



# Caithness Community Funds

What we supported in 2024



**RWE's Bad á Cheò, Camster and Bilbster Wind Farms are already making a significant contribution to Caithness communities. In 2024 alone, these funds collectively invested £619,931 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 Latheron, Lybster and Clyth Community Councils.

### **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**

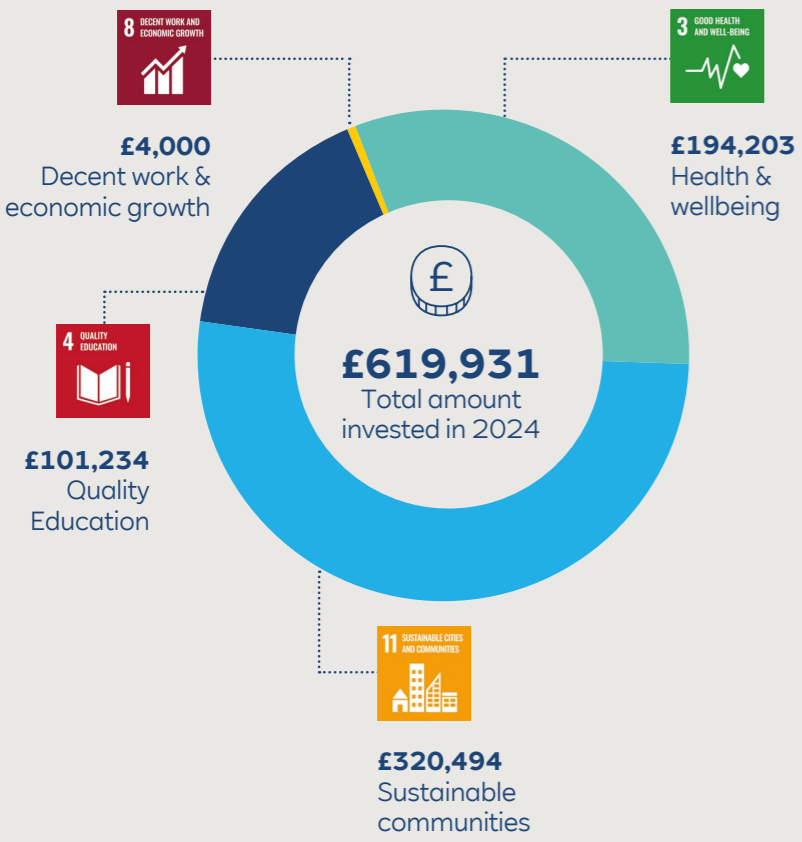
Supporting charitable activities or services that benefit those living in Latheron, Lybster and Clyth; Watten; and Tannach and District Community Council areas. The fund aims to deliver outcomes that meet local needs and aspirations, as identified during early community consultations.

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

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



# Overview of 2024 Spend



Match funding attracted from other sources in excess of

**£1.3 million**



## John O'Groats Trail

Sustainable Development Goal 3  
Health & Wellbeing



The John O'Groats Trail has been transformed with awards from both Bad a Cheo and Camster Wind Farm Funds totalling £23,966. This funding has significantly improved the Trail's infrastructure, including bridges, stiles, and walkways. Where walkers once had to navigate fences or challenging terrain, they can now enjoy a seamless and stress-free journey along the Trail.

The improvements have been particularly impactful in the Latheron, Lybster and Clyth areas, where farmer's fences meet dramatic clifftops. The upgraded infrastructure ensures that walkers feel secure while exploring these stunning northern coastlines.

Beyond improving accessibility, the funding has fostered a sense of community. More locals are discovering the beauty of their own backyards, organising walks, connecting with others whilst boosting their health and wellbeing. The project has elevated the trail's reputation as a vital recreational and cultural asset but also encourages greater community involvement through volunteering, donations, and support.

With this momentum, the John O'Groats Trail team is motivated to continue enhancing and sustaining this Highlands asset for future generations.

"It's great to see like-minded people meeting one another in the area. So, we're building bridges in our community, physically and figuratively!"

