

# **First Annual Progress Report on Getting the best from our land - A Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016 - 2021**

**Laid before the Scottish Parliament  
by the Scottish Ministers under section 37A  
of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009**



# First Annual Progress Report on the Land Use Strategy (2016-2021)

## Introduction

Across the globe 2019 was an important year in the fight against climate change and it saw Scotland step forward as one of the first countries to publicly declare a global climate emergency. Following this declaration the Scottish Government received advice from the independent Committee on Climate Change that a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target, although highly ambitious, was now a plausible aim. The Scottish Government acted immediately and introduced amendments to the then Climate Change Bill to set a net-zero target for Scotland by 2045, and an interim target of 75% emissions reductions by 2030. These new targets will see Scotland's contribution to climate change end, definitively, within a generation and again demonstrates Scotland's commitment and willingness to lead the way in such a crucial area.

As well as setting some of the most stringent statutory emissions reduction targets in the world, the 2019 Scottish Climate Change Act also introduced a new statutory duty on Scottish Ministers to report annually on progress made on the delivery of commitments in Scotland's Land Use Strategy. This report is the first under the Act and sets out the achievements and outstanding actions under the current Strategy.

However, 2019 was not just about a focus on climate change mitigation: it also saw the Scottish Government publish its second statutory climate change adaptation programme – setting out more than 170 policies and proposals to address the priority risks for Scotland, within an outcomes-based framework aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

This annual progress report has become due at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, during which the Scottish Government's immediate actions are focused on supporting Scotland's people and businesses in dealing with the crisis. The Government remains committed to delivering the current Land Use Strategy and its wider climate change ambitions, both on adaptation and mitigation, but the current pandemic has clearly impacted the context of this work.

## Background

Scotland's first Land Use Strategy was produced under a requirement of section 57 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, in recognition of the importance of land use in combatting climate change. The same legislation also placed a duty on Scottish Ministers to revise the strategy no later than five years after it was first laid before the Scottish Parliament, and to revise the Strategy again at the end of every subsequent five-year period.

The current Strategy, [\*Getting the best from our land – A Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016 - 2021\*](#), sets out nine policies and five proposals aimed at helping Scotland deliver on three overarching objectives:

- Land based businesses working with nature to contribute more to Scotland's prosperity.
- Responsible stewardship of Scotland's natural resources delivering more benefits to Scotland's people.

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- Urban and rural communities are better connected to the land with more people enjoying the land and positively influencing land use.

### **Commitment to review**

As noted above, a review of Scotland's Land Use Strategy is due every five years, and work is beginning on the revision of the Land Use Strategy. This annual progress report on the current Strategy is not intended to pre-empt the statutory review which will result in the publication of Scotland's Third Land Use Strategy in 2021.

### **Progress in implementing the objectives, proposals and policies of the Strategy**

Since the publication of the Land Use Strategy 2016 - 2021, the Scottish Government has delivered on several of the key commitments that were set out within it and made important strides towards achieving the overarching objectives. We continue to work on delivering the outstanding commitments, in particular the much-anticipated Regional Land Use Partnerships. The next section of this report provides an overview of achievements to date as well as actions that remain to be completed. More information for each of the Strategy's nine policies and five proposals can be found in **Table 1** in Annex A.

### **Contribution of the objectives, proposals and policies of the Strategy towards achieving Scotland's climate and environment aims.**

How we use and manage our land in Scotland is critical to tackling both the climate and environment crises. The importance of land use for mitigating and adapting to climate change has been highlighted by the UK Committee on Climate Change in their advice on setting an economy-wide net-zero emissions target for 2045 and in their recent *Land Use: Policies for a Net Zero UK* report. The Scottish Government recognises this, and actions taken to fulfil commitments within the Land Use Strategy 2016 – 2021 in areas such as Agriculture and Forestry continue to contribute to the on-going drive to reduce net emissions from sources in Scotland. The Scottish Government is also clear that in parallel to moving towards net-zero emissions we need to restore and enhance Scotland's wider natural capital, including its biodiversity.

