branding across all our work and spreading the word more effectively through social media, local community newsletters including the Quair and Pitlochry Life, Killin News and elsewhere, and a PowerPoint presentation to be adapted for different audiences. Trustees were

sorry when Kirsten stepped back from HPCLT due to pressure of other commitments, but having established better ways of promoting our work, this can now be taken forward by staff and other trustees. Trustees would like to thank Kirsten for all the work she has done to raise the profile to HPCLT.

### **Newsletters**

The quarterly newsletter has become a key means to communicate with members and the wider public, with seasonal updates and articles about ecology, our developing woodlands, community work and our successful youth trainee and apprenticeships programmes, along with views from our enthusiastic volunteers. Thanks to all those involved with putting these newsletters together, in particular Colin Stanfield.

### **Dun Coillich Film**

HPCLT was approached by the Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust (PKCT) about the possibility of them making a film about our work. Climate Connect provided funding for three films to be made about community conservation projects, the other two being the West Stormont Woodland Group and Rewilding Denmarkfield. PKCT is a Scottish charity working across Perth and Kinross to promote the enjoyment and conservation of the countryside; encourage people to learn about it and find ways to protect and care for it now and for future generations.

The resulting film is an inspiring piece about Dùn Coillich's habitat restoration work and the amazing people involved. We are currently working on producing a shorter film more suitable for sharing on social media and in other channels. We would like to thank all of those involved, including everyone who was interviewed for the film. It will be available on our website shortly.

### **Working with local businesses**

HPCLT would like to develop better links with local businesses interested in supporting our work to restore precious local habitats and bring more people into nature. With the advice of HPCLT trustee Jamie Grant, owner of the Glen Lyon Coffee Roasters, we have drawn up a partnership package to offer to local businesses, whereby they donate an annual sum to HPCLT, and we feature them on our website and staff members can participate in events at Dùn Coillich.

Aimed at businesses aligned with HPCLT's charitable purposes, we hope this will encourage more local businesses to support our work and help to raise our profile. We thank Glen Lyon Coffee Roasters for becoming our first business partner and we look forward to working with them.

### **Other ongoing Communications work**

- Updating the website – this work is ongoing as and when we need to add information, such as about the Apprenticeship Scheme and our new business partnership scheme.
- The Facebook page (Dùn Coillich Community Land) now has over 660 members and is being used to share information about ecological recording, other areas of work and to promote events.
- The walks leaflet has been updated to make it easier for people to join as members.

Our website is [www.duncoillich.org](http://www.duncoillich.org)

### **Funding for Dùn Coillich Outreach Project 2025-28**

The successful three-year Positive Destinations project finished at the end of 2024, so the focus towards the end of that year was to fundraise for a revised project to run from 2025-2028. Funds were sought for the Dùn Coillich Outreach project, to include a 30-week traineeship project for 8 young people and the employment of two apprentices to complete a Level 5 apprenticeship in rural skills run by HPCLT in partnership with Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), The National Trust for Scotland (NTS) and the Dalchosie and Kynachan estates. These funds also support our volunteer, public events and education programmes.

Thanks to the dedication of HPCLT Project Officer Heather, the following funds were raised for the start of the project:

Gannochy Trust - £27,623 annually for 3 years

SSE Griffin and Callachiar Community Fund - £12,142 annually for 3 years

PKC Traineeship funding - £30,000 for first year then reapply

FLS apprenticeship contribution - £12,349 annually for 3 years

NTS Apprenticeship contribution - £12,349 annually for 3 years

Dalchosie and Kynachan contribution - £3,194 annually for 3 years

PKC Futures for All (for apprentices) - £12,000 for first year then reapply

Skills Development Scotland - £3,600 varying annually dependant on ages of the apprentices

HPCLT contribution - £10,000

Most of these funds are available each year for the three-year term of the project, apart from the PKC Traineeship funding which was committed for one year only due to funding restrictions within the council, and the PKC Futures for All funding. We would like to thank all these funders and our partners for their generous support of our work and for enabling us to provide young people with such valuable training to support them to secure work in the land-based sector as well as enabling us to deliver our other community outreach projects.



