

To: Forest and Land Scotland

Re: Lochaline Community Forest

I am writing on behalf of Morvern Community Council to support the project being undertaken by Morvern Community Woodlands to purchase land from Forestry and Land Scotland for the community of Lochaline on the Morvern peninsula. This project will bring about multiple benefits for the community and wider area, including economic growth, social development, and environmental conservation. It will address the lack of access to land for livelihoods and promote environmentally friendly and climate-positive land management practices. Moreover, it will provide local young people with a future in their community and aligns with several community aspirations outlined in the Live Life Morvern Community Action Plan.

Over the past eight years, the project has progressed through a series of stages. Morvern Community Woodlands has been exploring the feasibility of woodland crofts in Morvern since 2017. With the invaluable support of Morvern Community Development Company and other local organisations, the project is now poised to proceed.

Crofting supports jobs and housing, delivering many other benefits. It enables land-based businesses, creating a more diverse local economy. Crofting also provides a source of local food, fosters connections with local heritage, and develops land-based skills. Additionally, it helps retain young people and families. There is strong evidence that crofting brings economic benefits to local communities that exceed expectations. A recent report commissioned by the Crofting Commission revealed that for every £1 of economic impact directly added by crofting, it generates £19 in indirect benefits. Crofting overall contributes £588 million annually to the national economy.

Woodland crofts, which extend and combine the crofting model with forestry and woodland management, could be an innovative approach to solving a range of issues faced by the Morvern community. For instance, in Lochaline, where approximately 90% of the land surrounding the village is under forestry, woodland crofts could provide a solution.

Morvern Community Woodlands is proposing to purchase 93 hectares of forestry land from Forestry and Land Scotland. This land, which will be used for crofting, local timber and firewood production, will also become an important area for recreation. Native trees will be planted to care for the land. Paths that were lost during recent felling work will be replaced, and a link path will be created between the new settlement around Achnaha and Lochaline village. The project has the support of the local community, as evidenced by the overwhelmingly positive responses in the Local Place Plan. Morvern Community Development Company, known for its successful projects locally, will be a partner in the project.

Morvern Community Woodlands are now applying to the Scottish Land Fund through the Community Asset Transfer Scheme to purchase the land. This exciting project, Lochaline Community Forest, will benefit the local community and beyond. Morvern Community Council are therefore excited to extend our support to the project as it progresses.

Yours sincerely,



**Henriette Laidlaw**

**Chair Morvern Community Council**



Sam Firth [REDACTED]

## Letter of support from MCDC Urgent and important

**MCDC Operations** <operations@morvern.org>

Mon, Jun 9, 2025 at 3:01 PM

To: Sam Firth [REDACTED]



Sam Frith, Chair

Morvern Community Woodlands Croft Steering Group

9.6.25

Dear Sam

### Letter of Support from Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC)

Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC) is pleased to confirm our commitment to supporting Morvern Community Woodlands (MCW) in the successful establishment and development of the Lochaline Community Forest.

Following the anticipated community acquisition of the woodland site, MCDC pledges financial and in-kind support for a **part-time Project Development Officer** post for a period of one year, beginning from the date of transfer. This commitment includes:

- **If funding cannot be secured from other sources (such as MCT) a cash contribution of £14,000** toward the salary of the post (equivalent to 2 days per week over 12 months) from March 2026
- **In-kind line management, financial and commercial and administrative oversight**, to be provided by the MCDC operations manager.

This role will be vital in coordinating woodland development activities, supporting croft and enterprise planning, overseeing community engagement, and helping secure future funding.

In return for this support, MCDC and its affiliated social enterprise, **MorVolts**, will be granted **first right of refusal on any renewable energy generation opportunities** arising on the site post-acquisition with the exception of domestic generation in relation to croft housing, holiday houses/cabins or accommodation for rent on the proposed site. This would include up to full build and operation rights with, in return, a suitable market value rental paid to MCW for the land.

We look forward to continuing to work in close partnership with MCW to ensure the success of this transformational community project.

01/08/2025, 15:05

Gmail - Letter of support from MCDC Urgent and important

Yours sincerely,

S M Pender

Suzanne Pender

Operations Manager

Executive Director



[www.morvern.org](http://www.morvern.org)

MCDC is a private limited company SC200325 (Scotland)



**Henry Dobson**

Ardtornish Office  
Morvern  
Oban  
Argyll  
PA80 5UZ

henry@ardtornish.com

27th May 2025

To whom it may concern

**Re: Lochaline Community Forest**

I am writing on behalf of Ardtornish Estate in support of the project being taken forward by Morvern Community Woodlands to purchase land from Forestry and Land Scotland for the community of Lochaline on the Morvern peninsula. This project will deliver multiple benefits for the community and wider area in terms of economy, society and the environment. It will be a step towards addressing a lack of access to land for livelihoods and will support environmentally friendly and climate-positive land management. It will give local young people a future in their community and addresses a number of community aspirations outlined in the Live Life Morvern Community Action Plan.

The project has been developed in a series of stages over the last eight years. Morvern Community Woodlands have been investigating the potential for woodland crofts in Morvern since 2017 and with the support of Morvern Community Development Company and other local groups are now in a position to take this project forward.

Crofting supports jobs and housing and delivers many other benefits enabling land-based businesses, creating a more diverse local economy, a source of local food, connections with local heritage, land-based skills and the retention of young people and families. There is strong evidence that crofting brings economic benefits to local communities that are greater than might be expected. A recent report commissioned by the Crofting Commission stated that for every £1 of economic impact directly added by crofting it generates £19 in indirect benefits and that crofting overall adds £588 million a year to the national economy.

