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Community Ownership in Scotland 2022

User Guide



This document provides a summary of quality related information on the [Community Ownership in Scotland 2022](#) publication.

The information is based on the European Statistical System quality framework: Relevance; Accuracy; Timeliness and Punctuality; Accessibility and Clarity; and Comparability.

The Scottish Government adheres to the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and the National Statistician's guidance on quality. In addition, the Scottish Government provides its own guidance on quality, which is available to view at the Scottish Government's Statistics internet pages.

Further information on quality:

- [About Scottish Government Statistics](#)
- [Producing Official Statistics](#)
- [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#)
- [Government Statistical Service Quality Strategy](#)
- [Scottish Government's Corporate Policy Statement](#)
- [Scottish Government Guide to Basic Quality Assurance](#)
- [European Statistics Code of Practice \(including quality framework\)](#)

Introduction

In the [Programme for Government 2017](#), the Scottish Government asked the [Scottish Land Commission](#) to review existing Community Right to Buy mechanisms and recommend how best to enable community ownership in appropriate circumstances, including making Community Right to Buy processes as simple as possible.

The research examined all routes to community ownership, including direct sales done outwith legislative processes. Although this goes beyond the Programme for Government commitment, it is helpful to consider community ownership in the round, rather than focusing on single channels. The methodology consisted primarily of interviews, including with community groups who had sought to acquire land and assets in various ways, professional advisers such as lawyers and land agents, and various stakeholders, as well as Scottish Government officials.

The Scottish Land Commission developed key strategic recommendations from the report, and these are intended to support the development and articulation of a vision for the continued development of community ownership over the coming decades. In particular, the recommendations seek to encourage communities to consider proactively the ownership of land and assets and to streamline processes where possible.

One of these recommendations referenced the former million acre target specifically:

- Recommendation 2: Development of a new suite of indicators to replace the 'million acres' target with targets and indicators that reflect the outcomes

sought from community ownership and are relevant to both rural and urban contexts.

The million acre target helped to promote community ownership and it served to galvanise communities, stakeholders and government into action. As the Scottish Land Commission report notes, it was a clear statement of ambition. However, as the land reform agenda has progressed and as community ownership has evolved, it is clear that a target based on the area of land in community ownership is becoming less relevant.

With the introduction of Community Right to Buy into urban Scotland, communities are able to acquire land and assets that have a positive impact but do not necessarily cover large areas of land. Similarly, in rural parts of Scotland there is an increasing trend towards community acquisition of smaller areas of land for discrete purposes, which provide benefit to the community but do not contribute large areas of land to the national total. As such, the million acre target was increasingly irrelevant to the current reality of community ownership.

As a start to this process a new [National Performance Framework](#) National Indicator on [Community Ownership](#), the number of assets in community ownership, was developed during 2019 and reported on for the first time in December 2019.

The [Community Ownership and Community Right to Buy: Recommendations to Scottish Ministers](#) report can be found on the Scottish Land Commission website.

As a consequence, the name of this publication series was changed with the release of the 2018 publication in December 2019 from 'Estimate of Community Owned Land in Scotland' to 'Community Ownership in Scotland'. This reflects the move away from the million acre target and recognises that community ownership is about more than just the area of land owned by community groups.

Moving away from the million acre target also meant that the area of land in community ownership could be reported in hectares as opposed to acres.

Definitions

The definitions of community, community groups and ownership were first established by the 1 Million Acre Short Life Working Group. The Group was established in January 2015 with a report on the findings and recommended actions being published in December 2015. The [One million acres by 2020: strategy report and recommendations](#) report can be found on the Scottish Government website.

The Working Group had the remit of designing a strategy to deliver the then 1 million acre target by 2020, including an agreed action plan outlining how to implement the 1 million acre strategy.

Having been established these definitions were used when data were gathered for inclusion in the [Estimate of Community Owned land in Scotland 2017](#) statistical publication, released in December 2017. Even though the 1 million acre target is no longer in place these established definitions will continue to be the basis of the

definitions used in relation to community ownership but they have evolved over time. This will allow there to be consistency between the existing and new data on community ownership.