## **Project Officer's Report**

The Trustees have asked the Project Officer to report on the outcomes of the community outreach activities over the year. Her report is included here, and it clearly shows that we are continuing to connect with many people and thereby bringing significant benefits to the local community.

### **Positive Destination Programme 2022-2025. Outcomes and Evaluation.**

2025 was a big year for the Trust with respect to our community engagement and rural skills training delivery. It saw us complete the delivery of the 'Positive Destinations' programme, which ran from April 2022- April 2025 which encompassed all our outreach work, including the rural skills training, volunteer days, work with schools and other groups and our programme of public events and site visits. Over the 3 years of this project, we connected with over 1700 people.

#### **Deliverables:**

- Ran 6 Rural Skills training courses, with 36 young people (aged 16-25) completing the programme. Trainees gained LANTRA qualifications in chainsaw, brush cutting, ATV use and pesticide spraying as well as outdoor first aid training and non-certified training in drystone dyking, ropes access, fencing, woodland/habitat management, deer management and practical experience of footpath maintenance and tree planting supporting them to take their first steps to a career in the rural land-based sector. 90% of our trainees moved on to a positive destination after completing the training.
- Hosted 64 educational visits, including tree planting days for all local S1 pupils, hosting older secondary pupils through the Pitlochry High School Junior Ranger Programme, assisting with the S3/4 Rural Skills classes from Breadalbane Academy, and providing outdoor learning experiences to local primary schools. In total 854 school aged young people were involved in our education outreach programme. These sessions are now embedded in the school calendars.
- Organised 218 volunteer days over the three years, with our volunteers giving 8250 hours to the project. Most of the land improvements that have happened at Dùn Coilich are due to the hard work of our volunteers and we are extremely grateful to them for all their hard work, dedication and for bringing a whole lot of joy to our wee hill.
- Ran a full programme of public engagement events and supported site visits, offering 42 public events (including guided walks and community barbeques) and hosted 16 visiting groups. 911 people attended our public events and site visits from interested

groups: 415 of these people visiting Dùn Coilich for the first time for one on these events.

<b>Positive Destination Project Outcomes 2022 -25</b>	<b>Days on Site</b>	<b>Practical Workday s</b>	<b>Work Hours</b>	<b>Total no of individuals</b>
Volunteers	218	1722	8250	414
Rural skills	159	778	4661	42 (with 36 graduating)
Education	63	1246	4478	854
Public Events/Visiting Groups	58	911 attendees		415
<b>Total activity</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>3746</b>	<b>17389</b>	<b>1722</b>

Beyond the raw numbers the project had wider impacts in terms of positive outcomes for those we have engaged with many of these wider impacts being highlighted in the 2024 annual report. In 2025 the benefits to the trainees were independently evaluated by the UHI research as highlighted below.

### **Evaluation of Rural Skills Training in partnership with UHI**

We have collected anecdotal evidence over the years that the rural skills training has had a positive long-term impact on the future prospects for the trainees, but we wanted to check that what we deliver was in fact doing that. To that end in March 2025 we partnered with the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) Centre for Living Sustainably to independently evaluate the wider impact of our Rural Skills Training Programme, engaging with trainees who have completed the training with us since the very first course back in 2016, and write a protocol to help us to better evaluate outcomes moving forward.

The research showed that the training:

- **Directly helped trainees find employment:**

*“Dùn Coilich was one of the deciding factors when interviewed for my job. Already having qualifications made a big difference.”*

- **Helped with confidence-** through leadership practice, new social and practical skills:

*“I had very low confidence in myself, the course helped me reach out and take opportunities and made me realise I was capable of achieving my goals”*