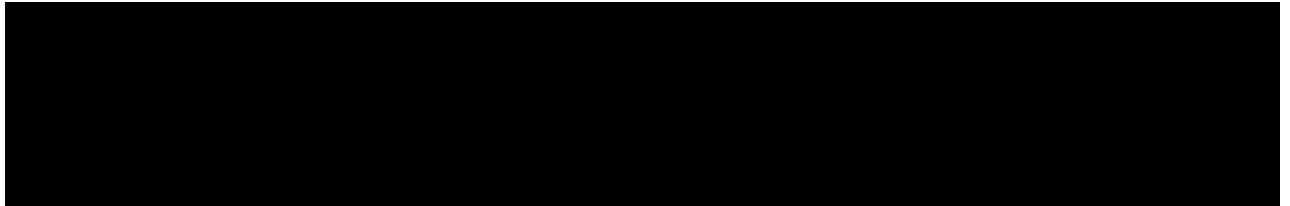
Woodland crofts take the crofting model and extend and combine it with forestry and woodland management. In Lochaline, where around 90% of the land around the village is under forestry, woodland crofts would be an innovative approach to solving a range of issues that the Morvern community faces.

Morvern Community Woodlands are proposing to purchase 93ha of forestry land from Forestry and Land Scotland. As well as crofting and local timber and firewood production, this land would become an important area for recreation and be cared for with native trees planted. Paths that have been lost in the recent felling work would be replaced, and a link path between the new settlement around Achnaha and Lochaline village would be created. The project has the support of the local community; responses in the Local Place Plan to the

project were overwhelmingly positive. Morvern Community Development Company, who have a strong track record of delivering successful projects locally, will be a partner in the project.

Morvern Community Woodlands are now applying to the Scottish Land Fund through the Community Asset Transfer Scheme process for funds to purchase the land. Lochaline Community Forest is an exciting project which will benefit people in the local area and more widely. I would like to extend my support to the project as it progresses.

Yours sincerely,



**Henry Dobson**

**Land Manager – Ardtornish Estate**



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## Fwd: Email of Support

2 messages

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[REDACTED] >  
To: "Firth, Sam" [REDACTED]

Sat, Jun 28, 2025 at 3:24 PM

----- Original Message -----

From: [Sarah.Fanet.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.Fanet.cllr@highland.gov.uk)

To: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, June 27th 2025, 13:55

Subject: Email of Support

**Sarah Fanet, Highland Councillor**

[Sarah.Fanet.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.Fanet.cllr@highland.gov.uk)

**07787 845765**

**26 June 2025**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

**Re: Lochaline Community Forest**

I am aware that Morvern Community Woodlands is seeking to purchase land from Forestry and Land Scotland for the community of Lochaline on the Morvern peninsula as part a crofting project that will deliver multiple benefits for the community and wider area in terms of economy, society and the environment. It will be a step towards addressing a lack of access to land for livelihoods and will support environmentally friendly and climate-positive land management

There is strong evidence that crofting brings economic benefits to local communities that are greater than might be expected. A recent report commissioned by the Crofting Commission stated that for every £1 of economic impact directly added by crofting it generates £19 in indirect benefits, and that crofting overall adds £588 million a year to the national economy. Woodland crofts take the crofting model and extend and combine it with forestry and woodland management. In Lochaline, where around 90% of the land around the village is under forestry, woodland crofts would be an innovative approach to solving a range of issues that the Morvern community faces.

As well as crofting and local timber and firewood production, the land purchased would become an important area for recreation and be cared for with native trees planted. Paths that have been lost in the recent felling work would be replaced, and a link path between the new settlement around Achnaha and Lochaline village would be created. The project has the support of the local community; responses in the Local Place Plan to the project were overwhelmingly positive. As a local Highland Councillor, I regularly visit the community, engage with its stakeholders and community groups including the Morvern Community Development Company who will be a partner of the project and has a strong track record of delivering successful projects locally.

**I would like to extend my support to the project which I am confident will add to the long list of achievements of this resilient and pro-active community with strong track records in the using its natural assets for the benefits of its people.**

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Fanet

Highland Councillor

Ward of Fort William & Ardnamurchan

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Mura h-eil na beachdan a tha air an cur an cèill sa phost-d seo a' buntainn ri gnothachas Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd, 's ann leis an neach fhèin a chuir air falbh e a tha iad, is chan eil iad an-còmhnaidh a' riochdachadh beachdan na Comhairle, no buidhnean buntainneach, agus chan eil am post-d seo na phàirt de chunnradh sam bith mura h-eil sin air innse.

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Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 9:23 AM



Sam Firth  
Morvern Community Woodlands



Savary Timber  
Lochaline  
Morvern  
Oban  
PA80 5XU  
[savary-timber@outlook.com](mailto:savary-timber@outlook.com)

6<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Dear Sam

As a small family run sawmill based in Morvern, we would like to express our support for the creation of a community forest.

A central tenet of our business is the use of locally sourced timber, always with an eye to the longer term, so creation of sustainably managed forests (hopefully continuous cover forestry) would be of real long-term benefit to Savary Timber and in turn to the local community, ensuring the continuity of supply for locally produced timber products.

In summary we are keen to support MCW in the creation of the community forest and to contribute to its success.

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely



George Beckett