

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL FOREST ESTATE - COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER SCHEME (CATS)

Introduction

Please read the relevant parts of the [Community Asset Transfer Scheme Guidance](#) before completing this form. You may also wish to refer to the Scottish Government's [Asset Transfer Guidance for Community Bodies](#).

The Request must be submitted in writing, either as a hard copy or by email. Please answer all the questions. You can attach additional information as extra sheets or electronic documents. Please be specific. When answering the questions do not repeat any information you have already given, simply refer to an earlier answer or attached document.

Please return the completed form and supporting documentation to:

Community Asset Transfer Scheme Team
Forest Enterprise Scotland
231 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh
EH12 7AT

E-mail: communities@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

We will confirm receipt of your Request within 5 working days and you will receive a formal acknowledgement letter within 15 working days to confirm whether your Request is valid or requesting further information. We may need to ask you for more information during the assessment and evaluation process.

This is an asset transfer request made under Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Information about the community transfer body making the request

1.1 Name of the community transfer body making the asset transfer request

Valley Renewables Group (Development Trust for the Carron Valley and District)

1.2 Community transfer body address. This should be the registered address, if you have one.

Postal address:

Valley Renewables Group (Registered Office)

2 Buckieburn

Carron Bridge

DENNY

Stirlingshire

Postcode: FK6 5JJ

1.3 Contact details. Please provide the name and contact address to which correspondence in relation to this asset transfer request should be sent.

Contact name: Robert Ferguson (VRG Treasurer)

Postal address:

Postcode:

Email:

Telephone:

* We agree that correspondence in relation to this asset transfer request may be sent by email to the email address given above. *(Please tick to indicate agreement)*

You can ask the Forest Enterprise Scotland to stop sending correspondence by email, or change the email address, by telling them at any time, as long as 5 working days' notice is given.

1.4 Please mark an "X" in the relevant box to confirm the type of community transfer body and its official number, if it has one.

Company, and its company number is	X	SC338213 (Scotland)
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), and its charity number is	X	SCO39443
Community Benefit Society (BenCom), and its registered number is		
Unincorporated organisation (no number)		

Please attach a copy of the community transfer body's constitution, articles of association or registered rules.

1.5 If the organisation is **not** an eligible community transfer body under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015:

a) Has the organisation been individually designated as a community transfer body by the Scottish Ministers?

No **Yes**

Please give the title and date of the designation order:

or b) Does the organisation fall within a class of bodies which has been designated as community transfer bodies by the Scottish Ministers?

No Yes

If yes what class of bodies does it fall within?

Section 2: Information about the land and rights requested

(see CATS Guidance Section 1.2)

2.1 Please identify the land to which this asset transfer request relates.

You should provide a grid reference and attach a map clearly showing the boundaries of the land to which this asset transfer request. You should also provide any name by which the land is known, and you may also wish to provide additional description. You can contact your local [Forest District](#) office for assistance in providing a copy of the map.

If you request it for a building, you should provide a street address and the Unique Property Reference Number if known. If you have identified the land on Forest Enterprise Scotland's [Register of Land](#), please enter the details listed there.

Grid reference: NS722838

Name and description of the land:

21.3Ha (51.12 Acres) at the entrance to the Carron Valley Forest from the B818 (Denny to Fintry) Road

UPRN (if known):

3C – request for other rights

What are the rights you are requesting?

Vehicle access from the B818 public road to the site. Wayleaves for power, water, drainage and telephone connections. Rights to reuse existing power and water supplies on or adjacent to the purchase site.

Do you propose to make any payment for these rights?

No

If yes, how much are you prepared to pay? Please make clear what period this would cover, for example per week, per month, per day?

Proposed payment: £ per

Please attach a note setting out any other terms and conditions you wish to apply to the request.

Section 4: Community Proposal

4.1 Please set out the reasons for making the request and how the land or building will be used.

This should explain the objectives of your project, why there is a need for it, any development or changes you plan to make to the land or building, and any activities that will take place there.

