

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

A company limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital

Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year to 30 November 2006

Company number: SC227934

A Registered Scottish Charity

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 30 November 2006

Trustees' Report

Legal and Administrative Information

Constitution

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust, "the Trust", is a company limited by Guarantee, and not having a share capital. The liability of each of its members is limited to £1.

It was incorporated on 11 February 2002, with Company Number SC227934.

It is recognised by the Inland Revenue as a Charity for the purposes of S505 Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988, and is entitled to describe itself as a Scottish Charity. The Scottish Charity Number is SC 032801, and its tax file reference is 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.

There are two categories of Members of the Trust:

- (a) Ordinary Membership is open to any individual or organisation interested in the Objects who is based in Highland Perthshire
- (b) Associate Membership is 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

Board of Trustees

Under the Articles of Association, the number of Trustees shall not be less than three, nor more than fifteen.

The Board of Trustees shall comprise up to twelve individuals elected as Trustees by the Ordinary Members, and the Board may co-opt individuals to serve as co-opted Trustees.

At each Annual General Meeting, one third of the elected Trustees with the longest service shall retire. A retiring Trustee shall be eligible for re-election after one or two terms of office, but no Trustee can serve more than three consecutive terms of office without at least one year out of office before being eligible again.

Current Trustees

	Appointed	Resigning
Innes Smith, Deputy Chairman	27 th March 2004	24 th March 2007*
Gordon Evans	27 th March 2004	24 th March 2007*
Paul Jarvis, Chairman	9 th April 2005	
Phillip Campbell	9 th April 2005	
Tim Fison	9 th April 2005	
Julie Gardiner	9 th April 2005	
Andrew Pointer	9 th April 2005	
Clare Thomas	9 th April 2005	
William Hoare	30 th March 2006	
Margaret Jarvis, Treasurer	30 th March 2006	
Ann Partridge, Minutes Secretary	30 th March 2006**	
Robin Hull	30 th March 2006**	

*Eligible for re-election
** Co-opted

Honorary Chairman

Professor Paul G Jarvis FRS
Duireaskin
Aberfeldy, PH15 2ED

Hon Treasurer

Dr Margaret Jarvis
Duireaskin
Aberfeldy, PH15 2ED

Registered Office, Company
Secretary and Solicitors

J & H Mitchell WS
51 Atholl Road
Pitlochry
Perthshire, PH16 5BU

Bankers:

Royal Bank of Scotland
8 The Square
Aberfeldy, PH15 2DD

Independent Examiner

J M T Ambrose MA, FCA, CTA
8 Cleveden Road
Glasgow, G12 0NT

Purposes of the Trust

The purposes of the Trust include the advancement of education of the public about living and working sustainably in Highland Perthshire, including the conservation, enhancement management and responsible enjoyment of Scotland's natural heritage, and to promote, protect and conserve the biodiversity of Highland Perthshire. It has acquired Dùn Coillich and is engaged in a wide range of educational and conservation initiatives based around the property.

Report on Trustees' Activities during the year

This report is structured around the work of the Sub-Committees

Access: Paul Jarvis, Andy Pointer, Clare Thomas. A major advance has been the construction of the *Car Park* off the B846 just north of the entrance to the Glengoulandie Deer Park. This was made possible by a grant of £7,500 from the Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust (PKCT) and a donation of £10,000. The work was carried out by W.B. Grieve Groundworks. The car park has provided invaluable safe access onto Dùn Coillich from the east side, in the vicinity of the RSS south area and ponds and is already being used by local people and tourists. During the coming year there will be some landscaping around the car park and a path to the planned Observation and Education Facility (OEF, see below). Access onto the Dùn through the Forestry Commission (FC) plantations via the gate in the northern boundary fence has been impeded by dramatic wind throw resulting from the recent gales. The new stile in the Schiehallion boundary fence will be available shortly. The PKCT have taken a lead in facilitating joint discussions between HPCLT, JMT and FC with a view to developing an access partnership for the wider area.

The Rural Stewardship Scheme [RSS]: William Hoare, Innes Smith, Julie Gardiner, Tim Fison. Management of the two RSS areas continues to evolve. Most activity has been in the south area. The wetland scrapes have been re-excavated and appropriate levels achieved to create four ponds with about 700 square metres of water surface area. The ponds are now of sufficient depth and adequately connected to the burn to remain water-filled through dry periods such as occurred last summer. The area previously designated a sacrificial crop zone was allowed to reseed naturally. Results were disappointing and the area will be sown again this year. Silage was taken off 40% of the area in September. Although effective for maintaining the vegetation, the silage was of poor quality because of the presence of many mole hills, so this will probably not be repeated. Grazing by up to ten highland cattle continued from late September to February, with good results, and will be repeated in 2007. Some bracken was cut in both areas. The main species-rich areas were very floriferous with species of *Scabious* particularly prolific. Several species of birds and invertebrates were seen on and around the scrapes.