The definitions used in compiling the [Community Ownership in Scotland 2022](#) publication were as follows:

Community

Community is defined on a geographical basis, which can be defined by postcode units and/or a prescribed area. This definition of community has been chosen to reflect the importance of place within Scottish Government policy and current legislation.

Community Group

A relevant community group is required to have a number of essential characteristics, which collectively ensure that community owned assets are used for the benefit of the wider community rather than one particular interest group.

The community group should:

- Have a clear definition of the geographical community to which the group relates
- A membership which is open to any member of that community
- Be locally-led and controlled
- Have as its main purpose the furthering of sustainable development in the local area
- Be non-profit distributing
- Have evidence to demonstrate a sufficient level of support/community buy-in

Additional factors are considered to ensure that the above criteria are met. Details of these are given below.

To ensure that membership is open to everyone within a community, any membership fee should be a nominal amount only, taken to be less than £30 per year. In addition, groups whose main purpose is a single activity, whilst it is recognised that they may benefit their local community, are not considered to be community groups in the context of the Community Ownership in Scotland publication series. Therefore, groups such as golf clubs or tennis clubs are excluded from the community ownership database as membership is limited to individuals who have an interest in golf or tennis and are capable of participating. The membership fees for these types of groups are also usually not a nominal amount and so they would be excluded on those grounds alone. By contrast, a group owning a village hall which may be used for a wide range of activities would be included.

In addition, organisations whose primary purpose is as an employer are excluded although they may bring benefits to a community. For example, an organisation providing support services to vulnerable adults and which employs staff to provide those services.

Ownership

Ownership is defined in the legal sense: A legal title coupled with exclusive legal right to possession. While it is acknowledged that communities can and do lease (e.g. from Forestry and Land Scotland or a local authority), manage and jointly own (i.e. equity stake) assets, it was agreed by the Working Group that for the purposes of measuring community ownership that the definition should be restricted to outright ownership.

Asset

This term is used to describe areas of land, buildings and anything else of substantial value a community group may own. This is to reflect that it is not just areas of land that can bring benefits to a community and reflects the diverse nature of community ownership.

An asset is counted where it is the subject of a single transaction. Where assets are acquired in a series of transactions, e.g. adjacent areas of land acquired over time, the assets in each transaction will be counted separately.

Transfer Date

This is the date at which a community group took ownership of an asset, either by purchase or as a gift, legacy or other non-monetary transaction.

Data Background

There is currently no definitive register of community groups who could potentially own assets. As a result, the data included in the initial estimates of community ownership published in [Estimate of Community Owned Land in Scotland 2017](#) were based on combining administrative datasets from four organisations involved in community ownership. They were: [Highlands and Islands Enterprise](#), who have responsibilities to support community ownership in their area; [National Lottery Community Fund](#), who administer the [Scottish Land Fund](#) for Scottish Government; the [Development Trusts Association Scotland](#); and [Community Land Scotland](#). These organisations' databases were identified by a secondee from [Scotland's Rural College](#) into the Scottish Government, who was tasked with identifying as many community groups as possible that own assets.

The work undertaken showed that the most feasible way to collect data was from these overarching organisations initially, and then to try and verify the data held with the community groups themselves. Then in the long term to work with [Registers of Scotland](#) to verify the assets, where applicable, on the [Land Register](#).

Therefore, the Scottish Government carried out a survey from November 2017 to February 2018 of the community groups then believed to own assets. The community groups that were surveyed were included in the database used to produce the [Estimate of Community Owned Land in Scotland 2017](#) publication. Groups were asked to confirm their ownership of assets and the following information, where available: land area, purchase price, market value, previous

owner and the ways the asset was used. Participation in the survey was voluntary and the response rate was 45%, although not necessarily all of the requested information was provided by all respondents. In addition, 14 community groups that were not on the original database also responded to the survey.

Data Matching with the Land Register

Having established a database on community ownership in Scotland and then having tried to verify the information held with the community groups themselves it was decided to verify it with the Land Register in conjunction with Registers of Scotland. This would not only allow the data held to be verified but also missing data such as land area and transfer data to be populated.

