

# **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 2016**

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 2016

### 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 Lower 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.

At each AGM, one third of the elected Trustees with the longest service since election/re-election shall retire. A retiring Trustee shall be eligible for re-election after one or two terms of office, but not after three consecutive terms of office without

## Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Year ended 30 November 2016

at least one year out of office before becoming eligible again. Consideration is still being given to a review of the Constitution. No changes have yet been made.

<b>Trustees during Year</b>	<b>Appointment Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
William Hoare	22 March 2014	**
Richard Paul, Chairman	19 March 2016	Co-opted until AGM March 2017
Patricia Waite	22 March 2014	**
Andrew Pointer	28 March 2015	
James Shorthouse	22 March 2014	**
Ian Wilkinson, Treasurer	28 March 2015	
Margaret Jarvis	28 March 2015	
Gordon Stronach	28 March 2015	
Richard Rees	19 March 2016	Co-opted until AGM March 2017
Jeannie Grant	19 March 2016	Co-opted until AGM March 2017
James Anderson	19 March 2016	Retiring at AGM 2017
Andrew Walker, Vice Chairman	19 March 2016	
Emma O'Shea	19 March 2016	Retired June 2016

\*\* retiring by rotation at AGM. All are eligible for re-election.

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

Honorary Treasurer                      Ian Wilkinson  
Cuilmore Cottage  
Kinloch Rannoch  
Pitlochry, PH16 5QB

Registered Office, Company  
Secretary and Solicitors              J & H Mitchell WS  
51 Atholl Road  
Pitlochry, 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**

## **Year ended 30 November 2016**

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

In autumn 2001, 405 over-grazed hectares (1100 acres) of a local deer farm were put on the open market. The land lies adjacent to the iconic 1300 metre hill, Schiehallion. It consisted of heather moorland with wet areas and with some limestone outcrops. There is a small pinewood, two hills, Dùn Beag and Dùn Coillich (572 metres).

A group of about 15 interested local people thought that there was potential for restoration and 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.

The original Woodland Grant Scheme was amended by consultation with the Forestry Commission, with the aim of establishing native woodland in appropriate areas. A car park for about 12 vehicles and an adjacent hut (ca. 24 square metres) were achieved as a result of diligent fund-raising by Trustees. Ponds have been created and trees have been planted, by school pupils as well as by professional planters. 38 goats were transferred to the Kent Wildlife Trust and considerable sustained efforts have been made to exclude sheep and deer.

A new footbridge takes people across the Glengoulandie burn and a network of walking routes has been marked.

There is a Hydroscheme operating on the Allt Mor. This provides HPCLT with an income relating to the power output.

The Trustees have asked the Project Officer to include her Report here:

### **Project Officer Report**

#### *Volunteer Days*

Since starting in July, I have co-ordinated weekly volunteer work parties at Dùn Coillich every Tuesday which have been well attended, averaging 4 volunteers. This 'work force' has achieved many tasks up on the hill, much is detailed in the reports below. Although much has been achieved, the list of tasks to do seems to get longer and there is little chance of us running out work. More volunteers will always be welcomed with open arms!

#### *Rural Skills Training Course*

The first 20 week course has been a great success, with 3 trainees who have been very busy at Dùn Coillich 1-2 days/week. As well as training courses in Outdoor First Aid, LANTRA courses in Chainsaw, Brushcutter, Pesticide and ATV use and Dry Stone Walling, they have also had a wide range of experience on site including tree care, woodland management, footpath work and have been great at getting involved with all the site management tasks.

The course has proved to be a great learning experience for the trainees and has given them a wide breadth of experience. They all now have found employment in the local area. It has been great to have them, a great asset to our team and a pleasure

## **Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Year ended 30 November 2016**

to have around. Just starting our next course with a six more trainees, I am very excited to get to know them and start them on their rural skills path.

### *Other Groups*

Pitlochry High School pupils have been on site planting trees and are due back again in March. I am working on a SNH camera-trap project with Grandtully Primary, whilst Kenmore Primary plan to use Dùn Coilich as part of their John Muir Award. Rural Skills and Geography Pupils from Breadalbane have been on site and they hope to come back to plant trees in Spring. Aberfeldy Beavers are coming up on the 27th of March to help plant some trees. I am looking to develop further links with local schools and other groups in the next few months.

