



Spey
Catchment
Initiative

Annual Review 2024

www.speycatchment.org

Caring for the rivers, landscapes, wildlife and communities of the Spey catchment.

Cover Photo: The Allt Lorgy, a tributary of the River Dulnain, which was restored by the Spey Catchment Initiative in 2012. The SCI was awarded the UK Rivers Prize for this project in 2020 and subsequently received the Scottish Gamekeepers Association's Wild Salmon Conservation Award in 2024.



Spey
Catchment
Initiative

Annual Review 2024

Spey Catchment Initiative (SCIO)

The Town House

The Square

Grantown on Spey

PH26 3HF

Registered Company number

CS006049 (Scotland)

Registered Charity number

SC052191

September 2024

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Spey
Catchment
Initiative

Spey Catchment Initiative Staff



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SCI Sponsors

The SCI is grateful to the organisations which sponsor its work:





**Spey
Catchment
Initiative**

Prospective Trustees

Chairman: *Martin Gilbert, Vice-Chairman, Standard Life Aberdeen*

Trustees: *Michael Alexander, Global Head of Sustainability, Diageo*

Andy Ford, Director of Nature & Climate Change, Cairngorms National Park Authority

Co-optee &

Legal Adviser: *Angus Easton, Solicitor and Partner, Mackinnons*

Spey Catchment Initiative Partners

Cairngorms National Park
Authority

Scottish Water

Woodland Trust Scotland

The Moray Council

Spey Fishery Board

Scottish Land & Estates

The Highland Council

Forestry & Land Scotland

Royal Society for the Protection
of Birds

NatureScot

Scottish Forestry

National Farmers Union Scotland

Scottish Environment Protection
Agency

Diageo

SAC Consulting

Jahama Highland Estates

Buglife

Savills



A Word from the Chair

It is with great pleasure that I am able to present the inaugural Annual Report for the Spey Catchment Initiative (SCI). Since the inception of the SCI in 2010, the organisation has embarked on an ambitious journey of environmental restoration on the Spey Catchment, addressing the pressing climate and biodiversity crises that affect us all. Recognising the developing scale, successes and ambition of the Spey Catchment Initiative, it became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in December 2022.

Our strategy is firmly rooted in creating resilient ecosystems through targeted restoration projects. This year, we have focused on meeting our governance requirements, successfully accruing a minimum of 20 members to elect our Board of Trustees. We are delighted to welcome Scottish Land & Estates and Buglife to our extensive list of partners, many of whom have formalised their membership with the SCIO.

Our team has grown significantly, with Paul Hughes joining as Head of Communications in April 2023, Phil Whitfield as Nature Restoration Officer in December 2023, bringing over 30 years of forestry experience, and Roger Knight becoming our first CEO in July 2024 after 18 years with the Spey Fishery Board. We anticipate further recruitment to support our expanding initiatives.

Key projects this year include the substantial progress we have made on a landscape-scale project on the Conglass Water above Tomintoul, with plans to plant 112 hectares of native trees. We have also concluded a partnership agreement with Chivas Brothers Ltd to develop restoration projects on the neighbouring Livet. Additionally, the ongoing development of the Gynack restoration project, aimed at stabilising erosion scars on the Allt Mor to prevent sediment washout and flooding in Kingussie.

We are honoured to have received the Scottish Gamekeepers Association's inaugural award for Wild Salmon Conservation in August 2024. Our 2012 project on the Allt Lorgy has seen juvenile salmon populations increase four-fold, a success recognised by the Scottish Parliament through a Parliamentary Motion.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to our mission of environmental restoration and sustainability. We are grateful for the support of our members, partners, and the wider community, and we look forward to continuing our work to protect and enhance the Spey catchment for generations to come.

Ewan Harris

Chair - SCI Steering Group

1. Spey Catchment Management Plan

This Annual Review only covers the SCI's work in 2023 and 2024, but the Spey Catchment Management Plan was first published in 2003. It was forward-thinking for its time, involving a broad range of stakeholders engaged in land and water management throughout the 3,000 Km² of the River Spey catchment and considered partnership working to achieve shared objectives. It was revised in 2016 and then revised again in 2022. In early 2023, the SCI went out to public consultation on the revised Plan, which was subsequently published in time for the launch of the Spey Catchment Initiative as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation in May 2023.

The revised Spey Catchment Management Plan sets out a broad strategic framework for the wise and sustainable use of the water resource between

2023 and 2030, as well as the protection and enhancement of the water quality and natural heritage throughout the whole River Spey catchment. It summarises in one document all the current key issues, pressures and opportunities that exist as they relate to the local environment and provides a wealth of information on flood management, water quality, fisheries management, economic development, as well as the protection of species, habitat, fisheries, forestry and woodland. You can find the complete Plan here:

<https://speycatchment.org/spey-catchment-management-plan/>

2. SCI Strategy

Since its inception in 2010, the SCI has become a highly successful public/private partnership, delivering a range of multiple-benefit projects. These have included river restoration and bankside improvement works, in-river habitat enhancements and obstacle removal, as well as riverside amenity works to improve access and enjoyment of the River Spey for local communities.