We are a very small dispersed rural community of 330 people (120 households) in two loose clusters of households separated by open moorland, with single track roads and no public transport. Much housing in the community is old, poorly insulated and without mains gas. Many rely on wood fuel for home heating. Mobile phone and Broadband reception is poor, patchy and unreliable.

We have no community facilities - no school, church, pub, shop, social organisations, community focus or meeting place. For over 15 years the community has had free use of Stirling University's fisheries museum at Howietoun for community meetings and small events. The building was closed in 2015 with no prospect of reopening. Community meetings currently take place in rented rooms out with the community.

Despite these challenges to community development and cohesion, we have an active Community Council with 8 members and a Development Trust with 9 Directors. The Development Trust administers community benefit from local wind farms. The Trust has over 60% of households (and 190 people of a population of 330) as members and operates successful small grant schemes to promote home energy efficiency and self sufficiency; a young persons scheme to support rural living, and a student bursary for those in full time education, training or apprenticeships. For the last five years the community has held a very successful Annual Open Day currently hosted on local farms, where over 250 people attended this year's event.

The Community would benefit from land where it can develop a base as a focus for a range of community activities. Woodland management and timber harvesting to support home heating, household self sufficiency and to help reduce local fuel poverty. Land to provide the community with a permanent site with utility services and parking as a home for our annual Open Day and other open air community events with woodland walks and adventure trails. In the future, the

land would also provide a site on which to develop a community building with meeting room, drop-in cafe and community development office. In time, we see all three elements coming together to form our Community Base.

The Community Woodland will be a welcoming and accessible space for local people and visitors to meet, find information, get involved in community activities. It will be a catalyst for new groups and events giving the community the opportunity for more cohesion and resilience into the future. The size and location of the site gives us the opportunity for a phased development to meet the needs of our community, starting simply with management of the woodland, then developing a site for our community open day and other events. When we are ready we will develop our community base and drop-in cafe.

We are determined to acquire the site, rather than to lease it or to simply provide volunteer labour. This ensures us the ability to progressively develop the site to meet the needs of our community, to commit funds and effort to our own asset and to secure external grant funding. Most importantly, our community mandate is one for outright ownership.

The first step is to purchase the land and for the community to manage it successfully as a Community Woodland. To deliver this, a woodland management and business plan has been professionally prepared with support from the Woodland Trust. A subgroup of our Development Trust with members of the local community has been formed to oversee and manage the project. An experienced part-time support worker will be appointed to supervise woodland management operations, to provide direction, safety advice and training, and to monitor performance.

Our vision for the community woodland is to provide an entirely new and different visitor experience. It will provide easy access to native woodland, wetland and coppice woodland which is not currently available in the Carron Valley Forest. This will improve both habitat and species diversity, and increase the amenity value to the community and other visitors. Our plans include accessible paths and boardwalks through the woodland, plus other features such as the bird hide, trim trail and pond dipping deck which will all enhance the visitor experience.

A more detailed woodland management plan will be developed before work starts. This will include input from our professional Woodland Manager and the Community Woodland Association (of which VRG is now a member). We also intend to involve SNH or The Wildlife Trust at an early stage to develop a biodiversity plan which will become part of our detailed management plan.

4.2 Benefits of the proposal

Please set out the benefits that you consider will arise if the request is agreed to (see CATS Guidance Section 3.2)

This section should explain how the project will benefit your community, and others. Please refer to the guidance on how the relevant authority will consider the benefits of a request.

Our community has no social facilities, no meeting place or community focus. We rely on our annual community open day as a means of bringing the community together. Almost 50% of households responded to the 2016 community survey, with 75% supporting purchase of the woodland site and its development as a base by the community. This is seen as empowering the community in providing a much needed focus for its social development. Our wind-farm community benefit funds gives our community a real opportunity to determine its future. Support for purchase of the woodland will enable us to focus our activity on the progressive provision of community facilities and their successful management.

