



Annex 1

Individual project summaries

Project 1 – Woodland Expansion

| Activity and budget | Current status | Next steps |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Woodland expansion on Atholl | 990 hectares (ha) of native woodland at Dalnamein and Glen Fender Schemes are largely planted. Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) funding is match funding for the Cairngorms 2030 (C2030) programme. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planting at Glen Fender ends March 2026. |
| Aspen Network development £50,000 | The mapping for 2025 is now complete (there is an ongoing annual programme of survey / mapping), and we are developing the accessibility of the recording app to allow volunteers to survey significant aspen stands in future. This will allow the prioritisation of sites and subsequent reinforcement planting – probably from the newly Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) funded Rivertrees nursery stock. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Survey - spring 2026/27.• New planting - Winter 2027/28 and early 2028/29. |
| Community Tree Nursery £100,000 | Alba Explorers grant approved, nursery manager has been appointed and seed collection begins in Spring. Lease on Rottal site has been signed. Volunteers will be recruited to operate the nursery under the managers supervision. Schools will be invited to send students in either summer or autumn 2026. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Nursery manager starts March 2026.• Seed collection Spring 2026.• Site preparation spring 2026.• School visits likely to start summer 2026. |



| Activity and budget | Current status | Next steps |
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| Montane Woodland £85,000 | Project plan has been undertaken with Mar Lodge Estate. Volunteers will be recruited later this year. Trees being grown / selected by Trees for Life for planting in winter 2027/28. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise plan with National Trust for Scotland (NTS).• Volunteers' recruitment quarter (Q) 3 and 4 2026.• Final planting sites selected and approved Spring 2027.• Planting winter 2027/28. |
| Community support for Forestry Consultations £23,000 | A new plan has emerged following discussions with engagement team. Now guidance on consultation process, written between Scottish Forestry (SF) and the Park Authority, will be placed on the Park Authority website. Potential attendees to training are asked to request via website so that demand can be assessed (numbers and location). This will reduce consultation fatigue. Training will be delivered directly by project staff supported by SF. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop 'how to' advice package - March 2026.• Produce community focused website content and launch - July 2026.• Collect Interest from communities for 'how to' training sessions - December 2026.• Roll out training to community groups March / July 2027. |



Project 2 Peatland Restoration

| Activity | Current status | Next steps |
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| Peatland project delivery 2026/27 £3.5 million (match funding from Scottish Government (SG) peatland Action Process). | There is a regular annual cycle of peatland restoration projects. For 2026/27 there are 12 projects contributing to the annual target of 1300ha, some projects are priority. SG capital budget is £3.5 million which may mean that not all projects are achieved this year. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project development January -March. • Project planning March -June. • Project delivery June- March. |
| Peatland project delivery 2025/26 | 15 projects delivery in 2025/26 currently being completed, five of which are accruals from 2024/25. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project closure and completion - April 2026. |

Project 3 - Nature Recovery

| Activity | Current status | Next steps |
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| Deer larders £400,000 | The two existing larders are both operating well and delivering good deer cull numbers and venison for community use as planned. Community outlets in Pitlochry and Atholl area are receiving venison and schools in North Perthshire and Deeside are receiving educational visits on how to cook venison along with 'home packs' for students. Two new larders are being planned and have approval from NLHF. In Glen Clova and Atholl Estate. Their venison will support the school use and go to Country Food Trust for use as long life 'ready meals' for local distribution. Potentially 4.8 tonnes of venison produced annual equals approximately 48,000 meals. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing larder will continue to operate for next nine years. • Clova and Atholl larders will be in place by Summer 2026. • Additional venison begins on last two Autumn 2026. • Assessment of benefits – venison for communities' reduction in deer numbers, additional and supported new |



| Activity | Current status | Next steps |
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| <p>Future Skills Project £297,000</p> | <p>Skills development was identified through the Expression of Interest (EOI) process. We will run a pilot scheme co-designed with West Grampian Deer Management Group (DMG) estates delivering skills to estate staff, aimed at future changes in management and development of estate business to make them more resilient.</p> <p>We aim to recruit a contractor to undertake the co-design process with the estates and then obtain trainer for the identified skills needs.</p> <p>The ambition is to roll out a wider scheme post C2030 as part of the programme legacy actions.</p> | <p>jobs. Undertaken in winter 2026/27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval from NLHF April 2026. • Preparation of tender, put through Public Contracts Scotland (PCS) for a skills programme coordinator. April 2026. • Co-design process with estates to identify training needs, Q3 and Q4 2026. • Hiring of training partners for specific skills Q1 2027. • Delivery of training. • Evaluation - to be determined with estates. |
| <p>Woodland Network development £700,000</p> | <p>We are aiming to deliver woodland corridors linking catchments. Under active consideration are three possible schemes: northern Glen Tilt (Atholl, Mar Lodge and Felar estates), Dalnacardoch (Durrel Foundation) and Glenshee (upper Glen planting).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval from NLHF April / May 2026. • Feasibility studies for Tilt and Glen Shee schemes. – April 2026. • Final Scheme designs, including |



| Activity | Current status | Next steps |
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| | Feasibility studies are ongoing for all three and a final decision will be made on receipt of these. All three are key habitat network links which have already been assessed. Upland planting attracts lower levels of funding support, so this contribution is necessary to make the projects happen. Which projects are supported will depend upon cost models. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dalnacardoch – to be determined. Application to SF for grant – to be determined. Contractor tenders for fencing and planting – to be determined. Site planting - Likely winter 2027/28. |
| Conservation Grazing £60,000 | An EOI request from Durrel at Dalnacardoch to start a programme of cattle grazing to manage habitat in upland areas. This is a good opportunity to study in depth the ecological effects of this type of grazing through baseline studies on invertebrate populations and habitats. Cattle will be from nearby farms and satellite collars will be used to avoid fencing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final details have yet to be agreed with Durrell. However, they are keen to start as soon as possible potentially in summer 2026. |