The SCI held a Strategy Day in April 2022, which resulted in a consensus to expand the SCI's remit to adopt an even more holistic approach to the management of the catchment, by including consideration of peatland restoration, carbon sequestration and potentially deer management, in order to make the Spey catchment sustainable and more resilient to the climate and biodiversity emergencies confronting us all.

The Strategy Day also agreed by consensus to progress the SCI to become a legally recognised entity. Following consideration of all the options for this, it was agreed, again by consensus, that the

SCI should apply to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (or SCIO). A comprehensive application to incorporate the Initiative as a SCIO was subsequently submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) on 16th November 2022 and the Initiative was successfully incorporated on 14th December 2022.

There had also been consensus that the Spey Catchment Initiative should become a two-tier SCIO, with a Board of Trustee Directors sitting above the Steering Group in order to provide strategic guidance and oversee governance issues.

In September 2024, the SCI Steering Group considered that changes to potential funding for the SCI, particularly since the announcements of reductions in public spending, made it appropriate to reconsider the organisation's Strategy in order to achieve the SCI's objectives. We look forward to developing this over the coming year.



3. SCI Launch

The Spey Catchment Initiative was successfully launched as an incorporated charity on the 18th May 2023 in Boat of Garten. Feargal Sharkey was the special guest, which also helped to attract significant press interest. Aside from fame as a former rock musician and solo artist, Feargal has been a renowned campaigner against pollution in rivers for the last 20 years and is a passionate fly fisherman.

Feargal Sharkey and the SCI's team were interviewed on camera by STV and BBC Highlands and Alba on the banks of the River Spey before the launch. They were also photographed and subsequently interviewed by reporters from the Press & Journal, Daily Record and Badenoch & Strathspey Herald. This led to significant television coverage on STV News and on BBC Alba News that evening.

The launch event itself was attended by circa 60 people, including all of the Initiative's partner organisations, as well as community organisations and others keen to hear more about the opportunities for the new organisation, including green investment. It was also filmed by STV and the BBC and the SCI's Head of Communications, Paul Hughes, broadcast the event live over social media channels, including Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. We also simultaneously launched the SCI's re-branded logo and new website, on which Paul Hughes had worked hard.

Feargal Sharkey gave a passionate opening address, focusing on the plight of the Atlantic salmon and the need to restore populations of these iconic fish on the world-renowned River Spey. Feargal also offered to help us again in the future and told the press that the SCI could become a blueprint for all the other rivers in the UK.

Photo Above: *The SCI Launch received substantial media coverage. Pictured here, from left to right, are SCI Project Officer Penny Lawson, Roger Knight, guest of honour Feargal Sharkey, SFB Operations Manager Duncan Ferguson and Head of Communications Paul Hughes.*

(Photo: courtesy of the Press & Journal).

4. SCI Projects

4.1 A Strategic Approach to Project Selection

The SCI took a step-change in 2019 to its approach to projects, when it undertook the River Calder Restoration Project. This marked a move to addressing whole tributaries as sub-catchments of the River Spey, rather than small sections of rivers and burns, as had previously been undertaken. IN so doing, we aim to work towards landscape-scale changes that will help secure the sustainability and resilience of Speyside to the climate and biodiversity emergencies confronting us all.

The SCI team met over two days in early 2024 to evaluate its priorities for future projects and consider its strategy for scoping and planning them. The combined knowledge of our team is extensive, built upon many years of working throughout the Spey catchment and our understanding of the many differing, and sometimes competing, objectives for land and sporting uses.