Ken McElroy | Northern Trails Scotland

## Watten Shop Group

Sustainable Development Goal 11  
Sustainable communities



Watten Shop, also known as Woodside Stores is a story of community success. On the market for a period of time a group of locals came together with the aim to prevent the shop from closing or being re-purposed.

The group rallied the community, launching a share offer to raise funds for the purchase and renovation of the shop. Funding totalling more than £89,000 from the nearby RWE Camster Wind Farm was key to getting this project off the ground.

The funding helped with legal costs, wages, stock and equipment, the cost of leasing the shop for six months prior to purchasing as well as contributing towards the purchase costs.

The local Community Development Officer, whose salary is also paid by wind farm funds, supported the group to develop the project further. As well as providing training and work experience opportunities for young people, there are plans to develop a small cafe area in the shop.

"The first grant to lease the shop whilst we went through the process of the purchase meant that the Watten community didn't need to risk losing the local shop which was in serve danger of closure.

It allowed the Committee the time needed to properly plan the shop purchase and refit, and gain significant learning from the wealth of experience from the current owners. We are very grateful to the RWE Camster Wind Farm Panel for this opportunity."

Sam Wybrev | Watten Shop Group's Treasurer



## Funding in action

### Bad á Cheò

Grant Recipient	What was funded in 2024	Amount
Caithness KLICS (SCIO)	Towards the salary of the Finance and Development Officer enabling young carers to access support in Caithness.	<b>£10,000</b>
	To continue funding the Sessional Support Worker to support rural young carers over the next four years.	<b>£8,000</b>
Highland and Islands Blood Bikes	To fund six months running costs for volunteer medical transport services to improve health outcomes for residents.	<b>£5,000</b>
Caithness District Young Farmers	Transport costs for the Caithness Young Farmers tug-o-war team to attend the qualifiers in Cornhill in June.	<b>£1,670</b>
Sidh Chailleann Art	Towards the Rising Artists of Caithness programme of monthly art workshops and mentoring sessions for aspiring local artists.	<b>£1,500</b>
	Towards 39 pupils undertaking an educational trip to Rome and Naples to experience the culture and visit important geological sites.	<b>£900</b>
Thurso High School PTA	Towards the cost of travel for the S1-S3 skiing trip to the French Alps.	<b>£1,000</b>
	Towards the S6 University trip.	<b>£1,000</b>
	Towards 25 pupils undertaking an educational trip to Berlin to understand the impact of the Second World War.	<b>£1,000</b>
Watten ELC Parent Council	Towards the Easter Fayre for the Watten community to support the Early Learning Centre.	<b>£500</b>
Watten Shop Group Limited	To fund essential costs for the first year of running a community shop in Watten.	<b>£34,558</b>
1st Halkirk Guides	To purchase camping equipment to enable ongoing camping trips.	<b>£1,616</b>
Lybster Day Centre Association	Towards employing a cook to provide hot meals and opportunities to come together socially for the population of Lybster.	<b>£5,000</b>
Association of Northern Trails Scotland	To fund continuation of the John O'Groats Trail Development Manager.	<b>£4,000</b>
Venture North	Towards the "Taste North" event, a free annual food, drink and artisan craft festival.	<b>£500</b>
Halkirk Primary School Parent Council	To fund educational & sports trips and outdoor activities during academic year 2024/25.	<b>£4,425</b>
Northern Pilgrims Way Group SCIO	Towards employing a seasonal Heritage Ranger to develop and promote the Northern Pilgrims Way to increase access and encourage tourism.	<b>£2,500</b>



