



# RWE

## Caithness Community Funds

What we supported in 2023

**RWE's Bad á Cheò, Camster and Bilbster Wind Farms are already making a significant contribution to Caithness communities. In 2023 alone, these funds collectively invested £401,626 in local projects.**

In addition Camster II Wind Farm is currently under construction. Once the wind farm is fully operational it will bring with it further community funding worth £180,000 each year index linked.

### For more information



All the funds are administered by Foundation Scotland with decisions on the allocation of funding made by local community panels. For more information on how to apply, please visit [Foundation Scotland's website](#).

### Fund Introductions

#### **RWE Bad á Cheò Wind Farm Community Fund**

Supporting activities that benefit people living in Watten, Halkirk & District, and Lybster, Latheron and Clyth Community Council areas.

#### **RWE Bad á Cheò Wind Farm Education and Training Fund**

Open to residents of the same communities providing bursaries to local residents to improve opportunities and livelihoods. The awards help people access training and education opportunities to equip them with the range of skills needed to enter or retain employment in key sectors within the local economy.

#### **RWE Camster Wind Farm Community Fund**

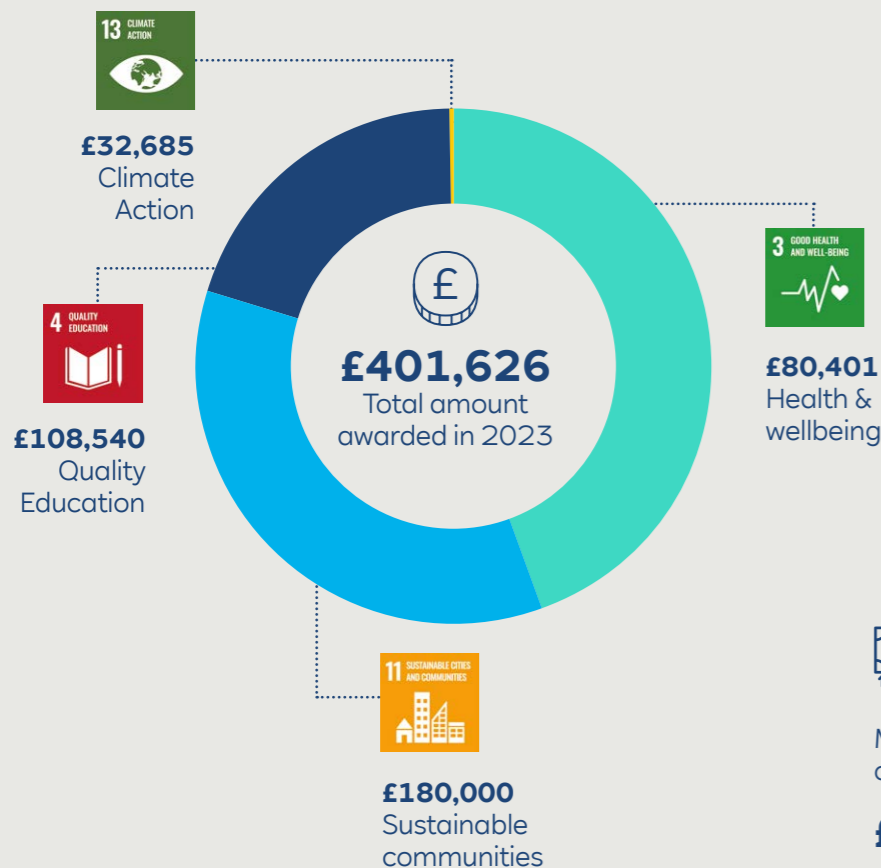
Supporting charitable activities or services that benefit those living in Latheron, Lybster and Clyth; Watten; and Tannach and District Community Council areas. The fund aims to deliver outcomes that meet local needs and aspirations, as identified during early community consultations.

#### **RWE Bilbster Wind Farm Fund**

A charitable fund split between the two communities of Watten and Tannach and District.



# Overview of 2023 Spend



Match funding attracted from other sources in excess of **£1 million**

## Securing rural transport services

Sustainable Development Goal 11  
Sustainable communities



Caithness Voluntary Group received £30,000 from the Camster fund to purchase 2 new wheelchair accessible minibuses, ensuring the continuation of this vital rural transport service in the area.

