

# **Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust**

A company limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital

## **Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2017**

Company number: SC227934

A Registered Scottish Charity Number: SC032801

Tax File reference: CR53179

Registered Office

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

# Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

## Year ended 30 November 2017

### Trustees' Report

#### Purposes of the Trust

The purposes of the Trust include the advancement of education of the public about living and working sustainably in, and the conservation, enhancement, management, and responsible enjoyment of Scotland's natural heritage, and to promote, protect and conserve the biodiversity of Highland Perthshire. The Trust acquired Dùn Coillich in 2002 and is engaged in a wide range of educational and conservation initiatives based upon Dùn Coillich. In 2016 HPCLT acquired the Wee Birks Field in Aberfeldy.

#### 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 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. Under these Articles, the direction and business of the Trust is to be managed by the Board of Trustees.

The categories of Members of the Trust are:

Ordinary Membership - open to any individual or organisation, interested in the Objects, who is based in Highland Perthshire. This can be Annual or Life membership.

Associate Membership - open to any individual or organisation, interested in the Objects, who is not based in Highland Perthshire. Associate Members are not entitled to vote at General meetings of the Trust. This can also be Annual or Life membership.

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 number of Trustees shall be not less than three or more than fifteen. The Board shall comprise up to twelve individuals elected as Trustees by the Ordinary Members. The Board may co-opt up to three individuals to serve as co-opted Trustees to serve until the next Annual General Meeting.

## Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Year ended 30 November 2017

Following a review by Trustees, proposed changes to the Constitution (Articles of Association) will be considered at an EGM to be held immediately before the 2018 AGM.

<b>Trustees during Year</b>	<b>Appointment Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
William Hoare	22 March 2014	Must retire, eligible for re-election
Andrew Pointer	28 March 2015	Must retire, not eligible re-election
Ian Wilkinson, Treasurer	28 March 2015	Retiring at AGM
Margaret Jarvis	28 March 2015	Continuing
Gordon Stronach	28 March 2015	Resigned 6 June 2017
Richard Rees	25 March 2017	Continuing
Jeannie Grant	25 March 2017	Continuing
Andrew Walker, Chairman	19 March 2016	Continuing
Emma O'Shea	25 March 2017	Continuing
Ann Macintosh	25 March 2017	Retiring at AGM
Robert Wardle	25 March 2017	Continuing
Kelsey Wilson	25 March 2017	Continuing
John Marshall	5 June 2017	Co-opted and must retire at AGM

Honorary Chairman	Dr Andrew Walker Dalnashian Keltneyburn Aberfeldy, PH15 2LQ
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Honorary Treasurer	Ian Wilkinson Cuilmore Cottage Kinloch Rannoch Pitlochry, PH16 5QB
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Registered Office, Company Secretary and Solicitors	J & H Mitchell WS 51 Atholl Road Pitlochry, PH16 5BU
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Bankers:	Royal Bank of Scotland 8 The Square Aberfeldy, PH15 2DD
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Independent Examiner	J M T Ambrose MA, FCA, CTA(Fellow) 8 Cleveden Road, Glasgow, G12 0NT
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## **Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Year ended 30 November 2017**

### **Brief History of HPCLT and founding principles**

In autumn 2001, 445 over-grazed hectares (1100 acres) of a local deer farm were put on the open market. The land lies adjacent to the iconic 1083 metre hill, Schiehallion. It consisted of heather moorland with wet areas, some limestone outcrops, a small pinewood, and two hills, Dùn Coilich (572m) and Dùn Beag (403m). A group of local people saw the potential for ecological restoration and the creation of a wildlife conservation area. The purchase price of £200,000 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 Woodland Grant Scheme was amended, with the aim of establishing native woodland, and 38 goats were transferred to the Kent Wildlife Trust. A car park for about 12 vehicles, an adjacent hut, 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 as well as by professional planters, and considerable sustained efforts continue to be made to exclude sheep and deer. A footbridge now crosses the Glengoulandie burn and a network of walking routes has been established. Since 2009, a hydroscheme operating on the Allt Mhor has provided HPCLT with an income.