*“I became a much stronger leader, and I’m much more self-reliant now.”*

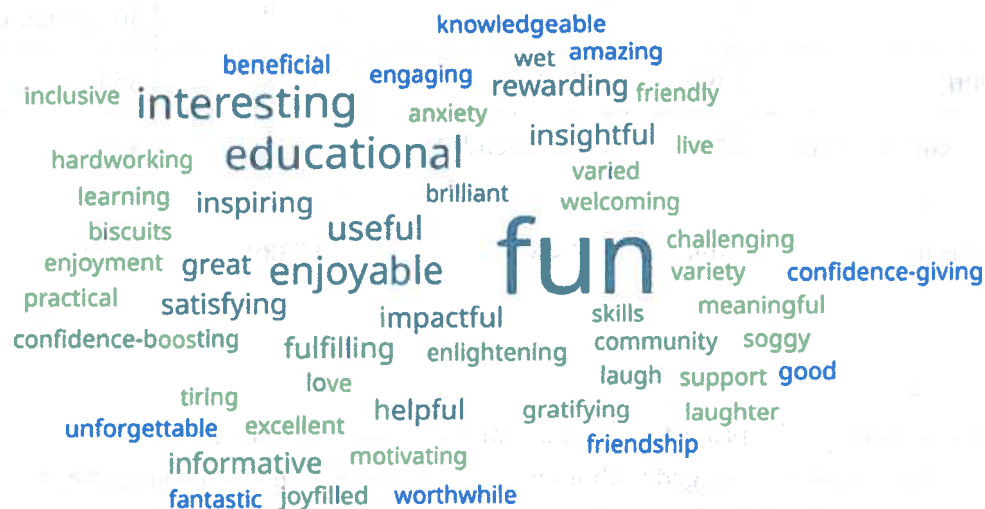
- **Social growth and grounding, improving mental health:**

*"The course helped me overcome difficulties with socializing and with being more confident as a person."*

*"Was really good for my mental health - working on a set task, with others, outdoors in a beautiful place- usually left feeling a lot more upbeat/optimistic/satisfied."*

- **Self-realisation and finding new paths:** The course opened new career and life paths; introducing new opportunities and spotlighting enjoyable and obtainable roles.

*"It made me realise how much I enjoyed working outdoors and how good it is for me".*



Word cloud showing respondents' 'three words' that best sum up their course experience.

The full evaluation report can be read here: <https://www.duncoillich.org/evaluation-of-duncoillich-rural-skills-training/>

We are grateful to the Scottish Funding Council Standard Innovation Voucher programme for supporting this research. Following on from the success of this collaboration we are hoping to continue this partnership with the UHI team in 2026 to look at the wider community impacts of the work that we do, and how we can further increase this impact.

## Looking forward: Dùn Coilich Community Engagement Project 2025-2028

The success of the Positive Destinations programme has not been the end of our community engagement activity at Dùn Coillich, in fact its success has led us to build on what we have achieved so far. Thanks to funding from The Gannochy Trust, SSE's Griffin and Calliachar Community Fund, Perth and Kinross Council and The Robertson Trust we have successfully secured funding to run the core of these outreach activities until 2028 under the new banner of the **Dùn Coillich Community Engagement Project**.

As with all of our programme delivery we have made a few changes based on feedback from past participants. The biggest development has been the launch of our exciting new Modern Apprenticeship Scheme which happened in Spring 2025.



### **Modern Apprenticeship in Rural Skills**

Born out of discussions that started back in lockdown, it has been very satisfying to see this project get off the ground, and we are pleased to report that its first year has been a success! As with most of what we do, working with others is always of benefit to us as a small charity with limited capacity. **For the Modern Apprenticeship we have partnered with The National Trust for Scotland at Ben Lawers, Forestry and Land Scotland, and Kynachan and Dalchosnie estate, with Rural Skills Scotland acting as the learning provider.** The project will see us employ two modern apprentices each year for the next three years with apprentices being recruited from our Rural Skills Traineeship graduates. We were delighted to be able to employ two past trainees (Jamie Lean and Tony Marshall) as our first ever Modern Apprentices.

A Modern Apprenticeship (MA) is a job which lets people earn a wage and gain an industry-recognised qualification for the skills acquired through specific training and on-the-job experience. Our apprentices will achieve a Modern Apprenticeship in Rural Skills (SCQF level 5) comprising an SVQ in Environmental Conservation as well as gaining further industry recognised qualifications and, thanks to the diverse range of partners, we will be able to offer exposure to a wide range of potential rural land sector jobs.

The apprentices will spend most of their time with us at Dùn Coillich, with one week a month spent with FLS and NTS as well as 10% of their time being spent on the Kynachan estate.

