



## WHO ARE WE?

The North Harris Trust is a community organisation and a registered charity which owns and manages the spectacular 25,000 ha North Harris Estate.

The community seized a unique opportunity when the 22,000 ha North Harris Estate was placed on the market in April 2002. After much hard work and effort, on 21st March 2003 North Harris Estate was finally in community ownership. Subsequently in February 2006 the Trust bought the adjoining 2,300 ha Seaforth Estate. In 2012 the residents of Scalpay voted to join the North Harris Trust after they were offered free ownership of the 700 ha island by previous owner. This transfer of ownership was completed in November 2013.

We are confident that through direct ownership of the Estate we can continue to develop and safeguard our rich natural and cultural heritage for the community and the many people who visit our Island.

## WHAT WE DO

### OUR AIM:

The Trust aims to increase employment opportunities, address local housing needs and protect and enhance North Harris' wonderful cultural and natural heritage. In doing so, we will turn around the population decline and create a vibrant, sustainable community for the future.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Friends of North Harris Trust was founded to establish long-term partnerships between the people who live here and those who have an interest in the area. This might be through past visits, through family connections, through an appreciation of the stunning landscape and wildlife or because of an interest in the unique Gaelic culture.

By becoming a Friend of North Harris, your subscription will give practical support, which will help us to make a real difference to our community. In return you'll receive regular newsletters to update you on progress and development.

As a Friend of North Harris, your support will be invaluable in helping us to achieve our goals. You will also be assured of a warm welcome if you call in and see us when you visit Tarbert. If you would like to join, please fill out the form below.

## BECOMING A FRIEND

Yes, I would like to become a Friend of North Harris

Name.....

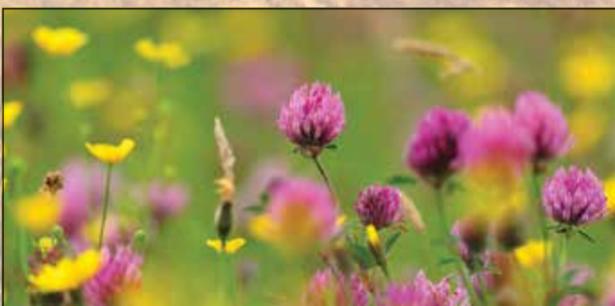
Address.....

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Postcode.....

Tel.....

Email.....



## EMPLOYMENT

The Trust is aware that business and employment are essential to reverse the declining population on the island and it actively encourages organisations and businesses to set up home in North Harris. The Trust directly employs six full-time members of staff including a Manager, Administrator, Ranger, 2x Development Officers and a Civic Amenity Site Operative. We also often offer short term placements for students, school pupils or those who struggle to find employment.

## HOUSING

We work closely with our local housing association to increase the supply of affordable housing in North Harris. In addition to renting a number of Trust-owned houses and flats, we assist people looking for land to self-build.

## ENVIRONMENT

North Harris is of exceptional value for nature conservation, hosting many nationally and internationally important species and habitats. On the higher slopes and summits, there are areas of alpine grassland and at Huishinish, on the coast at the western end of the estate, there is a small area of Machair. This is a rare type of fertile grassland that has formed on windblown shell-sand and is carpeted with an array of flowers during summer months.

North Harris is also home to a variety of moorland birds, particularly golden eagles. The Estate holds one of the highest densities of golden eagles recorded in Europe with 13 pairs occupying territories throughout the year.

Our clear water streams, lochs and coastline support a healthy population of otters and salmon. North Harris also holds a large red deer herd which is managed by the Trust, along with its partners Amhuinnsuidhe Castle Estate and the Harris Stalking Club.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Trust has a number of small wind turbines and solar arrays across the estate which provide energy to its buildings. It has also worked with partners to develop larger wind and water generation schemes. There are now three 500kW wind turbines above Ardhasaig and a 100kW hydro-electric scheme at Bunavoneader.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Trust is managed by a Board of locally elected volunteer Directors, each of whom represents a different area in North Harris. We encourage the local community to engage with the Trust as ultimately we manage the estate on their behalf. We regularly carry out community consultations to seek feedback on the work we've completed and to seek guidance on future projects. This allows us to prioritise our work. We try to ensure that we are very accessible and are always open to approaches by individuals or community groups.

## PARTNERSHIP

To help deliver its aims, the Trust has forged strong partnerships and working relationships with a variety of organisations. These include Scottish Natural Heritage, The John Muir Trust, Amhuinnsuidhe Castle Estate, The Crofting Commission, Historic Scotland and many others.

## ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS

We want to ensure that both locals and visitors alike can enjoy all that the outdoors has to offer in Harris. Working with partner organisations and volunteers we regularly undertake repair and maintenance work on our extensive path network throughout the Estate.

Over the years we have installed interpretation panels on some of our most popular walks and produced a number of different information leaflets. The Trust employs a Ranger who works with local schools and organisations to increase awareness of how special Harris and its wildlife really is. The Ranger leads a comprehensive programme of guided walks from April-October each year. The Ranger also carries out surveys and monitoring of various aspects of our rich natural heritage.

