

Fife Coast and Countryside Trust

Annual Report and Financial Statement

for year ending 31st March 2022



~ Fife Coastal Path ~ Beaches ~ Lomond Hills ~ Fife Pilgrim Way ~ Local Nature Reserves ~





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Welcome to the latest Annual Report on the activities of Fife Coast and Countryside Trust. As I write, there is a sense of cautious optimism. The days have lengthened and the sun is encouraging carpets of bluebells in our parks and along the many miles of path managed by FCCT.

2021/22 has been a very full year at the Trust as you will see from the contents of this report. Like many, I have been struck by the significance of what this somewhat modest organisation does. Our outdoor spaces are so important. They provide communities with much needed respite from their busy lives, readily accessible recreation, and the opportunity to exercise and enjoy the outdoors which we now know helps our general health and well-being so much.

I have also noticed how communities set aside differences and come together to care for their green spaces. We are so grateful for the many volunteers that have supported the Trust this past year. From those on the Board who give up their time to advise the team and keep a watchful eye on the direction of the organisation, to those who pick up a spade or litter picker – your contribution is extremely valuable and hugely appreciated. I am also keen to use this opportunity to express my thanks to the Trust's excellent team, led by Jeremy Harris, who have faced the challenges and uncertainties of the past two years with great resolve and focus.

As we look ahead to the coming year, there are still many challenges facing us, and we are ready to step up. Our key partner, Fife Council, have shown confidence in us by providing some additional resources to help with managing the sites under our care and we thank them for their continued support. We are implementing a plan to manage the growing number of motorhomes and are rolling out a programme of continuous improvement to the infrastructure that makes the countryside accessible.



*A message from Stephen Carter, OBE
Chairman of Fife Coast and Countryside
Trust (FCCT) for the year ending 31st
March 2022.*



Our Conservation and Engagement Team are settling into the new structure we have established over the last twelve months and progress is being made as we build momentum in our three new thematic focus areas: environmental conservation, outdoor education, and access and recreation.

All this work is underpinned by a revised Mission, Vision, and shared values that the team and Board have spent many hours developing over the past year. Our mission of “connecting environment and people” speaks to the importance of recognising how interlinked we are with our environment. Advances in technology have, in many cases, diminished our connection with the physical world around us even if they have supported and widened our ability to connect with each other. As humanity faces up to the uncomfortable reality that our consumption and excess now risk the stability of our climate, we must recapture the benefits of connecting with the natural world locally.

FCCT is focussed on supporting communities on this journey, providing ready access to the countryside on our doorsteps, and signposting the way to a healthy balance between each of us and our natural world.

I hope that you will enjoy reading, in this report, of some of the practical ways we are doing this, and I encourage you to get in touch and join us on our journey. An excellent starting point for you may well be to enjoy a coffee and snack or light meal in our newly revitalised and successful Harbourmaster’s Café in its most wonderful setting at Dysart Harbour.

Stephen Carter, OBE
Chairman
10th June, 2022



CEO's Vision

Those that know me know my obsession with purpose. I've never quite managed to move past the developmental stage that sees young ones endlessly asking "why?". The apparent "why" of this report is to give those who might be interested, a snapshot of what the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust has been up to over the year in question. From my perspective though, there is a greater purpose that could be served. My hope is that you will discover a connection in these pages – to the areas of Fife where you live or visit, the people delivering the great work described, or indeed to FCCT and our overarching purpose of caring for Fife's outdoors and sustaining the balance between people and the natural world.

We have, as an organisation, been thinking a lot about the interconnection of things these past months. The pandemic strained many connections that we had perhaps taken for granted: moments around the kettle in the kitchen at work, fleeting interactions with strangers on a bus or a train, or chance unplanned encounters with friends while out for a coffee or doing a little shopping.

As I reflected on this, it occurred to me that it may well be that in being better connected, we find solutions to the environmental crisis, and even address the social and economic challenges of various kinds that we all face.

At FCCT we have a fundamental belief in the power of partnerships. One of my favourite quotes that gives a little insight into how we approach our partnerships is said to originate with a Jesuit Priest named Father Strickland in 1863. It is "A man may do an immense deal of good, if he does not care who gets the credit for it." Taking this approach requires trust and an alignment of shared aspirations and values – things that depend on a strong connection.

I have this past year been so grateful for the support and willing engagement that I have found not only in our Board of Directors and team, but among our many partners. Time and again I have found kindred spirits seeking the best for the communities and outdoors of Fife and we have been able to align around shared interests and objectives to achieve a great deal.



As you will see through this report, there have been many examples this year alone. I have witnessed landowners and Community Councils resisting the urge to focus on their differences, choosing instead to align around actions to manage otherwise unsustainable numbers of visitors to places that they love. I have watched as the FCCT team and Board listen to each other's passions and interests and work in unison to refine our organisation's Mission and Vision. I have seen Elected Members with divergent political views come together around supporting the care of our outdoor places and put in place tangible improvements for their communities that transcend political ideology.

I have also seen our natural world giving back to those engaged in its care and the benefits that improving that connection offers. I have seen the glow on cheeks and bright eyes of those fresh from a litter pick. I have been fortunate enough to spend a little time with a young man who, caught up in a moment of youthful destruction, uprooted saplings planted by volunteers only to return to put right what he had done. I am convinced that as he heads on through life, he will be better connected to that place and will benefit greatly from that connection and the recollection of the reparations he so bravely made.

So, let me finish by welcoming you to our Annual Report and thanking you for taking the time to engage. I hope that you find within it either inspiration to nurture your own connections or even discover practical opportunities for you to connect with your environment and the many others who are dedicated to its care.

Jeremy Harris, CEO

Governance

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report) Year Ended 2022 Organisational Structure.

Fife Coast and Countryside Trust balances the delivery of high-quality countryside services and outdoor recreation with preserving the natural environment and beautiful landscapes found in Fife. Despite a scarcity of funding, FCCT delivers multiple services, maintains many sites, and manages projects across all of Fife. Diversifying our revenue streams continues to underpin our strategy and approach despite our fundamental belief that the countryside should be free for everyone to access. We have dual accountability to Companies House and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and are governed by a Board of Directors. This accountability necessitates and underlines the need for strong governance throughout FCCT.

The full Board meets quarterly, with the Chief Executive Officer, Chair, and Vice Chairs meeting regularly between Board and committee meetings. The Board of Directors is the governing authority of FCCT and takes ultimate responsibility for the Trust's adherence to sound and ethical practices and standards. The Board oversees a simple and transparent corporate Vision and Mission that underpin a Strategy ensuring that all business decisions and judgements are made with reasonable care, skill and diligence and are solely driven by business needs. The Board of Directors receive no remuneration from FCCT for their involvement and give of their time and effort voluntarily.

The Board of Directors is made up by the following members:

Mr S Carter OBE (Chairman)
Mr B Rollo
Ms S Roberts (Vice Chair)
Dr R Close (Treasurer, Chair Audit and Finance Committee)
Mr J Simpson
Ms J Miller OBE (Vice Chair)
Cllr K Caldwell (Fife Council Member)
Cllr W Porteous (Fife Council Member)
Cllr L Holt (Fife Council Member)
Cllr J Wincott (Fife Council Member)
Ms R McInroy
Mr P Teale
Ms C Warburton

The day-to-day management of FCCT is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer Mr Jeremy Harris, who is not a Director or Trustee of the charity and who is supported by a Senior Management Team. Three Committees are established by the Board to support both the work and governance of FCCT. In accordance with the Articles of Association, all Committees comprise a minimum of three Board members and are supported regularly by professional services in the form of financial expertise provided by Colin McCulloch (Patterson Boyd) and legal support from Burness Paul LLP.

The Audit & Finance Committee is responsible for reviewing and providing guidance on FCCT's financial matters. Specifically, the Committee oversees internal controls, independent audit, and financial analysis for the organisation including:

- To monitor the integrity of the financial statements;
- To review FCCT's internal controls, internal audit, compliance, and risk management systems;
- To receive and discuss the external auditor's report including any issues and recommendations; and
- To review and monitor the external auditor's independence and objectivity and the effectiveness of the audit process, while taking into consideration all relevant professional and regulatory requirements.