The apprenticeship (and our wider pathway including the work with schools and the traineeship) has received wider recognition, with Jamie being shortlisted for the PKC Apprentice of the Year award and Tony being shortlisted for the LANTRA ALBA Apprenticeship awards. More widely there has been interest from other organisations and agencies who are interested in learning more about how running the apprenticeship using a partnership model could potentially be replicated elsewhere in the country. We are happy to be able to contribute to these wider conversations.

### **Rural Skills Traineeship**

Our flagship Rural Skills Traineeship has continued. Following consultation with our past trainees and employers we made the decision to extend the course from its previous 20 weeks to 30 weeks. This means that we are now only running one course a year instead of the previous two but we have increased the numbers from six to eight trainees per course. We believe that offering a longer course will give us time to not only deliver the training side of the course, but also allow more time for skills consolidation, giving the trainees the opportunity to put what they have learned into practise. It will also give us scope to further widen the experience we offer.

Eight young people completed the course in 2025. The trainees completed training in ATV handling, chainsaw and brush cutter use, outdoor first aid, dry stone dyking and fencing. For

the first time we also offered the trainees certified training in Basic Canyoning, which was definitely one of the highlights of the training programme this time round. Alongside the formal training the trainees gained experience in tree planting, aftercare, hand weeding, brashing and monitoring. They built boardwalks, completed wood working projects, got to grips with path work and fence maintenance. We also spent time visiting local sites learning about different approaches to land management and exploring the wide range of outdoor/rural career options available locally and helping them to develop a wider understanding of rural industries.

Throughout the course we worked one to one with the trainees and as a wider group to develop wider employability/transferrable skills. This included giving them all a chance to develop their leadership skills. Working closely as a group also gave them the chance to develop their interpersonal communication skills and the time and space to learn about themselves, where their own skill sets lie, where they have more to learn and where they excelled. We continue to offer flexibility in the training programme as it means we are delivering training that trainees are interested in, which in turn means they achieve more, have a sense of ownership over the course, are more motivated and ultimately more likely to achieve a positive destination. As part of this approach this year we offered the group the chance to complete an introduction to canyoning certificate as they all excelled during the one-day ropes skills session with a local outdoor company. They all successfully completed this certificate and for most of them it opened their eyes to the world of adventure tourism, which most of them didn't know was a viable future career path available to them.

As always, we would like to thank everyone who gives up their time to support our trainees, being able to offer them a 'hands-on' perspective of the wide variety of potential career options available to them is really valuable and one of the most highly rated parts of the programme.

### **Education**

In 2025 through our wider education outreach project, we delivered 14 sessions working with a total of 233 school aged young people. This is slightly less than in recent years, partly due to smaller class sizes in schools and issues with transport up to Dùn Coillich, but also due to reduced staff capacity due to the time needed to get the apprenticeship up and running and supporting the apprentices while in post. This meant that we had to slightly limit our other activities. Now the apprenticeship scheme is running smoothly we hope to be able to offer more education sessions in 2026.

Having said that we maintained all our key partnerships in 2025, including all S1's from Breadalbane and Pitlochry High Schools spending a day with us planting trees, sessions run with the Junior Rangers from Pitlochry High school and Rural Skills and Geography Pupils from Breadalbane and supporting Breadalbane's S1 community day. We also ran an evening with Aberfeldy Beavers and a session with pupils from George Watson's School in Edinburgh. We also started a pilot project working with a group from Countryside Learning

Scotland who are piloting a ASN Rural Skills programme at Perth Grammar. We look forward to working with these groups more in 2026.

In late 2025 the Pitlochry Junior Rangers were nominated for a LANTRA ALBA award for their innovative work and dedication delivering the Junior Ranger Programme and have been shortlisted for an award. We will find out if they have been successful at an award ceremony in Crieff in March.

### **Volunteering**

Through our various volunteer activities in 2025 we engaged with a total of 184 volunteers, with 67 attending our weekly volunteer days, 30 attending our monthly weekend volunteer days and 87 other volunteers either attending one off volunteer days or helping out in other ways- either with public engagement events, at the thrift shop or with various monitoring and surveying projects. 40% of these volunteers were returning, having volunteered with us in previous years and 60% were first time recruits. In total we ran 64 volunteer events with our volunteers giving over 2500hrs to the project.