We have a detailed feasibility study and business plan for management of the community woodland and development of the new community facilities. The woodland management plan has short and longer term prescriptions and costs for managing the woodland to meet FES policies and standards. Although there are costs in training community volunteers, supervising woodland operations and undertaking some of the management tasks using contractors, these costs can be met from our revenue budget. There is plenty of scope for community volunteers to contribute to the woodland management operations - woodcraft training, logging timber, preparing firewood, removing conifers, weeding and constructing footpaths and wetlands.

We aim to create access for all to the Community Woodland by providing a network of new way marked paths for people of all abilities, initially within the standing woodland and river bank and then within the proposed coppice woodland. These will supplement the limited variety of paths and cycle tracks within

the main forest area. Our vision is that eventually, the main off-road footpath through the community woodland and beyond will enhance and extend the existing path network opening up access to some ancient farm roads, dykes and a sheep fank, whilst providing new views of, and access to, the river Carron. There is the potential to extend the path westwards to the important archaeological sites at Kirk o'Muir and Sir John de Graham's castle.

We plan to manage the Community Woodland to increase the age and species diversity, and to create a variety of habitats at the entrance to a forest which is currently stocked mainly with commercial conifer species. We have the ambition to create areas of native woodland (mainly alder, willow, oak, rowan and birch), open water, wetland, meadow, open woodland with glades and coppice woodland. This would build on the standing area of mixed woodland which we would manage for continuous cover. The aim is to create a matrix of habitat types for learning, amenity and enjoyment. We have made financial provision in our first three year budget to fund the first phase of this management work. This will bring significant added value and benefit to the forest structure and species diversity in a location that is readily accessible to visitors of all abilities.

There will be economic gains from all stages of developing the asset. Job creation from a part time woodland manager. Woodland management and community wood fuel will create an opportunity for skills development (in timber harvesting) and woodland management directed by a part time woodland manager. In the longer term, the drop-in cafe will provide an opportunity for a local business to lease and develop. It will also create a visitor destination and service which is currently missing in the area. There will be opportunities for FES to expand schools environmental education classes which are operated by its forest ranger, but is constrained by the lack of indoor teaching space and catering - facilities which the community base building could provide.

Environmental gains will be largely delivered through woodland management by the community of 21 Ha of forest. Standing timber will be managed for community wood fuel and habitat creation with training in woodland operations. Recently restocked commercial conifer woodland will be converted to, and managed as, native broadleaf woodland with benefits for biodiversity, amenity and wildlife value. This will be managed as coppice woodland with the thinnings providing a long term sustainable supply of community firewood. Social development will be progressively delivered with facilities for the community - initially through woodland management courses and operations, and with increased access to the woodland through a new footpath system, then through the provision of a

site and facilities for the annual community open day and other outdoor community events, and, in the future, with a community building with drop in cafe and meeting room.

In summary, there are significant outcomes for the community from the woodland project. (1) Improvement in the age, species and habitat diversity of the woodland. (2) Woodland activities for local people, promoting health and well-being and achieving educational outcomes. (3) Increased community cohesion through events and activities without significant travel. (4) A range of woodland amenities not currently available in the Carron Valley Forest and unlikely to be provided without community investment. (5) Addressing fuel poverty through free or reduced charge wood fuel for local community members.

We wish to create a sustainable source of community wood-fuel, initially from thinnings and wind-blow clearance in the mature woodland, then round wood harvesting from coppice management. Our woodland operations will be managed by a professional forester, and used for training our community members and others in woodland management and wood harvesting skills. We will investigate the use of heavy horses for timber extraction on wet ground and over water supply pipelines. Many in our community rely on wood fuel for home heating - skills training under professional supervision in timber harvesting and wood fuel preparation will be a significant benefit and will enhance the skill set for many in the community.