If the Scottish and Southern electrical power cable from Beauly to Denny goes ahead as planned, there would be one pylon on the RSS area at Whitebridge. So far we have refused to sign a Wayleave, pending the outcome of the Public Enquiry now in progress.

Observation and Education Facility [OEF]: Robin Hull, William Hoare with members Malcolm Appleby, Russell Coope, and Wendy Mattingley. Planning has continued and, with completion of the car park (see above) and further donations, action is now in the offing. Implementation details depend on finance. So far the appeal has raised over £7000 from Members and friends (some from far south); the James Thin Trust has given a further £1000 and the Perth & Kinross Quality of Life Fund has made a conditional promise of up to £10,000. The estimated initial cost is £30,000. Further applications for funds are in the

pipeline and contributions from Members are extremely welcome. We have found a suitable prefabricated, sturdy wooden building which we hope will be erected below the car park on a site dug into the hillside (subject to planning consent). This will provide a good overview of the ponds and surrounding areas. The building will contain a store, an observation area, and a larger room that will display information on geology, archaeology, history & natural history of the Dùn. It will have access for the disabled. We hope that the OEF project will be available to the public by autumn 2007.

Woodlands and the Woodland Grant Scheme [WGS]: Julie Gardiner, Philip Campbell, Tim Fison, Paul Jarvis. After a year to settle, the 70 hectares of mounds on the west side were planted with native species through the late autumn of 2005 and spring of 2006; approximately 126,000 trees were planted. The very dry summer has not helped establishment and we are currently in the process of filling gaps. In preparation for mounding on the south and east sides, approximately 40 hectares of bracken areas were sprayed during the late summer, and mounding of about 60 hectares took place between late December and early January. Some of the bracken areas will be planted shortly; the remainder, largely on the heather, after the mounds have settled next spring. The species mix will be similar to before, predominantly birch and Scots pine, but also a diverse array of other native species, including oak, ash, elm, juniper, holly, willow and alder in mixtures appropriate to the ground. Natural regeneration, particularly of aspen, willow and birch, is becoming more evident below the bridle path parallel with the Allt Mor, and broom and elder are appearing in several areas elsewhere. We anticipate that growth of the trees will lead to a large increase in biodiversity and sustainable removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Maintenance and Fencing: William Hoare, Innes Smith, Julie Gardiner, Tim Fison. No major fence failures have occurred. Monitoring and repair continue along all parts of the perimeter, but some fencing is old and continues to be vulnerable to penetration by deer. Agreement has been reached with our neighbour Mr. S. McAdam over replacement of our mutual fence. Dùn Coillich has resident and visiting populations of both roe and red deer. Our policy is to keep these populations at a level that is compatible with natural regeneration and we continue to carry out this policy by driving out and culling.

Keltneyburn Hydro Scheme[KBS]: Paul Jarvis, Andy Pointer, William Hoare. There has been no further progress. We understand from the promoters of the scheme that the development has been held up by delays in the offices of SNH and SEPA.

Public relations and Website: Phillip Campbell, Andy Pointer.

With the car park now in use as the primary point of access to Dùn Coillich, we shall be improving our signage during the coming year. We have continued to publish the Minutes of meetings of the Trustees on our web-site. Phillip has been away in Thailand for much of the year and public relations have suffered accordingly.

We are maintaining a watching brief with pressure groups in two different organisations who have approached us regarding wind farm and housing developments. We continue to have good relations with the John Muir Trust and its associated Schiehallion Group.

Natural and cultural heritage: Clare Thomas, Hamish Nicholson. Approximately 80 archaeological sites have been identified on Dùn Coillich. Despite substantial marking, several field boundaries and a hut circle were damaged during the recent mounding operation. To avoid loss of knowledge, should any further damage occur in the future, measured drawings will be made of the major sites in the coming year.

The archive of records and documents relating to Dùn Coillich, past and present, and to the activities of the Trustees, continues to grow. Possibilities have been investigated for a database in which to store both historical and on-going active records and data of changes. We hope to initiate a programme of data conservation during the coming year.

Education activities: Tim Fison, Clare Thomas. Contacts with the local schools have resulted in two visits by children to plant trees during the year (from Kenmore Primary School and Breadalbane Academy), but the time available for a visit was very short and access to the west side time-consuming. The demise of the land-based studies group at Breadalbane Academy is a particular disappointment. Several students had been on at least two tree-planting visits and prospects had looked promising for a longer-term relationship, with a wider range of activities. We hope that there will be more take-up of the opportunities provided by Dùn Coillich for outdoor education now that the car park provides safe, quick access on the east side, where there is a wider range of opportunities, including tree-planting, and where there will soon be an Observation facility.