The HR & Remuneration Committee provides oversight and support while monitoring the implementation of FCCT's Human Resources framework reporting to the Board any matters it considers where action or improvement is needed. This Committee has the following specific tasks and responsibilities:

- To assist the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities regarding the oversight of human resources and remunerations issues;
- To ensure that the HR & Remuneration arrangements support the strategic aims of the FCCT; and
- To enable the recruitment, motivation and retention of staff while complying with the requirements of legislative and governing bodies.

The Communication and Fundraising Committee provides strategic guidance in support of the visibility of the Trust to the public in multiple formats, including:

- External communications including website, social media, newsletters, publications, press and traditional media;
- Identifying and supporting areas of strategic focus (whether geographic or demographic) for FCCT's community engagement activities;
- Internal communications including technologies and methods of internal communication and associated FCCT policies (including telephone and IT), reporting and record keeping, and matters relating to confidentiality and data protection;
- Risk management particularly as this pertains to reputational risk;
- Brand management;
- Fundraising including the identification and review of opportunities, the setting of targets, and tracking of progress against these targets;
- The development of revenue generating activities and projects as is appropriate; and
- The development of FCCT's online retail operations.

Board Members

Induction, support, and learning underpins the work of our Board and Committees. It ensures that members have all the information they need to fulfil their role. It also creates a more level playing field for all members, ensuring that they can carry out their duties effectively.

FCCT has an induction procedure in place for new Directors. Specific training is delivered annually to all Board Directors and further training and mentoring is made available to Directors as and when required. FCCT ensures that all Directors have a subscription to Governance Magazine to support their awareness of current practices and any legislative changes.

Fife Council is the sole member of the Limited Company and as such retains the final authority on the appointment of Directors to the Board of FCCT. Recommendations for new appointments are submitted to Fife Council by a nominations committee.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of FCCT are wholly charitable. They are defined in the Articles of Association and are:

- To provide recreational facilities, and organise recreational activities, primarily within the local authority area of Fife Council (the Operating Area), with such facilities/activities being made available to members of the public at large with the object of improving their conditions of life, including (without prejudice to that generality) promoting and improving access to the countryside within the Operating Area, and through providing, developing and improving the facilities which support access to the countryside and the wildlife within the Operating Area;
- To advance education, primarily within the Operating Area, including through encouraging public access to the countryside, and its wildlife, which shall include the provision of interpretative centres, signage, and other methods of conveying information;
- To advance environmental protection and/or improvement through the conservation, preservation and general improvement of the countryside and the landscape within the Operating Area and through securing the sustainable use, management and enjoyment of the countryside and the landscape within the Operating Area;
- To advance heritage and/or culture within the Operating Area;
- To advance citizenship and/or community development, within the Operating Area;
- To promote, establish, operate, and/or support other similar schemes and projects which further charitable purposes.

Under the Articles of Association, FCCT has the power to invest any funds which are not immediately required for the Trust's activities in such investments as may be considered appropriate.

Risk Statement

FCCT takes a dynamic approach to managing risks associated with FCCT operations and activities. Risks are captured in a Risk Register and appropriate mitigation identified and implemented on a case-by-case basis. Given the unprecedented impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic, FCCT has now initiated a review of our approach to risk management. Several Board members and members of the Management team have attended training, and a further session has been scheduled for August 2022 to assess the existing approach and implement any changes that may be necessary.



Away Day at Old Course

In December 2021, the Board of Management, Senior Management Team, and Departmental Managers came together at an away day, sponsored by the Old Course, St Andrews.

The day was facilitated by Kellie Rixon who specialises in equipping organisations to address cultural change.

The purpose of the day was to allow the Trust's management team to participate in an engagement exercise where the Board gained an in-depth understanding of the functions of different teams within the Trust, while FCCT Staff benefited from the opportunity to learn from the Board Members' diverse professional expertise. Specific attention was paid to FCCT's Mission, Vision, and Values as part of a process to revise and update these.

Lively debate took place when exploring ideas for a new Mission Statement and Vision, which we are now delighted to share.

Mission Statement

Connecting Environment
and People.

Vision

We lead in the care of Fife's
outdoors. Working together
with you, we create a healthier
environment that supports
wellbeing and sustains the
balance between people and the
natural world.

Financial Review

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, for that period.

- In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:
- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditor Statement as to disclose to our auditors

Each of the persons who is a director at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- So far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware;
- They have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information; and
- The auditor is deemed to have been re-appointed in accordance with section 487 of the Companies Act 2006.

Small Company Provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report (incorporating the directors' report) was approved on 10th June 2022 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



S Carter, OBE
Chairman

Independent Auditor's Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Fife Coast and Countryside Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account), statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions Relating to Going Concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006.

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- The information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on Which we are Required to Report by Exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- The trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the Charity and sector, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to breaches of UK regulations and prohibited business practices, and we considered that the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to the potential posting of inappropriate journal entries to manipulate financial results and management bias in accounting estimates. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance including the Board;
- Evaluation and testing of the operating effectiveness of management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journal entries based on risk criteria;
- Designing audit procedures to incorporate unpredictability around the nature, timing or extent of our testing;
- Testing transactions entered into outside of normal course of business;
- Attendance at audit and finance sub committee meetings.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

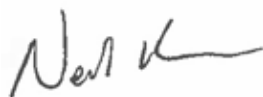
As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our Report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Neil Robson B.Sc. C.A. (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
Paterson Boyd & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
8 Mitchell Street
Leven
Fife
KY8 4HJ

Paterson Boyd & Co Limited is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure account)

Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Note	2022			2021
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds	Total funds
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	13,397	7,545	20,942	6,520
Charitable activities	6	1,135	1,886,898	1,888,033	1,631,556
Other trading activities	7	–	10,180	10,180	10,828
Investment income	8	4,192	66	4,258	7,657
Other income	9	–	798	798	200
Total income		<u>18,724</u>	<u>1,905,487</u>	<u>1,924,211</u>	<u>1,656,761</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Costs of raising donations and legacies	10	–	19,836	19,836	15,230
Costs of other trading activities	11	–	5,493	5,493	4,209
Investment management costs	12	857	–	857	–
Expenditure on charitable activities	13, 14	410,630	2,076,731	2,487,361	1,783,849
Total expenditure		<u>411,487</u>	<u>2,102,060</u>	<u>2,513,547</u>	<u>1,803,288</u>
Net expenditure		<u>(392,763)</u>	<u>(196,573)</u>	<u>(589,336)</u>	<u>(146,527)</u>
Transfers between funds		(122,146)	122,146	–	–
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes		801,000	–	801,000	(545,000)
Gains/(loss) on investment assets		(49,096)	–	(49,096)	–
Net movement in funds		<u>236,995</u>	<u>(74,427)</u>	<u>162,568</u>	<u>(691,527)</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>284,942</u>	<u>509,724</u>	<u>794,666</u>	<u>1,486,193</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>521,937</u>	<u>435,297</u>	<u>957,234</u>	<u>794,666</u>

Statement of Financial Position Year Ended 31 March 2022

		2022			2021
Fixed Assets	Note	£	£		£
Tangible fixed assets	20		100,460		89,658
Investments	21		594,264		25
			694,724		89,683
 Current Assets					
Stocks	22	5,346			6,707
Debtors	23	355,472			79,331
Cash at bank and in hand		753,313			1,782,399
		1,114,131			1,868,437
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	24	378,621			277,454
Net Current Assets			735,510		1,590,983
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities			1,430,234		1,680,666
Net Assets Excluding Defined Benefit Pension Plan Liability			1,430,234		1,680,666
Defined benefit pension plan liability	26		473,000		886,000
Net Assets Including Defined Benefit Pension Plan Liability			957,234		794,666
 Funds of the Charity					
Restricted funds			435,297		509,724
Unrestricted funds:					
Defined benefit pension reserve		(473,000)			(886,000)
Other unrestricted income funds		994,937			1,170,942
Total unrestricted funds		521,937			284,942
Total charity funds	27		957,234		794,666

