



CREATING THE  
TARRAS VALLEY  
NATURE  
RESERVE

COMMUNITY  
REGENERATION

CLIMATE ACTION

ECOLOGICAL  
RESTORATION

WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION

RESPONSIBLE  
OUTDOOR TOURISM

LANGHOLM MOOR  
COMMUNITY BUYOUT

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A LANGHOLM INITIATIVE PROJECT

Image donated by Laurie Campbell

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**A PROJECT  
OF VISION, A  
PROJECT OF  
HOPE WHEN  
WE NEED IT  
MOST AND  
ABOVE ALL...  
A PROJECT  
FOR OUR  
FUTURE**

- Kevin Cumming,  
Project Leader

# **LANGHOLM MOOR**

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**THE TARRAS WATER  
ESTATE**



## ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

The information in this prospectus is underpinned by a robust feasibility study, business plan and financial model as well as a separate feasibility study regarding renewable energy. We have also engaged with a large number of stakeholders.

It should be understood that community ownership and changes to the management of the land for the benefit of the local community and wider climate issues are long term projects.

To view the documents mentioned above please visit the Langholm Initiative website.  
[www.langholminitiative.org.uk](http://www.langholminitiative.org.uk)

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**"THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY ARE REALLY BOTH TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN. IF WE CANNOT SUSTAIN THE ENVIRONMENT, WE CANNOT SUSTAIN OURSELVES."**

- Wangari Maathai  
(Nobel Peace Prize Winner)

## Funding

In order for the purchase to happen the community will have to raise at least **£3.5m** from private donations and crowd funding.

## WHAT'S COVERED

Tarras Valley Nature Reserve

Hen Harrier Protection

Peatland Restoration

Ancient Woodland Regeneration

Tarras Water

Native Woodland Creation

Lodgegill Field Centre

Cooms Farm - Conservation Grazing

Broomholmshiels Farm

Renewable Energy

Rural Regeneration and Tourism

Langholm and The Land

Partnership Working

The Big Picture

# ONE OF THE MOST AMBITIOUS COMMUNITY PLANS OF A GENERATION

The people of Langholm will own nearly **10,500 acres** and protect this landscape for generations to come. The land will be managed to generate community benefits through economic regeneration, ecological restoration, carbon capture and increased biodiversity.

With your help we will regenerate a rural community that has seen so much heartache in recent years.

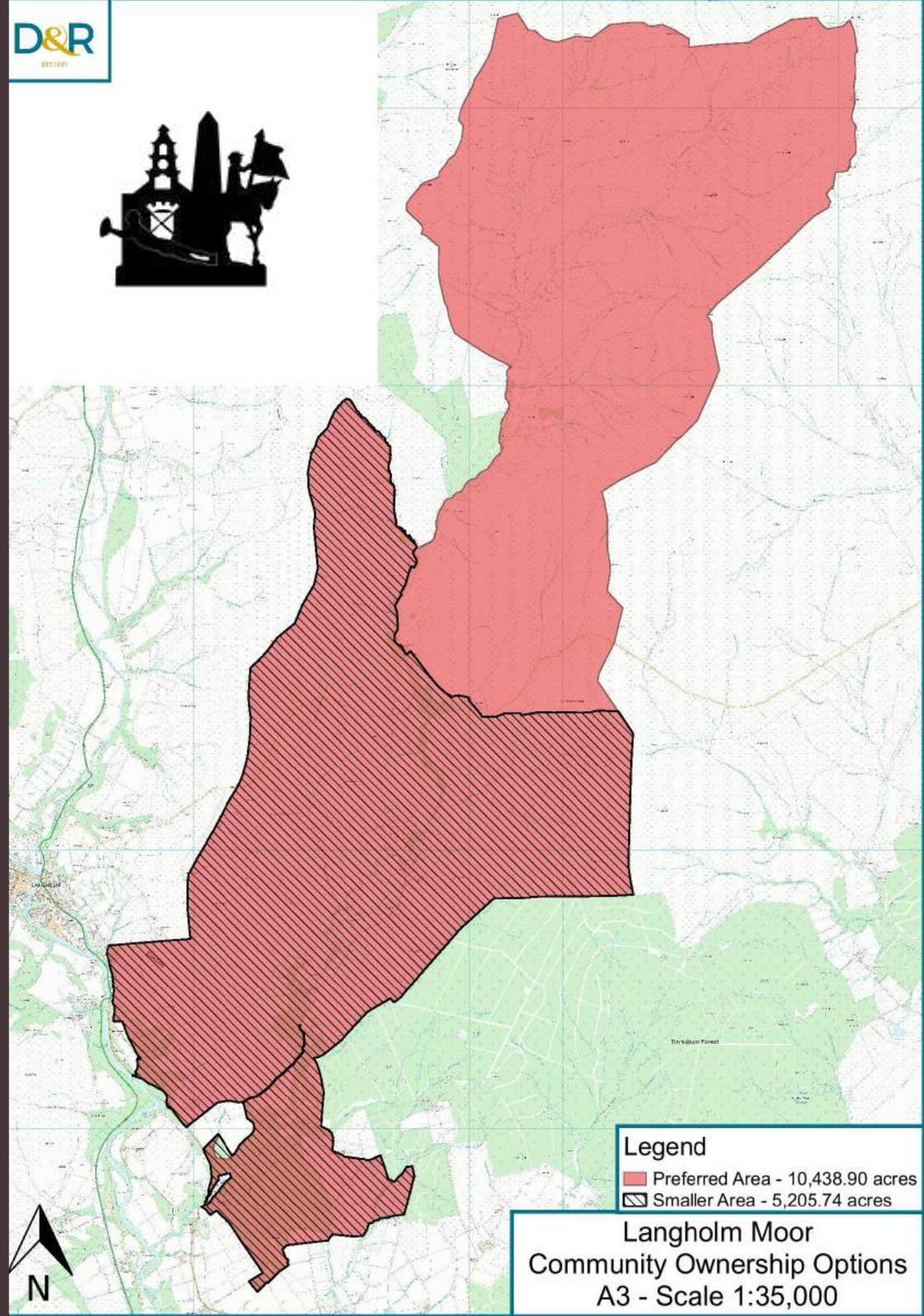
"WE NEED TO MOVE BEYOND GUILT OR BLAME AND GET ON WITH THE PRACTICAL TASKS AT HAND."

- SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

# LANDSCAPE SCALE CHANGE



Image donated by Laurie Campbell



# LOCATION

Langholm is located in the beautiful Southern Uplands of Scotland. This dramatic landscape is accessible from Edinburgh and Glasgow to the North and Carlisle to the South.

Langholm Moor lies to the east of the town itself. The map to the right highlights the area the community are trying to purchase. Depending on the funds raised we have identified a preferred option (nearly 10,500 acres) and a smaller option (just over 5000 acres).

**"THE SINGLE BIGGEST THREAT TO OUR PLANET IS THE DESTRUCTION OF HABITAT AND ALONG THE WAY, LOSS OF PRECIOUS WILDLIFE. WE NEED TO REACH A BALANCE WHERE PEOPLE, HABITAT AND WILDLIFE CAN CO-EXIST - IF WE DON'T, EVERYONE LOSES...ONE DAY."**

- Steve Irwin  
(Environmentalism and Conservationist)

Image donated by Laurie Campbell



## **OBJECTIVE:**

In the first 5 years we will create a new nature reserve and seek to be awarded National Nature Reserve status.

Our long term management plan will enhance the special characteristics that have led to the area's designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Protection Area (SPA). We will ensure that we have the facilities and infrastructure in place so that visitors can sustainably experience this incredible place.



Image donated by Laurie Campbell

# SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA

Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

## OBJECTIVE:

We will protect and increase the number of breeding hen harriers.

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Langholm is a stronghold for the most persecuted bird of prey in the UK.

# PEATLAND RESTORATION

Peatlands are one of the UK's most important natural assets.

Healthy peatland acts as a carbon sink and helps to mitigate climate change.

Damaged peatlands drained for agriculture and forestry release carbon dioxide.

## OBJECTIVE:

We will restore damaged peatlands to fight against climate change and improve biodiversity.



# PEATLAND RESTORATION

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We will reverse decades of peatland drainage that has released carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Blocking drains will allow the raised bogs to return and new peat to be created locking in carbon and increasing biodiversity.

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## CARBON CAPTURE



\*Image for reference only. From  
Google Images

# ANCIENT WOODLAND REGENERATION

Tarras Water Valley

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**SCOTLAND'S  
FOREST  
LANDSCAPES ARE  
LIKELY TO HAVE  
BEEN A  
COMPLICATED  
MOSAIC OF  
HABITATS, BOTH  
WOODED AND  
OPEN...MANY  
MOORLAND AND  
GRASSLAND TYPES  
WERE PART OF A  
WIDER  
'WILDWOOD'  
MOSAIC.**

- Revitalising Scotland's  
Woodlands (Plantlife)

## **NATURAL REGENERATION OBJECTIVE:**

Natural regeneration has already started along the Tarras Water. We will allow this woodland to recover, creating a more wild landscape and reducing river bank erosion, downstream flooding and providing spawning ground for fish.



# TARRAS WATER

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Cutting its way through the heart of the land, the Tarras Water is a truly special place, home to salmon, brown trout, otters, dippers and much more. There is potential for a riverside path to be created which would link the town of Langholm to the community owned land.