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, it was felt that HPCLT would be the most appropriate body to own the land. It was duly purchased and, following local tradition, we have named the land The Wee Birks Field. It will be kept as an open space for public enjoyment, perhaps with some picnic tables and seats and some additional native flowering trees.

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. This was funded by Scottish and Southern Energy'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 run for 20 weeks, covering rural land management skills, such as dry stone dyking, brush-cutting and chain saw work, tree planting and maintenance, helping to prepare trainees for employment in the land-based sector. Heather also coordinates a regular programme of volunteer activities. Further funding, including a grant from the Basil Death Trust, has secured the continuation of this post.

In July 2017, The Heart of Scotland Forest Partnership 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 is made up of six organisations – Forestry Commission Scotland, HPCLT, the John Muir Trust, the Kynachan Estate, the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust – working together to connect woodlands across Highland Perthshire from Schiehallion to Loch Tummel. In this way, wildlife corridors will be created across 3,000 hectares.

# Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

## Year ended 30 November 2017

### Project Officer's Report

**Introduction:** It has been a busy year at Dùn Coillich with the Volunteering and Rural Skills Training Project. During the period of this report, 232 people have visited the site, 691 days of voluntary work have been carried out, and over 2900 hours of practical work have been completed.

**Rural Skills Training Programme:** The Rural Skills training programme runs 1 or 2 days a week for 20 weeks and aims to give young people from the local area as wide a range of experience in land-based industries as possible. This includes LANTRA training in Chainsaw, Brushcutter, Quadbike and Pesticide use, training in Dry Stone Dyking and Fencing, as well as experience in Habitat Management, Footpath Work and Wildlife Monitoring. We have completed two training courses in the first year, with the third nearing completion. Eight trainees have graduated from the programme so far and the majority have moved on to employment in relevant industries.

**'Green Team' Volunteer Days:** We have been running weekly volunteer days at Dùn Coillich since the start of the Project in July 2016. In total, we have had 64 different people join us for these days, and we now have 6 or 7 volunteers every week. During the period of this report, the Green Team has been in action on 58 occasions, contributing nearly 300 volunteer days (400 since the start of the Project). Our Green Team volunteers get involved in all aspects of site management, many of which are detailed below in the Work Completed section below. Weekend volunteer days were piloted in 2017; these will be continued this year with more effort being put into publishing these locally.

**Group Visits and Events:** Over the last year we have had visits from 12 groups, completing 224 work days and attracting 156 new people to Dùn Coillich. These groups have included pupils from local primary and secondary schools, many of which have used Dùn Coillich to work towards their John Muir Awards. Local Scout and Beaver groups have joined us, as have visitors from further afield, with groups from George Watson's College in Edinburgh, Glasgow Children's Hospital and a group of young people from across Europe who joined us as part of a two-week project working on various conservation projects across Scotland. These groups have taken part in a wide range of activities, including tree planting, tree aftercare, pond dipping, fence building and fence marking. Two community BBQs were also held at Dùn Coillich in 2017. These were well attended, with over 30 people at each event. They attracted some new faces and were a great way to catch up with those involved in Dùn Coillich past and present.

### Work Completed 2017:

**Fencing:** Regular fence checks and maintenance work has been carried out along the length of the fence throughout the year. Much of the fence has been reinforced and many small holes fixed. Running repairs have also been made to the watergate as required. The fence is currently in a decent state and is largely deer-proof. The section of fence along the western boundary has been marked with palings to prevent Black

## **Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Year ended 30 November 2017**

grouse collisions, and this will continue along the northern boundary in the coming months.

A short section of the fence bordering the Glengoulandie Deer Park has been recently replaced by Sandy McAdam. Major fence replacement work is planned for the coming months, including the section running along the Allt Mhor and along the roadside. This work is being carried out through the Heart of Scotland Forest Partnership with funding support from The Woodland Trust and The John Muir Trust and is part of a larger fencing project being carried out on JMT land at East Schiehallion.