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 10th June, 2022 and are signed on behalf of the board by:



S Carter, OBE
Chairman

Statement of Cash Flows Year Ended 31 March 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Net expenditure	(589,336)	(146,527)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	51,516	48,791
Other interest receivable and similar income	(4,258)	(7,657)
Interest payable and similar charges	21,000	6,000
Gains on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(798)	(200)
Accrued (income)/expenses	(20,845)	19,140
Actuarial gain/loss on defined benefit pension scheme	801,000	(545,000)
Changes in:		
Stocks	1,361	(404)
Trade and other debtors	(276,141)	41,786
Trade and other creditors	122,012	(4,129)
Provisions and employee benefits	(413,000)	663,000
Cash generated from operations	(307,489)	74,800
Interest paid	(21,000)	(6,000)
Interest received	4,258	7,657
Net cash (used in)/from operating activities	(324,231)	76,457
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Purchase of tangible assets	(65,359)	(64,638)
Proceeds from sale of tangible assets	3,838	1,250
Purchases of other investments	(703,672)	–
Proceeds from sale of other investments	60,338	–
Net cash used in investing activities	(704,855)	(63,388)
Net (Decrease)/Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(1,029,086)	13,069
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	1,782,399	1,769,330
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	753,313	1,782,399



Fife Coast and Countryside Trust

Who We Are and What We Do

Support Services

Our team aims to be the link between departments, the backbone of the Trust providing support, guidance, and practical administration functions, allowing work processes to operate seamlessly, and enabling departments to focus on their team's tasks and responsibilities. We work to ensure there is a smooth flow of information throughout the Trust via meaningful and diverse communication channels and by maintaining effective communication with stakeholders.

Litter/Facilities Team

The challenges of staycation and increased footfall continued into 2021. Our teams were called on to demonstrate a flexible approach to delivering our objectives. The changes made have helped to meet with increased demand and have provided a working template for the way we manage litter, facilities, and our maintenance tasks for the future.

Working in partnership with Fife Council, the Operations team procured and installed over 100 bins on behalf of the Local Authority at 67 sites across Fife.



The updated Litter Plan can be located on our website or by using this QR code.

Maintenance Team

The Maintenance Team manages the Fife Coastal Path, Lomond Hills Regional Park, Fife Pilgrim Way, four Local Nature Reserves, regular maintenance of five miles of core paths and undertakes numerous other tasks at more than sixty sites across Fife. To do this requires that our small team has a broad skill set to help facilitate public access to the sites we manage. These skills include grass cutting, pruning, tree work, path upgrades, countryside furniture installation, and an ongoing replacement programme of steps, signage, bench infrastructure, drains, and much more. Our team also undertake building maintenance work on the many facilities we manage. This work is undertaken as part of our Service Level Agreement (SLA) and involves working closely with stakeholders.

Development Team

This small team are tasked with exploring and delivering new projects, partnerships, and opportunities to support the Trust in realising its Vision and Mission. Building capacity and resilience across the organisation by driving revenue generation and funding is also a key area of focus.

Development Derived Income Secured Over and Above the SLA

Source	Amount	For
RTIF	£375,000	FOTIP
Capital Plan	£650,000	FOTIP
Transportation Services	£45,000	FOTIP
Crown Estate	£20,000	FOTIP
Restoration Forth	£7,000	Project Seagrass
BEIS (Via SEPA)	£7,000	Blended Finance
SEPA	£35,000	River Restoration
Fife Council	£15,000	River Restoration
SEPA	£13,000	The Leven
Total	£1,167,000	

RTIF - Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund

FOTIP - Fife Outdoor Tourism Infrastructure Programme

BEIS - Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Conservation and Engagement Team

The renamed Conservation and Engagement Team is on a journey as the revised structure and new ways of working settle into a natural cadence. With renewed thematic focus areas of Environmental Conservation, Access and Recreation, and Outdoor Education activities now feed directly into our organisational Mission and Vision.

One of our central objectives at FCCT has always been to see more and more people experience, engage with, and enjoy the countryside. An unexpected silver lining of Covid-19 was that it delivered this objective in a way we could not have imagined as people poured into the outdoors. Thankfully, we had taken steps to be better engaged with environmental conservation priorities across Fife, more widely connected with local communities in the care of the outdoors, and ready to do more with our children and young people as they discover and learn about the natural world.

And so, the re-imagined Conservation and Engagement Team has been established and has been working hard this year with the new thematic areas all supported by a strong volunteer programme.

Access and Recreation

The Countryside Wardens in the A&R team are the eyes and ears of FCCT. They spend most of their time on site, rotating between patrols of our beaches and nature reserves, the Lomond Hills Regional Park, the Fife Coastal Path, and the Fife Pilgrim Way.

The main aims of the A&R team are to:

- Ensure the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) is complied with by service users on all our sites.
- Identify and report issues, be it Health and Safety related or general repairs and tidiness.
- Ensure access to our sites is maintained and, where possible, improve visitor experience.
- Liaise with other agencies, landowners/land managers, the public and any other stakeholders concerned with the management of our sites.

We are looking forward to another summer criss-crossing Fife to ensure everyone has a wonderful experience wherever they might be visiting.



*The Isle of May lies at the entrance to the Firth of Forth, and supports a breeding colony of grey seals (*Halichoerus grypus*). The fourth-largest breeding colony in the UK.*

Conservation Team

The Conservation team's work is primarily engaged with the conservation management of sites and projects across Fife, covering Local Nature Reserves (LNR's), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's), Special Protection Areas (SPA's), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's), wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention (RAMSAR's) and Fife Regional Park (FRP).

We provide advice on topics such as the Wildlife and Countryside Act, felling permissions, Agri-environment schemes, and funding opportunities as well as producing site management plans and carrying out biological surveying across these sites for both FCCT and Fife Council.

The team also undertakes:

- Delivery of projects and targets within the Fife Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Engagement and partnership working with communities, landowners, and statutory bodies.
- Working with volunteers to enhance biodiversity across our sites.
- Educational engagement from pre-school to postgraduate levels.
- Delivery of guided walks, talks and events.



Fife Coast and Countryside Trust

Highlights



Lyne Burn Stats

Lyne Burn Update

The Lyne Burn Project is a million-pound river restoration project funded by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency's (SEPA) Water Environment Fund. FCCT became heavily involved in the project in 2020, with the recruitment of Alexandra Hoadley, Conservation Officer, who has responsibility for the delivery of a suite of community engagement activities for the Lyne Burn Project.

The first phase of the Lyne Burn Project has now been completed. This saw the artificially straightened channel of the Lyne Burn, which flows through Rex Park, Dunfermline having its natural meanders reinstated. This will enable a new habitat to develop, suitable for riparian wildlife such as herons and other wetland species, making a more aesthetic and enjoyable riverside park for residents and visitors whilst improving the climate resilience of the burn itself.

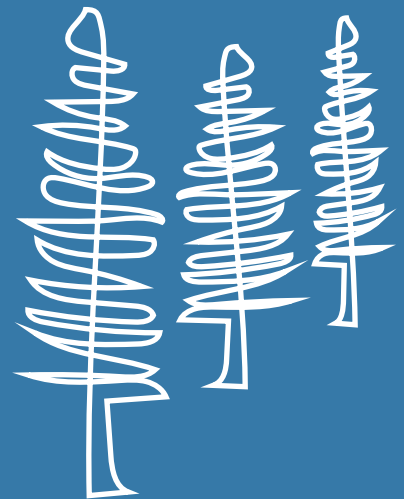
Following on from the burn restoration several greenspace improvements have taken place at three project sites, Rex Park, Lyne Burn Park, and Touch; these were funded by Fife Council.