The [Land Register](#) was introduced in 1981 and is based on the [Ordnance Survey](#) map. It provides property owners with a state-backed guarantee of title. The Land Register is a replacement for the paper based [General Register of Sasines](#). The Sasine Register will close by 2024.

Transactions were added to the Land Register as opposed to the Sasine Register at different points of time based on where the transaction took place in Scotland. Counties moved to the Land Register from 1981 until 2014. Further information on [Land Register counties and operational dates](#) can be found on the Registers of Scotland website.

The main issues with the database on community ownership surrounded missing or unverified data on:

- The area of assets
- The location of assets
- The date of purchase or transfer of assets

For those assets on the Land Register, Registers of Scotland were able to populate the missing variables or verify the information already held. For those assets that remain on the Sasine Register it was not possible to populate the missing variables or verify the information already held. For these assets, the transfer date is defaulted to 2000. It should be noted that it is likely that the extent of community ownership in 2000 will be overestimated as a result.

Through the matching process and discussions with Registers of Scotland, a number of issues were identified that affected the level of data verification that could be undertaken:

General Register of Sasines:

- The Sasine Register is not a map based system
- If an asset is in the Sasine Register, it is likely to have last changed hands prior to the relevant county transferring to the Land Register
- Prior to 8 December 2014 and the enactment of the [Land Registration etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2012](#), it was possible to continue to register any transaction

that constituted a gift, or any transfer that was for no cost or for a non-monetary value in the Sasine Register

Land Register:

- For transactions that were for Certain Good and Onerous Causes and registered on or after 2012 the Land Register contains the market value of the property at the time of registration
- For transactions prior to 8 December 2014, when the [Land Registration etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2012](#) was enacted, for any title greater than 2 hectares, the area of the asset would be included. After this date the area of any property greater than 0.5 hectares is given. This recording convention had led to a large number of assets with small areas, in many cases existing buildings, having their area either recorded as zero or not available
- Titles can be in draft on the Land Register. This means that the land/property has been sold, Registers of Scotland have received a transaction for that land/property, Registers of Scotland have created a title, and it is in the process of being registered. This could take two days or several years depending on the complexity of the application
- In certain cases, one asset may be split into multiple titles on the Land Register. This is due to mapping and registration processes within Registers of Scotland. For any asset where this has happened the asset is classed as a single entry on the community ownership database as it was purchased at one time
- It is possible for an asset which is currently on the Sasine Register to be voluntarily recorded on the Land Register, for example, in order to resolve a legal technicality. When an asset is voluntarily added to the Land Register the registration date entered will be the date of the voluntary registration. The price paid may also appear as a non-monetary transaction. Therefore, in these cases the date of ownership or price paid as recorded on the Sasine Register or provided by the original data source are retained

Other issues surrounding the classification of assets and how they are recorded on the Land Register were also identified:

- Where land adjacent to an existing asset is acquired, it is possible for the title number of that existing asset to be updated to include the additional land rather than recording it under a separate title number. In these cases, whilst there is only one title number, the additional land is counted as a separate asset as it was acquired through a separate transaction
- Where adjacent assets are acquired in separate transactions and have separate title numbers, they will be recorded as individual assets, regardless of whether the asset owner subsequently combines them, e.g. constructs a single building on the whole site. Should this building then be transferred to another community group, it would then be considered a single asset

While there is no identifier on the Land Register to indicate that an asset is community owned, a small number of additional entries were found where the name of the owner suggested it was a community group. These groups and assets then

underwent further investigation to establish if they did indeed meet the criteria to be included in the database on community ownership.

Going forward all new land based community owned assets that the Scottish Government are made aware of will be matched and verified with the Land Register.

As the Land Register is map based, Registers of Scotland are able to calculate the area of assets that have their area either recorded as zero or not available, and are on the Land Register. Registers of Scotland are able to calculate the areas of these assets using the extent of the title polygons associated with these assets. These calculated area figures were then included for the first time in the [Community Ownership in Scotland 2020](#) publication. The area for all community owned assets on the Land Register with unknown areas due to their small size are now calculated using the extent of the associated title polygons.