**Other Practical Work:** Lots of work has been done maintaining the planted trees on the eastern side of the hill, this has included removing tree tubes, re-staking trees and protecting trees with vole guards. The newly planted trees on Dùn Beag have also been tubed. Work has been done to re-mark and brushcut the walking routes to make the hill more safely accessible. This work will continue this spring.

**Biological Monitoring:** Several biological monitoring projects have been established at Dùn Coillich over the last year: butterfly, bird and water vole surveys, and the establishment of permanent plots for surveys of vegetation changes and tree regeneration. Details are included in the *Natural History at Dùn Coillich* section. We are also currently exploring the possibilities of carrying out a bumble bee survey during 2018, and a more extensive vegetation survey of sites surveyed when the land was first acquired.

### **Beaully-Denny Pylon line**

Following lengthy negotiation with SSE, Trustees agreed an SSE offer to convert three wayleaves into Deeds of Servitude. Two have been completed, the remaining one with SSE(Telecom) should be concluded early in 2018. This will have no impact upon our operations on Dùn Coillich, it will simplify our financial Administration, and it provides us with a capital sum rather than a series of annual payments. All legal costs are met by SSE.

### **Keltneyburn Hydro Scheme**

Relations with HPCLT's tenant, Green Highland Renewables (GHR), remain excellent. Income was down a bit because of a dry year, no snow to melt in the spring, and reduced maximum generation output as a result of technical problems. GHR have Planning Approval for remedial activity and hope to commence work in Spring 2018. The Trust will be liaising closely with their Environmental Clerk of Works in due course. A revised lease with GHR was concluded. GHR are now owned by the GFG Alliance, a global industrial corporation heavily involved in mining, smelting, and increasingly in energy generation. We do not anticipate that this change of ultimate ownership will have any effect on HPCLT or upon our relationship with GHR.

## **Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Year ended 30 November 2017**

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

As one of the partners in this project, HPCLT will benefit enormously through closer links with our neighbours and the wider community and more sharing of knowledge and resources between the partners. There will be economies of scale and the benefits resulting from the project as a whole being greater than the sum of its parts. Following the launch of the Partnership in July 2017, plans were put in place for fencing works at Dùn Coilich, starting with the southern boundary along the Alt Mhor. This section of fence will replace the ageing metal post and wire fence. After completing this section, we are hopeful of renewing the eastern section of deer fence, along the roadside in Glen Goulandie.

John Muir Trust produced a number of publicity articles for HoSFP, which included HPCLT, and a video, starring the HPCLT Project Officer, is available to watch or download from the JMT and HPCLT web sites. HPCLT have been advising JMT on conifer felling at the Braes of Foss and Strath Fionan.

### **Dùn Coilich deer culling**

During 2017 deer management effort was maintained at the same level as during 2016. Rob Coope was again contracted to manage deer and continued to do a top notch job. More than 50 stalking visits were made and eight Roe bucks and eight Roe does were culled, an increase over last year (six bucks and four does). Also, a single Red hind was culled early in the season; this was a somewhat troublesome indication of apparent, but unknown, weakness in the perimeter fence. Despite this, the culling effort and deer fence monitoring and upkeep do appear to be reducing the impact of deer on planted and naturally regenerating trees.

There will be no planned reduction in stalking effort while tree establishment is important, particularly as the Roe deer population in the surrounding area is largely unmanaged and Dùn Coilich is becoming a more attractive habitat for them. The replacement of sections of old fence, as noted above, will clearly make the exclusion of deer more effective.

### **Forestry at Dùn Coilich**

Forestry at Dùn Coilich continues to be focused on getting historic and recent tree planting established, and mapping areas of natural tree regeneration.

Scots pine continues to grow well, with more patches of trees attaining establishment height – beyond Red and Roe deer browsing. This is readily seen along western sections of the site. On the east, close to the road, there are expanding sections of Eared willow and Downy birch regeneration, although the planted broadleaved trees struggle to get established. This is partly due to repeated historical browsing, and also from competition with grasses and bracken for nutrients and light. Rowan regeneration close to the Alt Mhor hydro installation is phenomenal, with a whole section of banking covered with Rowan saplings.

