



Doubling the
TARRAS VALLEY
NATURE RESERVE

Let's finish
what we
started!

LANGHOLM MOOR
2ND STAGE
COMMUNITY BUYOUT

A LANGHOLM INITIATIVE PROJECT

COMMUNITY
REGENERATION

ECOLOGICAL
RESTORATION

CLIMATE ACTION

WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION

RESPONSIBLE
OUTDOOR TOURISM

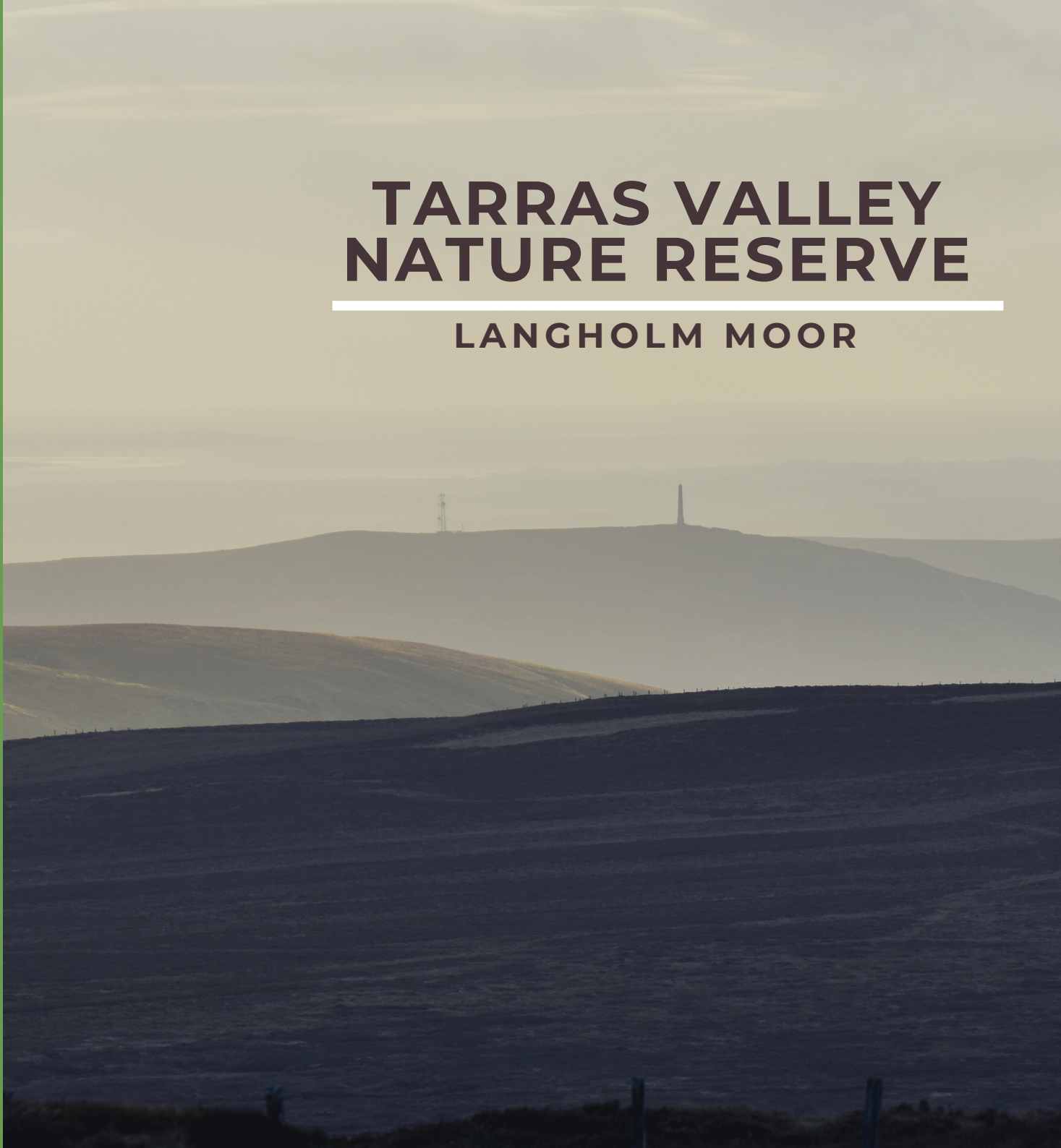
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**A PROJECT
OF VISION, A
PROJECT OF
HOPE WHEN
WE NEED IT
MOST AND
ABOVE ALL...
A PROJECT
FOR OUR
FUTURE**

Kevin Cumming,
Tarras Valley Nature Reserve Director

TARRAS VALLEY NATURE RESERVE

LANGHOLM MOOR



ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This is an updated prospectus for our second buy-out campaign. It will provide an overview on progress to date following our historic, community land purchase in March 2021 and sets out the ambition for our second purchase area.

The information in this prospectus is underpinned by a robust feasibility study, business plan and financial model. We have continued to engage with a large number of organisations and partners to inform our approach.