The Tarras Valley is important to local people of all generations. They are regularly drawn to this area for picnicking, walking and nature watching. Community ownership will allow us to improve picnic areas, footpaths, hides and parking facilities so everyone can enjoy this incredible place.

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# COMMUNITY BENEFIT





# NATIVE WOODLAND CREATION

**"ECOLOGICAL  
RESTORATION, AS THE  
HUMAN-ASSISTED  
RECOVERY OF  
DEGRADED  
ECOSYSTEMS, IS IN  
ESSENCE A WORK OF  
HOPE."**

- Alan Watson Featherstone  
(Founder - Trees for Life)

There are nearly 500 acres of land located between a neighbouring conifer plantation and the SSSI area that could be planted with native trees.

**"THE PRACTICAL  
IMPORTANCE OF  
THE PRESERVATION  
OF OUR FORESTS IS  
AUGMENTED BY  
THEIR RELATIONS  
TO CLIMATE, SOIL  
AND STREAMS."**

- John Muir  
(Naturalist and Environmental  
Philosopher)



### **NEW NATIVE WOODLAND OBJECTIVES:**

- Carbon capture.
- Create employment opportunities.
- Increase biodiversity and resistance to climate change.

Our woodland creation will be designed with open glades and wet areas to benefit a wide variety of species and encourage amenity access.



# LODGE GILL FIELD CENTRE

The derelict property at Lodgegill has fantastic potential as a field centre and bunk house for research, volunteering and walking.

"CORE, UNDERPINNING CLIMATE SCIENCE...IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER BEFORE AS SOCIETY SEEKS SOLUTIONS TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE."

- Prof. Dame Julia Slingo  
(Climate Scientist)

Through developing partnerships the community could provide outdoor education and rural skills training at this facility.



"WE NEED TO RE-ESTABLISH CHILDREN'S LINKS WITH NATURE...WE LOVE WHAT WE KNOW..."

- Balmford et al, Cambridge University Researchers

"WHAT IS THE EXTINCTION OF THE CONDOR TO A CHILD WHO HAS NEVER SEEN A WREN?"

- Robert Pyle  
(Founder - Xerces Society)



## LODGE GILL FIELD CENTRE

### RESEARCH

Langholm Moor is fortunate to have many years of recorded data regarding its flora and fauna. The community would like this to continue and develop relationships with universities, colleges and conservation groups to study the effects of our changes in land management.

### LOCATION

Lodgegill is located just 10 minutes drive from Langholm and the A7. Access is via a tarmac road which leads you into the heart of this beautiful landscape.

### WALKING

In addition to research, education and volunteer work, the bunk house could be used for walkers exploring the area on a carefully planned and constructed path network.





# COOMS FARM

Complementary  
Agriculture

We will take on the farm located on Langholm Moor. This is mainly a low stocked hefted sheep farm.

## **OBJECTIVE:**

In the first 5 years and following clarification of how agriculture has been affected by Brexit, we will introduce an agricultural system that maximises conservation benefits.



# CONSERVATION GRAZING

Due to the reduced number of sheep on the moor to help heather regeneration, there are now thick layers of dead vegetation which are stifling the natural woodland regeneration and other flora.

**"WHAT DOES SEEM TO BE TRUE IS THAT HERBIVORES CAN KICKSTART DYNAMISM INTO THE SYSTEM AGAIN...WHETHER IT'S COWS OR BEAVERS, SOMETHING EXCITING HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET FREE-ROAMING HERBIVORES IN THE LANDSCAPE AGAIN."**

- Isabella Tree  
(Knepp Wildland Project)



\*Image for reference only. From Google Images

Grazing on the moor could be managed to best achieve conservation aims. We envisage a mix of sheep, wild goats and cattle at optimal numbers for habitat restoration. This could also provide an ethical and high quality food product.



\*Image for reference only. From Google Images



## **BROOMHOLMSHIELS FARM**

### **POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Steading conversion for Offices or Housing
- Environmentally Sustainable Campsite
- Create Local Employment Opportunities

The land at Broomholmshiels is located south of Langholm Moor. This area will be vital in providing revenue for climate based activities on protected areas and sustainable development.



\*Image for reference only. From Google Images

## **OBJECTIVE:**

Complete a thorough feasibility study into renewable energy that can provide direct benefit to the community and revenue for climate action on protected areas.

# **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

As part of the project goal to provide direct community benefits, as well as climate action, we will investigate small scale renewable energy projects.

Any renewable energy project would be designed sympathetically to the surrounding landscape and located outwith any protected areas.