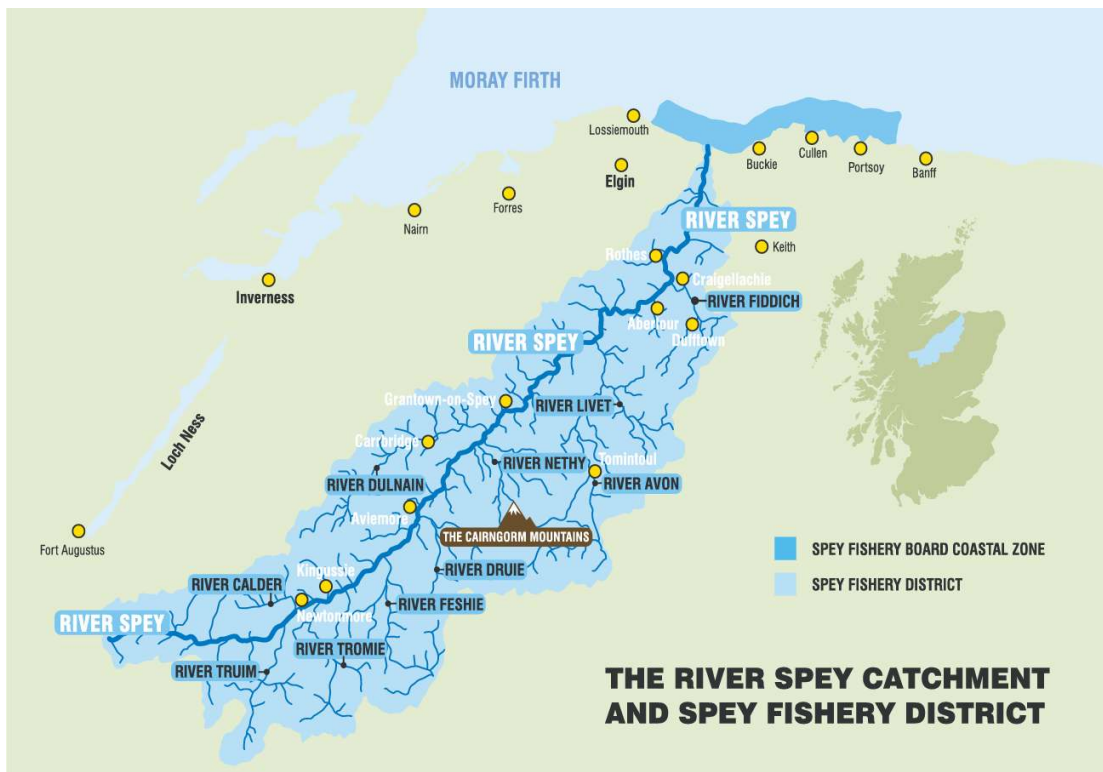
These meetings enabled the team to evaluate the progress we had made to date and prioritise the

sub-catchments we should focus on moving forwards, also considering the requirements of legislation, such as the Water Framework Directive, Scottish and UK Government strategies and objectives and potential funding that may support the development and implementation of our projects.

This process has enabled us to compile a list of projects throughout the catchment, and to prioritise them for development, for recommendation to the SCI's Steering Group and, in turn, Board of Trustees. This list will be reviewed every six months, as work on projects progresses.

It is important to emphasise the significant time it takes to develop these landscape-scale projects, with many taking at least two years to scope and plan, ensuring that the interests of all relevant stakeholders can be considered and, as far as possible, accommodated.

Below: A map of the Spey catchment.



4.2 Allt Mor Restoration Project

The SCI has worked throughout 2023 and 2024 to develop a project on the Allt Mor, the upstream section of the River Gynack, above Kingussie. This river has, over millennia, created significant erosion scars within its valley. Some of the largest scars are highly unstable, thought to be exacerbated by the lack of vegetation which is limited by herbivore browsing pressure in the area. These are illustrated in the picture on the following page. Substantial volumes of sediment fall into the river, degrading habitat, and causing major flooding issues for Kingussie down below when the river goes into spate. The excessive sediment transport also increases the maintenance needed by the estate to protect flood diversion and hydro generation infrastructure on the river.

In 2023 Consultants Cbec Eco-Engineering were commissioned to survey the erosion scars, sediment regime and the wider sub-catchment and to produce high level options for reducing sediment mobilisation and stabilising the worst erosion scars. The proposed solution comprises ground works to reduce the angle of the scars and measures to stabilise the slopes with geotextiles and planting of shrubby vegetation to encourage regeneration. Small areas of the flood plain would also be planted with low growing trees and shrubs. This type of restoration project has not been done before on this scale and although there are risks, and considerable investment is required for

implementation, it represents a pioneering, experimental trial of a novel approach which has the potential to be applied to similar sites at other locations where excessive erosion is problematic. The erosion scar restoration will complement peatland restoration underway in the upland area of the sub-catchment being undertaken by the landowner through peatland Action, together with flood alleviation measures down-river around Kingussie, coordinated by The Highland Council. Taken in unison, these measures exemplify a multi-partner, landscape-scale approach.

The SCI submitted an application for development funding in January 2024 to NatureScot's Nature Restoration Fund (NRF), in order to undertake more detailed survey and planning work during the spring/summer of 2024. This application was unfortunately unsuccessful, but following further discussion with NatureScot, a further revised application was submitted in August 2024 and the outcome is expected to be announced in November. Efforts to identify delivery partners and sources of funding will continue in 2025.

Pictured on page 13: *The Allt Mor above Kingussie, and the unstable erosion scars which are the source of significant volumes of sediment transported down the river, causing flooding in Kingussie. The SCI project here aims to stabilise these scars to reduce flood risk and improve habitat and biodiversity. It aims to complement the peatland restoration being undertaken on the land above these scars, and flood alleviation measures in and around Kingussie down below. This approach ensures landscape-scale change to develop sustainability and resilience to the climate and biodiversity emergencies.*

(Photo: Paul Hughes, SCI Head of Communications).



4.3 The Conglass Water Restoration Project

In continuation of the SCI's policy of addressing tributaries as sub-catchments of the River Spey, we have been working throughout 2023 and 2024 on the development of a significant project on the Conglass Water, which is a tributary of the upper River Avon. The Conglass starts above an historic tin mine near the Lecht Ski Centre and runs close to the village of Tomintoul.

