

Crown Estate Scotland

# BULLETIN

Autumn/Winter 2019-20

**Board visits Fochabers**

**'Root-and-branch'  
review of Aquaculture**

**Local management  
moves a step closer**



**Crown Estate  
Scotland**

Oighreachd a' Chrùin Alba

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Simon Hodge (centre)

## Foreword

SIMON HODGE  
Chief Executive, Crown Estate Scotland

The Bulletin is traditionally a chance for you to hear from us, but in this issue I hope to turn the tables a little, as we want to hear from you.

If you opened these pages expecting a range of news and profiles from across the Scottish Crown Estate, don't worry – you won't be disappointed. From local management to offshore wind to tenant farming, the following stories offer a glimpse into our latest work with tenants and partners.

But before you get to those, I'd like to invite you to take part in a really important exercise that will shape what our organisation does over the next three years: the consultation on our draft 2020-23 Corporate Plan.

The draft Corporate Plan sets out our proposals for how we will invest in property, natural resources and people over the coming three years to generate lasting value for Scotland. It covers sectors such as marine tourism, ports & harbours, offshore renewables, farming, forestry and aquaculture. You can find the document, and

a set of questions about it, at <https://consult.gov.scot/crown-estate-strategy-unit/2020-23-corporate-plan>. Responses can be received up to 25 November.

Now, we need to listen to the wide range of people and organisations who have a stake in what we do and how we do it.

The most important part of our planning is not the creation of the first draft: it's the dialogue we have with you and others, which helps us see how our proposals can be improved and reshaped to deliver more for our tenants and for Scotland as a whole.

I hope you can spare a few minutes to take part in this consultation – just as I hope that you'll enjoy the range of stories in the pages that follow.

Finally, as ever, we are keen to hear your comments, questions and queries on any aspect of our work. Our contact details are on the back cover.



## Local family are new entrants at Applegirth's New Farm

**A** local couple have been chosen to take over a 242 acre farm on the Applegirth Estate in Dumfries & Galloway. Andrew and Suzanne Jardine have signed a ten-year lease following a rigorous tendering process with a number of high calibre applicants.

in agriculture, including previous roles for Andrew as Assistant Farm Manager at Barony College and a contractor for local farmers.

Andrew Wells, Director of Property at Crown Estate Scotland said: "We were hugely impressed by the application from the Jardine family, largely because they presented a clear and robust business strategy while they will also be bringing a young family to New Farm."

**"The Jardine family presented a clear and robust business strategy"**

Andrew Jardine said: "Coming from a local farming family, this tenancy is a fantastic opportunity for our family to find both a home and a farm business to manage and grow."



While the Jardines are new entrants to the tenant farming sector, they bring a wealth of experience



# Glenlivet grassland management event draws crowds

**M**ore than 80 farmers and vets attended an August event focused on maximising production in upland livestock.

The event, run by the Moredun Foundation and Crown Estate Scotland, was also attended by Richard Lochhead MSP.



GrassMaster Charlie Morgan delivered convincing evidence that by concentrating on getting the most from grass, livestock farmers can finish lambs and calves much more efficiently.

Workshops on two endemic diseases of sheep, roundworm and lameness, were also delivered before the day was rounded off with a barbecue featuring beef and lamb from local livestock producers, supplied by Cairngorm Butchers.



Ian Duncan Millar, Chair of the Moredun Foundation and livestock farmer, said, “The importance of these events to livestock farmers cannot be underestimated, where experts in fields critical to our efficiency are available to discuss with farmers how they can improve their profit margins.”

## Get involved

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Moredun Foundation, you can sign up by visiting [portal.moredun.org.uk/user/register](https://portal.moredun.org.uk/user/register) and completing the registration process.





## Introducing our new Forestry Intern

Daniela Thiele recently joined our team for a 12-month placement to help launch her forestry career.

