

# 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 2012

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 Report for Year to 30 November 2012

## 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 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.

### 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 HM Revenue & Customs 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. The Scottish Charity Number is SC032801, 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:

Ordinary Membership is open to any individual or organisation interested in the Objects who is based in Highland Perthshire

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, or 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.

## Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust for Year to 30th November 2012

Current Trustees	Appointment	Retiring
Richard Paul, Chairman	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2008	retiring**
Margaret Jarvis, Treasurer	7 <sup>th</sup> March 2009	
Patricia Waite	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	
Linda Cracknell	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	retiring
Ben Henderson	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	retiring**
Richard Legate	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	
Andrew Pointer	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2010	retiring**
James Shorthouse	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	
Nici Ward	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	retiring
Ian Wilkinson	24 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	
Sandra Winter	24 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	

\*\*eligible and seeking re-election

James Low	Seeking Election
Harry Ross	Seeking Election
Innes Smith	Seeking Election

Honorary Chairman  
 Dr Richard Paul  
 Gate Cottage  
 West Tempar  
 Kinloch Rannoch, PH16 5QE

Honorary 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(Fellow)  
8 Cleveden Road  
Glasgow, G12 0NT

## **Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust for Year to 30th November 2012**

### **Report on Trustees' Activities during the past year**

#### **Paul Jarvis**

It is with sadness that I have to report the death of HPCLT's former Chairman, Paul Jarvis.

Paul died suddenly at his home on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February. Paul was Chairman of HPCLT for nine years and was a founder member of HPCLT. Paul met his wife, Margaret when they were both students at Oxford. They went on to graduate studies at Sheffield University. NATO scholarships took them to Uppsala University in Sweden (where Paul gained a second Doctorate), then on to Australia and back to Aberdeen. For the latter part of his career Paul worked as Professor of Forestry and Natural Resources at Edinburgh University. He was an internationally acclaimed academic and a forester whose research has been described as seminal. His many students now work all over the globe where they continue Paul's rigorous academic approach. His PhD research was on the growth and regeneration of oaks and the Trustees feel that we should plant an oak coppice on Dùn Coillich in memory of Paul and in keeping with his intentions for Dùn Coillich.

Paul was always ready to help with physical tasks such as Tree planting and Fence repairs. Notwithstanding his elevated academic achievements Paul delighted in helping young school pupils with their tree planting techniques. He was an inspiration to us all and will be greatly missed.

#### **Deer Control on Dùn Coillich**

The number of deer culled compared with 2011/12 is significantly reduced. In the first 11 months of the report period the number of roe deer culled is down by half, and only 3 red deer (all stags) have been taken.

The reduction in the cull is a reflection of a number of factors:-

1. The effect of the previous year's high roe deer cull;
2. No large scale visitation of red deer stags as occurred in 2011;
3. The improvement in fence security.

As the year has passed there have been noticeably fewer reported deer sightings and observations of deer sign on the ground. There are grounds for optimism that the resident deer population may be close to the sustainable number which will permit the desired levels of woodland development. If this has not yet been

achieved there is no reason to doubt that it can be, subject to a continued effective culling effort and maintenance of fence security.

### **Beauly-Denny Pylon line.**

John Taylor and Bill Hoare report that work by SSE and its contractors has continued through the year. The single pylon(TD16) on Dùn Coillich near Whitebridge was completed apart from cable stringing; that will be done during 2013. Re-routing and some burying of the pole based power line in the same area has also been completed. Deconstruction of the to be superseded pylon line, and re-instatement of the land, is unlikely before 2014. HPCLT receives a small wayleave income from SSE. Contractors (Balfour Beatty and Murphy Construction) involved with the pylon line have not only assisted HPCLT with fencing, but have also provided and installed a huge cable drum as a cannot-be stolen picnic table, for which many thanks. We would like to thank SSE for their liaison with contractors and for their volunteer help. We are grateful to Murphy Construction for their donation of £500.00.

### **Membership and Publicity**

A Newsletter which has been emailed to members and to other organisations detailing activities from 2008 to 2012. Two articles have appeared in Comment.

