

Lochgoil Community Trust

PRESS RELEASE

Lochgoil Community Trust Shortlisted for RSPB Nature of Scotland Award

Lochgoil Community Trust has been shortlisted in the Community Initiatives at RSPB Scotland's prestigious Nature of Scotland Awards.

The project, which includes using nature-based solutions to restore the River Goil and improve habitat for wildlife and endangered species such as Atlantic Salmon, has had a positive impact, highlighting the importance of local action in saving Scotland's species and habitats.

River Goil Restoration

Lochgoil Community Trust have embedded nature restoration throughout their approach – from inspirational restoration on the River Goil, to creating a community park, easy-access walking trails to better connect people with nature, and working with the National Park Authority to pilot innovative approaches for communities to influence land use planning. Sheron Hambly, Chair of Lochgoil Community Trust said *“we are delighted to have been shortlisted for this award, which recognises the work of our volunteers, partners and funders in helping to make a difference for nature and our community.”*

River Goil Restoration was announced as a finalist at the Nature of Scotland Awards Shortlist Reception held at the Scottish Parliament, hosted by Karen Adam MSP and sponsored by Suntory Global Spirits.

The winners of all 10 categories will be revealed at a celebratory event held at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) on Thursday 20 November, where the 53 finalists will gather. RSPB Scotland has been running the awards for over a decade, and is grateful for the support of our many supporters and sponsors including our 2025 headline sponsor NatureScot. This year's ceremony will be hosted by BBC Springwatch presenter Iolo Williams and BBC Scotland Landward presenter Arlene Stuart.

The Nature of Scotland Awards recognise individuals and organisations making a difference across local communities, schools, and businesses to support Scotland's wildlife and natural environment.

Anne McCall, Director of RSPB Scotland said: *“Every year the Nature of Scotland Awards celebrate people and projects going that extra mile to make a difference for nature in their local communities. We can't tackle the nature and climate crisis alone and it is heartening to hear the inspiring stories of people coming together to protect species and improve spaces for nature. A huge thank you to all of this year's applicants for sharing their tremendous work with us. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the awards ceremony in November at what looks to be another night.”*

Headline sponsor NatureScot's Chair, Professor Colin Galbraith said: "At this critical time for nature and people, these nominees reflect the exciting diversity of talent caring for nature in Scotland's communities and businesses. Each project nominated demonstrates that we all need to work together to help nature recover and to protect our precious environment for the future."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

- Issued by Sheron Hambly 0774 0906162
- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity. In England and Wales, no: 207076, in Scotland, no: SC037654.
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- X/Twitter: @NatureofScot
- Full list of finalists: rspb.org.uk/natureofscotland