### **When and how did you first become interested in forestry?**

I studied environmental sciences, and forestry kept cropping up (excuse the pun) as an integral carbon lock and natural resource especially for Scotland. As Scottish Government increasingly focussed on improving forestry, I became convinced it was the right time to get involved.

### **What made you decide to apply for this post?**

I wanted a role where I would be able to experience everything forestry had to offer, and this one stood out. It gives me the opportunity learn about forestry management and take a hands-on approach to everyday activities on an estate.

### **What is it like to work here?**

Being surrounded by beautiful landscapes and bustling wildlife, it hardly feels like work at all! Each day is different, and I was pleasantly surprised at just how quickly I felt part of the team here at Glenlivet Estate.



**"Being surrounded by beautiful landscapes and wildlife, it hardly feels like work..."**

### **Have you learned any good forestry jokes yet?**

Did you know I can cut down a dead tree just by looking at it? It's true, I saw it with my own eyes.

Daniela will be working with us until Spring 2020, so be sure to say 'Hi' if you meet her out on the estate.

# Agreement on local fishing rights

**A**n agreement has been struck to maintain access for local anglers to one of Scotland's most important salmon fishing locations.

The river section of the Tweed near Peebles was, until recently, managed by Borders Council under an agreement from Crown Estate Scotland. The new deal will see Peebles Salmon Anglers Club lease the same stretch of river, ensuring that local anglers can continue to enjoy access.

Fiona Simpson, Asset Manager for Crown Estate Scotland, said: "We're delighted to have reached agreement with Peebles Salmon Anglers Club. This new lease will ensure that local anglers are able to continue fishing on a river which is a world-renowned location for salmon fishing."

**"Angling clubs and associations play an important role in communities across Scotland, including making a valuable contribution to the local economy."**

Kenny Annand, from the Peebles Salmon Anglers Club, said: "Hopefully this will secure the future of local salmon angling long into the future."





## Major forestry work at Glenlivet Estate

**A** large-scale forestry project is in progress on the Glenlivet Estate, which aims to clear a wide area of non-native conifer trees then replant it with native trees better suited to the local environment and landscape.



Over 5,000 tonnes of timber has already been felled, with the bulk of it going to sustainable local businesses – such as Estover Energy's Renewable Energy Plant at Craigellachie, Moray, which uses wood chips to generate electricity – and to local sawmills for a variety of uses.

Several local businesses have been engaged in the project, including timber harvesting contractors, hauliers and more.

Nick Page, Forestry Manager for Crown Estate Scotland, said: "This is a major project, which has seen us call on the expertise of several local contractors and businesses to help clear the space for new planting, and the timber produced will be used to support local sustainable businesses. Under our long-term plan, only native trees – which are more suitable for these surroundings – will be planted here."



# 'Best of Fochabers' on show as Board tour estate

Crown Estate Scotland's Board enjoyed several opportunities to meet our tenants face-to-face during a recent trip to the Fochabers Estate.

**A**fter sharing lunch with tenants at Baxters Highland Village, Board members toured a range of key sites on the estate including the Women's Land Army memorial at Clochan; the Scottish Dolphin Centre; Spey Bay Golf Club; Lower Mill of Tynet Farm; and Byres Farm.

Fiona Simpson, Rural Asset Manager for Crown Estate Scotland, said: "There's a huge amount of passion and innovative thinking at work on this estate. We heard in our conversations at lunch, and then saw it in action around the estate. From egg-vending machines and farm tours for children, to the remarkable wildlife and seascapes at Spey Bay, this day gave our Board the chance to see the best of Fochabers."

The Fochabers visit was the latest in a programme of Board tours around the four rural estates.