As well as our regular volunteer days we also hosted a group of 20 staff from SEPA, and a group of SWT volunteers as part of the Heart of Scotland Forest Partnership. Outside of these organised volunteer days, we had various people give up their time to help us out this year; Wendy and John Mattingley continue to monitor our raptor populations; bird surveys were carried out by Richard Paul, Ian Harper and Ant Watkins. Several people also gave up their time to share their knowledge leading and helping on our guided walks and public engagement events over the summer.



*Volunteers creating a tree nursery near the new easy access track built in 2025*



**Thrift shop**

We had the thrift shop on the week before Christmas again in 2025, which was a great way to end the year. We made £1500 during the week, and it was a great way to talk about what we do the wider community. We had 19 people help us to man the shop, with 12 of them being regular volunteers or trustees and 7 being HPCLT members, or local supporters of the trust. Huge thanks are due to all of everyone who has volunteered for us in 2025, the value you have all added to the work that we do is very much appreciated.

**Public events:**

Our programme of public events was slightly scaled back this year due to staffing demands of the apprenticeship programme. However, we still delivered 9 public events in 2025: A moth trapping and Pearl Bordered Fritillary habitat management day in partnership with Butterfly Conservation; two badger viewing events; Richard Paul led a walk exploring the evolutionary adaptations of some of the wildlife and the hill; Willie McGhee, our forest manager, led a walk looking at the positive changes that have happened at Dùn Coillich over the years and what future habitats might look like. We unfortunately had to cancel our planned lichen walk but hope to be able to reschedule this for 2026. We held two community barbeques, with the mid-summer one being combined with a bioblitz event.

These events were attended by 209 people and introduced 143 new people to Dùn Coillich and the work that we do.

**BIOLBLITZ**

Our BioBlitz and community barbeque in June was attended by 50 people, a mixture of members, supporters and local experts who very kindly shared their skills for the day. We had a great time learning about dragon and damselflies and exploring the scrapes, marvelling at moths, botanising around the hut, recording birds and learning about many of the smaller less obvious species that call Dùn Coillich home.

In total we recorded 291 species on the day including 105 new records for the site. This included - 42 bird species (including a nuthatch which is a first record), 52 flowering plant species, 8 species of dragon and damselflies, 24 species of moth (6 new species), 64 species of moss and liverwort, of which 17 were new site records. Finally, we recorded 83 species of Lichen, of which only 4 had previously been recorded, with these records contributing to our site species list which now stands at 1400. Special thanks are due to Oliver Moore and Caleb Wellock for all the new lichen and moss records and to Anthony Marshall for inputting all the data the day generated.

**Wee Birks Field**

Aside from the regular path strimming at the Wee Birks and using it on a couple of occasions for hosting groups from Breadalbane Academy, we have largely left the site to its own devices this year. Feedback from local people that regularly use the field is that they appreciate a bit of wildness in the middle of town, and while that won't please everyone, we are content for now to have a relatively light touch in terms of management of the site. The

trees planted back in 2018 continue to grow well, with some of them nearly 20ft tall and we have removed the tree tubes. We will continue to have the old lime trees surveyed and complete any maintenance of them as recommended to minimise risk to those using the field.

## **Financial Review and policy on reserves**

The trust received a total of £203,560 in income in 2025 up from £167,990 in 2024. Expenditure was £204,346 (2024: £140,865) with a deficit of income over expenditure for the year of -£786 (2024: surplus of £27,125).

A total of £89,404 of restricted external grant income was received in 2025 for the Rural Skills training project whilst expenditure on the project was £109,595, the bulk of which was for staff salaries and costs associated with the delivery of training courses

After HPCLT's £22,000 contribution to the project, the Positive Destinations project had funds of £20,672 carried into the final three months of year one of the project.

Unrestricted income for 2025 was £113,916 (2024: £112,379). This includes £91,339 of income from SSE for the Errochty planting project. Rental income from Keltneyburn Hydro was £13,351 (2024: £17,129) with generation related rental income down in 2025 due to the unusually dry Spring and Summer weather and a outage at the plant in September.

