



## Loch Ness Hub & Travel

### About the Project

Loch Ness Hub Ltd is a Community Benefit Society, established in 2020. It was formed as a result of the local Development Trust, Glenurquhart Rural Community Association (GURCA) receiving a mandate from its members to take over the former Tourist Information Centre in the middle of the village. The building had been vacated by Visit Scotland, leaving a community that is reliant on tourism without any formal tourist information available for visitors to the area.

### Community Owned

GURCA made a successful bid for a Community Asset Transfer of the building from Highland Council, then raised funding from a variety of sources – including a hugely successful Community Share Offer – to allow the formation of Loch Ness Hub Ltd.

Loch Ness Hub's core business, which underpins its viability, is a baggage transfer and shuttle service for walkers of the long distance footpaths that pass through Drumnadrochit. The Hub has now become a community transport hub, encouraging walking and green transport options. It offer e-bikes for hire by tourists and locals, and is working to promote improvements to the local path network. The Hub provides information about the area to visitors, and tries to encourage slow tourism, making visitors aware of all there is to see and do in our area. The shop within the Hub sells books and maps, and is a one stop shop for people wishing to book tickets to local attractions such as Urquhart Castle, or boat trips on Loch Ness. It also stocks craft work by local artisans, as well as carefully selected souvenir items and gifts. The Hub aims to work with, rather than compete against, other local businesses and chooses its stock to offer visitors different items to those found elsewhere in the village.

Drumnadrochit is located on the busy A82, and many visitors would only pass through it en route to the famous Urquhart Castle. The Hub is located in the village car park and is ideally situated to draw in visitors and encourage them to linger.

Activities supported include Highland Coo Tours, tickets to Urquhart Castle, tickets for both Jacobite Cruises and Cruise Loch Ness, eBike hire, baggage transfer and shuttle transfer services, as well as private taxi service.

The Hub would never have come into being without the huge efforts of the volunteers from GURCA and other local groups who worked through all the bureaucracy of forming a Community Benefit Society and finding a means to create a sustainable business. The Hub owns and operates free toilet and motorhome waste facilities, and there is ongoing volunteer involvement in keeping these facilities open and well maintained. The Hub also instigated a community litterpick group, which now meets monthly to undertake organised clean ups, and has encouraged more awareness of litter management in the area.

**“Loch Ness Hub is at the core of our Community. We want visitors to leave knowing their visit is not only valued, but has a direct impact on our community wealth building. Through our eyes and passion for our community, everyone can experience the hidden magic Glen Urquhart has to offer.”**

**Russell Fraser,**  
Loch Ness Hub & Travel Manager



**Location:** Drumnadrochit, Inverness-shire

**Type:** Find, Buy & Do

**When Set Up:** 2020

**How Funded:** Scottish Land Fund, Soirbheas (local windfarm benefits administrator) SSE, Highland Council, HIE, Community Share Offer

**Beneficiaries:** Local people (socially and economically) and visitors

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