Caithness Rural Transport drivers are mainly volunteers. They average 686 journeys a month, travelling up to 300 miles a day.

## Improving employment opportunities

Sustainable Development Goal 4  
Quality Education

The Bad á Cheò Education and Training Fund helped 71 people gain access to training and education that will provide them with the skills needed to find or keep jobs in important areas of the local economy.

One person was given £1,500 to help them take the DVLA C&E heavy goods driving test, which they passed.

"The funding allowed me to take on a rigorous training programme which normally would have taken me a very long time to save up for. The cost to attend the intensive course, accommodation in Inverness for the week, and fuel travelling back and forth came to around £2,500. This is something I've always wanted to do, the grant money gave me real boost. Since passing my test, I've been driving HGV's on my days off to get some experience which will help me to be a more suitable candidate when I decide to change my career into the Agriculture or Construction industry."

Funding recipient

## Supporting community art projects

Sustainable Development Goal 3  
Health & Wellbeing



Sidh Chailleann Art received £6,000 from the Camster Fund to help put on the "Legends of Caithness" art exhibition. This was their first project since they set up in 2023, aimed at running community-led sustainable art projects in Caithness.

The project's goal was to attract tourists to the Halkirk area to enjoy its distinct folklore. All the artists involved were either from Caithness or had strong ties to the area. The exhibition featured artwork depicting local myths such as selkies, mermaids, kelpies, and fairies, and drew inspiration from Don Ormand's book, "Caithness Lore and Legend". It also included photos of "Legendary Characters," well-known local figures photographed by Caithness photographers, which helped visitors connect with the familiar faces and places displayed. Additionally, there were four storytelling workshops where people could listen to stories about Caithness folklore told by local storytellers.

"Due to family ill health and bereavement I hadn't created any work for about 3 years. Prior to this I ran a tearoom where I sold my unique handcrafted sewn gifts. I was unsure what, if anything to make any more until I saw a Facebook post inviting artists to submit work to The Legends of Caithness Exhibition. The panel chose my hessian figures which depict local life to be part of the Exhibition. Being chosen to be an exhibitor was a real boost to my confidence, I was more focused and positive, and meeting and socialising with fellow artists created a sense of community. I sold all the pieces I had submitted to the exhibition and have since received numerous commissions. I've hosted a workshop and have another one scheduled, which I feel has established me as an artist and I'm hoping to be considered for the next exhibition too."

Legends of Caithness Exhibitor

## Funding in action

### Bad á Cheò

Grant Recipient	What was funded in 2023	Amount
Hearing and Sight Care	Supporting those with any degree of hearing and/or sight loss through outreach clinics and home visits for two years.	<b>£3,710</b>
Caithness Kids Living in Caring	A Sessional Support Worker to support rural young carers over the next four years	<b>£8,000</b>
	To fund a Finance and Development Officer for one year and funding to establish a new office space to enable member drop-in`s in Lybster.	<b>£8,764</b>
Caithness Voluntary Group	To recruit a Development Officer to work with the Halkirk and District community and stakeholders to drive community projects.	<b>£3,006</b>
Science 03	The September Caithness International Science Festival	<b>£4,000</b>
Caithness Citizens Advice Bureau	A new Money Advice and Energy Advice Officer 25 hours per week for 2 years to help local people mitigate the cost of living increases.	<b>£5,000</b>
	Up to £400 per household which the Money Advice and Energy Advice Officer can use to alleviate fuel poverty and provide energy efficiency measures for people within Latheron, Lybster and Clyth.	<b>£6,000</b>
New Caithness Handbell Ringers	Attending the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain National Rally in April 2023.	<b>£996</b>
Dunbeath and District Centre	Towards a new full time Development Manager over two years to help ensure the sustainability of the organisation.	<b>£7,500</b>
Lybster Primary School Parent Council	To take the primary 5, 6 and 7 school children on an end of term surfing school trip in June 2023.	<b>£1,500</b>
Association of Northern Trails Scotland	To improve the infrastructure along the John o` Groats Trail through the construction of stiles, bridges and walkways within the Latheron, Lybster and Clyth Community Council area.	<b>£10,000</b>
Thurso High School PTA	Towards 40 senior pupils undertaking an educational trip to Iceland in October 2023.	<b>£1,000</b>
	Towards the S6 University trip to give pupils insight to university life.	<b>£1,000</b>
Northern Pilgrims Way Group	Towards a replacement Skinnet Stone in Halkirk to promote the history and heritage of the area.	<b>£4,361</b>
Home-Start Caithness	A Family Support worker for 20 hours per week for a 12 month period through 2023/24.	<b>£10,000</b>