Financial Review and policy on reserves

The Trust's income exceeded its expenditure by £8,950 during the year, and its unrestricted General Fund at the end of the year was £11,096, and it held £7,282 in a fund for the purpose of erecting a hide for the observation of birds and other wildlife. The Trustees are carrying out a substantial programme of planting native trees on Dùn Coillich, with support from a Woodland Grant. Monies accumulated in the General Fund will be expended on further improvements to the property, and to advance the purposes of the Trust.

Audit and Independent Examination

The Trustees have taken advantage of the exemption from audit conferred by S249(A) of the Companies Act 1985, on the grounds that the company is entitled to the benefit of that exemption as a small company.

The Trustees have, due to the Company's charitable status, appointed an Independent Examiner in accordance with the provisions of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 1992.

In accordance with S44 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations came into force on 17 May 2006, and apply to all charities with a financial year which began on or after 1 April 2006. The Trustees have ensured that these Accounts would comply with those regulations if they had been in effect for the year to 30 November 2006.

For and on behalf of the Trustees

Signed:

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 2006.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charitable company's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is my responsibility, on the basis of procedures set out in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act") to report whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 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 41 of the Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records; and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act, 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:Independent Examiner

Date:.....

J M T Ambrose MA, FCA, CTA(Fellow)
8 Clevedon Road
GLASGOW

G12 0NT

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) for the year to 30 November 2006

Incoming Resources

	Year to 30 November 2006	Year to 30 November 2005
	£	£
Members' subscriptions	731	1,029
Donations	13,405	3,111
Inland Revenue tax refund	426	1,091
Interest	146	125
Grants received - RSS	3,284	1,000
Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust	7,500	-
Forestry Commissioners Woodland Grant	41,520	40,942
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Total incoming resources	67,012	47,298

Resources Expended

Charitable expenditure:

Forestry mounding and trackwork	-	37,599
Purchase and transport of native trees	18,667	3,343
Tree planting	14,250	-
Car Park construction	16,516	-
Bracken spraying	5,581	-
Scrapes and demolishing	-	1,325
Ploughing, seeds and seeding	30	254
Pond maintenance	602	-
Insurance	368	368
Survey, newsletter and CWA	-	672
Ordnance Survey licence	56	56
Signage, fencing and canes	732	822
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	56,802	44,439
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Management and administration		
Legal fees - as restricted	1,058	804
Postage, admin, EGM and AGM costs	202	309
Bank charges	-	25
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,260	1,138
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Total resources expended	58,062	45,577
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Total Funds at 30 November 2005	214,633	212,912
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Surplus of income over expenditure	8,950	1,721

Total Funds at 30 November 2006	223,583	214,633
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Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Balance Sheet at 30 November 2006

	30 November 2006 £	30 November 2005 £
Fixed Assets		
Land at Dùn Coilich	205,205	205,205
Current Assets		
Grants receivable	-	40,942
Cash at Bank	75,378	5,486
Current Liabilities		
Interest-free loan	(57,000)	(37,000)
	223,583	214,633
Land Purchase Fund	205,205	205,205
General Fund	11,096	5,637
OEF Fund	7,282	3,791
Accumulated Funds	223,583	214,633

The Trust is entitled to exemption from an audit under the provisions of S249A(2) of the Companies Act 1985, and no notice has been deposited under S249B(2) of that Act.

The Board of Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the Trust keeps accounting records which comply with S221 of the Act, and preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust as at the end of its financial period and of its income and expenditure for the financial period in accordance with S226 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 1985.

Signed:Trustee

Date:

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Notes to the Accounts to 30 November 2006

Accounting Policies

The Trustees have followed the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Revised 2005), and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Enterprises in preparing their Report and these Financial Statements.

Income and expenditure has been accounted on a cash basis, which is not materially different from what would be shown on an accounts basis, except for the Woodland Grant, receivable from the Forestry Commissioners (see below).

Woodland Grant Receivable

The company has entered a contract with the Forestry Commissioners in relation to the creation of 245 hectares of new native woodland by a combination of planting and natural regeneration, under the Woodland Grant Scheme. A grant is payable to the company when stages of planting are completed. At the end of the year, nil (2005 - £40,942) was receivable in respect of work completed. Any surplus of the grant over the costs incurred is recorded when the grant is received and the final costs have been incurred.

Interest-Free Loan

To fund the land preparation and planting of native trees, the company negotiated an interest-free loan from a Charitable Trust in 2005, which is repayable within 5 years from then. The total amount of the loan is £65,000, of which the company had drawn down £57,000 (2005 - £37,000) by the year end. The company intends to repay the loan from its cash resources when the work has been completed, and the final grant received.

Fixed assets

Land at Dùn Coillich is shown at cost. No depreciation is charged.

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.

Funds

The Trustees designated £205,205 of the incoming funds, equal to the cost of Dun Coillich, as the "Land Purchase Fund", with the balance as a General Fund for such purposes of the Trust as may be required.