Unrestricted grants and donations were £1,968 (2024: £2,878), Membership subscriptions were £2,205 (2024: £2,040), Thrift Shop donations were £1,422 (2024: £1,909) bank interest was £2,106 (2024: £2,270).

Unrestricted expenditure for 2025 was £94,751 (2024: £65,208), excluding the £22,000 contribution to the Positive Destinations project. Expenditure included £69,587 on the Errochty Compensatory Planting Project.

Management and administration costs were £8,418 (2024: £4,372). The higher costs reflected more hours for HPCLT's part time financial controller/ administrator managing the Trust's higher workload.

Cash in the bank at end year was £124,922 (2024: £125,708). Unrestricted funds at year end were £60,851 (2024: £62,567). This excludes £43,399 which has been designated as a forestry reserve fund to be used to fund potential future liabilities connected with forestry activities. Restricted funds associated with the Positive Destinations Project were £20,672 (2024: £18,623). HPCLT land reserve is valued on the balance sheet at cost, unchanged from 2024.

## **Reserves Policy**

Regarding projects with restricted grant funding, the policy for this part of our activity is that sufficient funds must be held in unrestricted reserves to cover the costs of the restricted activity minus grant funds received and pledged. HPCLT's policy is to hold a minimum reserve of six months staff costs to provide for any gap in funding, currently estimated at £30,000 which is less than unrestricted, undesignated free reserves of £60,851. The Trust, therefore, currently has sufficient reserves to meet its commitments over the next few years.

For the Trust's unrestricted activities, the policy is to hold sufficient reserves to maintain its charitable activities for 12 months in the event of an unforeseen shortfall in revenue or unbudgeted expenditures. The Trust assesses the likelihood of receiving its different income streams (membership, donation, hydro rental, wayleave payments) and compares this with the expenditure to maintain its unrestricted charitable activities. For 2026, the Trust is confident that unrestricted income will be at least £22,000 which exceeds its committed unrestricted expenditure.

A designated forestry reserve fund has been established to provide for potential future liabilities connected with forestry activities utilising surplus funds from the Kinardochy Compensatory planting project. Trustees will review the fund annually. The forestry reserve has been set at £43,399 for 2026.

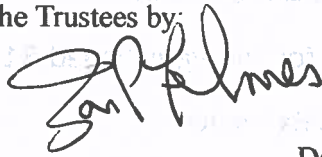
## **Our Thanks**

We receive a huge amount of support for our various activities. Thanks are due (in no particular order) to:

- Our members, who see the value of what we are doing and whose subscriptions help to make everything possible.
- Our volunteers, who turn up week in, week out in all weathers with unfailing good humour and hard work and skill.
- Our Project Officers and Forest Manager, who enable so much to get done.
- Our Board of Trustees who keep everything running smoothly behind the scenes.
- Our trainees, especially our apprentices Jamie Lean and Tony Marshall, who worked so hard to get the most out of our traineeships, and the trainers and partners who support them.
- Our local schools, who recognise the value of outdoor learning and the pupils who embrace it with such enthusiasm.
- Everyone who joined in with any of our public events.
- Ian Biggs and Laurie Campbell for the use of their photographs on our website and in our various communications.
- And our funders, whose financial support is so crucial to our work.



Signed on behalf of the Trustees by:



Ian Selmes, Chair

Date: 25.4.26

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust:

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2025.

### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charitable company's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under Section 44(1)(c) of the Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the Trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8, have not been met; or,

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  J M T Ambrose Independent Examiner

25 April 2026.

J M T Ambrose, MA, BSc, FCA, CTA(Fellow), FGS, FRSGS. 8 Cleveden Road, GLASGOW. G12 0NT

**Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 December 2025**

<b>Incoming Resources (£)</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted Project</b>	<b>Total 2025</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>
Members' subscriptions	2,205		2,205	2,040
Grants and donations	1,968	240	2,208	3,038
Errochty Grant	91,339		91,339	
Rural Skill Training and Outreach Grants		89,404	89,404	54,875
Perth & Kinross council video grant	250		250	
HydroScheme rental	5,581		5,581	5,580
HydroScheme generation	7,770		7,770	11,549
Wayleave	-		-	1,142
Kinardochy Compensatory Planting	-		-	84,011
Thrift shop	1,422		1,422	1,909
Interest and bank compensation	2,106		2,106	2,270
Scotland's Finest, SFWA 24 Prize	-		-	1,000
Course fees		-	-	576
Gift Aid reclaim (3 Yrs)	1,275		1,275	-
<b><u>Total Income</u></b>	<b><u>113,916</u></b>	<b><u>89,644</u></b>	<b><u>203,560</u></b>	<b><u>167,990</u></b>
<b>Resources Expended (£)</b>				
<b>Charitable expenditure:</b>				
<b>Positive Destinations – Rural Skills, Training and Volunteering Project</b>				
Project Officer and Assistant		57,046	57,046	51,496
Apprentices (inc. travel, training and PPE)		33,128	33,128	



Delivering training courses (inc travel + PPE)		14,492	14,492	21,233
<b>Errochty Project (Note 2)</b>				
Forest manager	4,400		4,400	
Fencing	65,187		65,187	
<b>Errochty Project - total</b>	69,587		69,587	
<b>Kinardochy Project (Note 2)</b>				
Trees purchased	469		469	9,954
Tree planting	-		-	10,549
Beating up	250		250	-
Fencing	-		-	15,004
Forest manager	400		400	3,986
<b>Kinardochy Project - total</b>	1,119		1,119	39,493
<b>Other Expenditure</b>				
Forest manager	2,810		2,810	2,825
Staff training		1,010	1,010	
Deer stalking and management	-		-	1,080
Plant survey	-		-	3,086
Professional fees		-	-	347
Website	2,595		2,595	6,091
Maintenance	3,504	485	3,989	3,741
Insurance	3,813		3,813	2,296
Wee Birks field	-		-	1,265
Signs and leaflets	1,896		1,896	491
Subscriptions	452		452	275
Events	299	617	916	582
Office, stationery etc	-	189	189	303

Fleeces and PPE	-	-	-	529
Film	229		229	
Drone survey	1,080		1,080	
Miscellaneous	343	310	653	
GIS Mapping	924		924	
<b>Total Charitable expenditure</b>	<b>88,651</b>	<b>107,277</b>	<b>195,928</b>	<b>136,493</b>
<b>Management and administration (£)</b>				
Legal fees	552		552	447
Administration	5,174	466	5,640	2,007
Dunkeld office rent	241	1800	2,040	1,847
Fee collection costs				70
Bank charges	133	52	185	
<b>Total Management and Administration</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>8,418</b>	<b>4,372</b>
<b>Total resources expended (£)</b>	<b>94,751</b>	<b>109,595</b>	<b>204,346</b>	<b>140,865</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>19,165</b>	<b>(19,951)</b>	<b>(786)</b>	<b>27,125</b>
<b>Transfer from General funds to Project</b>	<b>(22,000)</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Reserves at 31 December 2024</b>	<b>313,859</b>	<b>18,623</b>	<b>332,482</b>	<b>305,357</b>
<b>Total Reserves at 31 December 2025</b>	<b>311,024</b>	<b>20,672</b>	<b>331,696</b>	<b>332,482</b>

**Balance Sheet at 31 December 2025**

	<b>31 December 2025 £</b>	<b>31 December 2024 £</b>
<b>Fixed Assets (Note 3)</b>		
Dùn Coillich	205,205	205,205
Lower Birks Field	<u>1,569</u>	<u>1,569</u>
Total	206,774	206,774
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Savings Account	64,630	62,524
Business Account	48,574	53,515
Project Account	<u>11,718</u>	<u>9,669</u>
Total cash at bank	124,922	125,708
<b>Less: Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable		
<b>Net Current Assets less Liabilities</b>	124,922	125,708
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>331,696</u></b>	<b><u>332,482</u></b>
<b>Representing:</b>		
<b>Land Purchase Reserve (Note 5)</b>	206,774	206,774
<b>Unrestricted Funds (Note 5)</b>	60,851	62,567
<b>Designated Forestry Reserve (Notes 2&amp;5)</b>	43,399	44,518
<b>Project Fund - restricted (Note 5)</b>	20,672	18,623
<b>Accumulated Reserves</b>	<b><u>331,696</u></b>	<b><u>332,482</u></b>

For the year ended 31 December 2025, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

#### Directors' responsibilities:

The members have not requested the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year to 31 December 2025 in accordance with section 476. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

 25/4/26  
Signed Keith Myers Treasurer [date]

### Notes to the Accounts to 31 December 2025

#### 1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice" applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value.

