



Annual Review 2019-20

Land is at the heart of Scotland's identity, economy and communities.

The way that land is owned and used is central to some of the big ambitions in Scotland including tackling climate change and creating a fair economy.

The Scottish Land Commission is stimulating fresh thinking and change so that the way we own and use land in Scotland helps to make the most of our land for the benefit of everyone.

In October 2019 we held our second land reform conference exploring the role of land in achieving Scotland's ambitions. Collaboration and a willingness to rethink ways of doing things is increasingly important in making the most of our land as an asset.

The coming year is going to be a challenging time for Scotland, where recovery from the impact of Coronavirus will be a priority for all. In these difficult

and changing times, there is one thing that remains constant – and that is our land. Land can play a significant role in aiding the recovery and helping to create a greener and fairer economy, improving the wellbeing of the Scottish people.

This will be the main focus for our next three-year Strategic Plan.



CONFERENCE

In October 2019, 200 delegates joined us for our second land reform conference 'Scotland's Land and Economy'.

Highlights included a keynote speech from Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Roseanna Cunningham MSP (top left) and a panel discussion with climate change and economics expert Professor Dieter Helm (bottom left.)



CENTENARY OF THE LAND SETTLEMENT ACT 1919

In December 2019, to mark the centenary of the Land Settlement Act, we published "Repeopling Emptied Places" by Professor Jim Hunter.



NATIONAL STUDENT AWARD

In March 2020, we awarded an Inverness-based student, Heloise Le Moal, our first National Student Award.



MYLAND.SCOT

To help develop our next strategic plan we worked with young people to find out what their thoughts and aspirations are for our land.

Throughout 2019-20 we have delivered a substantial programme of research and engagement, providing recommendations to Government and guidance to a range of stakeholders and communities.

LAND FOR HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

TRANSFORMING SCOTLAND'S APPROACH TO VACANT AND DERELICT LAND

Taskforce Statement of Intent details actions needed at a national level to tackle vacant and derelict land. In-depth research and analysis to help understand the nature of derelict sites, the challenges of bringing them back into use and the harm they are causing to communities.

Recommendations made to Scottish Government calling for a fundamental rethink of Scotland's speculative and market-driven approach to allocating land for development.

LAND VALUE CAPTURE




MODERNISING LAND OWNERSHIP

Engagement with stakeholders to progress the recommendations made to Scottish Ministers addressing the concentration of decision-making power.

SCALE AND CONCENTRATION OF OWNERSHIP



COMMON GOOD LAND

Research identified that Common Good assets in Scotland have the potential to deliver much greater public benefit than they do currently.



Report published on the different approaches to successfully fund community ownership and development.

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

LAND USE DECISION-MAKING

LAND RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT (LRRS)

Good Practice Programme launched with new website and guidance for landowners, managers and communities on the implementation of land rights and responsibilities. Second LRRS protocol published looking at the transparency of information on land ownership and decision-making.



REGIONAL LAND USE PARTNERSHIPS

Work begun to develop proposals for Scottish Government on the establishment of regional land use partnerships to maximise the potential of Scotland's land in taking action on climate change.

Baseline community engagement surveys show the need to promote greater communication and understanding between landowners and communities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS

CODES OF PRACTICE AND GUIDANCE PUBLISHED

Use of Tenanted Agricultural Holdings for Non-Agricultural Purposes (Diversification)

Conduct of Agents

Agreeing and Managing Agricultural Leases

Transfer of Tenancies by Assignment and Succession



Working as part of the Scottish Government's Farming Opportunities for New Entrants group to create a new, dedicated land-matching service.

LAND MATCHING SERVICE

Working with partners to raise awareness of the tenant's amnesty, providing tools and guidance.

TENANT'S IMPROVEMENTS AMNESTY

Report published looking at the role of business incubators for agriculture and exploring how they can be used to reinvigorate Scottish agriculture.

NEW ENTRANTS



Over the year we also...

...HELD



18 PUBLIC MEETINGS across Scotland, from Tieve to Tomintoul and Arbroath to Arran



...SPOKE AT, AND PARTICIPATED IN



427 PEOPLE ATTENDED



78 EVENTS held by partners and stakeholders in a wide range of sectors