### *Future Plans*

I have many plans for the next 6 months including trialling weekend work parties on the last Saturday of every month. We hope to raise funds for a composting toilet.

Priorities for the coming season include continued fence repair, widening and further marking walking trails, and setting up several biological recording protocols, including butterfly and bird transects and extending camera trap use and habitat monitoring.

It has been a very busy and fulfilling start to my new role and I am really looking forward to the next 6 months and to getting loads more achieved on site.

I would like to thank all the trustees for all their help, support and patience while I have been finding my feet, and to everyone who has made time in their busy lives to join me on a Tuesday and finally to my trainees for their enthusiasm, humour and readiness to learn. Heather Hamilton, Project Officer.

## **Lower Birks Field (Aberfeldy)**

Early in 2016, the Duncan Menzies Trust offered their 1Ha. field to Aberfeldy for community use. The price was to cover legal costs only. Close to the centre of Aberfeldy, the land sits between the Lower Birks and Burns Brae and consists of rough grassland and some trees.

After consultation with PKC, Aberfeldy CC, & other local Trusts, it was felt that HPCLT would be the most appropriate Trust to own the land, having been originally set up to do just that. Unanimous approval by Trustees was followed by a vote among Ordinary members and the acquisition was approved. Legal processes were completed in November 2016. A micro grant from SSE covered approximately one third of HPCLT's costs.

The Trust now plans to survey the land - its flora, fauna, soil, history, and archaeology etc - and to put information boards in place, and is seeking ideas for its use, and voluntary help in its management and maintenance.

## **Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Year ended 30 November 2016**

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

Balfour Beatty/SSE completed reinstatement of their Whitebridge site on Dùn Coillich during 2015. In March 2016, pupils from Pitlochry High School planted some 200 trees to landscape the area immediately around the new car park and rail fencing at the new bell mouth was replaced with less intrusive post and wire.

After delays arising within SSE, Trustees accepted an SSE offer to capitalise our wayleaves related to pylons, posts and cables in this area. Some wayleave payments are not indexed, and the total income produced is only around £400pa. Attempts to improve the offer failed and it was therefore considered better to accept the offer of £8,500 in return for the wayleaves to be replaced by a Deed of Servitude. Our Articles para 21(a)(vi) require that this decision is endorsed by 75% of the members at this AGM via a Special Resolution.

### **Keltneyburn Hydro Scheme**

Early in 2016, Keltneyburn Hydro Ltd was purchased by Green Highland Renewables(GHR). GHR is based in Perth and they now operate the hydro scheme for which the intake weir is on Dùn Coillich. Two amicable meetings have been held with GHR. The tenancy lease is being updated and revised at GHR's costs and with no worsening of conditions for HPCLT. Income has remained as expected. 2015/16 was a good generating year. 2016/17 may not prove to be as good following a dry Sep-Dec, as yet little snow to melt during the spring, and at least the possibility of some engineering works. During these works, generating capacity will be adversely affected, but GHR's hope is that by undertaking the work, capacity will rise nearer to the designed maximum and maintenance costs reduced.

### **Fencing**

This year has seen both fence maintenance and the installation of new fencing. HPCLT commissioned Rab Robertson of Robertson Fencing to erect a fence behind White Bridge Cottage. This fence is located where an earlier forestry report suggested. Its purpose is to prevent deer from entering Dùn Coillich through the garden of White Bridge Cottage.

The terrain was undulating and a burn crossing was involved so that it was not an easy task but the fence is of the highest standard. There is a gate to allow the owners of White Bridge Cottage access to Dùn Coillich and their water supply.

The large water-gate on the Allt Mor has had a number of problems as a result of spates and the wooden frame is now supported on strong chains which it is hoped will last for some time before the next repair which will inevitably be necessary owing to the huge quantities of water being channeled through the gorge.

Heather Hamilton, our Project Officer, has organised a number of work parties to increase the security of the fence on Dùn Coillich's southern boundary. This has involved adding extra wire netting and some woodwork at the small water-gate.