The pivotal importance of land in these efforts is reflected in the 2018 *Climate Change Plan: Third Report on Proposals and Policies 2018-2032 (RPP3)*, which set out indicative emissions envelopes for the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) as well as agriculture sectors to meet the previous, less challenging, target of an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050. Land use will remain a cornerstone of the forthcoming recasting of the Plan in the context of the new target of reaching net-zero by 2045 and of a green recovery from COVID-19.

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## Progress Overview

### Natural Capital

The promotion of an ecosystem approach to managing Scotland's natural capital is a core aspect of the Land Use Strategy 2016 - 2021. Scotland was the first country in the world to develop a Natural Capital Asset Index (NCAI), which is published by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and is used as a National Performance Framework indicator on natural capital. It is worth noting that the NCAI is a composite index which tracks changes in the capacity of Scotland's terrestrial ecosystems to provide benefits to people. The NCAI does not include monetary values but is composed to reflect the relative contribution of habitats to human wellbeing. The indicator is currently 'maintaining'.

Scotland was the first country in the UK to have country level estimates of natural capital value. The Scottish National Capital Accounts are an adaptation of the existing UK-wide accounts produced by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and were first published in 2019. The accounts present for the first time estimates of the value of Scotland's natural capital in monetary terms and will make it easier to incorporate natural capital into decision making.

Land managers, communities and stakeholders have been involved with projects which promote an ecosystem approach, and which will help to protect and restore our natural capital. The ongoing [Carse of Stirling Partnership](#) project has illustrated how farmers, land managers and local communities can work together to develop the priorities for integrated land and water management. The project has taken a holistic approach by taking account of how ecosystems work, considering the benefits nature provides to people, and involving people in decisions about the management of nature.

### Land reform

In 2017 the Scottish Government published [The Statement of Land Rights and Responsibilities in Scotland](#), which delivered on a key commitment of the Land Use Strategy and fulfilled a requirement under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016. The Statement contains a vision and six principles that are intended to be mutually supportive. These underpin the Scottish Government's vision for a stronger relationship between the people of Scotland and the land, where ownership and use of land delivers greater public benefits through a democratically accountable and transparent system of land rights and responsibilities.

In addition to the Statement of Land Rights, the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 led to the establishment of the Scottish Land Commission, which is an important independent body that advises Scottish Ministers on issues relating to land ownership, use and reform.

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## Agriculture

The Scottish Government published the *Climate Change Plan: Third Report on Proposals and Policies 2018-2032 (RPP3)* in February 2018. Building on the commitment set out in the Land Use Strategy 2016-2021, the agriculture chapter of the plan set out a suite of policies, proposals and milestones designed to help facilitate the step change to climate-friendly farming and crofting through delivery of the following five overarching policy outcomes:

- Farmers, crofters land managers and other primary producers are aware of the benefits and practicalities of cost-effective climate change mitigation measures.
- Emissions from nitrogen fertiliser will have fallen through a combination of improved understanding, reduced application and better soil.
- Work with Quality Meat Scotland and others to reduce emissions from red meat and dairy through improved emissions intensity.
- Emissions from the use and storage of manure and slurry will have been reduced.
- The carbon content of soil and agricultural land will have been improved through carbon sequestration and expanded woodland/forestry and hedgerows.

In addition to the actions set out in the Climate Change Plan the Scottish Government has also established the *Farming and Food Production – Future Policy Group* (FFP-FPG). This group was established following a Parliamentary debate in January 2019 in order to develop and recommend broad principles for the future of farming and food production policy based on six key themes: sustainability, simplicity, profitability, innovation, inclusion and productivity.

The Group's Vision for 2050 is "Productive land-based businesses contributing to vibrant, thriving and inclusive rural economies, supporting sustainable food production, whilst restoring and protecting Scotland's environment". They will be publishing their Report during the course of the summer (2020).

The Scottish Government has also established the independent farmer-led Climate Smart Suckler Beef Group; this short life advisory group was established in February 2020 to consider and make recommendations in relation to climate change, environmental and production efficiency aspects of the more intensive suckler beef sector. The group has taken both verbal and written evidence from a number of academic, industry, private individuals and sector experts on issues relating to climate change, environmental and production efficiency. Their final report is due for publication later in 2020.