\*Image for reference only. From Google Images



# RURAL REGENERATION & TOURISM

## OBJECTIVES:

Deliver community objectives and benefits through the creation of direct jobs. Provide learning/training and volunteering opportunities and create indirect employment. Support development of sustainable tourism. Increase participation in decision making and management of the land and increase community confidence.

"There is a saying in Langholm, "It's aye been!", translated, "It's always been - nothing changes!" But this is not strictly true, there has, "Aye been change too!".

What there has never been is the chance for the community to take responsibility for its own future."

- Margaret Pool, Langholm Initiative  
Chair



## LANGHOLM THE TEXTILE TOWN

Langholm was previously one of the most important textile towns in the UK. With much of this industry now gone Langholm suffers from a familiar story which is similar to other rural areas in Scotland.

The community has never before had a say in its own future, whether that is the development of industry or how the surrounding landscape could be used to benefit the town itself...until now.

### ISSUES FACING LANGHOLM

- Declining and aging population.
- Young people leaving to find employment and further education.
- Lack of diversification in industry.
- Little investment in new housing or modern business units.

### Inspiring resilience

The people of Langholm are resilient and care deeply about this area. They are welcoming and fighting hard to make a difference. There is a resurgence in small scale, high end textiles, outdoor adventure activities and a desire to have control over their own future. The foundation of this desire can be built on the ownership of Langholm Moor



# LANGHOLM & THE LAND

The land has been the setting for nearly a decade of outdoor education projects run by the Langholm Initiative, some of which have won awards. These projects have introduced a new, younger generation to the flora and fauna of the Tarras Valley. The most recent project "Wild Eskdale" has also provided wildlife watching experiences for paying guests since 2019.



## Nature Based Tourism

The Wild Eskdale project has demonstrated in its first year that there is potential for responsible and sustainable outdoor tourism in Langholm and the surrounding area.

## Outdoor Education

Over the last ten years thousands of children, adults and volunteers have had the opportunity to take part in John Muir Awards, wildlife festivals, Forest Schools and nature based workshops.

Through its award winning projects the Langholm Initiative is uniquely placed to be the organisation leading the community buyout of Langholm Moor.

## The Cultural Importance of Langholm Moor Cannot be Underplayed

The boundaries of the common land on Langholm Moor have been marked by the community for over 200 years. A community buyout will finally end the much disputed ownership of the land for future generations.



### A JULY SPECTACULAR

The incredible display of community solidarity takes place every summer. It draws thousands of visitors to the area and demonstrates the unbreakable bond the people of Langholm have to the land that surrounds them.

### COMMON RIDING

The heart that beats proudly in the chest of the community.

# **PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

An ambitious project such as this requires strong partnerships to deliver its objectives and achieve its outcomes. We will work with existing partners and form new partnerships to assist us and advance the scale of connecting landscapes for ecological restoration. We will learn through networking and by sharing experiences.

The organisations and groups listed on this page have provided support, advice or have committed to supporting community ownership in future.

## **OUR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SUPPORTERS**

### **Regional**

Langholm Common Riding Committee, Langholm Academy Cluster, Outpost Arts, Muckle Toon Adventure Festival, The Langholm Academy Eco-Group, The Langholm Alliance, Langholm Playcare, Langholm Day Centre, Langholm Archive Group, Eskdale and Liddesdale Archaeological Society, Langholm and District Art Club, Xcel Youth Project, Langholm Probus Club, Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway, Dumfries and Galloway Small Communities Housing Trust, Southern Uplands Partnership.

### **National**

John Muir Trust, Community Land Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Borders Forest Trust, Trees For Life, Rewilding Britain, Revive Coalition, Forestry and Land Scotland, Scotland's Regeneration Forum (SURF), Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS), Edinburgh Napier University.

# THE BIG PICTURE

This community buyout is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the people of Langholm but it is also much more than that. This ambitious project could be the catalyst for other communities to take responsibility for the environment on their doorstep.

In humanity's greatest struggle, the battle against climate change, landscape scale projects are key. The Langholm Moor project has the potential to work with neighbouring land owners to create a better and more sustainable future for our children.

ON BEHALF OF  
THE PEOPLE OF  
LANGHOLM  
AND THE  
GLOBAL  
COMMUNITY

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THANK YOU





## **The Langholm Initiative Project Team**

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### **Working Group**

Kevin Cumming  
Margaret Pool  
John Hanrahan  
Peter Renwick  
Alison Hutton  
Niall Weatherstone  
Mairi Telford Jammeh

### **Feasibility Study**

Duncan MacPherson  
Faye McLeod  
Willie McGhee

### **Valuers**

Davidson and Robertson

### **Renewable Energy**

Greencat Renewables

## **WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

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The Langholm Moor Community  
Buyout Group



@LBuyout



Image donated by Laurie Campbell



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## **The Langholm Initiative**