- These improvements will take place in two phases, with the first phase delivered from January to April 2022.
- Work has commenced on the Touch Community Garden, which includes an orchard.
- On one day in March 60 volunteers planted a total of 1000 native willow saplings and willow cuttings, donated to the project by Vilana Natural Beauty UK. Volunteers included local Dunfermline residents and members of local Scout Groups.
- Several planting days have been held in Rex Park to plant native trees such as rowan, downy birch, and oak to improve the Park's biodiversity, and to create attractive greenspace with the local community.
- Engagement activities have taken place with Woodmill High School, Touch Primary School, and St Columba's High School.
- FCCT were successful in receiving a grant from Action Earth Volunteering Matters (with funding from NatureScot) which allowed 1000 native bulbs and native trees such as rowan and holly to be planted in Touch.
- As part of the project Alexandra Hoadley has delivered talks to local groups to raise awareness of the project and attended community consultation activities throughout the project's development phase. She has also delivered river monitoring sessions with local schools to survey the water quality and characteristics of the burn before and after the restoration.
- A Community-Based Adult Learning Course 'Exploring the Outdoors' funded by Fife Council has also been developed.

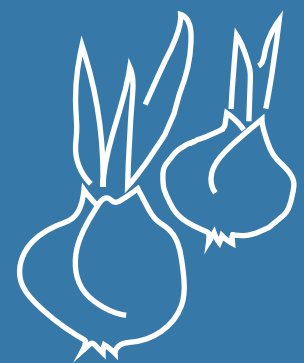
Over the next year, FCCT will continue to deliver events along the Lyne Burn Corridor, including guided walks in partnership with Butterfly Conservation Scotland and the British Trust for Ornithology in May 2022.



**291 Volunteers,
including 100 young people**



1404 Trees Planted



1000 Bulbs Planted

Staying Safe on the Coastal Path

The Coastal Safety Markers, an idea which was first discussed in 2018, has become a reality when Coastal Safety Markers in the East Neuk were installed and became operational in February 2022. The project was run in partnership with RNLi (Royal National Lifeboat Institution), Anstruther Community Safety Team, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, Police Scotland, and The Waid Academy.

Starting at Shell Bay and stretching to Kingsbarns, there are 38 markers in total. Should people find themselves in an emergency, they can give their nearest post number to the emergency services to give an accurate location. All post locations are held by the emergency services, meaning that they know exactly where each post is and where the best access point is for each one, cutting down the response times significantly when every minute is of vital importance.

Fife Coast and Countryside Trust led in the development phase, developing designs for the panels and posts, while FCCT's Maintenance Team installed the posts and panels.



Representatives from partner organisations

Biodiversity Challenge Fund

Working in partnership with St Andrews University, St Andrews Botanic Gardens, Crail Community Partnership and other landowners, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust have been involved in two environmental projects, 'Meadows in the Making' and 'Green Corridor Tree Planting.' The projects funded by the NatureScot Biodiversity Challenge Fund, will see a transformational change in land management, increasing biodiversity and sustainability.

Around 8 hectares of closely mown grassland will be brought into management as meadow habitat. This will allow wild flowers to flourish and attract a variety of wildlife to this important habitat to forage, shelter, and nest. Pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies, birds such as swallows and goldfinch, small mammals such as bats and hedgehogs, and amphibians such as frogs and toads will all benefit.

Green hay from Coul Den LNR was spread on new meadow areas in the university campus. The green hay contains wild flower seeds, which will help increase the biodiversity of their site. Coul Den has been part of a grassland management programme since 1996 and is home to a range of plant species including Cowslips, Knapweed and Common Vetch.

More than 1000 native trees have been planted by FCCT staff and volunteers along the cycle track from St Andrews to Guardbridge. This work will improve the habitat of the corridor from Guardbridge to St Andrews, allowing invertebrates, small mammals, and birds to travel along the vegetation taking advantage of the shelter and new food sources.

The user experience of people using the cycle track will be improved, as the trees mature, they will create a natural barrier to the road, reducing noise and visual pollution.



FCCT Staff pictured with Jules Hudson (fourth from left), Compère of Loo of the Year Awards

National Awards

Six Scotland Category Awards

Two UK Category Awards

In-House Cleaning Team

Market Sector
Heritage Award for the
Harbourmaster's House

Trust Clean Up at the Loo of the Year Awards

Representatives from Fife Coast and Countryside Trust recently attended the annual awards ceremony for the Loo of the Year Awards 2021, held in Birmingham.

The Trust were delighted to be awarded six Scotland Category Awards, including the Public Toilet and Local Authority Entries Awards. The Trust also won UK-wide Awards for the In-House Cleaning Team Trophy and the Market Sector Heritage Award for Harbourmaster's House in Dysart.

The Trust manages 13 public toilets on behalf of Fife Council at sites across Fife, nine of which received recognition in the Local Authority Public Toilet Awards category. The Trust were also listed in the Champions League standards of excellence awards and the Local Authority public toilet top 20 Premier League.

Robbie Blyth, Head of Operations at FCCT commented, "We will not be resting on our laurels going forward, as we work to improve our toilet provision further and gain recognition in categories we have not entered in the past."

West Sand Dune Recharging March 2022

In March 2022 FCCT staff worked in partnership with St Andrews Links Trust (SALT) to deliver the largest sand recharge since the sand dune restoration project began in 2010. The project was funded by the Nature Restoration from NatureScot. Under licence from Marine Scotland, 2600 cubic metres of wet sand were extracted from below the low water mark. The sand was moved by the contractor into blown-out weakened areas in the dunes, taking just three days to complete the task.

Several new 'clavicular gates' were added to the beach side of some access points, to further reduce the risk of seaward storm damage on the sand dunes and the land behind.

Once the works were completed, the recharged areas were planted with Marram and Lyme grass. A total of 226 hours was contributed by volunteers who assisted with the planting and included a group of Conservation students from SRUC Elmwood Campus.

This work will not only strengthen the sea flood defence aspect of the sand dunes but will also improve the ecology of this site.

Challenges of Increased Visitor Numbers

The pandemic saw visitor numbers continue their dramatic rise in 2021 with increased pressure on many of our sites and associated infrastructure. The health and well-being benefits of accessing outdoor spaces are well documented, and we continue to see increased footfall from residents and visitors from further afield drawn to Fife's amazing outdoor spaces.