Some work on the River Conglass had been undertaken by the SCI in 2017, which addressed some river restoration issues at Mains of Auchriachan as part of the Tomintoul & Glenlivet Landscape Partnership Project. Back then, the SCI

advised on the establishment of over 100 metres of willow spiling and the creation of an artificial log jam, both of which became demonstration projects for such works.

Work on this latest project was started by Gary Brown, who joined the SCI in June 2022 for ten months as a result of grant funding from the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) to support the position. Gary left at the end of March 2023 and the SCI's principal Project Officer, Penny Lawson, took up the reins in the interim, pending the appointment of a successor. That successor was Phil Whitfield, who joined the SCI as our new

Nature Restoration Officer in December 2023, with a background of over thirty years in forestry, in both the public and private sectors.

Phil was quick to get to work scoping a significant project which proposes to plant trees across ground owned by Crown Estates Scotland and their tenant farmers, in particular Andy and Debbie Duffus at Mains of Auchriachan, as well as additional tree planting on other land owned by Glenavon Estate.

The Conglass Restoration Project has proved to be one of the most complex projects the SCI has attempted so far; there are multiple stakeholders, a plethora of designations (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, RAMSAR sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest) and various, sometimes conflicting, land management and sporting interests.

Phil Whitfield has engaged with all of the stakeholders in the area to ensure that the SCI's proposals considered and met all of the land management and sporting concerns, and has been working closely with NatureScot and the CNPA to overcome some of the designation issues. The SCI is also particularly grateful to Crown Estates

Scotland for their cooperation with and support for this project.

Phil's extensive knowledge of forestry has enabled the project to be professionally scoped and costed, resulting in plans for forestry covering a total of 112 hectares. The scheme will create new native woodland that delivers a range of environmental benefits, including protecting and shading of watercourses that flow into the Conglass. Additionally, Crown Estates Scotland are expecting to undertake some peatland restoration between the planned forestry areas.

All of the stakeholders were consulted on the final plans, which were also presented at a drop-in event at the Richmond Memorial Hall in Tomintoul on 11th September 2024.

This proposals are expected to be submitted for Forestry Grant Scheme funding in late 2024, for implementation in 2025 and 2026. Ultimately, this project will help to make landscape-scale change to build sustainability and resilience for the benefit of the River Conglass, the upper River Avon area and the River Spey catchment as a whole. We look forward to reporting on progress on this significant project in the future.



Above: A tributary of the River Conglass in 2024 shown on the left, with an idea (above) of the sort of landscape the SCI aspires to create through its restoration project.

(Photos: Penny Lawson, SCI Project Officer)