Because of the community's investment in buying and establishing the woodland, the VRG Board has taken the view that wood fuel would be made available free of charge within our community. We recognise that there will be costs involved in preparing the wood ready for use and that in the future we may need to charge for this. Control of wood harvesting will be vested with the Woodland Manager. Wood harvesting of mature or windblown trees would be by forest contractors. Wood would subsequently be delivered to homeowners for further processing by them on their own property. A nominal charge will be made for the delivery. Should we choose to charge for community wood fuel this could generate an annual income of £3,200. Other income possibilities are low cost skills training, contracting out trained personnel, servicing charge for community members equipment. We'll investigate these once we have the woodland up and running.

The social benefits of community ownership are set out below:

Expected Outcome	Measurement	Target
Jobs created	Part time Woodland Manager	Part time post for min of 2 years
Increased Community cohesion	Number of community activities and events running at the Woodland per year	60
Increased participation	Number of attendees at activities annually	700
Number of young people accessing services	Young people aged 0-25 accessing organised activities or services annually (25% of the young people in the area)	20
Number of volunteers	Number of people volunteering their time to organise, deliver or support activity	20
Increased community satisfaction and quality of life	Measured through regular feedback from participants	Qualitative
Number of older people accessing services	Older people aged 65 and over accessing organised activities or services annually (50% of the older people in the area)	20
Increased learning opportunities	Number of training workshops delivered annually	12
Increased confidence and skills	Number of people attending workshops annually	100
Affordable wood fuel	Number of families accessing free wood fuel	20

Creating this Community Woodland brings the promise of significant added interest and value to the structure of the Carron Valley Forest, for its visitors and for the local community. Sited at the entrance to the forest, the community

management of the woodland will bring age, species and habitat diversity; increased and improved access to the woodland for all abilities; and in the future, the prospect of new visitor facilities - a drop-in cafe and meeting room in the proposed community base. These are all benefits that would not be delivered without the community's commitment and financial investment.

For our community, the land transfer holds the promise of the first asset to be owned by a small and dispersed community without any other social infrastructure. It will provide a real focus for community activity and involvement; a sustainable source of community wood fuel, and a base for skills training in wood harvesting and woodland management.

4.3 Restrictions on use of the land

If there are any restrictions on the use or development of the land, please explain how your project will comply with these. The local [Forest District](#) office can provide assistance in identifying any restrictions and how to comply with them.

Restrictions might include, amongst others, environmental designations such as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSI), heritage designations such as listed building status, controls on contaminated land or planning restrictions.

4.4 Negative consequences

What negative consequences (if any) may occur if your request is agreed to? How would you propose to minimise these?

You should consider any potential negative consequences for the local economy, environment, or any group of people, and explain how you could reduce these.

We are not aware of any negative consequences from the community's purchase and use of the land. Our business plan sets out clearly the benefits of the community's ownership proposal.

4.5 Capacity to deliver

Please show how your organisation will be able to manage the project and achieve your objectives.

This could include the skills and experience of members of the organisation, any track record of previous projects, whether you intend to use professional advisers, etc.

The project will be managed by Valley Renewables Group Board as the Development Trust for the Carron Valley and District. Most of the Directors have been in place for more than 5 years and have a professional background and training. We have been successfully operating three small grant schemes and run our annual Community Open Day. Annual costs for the grant schemes and Open Day are £35,000/year. We work in close cooperation at all times with our Community Council. Funding for the project and financial reporting will be part of VRG's standard accounting and scrutiny process with annual accounts and reporting to its AGM, to OSCR and Companies House.

To steer and deliver our vision we have set up a Community Woodland Group of 4 Directors and 2 Community members reporting to the VRG Board. They will be working with FES and The Clanranald Trust to provide a Development and Management Plan for the forest entrance area including the proposed Community Woodland. This is planned to coordinate the various interests and to optimise the visitor experience. Our intention is to implement our vision in stages, only progressing when we are satisfied we have secured our objectives at each stage. We have responded positively to a range of management issues already flagged by FES and this will form the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding between VRG and FES for our joint working at the forest entrance.

A part time professional forester will be appointed to direct and oversee woodland management operations, for the training the volunteers, felling licences, and site health and safety. We have a costed woodland management plan in place that has been lodged with FES for feedback. We intend to manage the woodland professionally and in accordance with best practice, to use the land and timber for maximum community benefit through wood fuel, site use for environmental education and training and to optimise the opportunities for volunteers and community members to participate in the asset. The successful management of the community woodland is our first priority.

