

## For the year ending 31 March 2025

### Administrative Information

**Charity Name:** Craigiels Community Woodlands

**Scottish Charity Number:** SC 053132

**First Registered:** 20 February 2024

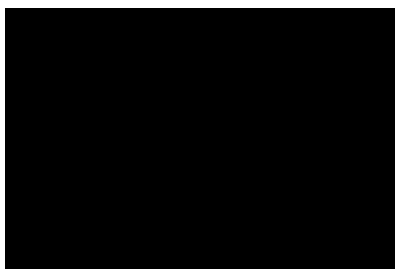
**Mailing Address:**

Willow Cottage, Old Craigiels  
Beattock, Moffat  
DG10 9RD

**Geographical Focus:** Parish of Kirkpatrick Juxta

**Principle Activity:** Management of Local Woodland for Community Benefits

**Trustees, as at 31Mar25:**



### Activity Report

#### Background

The charity is proposing to acquire the local woodland, Craigiels 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 costs

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 Craigiels 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).

## **Craigiels Community Woodlands**

**SCIO Charity SC 053132**

**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statement for year ending 31Mar2025**

### **Accompanying Notes**

The entity known as Craigiels Community Woodlands has been formed as a start-up team, proposing to acquire Craigiels 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**

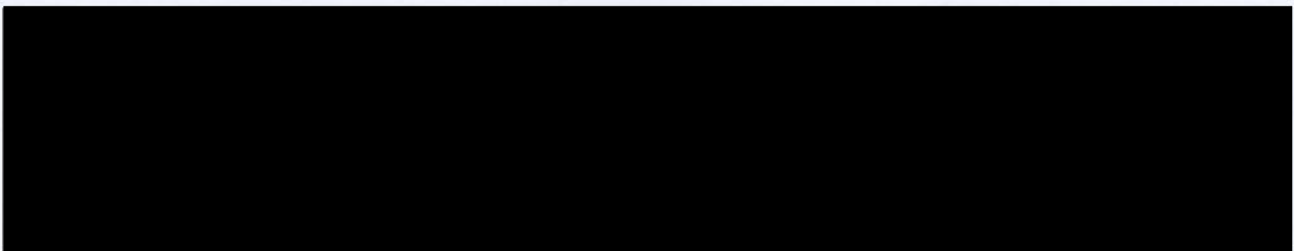
A priority for year 2025-26 will be to initiate Annual General Meetings, alongside the formalisation of the current ad hoc Management Board.

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 Craigiels 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 Craigiels Community Woodlands





# 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	Payments		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	Crossbill Forestry	25-Jun-24	0.00	6,435.00
Scottish Land Fund	20-Sep-24	0.00	2,100.00	Crossbill Forestry	19-Aug-24	0.00	2,911.13
Scottish Land Fund	08-Nov-24	0.00	800.00	Goldcrest Land & For	23-Sep-24	0.00	2,100.00
Donation - Tractor Run	23-Dec-24	0.00	300.00	Crossbill Forestry	13-Nov-24	0.00	800.00
				Bank Charges - BofS	18-Mar-25	0.00	4.25
<b>Year Totals</b>		<b>2023-2024 100.00</b>	<b>2024-2025 12,547.00</b>			<b>2023-2024 0.00</b>	<b>2024-2025 12,250.38</b>

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



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

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

