

THE LAGGAN FOREST TRUST

Report of the Trustees
For The Year Ended 30th September 2025

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

Objectives and aims

The purpose of the Charity is unaltered since the prior report with the objects, originally crafted at inception of the Charity in 1998, expanded in 2017, to reflect the opportunities that members continue to believe are essential for the future of the Trust. The objects are as follows:

To advance environmental protection or improvement, including:

- a) preservation, sustainable development and conservation of the natural environment and any related archaeological heritage
- b) maintenance, improvement or provision of environmental amenities, for the Community and the public.
- ii) To advance citizenship or community development, including rural re-generation.
- iii) To provide (or advance the accessibility of) recreational facilities; and/or organise recreational activities available to members of the Community and the public, with the object of improving the conditions of life for said Community and public.

Significant activities

In conjunction with various Scottish Government agencies (CNPA, FLS, HIE, SportScotland and DMBinS) we continue to maintain and develop interpretative sites and organise relevant recreational activities for the benefit of the Community and wider public. In addition, we foster and develop community participation in woodlands in the geographical region of Laggan, for benefit of the wider public and to enable the fulfilment of the 2022 Laggan Community Action Plan, where relevant to the Trust's objects. A review of our longer-term strategic priorities was undertaken in the year, with key priorities being determined as - the need to develop resilient income streams from current (and future) assets, diversifying the Trust's asset base and sourcing other potential income streams as they become available. Some of the specific activities to enable such income streams could logically be enacted via our subsidiary Trading company.

THE LAGGAN FOREST TRUST

Report of the Trustees
For The Year Ended 30th September 2025

Achievements and performance

Charitable activities

The Trust's finances continue to be supported by a series of donations and grants throughout the year and the board continues to take a pragmatic view with respect to holding modest and appropriate contingency reserves at its year-end. The Trust continues to employ a full-time member of staff with this role also allowing our subsidiary trading company to employ a number of full and part-time staff in the Laggan Wolftrax Visitor Centre Bike Shop and café. Our activities continued to develop the Forest Centre and existing trails as well as protecting our existing land assets, which benefit the community. Numerous MTB cycle coaching programmes for school children in the South Badenoch area have been facilitated along with mountain biking races for all ages. We continue to acknowledge and thank the various key Partners who continue to work with us and support our activities.

Activities over the past year

Our charitable aims i.e. the understanding and promotion of the natural environment in the forest and trails and in promoting healthy activity, primarily walking and cycling, remained to the fore, although we did observe less visitors to the area - perhaps reflecting the general economic climate and the availability of visitor disposable income.

The success of the new Blue Mountain Bike Trail - itself a project managed by the Trust in collaboration with FLS and Sport Scotland, continued to be highly regarded by visitors to the area. Following on such success, a recent project upgraded the Green Mountain Bike Trail, providing a more inclusive facility for beginners and capable of accommodating adaptive bikes.

The Paths Connectivity feasibility study to explore how to connect the various path and trail networks throughout Laggan, was re-briefed and remains one of the Community Action Plan projects agreed to be undertaken by the Trust.

The Trust continues to explore alternative uses of our existing land and assets - this has included agreement in principle to grant a deed of servitude to all the residents of the local Strathmashie cottages for rights to a bore hole water supply situated on Trust land - such a deed provides no specific benefit to the Trust but seeks to protect and grant appropriate water rights in perpetuity to all residents of these former Forestry cottages. We continue to engage with FLS on their future management of the Strathmashie Forest estate and their next 10-year Forest plan has been delayed until Spring of 2026. Along with the local Community Council, the Trust also fed back its concerns to SSEN, which has been consulting on the installation of a very large substation very close to the Trail centre. This development has the potential to be disruptive to the activities of the Trust in the medium term.

Conclusion

We remain grateful to our staff, volunteers, trustee directors and funders for their support of the Trust and trust that all our members and the Laggan Community will continue to support our aims in the future. The Trust will continue to explore how it can expand the understanding of our natural forest environment with additional facilities for children and families around the Centre.

Financial review

Reserves policy

Reserve policy to date was largely concerned with the earlier acquisition and development of the Forest Centre and has been updated to reflect our responsibilities to Staff and our future development activities. This will be overseen and considered by our Board at our regular meetings. The Trust is presently reliant on charitable donations, and has a positive reserve balance on hand, and we do recognise the need to continue active fund raising.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The charity is controlled by a governing document, a revised set of Articles of Association approved at an EGM of the Trust in December 2017. The Charity remains a company limited by guarantee with charitable status under the jurisdiction of both the Companies Act of 2006 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act of 2005. The Articles now state that the board of directors should consist of not less than 5 persons, and no more than 12, the majority of whom must be Trust members and reside in the geographically defined area of Laggan. It also states that the minimum number of members will be 20.

THE LAGGAN FOREST TRUST

Report of the Trustees
For The Year Ended 30th September 2025

Structure, governance and management

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The revised Articles specify 2 categories of Director - member directors and co-opted (non-member) directors and those are appointed at the Annual General Meeting. A director who retires from office will be eligible for re-election provided they meet the appropriate membership criteria. Election is by vote of the members who may be present in person or by proxy at the AGM, with each member having one vote for each vacancy on the board.

Reference and administrative details

Registered Company number

SC189325 (Scotland)

Registered Charity number

SC029029

Registered office

Forestry Office
Strathmashie
Laggan
Inverness-shire
PH20 1BU

Trustees

C S Morgan
M J Sharp (resigned 2.6.25)
P Gallagher (appointed 3.6.25)
D L Narro
D F Cowan
J M Griffiths

Independent Examiner

Lorna Drummond FCCA
Goldwells
15-17 High Street
Kingussie
Inverness-Shire
PH21 1HS

15/06/2026

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

Donald Cowan

.....
D F Cowan - Trustee