Thereafter, we are proposing the phased development of community facilities on the site. Firstly to accommodate our annual Community Open Day and other outdoor events (barbecues, fireworks night, community picnics). Secondly, we shall continue to work towards securing community support and grant funding for the construction of a community building. This will incorporate a drop-in cafe, community office and meeting room. The feasibility study for this is in place, we have preliminary costs and a suitable site identified within the community woodland area. The purchase of the site will give the community a focus and a base for the phased provision of new community facilities. We are anticipating at

least a five year programme of work to deliver the complete project. Importantly, there are early wins to give the community the confidence to move forward. Each stage of site development can stand alone and is sustainable, and is not dependent on delivery of subsequent stages.

The community is supportive of phases 1 and 2, which do stand on their own, as evidenced by the Feasibility Study. We would only proceed to phase 3 once phases 1 and 2 are fully operational and successfully established. Phases 1 and 2 will allow us to demonstrate to all stakeholders, our ability to deliver a community wide project, which we hope would generate confidence for Phase 3. The proposed development site is the preferred location for our building. Should we decide not to proceed with the building (phase 3), this site would still be utilised for a range of community events, and it is in the best location for that.

Section 5: Level and nature of support

5.1 Please provide details of the level and nature of support for the request, from your community and, if relevant, from others (see CATS Guidance Section 3.2)

This could include information on the proportion of your community who are involved with the request, how you have engaged with your community beyond the members of your organisation and what their response has been. You should also show how you have engaged with any other communities that may be affected by your proposals.

We have held three community surveys in the past 8 years. All have supported the principle of developing a new community base for the area. The most recent survey, conducted as part of our Stage 1 SLF approval for a feasibility and business plan, was a postal response to a wide range of questions about the use of community benefit funds, development of a community base and the acquisition of the woodland site. 62 households responded to the survey (159 local people) which represents just under 50% of the total population (of 330). 51 households (of the total 120) supported the community base project and 11 were opposed to it or to the use of community benefits funds for this purpose. The community base project was reviewed at the Community Open day in August 2016 attended by over 200 people, and at the VRG AGM held in November 2016 attended by over 80 people where there was a presentation and discussion about the community base project. An open joint meeting of VRG and the Community Council was held in February 2017 with a further presentation on the community base project. The project has been headlined in recent VRG

and Community Council newsletters. Both VRG and the Community Council have confirmed and minuted their full support for the project and its phased delivery.

There has been considerable discussion in the community about the cost of the community base building and, if developed without external grant funding, the drain this would place on our wind farm benefit funds. Our response has been to propose developing the site in stages (community woodland, open day events space and community building), and for each stage to be running successfully before proceeding, and also to seek grant aid towards the cost of the building to match-fund our own investment.

The 11 households opposed to the creation of a community base also raised a number of local concerns; the risks of vandalism to the facility; increased activity and traffic in that area; community benefit monies not being spent directly on local people; and questioning the purchase of a site already in public ownership with unrestricted access. We shall be liaising closely with these households to best allay their concerns as the project moves forward.

These comments apply principally to the proposal for future construction of a community building on the site. We are seeking to secure the sustainability of the Community Base by combining the community space with a drop-in cafe for local people and to service the large mountain biking and walking community that use the local area. Site security and traffic issues have been addressed. Some of our community benefit funds are restricted to community-wide projects and legally cannot be distributed to individual households or applied to our small grant schemes. These funds we would see being applied to the development of the community base or invested in a legacy fund, or both. Although the Forestry Commission currently owns the land, community ownership would allow us to actively manage and to develop the site to meet our own objectives - for wood fuel security, to create sustainable native woodland, to provide a location for our annual Community Open Day and as a site for a future community building. This course of action is unanimously supported by the VRG Board and the Community Council.