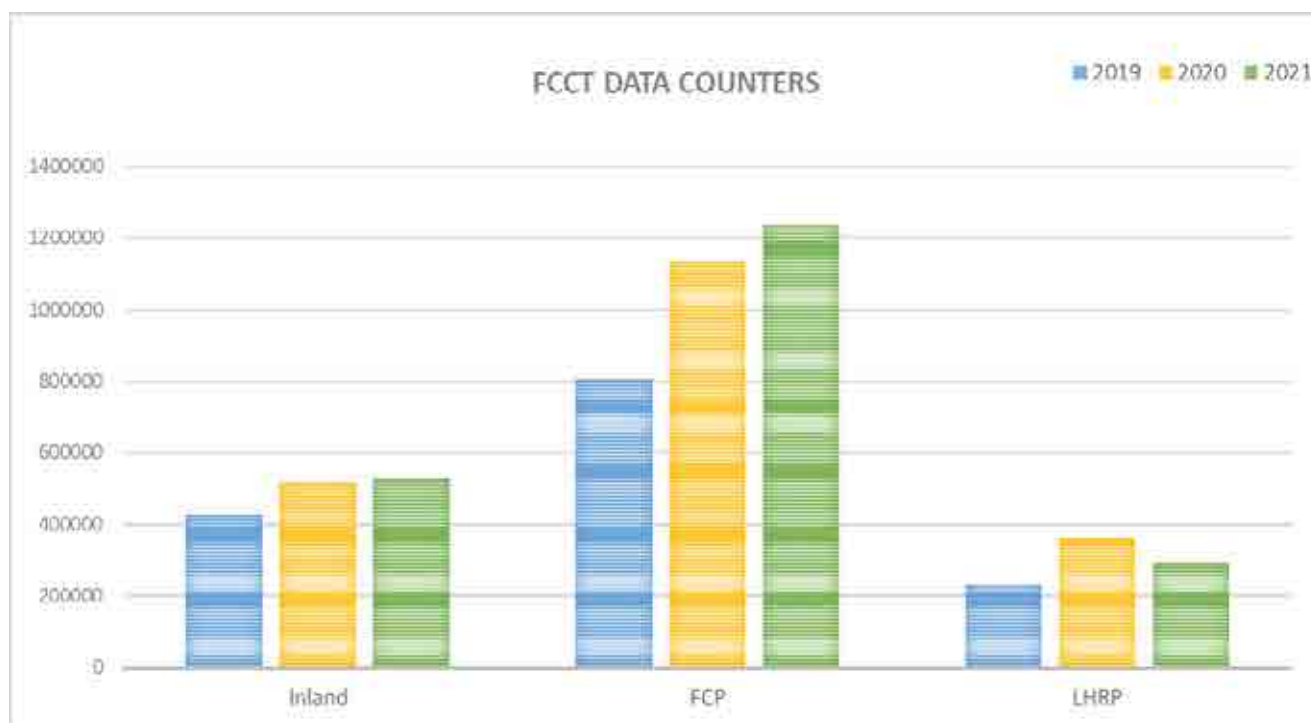
Some of our sites were victims of their own popularity, with the beaches at Elie Ruby Bay and Kingsbarns seeing particularly substantial increases in visitor numbers, while visits to some stretches of the still relatively new Fife Pilgrim Way saw user numbers double since 2019. This sees it fulfilling one of its aims of getting people to discover more of inland Fife, though presents management challenges for both FCCT and landowners. The key issues faced included dirty camping, irresponsible parking, fires, and dog walkers not ensuring that their pets are under control. While these issues were present pre-pandemic, they have increased as visitor numbers have increased.

FCCT have responded to the challenges of increased visitor numbers by increasing the number of staff on the ground to engage with the public, liaising with other agencies and initiating projects with landowners and communities to better manage visitor pressure going forward.

A team of Countryside Wardens, part of the newly formed Access & Recreation Team were recruited in Summer 2021 and a key part of their remit is to engage with the public about responsible countryside access across Fife.

Joint patrols were carried out with Police Scotland and Safer Communities at sites including Balmerino, which saw frequent incidents of dirty camping.

The Operations Team worked hard to manage and improve the facilities across our sites, be it managing waste disposal, parking, or toilets.



The above statistics show the trends in visitor numbers across Inland sites, Fife Coastal Path and the Lomond Hills Regional Park.



Warden Patrols

Information was gathered as part of warden patrols, between 7/9/21 and 31/3/22

Patrols - 911
 People engaged with - 2904
 Campervans parking overnight - 259
 Tents - 44
 Old Fires/BBQ Cleared - 136
 Live Fires - 10
 Dogs (Not on a lead or close control) - 87
 Bags of litter - 209.25

Tents Find a New Home – Upcycling

FCCT saw an upsurge in abandoned camping equipment during the summer of 2021. Over just one weekend in August our Maintenance Team recovered four tents and associated equipment from the Fife Coastline.

However, FCCT turned a negative into a positive by upcycling camping equipment when possible and passing it on to responsible users.

Campers may not be aware that abandoning camping equipment in this way is not only littering but can also trigger searches for individuals who may have got into difficulty. FCCT expects all campers to take their camping equipment home with them and not to litter the countryside.

Glenrothes High School received two tents and a sleeping bag, along with FCCT Wild Camping leaflets, which were used to teach pupils about responsible camping and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.



Tom Quayle, FCCT and Sandra Smith,
Glenrothes High School

Fife Outdoor Tourism Infrastructure Programme (FOTIP)

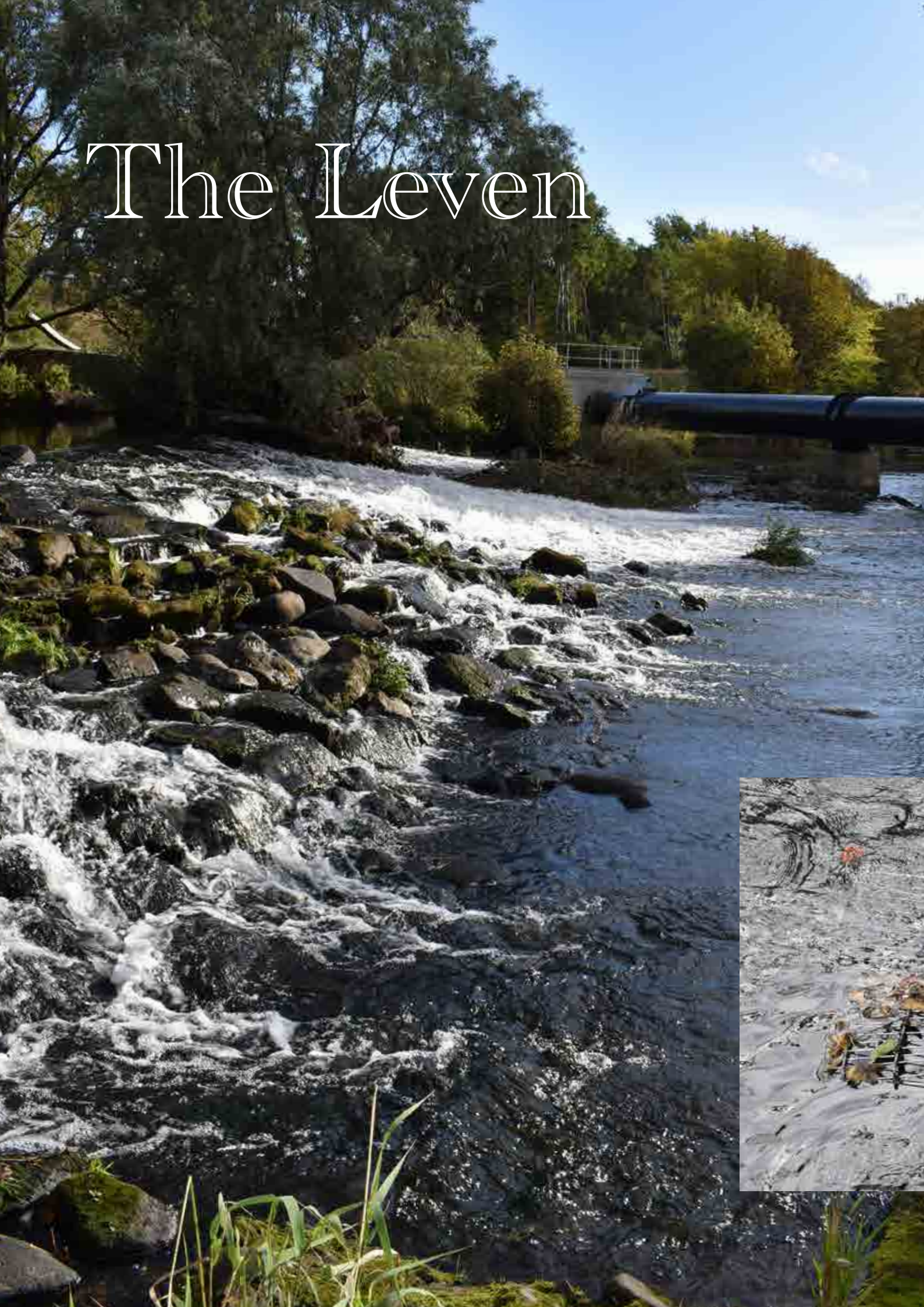
In response to rising visitor numbers, increased pressure on services, communities, and the environment, FCCT developed the Fife Outdoor Tourism Infrastructure Programme (FOTIP); a rolling programme of prioritised works that seeks to relieve these pressures, serve communities, and improve the visitor experience.