To view the documents mentioned above please visit:

www.langholminitiative.org.uk

"THIS IS AN AMAZING RESULT FOR LANGHOLM WHICH WILL LIVE LONG IN THE MEMORY. OUR COMMUNITY HAS A STRONG CULTURAL CONNECTION TO THIS LAND... AND SECURING IT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME MEANS SO MUCH TO SO MANY. "

- Margaret Pool

Chair of the Langholm Initiative

Funding

In order for the second purchase to happen the community will have to raise at **£2.2m** from private donations and crowd funding.

WHAT'S COVERED?

A Landmark Achievement

Progress Update

Meet the Team

Inspiring Engagement in Nature

Tarras Valley Nature Reserve

Second Buy Out Area

Hen Harrier Protection

Native Woodland Creation

Peatland Restoration

Tarras Water

Lodgegill Field Centre

Cooms Farm - Conservation Grazing

Rural Regeneration and Tourism

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 safeguard this landscape for generations to come.

The land will be managed to generate community benefits through economic regeneration, ecological restoration, nature based-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 RESTORATION



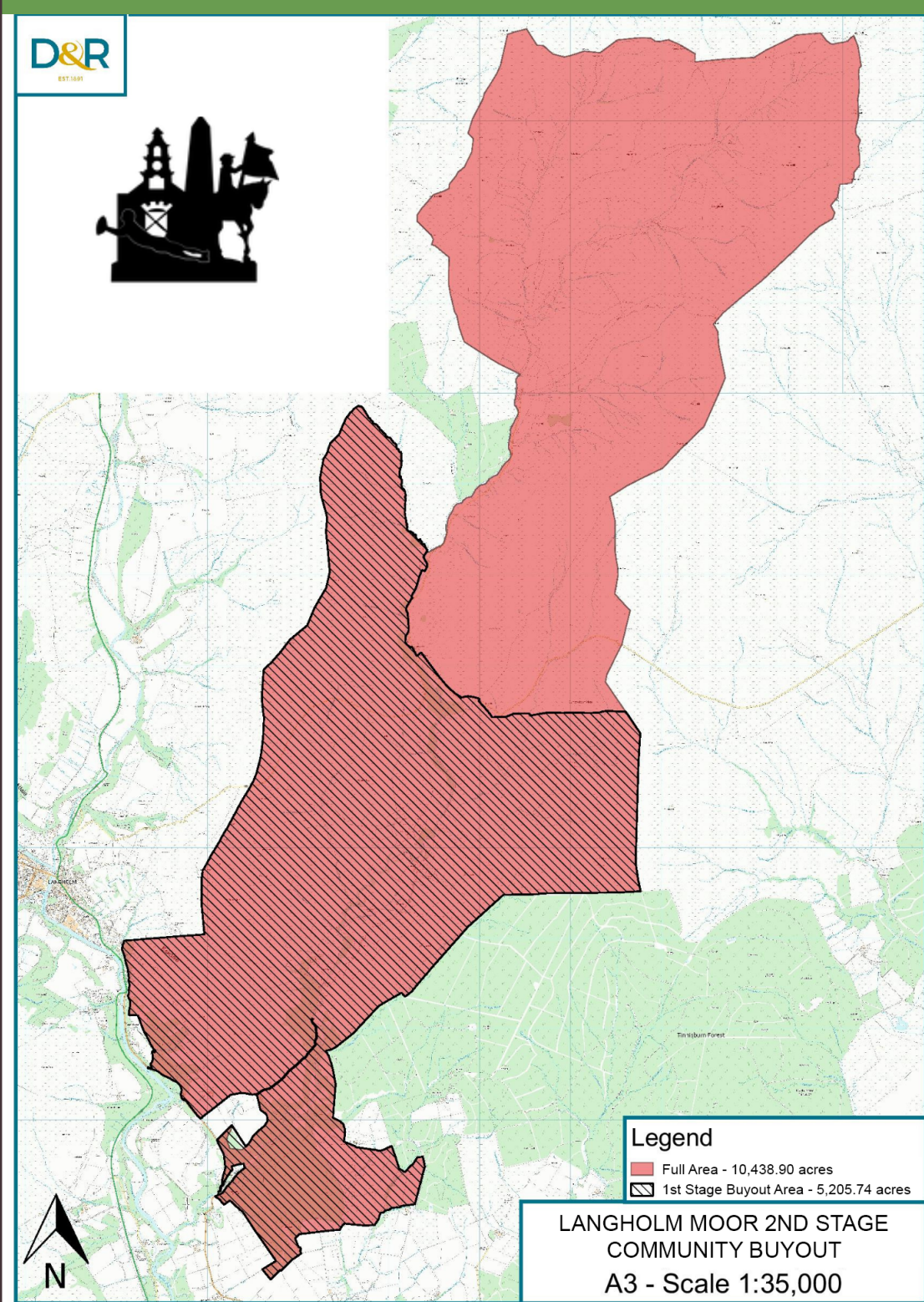


LOCATION

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 full area that the community are trying to purchase.

The community now own the lower 5,200 acres, of the Tarras Valley. The purchase of the remaining 5,300 acre section would enable us to double the size of the reserve.



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. It is a powerful symbol of connection to the land now that this is in community ownership.