### **Woodlands, Planting and Woodland Grant Scheme**

Trees have been planted regularly throughout 2012 and there are plans in hand for spring 2013.

Tree planting started soon after the AGM with a member and trustee planting some birch and oak saplings in Dùn Coillich to the north of the car park. These were surplus from 'The Tree Day held in Aberfeldy. Planting was on a cool but sunny afternoon and water was obtained from the Allt Glengoulandie Burn to help bedding in.

The Jubilee Wood was added to by Pitlochry High secondary pupils and staff. They came twice and the trees planted spread across the burn and up the flank of the hillside, beneath the Old Pine Plantation. We had made a small fenced area here and that was filled thanks to the efforts of Pitlochry High School with holly, oak, willow, birch and pines. Most of these have put on good growth but some holly did not take. These are to be replaced with pine saplings this year. The special 'Jubilee Oak' was planted by a Pitlochry High School pupil above the scrapes and near the boundary with Glengoulandie Caravan Park. The Jubilee Wood trees were obtained from the Woodland Trust and consisted of mixed broadleaf species and some pines. In all just over 1,000 trees were planted as extra's came from our own nursery supply.

Some of the trees previously planted had died or been browsed, so after our survey had alerted us to the affected areas a massive replanting scheme ensued.

Throughout the year Trustees, members, John Muir Trust staff and volunteers, along with Edinburgh University conservation volunteers 'The Dirty Weekenders Group' planted replacements. Many of the trees planted were Scots pines but there were some broadleaf species amongst them. In all, approximately 5,000 trees have been planted,

22,500 trees ordered by Paul Jarvis will be planted in March/April 2013 by Willie Shorthouse and Co.

Kinloch Rannoch Primary and Pitlochry High School pupils will plant more Woodland Trust tree packs in March 2013

### **Schools and Youth Organisations**

Breadalbane Academy pupils visited Dùn Coillich in May 2012 to help with fence repairs and later other pupils returned with their teachers for a geography field course.

Pitlochry High School pupils came to Dùn Coillich in November to plant their second Jubilee wood.

Trustees wish to thank pupils and staff from both schools for their assistance.

Trustees have been in discussion with the Highland Youth Project in Aberfeldy with a view to them visiting Dùn Coillich regularly for voluntary work.

In March Pitlochry High School and Kinloch Rannoch Primary will be visiting to plant more Woodland Trust trees.

The 'cubs' in Aberfeldy plan to visit in April for tree planting and students from Perth College will help with conservation activities on April 16<sup>th</sup> 2013.

### **Grant Applications**

During the past year, with a view to financing necessary re-planting, new planting, major fence maintenance and prospective education and training programmes at Dùn Coillich, applications for support have been made to a variety of grant awarding organisations. Thus far, only the application to the John Muir Trust Conservation Fund which awarded £1850 has been successful. Applications to the Bank of Scotland and to Griffin Wind Farm were for differing reasons unsuccessful. The outcome of an application to the Gannochy Trust is pending and, for the future, consideration is being given to making applications to Scottish Natural Heritage and to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Trustees wish to thank Willie McGhee and Mike Riddell of 'Bioclimate' for their help with current applications.

### **Maintenance and Fencing**

The 2 km of fence that was repaired by Sandy McAdam has been made secure by filling in gaps at the base of the fence with rocks. This work was carried out by volunteers.

At Trish Waite's suggestion an island fence enclosing about half an acre was constructed on the hill above the visitor hut as a useful site for school pupils to plant their trees.

In July and August volunteers lined the fences along the northern and southern boundaries of Dùn Coillich with chicken wire and pinned down the base of the fences. This measure prevents access by roe deer. In October Balfour Beatty, at Trustees' request, strengthened the roadside fence and volunteers then lined this fence with chicken wire.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of August a volunteer mended the large water gate on the Allt Mhor burn to prevent deer entering Dùn Coillich at this point.

Since the last AGM all 8 kilometres of perimeter fence have been made deer-proof and whilst constant vigilance is required and it is recognised that fence maintenance

is a continuous requirement the Trustees are confident that the trees which they have planted are at much lower risk of browsing by deer.