## **Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Year ended 30 November 2016**

Heather and Liz Auty of the John Muir Trust have also instigated work on the fence at the JMT boundary. Here volunteers have been directed to attach diagonal batons to the upper portion of the fence to make it visible to blackcock and prevent them from flying into the fence. The blackcock lek lies close by.

Finally, some of the fence posts of the northern boundary with the forestry land have been strengthened where they have rotted through at the base. Regular inspection of the entire boundary ensure that problems are spotted and remedial action taken.

### **Visitor Hut and Car Park area**

Considerable maintenance work has been done. The hut has been painted with wood preservative and the surrounding area tidied. Tree tubes and stakes have been stowed in the new lean-to hut. The two potato boxes donated by AGRICO are now in situ and storing tree tubes and fence material. A temporary Portaloo has been hired and is available for use when there are work parties and school visits.

Redundant fence from the roadside at White Bridge has been dismantled and transported to Rab Robertson, fencing contractor, for disposal.

The tree nursery which has turned into a copse may need a little thinning. Some of the oak trees are small enough to remove. It may be that a new tree nursery will be established close by.

Site maintenance is an on-going process and everyone contributes to the tree tube clearance, litter lifting, strimming and other tasks as they become necessary.

### **Paths**

We have started work brush-cutting the paths. So far we have cut the path that goes up from the hut up to where the path branches off to get to the top of Dùn Coilich and have cut some of the way along the path that runs south along the boundary with the deer park.

Path marker posts will be increased in number and existing ones will be repainted.

Paths around the hut have been brush-cut and we will continue to do this in the spring.

We will reroute the path from the carpark to White Bridge to avoid the mounds. By the summer we intend to have all the routes remarked and brush-cut. This will be followed by drainage work.

We will provide safety information at each entry point to Dùn Coilich.

## **Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Year ended 30 November 2016**

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

This is a new and exciting development for HPCLT and Dùn Coillich which takes forward the name "Heart of Scotland Forest" which was originally applied to a forest planted on the south west side of Aberfeldy.

We are partnering with the John Muir Trust, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Forest Enterprise, Kynachan Estate and the Woodland Trust in a new project called the Heart of Scotland Forest. This is something that we anticipate will start this summer (2017) and will last for five years.

We hope this will result in:

- A new and repaired boundary fence – all 9 kilometres worth (Red and Roe proof)
- An extended and expanded training and volunteering programme
- More natural regeneration and growth of trees
- An improved path network
- New signage and improved car park and public facilities, such as a composting toilet

We are at the early stages but it looks like being a very exciting year ahead.

### **Dùn Coillich deer culling**

During 2016 deer management effort was maintained at the same level as during recent years. Despite this fewer deer were culled (6 roe bucks and 4 roe does culled during 49 stalking visits to Dùn Coillich) and no red deer were seen on the hill during this year.

In effect this is confirmation that the culling effort and improved deer fencing is significantly reducing the overall deer population and therefore their impact on planted and naturally regenerating trees. Although precise counts are problematic, it is likely that fewer than 10 roe deer and no red deer are currently resident.

There will be no planned reduction in stalking effort while tree establishment is paramount.

### **Forestry at Dùn Coillich**

Forestry at Dùn Coillich is focused on getting historic and recent tree planting established, and mapping areas of natural tree regeneration.

Planted sections of Scots pine on the west, Schiehallion, side are doing well, with large sections beginning to look like woodland. Many of the pines are over two metres in height – beyond Red and Roe deer browsing.

## **Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Year ended 30 November 2016**

We had a successful visit with Forestry Commission Scotland staff pre-Christmas 2016. Cameron Maxwell, Conservator for the Forestry Commissions Perth and Argyll Conservancy, and Neil McFarlane, Forest Officer responsible for overseeing the Dùn Coillich Woodland Grant Scheme joined us for a walk across the western section and we discussed the challenges of getting trees to grow in an exposed, wet and fairly difficult site. We also looked at scots pine trees affected by some form of needle blight, which we hope will not prove to be detrimental to our tree health.

