

# **BIRSE TRADING COMPANY<sup>1</sup>**

## **Directors' Annual Report 2019**

### **Introduction**

The Birse Trading Company (BTCo) is a subsidiary company of Birse Community Trust (BCT). BTCo leases Slewdrum and Balfour Forests from BCT and manages the Forests to implement BCT's Forest Plans 2011-30 for each Forest. BTCo's current leases run until the end of 2022.

2019 was BTCo's twelfth year of operation. BTCo is managed by its Directors. During 2019, they were Paul Chapman (Chair), Doug Boyle, Tody Rider and Jane Winton. The Directors are all local members of BCT and include a director who is also a BCT Trustee.

This report provides an account of BTCo's operations during 2019.

### **Forest Management**

In 2019, BTCo carried out improvements to both forests. Balfour Forest saw the second phase of the Baudylace Track completed. Slewdrum Forest saw no major siteworks.

#### Balfour Forest

The second phase of the Baudylace track was completed to the forest edge above Newmill Fields.

Along with the new track work, the main forest road was upgraded in places where forestry machinery had damaged the surface layer and forwarder crossing points on the Foggage Track were repaired and resurfaced.

Christmas trees were once again donated to Ballogie Community Association and firewood was felled along the lower half of the Foggage Track for BCT members.

Some trees were felled along the Mountain Bike track in conjunction with the ATA as their ongoing maintenance of the trails.

#### Slewdrum Forest

Birch and Spruce were felled to open up the vista at the seat to the side of the main forest road just down from the Shooting Greens Car Park.

Piri Piri was picked and disposed of along all the tracks and paths in the Forest.

The lower Kettock deer fence was inspected and cleared of fallen trees.

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<sup>1</sup> The Birse Trading Company (BTCo) is a company limited by guarantee (SC327196) which was set up by Birse Community Trust (BCT) in 2007. The company is owned by BCT as the only shareholder and the appointment of the Directors who manage BTCo requires BCT's approval.

## **Administration**

In 2019, BCo Directors held three Board meetings, one of which followed BCo's AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> April. The Directors also undertook a schedule of monthly monitoring visits to the Forests, with six to each Forest over the year.

BCo maintained its established pattern of administration, including its Site Works Report and Annual Report on 2018 and its Site Work Proposals and Annual Plan for 2019, together with its Annual Accounts for 2018 and Annual Budget for 2019. BCo continued to update its Tree Planting, Timber Harvesting, Firewood Distribution and other sets of records.

During the year, BCo continued to retain Jane Winton as Administrator and RTS as forestry agent. RTS's main involvements were in connection with creating the track in Balfour Forest.

## **Finance**

In 2019, BCo's total income was £nil and its total expenditure was £41,186, giving a deficit of £41,186.<sup>2</sup>

BCo's expenditure in 2019 included payment of £6,000 annual rent for the two Forests to BCT and also making donations totalling £20,000 to BCT. The remaining expenditure was £13,311 on managing and improving the Forests and £1,875 on administration and bank charges.

As a result of BCo's loss, the balance of funds held by BCo decreased over the year from £84,539 to £43,353. The Directors consider that BCo ended the year sufficiently well placed to take forward its responsibilities and plans in 2020.

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<sup>2</sup> BCo's Annual Accounts are submitted to Companies House, reported in BCT's Annual Accounts and published on BCT's website.