Using the extent of the associated title polygons to calculate the areas of these assets may potentially result in an overestimate of the area for some assets. For example, a title plan might have a right of access associated with it, but this does not mean that the ownership of the area relating to the right of access belongs to that title. To avoid, where possible, an overestimate of the area in community ownership those assets with an area over 0.5 hectares will be examined in more detail. Where titles are found to include areas that are not owned, the area figures will be adjusted so that only the areas actually owned by community groups will be included. This examination will also likely lead to the asset types of a small number of assets being updated to more accurately reflect their use.

The remaining land based assets, where no area figures are available, are predominantly on the paper based Sasine Register. While it has been possible to source the area of most assets on the Sasine Register from different sources, mostly the community groups themselves, it has not yet been possible to source the area for these remaining assets from another source.

There can be a small number of assets that are on Land Register where the area is unknown. In these cases, the assets were matched against the Land Register late in the publication process. As a result, there was insufficient time for the area of the asset to be calculated using the extent of the associated title polygons before the data was finalised for inclusion in the publication. The area for these assets will be calculated and included in the next Community Ownership in Scotland publication.

Data Providers

For the [Community Ownership in Scotland 2022](#) publication new data has been obtained from a combination of sources, which have been developed over time and will continue to be refined. For all sources, the data initially received was quality assured and any resulting queries raised with the organisation which had provided the data where applicable.

Funding Bodies

Funding bodies and related organisations were first asked to provide information on community groups that had been awarded funding to purchase assets during 2018. The organisations that were asked to provide information were the following:

- [Highland and Islands Enterprise](#)
- [National Lottery Community Fund](#)
- [Development Trusts Association Scotland](#)
- [Community Land Scotland](#)

Updates are now requested from these organisations each year.

The [Community Ownership Fund](#) was launched by the [Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities](#) in 2021. The Community Ownership Fund is a £150 million fund over four years to support community groups across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to take ownership of assets which are at risk of being lost to the community.

A list of [successful bids](#) to the Community Ownership Fund is published by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The list of successful Scottish bids is cross referenced against the data held on community ownership. Any new assets obtained as a result of successful bids by community groups to the Community Ownership Fund are then matched against the Land Register by Registers of Scotland.

It should be noted that the date funding is agreed and the date of transfer of an asset may not be in the same year. The published statistics on community ownership use the date of transfer. In addition, funding being awarded does not necessarily mean that the community group will be able to purchase the asset. For example, the community group may not be able to agree the sale of the asset with the current owner.

Related Organisations

In addition to the above funding bodies the [Community Woodlands Association](#) is consulted both as a source of information about assets in community ownership which are not currently included in the database on community ownership and to verify the status of and information about known assets. Any new assets obtained from Community Woodlands Association are matched against the Land Register by Registers of Scotland.

Transfers of Publicly Owned Assets

Information about formerly publicly owned assets transferred to community ownership was obtained from public sector organisations which were believed to be subject to applications for asset transfer under the [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#). This covered transfers up to 31 December 2018. Please note that whilst the 2015 Act requires organisations to report information about asset transfers on a financial year basis, usually on the relevant section of their website,

there is no requirement to submit the information to the Scottish Government. This data collection exercise has not been repeated since then.

A data collection exercise requesting limited information about asset transfers during the 2019/20 financial year was carried out by the Scottish Government Community Empowerment Team and has been repeated each year since then. Information on asset transfers are then cross checked against the existing community ownership database to identify any potential new assets for inclusion in the database. Asset transfers completed as of December 2022, which were made known to the Scottish Government by July 2023 and fully registered on the Land Register have been included in the [Community Ownership in Scotland 2022](#) publication.

Community Owned Shops and Pubs

Data on community owned shops and pubs are sourced from two additional sources. Information on community owned shops and pubs was sourced from the [Plunkett Foundation](#). The Plunkett Foundation provides practical advice, support and training to help communities establish and run successful community businesses. Information on community pubs is also sourced from the [Campaign for Real Ale](#).

