



Scotland's community landowners

Linsay Chalmers, Community Land Scotland

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Community Land Scotland

- Representative body for Scotland's community landowners
- 120 members

What we do:

- Policy
- Knowledge exchange
- Awareness raising and information



Absentee owners buying up Scottish estates in secret sales

Nearly half of sales of Highland estates went to absentee owners last year - in some cases for environmental offsetting



BrewDog bought Kinrara in the Cairngorms in February and plans to plant millions of trees. Photograph: Murdo MacLeod/The Guardian

A majority of Highland estates that changed hands last year were sold in



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Housing

- Community-led housing more common in rural areas
- Often in areas suffering from depopulation caused by high levels of holiday homes or second homes
- Tends to be small numbers of units
- Community Land Scotland published a report calling for more investment in urban community-led housing, in 2022
- Scottish Government has committed to piloting urban community-led housing



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Affordable housing; wind turbines, hydro, solar and local energy grids; hotels, bunkhouses and campsites; shops and pubs; the UK's largest seaweed farm; community gardens and orchards; harbours and pontoons; business centres and High Street buildings, community centres, art centres, museums and cafes; sports facilities and playparks; woodland walks; nature reserves and ranger services; forest schools; commercial forestry and native woodland development; woodland crofts; dark sky parks and spaceports!



Urban community ownership

- Rights and funding extended to towns and cities in 2016
- Most common assets – green space, community centres, former churches
- The people and motivations are the same but the challenges are different



Current policy areas

- Public interest tests
- Community Right to Buy
- More support for community-led housing
- Ownerless land
- Vacant and derelict land
- Pre-notification of sales



**LEGISLATING FOR A PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IN LAND SALES,
TRANSFERS, AND MANAGEMENT**



THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION

www.communitylandscotland.org.uk