**"There's a huge amount of passion and innovative thinking at work on this estate."**



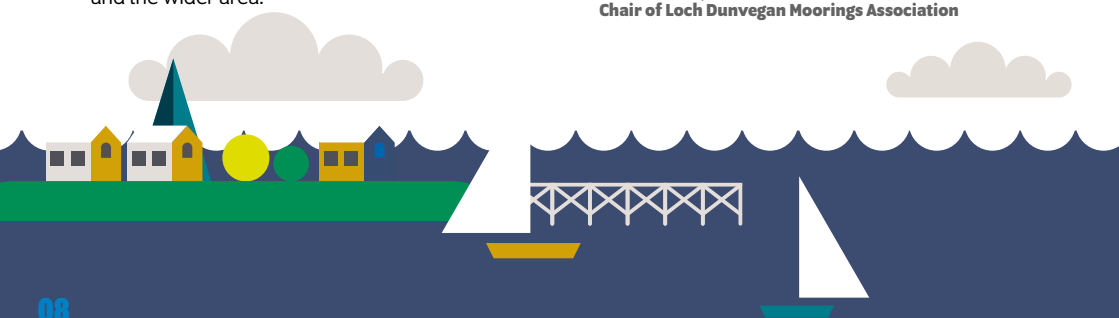
## Skye community to benefit from new pontoons

**N**ew pontoons for public use have been installed in the village of Dunvegan, on the Isle of Skye. The pontoons were installed by the Dunvegan Mooring Association, with support from Crown Estate Scotland, as part of a development programme to attract and retain visiting sailors.

Dunvegan Moorings Association is one of 125 mooring groups and associations managing areas of seabed under agreement from Crown Estate Scotland. This type of local management often acts as a catalyst for projects such as Dunvegan, which will benefit local & visiting sailors, local businesses and the wider area.

**"Marine tourism is very important to the economy of coastal communities and we in Dunvegan are very grateful for the assistance and overall support we've received from Crown Estate Scotland on this project."**

**Iain Houston,**  
Chair of Loch Dunvegan Moorings Association



# Root and branch review of aquaculture leasing in Scotland

A comprehensive ‘root and branch’ review of how Scotland’s seabed is leased for aquaculture will aim to promote sustainable development and wider value.

**A**s the body responsible for the leasing of Scotland’s seabed and around half the foreshore, Crown Estate Scotland currently leases around 750 sites for finfish and shellfish farming.

The review is part of a wider examination of Crown Estate Scotland’s approach to aquaculture and aligns with The Scottish Crown Estate Act 2019, which puts sustainable development at the heart of how Crown assets are managed in Scotland.

The review will be informed by recommendations from an expert panel, working alongside Crown Estate Scotland staff, regarding the setting of rents and granting of leases & licenses moving forward. It is anticipated that industry representatives will be given the opportunity to feed into the panel’s work.

Alex Adrian, Aquaculture Operations Manager at Crown Estate Scotland, said: “This review is essential to ensure that we are keeping up with the pace of an ever-changing sector. Aquaculture businesses sustain jobs in some fragile, remote communities and have wider interactions with the environment.

“We want to ensure that we are signing up to not just the letter but also the spirit of the new legislation that sets out our role, including ensuring sustainable development is the guiding principle for our activities.”

Recommendations are expected to be implemented in January 2022.





# Scotland moves closer to new offshore wind leasing

**O**ur team continue to prepare for a new pipeline of commercial-scale offshore wind farms with details of leasing now available so that developers can start working on project proposals.

The new round of leasing, called 'ScotWind', aims to encourage the next generation of offshore wind farms.

In the summer, developers were provided with detailed draft documents to help them prepare ahead of the final launch, and were invited to share their feedback to help Crown Estate Scotland refine the scheme before it goes live.

John Robertson, Head of Energy & Infrastructure for Crown Estate Scotland, said: "This marks an

important step towards an offshore wind leasing process which will attract investment to Scotland, help reduce climate change emissions and enable wider socio-economic benefits for communities."

**ScotWind aims to encourage a new generation of offshore wind projects which will attract investment and help reduce emissions**

ScotWind Leasing will launch after the publication of Marine Scotland's draft Sectoral Marine Plan, expected by the end of 2019.