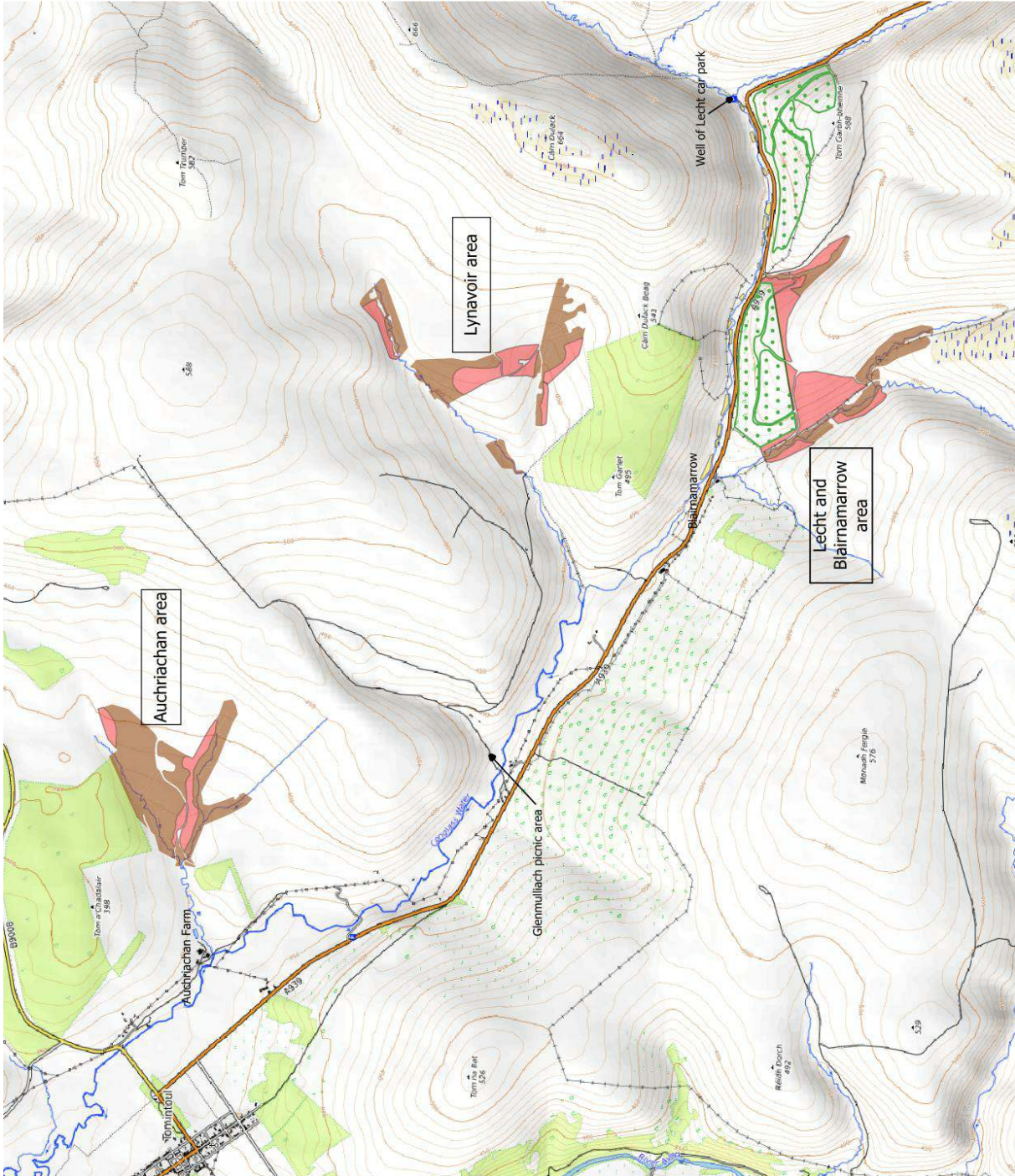
Conglass Woodland Proposal Overview

Date : 09-08-2024
Scale@A4: 1:30,000

Legend

- New planting proposal
- Scots Pine
 - Native broadleaves
 - To be replanted

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Above: Map showing an overview of the woodland planting proposals for the Conglass Restoration Project.

4.4 The River Within

A Partnership with Chivas Brothers Limited

The SCI has entered into a partnership agreement with Chivas Brother Ltd, which was launched on World Water Day on 22nd March 2024. Duplicate partnership agreements were also established with our neighbours, the Findhorn Watershed Initiative and the Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Trust.

The partnership, called 'The River Within', is a collaboration between Chivas Brothers and the three catchment organisations, including the SCI. It will help protect and restore waterways within the Trusts' combined catchment areas in North-East Scotland – a total of 5,566 km², some of which flows through Chivas Brothers-owned land – by focusing on enhancing biodiversity, limiting rises to water temperature from climate change and strengthening the longer-term resilience of the rivers.

This partnership is important not just for Scotland's natural landscapes, but also its heritage industries. Currently 34% of Scotland's rivers are in compromised ecological health, meaning by the end of this century as a result of climate change, they could face three times as many droughts and up to 40% more flooding, threatening the diversity of life in and around the waterways. Chivas recognise that waterways are a vital source of life for Scotland's rich wildlife, as well as a key component and ingredient of whisky

making, which depends on the health of the nation's rivers, banks, burns and springs.

A range of specific waterway projects are currently being developed in close partnership with the three catchment organisations. These will focus on direct activity along riverbanks and waterways designed to help increase biodiversity and the overall health of the river ecosystem. This in turn will help limit the rise of water temperatures, restore floodplain resilience and increase river security. Chivas have embraced the principle that simple, practical interventions, such as planting new trees along rivers, can provide additional shade that helps limit river temperature rises and strengthen riverbanks, as well as helping biodiversity to develop and thrive.

The SCI has been scoping and developing potential projects in Glenlivet during 2024, some of which we are planning to begin implementing in 2025. Glenlivet is also adjacent to the Conglass Water and the significant project we are planning to implement there. Taken together, it will help to make landscape-scale change that will improve the sustainability and resilience of these upland areas to the climate and biodiversity emergencies. The SCI is grateful to Chivas Brothers for their partnership and support and looks forward to developing this work throughout 2025 and beyond.



4.5 Flailbot Trials

The SCI trialled the use of a Flailbot during 2023. This innovative piece of equipment can be remotely and wirelessly operated on challenging terrain to prepare ground and cut vegetation, even on steep surfaces, and scarify the ground to rejuvenate natural seed sources for the regeneration of tree growth. We hope that this may provide an alternative to planting in suitable locations and we will be monitoring the results closely.

Initial trials near the River Truim proved positive and work has continued at Kinveachy, part of Reidhaven Estates near the River Dulnain, throughout 2023 and into 2024.

Each area where the Flailbot has been trialled has been carefully mapped and digitally stored, so that its precise location can be easily found. This will ensure that results of each trial can be carefully monitored, for which the SCI is utilising the assistance of local volunteers, in order to evaluate the success of natural tree regeneration.

We look forward to seeing the results of this monitoring in due course, and hopefully to further use of this innovative tool in the future.