Individuals - What was funded in 2024	Amount
Enabling completion of a HGV Category C Licence course.	<b>£1,500</b>
20 individuals - To contribute to the cost of undertaking driving lessons and tests, increasing access to education and employment opportunities.	<b>£9,687</b>
To undertake a Hair Extension Training Course enabling a new business set-up.	<b>£1,000</b>
To fund a Women's Health Practitioner Diploma.	<b>£250</b>
Course fees for an online Personal Development Course.	<b>£500</b>
Course fees to attend a two-day British Wool Advanced Shearing Course as the next step to becoming self employed part time.	<b>£240</b>
To undertake HNC sports therapy in Edinburgh.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards studying Biomedical Science for the next three years.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards studying an MA in Linguistics and Social Anthropology for 4 years.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards a laptop for studying online courses to improve employability starting with 'Understanding Domestic Abuse'.	<b>£499</b>
To fund course fees for ITC Level 3 Award in Outdoor First Aid.	<b>£120</b>
Towards accomodation costs at Queen Margaret University to study BA (Hons) Primary Education Studies for 4 years.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards costs of studying for AAT Level 3 Diploma in Accounting.	<b>£1,500</b>
To study Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) at University Of Edinburgh for 7 years.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards studying for BSc Honours in Molecular & Cellular Biology for 4 years.	<b>£1,500</b>
To study for BSc Marine Biology at the University of Stirling for 4 years.	<b>£1,000</b>
To undertake a Hair Extension Training Course enabling a new business set-up.	<b>£300</b>
Towards studying Forensic Anthropology at the University of Dundee for 4 years.	<b>£1,500</b>





Individuals - What was funded in 2024	Amount
For a laptop enabling study of BSc (Hons) Forensic and Analytical Science at Robert Gordon University.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards studying BSc (Hons) Nursing through the Open University.	<b>£1,500</b>
To fund course fees and equipment to undertake an e-File nail course.	<b>£235</b>
To study BSc Adult Nursing at University of Strathclyde for 5 years.	<b>£1,000</b>
To study 3 Dimensional Design at Robert Gordon's University for 3 years.	<b>£1,000</b>
To study the two-year HND Agriculture course.	<b>£1,000</b>
Towards studying BA (Hons) History at Stirling for 4 years.	<b>£1,000</b>
Towards studying EAL SQV 2 Performing Engineering Operations Level 5.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards studying BA (Hons) Game Design and Production at Abertay University for 4 years.	<b>£775</b>
Towards studying for a Service Technician Apprenticeship.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards studying for a SCQF Level 5 Child Health and Social Care qualification.	<b>£1,000</b>
Towards studying for a Higher in Business Management.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards studying for a BSc in Computing Science at Aberdeen University for 3 years.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards studying EAL SVQ 2 Performing Engineering Operations (Fabrication and Welding) Level 5 course.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards studying for BEng in Mechatronics for 3 years.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards studying for a SCQF Level 5 Child Health and Social Care qualification.	<b>£1,000</b>
Towards a laptop to support studying for an SVQ Level 2 in Social Services and Healthcare.	<b>£500</b>
Towards studying for MA Architecture for 4 years.	<b>£1,500</b>

Individuals - What was funded in 2024	Amount
Towards studying for BSc (Hons) Computer Science for 4 years.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards studying BSc (Hons) Computer Science at University of Edinburgh for 4 years .	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards completing SVQ 4 Social Services and Healthcare SCQF Level 9.	<b>£1,500</b>
To fund cost of Winter Mountain Leader assessment.	<b>£755</b>
Towards studying Biological Science at Herriot Watt University for 4 years.	<b>£1,000</b>
To study International Politics at Stirling University for 4 years.	<b>£1,000</b>
To study Level 7 Diploma in Mechanical Engineering at UHI.	<b>£1,500</b>
Course fees for NPTC Level 2 Certificate of Competence in Forest Machine Operations, mounding and drainage.	<b>£400</b>
Towards studying Social Services and Healthcare SVQ2 SCQF Level 6 at UHI Thurso.	<b>£400</b>
Towards studying an SVQ Level 2 Social Services and Health Care at UHI Thurso.	<b>£897</b>
Towards an SVQ Level 4 Health and Social Care at UHI Thurso.	<b>£1,500</b>
For a laptop to enable completion of SVQ Level 3 Social Services Children and Young People.	<b>£1,000</b>
Towards BSc (Hons) in User Experience (UX) Design at Napier University.	<b>£1,000</b>
Towards an acrylic nails course, enhancing future employment opportunities.	<b>£450</b>
Towards studying for BA (Hons) in Film & Media for 2 years.	<b>£1,500</b>
Towards studying BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology at Edinburgh Napier University for 2 years.	<b>£1,500</b>
Course fees and equipment to complete a Hot Stone Massage course.	<b>£470</b>
Course fees for a Natural Lift Facial Massage Training Course.	<b>£280</b>
Towards studying NC Engineering Systems at UHI Thurso .	<b>£1,500</b>

