

**Crown Estate Scotland**

# BULLETIN

**Spring/Summer 2020**



**Forest School**

**Coastal tenant survey**

**Natural Capital trial**



**Crown Estate  
Scotland**

Oighreachd a' Chrùin Alba

# CONTENTS

Foreword	01
Natural Capital trial opens new opportunities for dairy	02
New orange route at Glenlivet Bike Trails	03
Whitehill hosts Forest School	04
Feedback from coastal tenants helps set agenda	08
'Critical mass' study shows path for shellfish sector growth	10
Seaweed study to go ahead in Argyll and Bute	11
Unique device comes to Scotland through offshore wind farm	12
Children have say on plans for Scotland's land, coast and seabed	14
Crown Estate Scotland prepares to launch three-year plan	15
New online video offers clear vision of Crown Estate Scotland	16
Q&A with our Aquaculture Planning & Engagement Manager (Anneli Hill)	17

Cover image: Iain Innes carries out restoration work at the Scaln Mills Heritage site.  
Credit: Grant Anderson



## Foreword

SIMON HODGE  
Chief Executive, Crown Estate Scotland

In Scotland's 2020 Year of Coasts and Waters (YCW2020), it feels natural to turn our attention toward the seas around our country – and the tremendous potential they have to help transform our lives.

Scotland has enjoyed themed years for tourism in the past, but it's difficult to think of one which touches more closely on Crown Estate Scotland's work than YCW2020.

As managers of almost half Scotland's foreshore, coastal communities are critically important to us. Two thirds of all our agreements are struck with coastal tenants, and we have seen first-hand how investment in these areas can bring transformative benefits. Later this year we will announce plans for supporting coastal communities, which will give people living on the coast more opportunity to improve and benefit from the natural resources on their doorsteps.

Further out from shore, we find the finfish and shellfish farms operated by our aquaculture tenants,

which are major contributors to the national economy, and even more so in economically fragile coastal areas. Even further offshore are the wind, wave and tidal power installations operated by our tenants, which are generating enough clean energy to power around a quarter of Scotland's households annually.

While YCW2020 is primarily aimed at drawing visitors to Scotland, it is worth remembering that the value of our oceans far outstrips what can be earned through tourism alone. In the coming years, the 'blue economy' developing in our seas may hold the keys to decarbonising our energy network, increasing food production, and bringing new prosperity to all the people who call Scotland their home. We are truly excited to be at the heart of it.



## Natural Capital trial opens new opportunities for dairy

The findings of a study designed to apply the world-leading Natural Capital Protocol (NCP) to the dairy sector have been published, following the completion of a trial on a farm on the Applegirth Estate in Dumfries and Galloway.

‘Natural capital’ can be defined as the world’s stocks of natural assets. These include food, water and the plants we use for fuel, building materials and medicines. This trial demonstrated how the ‘Protocol’ can be applied in a new way, assessing the health of the natural environment and helping agriculture build a sustainable future.

A farmer using the NCP can see how their different business decisions might affect the environment, and make more sustainable choices as a result. The Protocol also makes it easier for farmers to capture evidence of their positive impacts on the environment, which is critical to the process of securing additional funding from various bodies.

This trial proved that the NCP will work for dairy businesses, and generated a new set of recommendations on how it can be made even more useful to farmers.

**Through this trial I’ve become more aware of some of the knock-on effects of farm management and activities than I was in the past.**

David Taylor, Dairy Farmer

Andrew Wells, Crown Estate Scotland’s Director of Property, said: “Dairy farming is a hugely important industry, and one which is facing its own particular set of challenges. This trial showed that by better analysing the ‘capital’ that dairy farmers utilise, we can help inform how the industry can move forward over the coming years.”

### Find out more

[www.crownestatescotland.com/maps-and-publications/download/444](http://www.crownestatescotland.com/maps-and-publications/download/444)

## New orange route at Glenlivet Bike Trails

Work is underway to add a new and challenging ‘Orange’ route to the Glenlivet Bike Trails, in recognition of the growing popularity of ‘extreme’ mountain biking within the wider hobby.

The route created will not be for the faint-hearted, sporting a host of fast, exciting sections and jumps to cater for visitors seeking a more adrenalin-fuelled experience.