Above: Trials of a Flailbot to encourage natural tree regeneration have proved successful during 2023 and 2024, overseen by the SFB's Operations Manager, Duncan Ferguson (pictured on the right).
(Photo: Paul Hughes, SCI Head of Communications).

5. Publicity

The Spey Catchment Initiative's (SCI's) communications and publicity efforts have enhanced awareness, engagement, and support for our work, reaching existing and new audiences across various platforms. Through detailed monitoring, we have tracked a strong trajectory of growth across social media and website presence, forging significant strategic partnerships with media and other stakeholders along the way. Our growing audience and reach have contributed to a broader public understanding of our conservation efforts and will, in time, help encourage others to become involved in or support our future work.

Social Media Impact

Our social media platforms have continued to show sustained and substantial growth throughout 2024, reflecting the success of our strategy and our targeted approach to content creation and engagement. Starting with 1,418 followers at the beginning of the year, we achieved a 71% increase, concluding with 2,419 followers by the end of October 2024. Our communications have been viewed 183,600 times during this period — an increase of 49% compared with the same period in 2023. This growth has been driven by strategic content focused on projects, conservation events, and compelling stories that resonate with our audience.

Website and Digital Presence

To complement our social media tracking, we launched a website analytics feature in April 2024, allowing for more accurate tracking and strategy optimisation. Since this launch, we have recorded 3,827 views from 1,686 unique users. New content initiatives, such as monthly project updates and news articles, have driven engagement and visibility. The SCI will soon publish a dedicated River Spey Water Levels page as a key addition to our website, designed to enhance user experience by providing real-time information and serving as a valuable resource for stakeholders and the public alike.

Key Campaigns and Media Highlights

The SCI's communications strategy has also benefited from valuable media collaborations. Our work was featured in an episode of BBC's *Landward* in April 2024, where our Operations Manager, Duncan Ferguson, discussed our conservation projects, including a live demonstration of the Flailbot in action. This feature contributed to our visibility, showcasing SCI's innovative use of technology in river and habitat management. The episode aired to a broad audience, reinforcing SCI's reputation as a leader in habitat restoration and sustainable land management.

Thanks to positive outreach we were also featured in video produced and published by the Farm Advisory Service, which highlighted the Allt Lorgy project's role in addressing Atlantic salmon decline through effective land management practices. This feature raised awareness of our project's impact and underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in sustainable catchment management.

Recognition and Future Outlook

The SCI was honoured to receive the Scottish Gamekeepers Association's inaugural Wild Salmon Conservation Award for our work on the Allt Lorgy project. This award is covered in detail in section 6.1 and was the subject of a Parliamentary Motion from the Scottish Parliament celebrating the impact of our projects. These accolades underscore the SCI's contributions to the long-term health and resilience of the River Spey and its tributaries.

In the coming year, we aim to build on our communications by further enhancing our digital engagement strategies, continuing to leverage media partnerships, and developing targeted campaigns to broaden SCI's reach. Through all of these efforts, we remain committed to fostering a well-informed and engaged community that supports our mission to protect and restore the Spey catchment.

5.1 The Allt Lorgy: SCI Wins the SGA Wild Salmon Conservation Award 2024

One of the first projects undertaken by the SCI was the restoration of the Allt Lorgy, a tributary of the River Dulnain, back in 2012. This burn had been artificially straightened in the 18th Century, when land management practices aimed to get the water off the land as quickly as possible.

The SCI removed embankments and rock armouring, replacing the latter with large wood structures as Nature-based Solutions to restore natural river processes. We then took the novel “Stage Zero” approach of giving the burn a suggestion as to the path it might follow, and then leaving the burn to find its own meander.

Trees were planted by local school children and natural tree regeneration was also encouraged.

The project became a demonstration site and has received hundreds of visitors since. It subsequently won the UK Rivers Prize in 2020.

In 2024, the Allt Lorgy Restoration Project also received the inaugural Wild Salmon Conservation Award from the Scottish Gamekeepers Association, also jointly awarded to the River Carron Conservation Association. It followed monitoring by the Spey Fishery Board which showed that juvenile salmon and trout populations in the burn had increased four-fold as a result of the restoration project.

The SCI’s receipt of the SGA Award was subsequently congratulated by the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood, by a Parliamentary Motion.



Above: SCI CEO Roger Knight receives the Scottish Gamekeepers Association’s Wild Salmon Conservation Award 2024 from Fergus Ewing MSP. This inaugural award was won jointly by the Spey Catchment Initiative and the River Carron Conservation Association.

