



SCOTTISH LAND COMMISSION
COIMISEAN FEARAINN NA H-ALBA

Good Stewardship of Land Protocol – Supporting Information

This guide supports our Protocol on Good Stewardship of Land, which sets out our expectations for the good stewardship of land management across Scotland. Decisions made with a focus on good stewardship are made with consideration for the long-term needs of local communities and for public benefit in support of wider national outcomes.

There is a wide range of regulations and guidance in place which reflect good stewardship of land and set out expected behaviour or good practice for different types of land ownership and management. Below are links to advice, support, and guidance on a range of areas related to good stewardship which can help you to take and implement decisions about land use and management.

Practical Guidance

Agriculture and the Natural Environment

[Statutory Management Requirements](#)

This link details information on statutory management requirements in Scotland for issues including conservation of birds, conservation of flora and fauna, and identification, registration, and welfare of livestock.

[Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions](#)

Information on safeguarding soils, habitats, and landscape features on agricultural land.

[Tenant Farming Guidance and Codes of Practice](#)

The Guidance and Codes of Practice issued by the Tenant Farming Commissioner are intended to encourage and promote good practice in the conduct of landlord/tenant relationships and cover issues including late payment of rent, sporting rights and agreeing and recording tenant's improvements.

[NatureScot Code of Practice on Deer Management](#)

This Code is to help everybody who owns or manages land on which wild deer occur and those who manage wild deer on someone else's land to deliver sustainable deer management.

[NatureScot Muirburn Code](#)

The Muirburn Code provides good practice guidance for burning and cutting of vegetation. It also sets out statutory restrictions.



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[Peatland Action Initiative](#)

The Peatland Action Initiative work with various partners to restore damaged peatlands in support of Scotland's Climate Change Plan outcomes. They offer funding, additional guidance, and best practice information, as well as promoting events and training.

[Forestry Scotland support and regulations](#)

Information about woodland creation, forestry grants, farm woodlands, sheep, and trees, felling permissions, and control of woodland removal.

[CIEEM Resource Hub](#)

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management has a resource hub which contains helpful guidance and supporting materials for various ecological and environmental issues.

Outdoor Access

[Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#)

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code provides detailed guidance on the responsibilities of those exercising access rights and of those managing land and water. It provides a practical guide to help everyone make informed decisions about what best to do in everyday situations.

[Scottish Outdoor Access Code – practical guide for all](#)

This sets out practical guidance for all those who access the outdoors and covers activities such as camping, dog walking, climbing, cycling, water sports, field sports, horse riding, and outdoor events.

Heritage and the Modern Built Environment

[Historic Environment Scotland Advice and Support](#)

This covers advice and support on listing, scheduling and designations, planning, advice on maintaining and making changes to traditional buildings, and applying for consents to make changes to historic buildings, scheduled monuments, or Historic Marine Protected Areas.

[Funding sources for bringing vacant and derelict land back into use](#)

This guide gives a brief description of different funding sources available for bringing vacant and derelict land back into productive use, the main limitations of each and what type of activity the funding is most suitable for.



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[Guidance on assessing the full economic benefits of the productive reuse of land](#)

This guidance provides a framework on how to identify, capture and quantify the wider benefits of reusing vacant and derelict land, so that such benefits can be compared to the costs of bringing sites into productive use.

Planning and Development

[SEPA advice for developers](#)

SEPA provide information and guidance on planning and environmental regulation, flood risk, and environmental impact assessments.

[SEPA advice for planning authorities](#)

Information about development plans and development management covering issues that include water, drainage, soils, air quality, contaminated land, and marine development.

Guidance is also available for specific development types – windfarms, hydro schemes, marine development and aquaculture, and cemeteries.

Strategic Documents

The practical guidance is underpinned by strategies that set out the broad principles of local and national policy.

Land Use and Land Reform

[Scottish Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement](#)

The Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement (LRRS) sets out the vision and principles for land ownership use and management in Scotland. It adopts a human rights approach and aims to ensure that Scotland's land contributes to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and to social justice.

[Land Use Strategy for Scotland](#)

The Land Use Strategy sets out a vision, objectives, and principles for Sustainable Land Use in Scotland. They represent a long-term view to guide policy and decision making and ensure consistency and stability of purpose for our land resources in Scotland. The strategy is prepared by the Scottish Government and renewed every five years.



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Planning and the Built Environment

[National Planning Framework](#)

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out a long-term vision for development and investment across Scotland over the next 20 to 30 years.

[Vacant and Derelict Land Taskforce Recommendations](#)

The Vacant and Derelict Land Taskforce has made a series of recommendations to Scottish Government to transform Scotland's approach to tackling the legacy of derelict land and ensure that it is no longer acceptable to allow land to fall into long term disrepair.

Agriculture, Food and Drink

[Agricultural transition – first steps towards our national policy](#)

This provides an overview of the key themes and recommendations emerging from the Farmer Led Group process, setting out a number of key questions to inform wider work on the development of agricultural policy and in particular the replacement to CAP.

[Scotland's National Food and Drink Policy](#)

This policy encompasses the impact of food and drink on health, the environment, social justice, education and the economy in Scotland and aims to build a 'Good Food Nation' where people benefit from and take pride and pleasure in the food they produce, buy, serve and eat.

The Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change

[Scottish Plant Health Strategy](#)

The strategy sets out the Scottish Government's approach to the protection of the health of plants, including agricultural and horticultural crops, and plants in parks, gardens, forestry, and the natural environment in Scotland.

[Scottish Invasive Species Initiative \(SISI\)](#)

This initiative is intended to tackle non-native species alongside rivers and watercourses in northern Scotland. It provides a platform for volunteering and reporting of non-native species.

[2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity](#)

This strategy is about protecting biodiversity and how people in Scotland can harness nature, its many processes and functions to improve our prosperity and welfare. Primarily targeted at decision-makers in the public sector, it also aims to engage those whose business and work affect the environment.

CIEEM Policy Group – Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity Net Gain is an approach to development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before. Where a development has an impact on biodiversity it encourages developers to provide an increase in appropriate natural habitat and ecological features over and above that being affected in such a way it is hoped that the current loss of biodiversity through development will be halted and ecological networks can be restored.

Scotland’s Forestry Strategy

The Strategy presents a 50-year vision for Scotland’s forests and woodlands, and provides a 10-year framework for action. It sets out the long-term approach to expanding, protecting, and enhancing Scotland’s forests and woodlands, so that they deliver greater economic, social, and environmental benefits to Scotland’s people, now and in the future.

Just Transition Commission Interim Report

The imperative of a just transition is that Governments design policies in a way that ensures the benefits of climate change action are shared widely, while the costs do not unfairly burden those least able to pay, or whose livelihoods are directly or indirectly at risk as the economy shifts and changes.

Further information

More information about the Good Stewardship of Land protocol and the Land Rights and Responsibilities Protocol series can be found by contacting the Good Practice Team.

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