

APPENDIX 1

Dronley Community Woodland SCIO SC047582

Annual Report & Accounts
Period: 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025



APPENDIX 1



Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	1	Jan	2025	To	1	Dec	2025

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Dronley Community Woodland SCIO		
Other names charity is known by	DCW		
Registered charity number	SC047582		
Charity's principal address	Scotston Farm		
	Auchterhouse		
	Angus		
	Postcode DD3 0QT		

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Baird, Diarmid	Treasurer		DCW membership
2	Gilmour, Daniel	Chair		DCW membership
3	Ewing, Sandra			DCW membership
4	Grewar, Lorna			DCW membership
5	Marshall, Rait			DCW membership
6	Stewart, Roderick			DCW membership
7	Tuddenham, Gillian			DCW membership
8	Wilson, Ian			DCW membership
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Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered on 14 July 2017. It has a 2 tier structure following Scottish Government Model for CATS.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Trustees are nominated and appointed at the annual general meeting.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

The advancement of environmental protection and improvement.

To manage and improve Dronley Community Woodland for the benefit of the “Community” and wildlife through the promotion of the principles of sustainable development of Scotland’s natural environment including social and economic development.

The advancement of education.

To inspire and educate the “Community” about the biodiversity and protected species of the woodland. To facilitate and encourage the use of Dronley Community Woodland for educational purposes, including raising awareness of the environment, culture and history of the woodland.

The advancement of citizenship and community development.

To promote the development and civic amenity of the “Community” by providing workspace and land to encourage skills development, training and employment opportunities.

The provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities with the object of improving the quality of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended.

To provide and facilitate greater opportunities for recreational activities (both individual or group) which aim to contribute to the physical mental and social health of the “Community” and other users of Dronley Community Woodland.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The main activities were:

1. Maintaining a safe woodland for all users
2. Clearing damage area of windblown trees.
3. Surveying the wood and marking trees for thinning.
4. Planting about 1,000 trees
5. Carrying out the felling of trees (from thinning) and extracting them to the stacks at the forest road.
6. Working with local Schools: visits from Auchterhouse Primary School to Dronley Wood during the last year

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Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

Over the last year we have continued to manage and improve Dronley Community Woodland for the benefit of the Community. We have made good progress towards our charitable objectives as outlined below:

- Advancement of environmental protection and improvement – through the application of Continuous Cover forestry approach
- Advancement of education - through the engagement of Auchterhouse Primary School
- Advancement of citizenship and community development – through the creation of work parties, chainsaw training and local employment
- Provision of recreation facilities – through the construction and maintenance of the All-abilities path and shelter

Continuous Cover Management: Storm Eowyn (January 2025) caused damage in several parts of Dronley Wood with damage to approximately 0.4 ha in the western part. We have also had pockets of damage from other storms throughout the year. We continue to clear the windblown timber, replant the area and use the opportunity to turn the devastation left by storms to restructure the woods. The storm damage has highlighted the importance of developing our existing stands into multi-layered, mixed stands, by encouraging natural regeneration, underplanting or direct seeding.

Volunteer Days: During the last year, we have organised over 40 volunteer days and education days to help us transform Dronley wood. Our small group of very committed volunteers helped us enormously. Volunteers have protected more than 3200 planted trees from browsing damage by setting up tree shelters and planted approximately 1000 trees, including Oak, Sweet Chestnut, Red Oak, Silver Birch, and Sycamore, in areas damaged by recent storms. Angus Rural Partnerships support also enabled us to purchase an additional 800 trees and tree shelters, which we will use during the next planting season.

Woodland Assistant: has been working with carrying out practical woodland management work like tree planting and weeding and helps the manager during surveys, volunteer days, events and education visits. They have become an essential part of our woodland management at Dronley Wood and is very popular with our volunteers and schools.

Community Engagement Officer: has been working as a part-time Community Engagement Officer funded by Angus Rural Partnership. The funding allowed us to increase our community engagement and education work at Dronley Wood and purchase tools and materials to offer longer educational visits to schools.

Apprentices: During the community engagement project, we also involved a group of forestry apprentices from the Forestry Commission Saxony-Anhalt (Germany) who spent one month with us at Dronley Wood. The 3 apprentices stayed at Scotston Farm and contributed enormously during our volunteer days and helped with site preparation and tree planting.

Working with local Schools: We organized several school visits from Auchterhouse Primary School to Dronley Wood during the last year. Each school visit focused on a different topic, such as tree identification, squirrels, and selective browsing by roe deer. We also organized a woodland education event at Dronley Wood (Woodland Fund Day 8th of March). We had a pupil from Monifieth High School at Dronley Wood as a work placement (1 day a week between the End of February and mid-May). **Outreach:** several site visits, guided walks and outreach activities; Forest Policy Group Conference; iTree Conference; Scottish School for Forestry; Community Woods Association; Scottish Wildlife Trust; Ministerial Visit from the Minister of the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts of the State Baden-Württemberg (Germany) at the Glasgow School of Art .

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Policy on reserves: Agreed by Trustees to maintain a reserve of £10,000.

Details of any deficit

There were no deficit

Donated facilities and services (if any)

Scotston Farm have made a tractor and trailer available for moving cut logs.

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Other optional information

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s) D Gilmour

Full name(s) Daniel Gilmour

Position (e.g. Chair) Chair

Date 20/06/26

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