

How we own and use Scotland's land is central to driving action on some of Scotland's big public policy challenges. It matters to economic renewal, tackling inequalities, realising human rights and to making a just transition to net zero. We remain in a challenging time, responding to the public health, economic and wellbeing impacts of the pandemic.

The Scottish Land Commission is working to make more of Scotland's land by stimulating fresh thinking and change in how land is owned and used, so that the benefits can be shared more widely.

Last year saw us publish reports and proposals on major areas of work including concentrated land ownership and housing land supply, as well as continued development of our practical support for implementing Scotland's land rights and responsibilities principles. It also saw the start of a major new focus on the implications of emerging carbon and natural capital value in Scotland's land.

Land Reform Conference

In October 2021 we held our third land reform conference. The headline topic at the virtual three-day 'Land Connection' conference brought experts together to look at the role of land in helping to achieve some of Scotland's big ambitions for the economy, climate and communities.



3 days



12 sessions



51 speakers



1,471 attendees

Reforming land rights

Land and Human Rights Forum

A new [expert advisory forum](#) on land and human rights was set up through a partnership between the Scottish Land Commission and the University of Strathclyde to explore how human rights can be a facilitator for progressing land reform in Scotland, discussing the relationship between property rights and wider economic, social, and cultural rights.



Embedding responsible land ownership and use

Land Rights and Responsibilities

We continue to support land owners, land managers and communities across the public, private and third sectors to provide practical advice on responsible land ownership and use. We concluded our self-assessment pilot project, working with three membership bodies and 35 land owners and land managers. Participants considered the good practices they already engage in, and identified their aspirations to engage in further responsible land ownership and use.



Hosted

18 workshops

for land owners, managers and communities

With

700 attendees

from across the public and private sector

Supported

65 land owners and communities

to improve practices

Community wealth building

We published [guidance](#) for the public sector on how land can be used and managed in the public interest to support a community wealth building approach, looking at how land and buildings can be owned and managed in ways that generate social, financial, environmental and economic value for local communities.



Land Reuse Month

[Land Reuse Month](#), held in March 2022, explored how to support delivery of land reform in the public sector with a specific focus on tackling vacant and derelict land. Building on the Vacant and Derelict Land Taskforce recommendations, a programme of webinars and online events supported leadership by the public sector to help bring land back into use, transforming Scotland's approach to tackling the legacy of derelict land, and ensuring that it is no longer acceptable to allow land to fall into long term disrepair.



1 Month

12 sessions

33 speakers

253 attendees

Reforming land markets

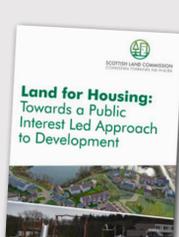
Natural Capital and Land

New value in Scotland's land associated with carbon and natural capital is attracting new buyers to the land market and becoming a significant influence on the decisions of existing land owners and managers. While these markets need to be shaped for long term benefit, there are also immediate questions about impacts in the land market and decisions facing land owners, managers, communities, and investors, which we outlined in our [Land Focus](#) briefing. We have started a programme of work to inform our advice on shaping the market in the public interest, beginning with research on the implications of natural capital in the rural land market and developing practical guidance to support the Scottish Government's ambition for high integrity, values-led markets including a Land Rights and Responsibilities Protocol on responsible practice for natural capital investment and ownership.



Land for Housing: Towards a Public Interest Led Approach to Development

Significant reform is needed to the way land is brought forward for housing and development if Scotland is to build the houses it needs. The Commission made five practical [recommendations](#) to Scottish Ministers for reform that draw on Scotland's long history of bringing together planning, land ownership, design and infrastructure to deliver great places.



Land Reform and Taxation

Increasing the role land plays in Scotland's tax base and a local authority power targeted at newly derelict property are among the [recommendations](#) we put to Scottish Ministers in our report on how Scotland's land could be taxed better. The recommendations look at how changes to existing land and property taxation could support Scotland's economic recovery and land reform objectives.



Tenant Farming Commissioner (TFC)

Guide to Securing Tradeable Carbon Credits in an Agricultural Holdings Situation

Published an [interim guide](#) to help tenants and landlords of agricultural holdings benefit from and avoid potential pitfalls around carbon credit trading.



Guide to Fixed Equipment on Agricultural Holdings in Scotland

Launched a [new guide](#) to help address disputes between tenant farmers and landlords over the replacement and upkeep of agricultural equipment.



Information requirements for relinquishing or assigning farming tenancies

[New guidance](#) published by the TFC clarifies the information that is needed when a tenant is applying to relinquish or assign their tenancy.



General statutory compliance on agricultural holdings

The TFC issued a [new guide](#) covering general statutory compliance on agricultural holdings for tenant farmers, landlords and their agents.



Over the year we also...

Spoke at and participated in

132 events

held by partners and stakeholders across a wide range of sectors



Over 3,000 people attended these events from across the UK

Hosted

35 webinars and workshops

1,500 people attended from local communities, stakeholders, local authorities, and more



Held

8 virtual public meetings

267 people attended from across Scotland



Launched MyLand

MY LAND .SCOT

In June 2021 we launched our new campaign, centred around a brand-new content hub, [MyLand.scot](#), to connect people to the land around them, using inspiring stories to show how Scotland's land is owned, used and managed impacts everyday life.



As part of COP26, a series of fly posters were put up around Glasgow's land is owned and used in the way Scotland's land is owned and used and to show how communities can use land around them to take climate action.

Vacant and Derelict Land Routemap

In partnership with DTAS, we launched a brand-new [online tool](#) to help communities bring unloved places in their area back into use.