Individuals - What was funded in 2023	Amount
Towards expenses undertaking a four year BSC MSCI Zoology course.	<b>£300</b>
Towards expenses studying BA Criminology at Abertay for 3 years.	<b>£1,000</b>
Towards expenses studying Integrated Masters Biochemistry over 5 years	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards expenses studying Ethical Hacking over four years.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards expenses undertaking Woodland Activity Leader Level 2.	<b>£936</b>
Towards expenses studying Computer Arts BA (Hons) over four years.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards expenses studying BSc Physics over the next three years.	<b>£1,500</b>
A laptop to enable studying SVQ2 Social Services & Healthcare.	<b>£638</b>
Towards expenses studying MSc Chemistry over 5 years	<b>£300</b>
Towards expenses studying BA Media and Performance over 3 years	<b>£300</b>
Towards the cost of Social Science NHC.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards attending UHI Orkney to study SVQ2 in Agricultural as part of a Modern Apprentice.	<b>£1,500</b>
To undertake HGV Class One training and test.	<b>£1,500</b>
A laptop & printer enabling study of NQ Business, Administration and Marketing level 5 at UHI North, West & Hebrides.	<b>£1,500</b>
A laptop enabling study of HND Business Management at the Open University.	<b>£599</b>
A Hair Extension Training Course enabling a new business set-up.	<b>£1,100</b>
Nebosh International Diploma for Occupational Health and Safety Management Professionals.	<b>£1,450</b>
Towards expenses studying Visual Communication/Graphic Design at City of Glasgow College over 2 years.	<b>£1,500</b>
To fund course fees for Open University BSc Design and Innovation.	<b>£1,000</b>
To contribute to the cost of undertaking City and Guilds PAT Testing Course.	<b>£396</b>
An advanced Nail Builder course to compliment the starter course previously funded.	<b>£226</b>
A two-day British Wool Shearing Course as the first step to becoming self-employed part-time.	<b>£247</b>
To study Bachelor of Science Marine Biology at the University of Stirling over 4 years.	<b>£1,500</b>
To fund fees and equipment to undertake an online Starter Gel Course.	<b>£885</b>
Towards expenses studying BA Hons Journalism at Edinburgh Napier University over 4 years.	<b>£1,500</b>
To study 2-year HND Agriculture through SRUC.	<b>£1,500</b>
To study BA Hons French & Politics & International Relations at University of Strathclyde over 5 years.	<b>£1,500</b>
To attend the Seal Pup Rehabilitation and Welfare course at SSPCA National Wildlife Rescue Centre.	<b>£500</b>
To study HNC Sports Development and Coaching at UHI Inverness.	<b>£1,500</b>