## **Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Year ended 30 November 2017**

John Marshall has been working closely with Willie McGhee to digitise some of the legacy land cover and forestry maps for Dun Coillich. In addition, last year's deer stalking data were mapped, creating a representation of the routes walked and the locations of the cull. Current work has focussed on mapping and creating high resolution geo-tagged images to support the next stage WGS claims. In addition Willie and John have made a number of test flights with a recently acquired drone, with a view to using aerial images to look at regeneration, fence conditions etc.

We have had further successful visits with Forestry Commission Scotland during 2017. Neil McFarlane, Forest Officer responsible for overseeing the Dùn Coillich Woodland Grant Scheme has walked a round of the site; from the Glen Goulandie car park walk, down the Alt Mhor path, across the western section and round the northern boundary with Forest Enterprise, and back along the eastern sections, adjacent to the main road. The upshot of this visit was a grant claim for second stage Woodland Grant Scheme payment for established woodland on the western fringes. It is hoped this will be the first of a number of grant claims, as trees continue to grow and meet Forestry Commission standards for second stage grant funding.

### **Natural History at Dùn Coillich**

Pride of place must go to the hen harriers as it has been another exciting year with successful breeding. One pair nested near the 2016 site and laid five eggs; at least four fledged, one of which was satellite tagged and named Heather. A second successful nest was discovered during this tagging. Five harriers, possibly two adults and three young, were seen flying around on one occasion.

Thanks to the expertise of RSPB, it has been of great interest to follow the movements of DeeCee (tagged in 2016) and Heather. DeeCee spent most of the year in Aberdeenshire, with a period near Loch Awe in April to breed. She also made brief visits to Angus, Mull, Jura, Glenfinnan and Inveraray. Heather, on the other hand, visited parts of Perthshire, Stirling, Argyll & Bute, Fife, and Ayrshire.

One pair of short-eared owls nested at the west end of Dùn Coillich and at least one chick fledged. A second pair was observed apparently nesting on the east side: no nest was found but they were heard alarming, suggesting that they had probably bred. A pair of peregrines was seen displaying in April but then moved away. The male was again observed in June. Kestrels took over the territory and fledged two young. Golden eagles are occasionally seen and there was a glorious viewing of one circling low over the pine wood opposite the car park. The ravens reared at least two young. A maximum of 47 male Black grouse were seen on the lek.

Eilidh Macnab, from Stirling University, has been doing a transect through Dùn Coillich of all bird species as part of her PhD study of the effect of upland woodland regeneration on biodiversity. Data points for a survey by the RSPB in 2012 have been used. We look forward to her results.

In a rather bizarre incident, a fox was found killed and dismembered along the fence line near Braes of Foss, presumably set upon by a dog or dogs.

## **Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Year ended 30 November 2017**

The water vole transect on the western boundary was surveyed again in May but no animals or signs were observed. This is carried out as part of the National Survey, coordinated by the People's Trust for Endangered Species. The survey has been extended to the eastern side of the hill where there is suitable habitat.

Anthony McCluskey, from Butterfly Conservation, helped us to set up a butterfly transect on the east flank of Dùn Beag. This has been walked in a standard way on several occasions and the following species have been recorded: green veined white, painted lady, common ringlet, small heath, Scotch Argus, small pearl bordered fritillary, red admiral, orange tip, green hairstreak. Outwith the transect, the rarer pearl bordered fritillary and northern brown Argus (July 3<sup>rd</sup>) were observed.

Other insects: an eagle-eyed Trustee observed a pair of cream-spotted (also known as the 14 spot) ladybirds (*Calvia guttata*) *in copulo* on willow near the car-park, and a Harlequin ladybird (*Harmonia axyridis*) on a car there. These identifications have been confirmed by the National Ladybird Survey run by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and added to the national database. This is the most northern sighting of the Harlequin.

Two adders were seen in separate areas on 28<sup>th</sup> May – a rare warm day!