## Beatrice breaks records as final turbines start operating

Beatrice off the Caithness coast is Scotland's largest operational wind farm.

**N**ew research commissioned by the wind farm's owners, and carried out by BiGGAR Economics, suggests that it will contribute £2.4 billion to the UK economy over its projected 25-year operational lifetime – with £1.05 billion of that benefit expected to be in Scotland.

Colin Palmer, Director of Marine for Crown Estate Scotland, said: "Beatrice's move to full operation marks the culmination of a 10 year process, during which the facility's owners have consistently innovated and pushed the

boundaries of available technology to deliver one of the world's largest offshore wind farms."

**"We hope to see even more projects delivering benefits for communities being developed in Scotland's waters over the coming decades."**

Colin Palmer,  
Director of Marine, Crown Estate Scotland

# Local management of Scottish Crown Estate moves a step closer

Local organisations seeking to manage land and seabed have now stepped into the final stages of a scheme designed to give communities more say on what happens in their area.

Crown Estate Scotland launched the Local Management Pilots Scheme in 2018 to create opportunities for communities to get more involved in managing parts of the Scottish Crown Estate. It is part of a wider step-change in how the Estate is managed, ensuring communities and local authorities have more say and influence.

The four projects moving forward in the scheme are from:

- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar & Galson Estate Trust (joint proposal)
- Forth District Salmon Fishery Board
- Orkney Islands Council
- Shetland Islands Council

Land Reform Secretary Roseanna Cunningham MSP said: “The geographical breadth of the projects under consideration shows the reach and importance of these reforms and I look forward to seeing these proposals develop in the months ahead.”



## WHAT IS THE LOCAL MANAGEMENT PILOTS SCHEME?

To encourage local authorities, development trusts and other eligible bodies to manage Scottish Crown Estate land and property rights in their area.

## WHY DOES IT EXIST?

To test how different forms of local management might work – and decide what kind of support we should provide.

## WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR?

13

initial applications were received

4

are now progressing in the scheme

6

of the remaining initial applications are being discussed with Crown Estate Scotland



# Q&A with our Partnerships Manager (Tom Mallows)

## **How long have you worked with Crown Estate Scotland, and what did you do prior to joining?**

Including my time in The Crown Estate prior to Crown Estate Scotland being established, 10 years. Before that I farmed oysters on the west coast and later trained as a marine ecologist. Eventually my career brought me here, via several jobs in project development, and my remit developed until I had the chance to take on this role.

## **What does your role cover?**

I'm responsible for supporting development of, and then assessing applications by, 'communities' who want to get more involved in managing of parts of the Scottish Crown Estate. Currently, that involves implementing our Pilots Scheme (see p12) which is designed to test how different forms of local management work.

That includes coordinating activity with colleagues in finance, GIS and asset management to ensure our processes are ready, while making sure our overall responsibilities relating to managing the Estate can still be delivered.

## **What kind of things are you involved in on a day-to-day basis?**

A really wide variety! I talk to applicants and colleagues about how we will deliver the pilot projects in practice; I work with our specialist suppliers and professional advisors to get the advice and contractual support we need; and I keep both our Board and a huge range of political, industry and tenant stakeholders updated on our progress with briefing papers, meetings and engagement events. In between all this, I'm thinking about solutions for any problems which crop up along the way.

## **What are the most exciting things on your horizon?**

I'm really motivated by the prospect of finding genuinely new ways to involve communities - in the broadest sense of the word - with management of the Estate. Our Crown Estate Scotland team may be small, but they have a never-ending supply of new ideas and expertise that can help solve problems along the way!

## **What's the best thing about your job?**

It's always changing; it covers intellectual and geographical areas that are interesting and important to me; and it lets me work alongside very smart individuals who share similar values. Having been born into a relatively remote and small coastal community, it means a lot that my work today can make a positive difference to people living in similar places.



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