Project 4 - Cairngorms Future Farming

| Activity | Current status | Next steps |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Pilot farms development £260,000 | Ongoing development of good practices on farms. We are calling for expenditure of grant to be completed by the end of the year or at least committed spend for Q1 2027. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final expenditure if required by December 2026. Monitoring surveys, ongoing advice and support as requested. |



| Activity | Current status | Next steps |
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| Regenerative Farming training Up to £100,000 capital funding | This process aims to recruit five to 15 farms to a programme of training and direct advice from a regenerative farming experts Caroline Grindlerod. (Wilderculture CiC). Annual one to one session on the farms, supported group meetings, four group workshops over 2026/27 and funding to support changes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment events February 2026. Farms recruited May 2026. Training events and farm visits on going until end of 2028. |
| Scenario modelling support package £30,000 (if 10 farms recruited) Up to £50,000 capital funding. | This will be open to farmers and crofters in the National Park and will utilise experts to model financial impacts of adopting up to five sustainable practices per farm (using Farmax software). This will be one to one support together with up to £5,000 funding to support changes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications submitted by March 2026. Support will run from Summer 2026. |

Project 5 - Climate Resilient Catchments

| Activity | Current status | Next steps |
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| Upper Dee River restoration £400,000 | This work to remove levees and bank reinforcement on a stretch of river Dee adjoining Invercauld and Mar Lodge. Scheme includes wetland improvements in adjacent areas for wading birds and Large Woody Structure (LWS) placed in-stream to improve habitat quality. Approval for planning and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) are obtained and contractor has been appointed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site works starts August 2026. Works complete October 2026. |
| Slugain Burn | The realignment of the burn from a straightened, embanked channel to a | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and final costing April 2026. |



| Activity | Current status | Next steps |
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| £500,000 | new, longer naturalised channel leading to the Dulnain. It will include a replacement bridge to remove this blockage to flow of burn and facilitate a more reliable access to car parking area. Final design is currently underway which will also allow an accurate cost estimate. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission to Planning / SEPA April 2026. • Site start may be Q3 2026 or possible in 2027 dependant on timing of approvals. |
| Ballater Flood Issues Group £200,000 | <p>The Ballater Flood Issues Group is a community initiative, under the Cairngorms Connect, looking to improve flood resilience to the village. They have commissioned a report from cbec on the feasibility of shortlisted options for activity.</p> <p>Following a community engagement process supported by the C2030 staff a more detailed study is required on the preferred options. C2030 role is to support the process with technical advice, engagement, planning and contract management. Funding support will be used for process and if possible, for construction, though additional funding may be required.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement on options. • Detailed scheme design. • Planning / SEPA applications. • Site works. |

Project 6 - Green Finance and Community Wealth Building

| Activity | Current status | Next steps |
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| Support for estate and communities £35,000 | Work with three estates and their local communities (Dorback, Dalnacardoch, Glen Prosen) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This varies according to community needs, and the final output is likely to be at |



| Activity | Current status | Next steps |
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| | supporting both through the Scottish Land Commission (SLC) 'route map'. | different stages by the end of the project in February 2027. |
| Light touch support model development | Developing a 'light touch' support model to allow for wider support of other communities and estates. This can be applied by public agencies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work completed by end of project in February 2027. |
| Natural Capital Community Partnerships (NCCP) | Project lead continues to work with NCCP colleagues on best practice across Scotland and influencing national policy and practice. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing |
| The Park Authority advise and support | Internal advice on development of the Park Authority and National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing |

Project 10 - Landscape and Communities

| Activity | Current status | Next steps |
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| Stage One Consultations £28,000 | The digital survey went live in November 2025 and responses are coming in. This survey will remain live for a year, during which data analysis will continue. Different in-person and online activities are planned for community engagement throughout 2026. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage One digital survey ends December 2026. Stage One in-person community engagement events Q2-Q4 2026. |
| Stage Two Consultations £52,200 | Detailed work with specific under-represented groups will commence utilising the draft Special Landscape Qualities (SLQ) maps and descriptions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with target groups Q3 2026 – Q2 2027. |
| Stage Three | Online surveys for landscape change options will establish | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online survey Q3-Q4 2027. |



| Activity | Current status | Next steps |
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| Survey, community validation and finalisation of outputs. £84,000 | community preferences. From this, statistical data will enable development of a predictive model to inform development proposals across the National Park, so they reflect community values. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Validating SLQ preferences and maps with communities Q1-Q3 2028. |