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.



BACK TO FINISH WHAT WE STARTED!

We are aiming to double the size of our reserve with the purchase of the remaining 5,300 acres of land.

By doubling the size of the reserve, we would be able to double the impact that we have for people, wildlife and the climate.

To complete this project we will need to raise **£2.2m** by **31st May 2022**. This will be our final opportunity to bring this land into community ownership.



A LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENT

Langholm successfully undertook one of the South of Scotland's largest community land buyouts which completed in March 2021. This following one of the most ambitious community fundraising campaigns ever seen. The community now legally owns 5,200 acres of land which includes upland moor, ancient woodland, meadows, peatlands and river valley.

A huge thankyou to everyone who shared our story, supported us and believed in our dream to help us make this a reality.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

Since the first area of land came into community ownership, we have been busy getting our ambitious plans into motion! This includes:

- Recruiting a team of 6 new staff.
- Developing a schools, volunteering and environmental education programme.
- A partnership with the Woodland Trust to develop a new 500 acre broadleaf woodland.
- Planning for peatland restoration projects.
- Beginning a groundbreaking digital project to capture the journey of landscape restoration for online audiences around the world.
- A full programme of community events to start creating our reserve management plan.

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

- ALAN WATSON FEATHERSTONE
(FOUNDER - TREES FOR LIFE)





Owning the land brings endless opportunity but also brings a lot of responsibility so the recruitment of a reserve team was key to getting our ambitious plans into motion! We are delighted to introduce our new team.

The team will continue to be supported by our volunteer board members and we have established a separate committee to take responsibility for the nature reserve.

MEET THE TEAM

Jenny Barlow - Estate Manager

Angela Williams - Development Manager

Kat Mayer - Inspiring Engagement in Nature Project Officer

Stuart Spray - Creative Digital Media Manager

Joyce Ireland - Financial Administrator

Jane Sayers - Woodland Outreach Advisor (Woodland Trust)



INSPIRING ENGAGEMENT IN NATURE

The land has been the setting for nearly a decade. These projects have introduced a new, younger generation to the flora and fauna of the Tarras Valley.

Our most recent project will combine volunteering and outdoor education to engage a large audience across the local community and beyond.



Volunteering

We are busy developing a range of volunteering opportunities on the reserve.

This includes practical conservation tasks, environmental education, community engagement, events and biological surveys.

Outdoor Education

Our schools programme began in October 21. We began working with classes from local primary schools on the reserve, and at sites around Langholm, doing activities such as den building, mini-beast hunts and fire building.

We are currently in the process of developing an environmental education programme which will be launched in early 2022. This will provide an opportunity for school groups and families to engage with and learn about the wildlife on the reserve.

**"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
(Environmentalist and
Conservationist)



OBJECTIVE:

Will develop the
Tarras Valley Nature
Reserve and seek
National Nature
Reserve status
within 5 years.

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.

DOUBLING OUR IMPACT

Bringing the remaining 5,300 acres into community ownership would mean doubling the size of Tarras Valley Nature Reserve to 10,500 acres.

Opportunities for the second buy-out area include:

- Native woodland planting to bring connecting woodland from valley bottom to valley top
- Restoration of missing montane upland habitats with species such as juniper, dwarf birch and a natural upper tree line
- Extensive restoration of acres of nationally important peatlands at the source of the River Tarras
- Conservation grazing to encourage rich habitat mosaic and support upland food production
- Ecotourism hub and field centre – dark sky observatory, field centre, outdoor education and activities, camping and walking trails
- Expanding opportunities for employment, skills and training for the community



Image donated by Laurie Campbell

SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA

Hen Harrier (*circus cyaneus*)

OBJECTIVE:

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

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

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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)



Image donated by Laurie Campbell

NEW NATIVE WOODLAND OBJECTIVES:

- Carbon capture
- Create employment opportunities.
- Connecting habitats
- Increasing biodiversity and resilience to climate change.

We will focus on increasing the amounts of native riverside woodland throughout the Valley. Re-connecting the upland with the ancient woods in the Lower Tarras Valley.

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

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 nationally important damaged peatlands to fight against climate change and boost biodiversity.

PEATLAND RESTORATION

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.

CARBON CAPTURE



*Image for reference only. From Google Images



TARRAS WATER

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.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT





LODGE GILL FIELD CENTRE

The derelict property at Lodgegill has fantastic potential as a field centre and bunk house for research, volunteering, dark sky zone 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)

DARK SKIES

Tarras Valley has incredible potential as a dark sky zone due to its low levels of light pollution.



"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?"



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

Complimentary
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

Grazing on the reserve 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.

"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)



Photo Credit: National Trust



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, land management 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 ageing 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 resilience 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



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.

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

THANK YOU



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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Tarras Valley Reserve



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@Tarras_Valley_Reserve



The Tarras Valley Nature Reserve Team

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Kat Mayer

Stuart Spray

Joyce Ireland

Jane Sayers (Woodland Trust)

Executive Committee

Kevin Cumming

John Hanrahan

Campbell Scott

Peter Renwick

Mairi Telford Jammeh

Sue Toon



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