Working in partnership with Fife Council, we have secured £1.14m to upgrade, replace and install new toilet facilities, install waste disposal points for motorhome users, new bins for sorting waste for recycling and disposable barbecues, improvements to car parks including the introduction and management of overnight parking charges to support ongoing management, EV and e-bike charging points, new orientation and directional signage for the Fife Coastal Path, and nature based projects to protect and enhance the natural environment.

The programme is supported by £375,000 from the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF) administered by Visit Scotland, £650,000 from Fife Council Community & Neighbourhood Service capital plan, £45,000 from Fife Council Transportation Services, £20,000 from Crown Estates Scotland, £50,000 funding and £25,000 in kind contribution from FCCT. Works are underway with delivery of this first phase expected over the next two to three years, during which time we will be prioritising and seeking funds to deliver the next phase.



The Leven



Leven Programme

The Leven Programme is a regeneration initiative with the environment and people at its heart. It involves many key government agencies, non-government organisations, private sector and local communities working closely together to help deliver environmental improvements in and around the River Leven in Fife, while maximising the social and economic opportunities that these improvements can bring.

The 10-year vision is that by 2030, the partnership approach will have contributed to, and delivered, several projects that will collectively have helped to breathe life back into the River Leven, improving the areas surrounding it and making them beautiful places to live, work and visit.

FCCT are an active partner in this project leading two restoration projects on behalf of Fife Council - one a section of the River Leven and also one of its tributaries the Back Burn.

We are also involved in driving forward innovation around the development of a blended finance model in the environmental sector in Scotland.

Further information on the programme can be found at www.theleven.org

World Water Day 2022

In March an event took place at Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh to celebrate World Water Day. It brought together Scotland's water sector and water users to understand and explore the benefits of Scotland's water as a resource and the key issues in its management.

As part of the event a video created as part of the River Leven Restoration Project, which featured as part of the COP26 Water Wall, was awarded the best entry in the Freshwater Restoration theme.

To celebrate the winning video entries, 70 native trees have been planted to help revitalise wild forests in the Scottish Highlands. You can watch the River Leven Regeneration Project video on our [YouTube channel](#).



The River Leven and its tributaries are a vital part of the local landscape, as well as being a great asset to the communities that live alongside them.

Physical modifications to the river, including weirs, narrowing and straightening, resulting from the River Leven's industrial past and designed landscapes, has resulted in huge environmental pressures being placed on it.

The river, along with one of its tributaries (the Back Burn) have been affected by many man-made changes over time. We are currently working to deliver two projects that address some of the challenges this creates.

One focuses on a 4km section of the River Leven between Windygates and Leven, and the other the Back Burn, which flows from the Lomond Hills.

MAINTENANCE TEAM

Fife Coastal Path – Kinghorn to Seafield Upgrades

Over the past 8 years a rolling programme of works has taken place along this 2.5km section of the Fife Coastal Path. As well as path surfacing works, steps and handrails have been installed, while extensive vegetation management has been undertaken to ensure sunlight and air allow any muddy sections to dry quickly, thus maintaining the integrity of the path surface.

The upgrades have cost in the region of £11,500 with a total of 900 staff hours having been committed by FCCT. Ongoing maintenance including strimming, cutting back vegetation and drainage work are carried out several times each year.

Further works have since been delivered at Seafield Beach car park, where the infrastructure was identified as needing an upgrade. Working in conjunction with Fife Council our teams undertook required improvements covering repairs of picnic tables, fencing, board walks and replaced the bins.

In addition to our SLA (Service Level Agreement), we also undertake additional project work when the opportunities arise to improve the many areas in Fife that we care for. These are just some of the projects that the Operation Team have undertaken over a 12-month period however they demonstrate strong links and partnership working with the many communities we serve.

Seven Men Went to Mow

Our small Maintenance Team is busy all-year round cutting grass and vegetation to keep our sites safe and passable.

Here are the impressive statistics
7 men, 12 months, 340 days,
2623 hours.

64 locations (Fife Coastal Path, Fife Pilgrim Way, Lomond Hills) and 8 other sites.



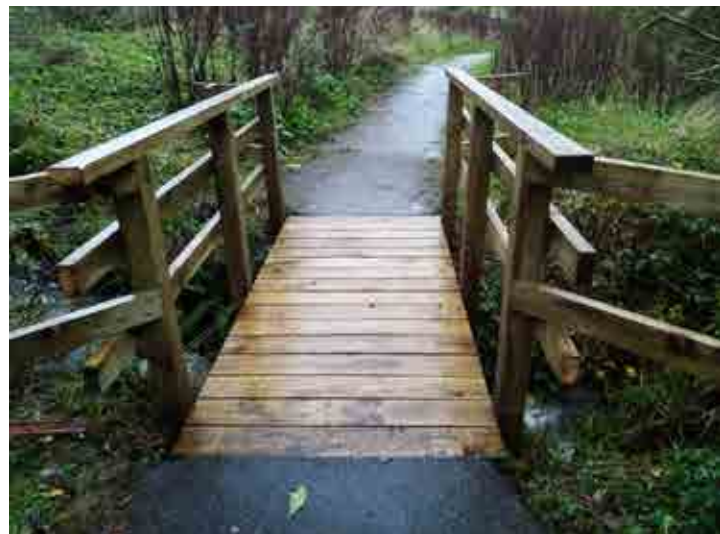
Control of Invasive Species (Flora)

In addition to the FCCT invasive species programme extra funding was drawn down from Cireco to control the rapid growth of Giant Hogweed on the former Pittenweem Tip which has acted as a giant seedbank to the Dreel Burn for many years.

Now in its third year the work carried out by the Maintenance Team has significantly reduced the growth and prevents the erosion of the riverbank that lies parallel to the former tip site.

Carnock Bridge Replacement

A request was made to replace a dangerous bridge that had fallen into disrepair on a well-used core path that linked the community in Carnock, near Dunfermline. The bridge was a 3-metre span requiring a complete replacement.



Recovery of Dead Sei Whale

Sadly, our staff had to arrange the safe removal and disposal of a 12-metre long Sei whale which is a rare species for Scotland with only two reported strandings in the past 30 years. Such an undertaking requires assistance from many stakeholders and was successfully coordinated by the FCCT Operations Team. The recovery of the whale involved the removal from Dalgety Bay and landing at Burntisland Beach Car Park followed by a mandatory necropsy, facilitated through the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

A sad end to such a beautiful and mighty mammal. The impact this had on our staff and local communities did not go unnoticed which only makes us all the more determined in the conservation work we undertake each day.



Pathhead Beach, Kirkcaldy Improvements

Pathhead Beach lies to the east of Kirkcaldy and though it is a scenic location it suffers from fly tipping, dog fouling, substance abuse and other forms of anti-social behaviour. To address these challenges our teams undertook a programme to engineer out these practices. Not only did the removal of self-seeded growth open the area up and reduce anti-social behaviour it also helped the regeneration of natural coastal plants and grasses.



Kinkell Braes, St Andrews

The big in-house project this year was the upgrading, redressing, and drainage on the Fife Coastal Path at Kinkell Braes, St Andrews. A legacy donated on behalf of a local resident helped achieve this work and improve the walking experience for all as you leave St Andrews, heading east on the Fife Coastal Path.

Pitcairn Centre Upgrade

With the need to accommodate the Conservation & Engagement Team, funding was made available for our teams to undertake improvements at our base at Pitcairn Centre, Glenrothes. The work included the installation of a new kitchen, refurbishment of five rooms and two portacabins and new flooring throughout the building.



Freuchie Den

The local community requested help from FCCT as the area had been heavily impacted after several storm events washed away and damaged the foot bridges. Our Teams replaced the bridges and removed thick overhanging branches that had created a microclimate which prevented the drying out of paths, which also causes the wood on the foot bridges to rot more quickly.

Better Places Green Recovery Fund

FCCT secured a grant of £45,873 from NatureScot, through the Better Places Green Recovery Fund in Spring 2021.