Whilst addressing nitrogen-based pollution is not a specific commitment of the Land Use Strategy 2016 – 2021, nor only an agricultural issue, the Scottish Government is currently progressing work to establish a national Nitrogen Balance Sheet. This will cover all sectors of the economy that use and/or emit nitrogen causing harmful pollution. This will help to improve the evidence base, and better inform decision-making, across a range of policy areas within Scotland. The Scottish Government remains committed to establishing this Balance Sheet early in the next Parliamentary session.

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## Forestry

The Land Use Strategy 2016-2021 recognised that forestry has a key role to play in delivering the Strategy's Vision, Objectives and Principles in rural and urban Scotland and that sustainable forestry and woodland creation makes an important contribution to Scotland's economy, people's health and well-being, and addressing the global climate emergency.

The *Climate Change Plan: Third Report on Proposals and Policies 2018-2032* reiterates forestry's important role in mitigating the impacts of climate change through increasing woodland creation and encouraging the greater use of timber in construction. The plan includes ambitious annual targets for woodland creation starting at 10,000 hectares in 2018/19 rising in steps up to 15,000 in 2024/25.

To support the delivery of those targets the Scottish Government has worked closely with stakeholders, including the forestry sector to promote tree planting, build the capacity of the sector (e.g. tree nurseries) and streamline the forestry grant scheme approvals process. This collaborative effort resulted in the establishment of 11,120 hectares of new woodland in 2018-2019, and 10,860 hectares in 2019-2020. In both those years, this new planting represents around 80% of all new woodland creation in the UK.

In February 2019 the Scottish Government published Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029, which presents a fifty-year vision for Scotland's forests and woodlands, and a ten-year framework for action. It sets out a long-term approach to expanding, protecting and enhancing Scotland's forests and woodlands, to deliver greater economic, social and environmental benefits now and in the future. The forestry strategy was developed to support the aims of the Land Use Strategy 2016-2021 and will be implemented as part of the integrated approach.

The publication of the forestry strategy was a requirement under the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018 and fulfilled the policy commitment in the Land Use Strategy 2016-2021

## Actions still in progress

A highly anticipated aspect of the Land Use Strategy 2016-2021 is the development of Regional Land Use Partnerships. The Land Use Strategy identifies such partnerships as the way to better integrate land uses and to consider how land use can support our climate change and other environmental and economic ambitions. It is an approach that has been strongly supported across a range of stakeholders. The Scottish Government remains fully committed to Regional Land Use Partnerships, and has reiterated this commitment in the 2019-20 Programme for Government. Our key priority over the coming year is to ensure that partnerships emerge locally during 2021. The Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform has asked the Scottish Land Commission to undertake initial scoping work on the establishment of the partnerships. The Land Commission is currently developing its advice which is expected to be published in the Autumn (2020).

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### Annex A

Table 1. Progress on policies and proposals for Second Land Use Strategy 2016-2021 reporting duties

The table below captures key highlights on progress regarding the nine policies and five proposals as set out in the Second Land Use Strategy 2016-2021