Two series of plots have been set up to study vegetation changes with time. The first comprises 20 Heath squares, each 2 x 2 m, and measurements will be made annually of the height and abundance of heather and other plants. The aim is to assess grazing pressure and monitor changes, according to the Best Practice Guidance for impact monitoring of Dwarf Shrub Heath. Comparisons with data from the neighbouring East Schiehallion reserve will allow the effects of browsing and subsequent habitat differences to be observed.

The second series, comprising 30 circular plots each 100m<sup>2</sup> (0.01 ha), are set in areas of natural tree regeneration. The intention here is to track the level of regeneration by measuring the numbers, height and quality of the young trees, again yearly. We intend to set up another 20 plots in the coming season.

### **Wee Birks Field (Aberfeldy)**

Progress has not been as fast as we would have been liked. Soil and archaeological surveys have been carried out. Some monitoring of wildlife has been done informally. Precise boundaries proved difficult to locate so a professional surveyor was brought in to resolve those issues. In October, Alex Butter requested access across the field to carry out improvements inside the Lower Birks near the Aberfeldy War Memorial. This was granted and as a result, we have an improved access path at the north end, a "flattened" track and a couple of picnic table plots in the field. One bug-hunt visit to the field by Breadalbane Academy Primary School sadly had to be cut short because of the amount of dog mess present. This is a problem we have yet to address. We hope to plant a number of flowering native trees this year, perhaps gean, hawthorn, rowan. Ash trees in the Field and in the Lower Birks are suffering from Ash Die-back. Whilst the trees remain safe, they will be left standing to provide a habitat for woodpeckers, nuthatches etc. Relations with some adjoining landowners has been,

## **Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Year ended 30 November 2017**

and to a degree still is, less than satisfactory. Some questions of a "right of access" at the south end remain to be resolved. We are still open to ideas and offers of help in this field.

### **Website and Facebook report**

Our presence on the Internet and social media is via three sites.

- The website ([www.hpclt.org](http://www.hpclt.org)) acts as the official public face of HPCLT. It provides detailed descriptions of the Trust and its work, a document repository and archive. The site was re-designed in 2017 and now presents a modern, up-to-date account of the activities of the Trust.
- The Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/HPCLT/](http://www.facebook.com/HPCLT/)) is the public presence of HPCLT showing a summarised profile of the Trust with links to the Website and Group. Both the website and the Facebook Page are broadcasters of information aiming to attract new members, volunteers and sponsors.
- In contrast, the Facebook Group ([www.facebook.com/groups/DunCoillich/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/DunCoillich/)) is an active site supporting communication between Group members. The Group is accessible to all Internet users provided they are a Facebook user.

The Trustees thank Webmaster Alice Jarvis for her hard work in developing and maintaining the new website.

### **Review of Constitution**

The present Memorandum and Articles of Association for the Trust, its Constitution, were written in 2002. Legislation has changed, much of the original referred only to the Trust's initial steps, more land has been acquired, we have a tenant Hydro generation scheme, and we run Rural Skills Courses. An update was overdue. Trustees set up a sub-group to do the revision, with guidance on the changed legislation from Colin Liddell of J & H Mitchell WS, the Trust's Company Secretary. The Trust's philosophy remains unchanged. Its Charitable Purposes have been made more focussed and the wording has been simplified. Also simplified are membership and Trustee retiral/re-election processes. More use can now be made of electronic forms of communication.

Trustees and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) have now endorsed the revised Constitution. At an EGM to be held immediately before the 2018 AGM, it will be the turn of Members to vote upon a suitably worded Special Resolution. If approved, the new Constitution will come into effect immediately.

### **Non-Domestic Rates (Shooting rights)**

Following implementation of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016, Shooting Rights and Deer Forests were included in the Valuation Roll with effect from 1 April 2017. Dùn Coilich was included in this and assigned a Rateable Value based on the land area and its classification as 'deer forest/hill/moor'. As a result of this, we received a

## Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Year ended 30 November 2017

rates bill, but were immediately able to claim 100% Rates relief under the Small Business Bonus Scheme. We therefore have nothing to pay under this scheme.