Mitch Bain of Ballinluig planted 3,000 mixed broadleaved trees (oak, hawthorn and birch) on the eastern slopes of Dùn Beag during the early Spring. We chose this area for planting because the eastern, car park and main road facing, section of Dùn Coillich has been comprehensively denuded of trees by repeated and heavy deer browsing. The trees Mitch planted are generally fine but many have been nipped by our small but diminishing population of roe deer. Rob Coope has been contracted to deal with the remaining large herbivores and is doing a splendid job.

Natural tree regeneration is occurring across all of Dùn Coillich, some at relatively low levels, and some even on the summit plateau of Dùn Coillich. There are moderate densities of rowan sitting at heather height. Along the Allt Mor and Keltney Burn thickets of eared willow, downy birch and rowan are developing well and if we keep on top of deer control we can expect a patchwork of regenerating trees and woodland to appear over the next five years.

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

Pride of place goes to the fledging of four chicks from our only hen harrier nest. One fledgling was satellite-tagged by RSPB and it has travelled widely and continuously back and forth between Aberfeldy, Angus Glens, Braemar and Tomintoul, with brief excursions as far afield as Lairg and Stirling.

Merlins frequently sighted but no breeding record this year. Buzzards are usually by the pinewood. Other predators seen were kestrel, golden eagle, sparrow hawk, tawny owl and peregrine.

Our blackcock lek is now more widely known and, in conjunction with JMT, RSPB arranged several visits to view it from the Schiehallion side. Up to 42 males and 2 females were recorded.

A full list of bird sightings is on [hpclt.org.uk](http://hpclt.org.uk). Notable records included curlew, snipe, winchat, linnet, 6 ring ouzels, mute swans, and an unkindness of 20 ravens.

Faith Anstey, botanist and author of *Flowers in the Field*, helped by several trustees, carried out a plant survey on August 2nd of the area disturbed by the erection of the new pylon. 93 species were identified with the dominant pioneers being yorkshire fog, spear & marsh thistles. Wet loving species included yellow saxifrage and sedges. An indicator of a basic soil (perhaps imported material for the construction) was quaking grass.

## **Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Year ended 30 November 2016**

Yellow Rattle seeds from Keltneyburn Meadow were planted in several patches north and south of the hut and good number of flowers resulted. This is an attempt to reduce the vigour of the deep sward of Yorkshire Fog.

A visit by fungi recorders from Kent and Herefordshire in a dry period yielded 24 species (see website), including one appearing identical to that causing ash die-back disease and distinguishable only by DNA testing.

Despite continued repair of fencing and culling, low numbers of roe deer persist, with a maximum of 7 seen on one day in November.

A night camera has revealed images of badgers, foxes, otter, roe, goat, water vole and a stoat. A badger was photographed in broad daylight in June at the Dùn Beag sett. Mustelidae well represented with pine marten, badger, stoat/weasel and otter and no signs of mink.

Led by Dr Liz Auty of JMT, surveys for water voles along the western edge of Dùn Coillich produced plenty of evidence but the animal itself was elusive with just one image on a night camera. These observations have been placed on the National Data base. Water voles may now have occupied the area of rushes across the Glengoulandie burn just opposite the hut. If confirmed, this would be a welcome extension of their known range on DC.

In contrast to last year, no caterpillars of poplar hawk moth or puss moth were found on the willow around the hut. Some moth trapping has been carried out and identifications are on the website. Small pearl bordered fritillaries were recorded as usual but the presence of the rarer Pearl-Bordered remains uncertain. Dark green fritillaries were seen in fair numbers and plenty of scotch argus and ringlets. Perhaps the most notable butterfly sighting was a comma along the Allt Mor.

Common lizards, smooth and palmate newts were seen.

Blaeberry bumble bees (*Bombus monticola*) have been identified. The wood ant nest remains active but in a reduced state.

Except perhaps, in the ungrazed steep sides of the Allt Mor gorge, we have no veteran or ancient trees on Dùn Coillich. We may have them on the Trust's new field in Aberfeldy, so a note about them may be timely.

### **The importance of veteran trees and relevance to local history and landscape.**

The precise definition of veteran trees is much debated and they are often confused with ancient trees.. Veteran trees are not classified by their age via height or girth but more on their ancient characteristics which could have resulted from their management or environment such as coppicing.

A veteran tree is therefore one of interest biologically, culturally or aesthetically because of its age, size or conditions.

