Craigielands Community Woodlands

Scotland · Charity number SC053132

Details

Status	Active
Legal form	SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Registered	2024-02-20
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address	Shaws of Craigielands Beattock Moffat Please select region state or provinc DG10 9RE

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

Purposes: 'the advancement of education','the advancement of health','the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science','the provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended','the advancement of environmental protection or improvement'

What the charity does: The charity's purpose is to operate Craigielands Wood as a community asset, by & for the residents of Kirkpatrick Juxta parish, including Beattock village. The medium term objectives are: 1 To conduct nature walks, and educational training sessions in woodland skills & activities 2 To provide a network of facilities for woodland walkers - paths, benches, waymarks, picnic tables, information boards, and dog poo bins 3 To create access to natural and manmade features within the wood, such as viewpoints, grotto, waterfalls, millpool, & wartime bunker 4 To generate modest annual revenues from sale of timber products, to provide for woodland maintenance costs In this current start-up phase, while the woodland remains a State asset, owned and managed by FLS, the charity is focussed on: 1 engaging with community members, encouraging their enthusiasm & support for the community woodland project 2 negotiating with FLS & SLF towards woodland acquisition, through CATS transfer.

Beneficiaries: 'No specific group, or for the benefit of the community'

Objectives: 4 The Organisation has been formed to benefit the community of Beattock and District defined by the boundary of Kirkpatrick Juxta Community Council (KJCC) (the 'Community'), with the following purposes (the 'Purposes'): 4.1 The advancement of education, 4.2 The advancement of health, 4.3 The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science 4.4 The provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended, 4.5 The advancement of environmental protection or improvement

Geography

- **Main operating location:** Dumfries And Galloway
- **Geographical spread:** A specific local point, community or neighbourhood

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2026-03-31	£0	£0	-	0
2025-03-31	£12,547	£12,250	-	0

Accounts

For the year ending 31 March 2025

Administrative Information

Charity Name: Craigielands Community Woodlands

Scottish Charity Number: SC 053132

First Registered: 20 February 2024

Mailing Address:

Willow Cottage, Old Craigielands
Beattock, Moffat
DG10 9RD

Geographical Focus: Parish of Kirkpatrick Juxta

Principle Activity: Management of Local Woodland for Community Benefits

Trustees, as at 31Mar25: [redacted]

Activity Report

Background

The charity is proposing to acquire the local woodland, Craigielands Wood, just west of Beattock village, as a community asset, from the current owners, Forestry and Land Scotland, FLS - an arm of the Scottish Government.

This woodland was offered by FLS for community acquisition in July 2022. A small start-up team was formed at that time, endeavouring to progress the transfer of the woodland. This initiative was subsequently established as a registered charity, with team members becoming trustees.

The acquisition process is complex, requiring many stages towards successful accomplishment, over an extended timeframe, and involving interaction with a variety of organisations, both Government agencies and commercial entities.

Progress during Reporting Year
All of the charity's activities during the year under report, 01Apr24 to 31Mar25, were directed towards this objective, undertaking a series of legal, financial and administrative steps towards the goal of community acquisition, supported by inputs of community engagement – aiming to broaden the appeal of the proposal to community involvement and support.

A small tranche of grant finance from the Scottish Land Fund, SLF, was utilised to prepare a Feasibility Study, and subsequent Business Plan, for the proposed project, by engaging an experienced forestry consultant.

Key milestones during the reporting year are noted below.

29 April 2024	Appointment of consultant Crossbill for Feasibility Study & Business Plan
13 May 2024	Approval received from SLF for stage 1 funding for set-up osts
24 May 2024	Acceptance by trustees of Feasibility Study presented by Crossbill
12 Jun 2024	Draft Business Plan presented to trustees by consultant Crossbill
27 Aug 2024	Valuation of Craigielands Wood conducted by Goldcrest Land & Forestry
10 Sep 2024	Business plan prepared by Crossbill accepted by trustees
04 Oct 2024	CATS Panel visit undertaken, prior to intended formal offer of sale
07 Oct 2024	Formal validation of trustees application to CATS
07 Jan 2025	Community Engagement Questionnaire – distribution day
03 Mar 2025	Community Engagement Open Day held in Beattock Village Hall

Notes

SLF	Scottish Land Fund
CATS	Community Asset Transfer Scheme – within Forestry and Land Scotland – an agency of the Scottish Government

As of 31March2025, 26 persons were registered as Members of CCW, (resident within Kirkpatrick Juxta), and a further 10 persons were registered as Associate Members, (resident outwith Kirkpatrick Juxta).