The brainchild of top trails designer Paul Masson, who designed the other trails at Glenlivet, it will be the first new orange route built in Scotland for many years and represents a £30,000 investment in the Estate’s facilities. The existing blue trail will also be routed through a new ‘pipe’ feature at a point where the new trail will pass overhead. All the trails will remain free to ride.

Simon Ovenden, Glenlivet Estate Countryside Manager, said: “This development will take our



trails to the next level and, alongside the skills area which opened in 2018, should help attract an even wider section of the mountain biking community to the Glenlivet Estate.”

### Find out more

[www.glenlivetestate.co.uk/outdoor-activities/mountain-biking](http://www.glenlivetestate.co.uk/outdoor-activities/mountain-biking)

## Glenlivet Bike Trails

### Key

- ..... blue route
- ..... new orange route





# Whitehill hosts Forest School

This winter, Edinburgh-based charity The Green Team took groups of pupils from the city's Tynecastle High School to visit our Whitehill Estate, as part of their 'Forest School' programme. We had the pleasure of joining them one day to see how the programme benefits those who take part



Forest School focuses on giving young people the chance to learn new skills, building confidence and resilience in a supported outdoor environment.

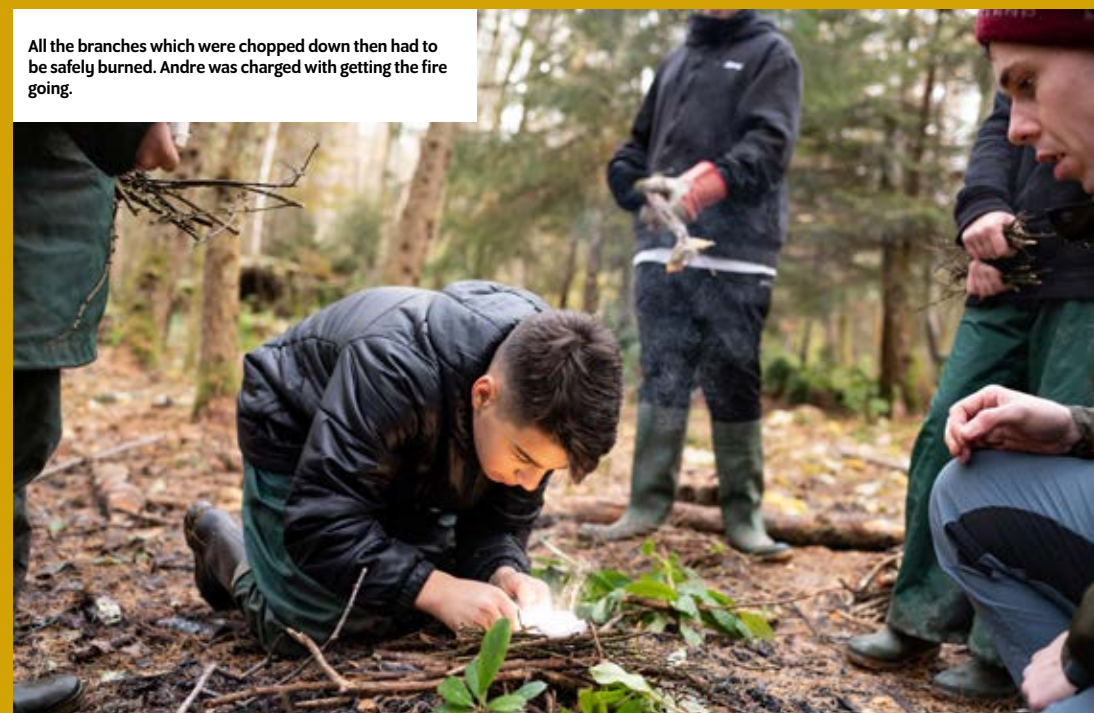


On this trip, the team started off by cutting back Rhododendron plants to make space for native species to flourish



Cody and Lee were clearly relishing the chance to get stuck into chopping up the Rhododendron branches!