Veteran trees are the "living monuments" of our historical landscape. In Highland Perthshire small groups mark out old routes. For example the Crieff road heading

## **Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Year ended 30 November 2016**

south out of Aberfeldy was lined by lime trees, or the oak trees lining several routes on the north side of Loch Rannoch, planted by the Redcoats after the battle of Culloden. Other routes were marked for leisure such as the beech lined paths of the Birks of Aberfeldy. The paths around Dunkeld often have yew trees in the middle of the woods, which were planted to provide shade for the ladies of the Victorian era, whilst out on leisurely horse rides.

The biological importance of live veteran trees comes from the tree being self-renewing and the variety of micro habitats it contains. They are important for epiphytes, lichens and mosses. Dead veteran trees are of great value to as they are slow decaying.

Veteran trees are poorly recorded, yet often they are indicators of past land management and use. In this year of archaeology, why not join in on the ancient tree hunt so that we can get a better picture and knowledge of the importance of our living monuments in our wider landscape.

### **Website 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 providing detailed descriptions of the Trust and its work and providing a document repository and archive.

The Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/DunCoillich](http://www.facebook.com/DunCoillich)) 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 members. The Group is accessible to all Internet users provided they are a Facebook user. During 2017 the website will be updated such that its layout and content reflect the current work of the Trust. The Trustees thank Webmaster Alice Jarvis for her hard work in maintaining the current site and developing the new website.

### **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 £35,082, and the Trust contributed £5,000 from its general funds to the Project. Expenditure on the Project during the year was £17,481, leaving a balance of £22,601 at the year-end.

## Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Year ended 30 November 2016

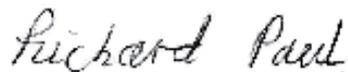
### Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Year ended 30 November 2016

The Trust's unrestricted income for the year, principally from the hydro scheme rental and membership subscriptions and donations, exceeded its expenditure by £4,447 (2015 – surplus £6,445). Its main costs were fencing to exclude deer from Dùn Coillich, and the purchase and planting of over 3,000 young trees in the Spring. The Trust transferred £5,000 as noted above, from its General Fund to the Training Project, and £1,569 to the Land Purchase Fund representing the costs of acquiring the Lower Birks Field on very favourable terms. The directors resolved that the balance of £2,320 in the OEF Fund be re-amalgamated with the General Fund, as the OEF Fund has served its purpose successfully, and so its unrestricted General Fund at the end of the year was £17,276.

The Trustees continue with the programme of planting and regenerating native trees on 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 that we will be able to negotiate a further Woodland Grant Scheme payment, proportional to the areas of establishing trees, which in turn would be applied to further tree establishment and protection.

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

Signed on behalf of the Trustees by:



Richard Paul, Chairman

24 February 2017

# Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

## Year ended 30 November 2016

### Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

#### Year ended 30 November 2016

#### 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 2016.

#### 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

24 February 2017

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

# Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

## Year ended 30 November 2016

### Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 30 November 2016

Incoming Resources	Year to 30 Nov 2016 Unrestricted Income	Year to 30 Nov 2016 Restricted Project Income	Year to 30 Nov 2016 Total	Year to 30 Nov 2015
	£	£	£	£
Members' subscriptions	550	-	550	460
Donations	948	34,700	35,648	5,080
Interest	1	-	1	1
Hydroscheme rental	15,128	-	15,128	11,486
Wayleave	612	-	612	185
Sundry sales	-	382	382	-
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b><u>17,239</u></b>	<b><u>35,082</u></b>	<b><u>52,321</u></b>	<b><u>17,212</u></b>
 <b>Resources Expended</b>				
<b>Charitable expenditure:</b>				
Purchase and transport of native trees	1,361		1,361	4,677
Tree planting	1,200		1,200	4,048
Fencing	7,104		7,104	-
Project Officer		7,100	7,100	
Forest manager		2,601	2,601	
Delivering training courses		7,600	7,600	
OEF – misc repairs	550		550	145
Lean-to and other works	332		332	
Insurance	1,042	166	1,208	1,009
Website	90		90	75
Deer management	20		20	66
Community Woodlands Association	30		30	30
	<u>11,729</u>	<u>17,467</u>	<u>29,196</u>	<u>10,050</u>
 <b>Management and administration</b>				
Legal fees	823	-	823	637
Postage, admin and AGM costs	40	-	40	65
Bank and other charges	200	14	214	
Trustee training	-	-	-	15
	<u>1,063</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1,077</u>	<u>717</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b><u>12,792</u></b>	<b><u>17,481</u></b>	<b><u>30,273</u></b>	<b><u>10,767</u></b>
 <b>Surplus of Income over Expenditure</b>	 <b>4,447</b>	 <b>17,601</b>	 <b>22,048</b>	 <b>6,445</b>
<b>Transfer to Project</b>	<b>(5,000)</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Total Funds at 30 November 2015</b>	<b><u>224,603</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>224,603</u></b>	<b><u>218,158</u></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>

**Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust**  
**Year ended 30 November 2016**

**Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust**  
**Year ended 30 November 2016**

**Balance Sheet at 30 November 2016**

	30 November 2016 £	30 November 2015 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Dùn Coillich	205,205	205,205
Lower Birks Field	1,569	-----
Total	<u>206,774</u>	205,205
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at Bank	43,810	19,473
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	(3,933)	(75)
	<u>246,651</u>	<u>224,603</u>
<b>Land Purchase Fund</b>	206,774	205,205
<b>General Fund</b> (note 5)	17,276	17,078
<b>OEI Fund</b> (note 5)	-	2,320
<b>Project Fund - restricted</b> (note 5)	22,601	-
	<u>246,651</u>	<u>224,603</u>
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>		

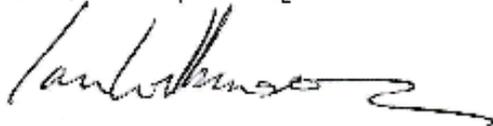
For the year ended 30 November 2016, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**Directors' responsibilities:**

The members have not requested the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year to 30 November 2016 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

24 February 2017

# **Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust**

## **Year ended 30 November 2016**

### **Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2016**

#### **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. 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 grant amounting to £109,762 were paid to the Trust when stages of planting were completed. Costs incurred exceed the grants paid and outstanding instalments of the grants. They 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 growing timber, which includes fire damage. The Trust continues to take steps to minimise deer browsing, which is considered to be the greatest risk to tree establishment. Work continues to improve the fencing to exclude deer so far as possible. Culling is carried out on a professional basis. As a result of an earlier Forestry Commission inspection, the Trust has been planting replacement trees; 13,000 in Spring 2015, and 3,000 more in Spring 2016. The Trust contracted a Project Officer and Forest Manager (part time contracts) in 2016 and a professional deer stalker in 2017.

The Trustees are monitoring the position closely, and in view of those steps already taken, and those planned, they believe that the Grant criteria will be achieved and that no provision for repayments is necessary or appropriate. Trustees are confident that Forestry Commission Scotland will continue to be supportive and encouraging to HPCLT.

#### **3 Fixed assets**

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

# Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

## Year ended 30 November 2016

Notes to the Accounts to 30 November 2016 (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 commenced a new Project for training young people in practical rural skills, to equip them for the jobs market. Funds were raised from a number of supportive charitable trusts and a major corporate donor, and these 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 £22,601 was held in the Project Fund.

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

A separate fund (the Observation and Education Facility Fund, "OEF Fund") was established several years ago to finance the construction of the hide for the observation and study of wildlife. During the year, the Trustees decided that the OEF Fund should be re-amalgamated with the General Fund, as its separate purpose has been achieved.

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

£	Unrestricted General Fund	Unrestricted Land Fund	Unrestricted OEF Fund	Total
<b>Balance at 30 Nov 2015</b>	<b>17,078</b>	<b>205,205</b>	<b>2,320</b>	<b>224,603</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	4,447	-	-	4,447
<b>Re-amalgamation of OEF</b>	2,320	-	(2,320)	-
<b>Purchase of Birks Field</b>	(1,569)	1,569		-
<b>Transfer to Project Fund</b>	(5,000)	-	-	(5,000)
<b>Balance at 30 Nov 2016</b>	<b>17,276</b>	<b>206,774</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>224,050</b>

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