Item	Type	Statement in the Land Use Strategy	Response – key highlights
Policy 1	Natural Resource Management	We are committed to better understanding and managing Scotland's natural resources to enable their fair, wise and productive use, and to conserve stocks of ecosystem services for future generations. We will do this by promoting an ecosystem approach to managing our natural capital.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scottish National Capital Accounts</b>, adapted from existing UK-wide accounts by the ONS and second annual accounts published April 2020.</li> <li>• This is the first time country level estimates of the value of Scotland's natural capital have been presented in monetary terms and will make it easier to incorporate natural capital into decision making</li> <li>• <b>Natural Capital Asset Index</b>, published annually by Scottish Natural Heritage, is used as National Performance Framework indicator on natural capital.</li> <li>• The index does not include monetary values or consider the marine environment and focusses only on the benefits Scotland's terrestrial ecosystem provides to human wellbeing.</li> <li>• <b>The current NCAI indicator rating is 'maintaining'</b></li> <li>• Land managers, communities and stakeholders have been involved with projects which promote an ecosystem approach, and which will help to protect and restore our natural capital</li> <li>• The ongoing Carse of Stirling Partnership project has illustrated how farmers, land managers and local communities worked together to develop the priorities for integrated land and water management by adopting the key principles of ecosystems work, considering the benefits nature provides to people and involving them in the decisions about the management of nature.</li> <li>• A number of land based businesses and organisations including Crown Estates Scotland have trialled the Natural Capital Protocol and other natural capital approaches. These trials have been pioneering projects within the UK, with some the first of their type anywhere in the world.</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Cairngorms National Park Authority have used an ecosystems approach to identify priorities and opportunities for management as part of the development of the Cairngorms National Park Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Policy 2</b>	<b>Policy Alignment</b>	<p>The Land Use Strategy 2016 – 2021 sits alongside and has informed the <b>National Planning Framework 3, Scottish Planning Policy</b> and the <b>National Marine Plan to support Scotland's Economic Strategy 2015</b>. Relevant sectoral strategies (e.g. forestry and agriculture) will take account of the Land Use Strategy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy under review.</li> <li>The Planning (Scotland) Act, 2019 requires Ministers give due regard to relevant policies and strategies when revising the National Planning Framework. The Land Use Strategy is specifically identified at section 3AB(3)(a)(v).</li> <li>New National Planning Framework 4 will incorporate Scottish Planning Policy, spatial and thematic planning policies in one place and development plan status for planning purposes.</li> <li>Plan to lay draft National Planning Framework 4 in Parliament in 2021.</li> <li>Scotland's statutory National Marine Plan adopted and published in March 2015.</li> <li>Sets out how Scottish Ministers intend marine resources to be used and managed out to 200 nautical miles and applies to all decisions taken by public authorities which affect this marine area</li> <li>Supports development and activity in Scotland's seas and incorporates environmental protection into marine decision-making to achieve sustainable management.</li> <li>Scottish and UK legislation requirement to review and report on the implementation of the Plan.</li> <li>The plan was reviewed in 2018 and Ministers decided not to amend or replace the plan. This will be considered again in future reviews.</li> </ul>
<b>Policy 3</b>	<b>Statutory Spatial Planning System</b>	<p>We will undertake a programme of information and awareness raising. This will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>more detail and clarity on the relevance of the Land Use Strategy to the planning system;</li> <li>information about the added value the Land Use Strategy can bring,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance on <u>Integrating an Ecosystems Approach into Strategic Environmental Assessment</u> was developed in collaboration with stakeholders and published on the Scottish Government website on the 22 Jun 2016. This has been made widely available to SEA stakeholders.</li> <li>Work has also been ongoing to engage with stakeholders as part of the review of the planning system</li> </ul>

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		<p>particularly to development planning; and,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• information on the use of an ecosystems approach in Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which in turn supports development</li> </ul>	
<b>Policy 4</b>	<b>Forestry</b>	<p>We will undertake a review of the Scottish Forestry Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scottish Government published Scotland’s Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 in February 2019.</li> <li>• It presents a 50-year vision for Scotland’s forests and woodlands, and a 10-year framework for action to expand Scotland’s forests and woodlands so future generations can realise the full range and extent of the associated economic, social and environmental benefits.</li> <li>• The strategy was developed to support the vision, objectives and principles of the Land Use Strategy 2016-2021 and will be implemented as part of the integrated approach.</li> <li>• For example, a priority for action under the forestry strategy is to “expand the area of forest and woodlands, recognising wider land-use objectives”. This will be achieved by a range of activities including: supporting the creation of a range of types and scales of woodland for a range of purposes such as delivering the Scottish Government’s climate change plan targets; and ensuring an integrated approach to land-use policy to maximise the synergies and reduce the potential conflicts between different land uses.</li> <li>• A forestry strategy implementation plan has been developed with the input from a range of forestry and land use interests including members of a fixed-life stakeholder working group. The publication of the plan was delayed until the 16 June 2020 due to the Covid-19 emergency.</li> <li>• The Scottish Government published the plan to provide a baseline for the delivery of Scotland’s Forestry Strategy. Discussions will continue to be held with delivery organisations regarding the scheduling of actions as the sector restarts and responds to the emergency.</li> </ul>