The information obtained from these data providers and other sources are then checked against the Land Register by Registers of Scotland as detailed previously.

Community Controlled Housing Associations

In March 2020, Development Trust Association Scotland provided data about assets owned by community controlled housing associations in Glasgow, other than their tenanted housing stock. It was then investigated whether the housing associations met the set out definition of being a community group. It was found that some of these assets were already included in the database on community ownership. From looking further into the housing associations, some assets were added to the community ownership database and some previously included assets were excluded, where it was found the definition of community group had not been met. As with the assets from other sources, these additional assets were matched against the Land Register by Registers of Scotland.

Scottish Men's Sheds Association

The [Scottish Men's Shed Association](#) was launched in November 2015 with the aim of helping new and existing groups to set up and run a Men's Shed in their local town or community. A small number of Men's Shed groups were found to be recorded in the Community Ownership in Scotland database as of 2020. As a result, it was decided to try to identify any additional assets owned by Men's Shed groups that fit the definition of being community owned. Following correspondence with the Chief Executive Officer of the Scottish Men's Shed Association, in June 2022 the Men's Sheds recorded on the [Scottish Men's Shed Association website](#) were contacted using the available details.

For those groups who responded and met the definition of a community group, it was found that many of the assets owned were not land or buildings and instead were

semi-permanent structures, such as sheds or cabins, where an agreement had been reached with the owner of the land on which the structure was located. Therefore, an additional asset type category to record these assets: “Structure on land not owned” was included. These assets were not matched against the Land Register, and they are excluded from the area figures. This asset type has also been used to record instances where a building owned by a community group is located on land that is not owned by that community group, although there may be a leasing arrangement in place for the land.

Register of Community Interests in Land - Community Bodies

The [Register of Community Interests in Land](#) is maintained by Registers of Scotland. It contains notices of interest by groups or individuals that will allow them to purchase the land if the owner ever decides to sell it. This was used for the first time as part of the data updates for the 2022 publication. The Register of Community Interests in Land was examined for instances where a register of interest in an asset had progressed to its acquisition by a community group, and, as with other data sources, was then checked against the Land Register.

Relevance

The data were initially collected to measure progress against the target of having 1 million acres of land in community ownership by 2020. Following the recommendations of the Scottish Land Commission to move away from the million acre target a new National Indicator measuring [Community Ownership](#) was developed during 2019 and is now included in the [National Performance Framework](#). The National Indicator measures the number of assets in community ownership.

Since there is no definitive source of community groups which may potentially own assets, it is not possible to determine the coverage of the statistics. However, as data collection is further refined, the resulting figures will more accurately represent the true extent of community ownership across Scotland.

User Feedback

The Scottish Government is always interested to hear from users of the community ownership statistics and welcomes feedback from users. As such, please complete this [user survey](#) on the Community Ownership in Scotland publication if you can.

Due to the nature of community ownership and the fact that some assets are still on the Sasine Register, some information held might be incomplete and could potentially be out of date. If you are aware of such information, or can provide any missing information, please can you complete the [Community ownership: asset reporting form](#) and return it to CommunityOwnershipStatistics@gov.scot.

If possible, please provide evidence of the correct information, for example a copy of relevant legal documentation or official correspondence. Any completed forms and evidence received will be reviewed and, where it can be verified, will be used to update the statistics when they are next published. This is expected to be in autumn 2024.

Please also complete and return the [Community ownership: asset reporting form](#) if you are aware of a community owned asset that you believe might not already be included in the database on community ownership.

To get in contact regarding community ownership statistics please use the contact details below:

- Email: CommunityOwnershipStatistics@gov.scot
- Telephone: 0300 244 0445

The Scottish Government would also like to hear from users about how statistics are used, and how they can be improved in general. Please completed this short [feedback survey](#) on this publication.

Accuracy

The initial database on community ownership used to produce the [Estimate of Community Owned Land in Scotland 2017](#) publication had a number of issues relating to the quality and availability of data. It was compiled by collecting data from a wide range of organisations involved in community ownership, but the data collected had not been verified with the community groups themselves or independently. This approach was taken, as it was not possible to identify community groups that own assets from existing registers.