(Photo: Courtesy of Kenneth Stephen, PR & Communications Officer, SGA)

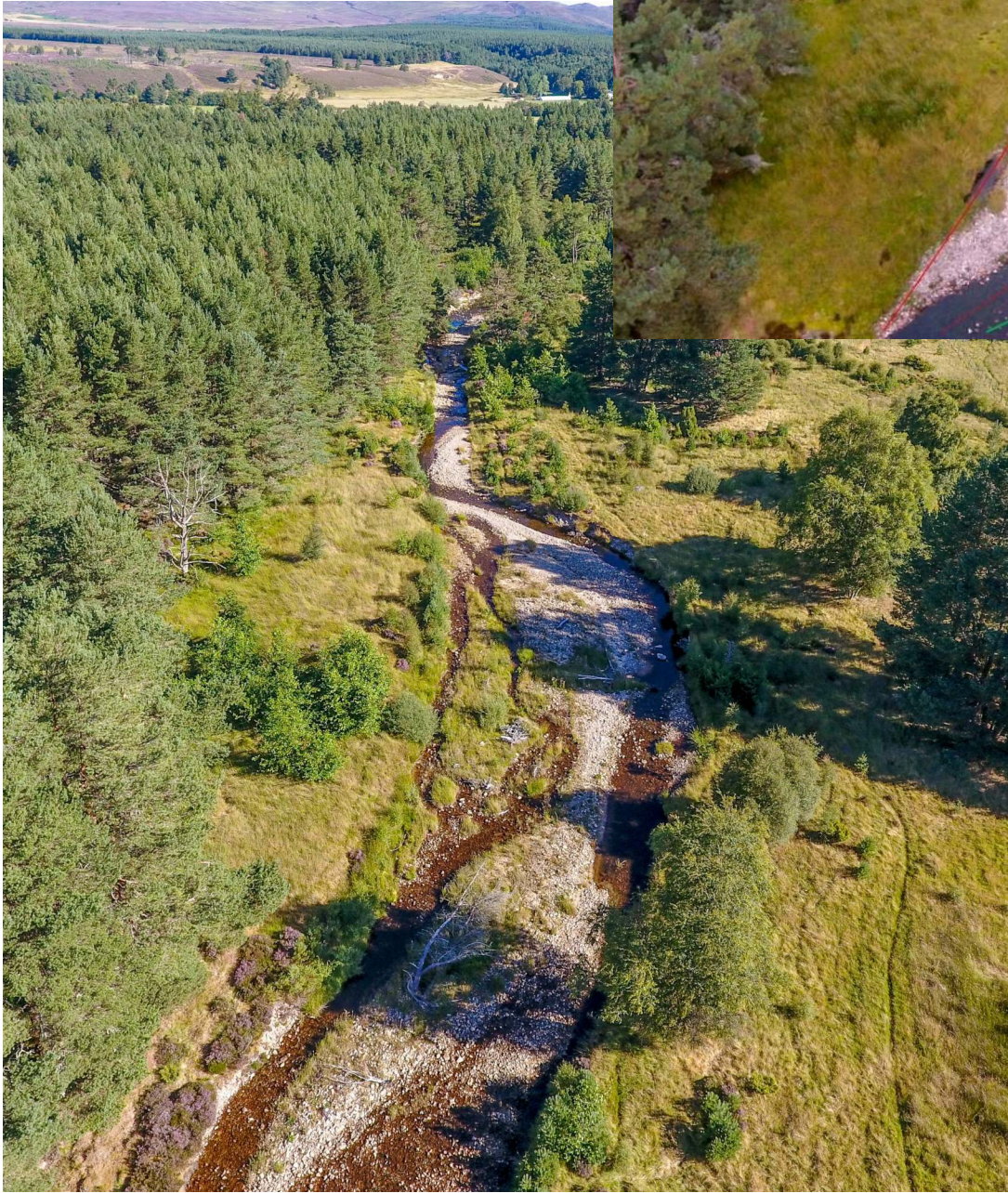


Left: The Allt Lorgy in 2012; a burn which had been artificially straightened in the 18th Century, at a time when land management practices aimed to get the water off the land as quickly as possible, removing natural river processes.

(Photo: Roger Knight, SCI CEO)



Above: The Allt Lorgy in 2016, four years after the initial restoration work and adoption of a “Stage Zero” approach having started to find its own meander.



Left: The Allt Lorgy in 2022. Natural river processes have been restored and the burn has become a braided river. Salmon and trout populations have increased four-fold as a result, which led the Scottish Gamekeepers Association to award it the Wild Salmon Conservation Award for 2024..

(Photo: Paul Hughes, SCI Head of Communications)

6. Administration and Staffing

The last two years have seen the Spey Catchment Initiative grow. The Initiative's principal Project Officer, **Penny Lawson**, joined the SCI in 2017 and has since been the mainstay of the organisation.

The SCI is particularly grateful to the Spey Fishery Board which provides 50% of the time of its Operation Manager, **Duncan Ferguson**, to assist the Initiative. Duncan has been instrumental in implementing the SCI's projects on the ground, once the initial scoping, planning and financial arrangements have been concluded. The Spey Fishery Board has also shown considerable support by administering the SCI, both throughout the period of this Review and during all the years since its inception, for which the SCI is also particularly grateful.

Penny was joined in April 2023 by **Paul Hughes**, whom the SCI's Steering Group appointed as its Head of Communications. We were delighted to welcome Paul, who had already overseen the creation of a new website for the SCI, re-branded the organisation and been responsible for much of the promotion of its work. He brings with him a wealth of experience in digital communication and has been responsible for significantly raising the profile of the SCI on its social media channels.