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<b>Policy 5</b>	<b>Land Reform</b>	<p>We will develop and consult on the draft of a first Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement which will contain principles to guide the development of public policy on the rights and responsibilities in relation to the ownership, use and management of land.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement of Land Rights and Responsibilities in Scotland, as required by Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 published 28 September 2017</li> <li>• The statement contains a vision and 6 principles intended to be mutually supportive.</li> <li>• The Scottish Government must, under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016, promote the principles in the Statement when exercising its functions, so far as this is reasonably practicable.</li> <li>• For the Statement to be an effective catalyst for change, all those with decision-making powers in relation to land have an important role in the realisation of the principles.</li> <li>• The Scottish Land Commission, (established April 2017) is required to have regard to the Scottish Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement in exercising its functions.</li> </ul>
<b>Policy 6</b>	<b>Ecosystem Services Mapping and Tools</b>	<p>We will continue to encourage those holding public data to make it open and available for others to use and will facilitate access to that data via the Land Use Data Directory.</p> <p>We will explore the development of models and Geographic Information System (GIS) tools to enable assessments of land use/management change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scottish Government is currently exploring opportunities that will allow for the integration of satellite imagery with current data collection methodologies with a view to optimising the assessment of land use within Scotland. The first example of this blended approach will be published alongside Scotland’s National Cereal statistics in 2020 where a new crop map will allow users to access imagery from across Scotland.</li> </ul>
<b>Policy 7</b>	<b>Regional Land Use Partnerships</b>	<p>We will encourage the establishment of Regional Land Use Partnerships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of its 2019-20 Programme for Government commitments the Scottish Government has asked the Scottish Land Commission to advise on the establishment of Regional Land Use Partnerships.</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Land Commission will publish their report with recommendations to Ministers in Autumn 2020.</li> <li>• Regional Land Use Partnerships to emerge by 2021 and Regional Land Use Frameworks in place by 2023</li> </ul>
<b>Policy 8</b>	<b>Agriculture</b>	We will develop and implement a package of measures to facilitate the step change to climate friendly farming and crofting. This will promote carbon efficient agriculture, environmental benefits and increasingly integrated land use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scottish Government published the Climate Change Plan: third report on proposals and policies 2018-2032 (RPP3) in February 2018. This included five overarching policy outcomes designed to help facilitate the step change to climate friendly farming and crofting</li> <li>• The Scottish Government wants Scotland to be a world-class producer of high quality food: sustainably, profitably and efficiently in environmental and economic terms using Low Carbon Farming methods.</li> <li>• The Farming and Food Production – Future Policy Group (FFP-FPG) was established in January 2019 to develop and recommend future principles based around six key themes and a vision for 2050.</li> <li>• The group’s work has been impacted by COVID-19 but their report remains due to be published during the summer of 2020.</li> <li>• The Climate Smart Suckler Beef Group, a short life group was established in February 2020 to consider issues and collate evidence relating to climate change, environmental and production efficiency. The final report is due for publication in late 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>Policy 9</b>	<b>Agri-Environment</b>	We will continue to develop a targeted approach in the current SRDP Agri-Environment Climate Scheme and will utilise more localised map-based ecosystems assessments to inform funding decisions as appropriate and as these become available across Scotland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throughout the development and delivery of Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) schemes the Scottish Government continued to work with delivery partners, notably Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) in relation to the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS).</li> <li>• This collaboration allowed for a targeted approach to the SRDP Agri-environment and Climate Scheme (AECS) using a predominantly map based targeting system to help ensure scheme options were adopted in areas most likely to deliver the option outcomes.</li> <li>• These maps have the functionality to be revised as and when further information becomes available in relation to the habitat or species that underpin them and on option uptake.</li> <li>• A study of circa 20 farms delivering AECS contracts and 20 equivalent farms not in AECS contracts, and representative across different farm types in Scotland, was carried out by the James Hutton Institute (JHI) in 2019/20 and the findings will be</li> </ul>