Income and expenditure has been accounted on a fully accrued basis. Life memberships are fully recognised as income in the year during which they are received, as the Trust has no financial obligations to Life members in future years.

#### 2 Kinardochy and Errochty Compensatory Planting Projects

In late 2023, the Trust entered a contract with SSN for the Kinardochy compensatory planting project, which will replace trees removed during the construction of the Kinardochy Substation with 9.3 hectares of new native woodland on Dun Coillich land.

Under the 20 year agreement, HPCLT will receive £114,524, with the initial payment of £91,619 received in December 2023, and the balance of £22,905 to be paid in 2029 after an inspection confirms the planting has been properly established.



During 2024, the fencing was completed and the trees purchased and planted under the supervision of our forest manager. HPCLT must now ensure that the trees become established and grow, and ensure they are protected from deer and insured against fire.

In 2025 the Trust entered into a 30 year agreement with SSEN for a biodiversity net gain planting project. The project is to deliver the 10% Biodiversity Net Gain required by SSEN as a result of habitat loss in connection with LT321 Errochty GSP. Planting includes 5.5ha of montane willows, dwarf birch, juniper at 400 trees per ha, 2.5km of stock fencing and bamboo canes placed on fencing for black grouse marking. Under the agreement HPCLT was paid £91,339 in 2025 with a further £4,281 to be paid in year 5 of the project once the trees are established. Expenditure in 2025 on the Errochty project in 2025 was £69,587, primarily on a new fence, with tree planting scheduled for 2026.

A designated Forestry Reserve Fund was established in 2024 to ensure that HPCLT has sufficient funds to meet its liabilities under its agreements. The fund is reviewed each year and has been set at £43,399 for 2026.

### **3 Fixed assets**

Land at Dùn Coillich and the Lower Birks Field is shown at cost. No depreciation is charged.

### **4 Trustees' Remuneration**

None of the Trustees has received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses from the Trust. No fee was paid to the company's Independent Examiner.

### **5 Funds**

During the year, the Trust continued its Project for training young people in practical rural skills, to equip them for the jobs market. Additional funds were raised which have been treated as Restricted Reserves, available to be used only for the purpose for which they were donated. The Trust also transferred £22,000 of its general funds to the Project account. The income and expenditure on the Training Project is therefore shown separately on the face of the Statement of Financial Affairs, and at the year end, a balance of £20,672 (2024 - £18,623) was held in the Project Fund. The balance on the Unrestricted General Fund was £104,250 (2024 - £107,085). A proportion of the Unrestricted General Fund has been set aside as a designated Forestry Reserve to ensure the Trust has sufficient funds to meet potential future liabilities. The Forestry Reserve was set at £44,518 in 2024 and has been set at £43,399 for 2026.

The Trustees designated £205,205 of its original incoming funds, equal to the cost of Dùn Coillich, as the Land Purchase Reserve, with the balance as a General Fund for such purposes of the Trust as may be required. In 2015, the

Trust was offered the opportunity to acquire, on very favourable terms, a small field in Aberfeldy, and the costs of acquiring the field, £1,569, were added to the designated Land Purchase Reserve.

The company's Unrestricted and Restricted Reserves are thus made up as shown:

	Balance at 31 Dec 2024	Surplus / (Deficit) 2025	Transfers	Balance 31 Dec 2025
Unrestricted Land Reserve	206,774			206,774
Unrestricted General Fund	62,567	20,284	(22,000)	60,851
Designated Forestry Reserve	44,518	(1,119)		43,399
Restricted Project Fund	18,623	(19,951)	22,000	20,672
Total Reserves	332,482	(786)		331,696

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