The Scottish Government worked to address these issues by surveying the community groups themselves and matching the data with the Land Register. Despite this there remains some missing data. The Scottish Government continues to work to populate the missing data.

Through the work in improving the data on community ownership the Scottish Government has become aware of assets, which were initially included in the database, that do not actually satisfy the definitions used to define community ownership. This could be where the community group is no longer in existence or has otherwise disposed of the asset. Through the matching work with Registers of Scotland, assets were also removed from the database if they were found to be rented by community groups as opposed to being owned.

If any assets could not be identified on the Land Register or in the Sasine Register and the community group were unable to be contacted or did not respond to contact via letter and/or email these assets have also been removed from the database.

It is expected that the matching work that has been carried out in conjunction with Registers of Scotland will reduce the extent of assets being included in the community ownership database when they did not meet the criteria for being classes as community owned.

In general, until it has been established that a particular community group meets the definition of a community group any assets associated with the group will be excluded from the published data. Assets whose ownership cannot be verified will be similarly excluded.

There can be discrepancies between the area of assets defined on the Land Register compared to the area community groups themselves quote on assets they own. There are several factors which can lead to uncertainty about the area of some assets, particularly those with a very large area:

- Discrepancies over how much of the coastline is included between what is included on the Land Register and what community groups consider they own. For example, whether the boundary is taken to the high or low water mark and whether inlets are included
- Whether or not small islands and/or rocks are included in the title
- Whether or not water features, such as rivers and lochs, are included in the title
- Uncertainty in measuring area across terrain that is not uniformly flat

The asset areas used in the [Community Ownership in Scotland](#) publication series use the area recorded on the Land Register, where available.

Additionally, it is believed that these statistics will be an underestimate of the true extent of community ownership in Scotland. Whilst several different sources have been used to populate the community ownership database, covering most of the possible routes to community ownership, it should be noted that none of these sources place an obligation on community groups to report any information about themselves or the assets they own to the Scottish Government.

It is also acknowledged that community owned assets are less likely to be known to the Scottish Government where:

- the organisation of the community group is informal, with little or no online presence, especially for smaller assets
- there was no public funding used to enable the purchase of the asset, e.g. the asset was gifted or bequeathed as a legacy

Therefore, these assets will not be included in the community ownership database. This will result in an unquantifiable underestimate in the extent of community ownership in Scotland.

Revisions

There are differences between the previously published figures on community ownership and this publication. This is due to corrections and updates that have been made to the community ownership database as a result of the continued work with Registers of Scotland as well as direct contact with community groups.

While the level of revisions were higher in the initial years of the Community in Scotland publication series, it is expected there will be a smaller level of revisions in future years, due to all the improvement work that has already been carried out on the community ownership database. Future revisions will be mostly confined to the most recent data or where previously missing data has been populated. For the recent data this will be particularly true for assets that have taken a long time for registration on the Land Register to be completed. Once the registration process has

been completed these assets will be added to the community ownership database and will be included in the figures for the relevant years when the community group actually took ownership of the assets.

If community ownership can also be verified for any assets where it had previously not been possible, these assets will be added back into the database on community ownership.

Timeliness and Punctuality

The data on community ownership as at December of 2018 were published almost 12 months after the end of 2018. The length of time taken to publish the 2018 data following the end of the year was due to the matching process that took place with Registers of Scotland. The matching took place between January and October 2019. As all assets that were then believed to be community owned, as well as assets that came into community ownership during 2018, had to be matched. This process took much longer than it does now when only assets from one year have to be matched.

In addition, public sector organisations which are subject to asset transfer requests are required to publish information on any assets transferred on a financial year as opposed to a calendar year basis. To reduce respondent burden the data on asset transfers are gathered after the end of the financial year in March of each year.

The data on community ownership as at December 2022 was published in October 2023. The matching of new assets believed to have transferred to community ownership in 2022 took place between May and August 2023. This included checking the status of known assets where their registration on the Land Register had not been completed when the matching for the data included in the [Community Ownership in Scotland 2021](#) publication was completed during 2022.