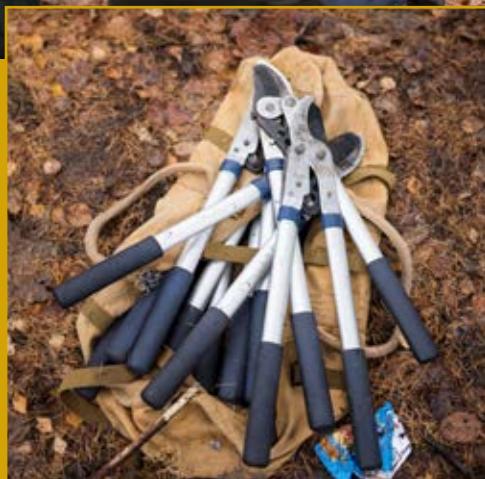
All the branches which were chopped down then had to be safely burned. Andre was charged with getting the fire going.







Once the Rhododendron had been safely taken care of, David from The Green Team taught Marshall, Cody, Andre, Lee, Keleigh and Lewis about knife safety, in preparation for some spear-whittling.



The young people picked up the skills quickly as they went on to demonstrate great, safe knife technique while forming points on their spears.



Later, after using some balloons for target practice with their spears, it was time for the group to enjoy some well-earned grub. Cody did the honours, cooking up some bacon over the fire.



As the day drew to a close, everyone gathered around the campfire to talk about the day's highlights and what they had learned.

### Find out more

To learn more about the great work undertaken by this charity, head over to [www.greenteam.org.uk](http://www.greenteam.org.uk)

## Feedback from coastal tenants helps set agenda

A recent survey of our coastal tenants has helped Crown Estate Scotland to measure and monitor their satisfaction in how we support them and their businesses.

**E**ncouragingly, the poll rated our performance, responsiveness, efficiency, communication, openness and understanding of tenant needs as improved since the previous survey in 2017, with those rating us a 7 or above for efficiency increasing by 13%.

All coastal tenants were invited to take part in the process with 285 responding. Highlights of their feedback included:

# 7/10

average rating, when asked about satisfaction with overall service

# 86%

approval of frequency of contact with Crown Estate Scotland

# 8.1/10

rating for how the mooring licensing scheme works

### On rent, tenants were



# 7.6/10

most positive about the ease of payment arrangements

# 5.4/10



least positive about their understanding of how their rents are set

Almost nine in ten respondents deal with our managing agents Bidwells on day to day issues. They were rated average scores of:

# 8/10

for professionalism

# 7.8/10

for clarity and openness

# 7.7/10

for communication

# 7.7/10

for responsiveness, efficiency

## Main priorities identified by tenants, to improve Crown Estate Scotland service



Keep tenants informed, more frequent communication



Work with / support / provide grants to local communities



Reduce / do not increase rents



Get to know tenants better / deliver to specific / local requirements

## Respondents also identified their priorities for marine and coastal development



Protection of the coastline / marine life / environment; managing / reducing salmon farming



Sustainable development



Access to the shoreline and



Supporting infrastructure and port development and support to local communities

Thanks to everyone who shared their views with us.

Our 2020-23 plan will set out our commitment to

- Launch a fund for local sustainable development projects (including environmental improvement, biodiversity etc);
- Enhance how we communicate and engage with tenants;
- Ensure children are given opportunities to visit and learn about the coastline; and
- Invest in sustainable marine business activity, including ports and offshore wind.

### Find out more

[www.crownestatescotland.com/maps-and-publications/download/447](http://www.crownestatescotland.com/maps-and-publications/download/447)



## ‘Critical mass’ study shows path for shellfish sector growth

It's hoped that the results of a pilot project aimed at supporting commercial-scale shellfish farming in Scotland will help the industry and Government work together to help realise the sector's potential.

The second phase of the Shellfish Critical Mass project, run by Crown Estate Scotland and the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers, sought to identify ways to support the development of the sector.

Key conclusions of the study, which focused on commercial-scale mussel farming in the wider Firth of Clyde and its sea-lochs, included the scale needed for sites to be commercially viable, the type of locations which could support sites, and some considerations in relation to consenting.

Alex Adrian, Aquaculture Operations Manager at Crown Estate Scotland, said: "This is an important piece of work which we hope will provide a blueprint for how the industry can grow and develop over the coming years. Shellfish can be

a real success story in Scotland and bring wider benefits to island and coastal communities."

Nick Lake, Chief Executive of the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers, said: "Scotland has real potential to develop its shellfish cultivation expertise and the Critical Mass Study indicates where opportunities lie for further developments."