### **Keltneyburn Hydro Scheme**

This hydro scheme has continued to generate an income as per contract for HPCLT. Some repairs to the weir were necessary and carried out by Keltneyburn Hydro early in the year, and a minor change to the weir is proposed to make it a less attractive crossing place for walkers, and thereby to reduce the risk of injury.

### **Visitor access**

Tim and Ruth Fison have way-marked three paths across Dùn Coillich using discreet stakes with colour coded tops. The paths concerned lead from the car park to the weir, from the car park past Dùn Coillich to link in with the John Muir Trust Schiehallion Path and from the car park northwards to 'White Bridge'.

### **Wildlife & Biodiversity Report**

Bill Hoare and Tim Fison report that although many trees have been planted, they and those naturally regenerating have not yet substantially changed the range of flora, fauna, and fungi to be found on Dùn Coillich. What is changing, and for the better, is the numbers of some species being found. This is especially true of Black Grouse and of some moths, particularly Fox, Garden Tiger, and Emperor moths. But even casual data recording shows improvement, with bird species recorded in 2012 up to 43 from 34 in 2011, and Lepidoptera up from 10 to 18 species in the same period. Records for plant species were much higher in 2012 but this was largely as a result of a visit by a team from Kindrogan Field Centre. In a few years' time, it may be appropriate to do more thorough wildlife surveys so as to compare the data with base line data recorded when HPCLT purchased Dùn Coillich 11 years ago..

### **Visitor Hut**

The Visitor hut continues to be a very valuable asset. It was used for two trustee meetings. It serves as a store for equipment and information resources. It is a meeting place for school parties and a refuge from bad weather. Pitlochry High School have kindly donated two microscopes for use in the visitor hut.

### **Website**

The HPCLT website ([www.hpclt.org](http://www.hpclt.org)) has continued to be a great resource both for reference and for publicity. The Trustees would like to thank Alice Jarvis for her hard work in maintaining this facility.

### **Shirley Jones Memorial Bench**

This Memorial Bench on the western boundary of Dùn Coillich, which was built by drystone waller Sam Gardiner, is totally in keeping with the landscape, reflecting as it does the shape of the East shoulder of Schiehallion. It was featured on Radio Scotland's 'Out of Doors' programme on 20th October last year - Sam was interviewed on site. The stone came from adjacent derelict walling. The seating is made from MARMAX planks - a good use for recycled plastic and it is low

maintenance and less chilly.

Shirley Jones, who is celebrated in memoriam by the bench, enjoyed this area. She was an active member of both the John Muir Trust and Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust . Her family and friends will be travelling from the English Midlands and down from Brora in Sutherland in mid-April to view the project and attach a small plaque. HPCLT Trustees are delighted to have this memorial on Dùn Coillich and we are grateful to the Shirley Jones Memorial Trust for their support.

### **In conclusion**

In the Trustees' Report last year we reported that an inspection by the 'Forestry Commission' indicated that the trees which we had planted were not thriving as we would have wished and that this was a '*Call to Arms*'. We have responded vigorously to this situation and have mended the entire 8 km perimeter fence to exclude deer. Volunteers, including Edinburgh University Students, John Muir Trust Volunteers, School Pupils and Trustees planted about 5000 trees in the autumn and will be getting a contractor to plant a further 22,500 trees this spring.

Matt Young of the Forestry Commission, visited Dùn Coillich in July and expressed himself well pleased with the progress being made. He will return next summer and we feel that he will be impressed by the remedial action taken to ensure that our native trees grow. We continue to liaise with the Forestry Commission, the Woodland Trust and the John Muir Trust. We are in discussion with the John Muir Trust to further strengthen our co-operation on shared management intentions.



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

The Trust's income exceeded its expenditure by £6,705 (2011 – deficit £7,912) during the year, and its unrestricted General Fund at the end of the year was £9,337, and it held £3,258 in the OEF Fund which has constructed the hide for the observation of birds and other wildlife.

The Trustees have carried out a substantial programme of planting native trees on Dùn Coillich, with support from the Woodland Grant Scheme, but, as described in Note 2 of the Accounts, the level of survival has been inadequate, and remedial steps are under-way to improve the fencing and increase the tree numbers in order to avoid the possibility of having to repay part or all of the grant received.