Craigielands Community Woodlands
SCIO Charity SC 053132
Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statement for year ending 31Mar2025

Accompanying Notes

The entity known as Craigielands Community Woodlands has been formed as a start-up team, proposing to acquire Craigielands Wood, (just west of Beattock village) as a community woodland enterprise, through discounted purchase from Forestry and Land Scotland (an agency of the Scottish Government). The procedure towards this aim is slow and complex, involving numerous administrative steps, to try to reach the point of acquisition. After 39 months from our initial approach to Government, we are still far short of the anticipated transfer of the land into community hands.

In the expectation of early progress towards community ownership, the start-up team submitted an application to OSCR for registration as a Scottish charity – a SCIO. Formal registration was approved in February 2024. Start-up team members became registered as trustees, although there were few transactions, and woodland ownership was still a distant prospect.

An Annual Report has been prepared, for the first operating year, ending 31Mar2025, along with a corresponding Financial Report. Belatedly, trustees are recognising that – *although our operations remain heavily curtailed by the ongoing acquisition process* – there are obligations upon us, as a registered SCIO, with which we have not been fully compliant. No formal Annual General Meeting has been held in year 2024-25, office bearers have not been appointed for the management board, and management meetings have been informal.

The trustees intend that this circumstance will be corrected for financial year 2025-26, and that our operations will comply with OSCR expectations, in future years.

Forward Programme

A priority for year 2025-26 will be to initiate Annual General Meetings, alongside the formalisation of the current ad hoc Management Board.

Efforts will be made to widen our membership across the Community Council geographical area (of Kirkpatrick Juxta), and, if possible, to recruit additional Trustees.

During the years 2022 to 2024, there was a reasoned assumption that much of the capital funding for a discounted purchase of Criaigielands Wood could be anticipated to be made available through the Scottish Land Fund, SLF. A mis-match has arisen since late 2024, between the increased level of applications for community land acquisitions, and the limited finance available through SLF to support such acquisitions. This circumstance – of SLF future funding – should become clearer when the Scottish Government budget for 2026-27 is published – anticipated in mid-January 2026.

The CCW start-up team will now broaden its efforts to identify possible sources of capital finance, both through SLF, and through local opportunities to access available community funding, and options for generating revenue through on-site timber harvesting - including the significant volumes of wind-blown timber arising from the November 2021 Storm Arwen.

Signed and approved by registered Trustee to Craigielands Community Woodlands

[redacted]

Financial Report for Year 01April 2024 to 31March 2025
Craigielands Community Woodlands
Scottish Charity SC 053132
Charity Mailing Address : Willow Cottage, Old Craigielands, Beattock, Moffat, DG10 9RD

Receipts and Payments Account Summary
Project Account

Receipts		2023-2024 from 01Apr23 to 31Mar24	2024-2025 from 01Apr24 to 31Mar25
Donation - Private	14-Jul-23	100.00	0.00
Scottish Land Fund	21-Jun-24	0.00	6,435.00
Scottish Land Fund	09-Aug-24	0.00	2,912.00
Scottish Land Fund	20-Sep-24	0.00	2,100.00
Scottish Land Fund	08-Nov-24	0.00	800.00
Donation - Tractor Run	23-Dec-24	0.00	300.00
		2023-2024	**2024-2025**
Year Totals		**100.00**	**12,547.00**

Payments		2023-2024 from 01Apr23 to 31Mar24	2024-2025 from 01Apr24 to 31Mar25
Crossbill Forestry	25-Jun-24	0.00	6,435.00
Crossbill Forestry	19-Aug-24	0.00	2,911.13
Goldcrest Land & For	23-Sep-24	0.00	2,100.00
Crossbill Forestry	13-Nov-24	0.00	800.00
Bank Charges - BofS	18-Mar-25	0.00	4.25
		2023-2024	**2024-2025**
		0.00	**12,250.38**

Opening Bank Balance	01-Apr-23	0.00	
Closing Bank Balance	31-Mar-24	100.00	
Surplus for Year		100.00	
Opening Bank Balance	01-Apr-24		100.00
Closing Bank Balance	31-Mar-25		396.62
Surplus for Year			296.62

Basis of Accounting
These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, in accordance with OSCR regulations
Remuneration
All inputs furnished by the Trustees have been provided on a voluntary basis with no remuneration paid for their services
Cash
No cash transactions during year; No cash held

Signed and Approved by registered Trustee to Craigielands Community Woodlands

Date 07 NOV 2025 Signatu[redacted]

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Craigielands Community Woodlands

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025 as set out on pages 1 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

The charity'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 charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations 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 is 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 presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks 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 the course of 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 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

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.

[redacted]