### Financial Review and policy on reserves

The Trust set up a Restricted Fund to record the income and expenditure of its new Training Project, and to ensure that such income and expenditure are recorded separately from the other, unrestricted, activities of the Trust.

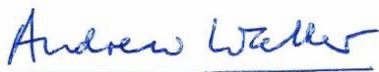
The income from external donations and sundry sales to the Training Project was £6,559 (2015-16, £35,082), and the Trust contributed £5,000 from its general funds to the Project. Expenditure on the Project during the year was £28,474 (2015-16, £17,481), leaving a balance of £5,646 (2015-16, £22,601) at the year-end.

The Trust's unrestricted income for the year, principally from the hydro scheme rental and membership subscriptions and donations, exceeded its expenditure by £1,812 (2015-16 – surplus £4,447). Its main costs were fencing to exclude deer from Dun Coillich, and deer stalking. The Trust transferred £5,000 as noted above, from its General Fund to the Training Project and so its unrestricted General Fund at the end of the year was £14,088.

The Trustees continue with the programme of planting and regenerating native trees at Dùn Coillich. The level of tree survival is improving with our increased activity in relation to fencing repairs, tree protection and deer stalking efforts. We are working with Forestry Commission Scotland, who have been very supportive and encouraging, and in our discussions and meetings with their staff they have recognised that progress has been made. We are hopeful of receiving further Woodland Grant Scheme payment, proportional to the areas of establishing trees, which in turn would be applied to further tree establishment and protection. This income is likely to materialise in early 2018.

Monies accumulated in the General Fund will be expended on further improvements to the property, including ideas for the Wee Birks Field, and to advance the purposes of the Trust.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees by:



Andrew Walker, Chairman

19 February 2018

## **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 30 November 2017.

### **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

20 February 2018

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

# Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

## Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) for the year to 30 November 2017

<b>Incoming Resources</b>	<b>Year to 30 Nov 2017 Unrestricted</b>	<b>Year to 30 Nov 2017 Restricted Project</b>	<b>Year to 30 Nov 2017 Total</b>	<b>Year to 30 Nov 2016</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Members' subscriptions	542	-	542	550
Grants and donations	3,037	6,519	9,556	35,648
Hydroscheme rental	8,930	-	8,930	15,128
Wayleave	418	-	418	612
Sundry sales	-	40	40	382
Interest	-	-	-	1
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b><u>12,927</u></b>	<b><u>6,559</u></b>	<b><u>19,486</u></b>	<b><u>52,321</u></b>
 <b>Resources Expended</b>				
<b>Charitable expenditure:</b>				
Project Officer	-	15,279	15,279	7,100
Delivering training courses	-	9,144	9,144	7,600
Forest manager	-	4,041	4,041	2,601
Tree planting	371	-	371	1,200
Purchase and transport of native trees	-	-	-	1,361
Fencing and misc works	2,647	-	2,647	7,104
Deer stalking and management	2,780	-	2,780	20
Portaloo	1,347	-	1,347	-
Insurance	1,282	-	1,282	1,208
Website	984	-	984	90
Wee Birks Field survey	90	-	90	-
Community Woodlands Association	30	-	30	30
The Conservation Volunteers	38	-	38	-
OEF – misc repairs	-	-	-	550
Lean-to and other works	-	-	-	332
	<u>9,569</u>	<u>28,464</u>	<u>38,033</u>	<u>29,196</u>
 <b>Management and administration</b>				
Legal fees	1,403	-	1,403	823
Postage, admin and AGM costs	143	-	143	40
Bank and other charges	-	10	10	214
	<u>1,546</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1,556</u>	<u>1,077</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b><u>11,115</u></b>	<b><u>28,474</u></b>	<b><u>39,589</u></b>	<b><u>30,273</u></b>
 <b>Surplus of Income over Expenditure</b>	 <b>1,812</b>	 <b>(21,915)</b>	 <b>(20,103)</b>	 <b>22,048</b>
<b>Transfer to Project</b>	<b>(5,000)</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Funds at 30 November 2016</b>	<b><u>224,050</u></b>	<b><u>22,601</u></b>	<b><u>246,651</u></b>	<b><u>224,603</u></b>
<b>Total Funds at 30 November 2017</b>	<b><u>220,862</u></b>	<b><u>5,686</u></b>	<b><u>226,548</u></b>	<b><u>246,651</u></b>

# Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

## Balance Sheet at 30 November 2017

	30 November 2017 £	30 November 2016 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Dun Coillich	205,205	205,205
Wee Birks Field	<u>1,569</u>	<u>1,569</u>
Total	206,774	206,774
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at Bank	21,219	43,810
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	(1,445)	(3,933)
	<u><b>226,548</b></u>	<u><b>246,651</b></u>
<b>Land Purchase Fund</b> (note 5)	206,774	206,774
<b>General Fund</b> (note 5)	14,088	17,276
<b>Project Fund - restricted</b> (note 5)	5,686	22,601
	<u><b>226,548</b></u>	<u><b>246,651</b></u>
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>		

For the year ended 30 November 2017, 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 30 November 2017 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.

Signed: Ian Wilkinson Trustee

20 February 2018

# Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

## Notes to the Accounts to 30 November 2017

### 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 Woodland Grant Receivable – Contingent Liability

The Trust entered a contract with the Forestry Commission in relation to the creation of up to 245 hectares of new native woodland (including 48 hectares of open ground) by a combination of planting and natural regeneration, under the Woodland Grant Scheme. Instalments of the grants (two-thirds of the total) amounting to £109,762 were paid to the Trust when stages of planting were completed, mainly in the years 2005 - 2007. Costs incurred exceed the grants paid and have been funded from income to the Trust.

The grants are contingent upon the survival and growth of sufficient of the young trees, and the final instalments may be withheld, or previous payments may be repayable by the Trust to the Forestry Commission, if the required criteria are not met. The Trust’s responsibility extends for ten years after the date of the grant for planted areas, and for five years after natural regeneration.

The Trustees have insurance cover for fire damage. The Trust continues to take steps to minimise deer browsing, which is considered to be the greatest contingent risk. Work continues to improve the fencing to exclude deer so far as possible and deer are managed under a deer management contract. As a result of an earlier Forestry Commission inspection, the Trust has been planting replacement trees and working to encourage natural regeneration. The Trust is working with and taking advice from the Forestry Commission Scotland (Perth and Argyll Conservancy) and in 2017 HPCLT agreed with FCS that it would start making Stage 2 WGS grant claims, this for areas with tree numbers and tree heights at recommended levels.

The Trustees are monitoring the position closely, and in view of those steps already taken, and those planned, they believe that the Grant criteria can be achieved and that no provision for repayments is necessary or appropriate.

### 3 Fixed assets

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

# Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

## Notes to the Accounts to 30 November 2017 (continued)

### 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 new 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 Funds, available to be used only for the purpose for which they were donated. The Trust also transferred £5,000 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 £5,686 was held in the Project Fund.

The Trustees designated £205,205 of its original incoming funds, equal to the cost of Dùn Coilich, as the Land Purchase Fund, with the balance as a General Fund for such purposes of the Trust as may be required. During the previous year, the Trust was offered the opportunity to acquire, on very favourable terms, the Wee Birks Field in Aberfeldy, and the costs of acquiring the field, £1,569, were added to the designated Land Purchase Fund.

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

£	Unrestricted General Fund	Unrestricted Land Fund	Restricted Project Fund	Total
<b>Balance at 30 Nov 2016</b>	<b>17,276</b>	<b>206,774</b>	<b>22,601</b>	<b>246,651</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	1,812	-	(21,915)	(20,103)
<b>Transfer to Project Fund</b>	(5,000)	-	5,000	-
<b>Balance at 30 Nov 2017</b>	<b>14,088</b>	<b>206,774</b>	<b>5,686</b>	<b>226,548</b>

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