## Funding in action Camster

Grant Recipient	What was funded in 2023	Amount
Watten Rifle Club	Electronic target and junior equipment for the Club to encourage new membership.	<b>£7,800</b>
Lybster Community Hall	Funding 36 planters and baskets throughout Lybster village.	<b>£6,514</b>
Hearing and Sight Care	To help provide information, advice and practical help to anyone with any degree of hearing and/or sight loss through outreach clinics over two years.	<b>£6,650</b>
Caithness Kids Living in Caring Situations	Towards core costs for one year. To contribute towards staff salaries to continue the group's operations supporting young carers.	<b>£8,500</b> <b>£24,544</b>
Dunbeath and District Centre	To contribute to the cost of a Senior Centre Coordinator and Administrator for one year.	<b>£25,000</b>
Watten Community Council	To run an annual floral planters and shrubs scheme around the village for three years.	<b>£417</b>
Lybster Primary School Parent Council	To contribute to the cost of transport for swimming lessons for P4's and P5's.	<b>£2,730</b>
Watten Early Learning Centre Parent Council	Shelving and storage boxes to make toys and equipment in the new container easier to access.	<b>£561</b>
Yarrows Heritage Trust	Towards excavating the Swartigill site with a professional archaeology team from Orkney college.	<b>£22,135</b>
Wick Society	Towards essential maintenance of the building to ensure the continuation of the Museum.	<b>£3,000</b>
Watten Parent Council	To fund a residential trip for P7 pupils along with pupils from other primary schools who will later transition to high school together.	<b>£1,800</b>
Watten Hall (SCIO)	To replace the old inefficient heating system in the main hall with a more efficient system.	<b>£31,898</b>
Thurso Players	Initial costs in the Foundry Building Restoration project to bring it back into community use.	<b>£13,000</b>
Thrumster Primary Parent Council	A storage container to free up space in the outdoor classroom that could be better used by the children and the wider community.	<b>£7,000</b>
Thrumster Gamefair	To contribute to the cost of running Thrumster Game Fair as a free event for the community.	<b>£5,000</b>
Sidh Chailleann Art	Towards artists exhibition "Legends of Caithness" along with storytelling sessions and artistic workshops in Halkirk.	<b>£6,000</b>
Lyth Arts Centre	To support the delivery of the outreach and engagement program consisting of 10 events in community halls, schools and nurseries, providing free transport to those in need, particularly young people, to support wellbeing, and reduce rural inequality.	<b>£5,877</b>
Lybster Heritage Trust	To refresh the external paint at the Waterlines Centre.	<b>£2,300</b>

Individuals - What was funded in 2023	Amount
To undertake the Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Sheep Dips for crofters.	<b>£732</b>
To fund Certificate of Competence for the transportation of animals for crofting purposes.	<b>£120</b>
To study International Politics at Stirling University over 2 years.	<b>£1,500</b>
To fund Manual Therapy - Spinal & Peripheral Mobilisations training.	<b>£700</b>
To fund course fees towards BSc Design and Innovation.	<b>£1,000</b>
To fund Sea Kayak Safety & Rescue Training.	<b>£286</b>
Towards studying Biological Science at Herriot Watt University over 2 years	<b>£1,500</b>
To contribute to the cost of studying Physiology and Sports Science BSc (Hons) over 2 years.	<b>£1,500</b>
To attend the Offshore Survival training course.	<b>£1,500</b>
To fund Sea Kayak Leader course.	<b>£235</b>
To undertake the C+E heavy goods licence training and test in Inverness.	<b>£1,500</b>
To purchase textbooks, lab equipment and a laptop to enable study of MSci Neuroscience and Psychology.	<b>£750</b>
To study 3 Dimensional Design at Robert Gordon's University over 3 years	<b>£1500</b>
29 Individuals - To contribute to the cost of undertaking driving lessons and tests.	<b>£14,500</b>

Grant Recipient	What was funded in 2023	Amount
Caithness Voluntary Group	To fund HERE for Caithness in partnership with the Caithness Poverty Action Group to employ a poverty officer for 3 years and to deliver and publicise a series of training events to help organisations and people through the cost of living crisis.	<b>£10,000</b>
	2 new 5-8 seat, wheelchair accessible minibuses, to ensure the continuation of the rural transport service in the area.	<b>£30,000</b>
	To continue a befriending and support service for three years across Caithness for people who are suffering loneliness and social isolation.	<b>£5,000</b>
Caithness Association of Young Farmers Clubs	To erect a commemorative stone at the site of the first Young Farmers Club at Lanergill to celebrate 100 years of the Young Farmers movement.	<b>£24,767</b>
Caithness Education & Training Fund	To enable 47 residents from the wider Caithness area, who would otherwise not have access to a wind farm community fund, to benefit from an education and training award.	<b>£34,100</b>

## Funding in action Bilbster

Grant Recipient	What was funded in 2023	Amount
North Apex Gymnastics Club	To fund travel costs to attend Gymfest 2023.	<b>£2,600</b>
Tannach and District Community Council	To fund Bonfire Night and Christmas celebrations 2023	<b>£2,000</b>
Caithness Voluntary Group	To enable the Watten Development Officer to set up some community events and/or consultation as necessary.	<b>£500</b>
Watten Parent Council	To purchase poloshirts and hoodies for all pupils at Watten Primary School to ease the cost of living for local families.	<b>£1,100</b>
Watten Rifle Club	To purchase modern efficient LED target lights to replace the existing unreliable and energy heavy halogen target lights.	<b>£338</b>

## Get in touch

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