

# Scottish Land Fund

Ionmhas Fearainn Na H-Alba

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## Scottish Land Fund spreads festive cheer amongst North East communities

***£441,322 for projects on Deeside and Moray***

**Two North East community ownership projects will today start their Christmas celebrations early with grants from The Scottish Land Fund.**

**Deeside Bike Collective** in Banchory has been awarded **£109,582** to buy 31.4 acres of Corse Wood in order to provide community and recreational facilities for walking and mountain biking.

Jamie Ritchie, Trustee and Funding Lead, Deeside Bike Collective, said: "This is fantastic news for our group and the community of Banchory, we are so pleased to receive this award. Deeside Bike Collective has been working on the Banchory Woodland Trails project for over seven years now and it's great to see us achieve this major milestone allowing purchase of the land. We'd like to thank SLF for the significant contribution they are making and we believe we can make a real benefit to the community of Banchory through our Woodland Trails Project"

And **Finderne Development Trust** has received **£331,740** to purchase 3.6 acres of farm land in Rafford in order to provide space for 10 affordable homes and two self-build plots, as part of an integrated project that will include co-working, allotments and a community orchard and retail space for local produce.

Brian Higgs, Chair, Finderne Development Trust, said: "We still have a very long way to go to achieve our ambition of developing some much needed affordable houses for our community, but the support of the Scottish Land Fund is a critically important step in that journey. This next year is going to be very busy year in relation to the Brockloch proposal and this wonderful news gives us the very best of starts"

The grants are amongst 12 totalling **£2,754,897** that have been made to groups across Scotland in the current round of funding from the Scottish Land Fund. The programme is delivered in partnership by National Lottery Fund and HIE.

**Minister for Environment and Land Reform Mairi McAllan said:** "It's great to see such a diverse range of projects benefit from the support of the Scottish Land Fund. Thanks to this fund, communities all across Scotland are taking ownership of the land and buildings that matter to them.

"These grants are a vote of confidence in the future of communities, and the projects they undertake. They are also a tribute to the hard work and resilience of the many people who have given up their time for the common good. I look forward to seeing these projects flourish."

**Cara Gillespie, Scottish Land Fund Committee Chair** said: "From places where people can come together, space to get outdoors and vital facilities such as shops and land for affordable housing, the Scottish Land Fund is once again giving local groups the resources they need in order to strengthen their own communities."

**Sandra Holmes, Head of Community Assets at HIE,** said: "These diverse projects are all fantastic examples of people taking control of local resources for the long-term benefit of communities.

"For example, by purchasing the old school house, Northton Heritage Trust, one of the groups receiving a grant, will be able to extend its visitor centre and develop an educational centre and in Stronsay, the development trust, which has also received funding, will be able to acquire a hotel and transform it into a social hub.

"Ownership will give communities greater control over important assets that will reap rewards for people now and for generations to come. We wish all the successful groups the very best in their new ventures."

Other groups in Scotland receiving funding today are:

**West Fife Community Trading Ltd**

**Award - £504,500**

The Trust will purchase The Red Lion Inn situated in the conservation village of Culross, Fife. The historic 'B-listed' Inn is the last pub in the village and has for many years been an important social and meeting place for local residents, a source of local employment and training opportunities, and an important attraction for visitors to the village.

**Woolfords, Auchengray and Tarbrax Improvement Foundation**

**Award - £454,400**

This group will purchase the farmhouse, outbuildings and some 24 acres of Loanhead, a former farm, situated near the village of Tarbrax in South Lanarkshire. Ownership will provide space for the development of a shop and café, community workshop, camping

pods, community growing projects, and commercial activities such as indoor/outdoor markets and other events.

### **Dollar Community Development Trust**

**Award - £287,150**

DCDT will purchase the Hive building in Dollar and continue to operate it as a community hub.

### **Glengarry Community Woodlands**

**Award - £197,019**

With its award, GCW will purchase 117 acres of Lower Ardoch Forest near Invergarry in order to create innovative woodland crofts and provide amenity space for the community.

### **Loch Ewe Community Enterprise Ltd**

**Award - £232,118**

This group will purchase Poolewe's only shop in order to safeguard access to food and essential facilities, including a Post Office. The two-bedroom flat about the shop will provide affordable accommodation.

### **Northton Heritage Trust**

**Award - £239,000**

NHT will purchase The Old School House and three areas of land at Northton on the Isle of Harris to allow them to extend the Seallam! Visitor Centre and car park and develop an educational centre with accommodation for researchers studying the genealogical records that are held at the site.

### **Stronsay Development Trust**

**Award - £233,878**

The Trust will acquire The Stronsay Hotel in order to secure its future as a social hub that also contributes towards employment and sustainability on the island.

### **Barr Community Shop and Café Ltd**

**Award - £44,430**

This group will purchase the shop and café at the heart of the village of Barr in South Ayrshire to secure the future of this only shop in the parish, which also acts as a focal point for the community.

### **Shapinsay Development Trust**

**Award - £72,000**

The trust will purchase the Smiddy Café and Heritage Centre situated in the village of Balfour on the Isle of Shapinsay, Orkney in order to renovate and upgrade the building and reinstate the café facility, creating new job opportunities and improving facilities for the islanders and tourists.

### **Shieldaig Community Association**

**Award - £49,800**

Shieldaig Community Association will purchase the local Shieldaig Village Hall in order to keep it functioning as community facility for social celebrations, playgroups, fitness classes, school plays and musical events.

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**For more information on this release please contact**

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**Notes to Editors**

- The Scottish Land Fund reopened to applications in April 2016. The programme is funded by the Scottish Government and delivered in partnership by the National Lottery Community Fund and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, both of which have extensive experience of helping communities to acquire and develop their assets for over a decade.
  - The SLF Committee was appointed following the normal procedures for public appointments.
  - The National Lottery Community Fund distributes lottery funding to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK. It also uses its expertise in grant-giving to distribute non-Lottery funding. Full details of the National Lottery Community Fund programmes and grant awards are available on the website: [www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk](http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk). National Lottery Community Fund Public Enquiries Line call: 0300 123 7110
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) delivers the Scottish Government Economic Strategy across more than half of Scotland - from Shetland to Argyll and from the Hebrides to Moray. It aims to support businesses and social enterprises; strengthen communities and fragile areas; develop key sectors, and create the conditions for a competitive and low carbon region. HIE has an annual budget of more than £75m and employs around 300 people in locations around the Highlands and Islands. See more at [www.hie.co.uk](http://www.hie.co.uk)

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