### Shellfish can be a real success story in Scotland and bring wider benefits to island and coastal communities.

Alex Adrian, Aquaculture Operations Manager

#### Find out more

[www.crownestatescotland.com/maps-and-publications/download/427](http://www.crownestatescotland.com/maps-and-publications/download/427)



## Seaweed study to go ahead in Argyll and Bute

Crown Estate Scotland will partner with Argyll and Bute council later this year to commission an economic feasibility study into seaweed farming and supply in the area.

The seaweed industry is in its early stages in Scotland, and as the market develops it is expected that competition will drive down prices. While larger companies are expected to be able to weather this commercial pressure, the study will investigate whether smaller organisations like community-based farms will also be able to compete.

Alex Adrian, Aquaculture Operations Manager, said: "Seaweed farming has the potential to bring real benefits to communities in this and similar areas, but they can only be realised if community farms can find ways to become consistently profitable.

"This research will conduct a detailed test of a prospective business plan for such a farm, considering the processes and partnerships that would be involved, the current demand in the market place, and the levels of pricing and production volume which would be required to deliver consistent profits – all alongside the regulatory and legal aspects which a business would need to account for."

It is hoped that the study, which is expected to take between three and six months, will provide a suite of recommendations for community-based organisations which will help improve the long-term viability of their seaweed businesses.





## Unique device comes to Scotland through offshore wind farm

A one-of-a-kind machine made its way to Thorntonloch earlier this year to assist with essential survey work which will enable the Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) wind farm to be connected to the National Grid.

The Wavewalker stands on eight legs and, despite looking much like an oil rig (or similar static structures at sea), it can walk from the site of one survey to the next by 'stepping', four legs at a time. Each step covers four metres, and the Wavewalker can reach a speed of approximately 25 metres per hour.

The machine is crucial to the survey process which will enable cables to be placed between NnG and the mainland. It's capable of covering areas near to shore which are both too deep for land-based equipment to reach and too shallow for the huge ships which carry out deep-water surveys to access.

Data captured by the Wavewalker will be used in the coming months as the NnG team begin the process of laying cable connections to the wind farm's site in waters off the coast of Fife.



**Find out more**

[www.wavewalkerbv.com](http://www.wavewalkerbv.com)

Image credit: David Hogg





## Children have say on plans for Scotland's land, coast and seabed

**R**esearch into children and young people's ambitions for land, coastline and seabed management shows the environment, climate change and local communities as key themes.

The study by Children in Scotland, the national network working to improve children's lives, was carried out to ensure that the voices of children and young people are reflected in Crown Estate Scotland's plan for 2020-23.

Three in-depth classroom sessions were held with young people of varying ages, alongside an online survey aimed at 12-25 year olds. In total, the study reached over 100 children across 18 local authority areas.

### Highlights of the study included:

- Young people are very concerned about animal welfare, coastal pollution and litter
- They see the importance of jobs and tourism to coastal communities but feel these should be balanced with the need to protect the environment

### Younger generations will be the ones most affected by how we tackle climate change

Annie Breden, Head of Policy, Crown Estate Scotland

- Safe spaces for young people to spend their leisure time, and measures which support deprived areas are also seen as crucial

Annie Breden, Head of Policy for Crown Estate Scotland, said: "Younger generations will be the ones most affected by our work from generating clean energy to how we grow food to how we tackle climate change. It's vital that they are given the chance to inform our activity. Specific suggestions we will be implementing are keeping up our range of educational projects, continuing to help children access rural and coastal Scotland, and looking at how we can continue to help them shape our work."



Elaine Kerridge, Children in Scotland's Policy Manager, said: "Over the past year children and young people across Scotland have been leading the way in articulating the need for urgent action to protect the environment and halt climate change. In this light, we're delighted to have had the opportunity to work with a group of children and young people to support the development of the Crown Estate Scotland's corporate plan."

## Crown Estate Scotland prepares to launch three-year plan

**F**ollowing a consultation process in autumn 2019, Crown Estate Scotland will publish its 2020-23 Corporate Plan in April 2020.

The document will reflect the feedback on our draft plan gathered from 35 organisations and nine individuals during the consultation, and the outputs of our research into children and young people's views.

Respondents to the consultation were positive about the direction of the draft plan, particularly about our proposals on investment priorities and how the organisation will develop.