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			<p>combined with a series of AECS scheme option uptake heat maps for publication by SNH in summer 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An SNH commissioned study to illustrate how future rural support schemes could be re-directed to deliver a range of public goods appropriate to different farm types is due to be published in the summer 2020. As well as this SNH are also undertaking a review of the Improving Public Access options which will be published in summer 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>Proposal 1</b>	<b>Regional Land Use Frameworks</b>	We will further explore the development of regional land use frameworks for rural areas of Scotland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Regional Land Use Frameworks will be developed by Regional Land Use Partnerships, which are not yet in place.</li> <li>• The Scottish Government has asked the Scottish Land Commission (SLC) to advise on the establishment of Regional Land Use Partnerships as part of the commitment in the 2019-2020 Programme for Government</li> <li>• The SLC intends to report to Ministers in the autumn of 2020.</li> <li>• This will enable Regional Land Use Partnerships to emerge locally by 2021 and Regional Land Use Frameworks in place by 2023</li> </ul>
<b>Proposal 2</b>	<b>Land Use Mediation and Facilitation</b>	We will explore options for facilitation and/or mediation between land owners/managers and communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As the Regional Land Use Partnerships are yet to be completed, this proposal has not yet been taken forward.</li> <li>• Under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 Scottish Ministers have powers of arranging or facilitating mediation in relation to registration of interest in land or exercise right to buy land within Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003</li> <li>• The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 also gives Scottish Ministers powers of arranging or facilitating mediation in relation to the proposed exercise of the right to buy land or a tenant's interest under Part 5 Right to buy land to further sustainable development.</li> </ul>
<b>Proposal 3</b>	<b>Agri-Environment</b>	We will explore the further development of a targeted approach to agri-environment in the next SRDP (post 2020) and how this could make increased use of an assessment of ecosystem health and a spatial approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scottish Government set out its proposals for future agricultural funding in its June 2018 consultation on “Stability and Simplicity”. This included an approach for future rural policy until 2024 and allowed for a five-year transition period</li> <li>• These proposals set out the approach for future rural policy until 2024 and will allow for a five-year transition period, as recommended by the Scottish Government's Agriculture Champions.</li> <li>• Where possible, “CAP Schemes” will be simplified to reflect the conclusions of the Simplification Task Force.</li> <li>• Work has begun on developing an Agricultural Transformation Programme. This will pay particular attention to assisting farming, food production and the wider</li> </ul>

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			<p>agricultural industry to play their part in contributing towards the delivery of Scotland’s climate ambitions and environmental sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is piloting an outcome based approach to deliver improved environmental outcomes in future support schemes. They are working with 40 farmers and crofters in four clusters across Scotland (Skye, Argyll, Strathspey and East Lothian).</li> <li>• In partnership with others, SNH has developed work to test how the internationally accepted framework for natural capital protocol could be applied to land based businesses and support future emphasis on the ecosystems services provided and help to have a stronger emphasis in future on the range of ecosystem services that land managers provide. Further development work is planned for 2020/21 to test this on a range and cluster of farms on a landscape scale.</li> </ul>
<b>Proposal 4</b>	<b>Urban Land Use</b>	We will explore the feasibility of establishing an urban land use pilot project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After initial feasibility discussions this proposal was not progressed.</li> </ul>
<b>Proposal 5</b>	<b>Upland Land Use</b>	We will scope the potential to develop a strategic vision for the uplands, exploring the multiple benefits they deliver and how they can contribute to climate change targets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoping a strategic vision for the uplands report produced by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) for Scottish Government and published June 2016 <a href="https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2017-10/A2195474%20-%20Scoping%20an%20upland%20vision.pdf">https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2017-10/A2195474%20-%20Scoping%20an%20upland%20vision.pdf</a></li> <li>• SNH was not asked to develop a strategic vision for the uplands, but to advise on the potential scope of such a vision and how it could be prepared.</li> <li>• The aim of the scoping exercise was to assist Scottish Ministers in determining whether a strategic vision for the uplands is both desirable and achievable and set within the frame of Land Use Strategy 2016-2021.</li> </ul>



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The Scottish Government  
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ISBN: 978-1-83960-892-6 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, July 2020

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA  
PPDAS742706 (07/20)

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