## MEMBERSHIP TYPE

Please include the number of each membership type you are applying for:

Annual Individual £25  Annual Family £40   
Annual Student/ Unwaged £15  Life £300

## DONATIONS

You may also wish to make a donation

## PAYMENT CAN BE MADE

- Online via PayPal by visiting our website [www.north-harris.org](http://www.north-harris.org)
- By cheque made payable to North Harris Trust
- By setting up a direct debit - please contact us for further details

## PAYMENT METHOD Please tick:

Paypal  Cheque  Direct Debit

## GIFT AID DECLARATION:

I want the North Harris Trust to treat all donations/subscriptions I make from the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations. I confirm I am a UK tax payer.

Signed.....

Date...../...../.....

## PLEASE RETURN TO:

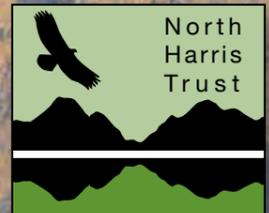
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MAP  
INSIDE



# THE NORTH HARRIS TRUST

## URRAS CEANN A TUATH NA HEARADH

[www.north-harris.org](http://www.north-harris.org)



### 1) HUISINIS

As well as a beautiful sandy beach and dramatic views over to the Island of Scarp, Huisinis (or Hushinish) possesses the finest area of machair in North Harris. This sandy grassland is a riot of colour in the summer with wild flowers growing prolifically in the fertile soil. 2017 saw the opening of Huisinis Gateway. This facilities block includes a public area with information and indoor picnic benches - an ideal place to watch the winter waves crashing in.

### 2) AMHUINNSUIDHE

The castle at Amhuinnsuidhe is one of the most notable buildings in Harris and occupies an enviable position at the head of Loch Leosabhaigh. Traditionally the castle has been home to the private landlords of North Harris since 1865. It remains in private ownership. The mouth of the Abhainn Mhor river, which tumbles into the loch beside the castle, is a spectacular salmon leap.

### 3) SRON ULADAIL

This reclusive hill boasts one of the most dramatic cliffs in Britain. In 2010 a climb of Sron Uladail by David Macleod and Tim Emmett was broadcast live on BBC2. Both experienced climbers completed the ascent of what they described as "one of the toughest rock faces in the world" showing impressive strength and endurance.

### 4) NORTH HARRIS EAGLE OBSERVATORY

Built in 2012, the North Harris Eagle Observatory is located 2km along the Glen Miabhaig track. The Observatory is an attractive building, commanding spectacular views up the glen. From here you can see the daily activities of the resident pair of Golden Eagles. The Observatory is open to the public all year round.

### 5) BUNABHAINNEADARRA WHALING STATION

The village of Bunabhainneadarra (or Bunavoneader) contains the best remaining example of a Whaling Station in Britain. At its busiest, the station employed over 50 employees and had the highest yield of whale oil outside of Iceland. The station closed in 1953 and was designated as an Ancient Scheduled Monument by Historic Scotland in 1992. There is no public access onto the site.

### 6) AN CLISEAM

At 799m, An Cliseam is the highest mountain in the Western Isles. Although it is a fairly challenging climb, the panoramic views of the whole of the Western Isles are magnificent.

### 7) TAIRBEART

As the largest village in Harris, Tairbeart (or Tarbert) makes a great base for exploring the area. For a small place it has excellent facilities, including restaurants, hotels, guest houses, shops, a marina and a sports centre. The North Harris Trust office is also located in the middle of the village.

### 8) RHEINIGEADAIL

Until a road was finally built in 1990, the small village of Rheinigeadail (or Rhenigidale) was only accessible by boat or footpath. A spectacular 4 mile track connects Rhenigidale and Urgha. Known as "The Postman's Path" this was the main route to Rhenigidale and was a journey regularly completed by generations of Harris Postmen. Since the road has been built, the population of Rhenigidale has increased, although it still retains its feeling of remoteness.

### 9) SCALPAIGH

Now connected to Harris by a bridge, the small rugged island of Scalpaigh (or Scalpay) lies to the east of mainland Harris and is home to approx 300 people. With two excellent natural harbours, the island has always had a strong connection to the sea and is famous for the skills of its seafarers. Eilean Glas lighthouse on Scalpay was one of the first four lighthouses to be built in Scotland. The original tower was superseded in 1824 with the construction of the current tower by Robert Stevenson. The lighthouse, which is in private ownership, is a popular destination for walkers. A bothy has been opened by the Trust to offer shelter and local information. The light house offers beautiful views across The Minch and an excellent spot for whale and dolphin spotting.

### 10) AIRDAMHULAI DH COMMUNITY WOODLAND

The 100 ha broadleaf plantation was established at Airdamhulaidh (or Ardvourlie) as part of the Millennium Forest initiative. From the carpark at the roadside, there is a 60 minute circular walk through the woodland. The path climbs to offer expansive views over Loch Seaforth and up the Bhiogidail glen where sea eagles are regular visitors.



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