This funding allowed us to recruit more staff on the ground to cope with the abnormally high numbers of visitors. This additional staffing resource has enabled us to be more pro-active with visitor management at the busier sites and helped address visitor related pressures. The positive impact was particularly felt during the weekends when visitor pressure was typically heightened, and the permanent team was unable to sufficiently cover all the popular locations.

The staff recruited included two Countryside Wardens, and five Maintenance Operatives, including two young people under the age of 18, who will gain employment and skills in the sector, which we hope they will be able to bring back to work with FCCT as other positions become available.

The longer-term trend of increasing visitor numbers looks set to continue with demand on our services, and pressures on our environment and communities increasing. FCCT are exploring ways to retain at least 2 of the seasonal posts on a more permanent basis.

Tackling Seaborne Litter

FCCT works in partnership with many organisations and community groups, including Keep Scotland Beautiful's Upstream Battle Campaign, which focuses on changing littering behaviour to prevent marine litter at source along the River Tay.

Another successful partnership is with David Spence of Fife Street Champions and Mike Delaney of Happy Beaches Fife, who carry out litter picks across Fife.

Over recent months David and Mike, who work part-time for the Trust, have been focusing on the removal of seaborne litter that washes up along the Fife coastline. Many tonnes of ghost fishing gear, tyres, plastic, and other items wash up, often in inaccessible locations, which makes the retrieval and removal of the litter challenging.

The work done by the Team makes a significant difference to Fife's coastline and is often commented on by Coastal Path walkers.

Bags of litter collected as part of the Green Recovery Fund

Fife Coastal Path - 1140
Fife Pilgrim Way - 115
Lomond Hills
Regional Park - 46
Other sites - 30

Total - 1331

More than 22kg of wet wipes were collected near Ardross, near Elie by Happy Beaches - Fife and Fife Street Champions in the space of just 2 hours.



Volunteering

In September FCCT Staff and volunteers attended a 2-day workshop led by Experience Community a not-for-profit Community Interest Company that provides films and information about walks and other leisure activities for disabled people and the wider community.

The training took the format of working with disabled volunteers to review a three-mile walk, recording potential access issues, going on to creating a story board, capturing the walk on video, which was then edited and had subtitles included.

Going forward, sections of the Fife Pilgrim Way will be recorded on video, and these will be embedded in the Trust's website to enable people with mobility considerations to make informed choices about whether they can tackle a particular route.

This year has been yet another challenging year for everyone, but our Volunteers have continued to contribute so much to the work of the Trust giving selflessly of their time and energy. We are extremely grateful for this essential contribution to our work.



Total volunteering hours from April 2021 to March 2022 = 2508 hours (348 days)

Community Groups Litter Picks total hours	Green Recovery Team	Staff managed litter pick with Community Group	Independent Community Group with FCCT Equipment
1204	314	101	789
Corporate Group	Conservation Team Led Project	Beach Clean Up	
268	100	168	
Education Groups	Tree/Grass Planting	Litter Picks	
387	105	282	
Individual	Various Conservation Team Projects		
649	649		



FUTURE FOCUS



Craighall Den Interpretation Board and Path Work

In 2021 Conservation Officers sourced funding from NatureScot's Nature Restoration Fund to carry out path works and create a new interpretation panel. The planned works included resurfacing the entire path and restructuring a small woodland loop; expanding the car park and the design and installation of a new interpretation board. However, due to price increases for both materials and contractors, this could not be achieved with the funding secured.

FCCT Maintenance Team resurfaced a section of the top path and a new interpretation panel, and housing are being created. It is our hope to secure funding from alternative sources to enable the full delivery of the plans.

FIFE COAST COUNTRYSIDE TRUST
www.fife.coastandcountryside.co.uk

Craighall Den

Recognised as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Flora and Fauna of the Den . . .

This woodland is recognised as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to being one of the largest and best examples of semi-natural woodland in north-east Fife. Approximately 40% of the Den is also designated as ancient woodland, making this a very rich and important habitat for wildlife and biodiversity.

A rich habitat with a rich history...
The remains of two buildings lie at the top of the den. Craighall Castle was built by Sir Thomas de la Zouche in 1527. Very little of this building remains today, much of the stone was reused to build the one built into the hill at the top of the den, and it was eventually demolished in 1927. The stone ruins still stand and do not form as part of the landscape. Craighall and the ancestral lands of the de la Zouche family.

The landscape of the Den has been hugely influenced by extensive excavations. Before the first pits were in operation between 1814 and 1823, people quarried and burned limestone throughout the Den, creating the large ditches and hollows that run alongside the path.

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly
We are responsible for your own actions:
• respect the interests of other people
• care for the environment.

KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

experience engage enjoy

Fife Coast and Countryside Trust
The Harbourmaster's House, 142c Port Wynd, Dysart, Fife KY12 2TQ

Dipper (Cinclus cinclus)
Look out for Dipper along the water's edge. If you hear an odd noise far along the water, you may spot it making a noise under the water!

Dipper feed on underwater invertebrates. In order to protect their environment, in order to protect their own, they have a third eyelid called the 'velar eye' - a bit like wearing a pair of goggles to go swimming!

Woodcock (Scolopax rusticicola)
If you are very lucky, you may spot the elusive woodcock in Craighall Den. They are most active at dawn and dusk and therefore rarely spotted during the day. Their strange look from behind and their woodland camouflage, and their long bill allow them to forage for earthworms and other invertebrates under the ground.

Woodcock nest and roost on the ground, so please stay on the paths and keep dogs under control, so that the birds and their young will not be disturbed.

Roe Deer (Capreolus capreolus)
If you see a flash of white through the trees, you might have spotted the rear of a roe deer! They are native to Scotland and reintroduced from Deer by their small, three-pointed antlers.

Dog's Mercury (Mercurialis perennis)
Dog's Mercury is an indicator of ancient woodland, along with bluebells and wood anemones, which can also be found throughout Craighall Den. Dog's Mercury can grow to 40cm high and produces dense cover with ground covering stems that are succulent.

In the past, 'dog's mercury' was used to treat 'the black' - a bacterial disease. Dog's Mercury therefore got its name because it is not the other mercury species - it is poisonous!

Field Maple (acer campestre) is also present throughout the Den - this is the only maple species native to the UK and easily recognised by the rounded edges of the leaves, as pictured here.

Ancient Trees
Look out for some impressive trees on your walk through Craighall Den. There is a wide variety of native and non-native tree and shrub species in the woodland. You will see many mature trees along the path, with impressive and upright oak structures. Some of the larger trees in the Den were probably planted for timber or ornamental features approximately 200 years ago. Look out for the gnarled mature beech trees by the site of former Craighall Castle. These were probably originally planted as a hedge in the castle garden. Many of the trees are ancient trees in the Den are suffering from bee dieback, a type of fungus that weakens and eventually kills or kills ancient beech trees. According to local legend, the field maples were planted in the early 1800s as a source of sap for when a French man blocked along the backburn was led to a shortage of sugar.

Scarlet Elf Cup Fungus (Sarcoscypha austriaca)
This fungus is rarely spotted because it is shaped like a cup and bright orange - this due to its name! Although widespread throughout the UK, Scarlet Elf Cup fungus is rarely spotted and grows on fallen logs and branches, particularly beech.

It was believed that when would gather the red drink from these fungus cups, or if you decide to collect some, make sure you leave plenty behind for the animal!

Scarlet Elf Cups make a puffing sound when they release their spores - if you find one, blow on it and hold it up to your ear, you may be able to hear the puff just be careful you don't end up with mushrooms growing out of your ears...

By carrying out these works, we have been able to re-establish a regular presence on site and re-engage with neighbouring landowners, visitors and interested education groups.

River Leven and Back Burn Restoration Projects

The River Leven and its tributaries are a vital part of the local landscape in Fife, as well as being a great asset to the communities that live alongside them. They provide a wide range of benefits, including:

- Wildlife corridors for plants, insects, and animal life.
- Opportunities for recreation, such as fishing and water sports.
- Natural flood management.
- Well-being, such as places to spend time and relax.