Monies accumulated in the General Fund will be expended on further improvements to the property, and to advance the purposes of the Trust.

Signed

Dr Richard Paul

Trustee

.

## **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 2012.

### **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 [date]

J M T Ambrose, BSc, MA, FCA, CTA(Fellow), FGS.  
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 2012

Incoming Resources	Year to 30 November 2012	Year to 30 November 2011
	£	£
Members' subscriptions	590	615
Donations	1870	90
Legacy	3,000	-
HMRC Gift Aid income tax refund	-	274
Interest	35	49
Tree day	328	
Hydroscheme Rental	9,448	6,812
Wayleave	-	86
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>15,271</b>	<b>7,926</b>
Resources Expended		
Charitable expenditure:		
Fencing	4,297	12,147
Purchase and transport of native trees	1,490	-
Tree planting	91	40
Observation and Education Facility	588	1,582
Spraying, rotavating and weed killing	-	122
Memorial bench	100	-
Picnic table	-	179
Insurance	626	596
Website	120	75
Deer management	126	20
Community Woodlands Association	-	30
	<b>7,438</b>	<b>14,791</b>
Management and administration		
Legal fees - as restricted	991	906
Postage, admin and AGM costs	137	141
	<b>1,128</b>	<b>1,047</b>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>8,566</b>	<b>15,838</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of income over expenditure</b>	<b>6,705</b>	<b>(7,912)</b>
<b>Total Funds at 30 November 2011</b>	<b>211,095</b>	<b>219,007</b>

**Total Funds at 30 November 2012**

217,800

211,095

# Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

## Balance Sheet at 30 November 2012

	30 November 2012 £	30 November 2011 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Land at Dùn Coillich (note 3)	205,205	205,205
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at Bank	12,595	5,890
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	-	-
	<b>217,800</b>	<b>211,095</b>
<b>Land Purchase Fund</b>	205,205	205,205
<b>General Fund</b> (note 5)	9,337	2,044
<b>OEF Fund</b> (note 5)	3,258	3,846
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>	<b>217,800</b>	<b>211,095</b>

For the year ended 30 November 2012, 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 2012 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 Margaret Jarvis Trustee and Treasurer

[date]

# Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

## Notes to the Accounts to 30 November 2012

### 1 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 fully accrued basis.

### 2 Woodland Grant Receivable – Contingent Liability

The company 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 (generally two-thirds of the total) amounting to £109,762 were paid to the company when stages of planting were completed, mainly in the years 2005 - 2007. Any surplus of the grants over the costs incurred will be recorded when the final instalments of the grants are received and the final costs have been incurred.

The grants are contingent upon the survival of the young trees, and the final instalments may be withheld, or previous payments may be repayable by the company to the Forestry Commission, if the required level of survival is not achieved. The company'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, and are taking steps to minimise deer browsing, which are considered to be the greatest contingent risks, but a recent Forestry Commission inspection revealed an inadequate level of survival. The company has started to plant replacement trees, and has improved the fencing to exclude deer so far as possible. The company is working with, and taking advice from, the Woodland Trust and the John Muir Trust and has agreed a four year period with the Forestry Commission in which to improve the tree numbers.

The Trustees will be monitoring the position closely, and in view of the steps which are planned and underway, they believe that the conditions for the grant can be achieved and that no provision for repayments is necessary or appropriate.

### 3 Fixed assets

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

# Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Notes to the Accounts to 30 November 2012 (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

The Trustees designated £205,205 of the 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. A separate fund (the Observation and Education Facility Fund, "OEF Fund") was established to finance the construction of the hide for the observation and study of wildlife.

The company's income and expenditure during the year may be allocated between the General and OEF Funds as follows:

£	General Fund	OEF Fund	Total
<b>Income</b>	15,271	-	15,271
<b>Expenditure</b>	7,978	588	8,566
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	7,293	(588)	6,705
<b>Balance at 30 Nov 2011</b>	2,044	3,846	5,890
<b>Balance at 30 Nov 2012</b>	<b>9,337</b>	<b>3,258</b>	<b>12,595</b>

- o - O - o - O - o -