## Funding in action

### Camster

Grant Recipient	What was funded in 2024	Amount
Tannach and District Community Council	To provide a micro grant scheme for the local community.	<b>£2,500</b>
Watten Shop Group Limited	To lease Watten Shop for 6 months to ensure a smooth handover for the community ahead of purchasing the shop.	<b>£29,233</b>
Caithness KLICS (SCIO)	To part fund three members of staff enabling the continuation of support for young carers in Caithness.	<b>£10,099</b>
Dunbeath & District Centre	To contribute to the cost of the Senior Centre Coordinator & Administrator post for one year.	<b>£25,000</b>
Lybster Football Club	To build new concrete dug outs at Lybster Football Club grounds.	<b>£6,840</b>
Thurso High School PTA	Towards travel costs for the S1-S3 skiing trip to the French Alps.	<b>£3,000</b>
	Towards 39 pupils undertaking an educational trip to Rome and Naples to experience the culture and visit important geological sites.	<b>£500</b>
Watten Helps Out	To fund a series of community events throughout the winter to bring the community together.	<b>£14,000</b>
Yarrows Heritage Trust	To engage an archaeology firm to carry out a two week excavation of the 18th century vernacular building at Ulbster in Spring 2024.	<b>£11,280</b>
Dunbeath Community Centre	Towards new play equipment.	<b>£20,000</b>
Home-Start Caithness	To continue the Volunteer Co-ordinator post, a core member of staff in the team.	<b>£25,000</b>
Latheron, Lybster & Clyth Community Development Company (LLCCDC)	Towards the Development Manager salary.	<b>£12,500</b>
	To pay the cleaner of the community toilets.	<b>£10,221</b>
North Apex Gymnastics Club	To increase the quantity and range of gymnastics options locally and enabling attendance at competitions.	<b>£6,000</b>
Thrumster Community Development Association	Towards resurfacing and upgrading the tennis court in Thrumster.	<b>£10,167</b>
Watten Community Council	To purchase new Christmas and Halloween street lights to brighten up Watten through the winter.	<b>£14,307</b>
Watten ELC Parent Council	To fund bus hire for nursery trips and planning permission costs to enable a polycrub project.	<b>£1,100</b>



Grant Recipient	What was funded in 2024	Amount
Watten Helps Out	To bring free creative art classes to the community for all ages, providing opportunities for social connection.	<b>£15,327</b>
	To run yogalates in Watten for up to 30 people following successful taster sessions.	<b>£1,452</b>
	To hold 'Ceilidh in the Hall' - an opportunity for people to come together to enjoy music, dancing and company.	<b>£1,730</b>
Watten Shop Group Limited	To purchase Watten Shop to establish a new community venture and fund some additional shop equipment to increase the range of serves the shop can offer to help ensure its success.	<b>£60,000</b>
Lybster Harbour Society	To fund the restoration of Lybster Harbour's historic lighthouse.	<b>£22,780</b>
Lybster Primary School Parent Council	To cover transport costs to attend various events and additional educational activities for 3 years.	<b>£3,000</b>
Reiss and Killimster Park Group	Towards the improvement of the new inclusive and accessible Reiss and Killimster play park.	<b>£6,129</b>
Watten ELC Parent Council	To purchase a smart-board and trolley for the Early Years Learning Centre supporting interactive and digital learning opportunities.	<b>£5,336</b>
Watten Hall (SCIO)	Towards annual events and cleaning and maintenance of the hall for the ongoing benefit of the community.	<b>£5,000</b>
	Towards a new electric floor cleaner to improve hall maintenance.	<b>£2,309</b>
Caithness Voluntary Group	To fund HERE for Caithness to employ a poverty officer and to deliver training events to support through the cost of living crisis for 3 years.	<b>£15,000</b>
	Towards the befriending service for the elderly and isolated over the next three years.	<b>£10,000</b>
Association of Northern Trails Scotland	To fund the 'Trail and Place' project, a 12-month initiative aimed at improving public access to a 30-mile stretch of the path between Wick and Latheron through infrastructure works and a promotional video.	<b>£19,966</b>



