



**The  
Langholm  
Initiative**



**Tarras Valley  
Nature Reserve**

Tarras Valley Nature Reserve, Langholm Initiative

### **Background Information**

In 2021 and 2022 the Langholm Initiative led the successful community purchase of 10,500 acres of land to create the Tarras Valley nature reserve. The land is host to a wide range of protected and rare species. Our vision is to be community owned landscape rich in nature with people at its heart.

The extensive landholding includes peatland, wetlands, moorland (we are an SPA and SSSI for hen harriers), regenerating native woodland, veteran oaks, an upland sheep farm (which we are planning to move to regenerative grazing principles) in addition to properties and other estate infrastructure.

Since the purchase of the land, we have developed a [5 year action plan](#) and have undertaken a number of projects on the land including peatland restoration, trialing regenerative grazing, removal of self-seeded sitka spruce, commercial forestry conversions to native woodland, herbivore management and more.

We have ambitious plans for the next 5 years including more peatland restoration, native woodland planting, wetland creation, river restoration and regenerative grazing transition. Along with developing eco-tourism, volunteering and learning initiatives, improving access and further opportunities to encourage people to come and enjoy our community land.

To date we have used consultants to undertake ecological survey work including breeding birds and protected species surveys. However, we now want to embed an ecologist in the team who can help guide and support implementation of the ecological restoration principles we are working towards. We are supported by some incredible and knowledgeable volunteers who undertake survey work in their areas of expertise, including moths, bryophytes, raptors.

### **Our Approach**

To restore the land, our approach is to:

- Allow space and time for nature to thrive, expand and shift back into balance
- Take a broad, holistic approach focussed on a 'helping hand' where it is needed to restore self-sustaining natural processes
- Work to create a rich dynamic mosaic of habitats

- Apply broad principles to our management and restoration of the land rather than a highly prescriptive single species approach
- Accept that we cannot predict and control every outcome, and we must accept some uncertainty in the end result as things change