Physical modifications, including weirs, narrowing, and straightening, resulting from the area's industrial past and designed landscapes, have resulted in significant environmental pressure being placed on these waterways. We are currently working hard to deliver two projects that address some of these challenges. One focuses on a 4km section of the River Leven between Windygates and Leven, and the other on a section of one of its tributaries, the Back Burn, flowing from the Lomond Hills.

The projects have been commissioned by Fife Council and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), supported initially with funding from the Water Environment Fund (WEF) and Fife Council. FCCT are managing both projects from concept design through to delivery. While the key aim of the projects is about restoring the river corridor it is critical to their success to connect with local communities and for them to have a say in how the projects are developed through an engagement and consultation process starting later in the year.

As the projects develop, we hope to engage with local community groups and schools through activities such as tree planting, fish in the classroom, guided walks, and family events.

Wild Camping Initiative

Wild camping in tents has long taken place in a wide range of locations with no formal facilities, including the wilder, more remote parts of Scotland and Access legislation permits camping within areas of Fife.

We at FCCT embrace the right to roam and connect with nature however for wild camping to be sustainable it requires to be lightweight, done in small numbers and only for two or three nights. Where access rights apply service users must avoid causing problems for local people and land managers by not camping in enclosed fields (of crops or farm animals) and by keeping well away from buildings, roads, car parks, recreation facilities or historic structures. Historically Elie Ruby Bay experiences more wild camping than many other locations in Fife due to easy access and scenic views however lack of capacity is now a challenge. The reasons for this are the lack of camping facilities, staycation phenomenon and greater social media awareness.

FCCT are keen to promote sustainable wild camping with engagement, education, and helpful guidance on suitable locations. Therefore, for 2022 we have designed a leaflet and an initiative to assist campers in making better choices when wild camping.

We have identified 15 locations within the Elie Ruby Bay area that are under direct management of the Trust and suitable for wild camping. These locations are marked with a logoe temporary way marker that suggests possible wild camping areas and we will provide additional access to toilet facilities.

Our staff will directly engage with wild campers at Ruby Bay providing safety advice and location guidance and they will outline the spirit and the rules of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The trial will be monitored for 2022 and if successful we will seek to promote the initiative in other locations with similar challenges.



Motorhome Parking Charge Scheme


The Motorhome Parking Charge Scheme is now in operation at Kingsbarns Beach & Elie Ruby Bay Car Park, and it is anticipated that the scheme will facilitate far more accessible overnight parking for motorhomes at these two locations.

We have had to change the way we manage our car parks as continuing to operate them as unregulated parking facilities has proved to be unsustainable and has impacted heavily on the environment with excessive overnight use. Moving forward, vehicle users will now enter these car parks on a contractual basis making it far more achievable to manage the car park in a safer and sustainable manner. To accompany the scheme, we have also designed a leaflet that can be located on the FCCT website or via the QR code.

We are adding a page to our website to explain the rationale behind the introduction of parking charges and our work to manage overnight parking at Kingsbarns and Elie Ruby Bay.



How to enjoy Fife
in your motorhome
or campervan



FIFE COAST &
COUNTRYSIDE TRUST



Education

In January this year, FCCT welcomed Aidan Duncan into our new Outdoor Education Manager role, sitting within the Conservation and Engagement team. The scope of this role is to review the existing framework for the provision of Outdoor Learning and to develop an approach that, in line with the Trust's Vision Statement, widens our reach, broadens our activity, and improves the Trust's engagement with the community.

There are several areas being developed within our Outdoor Learning Framework and some areas of priority for the coming year.

Well-being is the first of these. In the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic communities across Fife have been impacted by an overall reduction in sense of well-being. FCCT Education is developing a service that will contribute to improved well-being for those most in need. To achieve this, we will run a long-term programme that aims to support people to learn self-care routines which harness the therapeutic qualities of the natural greenspaces and woodlands on their doorstep.

Mainstream Education is another area recovering from the impact of the pandemic and is the second of our priority areas. Focusing initially on a small school cluster, we will develop an offer with a longer-term programmatic approach. Designed in conjunction with teachers, this will strengthen the impact of classroom learning for pupils by harnessing the power of experiential learning, strengthening the school's longer term learning intentions and building towards greater attainment. Linking pupils to place and learning to communities, this approach will use outdoor learning to embed concepts and generate deep learning experiences for pupils.

Priority areas are being initiated with pilot projects, which can then be scaled up to form part of a growing Education offer throughout 2022 and beyond.



Tackling Global Problems Locally

Time and again we have demonstrated that working in partnership with communities and other organisations achieves far more than any of us could in isolation. This is particularly powerful when it comes to conservation and nature restoration. In recent years, we have seen long standing environmental issues come to the fore of the public and political consciousness. Global issues of biodiversity loss, diffuse pollution, non-native invasive species, greenhouse gas emissions, and environmental degradation are happening in Fife and are having a profound effect on our economy and well-being.

We understand that to make the changes needed to reverse or even slow these processes down, then we must work together and make informed decisions, locally, and for the long-term. Landscape scale initiatives like The Leven Project, Restoration Forth, and the Dreel Burn Project enable us to collaborate with local and national organisations, communities, landowners, and businesses to share knowledge and skills to meet our environmental, social, and economic needs.

How we pay for these initiatives is as much a challenge as the solutions themselves. Government funding and policy have shifted to support environmental projects and incentivise businesses to take more responsibility, but more needs to be done if we are to meet the scale of the challenge. Public and philanthropic funding will only go so far, and it is essential that this is blended with wealth and action from the private sector to achieve our collective aims.

FCCT, along with many others from the public, private and third sectors, are working on ways to allow this model of blended finance to become a reality. Private business and investors are recognising that their responsibilities and continued success go beyond purely profit, yet they still require an economic or financial return on their investments. To meet this need we are having to think beyond the intrinsic benefits to nature and human health that our projects bring, demonstrate, and quantify the economic and financial benefits they offer to potential investors, individuals, and society as a whole.

Fife is rich in natural resources, community spirit, and political will, and is well placed to become a driver in nature restoration and regenerative industries. Tackling these global challenges locally and sharing learning with others is one way that we can help to meet these global challenges whilst creating a healthy environment that supports our well-being and our economy.



Illustration influenced by UN Sustainable Development Goals graphic

Harbourmaster's Café

The Harbourmaster's Café opened as a sit-in café in June 2021, and Eleanor and Cameron Armitage and their team have certainly put the café on the map. The seasonal menu takes advantage of local produce where possible, cakes are baked on site, and they brew a great cup of coffee. Booking is always advised.

The Café also provides a venue for local artists to display their work. Going forward Eleanor and Cameron hope to open occasionally to offer a dinner menu.





Leave a Legacy

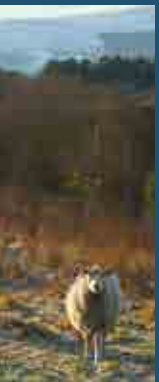
The Fife Coast and Countryside Trust is an independent charity working with partners for a healthy environment that supports well-being and sustains the balance between people and nature.

Spread across more than 65 sites, FCCT maintains the Fife Coastal Path, Fife Pilgrim Way, the Lomond Hills Regional Park, local nature reserves, and award-winning beaches.

The support of individuals and groups through legacies and donations is vital to the work of FCCT, by enabling us to maintain and develop sites across Fife, for the benefit of both visitors and local communities.

An example of legacy funding in action is the recent path upgrading and improved drainage at Kinkell Braes, St Andrews, where a legacy contributed to the cost of the pathworks. The legacy was given by a family in memory of their brother, who had walked this section of the path regularly and spoke of how he was drawn back to walk it many times over the years.





**FIFE COAST &
COUNTRYSIDE TRUST**

Fife Coast and Countryside Trust,
The Harbourmaster's House, Hot Pot Wynd, Dysart, KY1 2TQ.

T. 01592 656080

E. ask.us@fifecountryside.co.uk

W. fifecoastandcountryside.co.uk

Scottish Charity No. SC031247

Company Registered in Scotland: SC2162254