As the number of new assets to be matched each year is lower than the initial matching exercise the time lag before each new edition of the [Community Ownership in Scotland](#) publication is released has decreased. Future editions of the [Community Ownership in Scotland](#) publication series will be released in the Autumn of the year after the year the publication covers.

Accessibility and Clarity

These statistics are made available online at the Scottish Government's statistics website as part of the [Community Ownership in Scotland Statistics](#) collection page in accessible formats (HTML and PDF versions are available). Tables and figures are made available in Excel and PDF format to allow users to carry out further analysis. Maps are also made available separately in PDF format.

The publication has been produced to meet the accessibility criteria set out in the Scottish Government's [accessibility statement](#) and a [related statement](#) concerning the accessibility of official statistics. This means that the contents of the publication, including tables, figures and diagrams, should be fully accessible using assistive technology, e.g. screen readers. We welcome feedback from users concerning any accessibility issues they encounter.

An appropriately anonymised dataset containing information for individual assets in Excel format will be made available following release of the [Community Ownership in Scotland 2022](#) publication. The timescale for this is yet to be determined. When it is published, it will be able to be available from the [Community Ownership in Scotland collection page](#) and users will be informed via [ScotStat](#).

Comparability

While the data on community ownership are presented over, time users should be aware that the data presented are as at December 2022. For example, if a community group took possession of an asset in 2000 but sold the asset in 2010 and the new owner was not a community group, this asset would not be included in the data presented in this publication. Similarly, if a community group disposes of an asset in the future, again where the new owner is not a community group, and this is reported and/or made known to the Scottish Government, the asset will be removed from the database and will no longer be included in the published data. Please note that we do not have the capacity to routinely check whether assets which were reported in previous years are still eligible for inclusion in the statistics.

However, many community owned assets have been acquired using public sector funding and/or through a Community Asset Transfer, particular those assets acquired in recent years. These transactions usually impose restrictions on how the asset may be disposed of, e.g. if the new owner is not a community group, then funding discounts applied or other monies associated with the acquisition of the asset must be paid back. There is therefore a considerable incentive to ensure that where the ownership of an asset changes, the asset remains in community ownership and so where the current owner of an asset differs from the one which is recorded in the database, the asset will likely still be in community ownership.

The other UK nations do not produce an exact equivalent publication on community ownership. The then [Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, now the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities](#) along with the independent charitable trust [Power to Change](#) commissioned research into the economics, outcomes and sustainability of assets in community ownership in mid-2018. The scope of the project was to create a national picture in England of community asset ownership, to assess their financial health and economic impact. The final report published in July 2019 shows a community ownership sector that is growing fast and making an increasingly important contribution to the UK economy. The full report [Our assets, our future: the economics, outcomes and sustainability of assets in community ownership](#) can be found on the Power to Change website.

Other

Purchase prices have been adjusted to 2022 prices using the Gross fixed capital formation deflator series produced by the Office for National Statistics. Further information on the [Gross fixed capital formation deflator](#) series can be found on the Office for National Statistic website.

Further information on the [Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification 2020](#) can be found on the Scottish Government website.

Further information on the [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020](#) can be found on the Scottish Government website.

Land area figures for Scotland have been taken from the Office for National Statistics' Standard Area Measurements (2022) for Administrative Areas in the United Kingdom. Further information on the [Standard Area Measurements \(Latest\) for Administrative Areas in the United Kingdom](#) can be found on the Office for National Statistics' Open Geography portal.

When converting area figures from acres to hectares the conversion factor of 1 acre to 0.404686 hectares is used. The figures and percentages figures given in the [Community Ownership in Scotland 2022](#) publication tables have been independently rounded, so they may not always sum to the relevant totals.

The following symbols are used the tables in the [Community Ownership in Scotland 2022](#) publication:

- [z] indicates that a category is not applicable
- [v] indicates that the percentage is less than 0.005%

Related publications

Previous editions of the [Community Ownership in Scotland](#) publications can be found on the Scottish Government website.

Links to Scottish Government [Rural](#) and [Environment](#) statistical publications can be found on the Scottish Government website.