Paul had previously been contracted by the Spey Fishery Board (SFB) as its Digital Marketing & Communications Manager, before becoming employed by the SCI. He still shares 50% of his time with the SFB, under contract from the SCI.

The departure of the SCI's Nature Restoration Officer, Gary Brown, at the end of his 10-month

contract in March 2023, led the SCI to go out to recruitment in the summer of that year. We were delighted to appoint **Phil Whitfield** to the role, who was subsequently able to join us in December 2023. Phil has spent his career in forestry, in both the public and private sectors, and has brought with him over thirty years of experience in those sectors to the SCI. He has taken forward the Conglass Restoration Project reported in section 4.3, and been instrumental in guiding our forestry and riparian tree planting work elsewhere in the catchment. We wish him every success in his new role.

The evolution of the SCI into a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation led its Steering Group to recommend the appointment of **Roger Knight** to be the organisation's first Chief Executive Officer. This was endorsed by the SCI's Board of Prospective Trustees in December 2023.

Roger has been involved with the SCI since its inception in 2010, and was one of its originators. He joined the SCI full-time in July 2024, having spent the previous eighteen years as Director of the Spey Fishery Board. Consequently, he brings a sound knowledge of the Spey catchment to the Initiative and we wish him every success in his new role.

7. Extracts From The Constitution of the Spey Catchment Initiative

Type of Organisation

The Spey Catchment Initiative was incorporated as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 22nd December 2022 by the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR). Its charity number is SC052191.

Purpose

The organisation has been formed to demonstrate and deliver integrated catchment management by protecting, restoring and enhancing the features and characteristics of the River Spey catchment, with the following purposes:

I. to advance the environmental sustainability and resilience of the whole of the River Spey and its catchment;

ii. to develop a cohesive and sustainable approach to landscape scale stewardship of the water environment, including the protection, restoration and enhancement of the water quality and natural heritage of the whole of the River Spey catchment;

iii. to advance environmental improvement and/or protection including, but not limited to, preservation and conservation of the natural environment, conservation and protection of wildlife and natural habitats, promotion of sustainable development including natural flood management, renewable energy generation, and supporting sustainable consumption of energy and other resources;

iv. to promote education and raise awareness and understanding of the whole River Spey system by engaging stakeholders and communi-

ties within and throughout the catchment, including organising or supporting others to organise meetings, lectures, conferences, seminars, broadcasts, training or any other form of educational instruction; and

V. to support the advancement of heritage and culture, including but not limited to restoring and preserving historic sites, traditions, crafts, skills, language, artefacts, exhibits and of their associated background and history;

but such that the organisation shall do so following principles of sustainable development.

Powers

I. The organisation has power to do anything which is calculated to further its purposes or is conducive or incidental to doing so.

ii. No part of the income or property of the organisation may be paid or transferred (directly or indirectly) to the members - either in the course of the organisation's existence or on dissolution - except where this is done in direct furtherance of the organisation's charitable purposes.

Qualifications for membership

I. MEMBERSHIP shall consist of those individuals who made the application for registration of the organisation and such other individuals aged 16 or over and groups who fully support the aims and activities of the organisation and are admitted to membership under the following clauses.

ii. Employees of the organisation are not eligible for membership. A person admitted to membership shall automatically cease to be a member if they become an employee of the organisation.

8. Financial Summary

Spey Catchment Initiative (SCIO)

Statement of Financial Activities for the period 14th December 2022 to 31st March 2024

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments from			
Donations and legacies	<u>346,344</u>	<u>30,570</u>	<u>376,914</u>
Expenditure on			
Charitable activities			
Charitable	<u>164,391</u>	<u>30,570</u>	<u>194,961</u>
NET INCOME	<u>181,953</u>	-	<u>181,953</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>181,953</u>	-	<u>181,953</u>

Balance Sheet 31st March 2024

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	6,479	-	6,479
Current assets			
Debtors	28,721	-	28,721
Cash at bank	<u>183,510</u>	-	<u>183,510</u>
	212,231	-	212,231
Creditors			
Amounts falling due within one year	<u>(36,757)</u>	-	<u>(36,757)</u>
Net current assets	<u>175,474</u>	-	<u>175,474</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>181,953</u>	-	<u>181,953</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>181,953</u>	-	<u>181,953</u>
Funds			
Unrestricted funds			<u>181,953</u>
Total funds			<u>181,953</u>

1. The above figures must be considered as draft until approved by the SCI's Annual General Meeting.
2. These are abbreviated accounts. A copy of the SCI's full Financial Statements, together with explanatory notes, will be published on its website (www.speycatchment.org), once they have been approved at the Annual General Meeting.



Spey
Catchment
Initiative

Spey Catchment Initiative (SCIO)

The Town House

The Square

Grantown on Spey

PH26 3HF

Registered Charity Number SC052191