The Clanranald Trust, which leases from FES the adjacent site, is fully supportive of the VRG proposal for a Community Woodland and Base and drop in cafe (Appendix 13 Page 45). We will be in regular contact with both Clanranald and FES through the FES forest entrance planning group. We are committed to on-

going regular liaison with the Trust to ensure agreement on a preferred spatial plan for the forest entrance. We would see the community woodland and base being supportive of Clanranald activities which are relatively self contained and relatively remote from the forest entrance and the proposed Community Woodland.

Section 6: Funding

6.1 Please outline how you propose to fund the price or rent you are prepared to pay for the land, and your proposed use of the land (see CATS Guidance Section 1.5)

You should show your calculations of the costs associated with the transfer of the land or building and your future use of it, including any redevelopment, ongoing maintenance and the costs of your activities. All proposed income and investment should be identified, including volunteering and donations. If you intend to apply for grants or loans you should demonstrate that your proposals are eligible for the relevant scheme, according to the guidance available for applicants.

Our Business Plan sets out our planned investment in the woodland over the first 7 years of work. This amounts to £260,183 (including a prospective £145,821 in grant aid) with the community, through VRG, making a net contribution of £114,362 (or £16,337 a year for the first 7 years of the project). £33,988 is budgeted for VRG revenue funding for years 8 - 14; £4,855 a year for the second 7 years of the project.

We have made a Stage 2 application to the Scottish Land Fund for financial support in purchasing the site (95% of the final negotiated price), the legal and other costs, and for funding a part time woodland manager for the first two years of the project. The remaining 5% of the purchase price and funding for each phase of site development will be from VRG funds where reserves currently stand at over £360,000 and the Trust has an annual index linked income of over £70,000. In due course, we shall be seeking match funding and a further community mandate for the development of the community building on the site. The VRG Board has taken the view that at this time it will not pursue an income stream by charging community members for wood fuel permits. It is keen to foster volunteering, community working and increased social cohesion. Most of the woodland management activities will be undertaken by members of the community.

It is recognised that the woodland will not be financially self-sustaining. However, the community has committed the financial investment required to establish and manage the woodland for the first 14 years. We expect the costs to reduce once the woodland has been established (i.e. after the initial 7 years). We recognise that the woodland will always require some financial support. This will be provided from either ongoing wind farm community benefit money, or income from VRG's community endowment fund. Our current revenue support provision is £114,362 for the first 7 years (years 1- 7) of the project and £33,988 for the second 7 years (years 8 - 14). These costs assume no charge is made for wood fuel or other training activities.

THE COST PLAN

COMMUNITY WOODLAND

Capital and Revenue Costs Years 1 - 7 (Summary Costs from Business Plan)

LAND ACQUISITION

Land Purchase (DV's cost subject to negotiation)	101,000
Professional Fees and Expenses	6,234
TOTAL	107,234
Less SLF Grant	102,184
VRG Cost	5,050

STAGE 1 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT (Community Woodland)

Years 1-3	
Steel Container with shutters, insulation and fit out	12,000
Electricity Connection	2,500
Water Connection	1,500
Tools, Equipment & Protective Clothing	8,000
Signing	1,500
Footpath and Access Improvements	7,000
Non recoverable VAT (20%)	6,500
TOTAL	39,000
VRG Cost	39,000

STAGE 2 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT (Serviced Site for Community Open Day)

Years 4-7	
Hardstanding for Car Parking and Marquees	13,000
Lightweight Barriers for Access Control	2,000
Non recoverable VAT (20%)	3,000
TOTAL	18,000
VRG Cost	18,000

STAGE 1 REVENUE COSTS

Years 1-3	
Part-time Woodland Manager (Years 1 & 2 only)	45,107

Electricity	773
Water	773
Toilet Cleaning	2,191
Insurances	4,636
Volunteer Training	750
Travel Costs	750
Marketing	600
Accounting	750
Materials for Forest Activities	2,250
TOTAL	58,580
Less SLF Grant	41,107
VRG Cost	17,473