There was strong support for our increased focus on partnership working - which we plan to develop and build on.

A simplified version of the plan, clearer and easier for a general audience to read, would be welcomed by respondents. Feedback also encouraged us to highlight our contribution to creating a net zero emissions economy.

We have also assessed the plan's likely impact on the environment, Island communities, children's rights and well-being, and equalities. More detail on these assessments and how we have taken the findings into account, will be published on our website in early April.

Esther Black, Director of Corporate Operations, said: "We really appreciate people taking the time to comment on our proposals for 2020-23. On creating a net zero economy, biodiversity, community engagement and more, we want to ensure that what we do and how we do it delivers lasting value across Scotland. Thank you to everyone who has helped shape our plan."





## New online video offers clear vision of Crown Estate Scotland

**W**ith a wide range of activities, Crown Estate Scotland can be a difficult organisation to describe to those who don't know it.

A new 90-second video gives a simple, understandable overview of the work we do to the general public.

Using a mix of drone-shot footage and coverage of our teams at work, the film paints a picture of our broad engagement across urban, rural, coastal and marine settings.

Dave Shedden, Senior Corporate Affairs Manager, said: "We want to make it as easy as possible for people to get a sense of what our organisation does."

### This video aims to help people understand who we are and what we do

**David Shedden, Senior Corporate Affairs Manager  
Crown Estate Scotland**

"This video aims to help people understand who we are and what we do – and at the same time, enjoy some spectacular imagery of the landscapes we're fortunate enough to work with every day."

**You can view the film now at**  
[vimeo.com/374921799](https://vimeo.com/374921799)

## Q&A with our Aquaculture Planning & Engagement Manager (Anneli Hill)

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

I joined Crown Estate Scotland four months ago, in October 2019. Before that, I worked for the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and prior to SEPA a consultancy.

In SEPA I spent time as an Environment Protection Officer and a Local Authority Liaison Officer, then managed the Water Resource Team before moving into a project management role for the Science Directorate.

### What does your role cover?

My focus is on the sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry. My job involves stakeholder engagement to understand the barriers and potential solutions to sustainable aquaculture growth in Scotland for all types of aquaculture (finfish, shellfish & seaweed). I represent Crown Estate Scotland on various stakeholder groups, providing advice and data, working to identify opportunities and solutions to problems.

The information and knowledge I gain through stakeholder engagement helps to inform decisions on Crown Estate Scotland leasing for aquaculture. I support and work on a variety of collaborative projects in economic development, reducing marine litter, the aquaculture database and our local management pilots scheme.

### What does a typical week look like for you?

I can tell you what I did this week... but I'm afraid no two weeks are the same! I reviewed technical documents for a major project; met with Scottish Government and trade bodies to discuss future priorities for finfish farming, and SEPA to get an update of data needs for the aquaculture database; worked on new policy needed to implement corporate projects; helped check production return forms for finfish invoices; and

attended a range of meetings with colleagues in support of various projects including the local management pilots scheme and data management. It's a very varied brief.

### What's the most exciting thing on the horizon for you?

The Root & Branch Review of aquaculture is probably the biggest ongoing project for our entire team. It involves Crown Estate Scotland and an expert panel taking a detailed look at lease terms and mechanisms for aquaculture leases.

It's great to be involved with this from the start and work to develop solutions to encourage sustainable growth.

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

The aquaculture team, they're great!





## Head Office

6 Bells Brae  
Edinburgh  
EH4 3BJ

Tel: 0131 260 6070  
[enquiries@crownestatescotland.com](mailto:enquiries@crownestatescotland.com)

## Glenlivet

Main Street  
Tomintoul, Banffshire  
AB37 9EX

Tel: 01479 870 070  
[info@glenlivetestate.co.uk](mailto:info@glenlivetestate.co.uk)



@CrownEstateScot



[www.linkedin.com/company/crown-estate-scotland](https://www.linkedin.com/company/crown-estate-scotland)

[www.glenlivetestate.co.uk](http://www.glenlivetestate.co.uk)  
[www.crownestatescotland.com](http://www.crownestatescotland.com)

### JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

To receive occasional email updates on our work please email  
[media@crownestatescotland.com](mailto:media@crownestatescotland.com)