Grant Recipient	What was funded in 2024	Amount
Caithness KLICS (SCIO)	For expert advice around business planning and organisation sustainability.	<b>£11,520</b>
Caithness Voluntary Group	To fund a Development Officer for 2.5 days per week to cover Watten to support the development of community projects.	<b>£14,136</b>
Lybster Community Hall	To run a Christmas wreath floral workshop for up to 25 local people in the run up to Christmas 2024.	<b>£1,345</b>
	Towards new tables and chairs for the Hall to replace the very outdated and heavy equipment.	<b>£6,609</b>
MySelf-Management	Towards events to support 25 people living with long-term conditions to reduce social isolation and to help to manage their health and wellbeing.	<b>£2,650</b>
Science 03	Towards the Caithness International Science Festival, a week-long programme of events that promotes STEM for all Caithness pupils.	<b>£1,500</b>
The Caithness Orchestra	To fund professional musicians for a community string workshop, performance, and festival opening, benefiting 300 participants and local economy.	<b>£2,000</b>
Venture North	Towards the cost of "Taste North 2024", a free well-established annual food, drink and artisan craft festival.	<b>£4,000</b>
Watten Community Council	Towards the Christmas Light Celebration.	<b>£1,903</b>
	Towards modifying existing street lights in Watten village for repurposing old Christmas decorations.	<b>£2,088</b>
Watten Helps Out	To fund Country Dancing classes, promoting cultural heritage and physical activity for all ages.	<b>£1,280</b>
	Towards jewellery making classes fostering creativity and social connections in the community.	<b>£3,860</b>
	Towards Laser Clay sessions providing an engaging outdoor activity for families and individuals of all ages.	<b>£1,934</b>
	Towards a Basket Weaving workshop to gauge interest in this topic and to learn new skills.	<b>£830</b>
	To fund art classes focusing on fused glass techniques increasing social interaction among adults and teens.	<b>£2,130</b>
	Towards childrens activities and an Adult Ceramic Paint Workshop.	<b>£3,520</b>
	To fund a community Burns Supper celebrating Scottish culture and fostering intergenerational connections.	<b>£2,950</b>
	Towards hat box floral classes promoting creativity and social interaction around Mother's Day.	<b>£2,340</b>
Watten Parent Council	To fund a history trip to Orkney that enhances the learning journeys of P4-7 pupils.	<b>£2,092</b>
Lybster Heritage Trust	Towards a new Development Manager/Curator to redevelop Waterlines into a more sustainable centre.	<b>£12,972</b>



Individuals - What was funded in 2024	Amount
To fund a 3 day First aid at work course.	<b>£375</b>
Towards studying Economics and Finance at the University of Strathclyde.	<b>£750</b>
Towards a camera & tablet to assist with an Art Workshop & Mentoring Course.	<b>£750</b>
Towards a laptop enabling study of HNC Wildlife & Conservation Management at UHI.	<b>£750</b>
To enable study of a Specialist Certificate in Transfusion Science.	<b>£750</b>
Towards costs associated with studying for MSc Mental Health Nursing.	<b>£750</b>
Towards costs studying for a BSc in Nursing Mental Health at UHI.	<b>£750</b>
Towards undertaking a Specialist Certificate in Transfusion Science.	<b>£748</b>
Towards studying a BA (Hons) English and Film at Edinburgh Napier University.	<b>£750</b>
To enable participation in the 2024 Nunalleq Archaeological Project.	<b>£750</b>
Towards studying Social & Public Policy MA at the University of Glasgow.	<b>£750</b>
Towards a laptop enabling study of Economics & Policy at the University of Edinburgh.	<b>£750</b>



## Funding in action Bilbster

Grant Recipient	What was funded in 2024	Amount
Watten Helps Out	To set up community lunches in Watten.	£6,426
	To arrange a series of children's activities in the village.	£2,520

## Get in touch

[rwe.com/in-your-community](https://rwe.com/in-your-community)

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[instagram.com/rwe\\_uk](https://www.instagram.com/rwe_uk)

### Find out more

Scan the QR code to watch our short film about the community projects we support in Scotland.