STAGE 2 REVENUE COSTS (Years 4 - 7)

Years 4-7	
Electricity	1,143
Water	1,143
Toilet Cleaning	4,572
Insurances	6,857
Volunteer Training	1,000
Travel Costs	1,000
Marketing	800
Accounting	1,000
Materials for Forest Activities	3,000
TOTAL	20,515
VRG Cost	20,515

LAND MANAGEMENT (RESTOCKING) COSTS

Years 5-7		
Ground Preparation	1,167	
Deer Fencing	8,575	
Broadleaf Trees	1,295	
Tree Shelters & Stakes (vole guards)		810
Planting Costs	607	
Weeding	2,650	
Beating Up	1,150	
Grant application	600	
TOTAL	16,854	
Less FC Planting Grant	2,530	
VRG Cost	14,324	

TOTAL INVESTMENT YEARS 1-7

Total Investment	260,183
Land acquisition (subject to negotiation)	107,234
Community Woodland operation	152,949
Prospective Grants (SLF and FCS)	145,821
VRG Revenue Funded	114,362

STAGE 3 REVENUE COSTS (years 8 - 14)

Years 8-14	
Electricity	1,916
Water	1,916
Toilet Cleaning	6,763
Insurances	11,493
Volunteer Training	1,750
Travel Costs	1,750
Marketing	1,400
Accounting	1,750
Materials for Forest Activities	5,250
TOTAL	33,988
VRG Cost	33,988

TOTAL INVESTMENT YEARS 8 - 14

Community Woodland operation	33,988
VRG Revenue Funded	33,988

There are no proposed full time staff posts for delivery of the woodland management plan. There will be a part time (3 days/week in year 1, 2 days/week in year 2 and 1 day/week in year 3) appointment of a professional forester as Woodland Manager for at least the first three years of operation. This appointment may be shared with our neighbouring community, Cambusbarron, which is also promoting a community woodland project.

The VRG Board and the Woodland Management subgroup are all volunteers from the community. We anticipate most of the woodland management work will be by local volunteers we hope to recruit with an interest in native woodlands, wildlife and wood fuel. The expectation is there may be 20 volunteers from the community.

Signature

Two office-bearers (board members, charity trustees or committee members) of the community transfer body must sign the form. They must provide their full names and home addresses for the purposes of prevention and detection of fraud.

This form and supporting documents will be made available online for any interested person to read and comment on. Personal information will be redacted before the form is made available.

We, the undersigned on behalf of the community transfer body as noted at section 1, make an asset transfer request as specified in this form.

We declare that the information provided in this form and any accompanying documents is accurate to the best of our knowledge.

Name Margaret Porter

Address

Date 14th December 2017

Position Director and Chair

Signature

Name Robert James Ferguson

Address

Date 14th December 2017

Position Director and Treasurer

Signature

Checklist of accompanying documents

To check that nothing is missed, please list any documents which you are submitting to accompany this form.

Section 1 – you must attach your organisation’s constitution, articles of association or registered rules

Title of document attached:

Memorandum and Articles of Association of Valley Renewables Group dated 2008 and Revised in June and November 2017

Section 2 – any maps, drawings or description of the land requested

Documents attached:

FES plans showing the site location and proposed acquisition areas (all 4 plots included in asset transfer)

Section 3 – note of any terms and conditions that are to apply to the request

Documents attached:

None

Section 4 – about your proposals, their benefits, any restrictions on the land or potential negative consequences, and your organisation’s capacity to deliver.

Documents attached:

Feasibility Study and Business Plan prepared for Valley Renewables Group by SKS Scotland as consultants to the Board. Report is in 3 parts - Executive Summary, Main Report & Business Plan and Appendices

VRG Concept Diagram for the Community Woodland (2017)

Section 5 – evidence of community support

Documents attached:

Feasibility Study and Business Plan prepared for Valley Renewables Group by SKS Scotland as consultants to the Board

Section 6 – funding

Documents attached:

Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year ended 30th June 2017 for the Valley Renewables Group

